



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From **1st January 2023** To **31st December 2023**

Charity name: **Free Church of England Northern Diocesan Synod**

Charity registration number: **1141769**

Objectives and Activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	The object of the charity is the advancement of the Christian faith in union with and according to the principles and practices of The Free Church of England otherwise called the Reformed Episcopal Church contained within the Declaration of Principles as stated in Schedule 1.
Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.	Para 1.17 and 1.19	The Free Church of England Northern Diocesan Synod has sought to advance the Christian faith as the Free Church of England has received it by recruiting new clergy, holding clergy conference days, resourcing church planting, printing new materials for the St Abdias congregation, and providing honoraria and ministerial travel expenses for diocesan officers.
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	Para 1.18	The trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Para 1.21	The charity had a surplus of £19,972 for the year mainly due to a one off contribution from the Central Trust of £17,788. The surplus was £11,867 resulting in a carry forward surplus of £27,439. The surplus is fully held in cash at bank.
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves and why they are held	Para 1.22	There is no policy for holding reserves.
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.23	£27,439
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.24	Not applicable
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.25	Not applicable

Achievements and Performance

	SORP reference	
Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.	Para 1.20	<p>The Free Church of England Northern Diocesan Synod has this year achieved its charitable objectives in four main areas:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Five new clergy have been recruited who are now all actively engaged in Christian mission and ministry at the local level and across the diocese. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This has significantly increased our capacity for preaching, teaching, evangelism, and pastoral care. 2. A series of clergy conference days have been held in order to equip the clergy for their ministries and to build the effectiveness of the diocesan team. 3. Financial resources have been dedicated to a new church planting project in York, which is now bearing early fruit in terms of advancing the Christian faith amongst those who would not otherwise have been members of a church. 4. New printed materials have been provided for the St Abdias congregation, in order to make the teachings of the Christian faith accessible to a non-English culture where English is the second language.

Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Para 1.21	The charity had a surplus of £15,572 for the year mainly due to a one off contribution from the Central Trust of £17,736. The brought forward surplus from prior years was £11,867 resulting in a carry forward surplus of £27,439. The surplus is fully held in cash at bank.
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	There is no policy for holding reserves.
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	£27,439
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	Not applicable
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	Not applicable

Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	There are no uncertainties about the charity's ability to remain as a going concern for the foreseeable future.
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Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:		
Type of governing document (trust deed, royal charter)	Para 1.25	Constitution
How is the charity constituted? (e.g. unincorporated association, CIO)	Para 1.25	Unincorporated association
Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees	Para 1.25	The trustees are the licensed clergy, churchwardens, and delegates of the Northern Diocese of the Free Church of England.

Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	Free Church of England Northern Diocesan Synod
Other name the charity uses	
Registered charity number	1141769
Charity's principal address	16 Windsor Crescent Ulverston LA12 9NP

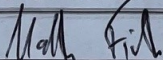
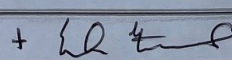
Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	The Rt Revd John Fenwick	Diocesan Bishop		
2	The Revd Matthew Firth		25.3.2023 -	
3	The Revd Anthony Ford		7.10.2023 -	
4	The Revd Karim Akbari Ghalehnovi		5.3.2023 -	
5	Mrs Julie Murphy		25.3.2023 -	
6	Mrs Marlene Parker			
7	Mrs Norma Clarkson			
8	Mr Samuel Bennet King		5.3.2023 -	
9	Dr Mohammad Shirvani		5.3.2023 -	
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				

Declarations

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		+ 
Full name(s)	The Revd Matthew P Firth	The Rt Revd John R K Fenwick
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Diocesan Secretary	Diocesan Bishop

Date 22.3.25



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Free Church of England
Northern Diocesan Synod

No (if any)
1141769

Receipts and payments accounts

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For the period from	Period start date	To	Period end date
	01-Jan-23		31-Dec-23

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					
FCE Central Trust - annual contribution	6,286	-	-	6,286	7,743
FCE Central Trust - one off	17,736	-	-	17,736	-
Quotas from churches	1,600	-	-	1,600	2,100
Bank Interest Received	337	-	-	337	22
Tithe from churches	-	-	-	-	685
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	25,959	-	-	25,959	10,550
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	25,959	-	-	25,959	10,550
A3 Payments					
Bishops Stipend Fund	240	-	-	240	240
Honorarium - Bishop	2,600	-	-	2,600	2,400
Honorarium - Secretary	315	-	-	315	-
Honorarium - Former Treasurer	300	-	-	300	-
Synod Hosting Expenses	150	-	-	150	-
Other Expenses	109	-	-	109	-
Printing	943	-	-	943	311
Rev'd Firth Church Plant expenses	944	-	-	944	-
Travel & Other - Bishop	4,588	-	-	4,588	906
Travel & Other - Ministers	54	-	-	54	171
Zoom Subscription	144	-	-	144	-
Sub total	10,387	-	-	10,387	4,028
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	10,387	-	-	10,387	4,028
Net of receipts/(payments)	15,572	-	-	15,572	6,522
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	11,867	-	-	11,867	5,345
Cash funds this year end	27,439	-	-	27,439	11,867

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	Bank Accounts	27,439	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	27,439	-	-

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

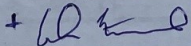
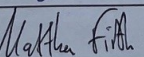
Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities			-	
			-	

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

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	The Rt Revd John R K Fenwick	22/03/2025
	The Revd Matthew P Firth	22/03/2025



**CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES**

**Independent examiner's
report on the accounts**

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/
members of**

Charity Name
Free Church of England Northern Diocesan Synod

**On accounts for the year
ended**

31 December 2023

**Charity no
(if any)**

1141769

Set out on page

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I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31 December 2023

**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:

Elaine E Jess

Date:

14 March 2025

Name:

Elaine Jess

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

FCA

Address:

Treetops

Costain Close, Colby

Isle of Man IM9 4NZ

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).

