

**Charity Registration Number: 1147160**

**FOREST OF DEAN COMMUNITY CHURCH**



**Financial Statements**

**Year ending 31 December 2023**

**FOREST OF DEAN COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
**Financial Statements**  
**For the year ending 31 December 2023**

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## **FOREST OF DEAN COMMUNITY CHURCH**

### **Trust Information**

#### **Status**

Forest of Dean Community Church, Cinderford, is registered with the Charity Commissioners (No: 1147160) and constituted by a Deed of Trust dated 14<sup>th</sup> March 2011

#### **Trustees**

The Charity is administered by the Trustees:

Mr S Annetts (resigned 4 April 2023)  
Mr TC Cracknell (Chair)  
Mr J Jones  
Mr R Vale (appointed 4 April 2023)  
Mrs A Swanson  
Mr K Johnson (appointed 23 January 2024)  
Mrs A Taylor-Roberts (Resigned 8 October 2024)  
Mrs M Williams (Resigned 8 October 2024)

Some of the Trustees also comprise the senior leadership team, with Mr R Angell (appointed 1 May 2023). The Trustees also comprise the Finance Committee with the addition of Mrs C Wakerley as Treasurer during 2023. Mrs Wakerley resigned as Treasurer on 31 January 2024, with Mr D Jones appointed on 1 February 2024.

**Western Counties and South Wales Evangelisation Trust** are the custodian trustees of the church premises at Station Street and 2 Parragate Road, Cinderford; and the church premises in Henry Street, Ross-on-Wye.

The charity operates from two physical locations - being Forest Community Church in Cinderford and Wye Community Church in Ross-on-Wye; as well as online.

#### **Church Office and Registered Office**

Station Street  
Cinderford  
Glos  
GL14 2JT

#### **Bankers**

HSBC  
The Cross  
Gloucester  
GL1 2AP

Lloyds Bank  
Oldham (30926)  
PO Box 1000  
BX1 1LT

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**FOREST OF DEAN COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
**Trustees Report**  
**For the year ending 31 December 2023**

The trustees' submit their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023. The trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (FRS102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' in preparing their annual report. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out on page 10, and comply with the charity's governing documentation, applicable law and the requirements of the SORP.

**Constitution**

The charity is an unincorporated charity and is governed by its Trust Deed.

**Object of the charity**

To advance the Christian faith, in accordance with the Statement of Doctrines and Practices set out in the Schedule appended to the deed, mainly but not exclusively in the Forest of Dean and Wye Valley area.

The purpose of the charity is to serve the Lord Jesus Christ in accordance with Biblical principles and practice and as the charity trustees see fit.

- To advance evangelical Christianity in accordance with the Scriptures in the Bible.
- To advance citizenship and community development.
- To relieve those in need as resources and opportunity allow.

This purpose may be pursued anywhere in the United Kingdom or the world at the discretion of the charity trustees.

**Structure, governance and management**

The charity is ultimately run by the Trustees. The Trustees have the authority to exercise their powers to further the objects of the charity. The Trustees meet at least four times a year but delegate the day to day decision making on the running of the Church to the Senior Leadership Team, who are also co-opted onto the Trustees but the aim is for SLT to not make up more than half of the Trustees. The Senior Leadership Team meet formally twice a month to consider the management and pastoral needs of the fellowship.

Every future Trustee shall be appointed by a resolution of Trustees passed at a special meeting. Training is available for Trustees as the need arises. The Trustees take responsibility for the management of risk and have set up a team of Senior Leaders to identify, assess and mitigate areas of risk.

**Objectives and activities**

The charity fulfils its objectives in accordance with the church's statement of faith as written on the church website ([fcchurch.co.uk](http://fcchurch.co.uk)). There are many activities that are organised for the benefit of the church and the community it serves. These consist of Administration, Prayer ministry, Small groups, Parent Carer & Toddler groups, Bridge for young people, Christians against Poverty, Music, Men's events, Cave Time, GIFT Women's Ministry, Craft Club, Children & Youth church, Quest Club for children, Creche, Church Services with its welcome team, Technical, Online team, Pastoral care and Finance.

**FOREST OF DEAN COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
**Trustees Report (continued)**  
**For the year ending 31 December 2023**

In addition, the charity encourages the principle of "Generosity" by aiming to give 20% of our giving to outside ministries who support our values and objectives on the basis of need. There are no upper or lower limits of support. No commitments have been made for long term support.

**Related parties**

The Trustees received no remuneration as a result of their office during the year. No Trustee, or other person related to the charity, apart from as detailed in note 9, had any personal interest in any contract or transaction entered into by the charity during the year.

**Review of developments**

We praise God for his spiritual, practical and financial provision throughout 2023. All the activities were well organised by people freely giving of their time and abilities. The Church team leaders co-ordinate these activities and meet regularly with the Senior Leadership to suggest and make recommendations. As mentioned in the Trustees report in 2022, both Richard Angeli and Michelle Williams joined the Senior Leadership Team on 1 May 2023. The staff team was also strengthened by the addition of Mr D Hawken on 1 November 2023 as a trainee family and outreach worker. We were sad to say goodbye to Mrs A Taylor-Roberts as a staff member and Senior leader when she left for new pastures at the end of May 2024 .

The church continues to meet in two physical locations, Cinderford and Ross-on-Wye, and it has worked extremely well. It means that the new fledgeling church in Ross benefits from accessing resources of the larger more established church in Cinderford and it is satisfying to see the growth as a result. Due to our continual investment in online technology our Sunday services are now interactive between the Cinderford and Ross church locations. Part of the service now comes from each venue and has helped to create a wonderfully engaging dynamic which is proving to be greatly appreciated by both congregations.

Our online church continues via YouTube, Facebook and Instagram but now that Covid is not the restricting factor that it was, we are using it more as a shop window for new people to explore as a first step before coming to visit, and for those who are unable to join us on Sundays due to illness. Therefore, it continues to play an important part in church life.

The Ross church building built in 1866 has had little money spent on it from 50 years so it was in need of some serious maintenance and refurbishment. This was started in March 2023 when £12,000 was spent on maintenance for the roof. There is also a great need for new toilets, repairs to an outside wall and we would like to make the patio area more usable. This would enable us to take better advantage of the location with a large footfall passing by each day for a coffee shop style ministry to serve the community in the future. In September 2024 work started on the toilets and patio.

Our Cinderford building is being used most days of the week for a wide range of events which bring spiritual life and practical help including Foodbank, Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous to our community. The Ross building is also increasingly being used for the same purpose too, including a community cafe each week, carers group and men's and women's ministry meetings in both Cinderford and Ross.

**FOREST OF DEAN COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
**Trustees Report (continued)**  
**For the year ending 31 December 2023**

**Public benefit statement**

*Identifiable Benefits, related to the aims of the charity*

Through the regular worship & prayer meetings, bible studies, children's clubs, social action programmes and personal visitation the Christian faith is shared and people in the community helped. Individuals have become Christians, had their faith developed and lifestyles impacted. As part of community life families have been supported.

*Beneficiaries*

In addition to Church members, families, other regular attendees and friends anyone is welcome to attend appropriate events without restriction. We seek to be available to all in the community.

The Trustees consider that they have complied with their duties under the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Charities Commission.

**Reserves policy**

The Trustees have a policy to retain three months core expenditure and redundancy costs in reserves at any one time to protect against volatility of income and retain reserves of £45,000. This has increased from the previous year to reflect greater running costs and commitments. At any one time we aim to maintain a minimum balance of £2,000 in the HSBC current account so that any emergency or significant expenditure may be paid without embarrassment. The Trustees are aware that reserves are currently above this threshold at the year end but recognise that the reserves also include a fund set up for much needed significant future developments in both Cinderford and Ross and this fund is being built up as seed money to kick start these off.

The trustee have designated a separate Projects Fund which has been increased to £100,000 in the year after a further transfer of £40,000 during the year. This fund has been set aside for larger projects to future proof the church which the church has yet to decide upon.

**Risk management policy**

The operations team review and update the risk management policies of the church on an annual basis.

The principal risks currently identified, and strategies for managing those risks are as follows:

- Adequate funds to meet commitments. Addressed through the preparation of an annual budget; regular monitoring of income and expenditure by treasurer and monthly review by the Trustees.
- Employment commitments. These are addressed through having contracts and policies in place as well as line management.
- Safeguarding vulnerable adults and children. Addressed through a Safeguarding Officer; Child Protection and Safeguarding policy kept up to date through review, training and being a member of Thirtyone:eight.

**FOREST OF DEAN COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
**Trustees Report (continued)**  
**For the year ending 31 December 2023**

- Health and safety on church premises. Addressed through a member being tasked to monitor the condition of premises; fire drills; regular maintenance; promoting the need to consider health and safety during activities. Risk assessments are in place and regularly reviewed.
- General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) This has been addressed by registering with ICO, a privacy policy has been developed and put on the Church website. Personal data has been identified as to where it resides, and it is stored in a secure location using Churchsuite.

**Results and financial review**

There have been some paid staff changes over the last year or so. Our pastor Mr T Cracknell, continues to be contracted to work for the church on an employed basis but Mrs A Taylor-Roberts, who was employed as a Development and Digital Director throughout 2023, left our employment on 31 May 2024. Throughout 2023 an assistant had been employed for 10 hours a week to help with church administration, but this also came to an end on 6 June 2024. However Mr D Hawken began employment as a trainee family and outreach worker based in the Ross location on 1 November 2023 and continues to be employed in this role.

The rest of the church roles are filled on a voluntary basis without remuneration other than the reimbursement of expenses necessarily incurred in fulfilling their activities.

During the year our general income increased from £143,559 in 2022 to £185,856 for the year ending 31 December 2023. This is thanks to some large one off gifts which the trustees agreed to transfer to the Project Fund. This is a designated fund set-aside for future development. As a result the designated fund currently stands at £100,000; the trustees intend to grow this further as giving to the charity allows. General fund expenditure increased from £106,453 to £132,732 in the year ending 31 December 2023. The main reasons being increased employment expenses and much higher utility costs.

The charity maintains three restricted funds. The training fund which received £1,198 of income and has £1,101 of funds carried forward due to minimal expenditure. The building fund which received income of £15,000 (including £10,000 of grants from two trusts) and a transfer from the General Fund of £5,737. These funds were used to repair the church roof and upgrade the AV technical equipment at Ross.

**FOREST OF DEAN COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
**Trustees Report (continued)**  
**For the year ending 31 December 2023**

**Statement of Trustees responsibilities**

Charity law requires trustees to prepare accounts for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the profit and loss of the Charity for that period. In preparing these accounts, the Trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently.
- Make adjustments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- Prepare the accounts on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity and enable them to ensure that the accounts comply with the Charities Act. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and hence take reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities. The Trustees confirm that the accounts comply with current statutory requirements and those of the Charity's Trust Deed.

Signed for and on behalf of the  
Trustees of Forest of Dean Community Church

  
.....  
Trustee

*19 November 2024*  
.....  
Date



## **INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF FOREST OF DEAN COMMUNITY CHURCH**

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2023, which are set out on pages 8 to 14.

### **Responsibilities and basis of this report**

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:


1. examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act;
2. to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act); and

### **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 giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Charities Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those accounting records.

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

  
Independent Examiner

19 November 2024  
Date

Mr SR Bennett  
Chartered Accountant  
Orchard End  
Bridge Lane  
Wellington  
Herefordshire  
HR4 8AY

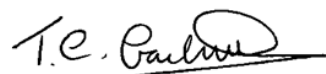
**FOREST OF DEAN COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
**Receipts and Payments Account**  
**For the year ending 31 December 2023**

		General Fund £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2022 £
<b>Receipts</b>	<b>Note</b>				
Voluntary Receipts					
Regular giving from members					
Planned giving		78,882	960	79,842	76,814
Collections		5,143	-	5,143	2,687
Income Tax recovered		23,896	-	23,896	13,088
Wye Church gift	10	-	-	-	11,382
Other voluntary receipts		65,832	7,509	73,341	42,100
Activities for generating funds (rent)		9,245	-	9,245	9,085
Receipts from church activities	2	1,775	-	1,775	1,598
Grants received		-	10,000	10,000	3,500
Investment income		1,083	-	1,083	100
<b>Total income</b>	3	<u>185,856</u>	<u>18,469</u>	<u>204,325</u>	<u>160,354</u>
<b>Payments</b>					
Costs of generating funds					
Fundraising costs		-	-	-	-
Church activities	4	113,767	20,834	134,601	100,046
Grants payable (mission gifts)	5	18,975	2,214	21,189	25,026
<b>Total payments</b>		<u>132,742</u>	<u>23,048</u>	<u>155,790</u>	<u>125,072</u>
<b>Excess Receipts over Payments</b>		53,114	(4,579)	48,535	35,282
Transfers between funds	6	(5,737)	5,737	-	-
<b>Net movement on funds</b>		<u>47,377</u>	<u>1,158</u>	<u>48,535</u>	<u>35,282</u>
Funds brought forward		128,621	68	128,689	93,407
<b>Funds carried forward</b>		<u>175,998</u>	<u>1,226</u>	<u>177,224</u>	<u>128,689</u>

**FOREST OF DEAN COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
**Statement of Assets and Liabilities**  
**As at 31 December 2023**

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
Premises at 2 Paragate Road, Cinderford		168,645	168,645
Portacabin		12,960	12,960
		<u>181,605</u>	<u>181,605</u>
<b>Cash funds</b>			
HSBC Current account		11,373	55,122
HSBC Money Master account		2,298	36,454
HSBC Supplies account		628	695
HSBC Projects account		654	644
Lloyds Business Instant account		26,242	26,013
Lloyds Treasurer account		36,029	9,761
HSBC Money Market - 3 month		50,000	-
HSBC Money Market - 6 month		50,000	-
		<u>177,224</u>	<u>128,689</u>

Signed for and on behalf of the  
Trustees of Forest of Dean Community Church



Trustee

19 November 2024  
Date

**FOREST OF DEAN COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
**Notes to the accounts**  
**For the year ending 31 December 2023**

**1 Accounting Policies**

The principal accounting policies are summarised below. The accounting policies have been applied consistently throughout the year and in the preceding year.

**Basis of accounting**

The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant notes to these accounts. We are using the Receipts and Payments basis.

**Fund accounting**

The church maintains various types of funds as follows:

*Restricted Funds*

Restricted Funds represent gifts received for specific purposes. Forest of Dean Community Church has three such funds.

- The Building Fund represents monies given for the acquisition and refurbishment of the buildings in which Forest of Dean Community Church can run its activities.
- The Mission Fund represents monies given to support missionary works which is reviewed on an annual basis. The church does not enter into commitments to support any given beneficiary beyond the end of its financial year.
- The Training Fund represents monies given to the church to specifically support the education and welfare of individuals in their studies, as agreed by the Trustees

*Unrestricted Funds*

The General Fund represents unrestricted income that is expendable at the discretion of the Trustees in the furtherance of the objects of the charity.

*Designated Funds*

The Project Fund has been designated by the trustees as a means of setting aside funds for larger projects to future proof the church, which have not yet been agreed upon.

*Fixed assets*

Western Counties and South Wales Evangelisation Trust is the Custodian Trustees of the church property; their address is 1 Deerhurst, Kingswood, Bristol BS15 1XH. The £181,605 premises costs shown in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities represent the purchase and refurbishment costs of these premises and continues to be an asset of Forest of Dean Community Church under this arrangement.

**FOREST OF DEAN COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
**Notes to the accounts**  
**For the year ending 31 December 2023**

**2 Receipts from church activities**

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Catering	112	173
Humbugs	713	359
Women's ministry	607	600
Israel trip deposits	200	-
Church merchandise	134	
Commonground Café	9	466
	<u>1,775</u>	<u>1,598</u>

**3 Analysis of Restricted Fund Receipts**

	<b>Building Fund</b>	<b>Training Fund</b>	<b>Mission Fund</b>	<b>2023 Total</b>	<b>2022 Total</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Receipts from donors					
Planned giving	-	-	960	960	1,130
Income Tax recovered	-	-	-	-	215
Other voluntary receipts	5,000	1,198	1,311	7,509	11,950
Grants received	10,000	-	-	10,000	3,500
<b>Total income</b>	<u>15,000</u>	<u>1,198</u>	<u>2,271</u>	<u>18,469</u>	<u>16,795</u>
<b>Analysis of grants received</b>					
Western Counties	8,000	-	-	8,000	3,500
Ruardean Trust	2,000	-	-	2,000	-
	<u>10,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>10,000</u>	<u>3,500</u>

**FOREST OF DEAN COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
**Notes to the accounts**  
**For the year ending 31 December 2023**

**4 Analysis of payments - Church Activities**

	General Fund	Training Fund	Building Fund	2023	2022
	£	£	£	£	£
Pastoral support	705	97	-	802	5,545
Wages, expenses and fees	61,452	-	-	61,452	49,775
Professional fees	-	-	-	-	324
Speaker expenses	1,635	-	-	1,635	843
Ministry expenditure	13,551	-	-	13,551	13,713
Running costs	9,412	-	-	9,412	7,635
Repairs and maintenance	5,045	-	12,144	17,189	14,075
New equipment	6,221	-	8,593	14,814	554
Utilities	15,746	-	-	15,746	7,582
	<u>113,767</u>	<u>97</u>	<u>20,737</u>	<u>134,601</u>	<u>100,046</u>

**5 Grants paid**

	General Fund	Mission Fund	2023	2022
	£	£	£	£
General mission giving	18,975	-	18,975	18,420
Restricted mission gifts	-	1,100	1,100	806
Mission other	-	754	754	5,320
Philippines Pastor fund	-	360	360	480
	<u>18,975</u>	<u>2,214</u>	<u>21,189</u>	<u>25,026</u>

**6 Transfers between funds**

£5,737 was transferred from the General Fund to the Building Fund to cover the final costs of the Wye roof project, and the Wye technology upgrades.

In the previous year the trustees created a designated fund for larger projects to future proof the church, which have not yet been agreed upon. During the year a further £40,000 has been transferred from the General Fund into the Project Fund.

**FOREST OF DEAN COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
**Notes to the accounts**  
**For the year ending 31 December 2023**

**7 Analysis of General and Designated Funds**

	General Fund £	Project Fund £	Total £
Balance brought forward	68,621	60,000	128,621
Incoming resources	185,856	-	185,856
Resources expended	(132,742)	-	(132,742)
Transfers in/out	(45,737)	40,000	(5,737)
Balance carried forward	<u>75,998</u>	<u>100,000</u>	<u>175,998</u>

**8 Analysis of restricted funds**

	Training Fund £	Building Fund £	Mission Fund £	Total £
Balance brought forward	-	-	68	68
Incoming resources	1,198	15,000	2,271	18,469
Resources expended	(97)	(20,737)	(2,214)	(23,048)
Transfers in/out	-	5,737	-	5,737
Balance carried forward	<u>1,101</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>125</u>	<u>1,226</u>

**9 Related party transactions**

Mr TC Cracknell is a Trustee of Forest of Dean Community Church and was the pastor for the year. He is employed part time by the church and his remuneration and benefits for the year are £21,226.

Mrs A Taylor-Roberts was a Trustee of Forest of Dean Community Church until 8 October 2024. She ceased her employment as the Development and Digital Director on 11 May 2024. Her remuneration and benefits for the year were £30,575.

During the year a member of the fellowship, Mrs N Kent, was offered a place at University to study an MA in Art Therapy. An ongoing collection from church members raised a total of £1,198 in 2023 which helped towards personal expenses. No church funds are being used in addition to members personal restricted donations.

## **FOREST OF DEAN COMMUNITY CHURCH**

### **Notes to accounts**

**For the year ending 31 December 2023**

#### **9 Related party transactions (continued)**

Trustees, senior leaders and their spouses have claimed reimbursement, from time to time, for sundry expenditure incurred in relation to church activities.

TC Cracknell is a trustee of The Cracknell Trust CIO which from time to time makes donations to this charity.

#### **10 Wye Community Church**

On 1 January 2022, Wye Community Church, Ross-on-Wye became part of the Forest of Dean Community Church charity, becoming known locally as the Community Church, Forest & Wye. The funds of that church, being 2 bank accounts, was passed to the Trustees of the charity and this has been shown as an additional receipt of £11,382 in that accounting year.