

# WHO ARE SU SCOTLAND?

Our vision is to see every child and young person in Scotland exploring the Bible and responding to the significance of Jesus.

We are a Christian charity with over 2,500 volunteers and 120 staff working in four contexts: schools, holidays, community-based missions, and training and equipping.

We work in partnership with churches, SU Scotland Associate Trusts and others, offering safe places where young people can have fun, meet new challenges, feel valued, accepted and free to express their views and consider their own beliefs as they engage with peers and Christian leaders. We aim to focus on the needs of those from priority areas in all our activities.

Our outdoor centres—Alltnacriche, Gowanbank and Lendrick Muir welcome thousands of young people every year. Our campsites at Kingscross and Scoughall are popular in summer and Magnitude events take place year round, with a focus on our annual summer festival.

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'Thank you for providing such a supportive, caring and nurturing environment. She has already said she would love to return next year!

-Parent of a camper





SU Scotland's vision is to see every child and young person in Scotland exploring the Bible and responding to the significance of Jesus.





### Welcome to our Annual Review for 2024/25.

The past year has been marked by remarkable growth and encouragement as we continue our journey towards our vision of seeing every child and young person in Scotland exploring the Bible and responding to the significance of Jesus. In line with wider reports from across the UK, we are delighted to report strong evidence of a remarkable increased interest in exploring faith among young people in Scotland in schools, churches, and residential settings, with growing demand for Bibles and engagement with events.

Our Local Ministries have expanded significantly, with 378 SU Groups now meeting regularly, 155 high school clusters supported by local hubs, and Bible Alive programmes running in the majority of local authority areas, reaching over 3,500 pupils. Community-based missions grew by 13% this year, welcoming nearly 1,500 children.

Residentials continue to be a cornerstone of our work, with more than 9,000 places filled across school residentials,



We've also seen a tangible impact at the margins, from supporting young people with additional needs, to new work with school refusers and vulnerable groups through innovative partnerships. Developing new local youth projects is a key goal for the immediate future. Young leader training programmes remain strong, with over 100 trainees involved, and our gap year programme is set to expand further.

Behind every statistic is a life touched and transformed. We are deeply grateful for the faithful prayer and financial support of the SU Scotland family that makes this possible, together with the exceptional hard work of our dedicated volunteers and talented staff team.

As we continue to pursue the goal of connecting with at least 10% of Scotland's 705,000 school-age children by summer 2027, we believe this is a unique season to build capacity and share God's love with even more young people. Thank you for your part in helping light up Scotland, one young life at a time!







# Our desire is to see a local hub at the centre of every high school cluster in Scotland.

Schools work is integral to SU Scotland's ministry.
Our Local Ministries team of 24 Regional and
Schools Workers, along with the 16 Associate Trusts
we partner with, have had a very productive year.

Between August 2024 and June 2025, **80** SU Groups were launched. In total, **378** SU Groups met, representing approximately **4,594** pupils.

Over one third of the Scottish RME Curriculum for Excellence is given to Christianity. Schools are grateful for the input we can bring through our range of programmes.

In December 2024 we made 12,267 connections with school pupils in 128 schools through Christmas, and during Easter season we made 8,400 connections with pupils in 104 schools, through lessons and assemblies. These are significant moments for pupils who discover, many for the first time, more about the Christian faith.

Bible Alive continues to grow as a highly respected resource. This year we delivered the programme in 17 council regions to 3,434 pupils in 72 schools, an increase of five council regions from last year. In addition, 'It's Your Move' Transition Lessons for those pupils moving up from Primary 7 to secondary school reached over 1,000 pupils across the country.

Local Ministry Hubs are a key part of our 24:27 Strategy. Our desire is to see a hub at the heart of every high school cluster in Scotland. There are 360 high school clusters (a high school and its associated primaries) across Scotland. The aim of these hubs is to bring local Christians from local churches together to pray for the schools and to seek him for how we serve the schools through ours and other ministry contexts. Currently, 155 high school clusters are prayed for and served by these new hubs.







This year was another milestone for SU Holidays and weekends, with record numbers and exciting new opportunities for young people.

↑ ↑ e continued to broaden the programme with new themed **V** events. In 2025, Coding and Golfing Holidays joined the line-up, giving even more young people the chance to explore their interests through holidays that aren't on offer anywhere else—all in a Christ-centred environment. As best we can tell. we now offer a wider range of holidays than any other group in the UK, letting every young person know that 'You belong here!'

The Holidays Sponsorship Fund made a life-changing difference this year, helping 356 young people attend a holiday or weekend. This is almost double the 185 supported in 2023, which was itself a record and an increase of 50 on last year. The fund also covered the majority of costs for all 160 young people on the Motiv8 programme.

Many young people engaged with Scripture through That's Life, an SU Scotland resource exploring the Gospel of John.

Our campsites at Scoughall and Kingscross saw plenty of exciting upgrades this year, making them even better places to stay, play and grow together.

- ✓ New activities: pedal go-karting, nerf zone, and sumo suits.
- ✓ Fresh welcome guides and activity explainers helped newcomers settle in quickly.
- ✓ At Kingscross, two brand-new cabins were built for the facility assistants and new activity shelters provided extra space for groups.
- ✓ At Scoughall, a new drying room was added.

As always, none of this would have been possible without our incredible volunteers, who faithfully supported winter work parties and to carry out essential maintenance.

'Everything was so fun and my relationship with God has improved so much.' - \$6 camper







### Our young leaders training events have been hugely popular this year.

nce again, we ran multiple Basecamps due to demand (two weeks and one weekend) as well as a week-long LeadUP training event, finishing the training programme with our Review Weekend in August at Lendrick Muir.

- ✓ During the summer, young people took part in leadership training and volunteered at various SU Holiday and Missions events, with 111 participants in total.
- ✓ We had two Gap Year students joining the programme this year, contributing to various areas of ministry in Scotland as well as a mission trip to Hungary.
- ✓ In October 2024, 107 young people in S4–S6 attended GO Conference at Lendrick Muir and have since been engaging with SU Groups in their schools.
- ✓ Equip ran in four key locations, providing spaces for young people to explore faith together and grow in confidence through building Christian community.
- ✓ Equip Pupil Leader Training prepares young people to lead SU Groups in their own secondary schools. A total of 46 young people completed the training.
- ✓ Spotlight for S1–S2 continues in Edinburgh.

'From what I have seen, young people today are looking for three main things: identity, belonging and purpose. Their desire to find these things is leading them to Jesus, and they are keen to share what they have discovered with their peers. SU Scotland have the privilege of equipping and supporting them on this journey through our discipleship and training opportunities.'

-Alan Scott, Young Leader's Development Lead







### This has been a year of growth in community-based missions, as we have explored and developed new opportunities and partnerships across Scotland.

Developing contacts with churches has led to new initiatives and is helping us move forward with our strategy of reaching every child in Scotland. Every child matters. This was evident in the mission in Patna, with twelve children attending. This was a mission that had been well prayed for and was just as significant as our larger missions. Each church acknowledged the role of SU Scotland, with comments similar to those from the Bellshill Mission, who shared, 'It would have been near impossible to run without SU Scotland's support.'

### Some highlights include:

- ✓ New team leaders at North Berwick and Easterhouse Missions. In both, they have built on what they have learned and have flourished in their impact.
- ✓ Developing new missional opportunities. A new football activity day ran in Whiteinch, Glasgow with the view of packaging the program to be delivered elsewhere.
- ✓ Gaming events: These are proving popular with increasing opportunities.
- ✓ Training and partnership. We have had the opportunity to develop our support of churches, ranging from consultation in Dunblane to a targeted training night in Dunoon. This work has been significant as we seek to develop a new relationship model to complement our established partnership approach.

Seeing children respond with child-like faith has demonstrated the impact of children recognising the significance of Jesus. During one group time, children were exploring the story of Jesus calming the storm. A leader asked the question, 'Why was Jesus asleep?', with a child responding, 'Because he was saving his energy for later to do God's work.' At another mission in Peterhead, a child leaving group time said, 'My brain is connected to God.'







Magnitude, Scotland's Christian youth festival, drew 1,433 full-time attendees and 598 day visitors this summer for a week filled with worship, community, and deep encounters with God.

This year's theme was rooted in the book of Philippians, focusing on the call to live with joy, peace, and purpose in Christ, no matter the circumstances. Each day explored key truths from Paul's letter-from finding joy in suffering, to pursuing humility like Christ, to standing firm in faith and shining as stars in the world.

Event Manager, Kirsty Haxton said, 'What we witnessed this week was more than a gathering—it was a glimpse of the Church rising in the next generation. In a culture that often feels uncertain and divided, these young people discovered the joy, unity and hope that can only be found in Jesus. It was powerful and deeply moving.'

Over the year, Magnitude also held 9 Worship Night events in Edinburgh, Glasgow, Aberdeen, Perth, Dumfries, Cumbernauld and Ayr, gathering 2274 people across the events to worship God and explore the Bible.

I went to Magnitude four years ago and gave my life to God. When I got to school I was bullied and asked questions I couldn't answer every day. After a while I began to feel I'd lost what I had with Jesus, and this routine went on for a few years, going to Magnitude, then losing faith. But on Monday night, the speaker, Pete Wynter, helped me see I need to stop this routine. So I have put my confidence in Jesus, and I am more determined and confident than ever before.'

-Young person

'Now, as I've come home from Magnitude, I've been praying that God will help me understand his word so that I can know him more, and this has been very helpful already. Picking up the Bible is the most fulfilling thing I've decided to do. Sometimes it's a struggle, but it is always worth it.'

-Young person







Our residential centres at Lendrick Muir. Alltnacriche and Gowanbank are open yearround and welcomed over 17,250 visitors this academic year.

The centres are an essential resource for SU Scotland ministry with children and young people—whether SU Holidays, School residentials, training events or Local Ministry weekends.

School residentials and day visits are a key component of term time ministry, with over 4,500 pupils and teachers from over 130 school groups staying at one of our Classroom Outdoors residentials, and a further 500 on day visits.

School residentials have high educational value as well as ministry value, and we continue to engage with the Cross-Party Group at the Scottish Parliament to ensure access for all.

Once again, our school bursary fund has been well used with almost £40,000 disbursed and 420 pupils receiving financial support. This is in addition to the discounts we give to schools from priority areas, or with a focus on additional support needs, as we look to embed what we do and how we serve those at the margins.

As a result of significant support from development appeals, we have been able to continue to invest in our facilities at the centres, benefiting every child and young person who comes, as well as making our centres a better place to work. At Alltnacriche we have installed a large solar array and battery system, reducing running costs and we refurbished one of our staff flats, allowing us to accommodate additional team members. We have installed a new play area and are working on longer term development plans at Lendrick Muir. The team at Gowanbank were able to purchase a new minibus and outdoor activity equipment alongside planning for the use of the development funds raised in the appeal that took place within the next financial year.







### We are building communities and creating content to engage more young people through digital platforms.

nommunity is being built as young people gather around ✓ shared interests such as gaming, creative writing, Bible study, and music. There are now seven online groups meeting regularly, alongside a growing Discord community. Beyond these Connect Groups, young people are choosing to play games, talk, and study the Bible together daily—united by their love for Jesus. At the same time, interest in using digital tools for in-person mission is growing quickly, with competitive gaming in particular opening new opportunities to connect with young people in fresh and meaningful way.

Bridging the gap between building community and creating content, our digital 'Youth Comms' is growing steadily across Instagram and TikTok, with increasing engagement and reach. Our videos consistently attract 3,000 to 6,000 views, with 50% of those views coming from new audiences.

Our long-form content development has really moved up a gear this year, with six series, representing 45 episodes of content being written, produced and launched. Some of the highlights have been:

ONE BIG STORY-YOUTH: A 10-session overview of the Bible for 11-18s with full lesson plans for youth groups, written by a team of our Regional Workers. So far, we estimate these resources have been used with almost 4,000 young people.

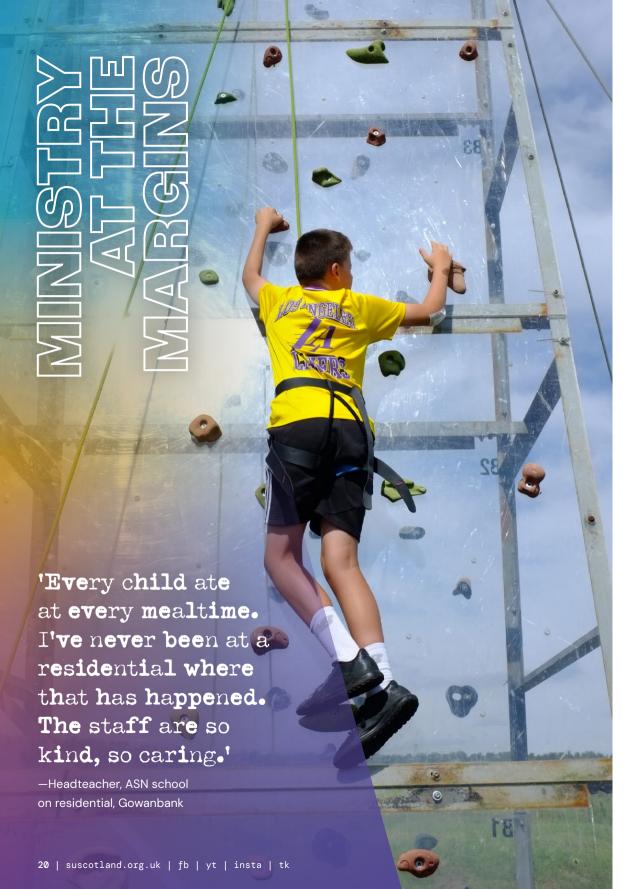
**EXPLORE CHRISTMAS:** Created in line with the Scottish Curriculum for school children aged 8-11, the resource explores how and why Christians celebrate the festival of Christmas. Our projected reach for this resource, for those who registered, was over 22,000 children.

**EXPLORE EASTER:** Following the success of Explore Christmas, we created a follow-on series for schools to use at Easter, reaching over 16,000 children to date.

THE KING OF KINGS: As official resource partners in the UK and Ireland, we have produced Bible engagement resources to support the newly released film for churches, families and schools.







Scripture is clear about God's keen concern-some would say bias-towards those at the margins.

↑ ↑ e are working hard to embed our outlook, appreciation and practice for those at the margins across all ministry areas. We talk of priority communities, priority schools and priority young people; this language is increasingly understood by both staff and volunteers.

We have appointed Karen Campbell as our Local Youth Projects Development Coordinator. Karen will research priority communities to identify where we might establish Local Youth Projects, rooted in Christian faith and values, supporting and enabling young people to make positive, healthy, responsible choices and explore the Bible and the significance of Jesus. We've also been delighted to see:

- ✓ New partnerships developing with Safe Families / Home for Good and CAP Debt Centres
- ✓ Ministry opportunities increasing in the Merkinch, South Kessock and Inverness HS catchment area resulting in advertising for a Project Worker in the Merkinch, South Kessock and Inverness High School catchment area
- ✓ Our third Ukrainian refugee family holiday with 12 families attending
- ✓ ASN School openings for SU Groups and Religious and Moral Education (RME) resource development
- ✓ MOTIV8 Holidays growing with increased numbers of young people, partner churches/youth projects and volunteer teams
- ✓ Increased wheelchair accessibility at Centres

I want to thank the entire team for the wonderful time you gave us and our children at the family camp. These are memories that we will carry for a lifetime. Inviting the same group back was brilliant-it allowed families and children to grow even closer to one another.'

-Attendee, Ukrainian Family Holiday





SU Scotland is part of a global family of SU movements which are seeking to make God's Good News known to children, young people and families, and encourage people of all ages to meet God daily through the Bible and prayer. Scripture Union operates in over 120 countries around the world.

SU Scotland is partnered with the SU movements in Ukraine and Belarus, supporting ministry in prayer, funding and by visits from staff and volunteers. We also support a restricted country in prayer and have links with SU in Rwanda.

Our Gap Year programme includes an overseas mission trip. Since 2023, the Gap Year team have travelled to Budapest to work with SU Hungary in delivering English camps. In 2025, the annual SU International Fundraising Project was also for SU Hungary.



Every Thursday: Oksana Khimich of Open Bible in Ukraine hosts a weekly prayer Zoom. She is very thankful for the support and fellowship of those who join from Scotland.



November: We held three Zoom prayer meetings during the SU Global Week of Prayer.



April: Lilla Budjosó and Zsófia Mihalkovics from SU Hungary visited our Glasgow office.



June: Jackie Ringan met partners from Ukraine and Belarus in Poland.



July: The SU Scotland Gap Year team served at a church mission in Érd, Hungary



July: We hosted our third Ukrainian Family Holiday at Lendrick Muir.



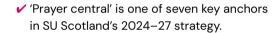
August: Grigori and Galina Stupak from Open Bible, Ukraine, attended the Big Celebration, and Grigori spoke.

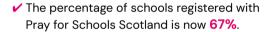
'We experienced one of the greatest gifts hidden in the name, Scripture Union: real unity and brotherhood in Jesus Christ. Thanks to the management of the Scottish Scripture Union that, by observing your humble and sacrificial work, we could learn a lot, be inspired and recharge! We welcome you with love in Hungary."

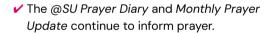
Lilla Budjosó, SU Hungary



'I use the Prayer Diary every day and appreciate the prayer points, which are varied, challenging and realistic. I can truly pray them from my heart. I also find the monthly Zoom prayer times with the Lanarkshire Prayer Group inspirational, and the monthly prayer sheet is such a help—I have a neat, orderly sheet from which to pray on a daily basis from one month to the next.' -Supporter







✓ Regional prayer meetings, the January SU Scotland Day of Prayer, the June Pray for Summer Events evening, the November SU Global Week of Prayer bring together supporters in prayer.

'People praying for schools has an impact. As a Schools Worker, I have seen opportunities open up to build relationships that have come from nowhere. Where doors have been very much closed in the past, they are suddenly flung open. I am convinced that this comes from the faithful prayers of God's people, and that praying for schools does make a difference.'

-Schools Worker





# This year over 2,500 people will have been part of an SU Scotland team.

Thank you to everyone who has partnered with SU Scotland this year. A special thank you to new volunteers for your patience as we have navigated the new PVG online process. And thank you to returning volunteers for choosing to continue to partner in our vision to see every child and young person explore the bible and respond to the significance of Jesus.

Thank you to each of you for taking on every role necessary to reach the young people of Scotland with the gospel, including those essential support roles like minibus driving for SU Holidays, night stewarding and toilet cleaning at Magnitude, snack preparation at Missions and everything else you do to support young people in schools, at SU Scotland Centres & Campsites and in local communities.





### Volunteers said the best things were:

- 'The team working so well together, and church unity throughout. The songs, teaching, stories and drama were exceptional this year.'
- 'Watching the trainee leaders grow in so many ways. Seeing the young people learn about Jesus through teachings, but also by the 24/7 witness of the leaders, trainees, cooks and helpers.'
- 'Having conversations with campers about the gospel. Everyone being part of a big camp family.'

### Volunteers were most encouraged by...

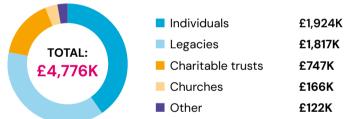
- 'The campers' eagerness to explore the Bible, ask questions and show up to the seminars. And the older ones who want to return to camp next year as trainees.'
- 'Children giving their lives to Jesus, praying out loud, buying bibles and asking how to join churches.'
- 'The space that young people were given to explore God's word, ask questions, and encounter God in new ways.'

# FUNDBAMSING

A massive heartfelt thanks to all of our wonderful supporters. Our work simply wouldn't be possible without your generous support. You are changing lives as children and young people discover Jesus and grow in faith. We are so grateful to God for his provision through you.

This year we ran a supporter survey to learn what matters to you and how we can serve you better. Thank you to everyone who took part! We discovered that over 100 supporters have included a gift to SU Scotland in their will, welcomed many new SU Ambassadors, saw supporters start or increase monthly gifts, and sent out more than 50 Wee Celebration packs. Get involved at suscotland.org.uk/fundraise.

## Total Donation Income for the financial year to 31 March 2025 Includes Gift Aid



### Supporter appeals

Thank you to everyone who responded generously to our financial appeals. The income received up to the end of August 2025 from our last three appeals was as follows:

Includes Gift Aid

Gowanbank Development appeal (launched Aug 24)	£159K
Christmas appeal (launched Nov 24)	£32K
Holiday Sponsorship appeal (launched Feb 25)	£145K
ΤΟΤΔΙ	£336K

### How we fundraise responsibly...

Fundraising activities follow the guidelines issued by the Chartered Institute of Fundraising, which include standards to protect vulnerable people during fundraising activities. SU Scotland applies principles so that appeals to supporters, applications to trusts and related fundraising activities are legal, open, honest, respectful and accountable. No official complaints were received during the year, and SU Scotland did not appoint any third-party professional or commercial fundraisers. Where possible, guidelines are issued to individual volunteer fundraisers to ensure their activities (for example sponsored events or bake sales) are carried out safely and appropriately.

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# A massive thank you to the many individuals, churches, other organisations and trusts who supported us between April 2024 and March 2025, including:

- The Aitchison Trust SCIO
- Ardbarron Trust Limited
- Baptist Union of Scotland
- Benefact Trust
- Caring and Sharing (SCIO)
- Cedar Charitable Trust
- Challenge Trust
- Charnwood Trust
- Christian Education Association Scotland
- Criffel Charitable Trust
- The Cruden Trust
- Door Trust
- ENABLE (Episcopal Church)
- Esther Hennell Charitable Trust
- Generation Trust
- Hays Travel Foundation
- Hope Trust
- The House of Vic-Ryn Trust Ltd
- J & C Fleming Charitable Trust
- Jerusalem Trust
- JonthreeTrust Ltd

- Kenneth Barge Memorial Trust
- Kilravock Christian Trust
- Levering Charitable Trust
- Life Trust Limited
- The Maclellan Foundation Scotland
- Mary Brown Memorial Trust
- Micah Fund
- The Milne Family Foundation
- Miss ME Swinton Paterson's Trust
- Netherdale Trust
- New Park Educational Trust
- Paterson Family Foundation
- Petty Trust
- Roy Miller Charitable Trust
- Scott Thomson Charitable Trust
- Shalimar Trust
- Slavanka Trust
- Souter Charitable Trust
- Sporos Trust
- Springboard Charitable Trus
- Tabeel Trust
- TBF & KL Thompson Trust
- Tillyloss Trust
- The Vardy Foundation
- The William Scott SCIO
- Wilson Distributors Charitable Trust

### **Company Secretary**

Robin MacLellan

### **Executive Officers**

Robin MacLellan

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

**Paul Bayton** 

**DIRECTOR OF CENTRES** 

**Jackie Ringan** 

DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT AND HOLIDAYS

Mike Kurtyka

CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

Jenny Hamill

**CREATIVE DIRECTOR** 

Zonya Bewick

**DIRECTOR OF LOCAL MINISTRIES** 



### **Trustees**

- Angus Allar
- Samuel Barge (from Mar '25)
- Stephen Bell
- Dr Audrey Chalmers
- Rachel Cooney (from Mar '25)
- Pamela Fulton
- Dr Heather Haywood (retired Aug '25)

- Jonathan Innes
- Paul Johnston
- Martyn Link
- · Charlene Petersen
- Colin Sinclair (from Apr '25)
- Rev Cara Wightman

'I got to meet people who made life a little better'

Young person

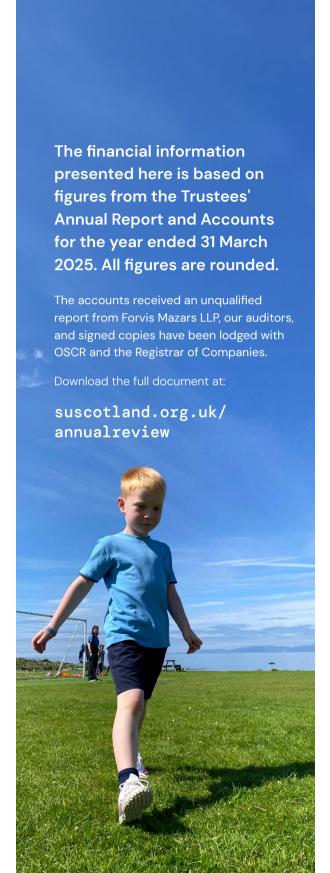
### The finances for the year to 31 March 2025 reflected the ongoing growth, recovery and God's provision for our ministry.

There was a net surplus for the year of £1.29 million, as a result of increased activity at our centres, several large donations and substantial legacies received after the close of our financial year (but required to be reported in this year's results). Our unrestricted fund balances at the end of the year were therefore very healthy, with enough held in free reserves to cover just over 6.7 months' worth of budgeted costs. As our aim is to hold between 3 and 6 months in reserves, we will apply the excess balance to support existing ministry plans that currently lack identified income.

Donation income from individuals, churches and trusts grew in the year and as noted, legacy gifts were exceptionally high. Income from our residentials and centres increased due to a combination of increased activity and price rises to help cover inflationary cost increases.

Costs continued to increase over the year due to inflation, rises in the National Minimum Wage and National Insurance. In addition, ongoing investment in strategic priority areas such as Digital and Ministry at the Margins, along with expanded staffing to support organisational and ministry growth, contributed to increased expenditure. Finally, ongoing investment in our infrastructure remains necessary, with planned maintenance carried out across centres and campsites, complemented by continued enhancements to our IT systems and website.

Looking ahead, we continue to work towards increasing our regular income to support the costs of our growing ministry and staff team while carefully managing costs.



### 2024/25 Income (£'000)

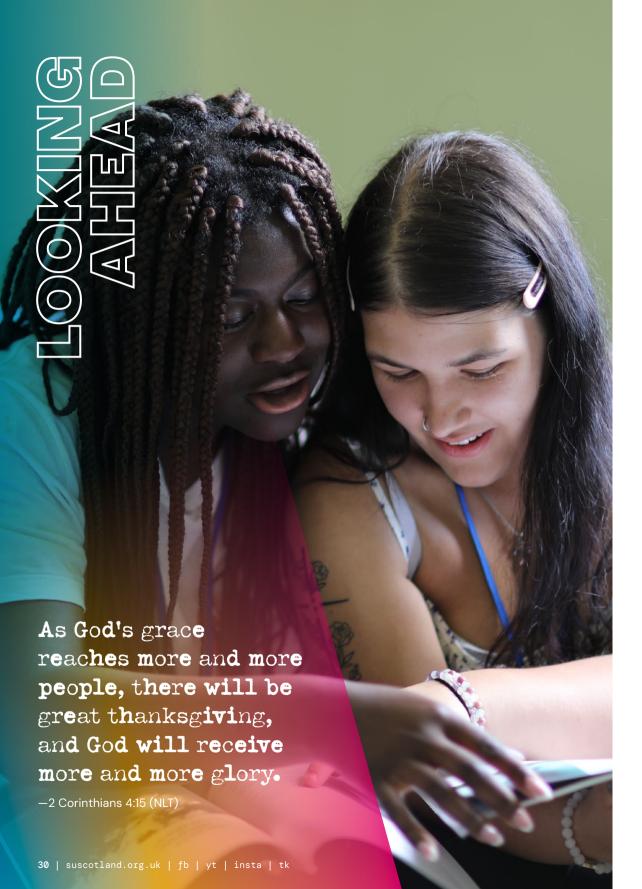


TOTAL	£7.391	£5.310
Interest	£112	£85
Gains	£O	£175
Charitable Activities	£2,503	£2,012
Legacies	£1,817	£372
Donations	£2,959	£2,667
	24/25	23/24

### 2024/25 Expenditure (£'000)



TOTAL	£6,104	£5,604
Raising Funds	£311	£289
■ International Support	£86	£119
Equipping	£114	£120
Local & Nat. Ministries	£1,715	£1,475
Residentials & Centres	£3,878	£3,601
	24/25	23/24



As we look ahead we think about what SU Scotland might look like in a few years' time, as we continue to seek God's way forward.

- >>> Local ministry hubs will be established across Scotland. Working with local churches and partners, many more volunteers will be engaged in serving their local schools.
- >> Ministry at the Margins activities will be growing, with our care and concern for priority children and young people always to the fore. Churches will be seeking our expertise on Additional Support Needs (ASNs)—and we will be ready to help.
- >>> New local youth projects will have started in priority communities.
- >>> Bible engagement will be featuring prominently in all of our activities, with groups and individuals benefiting from our new resources.
- >> New video content will be helping young people in schools to explore the Bible in the classroom, especially at Christmas and Easter.
- >>> Staff and volunteers will be benefiting from new training with flexible learning options, including online formats.
- >> Additional staff and many more volunteers will be enabling growth across our ministries.
- >> Our residential centres will be thriving, with significant investment in accommodation and central facilities.
- >>> Connecting with >10% of Scotland's children and young people, up from ~5% in 2024





