



Annual Trustees' Report

Year ending 31st August 2022

Festive

Charity No: 1123966

487 Coed-y-Gores

Llanedeyrn

Cardiff

CF23 9NU

Trustees:

Pauline Kendall (Chair)

Jon Fortnam

David James

Jess Stinton

Alex Forrest

Joshua Kendall

Organisation Overview

Festive was formed by a small group of people with a big heart for Further Education. They had experience of ministering in FE Colleges and Sixth Forms and were aware of the lack of support available to Christian students, staff and chaplains. Working in partnership with Scripture Union and UCCF, through much prayer and God's great provision, Festive was launched in 2007. Festive currently works across the UK supporting Christian students, chaplains and those in FE through prayer, advice, resources and training. The mission is to inspire and support Christians in FE to live for Jesus and to equip them as they share their faith through their words and actions. The vision is to see an ongoing vibrant witness of Jesus in every FE College and Sixth Form in the UK. The charity is run by the Trustees named above in close relationship with the Director, Peter Carrington, with a team of 5 other staff members, 9 volunteer workers and a network of partners and supporters of the work.

Summary of Activities 2021-22

During this academic year, 2021-22, Festive has kept in touch with, prayed for and supported around 150 students. Our staff team and volunteer Student Engagement Team have emailed regularly, sent text messages, and engaged with the students on a variety of social media platforms. In addition to this, we have had a significant number students from outside of our network joining us for our online 'Scattered' events.

Launched in November 2020 and continued throughout the last academic year, 'Scattered' has been a growing success story of students coming together online to be inspired and equipped to go out and share Jesus with their friends and peers at their sixth form/college. With consistent positive feedback from students, we have continued to develop this programme this year, reaching more and more students each time as well as building up a relationship with those who attended regularly. The main event usually consists of a talk on a relevant topic, some sort of Q&A panel and then some time in break-out rooms to discuss some questions and pray together. These events have also provided an opportunity to partner with other organisations as they provide speakers and expertise e.g. Youth for Christ, Fusion and UCCF to name a few.

For this first time this year, we have partnered with Association for Christian Teachers (ACT) to run a similar online termly event for any Christian staff working in the FE sector. This group has started small, but it is slowly growing and we hope for it to continue to grow as we carry on into next year and build a staff network that we can also support and resource in their efforts to live for Jesus in a challenging

environment. We also have started to keep in touch with workers who contact us for resources and advice, and hope to equip them in a similar way that we do the students with regular prayer and email.

During this year, a lot of work went into restructuring our website to improve its navigability and relevance for different end users. For students, it has meant that our resources are easier to find and use. For supporters and any workers with this age group, it means that the information they need is clearer and more relevant to their situation. The fruit of this labour is seen in a 30% increase in traffic to our website, as well as a significant increase in the number of resources downloaded or ordered and sent out free of charge.

Each year we work on new resources for students and this year we have produced a guide for 'CU handover', a topic that regularly came up in emails from students who were leaving and wanted to know how best to pass on the responsibility for their CU. We have also added to our 15-minute Bible study collection with a study on Psalms. These studies are great for us in a short amount of time such as a lunch break when CUs often meet. Once again, we ran our Christmas evangelistic giftbox giveaway, seeing over 30 boxes being given by Christian students to their non-believing friends. We ran a new giveaway later in the year around exam time. These were really popular, as they contained some practical items for revision, some treats for that well-earned break, a prayer to pray when under pressure of exam time and encouragement about our God who cares.

Another project that has been in the pipeline this year has been updating the contents and design of our evangelistic cookbook for students heading to university: Beyond Beans on Toast. Working alongside publishers 10ofThose, this new edition is being finalised and we are preparing for its launch in 2022-23. This book has proven to be an invaluable evangelistic resource for students leaving sixth form and heading off to university. Thousands of copies of the original edition have been given to students over the last 8 years, and this new edition will keep the book relevant for at least another 5 years to come.

The ongoing impact of the pandemic is still visible when looking at recruitment to the student network. In previous years, we have been able to make contact with and recruit current and prospective sixth form students to our network by exhibiting at major summer youth festivals for Christian young people, such as Soul Survivor. The Festivals in summer 2021 decided to go mostly online again so we were again left with a smaller network than previous years. In summer 2022, however, we were able to take part and exhibit at 5 different conferences and events led by organisations representing a variety of Christian backgrounds, alongside running our own in-house social media campaign which resulted in our network almost tripling in size to just under 450 students in total ahead of the 2022-23 academic year. We were also able to successfully recruit an additional 8 new volunteers to our Student Engagement Team in order to have capacity to support these students.

We continue to partner with other organisations in much of our work and projects. 15th May 2022 was FE Sunday, an initiative run by West Midlands Churches' FE Council. We were able to invite churches and supporters to join us in praying that day and into the week for the work of Festive, for their local FE colleges and sixth forms, for their staff, students and any Christians they know. This was an ideal opportunity for us to hold our first online prayer gathering for supporters, something that we would love to do again in the future. A few of our staff and volunteers continue to be engaged with the Amplify youth evangelism training. Each year we invite the students from our network to take part in this training, and we work with them to mentor them and grow a deeper heart for evangelism.

The Trustee team has seen some changes over this period. We would like to thank Mair Turner for her service with the team on her departure, and welcome Alex Forrest and Joshua Kendall to the team. The Trustees have continued to meet termly to oversee the charity, monitor the finances and review/agree a variety of policies. In addition to this, we have undertaken this year a thorough review on finance management, including inviting an independent expert to assess our current financial situation and procedures and advise on future improvements. On reviewing the year's activities, the trustees are fully confident that they have complied with their duty to have due regard to operating the charity for the public benefit.

Finance

Festive received £31,000 in grant award funding in financial year 2021-22, with a further £10,000 expected in the next financial year. Festive has grown a surplus of funds over previous years that will provide funding to continue staffing and operations at our current capacity into the following financial year when current grant funding comes to an end. The Director, along with the support of the Trustees continues to seek further grant funding which will be crucial for sustaining the current level of work and ministry.

Festive is grateful to its ongoing and its new regular givers, and to those churches and individuals who have increased their giving during this financial year. Festive has also benefited from a number of one-off donations from individuals, churches and Trusts. Ultimately, encouraging further new regular supporters, both individuals and churches, remains an important financial priority going forwards as current income levels do not support the organisation's ambition to grow its work and ministry.

As always, the trustees keep a close eye on the finances with financial reports and projections submitted at trustees' meetings and sometimes in between meetings to the chair of trustees and Director. A summary of the accounts for the financial year ending 31st August 2021 is included below.

Future Developments

There are a number of exciting projects in the pipeline for the next financial year. In addition to continuing with events such as Scattered, the ACT events, FE Sunday, recruiting students to the network at summer events, we are also looking forward to seeing new resources being developed over the next year.

As mentioned above, we will be launching the new edition of Beyond Beans on Toast. We are also in the early stages of considering designing a gospel that is presented and explained in a way that is relevant to the age group we are working with. Previously, we have made use of UCCFs Mark's Gospels produced for their 'Free' campaign. These are now out of stock and out of print, and it has been difficult to source a suitable replacement. We believe that getting the Word of God into people's hands is a key part of evangelism, therefore it would be great to work on producing something that can be used in this way.

Another new resource that is in its early days of production is a podcast series for students and other budding young evangelists. Each podcast would interview an evangelist and hear about their stories, their experiences and any top tips, dos and don'ts and general advice for young people who want to share Jesus with their friends. We hope this would be the sort of thing that students can easily listen to while on the bus or walking to college and be equipped for their mission field.

Festive will also play a bigger part in Amplify Academy in the next financial year. With Pete, our Director, now on the core leadership team, we are able to contribute to the provision for sixth form students who take part on this training course for 11-18 year olds. Most of our staff team and some of our volunteers will be mentors on the course, and the sixth formers who take part will also benefit from being a part of our network. We hope that it will be a great opportunity to invest more time in some of the students who are really passionate about evangelism, in a way that we have previously been limited due to resourcing and capacity.

The Trustees will continue to monitor closely the activity and finances of the charity, and ensure that all relevant policies and procedures are kept up to date and are adhered to accordingly.

Closing Remarks

The trustees wish to thank all of Festive's staff and supporters for all their work, prayer and support over the last 12 months.

Accounts Summary

For financial year 01-09-2021 to 31-08-2022

Opening Balance			
01-09-2021		£ 31,385.40	
Income		Expenditure	
Individual Supporters	£ 33,426.83	Wages <i>(incl. pension, tax, NI)</i>	£ 51,638.04
Churches	£ 13,262.41	Staff & Volunteer Expenses	£ 3,941.18
Trusts/Grants	£ 31,000.00	External Wages & Contractual Work	£ 8,745.24
External Wage Provision	£ 7,149.99	Website / Microsoft Office	£ 472.79
Gift Aid	£ 5,477.25	Events <i>(incl. Scattered)</i>	£ 2,100.41
Refunds	£ 457.30	Communications <i>(Social Media, SMS etc.)</i>	£ 1,071.76
		Safeguarding Training	£ 160.00
		Insurance	£ 867.07
		General costs <i>(incl. post, resources, Printing)</i>	£ 3,175.64
		Donations	£ 675.00
Total Income		Total Expenditure	£ 72,847.13
£ 90,773.78			
Closing Balance			
31-08-2022		£ 49,312.05	

Independent Examiners Report:

I have examined the accounts of Festive for the year ending 31st August 2022 in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Commission.

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements to keep accounting records and prepare accounts have not been met. I have not found anything to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Name: *JOHN LAZARUSLEY* Signature: *[Signature]*

Date: *19.12.22*

Relevant professional qualification or body:

ACMA (RETIRED)

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