

FOREFRONT COMMUNITY CHURCH

Registered Charity Number: 1139006

UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

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forefrontcommunitychurch



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

	Period start date				Period end date		
	01	Month	Year		Day	Month	Year
From	01	01	2024	To	31	12	2024

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name Forefront Community Church

Other names charity is known by

Registered charity number (if any) 1139006

Charity's principal address 42 Fore Street

Chard

Somerset

Postcode

TA20 1QA

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Mrs A Brister		Appointed 02 October 2024	
2	Mr M Brister			
3	Mrs J Bristow	Chairman	Appointed 22 April 2024	
4	Mr D Burfield			
5	Ms L Dimon			
6	Ms D Farrington		Appointed 18 November 2024	
7	Mrs W Green			
8	Mr J Kerr	Treasurer		
9	Mr N Marsh			
10	Mr S Thurbon			
11	Mr P Dimon		Resigned 19 th Feb 2024	
12	Mr D Sutcliffe		Resigned 18 th Nov 2024	
13	Miss C Smith		Resigned 1 st Nov 2024	

Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address
Independent Examiner	Jon Westley	1 Colleton Crescent, Exeter, Devon EX2 4DG

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

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Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document
(eg. trust deed, constitution)

Forefront Community Church is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), charity number 1139006, and is recognised by Companies House as number CE020874.

How the charity is constituted
(eg. trust, association, company)

Forefront Community Church's Constitution, active from 27th February 2020, establishes the objects and powers of the CIO and the governance arrangements.

CIO conversion constitution registered with the Charity Commission and recognised by Companies House

Trustee selection methods
(eg. appointed by, elected by)

Trustees are appointed in accordance with the CIO Constitution in summary as follows.

- Apart from the first charity trustees, every trustee must be appointed for a term of three years by a resolution passed at a properly convened meeting of the charity trustees.
- In selecting individuals for appointment as charity trustees, the charity trustees must have regard to the skills, knowledge and experience needed for the effective administration of the CIO.
- All Trustees must subscribe to the Statement of Beliefs, be 16 years of age or over (and at least one trustee must be 18 years of age or over), and acknowledge acceptance of the office of trustee.
- There must be at least three charity trustees and no more than twenty.
- The Members of the CIO shall be its charity trustees for the time being. The only persons eligible to be Members of the CIO are its charity trustees.

Additional governance issues (Optional information)

You may choose to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

The charitable company (company number 07343328) was converted into a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) on 27 February 2020, which continues under charity number 1139006. From that point it is recognised by company number CE020874 with Companies House.

The Trustees held five meetings during 2024 to oversee the running of the charity. The charity was run on a day to day basis by the Forefront Community Centre Manager, other paid staff, and volunteers as required. Spiritual leadership of the Church and associated activities were run by the Forefront Community Church Leadership Team.

Risks

In terms of financial risk, the trustees regularly review the CIO finances at each Trustees meeting (a standing item on the agenda), and the Treasurer has ongoing scrutiny of funds. The financial review contains the CIO's policy on reserves.

Forefront Community Church's Safeguarding Policy continued to be in force, reviewed and updated on a regular basis.

The trustees have assessed the major risks to which Forefront Community Church (including the centre) is exposed and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to major risks. These include, building and property security, insurance, fire and electrical safety, personnel safety and wellbeing. A list of periodic service and maintenance requirements for the centre is regularly reviewed by the Trustees to best ensure continued integrity and safety (e.g. Fire Alarm system tested every week, and serviced annually, Electrical PAT performed regularly, Heating System annual service, etc.). The staff/volunteers (and users) are cognisant of the buildings material condition, and report any issues or safety concerns to the Centre Manager as necessary.

Section C

Objectives and activities

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

Forefront Community Church's objects are as follows as per the constitution:

(1) To advance the Christian faith in accordance with the statement of beliefs as the trustees may from time to time think fit and to fulfil such other purposes which are exclusively charitable according to the law of England and Wales and are connected with the charitable work of the charity.

(2) To relieve sickness and financial hardship and to promote and preserve good health by the provision of funds, goods or services including counselling and support services.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)

The Trustees have paid due regard to the public benefits guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the Forefront Community Church should undertake.

Forefront Community Church is a Christian Independent Church, which subscribes to the Evangelical Alliance and their basis of faith, and also belongs to Partnership UK. It comprises a body of believers from a wide variety of backgrounds. Forefront Community Church owns and operates the Forefront Community Centre on Fore Street in Chard, which provides for community outreach and services in pursuance of its Objectives. The centre also provides meeting facilities, and the Church's administration hub. Christian faith services are lead and facilitated by the Church, mostly held in other suitable local premises.

Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

You may choose to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grantmaking;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.

Some of the activities at the Forefront Community Centre were performed and facilitated by volunteers.

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Section D

Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

Forefront Community Church continued to apply considered strategies to achieve its charitable objects, demonstrated in part by the following.

Forefront Community Church held weekly Sunday Morning Services in the main hall of Holyrood Academy, to which anyone was welcome, and facilitated weekly 'house groups' held in Church members homes.

Monthly evening communion services were also held in members' homes. There were regular Youth Group meetings and activities run by the Church, as well as 'Sunday School' held at the same time as the weekly Sunday services. In December the Church held a Christmas Carol Service at Holyrood Academy Main Hall, in addition to the usual Christmas Services. 'Youth Alpha' courses and 'Adult Alpha' courses were also run by the Church in this year.

Forefront Community Centre continued to operate throughout the year, offering community outreach and services, and also functioning as the Church administration hub. Specifically, the centre provided a food bank service (the Lords Larder), weekly community coffee mornings, once weekly craft activity mornings, social/support group meetings for young mums with their babies (Growing Together), and a week day 'drop in' centre for members of the public. 'Citizens Advice South Somerset' continued to operate from the centre twice weekly, and counselling services (NHS mental Health, etc.) used the centre on an occasional basis.

The centre also provided regular meeting facilities for the Church and other associated activities (Youth Groups, Meetings, etc.), and occasional special uses such as an 'Alternative Halloween' evening and 'open house' for Carnival night. The Centre also provided a meeting space and facilities for the 'Homeless and Rough Sleeper NHS Nursing Service' on a regular basis.

Regarding work with local children and youth, the Church continued to financially support a Youth Worker, to live locally and attend Forefront Community Church. She received mentoring and support from the Church, and in return forged links with children and youth, especially from the local Portuguese population, whilst expanding on networking with another local youth worker, and Holyrood Academy.

The Church continued to work and communicate with other churches in the area when necessary, such as being represented at the Chard Churches Together (CCT) group. A week long Summer Club during School summer holiday (headed by CCT) was supported by Forefront Community Church (along with other churches in Chard) by providing volunteers and material support.

Forefront Community Church allocated 15% of the general offerings income to give regular support to missionaries at home and abroad who had links with the Church. In the UK we supported Evangelist work with schools in the Southwest, and supported missions in Leicester and London. Abroad we supported missionaries in Spain, Thailand, and Operation Mobilisation (OM operate a missionary ship Logos Hope), and also supported Latin Link (a Brazilian based missionary organisation), as well as the occasional ad hoc contribution to special appeals.

The annual review of Forefront Staff pay and room hire rates was

Undertaken. Room rates remain the same and a small increase in pay was made whilst aligning increases to the start of the financial year.

Necessary repairs and improvements were made to the property, including repairs to the motor for the electric door.

Strategies for 2025

Our current strategies to achieve our charitable 'Objectives' will continue as before.

An emphasis on our work with children and youth will continue, aided by the continued employment of our Youth Worker for at least another year. These include, partnership with the support staff at Holyrood Academy, the Anglican Pioneer youth worker, and pursuance of other appropriate youth support activities, as well as the continued work and development of the church's own youth.

The Leadership will continue to be mindful of ways to allow for an expansion of our aims and objectives, whether this be through the use of alternative premises, and/or further improvements to our existing property.

Section E

Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

It is the CIO's policy that unrestricted funds which have not been designated for a specific use should be maintained at a level equivalent to between three- and six-month's expenditure. The trustees consider that reserves at this level will ensure that, in the event of a significant reduction in funding, they will be able to continue the Forefront Community Church's current activities while consideration is given to ways in which additional funds may be raised.

Details of any funds materially in deficit

None.

Further financial review details (Optional information)

You may choose to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

Section F Other optional information

Mission team giving of £13,189 (2023: £11,781) included gifts to the following individuals and organisations: -

E Burden – OMF International £2,520 (2023: £3,297)

K & A Barrett - £1,260 (2023: £3,297)

M Strange - £nil (2023: £1,679)

B & E Higgs - £240 (2023: £0)

C & A Moises - £1,260 (2023: £1,679)

B & A Sheath - £5,020 (2023: £1,679)

Youth worker - £nil (2023: £150)

London City Mission - £1,982 (2023: £nil)

Education Plus - £722 (2023: £nil)

Jensy - £100 (2023: £nil)

Grant funding of £nil (2023: £12,753) included grants to the following individuals out of offerings: -

Anisa Marsh £nil (2023: £175)

B & E Higgs £nil (2023: £240)

World Vision £nil (2023: £7,104)

Camps - Spree £nil (2023: £510)

Harvest – Alpha course, lords larder & step £nil (2023: £1,498)

London City Mission £nil (2023: £1,613)

Operation Mobilisation £nil (2023: £1,613)

Assets retained for the charity's own use

The freehold property of Forefront Community Centre, 42 Fore Street, Chard, Somerset, TA20 1QA originally cost £214,080 in 2005. Depreciation is being charged at 2% straight line in accordance with the charity's accounting policy. There have been no improvements during the year which have added value to the property and all repairs are written off as incurred in the receipts and payments account.

The existing furnishings and equipment have no brought forward value since they have been depreciated in full or written off as purchased. There were no additions during the year.

Trustees

None of the Trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any expenses from Forefront Community Church during the year and there were no amounts owing at the year end.

The following trustees (and persons connected with them) received remuneration and pensions during the year, which were in accordance with the memorandum and articles of association on a reasonable basis

and in the best interests of the charity: -

Wages & Salaries

Miss C M C Smith (Trustee, resigned 1st Nov 2024) £34,640 (2023: £31,013)

Mrs J Marsh (spouse of Mr N Marsh) £4,661 (2023: £4,368)

Other pension costs

Miss C M C Smith (Trustee) £1,577 (2023: £1,551)

Mission team giving

No Trustee gifts

Grants payable

Miss A Marsh (daughter of Trustee Mr N Marsh) £nil (2023: £175)

The number of trustees (and persons connected with them) with whom benefits are accruing under money purchase schemes is 1 (2023: 1).

Trustees donated offerings to the charity without condition and the aggregate value of those transactions in the year ending 31 December 2024 was £36,930 (2023: £33,531).

Operating lease

At the year end there were outstanding commitments for future minimum equipment lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows: -

Due with 1 year £262 (2023 : £787)

Due after more than 1 year £nil (2023: £262)

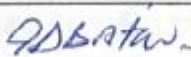

Restricted funds

Where offerings are donated for a specific project these are separated as restricted monies and used to fulfil those pledges. Cash pledges received at 31 December 2024 were £1,109 (2023: £1,956)

Section G Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	JULIE BRISTOW	TREASURER
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	CHAIR	J. KERR
Date	28/4/25	



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/
members of**

Charity Name
Forefront Community Church

**On accounts for the year
ended**

31 December 2024

**Charity no
(if any)**

1139006

Set out on pages

11 to 12

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31 / 12 / 2024.

**Responsibilities and
basis of report**

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

**Independent
examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:

Jonathan Westley

Date:

09/05/2025

Name:

Jonathan Westley FCA

**Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):**

Association Chartered Accountants

Address:

Thompson Jenner LLP

1 Colleton Crescent

Exeter, Devon

EX2 4DG

Section B**Disclosure**

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name
Forefront Community Church

No (if any)
1139006

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period
from

Period start date
1 January 2024

To

Period end date
31 December 2024

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Donations and gifts (including gift aid tax)	138,183	1,324	-	139,507	123,336
Charitable activities - Hire of Forefront Community Centre	9,481	-	-	9,481	9,203
Investments - interest received	758	-	-	758	386
Other income - photocopying reimbursed	109	-	-	109	14
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	148,531	1,324	-	149,855	132,939
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	148,531	1,324	-	149,855	132,939
A3 Payments					
Staff Costs	58,543	-	-	58,543	57,698
Ministry expenses - Evangelism, Youth & other ministry	30,491	156	-	30,647	22,244
Hire of guildhall & other facilities	2,679	-	-	2,679	2,574
Mission team giving (detailed in trustees' report)	11,278	1,911	-	13,189	11,781
Grant funding (detailed in trustees report)	-	-	-	-	12,753
Photocopier operating lease charge	757	-	-	757	740
Insurance	688	-	-	688	628
Repairs & equipment	1,524	-	-	1,524	12,799
Postage, stationery & sundries	873	-	-	873	429
Cleaning	1,255	-	-	1,255	1,197
Electricity	2,050	104	-	2,154	1,030
Telephone	1,275	-	-	1,275	1,138
Water	335	-	-	335	250
Computer software costs	767	-	-	767	739
Accountancy, payroll & independent examination	4,493	-	-	4,493	3,607
Sub total	117,008	2,171	-	119,179	129,607
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	117,008	2,171	-	119,179	129,607
Net of receipts/(payments)	31,523	(847)	-	30,676	3,332
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	46,501	1,956	-	48,457	45,125
Cash funds this year end	78,024	1,109	-	79,133	48,457

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Natwest current account	11,771	1,109	-
	Natwest reserve account 1	3,518		
	Natwest reserve account 2	38,844		
	Kingdom bond	10,548		
	Cash in hand	95		
	Virgin account	13,248	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	78,024	1,109	-

(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))

Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
OK	OK	OK

B2 Other monetary assets

Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
Tangible Asset - Forefront Community Centre, 42 Fore Street, Chard TA20 1QA	188,388	-	-
Other debtors	2,933	-	-
Prepayments	172	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-

B3 Investment assets

Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-



B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use

Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-

B5 Liabilities

Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
Trade creditors	Unrestricted	-	
Accruals	Unrestricted	1,756	
Other creditors	Unrestricted	884	
		-	
		-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	Mrs J Bristow	14/11/25
	Mr J Kerr	14/11/25