

TRUE FREEDOM TRUST

England & Wales · Charity number 1159015

Details

Other names	TFT
Status	Registered
Legal form	CIO
Registered	2014-10-29
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	120 Chester Street Birkenhead Birkenhead Wirral CH41 5DL
Phone	01516530773
Email	info@truefreedomtrust.co.uk
Website	www.truefreedomtrust.co.uk

Activities

Objects: THE OBJECT OF THE CIO IS, FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT, THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH IN PARTICULAR (BUT NOT LIMITED TO) PROVIDING TEACHING BASED ON THE BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES IN THE STATEMENT OF FAITH ON ISSUES AROUND SEXUALITY AND BY PROVIDING SUPPORT FOR THOSE WHO ARE STRUGGLING WITH SUCH ISSUES.

Activities: A CHRISTIAN SUPPORT AND TEACHING MINISTRY FOR MEN AND WOMEN SEEKING HELP FOR UNWANTED SAME SEX ATTRACTIONS OR SIMILAR ISSUES AND FOR THEIR FAMILIES AND FRIENDS. TEACHING AT CHURCHES, COLLEGES AND OTHER ORGANISATIONS. PROVISION OF LITERATURE AND WEBSITE TO AID THOSE WE SUPPORT.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** Education/training, Religious Activities
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Ireland
- Northern Ireland
- Scotland
- Throughout England And Wales

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-04-30	£178,441	£180,026	-	-
2024-04-30	£199,920	£187,074	-	-
2023-04-30	£166,448	£161,012	-	-
2022-04-30	£153,640	£144,167	-	-
2021-04-30	£172,843	£124,339	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Donald John Dewar	Chair	2015-02-11
Duncan Beet		2021-06-25
Graham Baker		2018-11-23
Laura Oliver		2021-03-26
Naomi Skull		2018-11-23
Rev IAIN BAKER		2007-10-03
Robert Walsh		2018-11-23

TRUE FREEDOM TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1159015

Accounts



Ministry Overview



Encouraging Christians facing same-sex temptations with biblical clarity and supportive community

MAY 2024 - APRIL 2025

“True Freedom Trust will help your church grasp hold of the culturally sacred topic of sexuality. They will carefully unpack it and help you see it in light of the gospel, whilst always remaining grace-filled and compassionate. Their testimonies and stories help to ground all of it personally and demonstrate a compelling understanding for how we can trust in the Bible’s view on these matters to be good news.” – Chris

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1 - Introduction

In 2024-25, True Freedom Trust (TFT) stood firm on its commitment to teaching and discipling believers on the clear truth of the Bible around matters of sexuality and gender. We continue to do this with gentleness and compassion, combining biblical truth with the recognition from our own lives that purity and obedience in these areas is not easy.

The ministry of TFT began in 1977, and we are beginning to look ahead to the 50-year anniversary in 2027 of all that God has been doing over the last half-century in the lives of people across the UK, Ireland and beyond. As we approach our “golden anniversary”, we want to focus on two areas. Firstly, we want to be celebrating the transforming work of God in the lives of our members: we have always enjoyed sharing the testimonies of our members, but we particularly want to hear the accounts of those who have benefitted from the steady

presence of the ministry in encouraging them, year after year, to keep following the Lord Jesus in obedience and joy. Secondly, we want to encourage a broader base of our members and partnership churches to support our work regularly through financial giving and prayer. We trust that these two pillars of gratitude (looking back) coupled with hope and commitment (looking forward) will be good foundations for the future.

As I hand over my work into Nat’s capable hands in the coming year, I am expectant that our excellent team of staff and volunteers will continue to ensure that this

ministry will bless many in the years ahead.



Stuart Parker,
Director of TFT



2 - Ministry Overview

2.1 - Resources

In 2024-25, we produced quarterly electronic and printed editions of Ascend magazine. The themes were "Cultivating godly desires", "Cultivating friendships", "Countering loneliness" and "Teaching sexuality". We continue to post out around 800 printed copies of the magazine free of charge, as we believe that paper copies are easier to share and that readers tend to read them more thoroughly. However, almost all new subscribers to the magazine opt for the email version, and this format currently has around 1650 direct recipients.

Most of our articles, testimonies and reviews from Ascend also get posted on our website, which extends our readership around the world, and gives visibility to our work from outside our mailing lists. Although there are plenty of good biblical articles from other writers and organisations online, the TFT website is distinctive, due to the honest personal testimonies from a wide range of Christians experiencing same-sex feelings.

We have continued to produce our quarterly podcast, Ascend Higher, connected with the theme of each

Ascend magazine. Our most popular episode this year was entitled "When my pastor decided I was unfit for ministry". This episode was a conversation with Sarah who described her difficult experience of having support for her ministry withdrawn by her pastor because she was unwilling to pursue a change in her sexual orientation (even though she was not acting upon the same-sex temptations). This was in the context of a wider debate in church circles on the matter of whether sexual temptation is in itself sinful.

We also produced a 2025 version of our popular Recommended Resources leaflet, in both printed and online formats. This leaflet presents the books and podcasts that we think are the most helpful, grouped according to topic. We extended the sections on videos, podcasts and blogs in recognition of the good quality of many of these resources. We are also seeing that many churches and small groups find these electronic resources more accessible and useful than books, particularly as part of a service or group study.



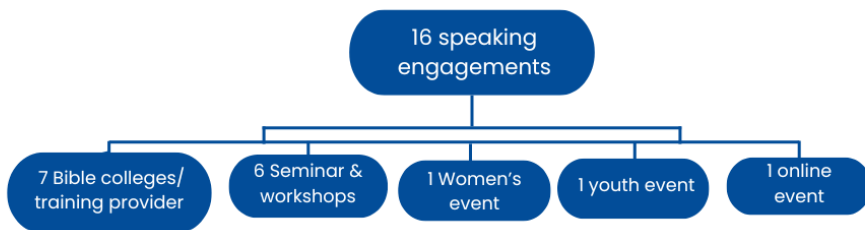
2.2 - Speaking & teaching

2024/5 represented a quieter year for the TFT Speaking Team, who delivered a total of 16 speaking engagements over the financial year. This, however, should not be interpreted as a decline in the need for quality training on matters of sexual ethics and gender identity in our churches.

It has been an immense privilege to witness a growing number of people willing to stand up in their own church contexts and share their story of walking faithfully with same-sex attraction alongside proclaiming biblical truths. We very much see it as part of the legacy of TFT's now 48 years of ministry in this area that a growing number of Christians who experience same-sex attraction are now confident to add their voice to the conversation.

The topics we were asked to speak on throughout 2024/5 reflect a continuing trend of churches feeling more confident in the delivery of their own biblical overview of sexual ethics, but wanting our help when it comes to the practical outworking of that teaching. Of the sixteen engagements we delivered, eleven asked for training on how to be welcoming/loving churches for those who experience same-sex attraction, while four also asked for input on engaging well with those with different views (be that outside the church, or within their own denomination). We continue to be immensely thankful for the eight individuals who serve on our team, in addition to Simon as team lead, who provide a wealth of differing experiences from their own geographical/church contexts.

Our team delivered



2.3 - Pastoral Support

TFT receives website forms from those asking for pastoral support at the rate of 4 per week; the struggles faced in these requests have become more complex. Contacts mostly come from within the UK, but also, more commonly, from around the world.

Most of the requests relate to same-sex attraction (SSA) and gender dysphoria. Ministers who are negotiating issues with pastoring same-sex couples, providing care for those with gender incongruence and wanting to honour God and also be welcoming have been helped. Parents of children who struggle have opened a Barnabas Group in order to be a learning, supportive community.

Voluntary Workers are trained not only to give face to face support, but help by video call and phone. Three trainings are provided a year; this reporting year training included responding well to pastoral requests, mental health issues, accountability and TFT policies and safeguarding.

Members joining Barnabas support Groups have increased exponentially - it has been exciting to experience lives being transformed.

2.4 - Support Groups

Barnabas Groups are valuable for providing support and community for our members with same-sex attraction and/or gender incongruence. We have in-person groups who usually meet monthly and range from 4-14 members. They are in Wirral, Manchester, Belfast, Edinburgh, Leeds, Essex, Cambridge, West Midlands and London (2 groups). We were delighted to open three new groups during this reporting year in Ipswich, Glasgow and Stockton-on Tees.

The number of online Barnabas Groups and Book Clubs has flourished, significantly growing from 7 to 16. 7 of those are for women, 2 are mixed and 4 are men's groups. We also have a group for parents, for married men and for married couples.

Our groups have a bible-based thought or book study on same-sex attraction, gender or a relevant theme as a focus, with discussion and prayer. One of the women's groups is intentionally small in order to meet to concentrate on intimacy in sharing struggles and praying; there is an accountability focus in one of the men's groups. Many of the BGs meet socially.





2.5 - Women's Ministry

The women's ministry is continuing to grow with new members joining support groups and participating in conferences. 30 women attended the National Conference, a record high. Existing members form a firm foundation of committed and loyal women who provide pastoral care, write articles and testimonies for the Ascend magazine, record podcasts, are used regularly on the speaking team and lead seminars at events.

Two new women's Barnabas Groups opened in 2024/25, one which was set up to be a small, intimate group specifically for sharing struggles and praying. Two mixed Barnabas Groups re-opened and are jointly led by women. All women's groups are online, with several members from countries in Europe, the US, Africa and Canada. This gives the great opportunity of learning from and supporting members from other cultures, welcoming and broadening different Christian experience.

A new parents group led by 3 female VWs was set up to be a learning environment for parents wanting to support their children with SSA or gender incongruence. They are finding "Parenting – Gospel Principles" by Paul David Tripp a helpful focus for discussion. The couples group, with wives who experience SSA, is now firmly established. 3 new Voluntary Workers joined the team of 16, one of whom works as an accountability partner.

The annual women's weekend was held in May in Wirral with a study on solitude and rest, fun activities and mutual support. This year's day conference in February 2025 was on the theme of accountability and was led by Laura Oliver. 30 women attended and found the talks, worship and community so encouraging. Two women gave testimonies at a Zoominar, with questions on their stories from the audience.

There are 48 members in our private Facebook group "Women of Light", with WhatsApp groups connected to each Barnabas Group.



2.6 - Conferences

In June 2023, we held our London conference. The theme of the conference was “Friends, fears and idols”. We repeated the talks from this conference online in November for those who were unable to attend in person focusing on the theme of emotional dependency. We also held day conferences in Dublin and Edinburgh.

Our residential National Conference, “What on earth is heaven?”, in October 2024, had Jim Paul as our speaker. About 115 delegates attended.

Our annual Women’s Conference in February 2025 was on the theme of “From death to life: growing in godliness through accountability”.



“Friends, fears and idols:
when desire for connection disconnects us”

London 2024

2.7 - Outreach

We are keen as ever that all those Christians who would benefit from the work of True Freedom Trust are able to find us. We continue to enjoy good relationships with churches and networks within the evangelical constituency. In November Simon, Rob and Jane visited the FIEC Leadership Conference in Blackpool and

staffed an exhibition stall promoting the work of TFT. It was a pleasure to chat to church leaders about the ways in which we might support them in their ministry. We also found ourselves having conversations with those needing support for either themselves or to best serve loved ones.

In September, Simon and Iain visited the ReNew conference in Leeds, which provided opportunity to chat with Anglican leaders about the pressures of the Church of England's PLF process. As part of our speaking work, we continue to enjoy long-standing relationships with several bible colleges and training providers, with whom we visit on an annual basis. These strategic relationships allow us to raise our profile with representatives from many churches in a single speaking engagement. Do join us in praying we continue to grow and deepen these partnerships in the Gospel into 2026 and beyond.

2.9 - Fundraising

This year we focused our fundraising efforts on encouraging members of TFT to consider giving. We ran various adverts within the Ascend magazine as well as emails and adverts in our prayer newsletter. The aim was to encourage regular giving to help us budget well. We have continued to be supported by many individuals, churches and trusts throughout 2024/25. We are very grateful to them for their financial support.

2.8 - Online interactions



68,750

total visits to the website in the financial year 24/25



We have a total of **20** podcasts and released 4 over the year 24/25. The 4 podcasts reached a total of **533** plays.



Our highest visited page was what does the Bible teach about same-sex practice with **33,859** views.



3 - Plans for 2025-2026

Take Heart

A pair of hands, palms up, holding a bright red heart. The background is a light blue gradient.

On Saturday 7th June 2025, we are once again combining with Living Out to put on a one-day London Conference. We are delighted to have Vaughan Roberts speaking to us on the marks of a healthy heart.

We have a members' day conference coming up in Edinburgh (5 July 2025). And we hope to have another day conference in Ireland in the autumn. We have also now established an annual rhythm of using the recordings from one of our conferences to hold a shorter online version of the conference in the autumn, particularly for the benefit of those who were unable to attend our in-person events.

On 26-28 September 2025, we have one of our trustees, Iain Baker, speaking at our annual residential members' conference from the book of Revelation. Our members look forward to this annual fixture, benefitting from both the teaching and the relaxed times of fellowship.

"It was good to hear the TFT talk. It was interesting, engaging and the most compassionate I've heard on this subject." - (Joel, 19)

4 - Governance

4.1 - Membership

In the past year, we were able to welcome 33 new members, taking the total number of people supporting the ministry to 1736 individuals.

In addition, we have 190 churches and partnership ministries as corporate members of TFT.

4.2 - Voluntary Workers

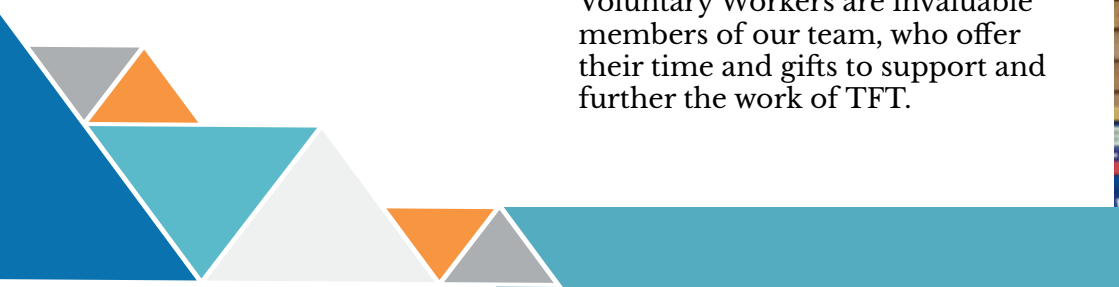
A comprehensive review of our Voluntary Workers took place in 2024/25 and the continuation of development of a framework for a rolling training programme. Voluntary Workers were provided with 2 online mornings and one in-person training day. There are quarterly meetings for VWs to share any personal struggles, discuss pastoral and support group issues and pray together.

We have 52 Voluntary Workers with 9 new appointments. 41 of those provide pastoral care, 11 are chiefly speakers and 36 lead or co-lead Barnabas Groups. Pastoral Voluntary

We have tightened up our membership application procedure: we now ask for photo identification and a recommendation from a church leader before considering new applications for membership from individuals.

Workers take webform and telephone referrals and support those who seek help with same-sex struggles, sexual addiction and pornography, a need for accountability and gender confusion. They are often Barnabas Group leaders too, who assess contacts for membership and joining support groups. Speaker Voluntary Workers speak publically at churches and bible colleges, expounding orthodox biblical teaching, answering audience questions and following up on pastoral issues arising from events.

Voluntary Workers are invaluable members of our team, who offer their time and gifts to support and further the work of TFT.



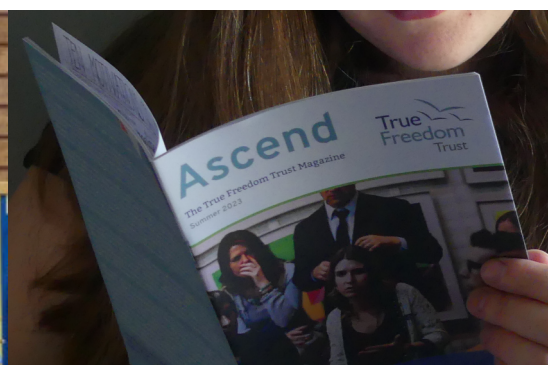
“ The highlight for me was having the opportunity to connect with other men and women to whom I can relate, when it comes to sexuality and singleness. These are people who are also trying to navigate life with same-sex attraction while following Jesus.”

4.3 - Staff

Yen Tay joined the staff team in November as Team administrator. The staff team going into 2025-26 consists of Stuart Parker & Nat Johnson (Director), Simon Byrne (Teaching & Outreach Manager), Ruth Daly (Women's Worker), Owen Leadbetter (Digital Media Technician & Events Co-ordinator) and Yen Tay (Team Administrator).

4.4 - Trustees

The Trustees met three times in 2024-25. Two meetings were in London and one was at the Wirral office with the staff team. The Trustees going into 2025-26 are Iain Baker, Donald Dewar (Chair), Graham Baker, Naomi Skull, Robert Walsh, Laura Oliver and Duncan Beet. Jane Gibbs has stepped down as a trustee. We would like to thank her for her service.



4.5 - Financial Review

We are thankful to God for our donors, many members and non-members of TFT and churches and trusts, for their financial partnership in our shared aim to provide sound biblical teaching and a community of Christian support. We are also humbled and deeply thankful to our Volunteer Workers and our event speakers who have worked tirelessly in gospel partnership with us. Without both financial and gospel partnership, we would not have been able to provide a safe place for same-sex attracted Christians, and those who support them, to

meet and serve/encourage one another in following the Lord Jesus Christ.

The 2024/2025 financial year ended with a deficit of £1,584. Although income has dropped slightly in this financial year compared to the previous financial year, we are thankful to God that currently we have sufficient reserves to absorb this deficit, and we rely on God to provide sufficient donations for the 2025/2026 financial year. Here is a summary of our income and expenditure:

➔ Income

Our 2024/2025 income in comparison with the last financial year is as follows:

	2023/2024	2024/2025
Committed giving	£96,337	£88,243
Other gifts/ one off giving	£69,416	£54,720
Gift Aid	£18,855	£16,355
Conference Fees	£15,312	£19,143
Total Income	£199,920	£178,441

Income

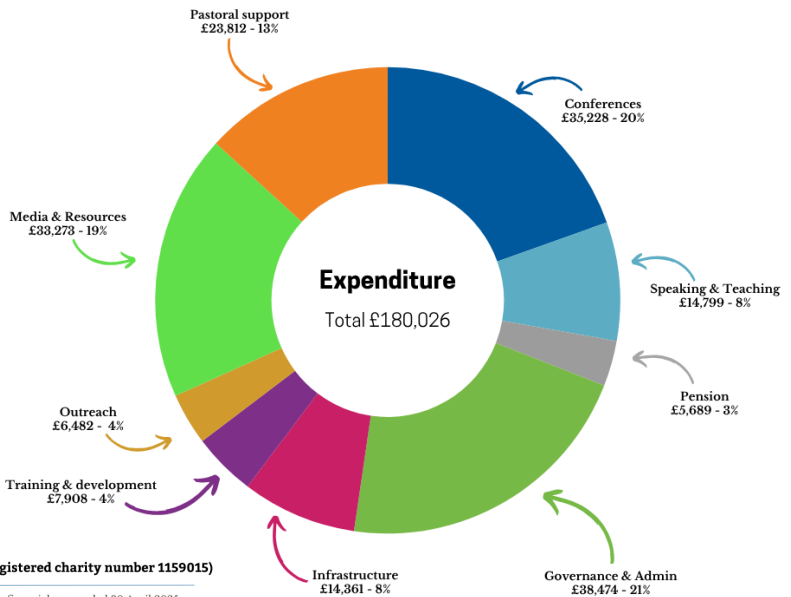
Total £178,441



← Expenditure

Our 2024/2025 expenditure in comparison with the last financial year is as follows:

	2023/2024	2024/2025
Governance & Administration	£26,040	£38,474
Conferences	£33,741	£35,228
Media & Resources	£39,358	£33,273
Pastoral Care & Oversight	£15,853	£23,812
Speaking and Teaching	£35,098	£14,799
Infrastructure	£7,683	£14,361
Training & Development	£20,998	£7,908
Outreach	£1,328	£6,482
Pension	£6,975	£5,689
Total expenditure	£187,074	£180,026



→ True Freedom Trust (a CIO) (registered charity number 1159015)

Payments to (or on behalf of) trustees for the financial year ended 30 April 2025

CATEGORY	AMOUNT (£)	NOTES
Trustees' expenses (as trustees)	£1777.03	This amount includes reimbursement of trustee travel costs actually incurred on trustee business, food purchased directly for trustees while on trustee business, and (because it is all purchased on one receipt) staff expenses at a joint annual staff and trustee meal and the cost of food for staff attending trustees' meetings so is not purely trustee expenses
Trustees' expenses (when volunteering for the charity in other capacities)	£596.95	Reimbursement of travel costs actually incurred for trustees who are volunteers on our speaking team in line with our expenses policy
Other payments to trustees	£200	Honorarium for speaking at an event
Total	£2,573.98	Trustee expenses and other volunteer expenses are authorised in line with our expenses policy



TFT's stated public benefit is "the advancement of the Christian faith, in particular (but not limited to) providing teaching based on the biblical principles in the Statement of Faith on issues around sexuality and by providing support for those who are struggling with such issues."

In practice, this means providing teaching within churches on issues related to same-sex attraction, as well as providing pastoral care and guidance to church leaders, individuals and families affected. The main activities undertaken for the public benefit include pastoral support, creating resources and teaching at churches, colleges and other organisations.

TRUE FREEDOM TRUST (TFT) is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), governed by constitution dated 29/10/2014, registered in England and Wales with the Charity Commission. Charity number: 1159015

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF

True Freedom Trust

I report to the Trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 30 April 2025

Responsibilities and basis of the 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 may be reached

Date 29 August 2025

Signed



A. E. M. McGraa
18. Poulton Green Close.
Bebington,
Wirral
CH63 9FS

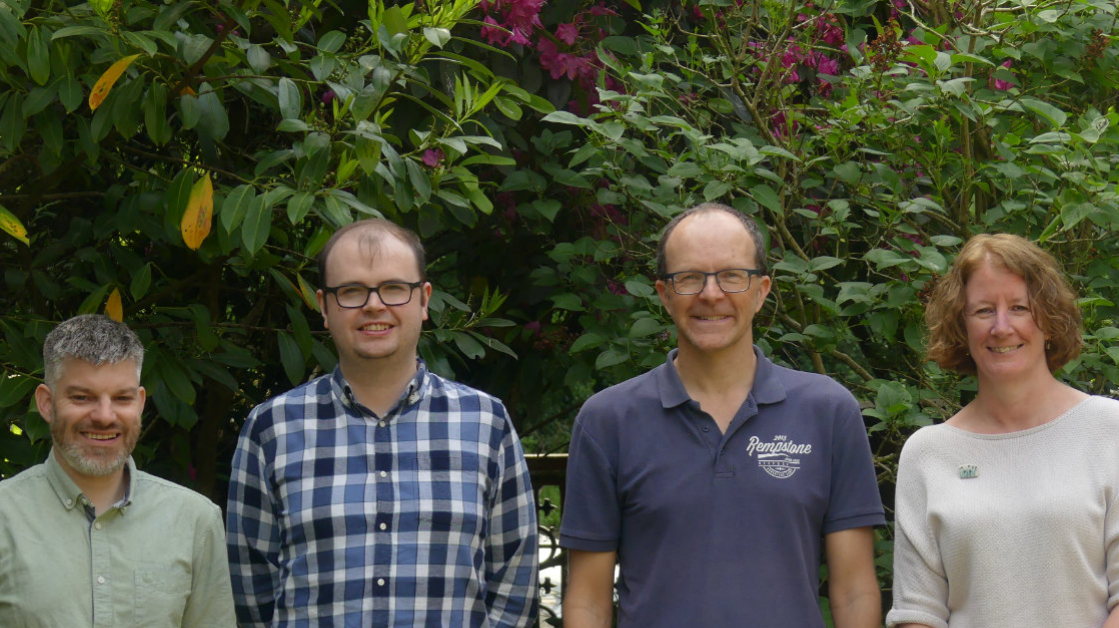
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Encouraging Christians facing same-sex temptations with biblical clarity and supportive community

MAY 2023 - APRIL 2024

“True Freedom Trust will help your church grasp hold of the culturally sacred topic of sexuality. They will carefully unpack it and help you see it in light of the gospel, whilst always remaining grace-filled and compassionate. Their testimonies and stories help to ground all of it personally and demonstrate a compelling understanding for how we can trust in the Bible’s view on these matters to be good news.” – Chris

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1 - Introduction

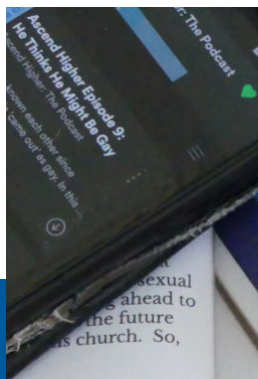
In 2023-24, True Freedom Trust (TFT) continued to provide churches and individuals with a consistent approach to biblical truth, whilst also adapting to the particular questions and pressures of the time. There was renewed interest in the question of whether same-sex feelings are intrinsically sinful. Also, many faithful Christians had to make hard decisions about whether to remain in churches where the leaders had shifted their theological position. Indeed, whole churches wrestled with the same question concerning their long-term future within their denomination.

In autumn 2023, Andy Robinson (Training Director at Living Out) came to our National Conference, providing encouragement from the book of 2 Corinthians under the theme of “Sorrowful... yet always rejoicing”. Andy encouraged us in the biblical truth that we are people

who might have sorrow at times, yet we can constantly rejoice in the hope we have found in Jesus.

At the end of April 2024, we held our first residential training weekend for Voluntary Workers (VWs). Over 30 VWs attended the event, which had a mixture of some training with everyone together and some training in areas of speciality (eg speaking, pastoral work, support groups). We also had a number of candidate VWs join us, in order to decide whether to join the team.

Stuart Parker,
Director of TFT



2 - Ministry Overview

2.1 - Resources

In 2023-24, we produced quarterly electronic and printed editions of Ascend magazine. The themes were "Reaching others", "Being distinctive", "Resisting pornography" and "Pursuing good mental health". We continue to post out around 800 printed copies of the magazine free of charge: the rising costs of postage are largely offset by the growing number (around 1600) on our mailing list preferring to receive the magazine by email.

Most of our articles, testimonies and reviews from Ascend also get posted on our website, which extends our readership around the world.

We have continued to produce our quarterly podcast, Ascend Higher,

connected with the theme of each Ascend magazine. Our most popular episode this year was entitled "Should I stay?": this episode considered the question of whether a biblically orthodox believer should remain in a church when the leadership has moved to a revisionist understanding of the Bible.

We also produced a 2024 version of our Recommended Resources leaflet, which continues to be popular at speaking engagements. This leaflet presents the books and podcasts that we think are the most helpful, grouped according to topic.



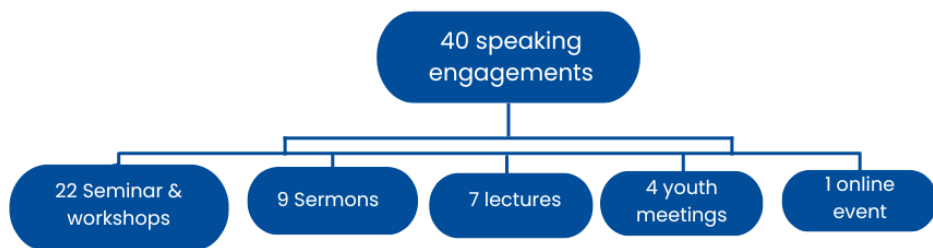
2.2 - Speaking & teaching

During the 23/24 financial year, TFT speakers continued to be in demand, with the team delivering 40 speaking engagements. Many of these engagements were concentrated in the autumn term of 2023, as churches sought input on how to engage with others of differing theological convictions. This was particularly driven by contemporary discussions about human sexuality within the Church of England and Baptist Union.

It should be noted that some speaking engagements involve delivering more than one type of talk, and this is reflected in the chart below.

We've seen a growing demand for speaking events that deal with cultural engagement, as objections to what the Church has historically believed about sex and relationships now often take the form of moral criticism. The testimony of our speakers demonstrates that the biblical teaching is far from harmful and oppressive, but rather caring and liberating. It has been a great privilege speaking to churches about the good news of God's kingdom in the area of sexuality and gender over this last year, and we're grateful for the ongoing partnership of churches committed to God's word.

Our team delivered



2.3 - Pastoral Support

Website forms from people requesting pastoral support have averaged at a rate of 4 per week.

Voluntary Workers have provided face to face support, as well as remote help via video calls or by phone; many new members have already joined our support groups (Barnabas Groups). Most of our contacts are from people in the UK, but we have received some requests from people looking for support from other parts of the world, for example, Japan, South Africa, Cameroon or the US.

Most of the requests have been related to same-sex attraction (SSA) and gender dysphoria (the requests for support in this area are growing).

Parents of children with SSA and/or gender dysphoria have also been cared for individually and through support groups. We can see that this area of ministry continues to grow.

In April 2024, we were able to provide training in pastoral care, safeguarding and TFT policies for our VWs, in an in-person event that took place over a residential weekend.

2.4 - Support Groups

Our Barnabas Groups (BGs), provide support for people who experience SSA, gender incongruence or both. They generally take place monthly. We have face to face groups in Belfast, Edinburgh, Leeds, Guildford, London (2 groups), Essex, Wirral, Cambridge, Manchester and Birmingham. There are 7 online groups, 5 of those groups are women's groups, 2 are men's groups.

Finally, there are two BGs that have a hybrid system of simultaneous in-person gatherings and online connection for those members unable to travel. We also have a support group for married people and for parents. Typically, there is time for a Bible based thought or a group discussion based on a relevant topic generally related to sexuality or gender, and prayer. Many BGs meet socially as well.





2.5 - Women's Ministry

The women's ministry is thriving with women contributing in every sphere – recording podcasts, leading worship at conferences, taking seminars, writing articles and testimonies for the Ascend magazine, representing TFT at events and speaking and teaching. Regular new members are added to support groups and join the committed and faithful core of existing members.

This reporting year started with our annual women's weekend away in Wirral. This was a time of community, a study on prayer and support and encouragement. Sarah completed a three-month internship with TFT in Autumn 2023, where she gave valuable input with the staff team at the National Conference, helped with planning Voluntary Worker training, taught at speaking engagements, led women's groups and set up a Facebook VW Information Hub.

questions from attendees about their stories. We held a day conference in February 2024 entitled "Pleasing God", where 40 members attended, with Jane Gibbs as our speaker. 4 new Voluntary Workers applied to join the team of 13, two who will work from overseas and one will be appointed with her husband. Three online Barnabas Groups run for those unable to join a physical group near to them and two book clubs meet monthly online. Several members are from abroad, who also attended the Women's and National Conference. An overseas WhatsApp group was set up for leaders, VWs and members of burgeoning ministries in Europe, South Africa and the US. A couples group is now well established, where the wives experience same-sex attraction.

There are 48 members in our private Facebook group, "Women of Light", and the majority of those women are also connected to each other in WhatsApp groups.

Two women gave moving testimonies at a Zoominar, with

Sorrowful

YET...

ALWAYS
REJOICING

2 Corinthians 6 v 10

2.6 - Conferences

In June 2023, we held our joint conference with Living Out in London. The theme of the conference was “Being the family of God”. We repeated the talks from this conference online in November for those who were unable to attend in person. We also held day conferences in Belfast and Edinburgh.

Our residential National Conference, “Sorrowful yet always rejoicing”, in October 2023, had Andy Robinson as our speaker. About 100 delegates attended.

Our annual Women’s Conference in February 2024 was on the theme of “Pleasing God”.



2.7 - Outreach

We are always looking for ways to raise the profile of our ministry. This helps those who might benefit from TFT’s services to find us and also helps us to form new partnerships with individuals and other organisations who may choose to support us financially or in prayer.

In the 23/24 financial year, for the first time, we applied for exhibition space at several large national Christian conferences. The highlight of our year for our outreach work came in the form of a chance to exhibit at one of the three weeks of the Keswick Convention. We’re thankful that a group of TFT ladies gave up a portion of their holiday in

order to staff our stand, as well as members, Simon and Jonny.

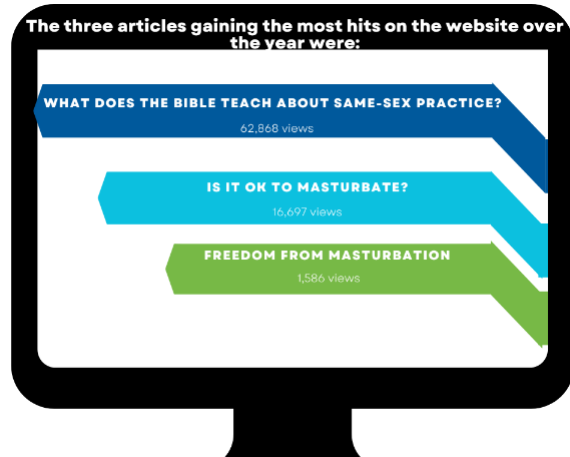
We had a variety of conversations with conference delegates, other exhibitors, and even a few paramedics! To get the conversation flowing, we had a small whiteboard on which we wrote a new case study each day that spoke into a particular area that TFT ministers to. We've had a few contacts off the back of our time at Keswick, including a request to speak at a church in Scotland.

Simon has continued to liaise and build relationships with other Christian organisations. We were blessed with an opportunity to speak to a group at London City Mission in summer 2023, and Simon recorded a podcast with Affinity as our financial year closed. We thank God for all our partners in the Gospel, and pray we can continue to encourage one another as we continue to contend for the Gospel in the months and years ahead.

2.8 - Online interactions

Our website serves as the 'shop-window' for TFT's work, and we praise God that it has been free of any technical gremlins in 2023/24 that might have prevented access to the resources and services we offer. Articles from Ascend magazine continue to find their way onto our website in the weeks following the magazine's publication.

There are now 16 episodes of the podcast Ascend Higher available and, at the time of writing, the podcast had 4,354 downloads in total.



2.9 - Fundraising

This year we focused our fundraising efforts on encouraging members of TFT to consider giving. We ran various adverts within the Ascend magazine as well as emails and adverts in our prayer newsletter. The aim was to encourage regular giving to help us budget well. We have continued to be supported by many individuals, churches and trusts throughout 2023/24. We are very grateful to them for their financial support.

3 - Plans for 2024-2025

“Friends, fears and idols: when desire for connection disconnects us”

London 2024

In June 2024, we are holding two one-day conferences. The first will be in Edinburgh on the theme of God’s mercy, and is particularly for those members in Scotland and the North of England.

The second day conference will be in central London. After a number of years of wanting to hold a conference on the theme of emotional dependency, we are excited to have found a well-qualified speaker on the subject. Andrew Collins, a consultant psychiatrist who now works for Biblical Counselling UK, is going to explain how sometimes our heart attitudes to friendships can become idolatrous, as well as showing us from the Bible how we might find freedom from this unhealthy pattern.

We intend to repeat the teaching elements from this conference later in the year in an online format, for the benefit of those unable to attend in person in June.

In Autumn 2024, we have Dr Jim Paul, Director of L’Abri Fellowship in England, coming to our National Conference to speak on the theme of “What on earth is heaven?”. He will be showing us how we can be part of bringing the kingdom of heaven to our part of this earth in this life.

“It was good to hear the TFT talk. It was interesting, engaging and the most compassionate I’ve heard on this subject.” - (Joel, 19)

4 - Governance

4.1 - Membership

In the past year we have been able to maintain contact with our long standing members and we are glad to see that they have renewed their support to TFT. As a result, 1670 people continue as members.

In the past year, we were able to welcome 67 new members, taking

the total number of people supporting the ministry to 1737 individuals.

As well, 207 churches and partnership ministries have decided to support the work of TFT throughout the UK and Ireland.

4.2 - Voluntary Workers

We have 41 Voluntary Workers (VWs). 30 provide pastoral care exclusively. 7 volunteers, besides their pastoral work, also help with speaking engagements and 3 volunteers take speaking engagements exclusively. 20 of them lead or help co-lead support groups.

We are currently working on appointing 6 new volunteers in the coming year.

This year we were able to host a weekend long training event where our VWs were able to deepen their knowledge in leadership, group management, people retention and pastoral care as well as TFT policies and values.

Pastoral Voluntary Workers provide spiritual support to people who are often in vulnerable situations, seem to be unable to break unwanted habits or have never been able to open up about their struggles to church or family members. The difference they make in people's lives can be assessed by the powerful testimonies we hear every day.

Speaker Voluntary Workers are frontline workers who promote our Bible based values and convictions through their public speaking gifts. Of particular importance is their role in Q&A sections of the events they partake in, where they manage to speak the truth in love, answering questions related to gender and sexuality from a biblical perspective.



“The highlight for me was having the opportunity to connect with other men and women to whom I can relate, when it comes to sexuality and singleness. These are people who are also trying to navigate life with same-sex attraction while following Jesus.”

4.3 - Staff

Sarah Britton joined the staff team for a few months after the October conference in 2023 for a short internship. The staff team going into 2024-25 consists of Stuart Parker (Director), Simon Byrne (Teaching & Outreach Manager), Liam Dietrich (Pastoral Intern), Ruth Daly (Women's Worker) and Owen Leadbetter (Digital Media Technician & Team Administrator).

4.4 - Trustees

The Trustees met three times in 2023-24. Two meetings were in London and one was at the Wirral office with the staff team. The Trustees going into 2024-25 are Iain Baker, Donald Dewar (Chair), Graham Baker, Naomi Skull, Robert Walsh, Laura Oliver, Duncan Beet and Jane Gibbs.



4.5 - Financial Review

Income

Total £199,920

Committed giving

£96,337

Gift aid

£18,855

Other gifts

£69,416

Conference fees

£15,312

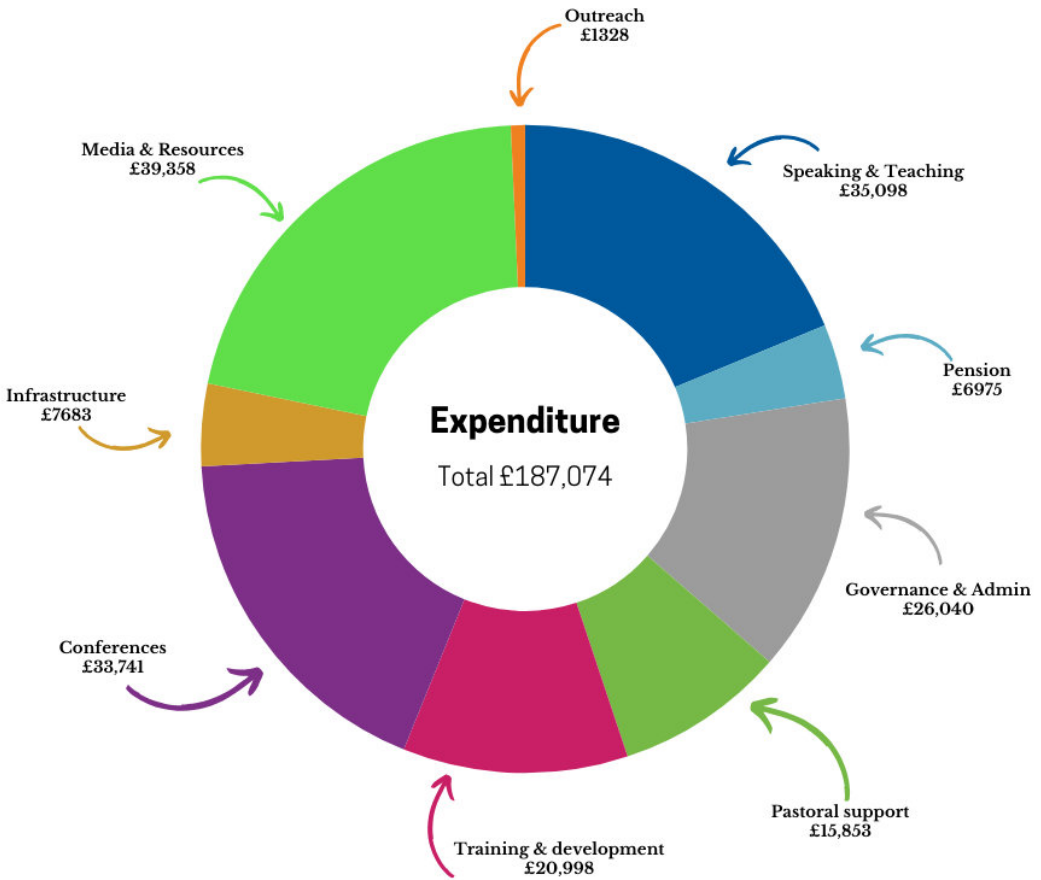
As a charity, we rely exclusively on donations from our supporters, and we are very grateful to the TFT members, churches and other organisations who have donated over the last year. We are thankful to God for this provision.

Over the year 2023/2024, expenditure was higher than 2022/23 due to rising costs.

However, thanks to the generosity of so many, we ended the year with a surplus of £12,843. We increased our statutory reserve to £46,000 for the year.

The chart on the right-hand page shows how our financial resources were spent during the reporting period. A little under 80% of our expenditure went towards staff salaries and pensions, to enable the team to carry out our core activities. Please note that staff salaries are reflected in various expenditure allocation within separate ministry sections in the chart.

Expenditure for our Speaking & Teaching ministry increased on the previous 12 months, due to more speaking requests. Our conference costs and media resources also went up due to having more in-person conferences and producing more

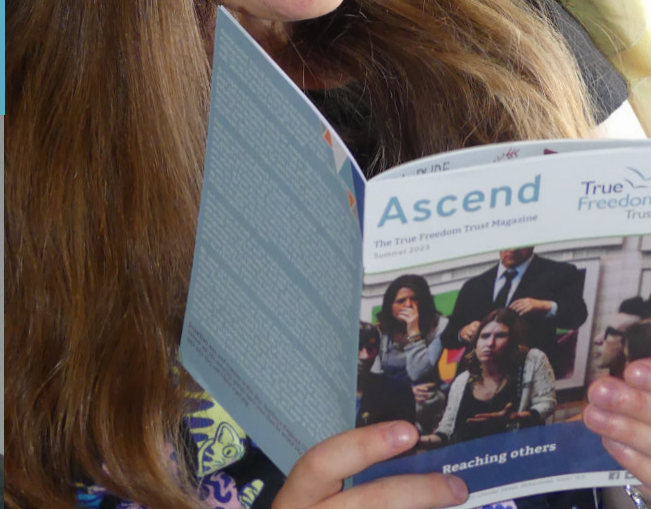
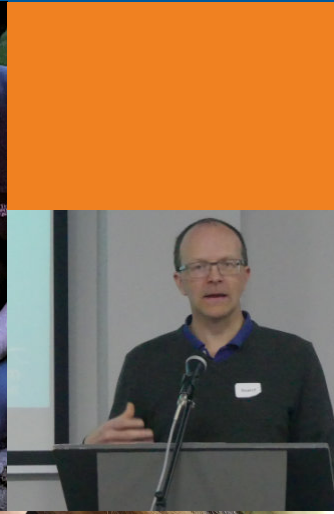


resources for our outreach work. These also reflect inflation.

The expenditure shown for pastoral support is relatively low, because a substantial amount of care is

provided by volunteers. We remain grateful for our team of VWs, without whom our costs would be much higher.





TFT's stated public benefit is "the advancement of the Christian faith, in particular (but not limited to) providing teaching based on the biblical principles in the Statement of Faith on issues around sexuality and by providing support for those who are struggling with such issues."

In practice, this means providing teaching within churches on issues related to same-sex attraction, as well as providing pastoral care and guidance to church leaders, individuals and families affected. The main activities undertaken for the public benefit include pastoral support, creating resources and teaching at churches, colleges and other organisations.

TRUE FREEDOM TRUST (TFT) is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), governed by constitution dated 29/10/2014, registered in England and Wales with the Charity Commission. Charity number: 1159015

True Freedom Trust
Charity Number: 1159015



Receipts and Payments Accounts for the period 01/05/23 to 30/04/24

Receipts and payments

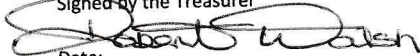
	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last Year Total funds to the nearest £
Receipts			
Total Donations	£184,608	£184,608	£150,673
Sales and fees	£15,312	£15,312	£15,776
Total receipts	£199,920	£199,920	£166,449
Payments			
Expenses	£22,195	£22,195	£11,709
Media & Resources	£3,221	£3,221	£3,286
Salaries & Nat. Insurance	£127,794	£127,794	£113,458
Office Rent & Utilities	£4,913	£4,913	£3,917
Post	£2,946	£2,946	£3,020
Comms & tech Support	£1,596	£1,596	£2,094
Office Equipment	£1,565	£1,565	£1,184
Transaction Fees	£1,205	£1,205	£1,864
Miscellaneous expenses	£0	£0	£0
Conferences & Meetings	£14,665	£14,665	£14,986
Pensions	£6,975	£6,975	£5,494
Total Payments	£187,075	£187,075	£161,012
Net of receipts/payments	£12,845	£12,845	£5,437
<i>Cash funds last year end</i>	£101,831	£101,831	
<i>Cash funds this year end</i>	£114,676	£114,676	

Statement of assets & liabilities at the end of the period

		Unrestricted funds to the nearest £
Cash funds	Bank	£108,014
	PayPal	£6,663
	Cash	£0
Total		£114,677

No other assets or liabilities

Signed by the Treasurer



Date:

14/6/2024

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF
TRUE FREEDOM TRUST**

I report on the accounts for the year ended 30 April 2024

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and the Independent Examiner

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:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- 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
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect,

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have not come across any other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Date 26 July 2024

Signed



A. E. M. McGraa
18, Poulton Green Close,
Bebington,
Wirral.
CH63 9FS

TRUE FREEDOM TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1159015

Accounts



Ministry Overview



Encouraging Christians facing same-sex temptations with biblical clarity and supportive community

MAY 2022 - APRIL 2023

“True Freedom Trust will help your church grasp hold of the culturally sacred topic of sexuality. They will carefully unpack it and help you see it in light of the gospel, whilst always remaining grace-filled and compassionate. Their testimonies and stories help to ground all of it personally and demonstrate a compelling understanding for how we can trust in the Bible’s view on these matters to be good news.” – Chris

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From TFT's Director

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2.4 - Support groups

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2.6 - Conferences

2.7 - Outreach

2.8 - Online interactions

2.9 - Fundraising

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4.3 - Staff

4.4 - Trustees

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1 - Introduction

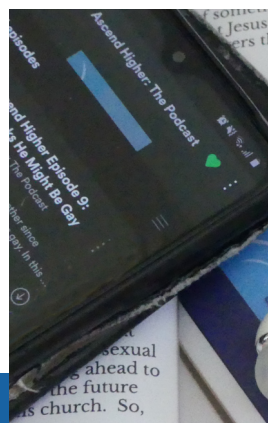
In 2022-23, True Freedom Trust (TFT) continued to encourage churches and individuals to maintain their confidence in the good teaching of the Bible, whilst providing care and support for those experiencing a range of feelings concerning their sexual attractions and gender. Several denominations were going through exercises of re-evaluating their understanding of biblical truth, and we have been busy teaching churches that the orthodox reading of scripture is compatible with being inclusive and caring.

In autumn 2022, we were thankful to have Julian Hardyman teach from the book of Song of Songs at our national residential conference. It was perhaps an unlikely Bible book to bring to a group of mainly single people. But Julian's emphasis on Jesus' love and desire for His people cultivated a renewed thirst for Jesus' intimate love in our lives.

While in-person gatherings remain unbeatable, as ways to connect and encourage people, we continue to provide online groups, conferences and trainings. These events make our ministry more accessible to those who otherwise would struggle to attend in-person gatherings, owing to cost, location or disability.

Despite the church facing many challenges in these times, there is much we can be thankful for. God has remained faithful in His provision for the work, despite a time of general financial and economic uncertainty. I am grateful for all the TFT members, volunteers, staff and trustees who stand firm on God's truth, despite personal cost and opposition. In doing so, their lives speak compellingly to a world built on values of self-sufficiency. Let us spur one another on to finish the race and keep the faith (2 Timothy 4:7).

Stuart Parker, Director of TFT





2 - Ministry Overview

Resources

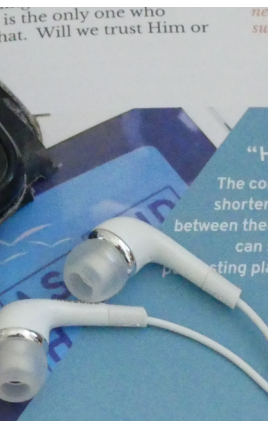
In 2022-23, we produced electronic and printed versions of Ascend as spring, summer, autumn and winter editions. The themes were “Online life”, “Keeping going”, “Facing revisionists” and “Single leaders”. We post out about 900 printed copies of Ascend free of charge each quarter and the number of people receiving the magazine by email has now swelled to around 1500.

Most of the articles, testimonies and reviews from Ascend get posted on our website, which extends the availability of this material to anyone with internet access.

Our podcast, Ascend Higher, grew in popularity over the year, with one edition going live at the launch of each Ascend magazine. Two episodes which were well received this year involved pairs of people (Jamie & Matt; Ruth &

Simon) talking about some of the challenges and encouragements that they face in their friendships.

Each year, we also produce our Recommended Resources pamphlet, which gets posted and emailed out with the winter edition of the Ascend magazine. This contains our latest recommendations for helpful reading and listening on topics of gender and sexuality.



Speaking and Teaching

Our speaking work returned to near pre-pandemic levels during 2022/23. Our team delivered 55 talks across 36 speaking events. The events break down as follows:

- Churches: 23
- Bible Colleges: 3
- Internal Conferences: 5
- Other Christian events: 5

The speaking team, through this reporting period, comprised three members of staff and eight volunteers. These individuals represented a range of denominational backgrounds and come from different corners of the country. We continue to be grateful for all those who serve TFT in this way.

Each person on the team speaks from their own personal experience of walking with same-sex attraction, alongside the biblical teaching. We recognise how emotionally costly it is sharing so vulnerably in the places we visit, and pray God would continue giving the team all they need in order to serve UK and Irish churches in this way.

While continuing to support churches through the conversations taking place about human sexuality in their wider denominations, 2022/23 also saw an increase in the number of churches wanting input on matters of gender identity. We are mindful of the necessity to grow in wisdom and expertise in this field, as the church increasingly acknowledges a need to respond to the surrounding culture. We were also pleased to receive a handful of invites from churches in Wales, as it has been a number of years since we have been able to visit the nation.



Pastoral Support

New requests for pastoral support at TFT come in at a rate of about ten per month, mostly via webform and occasionally by phone. The majority of our Voluntary Workers provide one-to-one support and advice for those struggling with same-sex attraction (SSA) and for their families, friends, ministers etc. We are also increasingly being contacted by parents who are asking for help to support their children with gender dysphoria.

Most of the help is given remotely by email, Zoom and phone, but also face to face depending on geographical location. Many of these contacts become TFT members, attend events or join a Barnabas Group.



Support Groups

Our support groups (Barnabas Groups) are specifically to help those who have same-sex attraction and gender incongruence, but also welcome others who have a serious interest in the issue, such as ministers etc. As far as possible, a Barnabas Group leader will always meet a new applicant for his/her group.

The groups are led by experienced Voluntary Workers and group size ranges from about four to twenty members. They typically meet monthly for biblically based discussion, prayer and encouragement.

Many of the groups meet socially too. We have groups in Belfast (two groups), Dublin, Edinburgh, Leeds, Manchester, Guildford, London (two groups), Essex, Wirral, Cambridge, Sheffield and Birmingham. We have online groups for men, for women, for mixed gender, one for married men, one for parents of same-sex attracted children and one for couples. The online groups are for those who can't access a group in their area; many contain overseas members.



WELCOME TO TFT WOMEN'S CONFERENCE!



Women's Work

The women's work is flourishing with new contacts regularly becoming members and continued, heartfelt commitment to the work of TFT from existing members. Support groups grew in number, those participating in conferences increased and women recorded podcasts, wrote articles, book reviews and testimonies for the Ascend magazine and took part in leading seminars at conferences.

We held a day conference in February entitled "Belonging", with 40 in attendance, and Nat as our speaker. Two women gave their testimonies in January at a Zoominar, with questions from participants about their stories. We hold an annual weekend away in Wirral, where closer community develops through Bible study, meals together, doing fun activities and attending a Sunday church service.

During this reporting period, a third online Barnabas Group was set up for those unable to join a physical group near to them, as well as a couple's group, with the wives experiencing same-sex attraction. The couple's group is the first of its kind and a sanctuary for the 4 couples involved. They are studying "An Impossible Marriage" by Laurie and Matt Krieg, which is proving a real aid to discussion. We also have two book clubs which meet monthly online.

An overseas page was set up on our website to signpost those who come to TFT, mainly from Europe, to find support, as similar ministries abroad are unable to function due to government restrictions. Several members of Barnabas Groups are based overseas and attended the Women's and National Conference. There are 48 members in our private Facebook group, "Women of Light", and the majority of those are also connected to each other in WhatsApp groups.

A new Voluntary Worker joined the team of 12, and will support others from her home overseas. It was exciting to appoint our first VW, who lives in Europe. We recognise all the hard work undertaken by the VWs in pastoral care, speaking at events, leading support groups and providing accountability partnerships.

STEADFAST 2022

Theme: Remaining steadfast in God
Various Speaker
Roadshow 2022

Conferences

We held 4 local day conferences in Edinburgh, Belfast, Merseyside and London. The theme was “Remaining steadfast in God”, with teaching from three Psalms. The in-person conferences were very welcome and well attended, after only online conferences took place the year before due to Covid restrictions. We repeated the Steadfast conference online in November for those who were unable to attend in person.

Our residential National Conference, “Jesus, Lover of my Soul”, in October 2022 had Julian Hardyman as our speaker. About 100 delegates attended.

Jesus, Lover of My Soul

National Conference 2022

Outreach

TFT is not a campaigning organisation. We see our niche as providing direct pastoral care to individuals who experience same-sex attraction or gender incongruence, who wish to live in accordance with historic Christian teaching. This means we don't particularly get involved in, or advertise, our ministry in the public sphere. We are grateful for the many other Christian organisations who feel that advancing the gospel message in those spaces is their particular calling.

Nonetheless, this presents a challenge. We want our services to be known to those who need us, but don't want to advertise via conventional means.

The outreach work at TFT seeks to raise the profile of our ministry so that those who would benefit from our support are able to find us. We do this in a number of ways. Over the last year, Simon Byrne, who leads our teaching and outreach work, has written two pieces for our friends at Affinity: Gospel Churches in Partnership, which have been included in their publications.

These publications reach a number of churches and other Christian organisations across the UK. We have also been exploring exhibiting at a number of Christian conferences that would be sympathetic towards TFT's doctrinal beliefs. Several members came forward at our 2022 National Conference and expressed their enthusiasm for TFT exhibiting at conferences right across the denominational spectrum. We expect our applications to start bearing fruit in Summer 2023. Simon has also been sharing about the work of TFT with church leaders at conferences he has attended, which increases the number of organic connections our staff team has with churches in the areas in which we operate. We have drawn up plans to resource our VWs to do more of this important work, which we hope to implement in the coming year.

Online interactions

Members of the staff team meet regularly to review the website's content and design and keep elements fresh. Quite a lot of work has been done behind the scenes in the 22/23 period upgrading the software on which our website/servers operate, and a number of actions have been taken to improve page rankings on search engines such as Google. The most popular articles of the last year were:

- “What does the Bible teach about same-sex practice?” – 93,502 views
- “Is it OK to masturbate?” – 24,685 views
- “Freedom from masturbation” – 3,120 views

Our total Ascend higher podcast downloads is 2731 and the highest listened to podcast is “He thinks he might be gay” at 345 downloads.

Fundraising

This year we held a campaign with the focus on having a TFT presence, with a stand, at various Christian conventions. The campaign was well received and we are successful in our application to be able to attend a convention with a stand in the summer of 2023. This will hopefully reach out to more people who will benefit from our services and raise the profile of the ministry. We have continued to be supported by many individuals, churches and trusts throughout 2022/23. We are very grateful to them for their financial support.



3 - Plans for 2023-2024

In June 2023, we are collaborating with Living Out to hold our first in-person joint day conference with them since 2018, since our 2021 “Exiles” conference was held online. We are excited to be holding the conference in central London on the topic of being part of the “Family of God”. As well as encouraging those who are same-sex attracted to attend, we are also hoping that a good number of church leaders will come, in order to better understand how to make our churches welcoming and inclusive places while holding on to biblical orthodoxy.

Several local Barnabas Groups will be organising day conferences around the country, and we will advertise and support these events as they happen. This allows the local groups to set their preferred format for each event.



In autumn 2023, we have Andy Robinson, Training Director at Living Out, coming to our residential National Conference to speak on his favourite Bible book, 2 Corinthians, on the theme “Sorrowful, yet always rejoicing”.



Support for women between conferences, mainly through online groups and events, has become more established in recent years. We are keen for 2023-24 to expand similar ongoing support to men within TFT. We are planning to give renewed impetus to the “Men of Faith” secret Facebook group through resourcing, in collaboration with the “Women of Light” Facebook group. We will also promote and encourage the support group for married men with SSA, which is flourishing.

4 - Governance

Membership

We have maintained our project to contact long-standing members and confirm with them if they still want to support the work by continuing as part of the membership. As a result, we now have 1,670 members.

We continue to work through renewal as each member reaches the end of their five years of membership. The implementation of a stricter system for interested parties to become members has proved effective and well appreciated by both new members and by the TFT staff.

Voluntary Workers

We have forty-nine Voluntary Workers on our register, 46 who provide pastoral support, including 7 who are also speakers, and 3 who are speakers only, with new volunteers appointed this year.

Pastoral VWs specialise in support to one or more of these groups: SSA men, SSA women, married SSA men, spouses of SSA men, married SSA women, parents with same-sex attracted sons/daughters, couples and those with gender issues. Pastoral speaking team VWs provide care to those they meet at speaking engagements and training.

Voluntary Workers often provide contacts with accountability too, whether help for addiction or overcoming habits, breaking emotional dependency or wanting to practise regular spiritual disciplines.

The VWs are organised into teams, each led by a Support VW who review their team twice yearly, in particular ensuring that they still agree fully with the Basis of Belief, the Confidentiality Policy and the Safeguarding Policy. We were able to run two half-day training sessions, one using Zoom and one in-person, where the training covered pastoral referrals, the role of the pastoral support worker, healthy friendships, whether to attend Pride events and leading Barnabas Groups.

Staff

During the year, Paul Bach retired from the staff team and we would like to thank him for his work over many years.. The staff team going into 2023-24 consists of Stuart Parker (Director), Simon Byrne (Teaching & Outreach Co-ordinator), Liam Dietrich (Pastoral support Co-ordinator), Ruth Daly (Women's Worker) and Owen Leadbetter (Digital Media Technician & Team Administrator).

Trustees

The trustees were able to meet in person throughout 2022- 23. The Trustees going into 2023-24 are Iain Baker, Donald Dewar (Chair), Graham Baker, Naomi Skull, Robert Walsh, Laura Oliver, Duncan Beet and Jane Gibbs.

“The TFT speaker served our church excellently by bringing both gentleness and clarity. Our church has really made some great steps towards being convinced of the goodness of the biblical sexual ethic and of the importance of welcoming and loving all people regardless of their sexuality or gender.” - Simon



Income

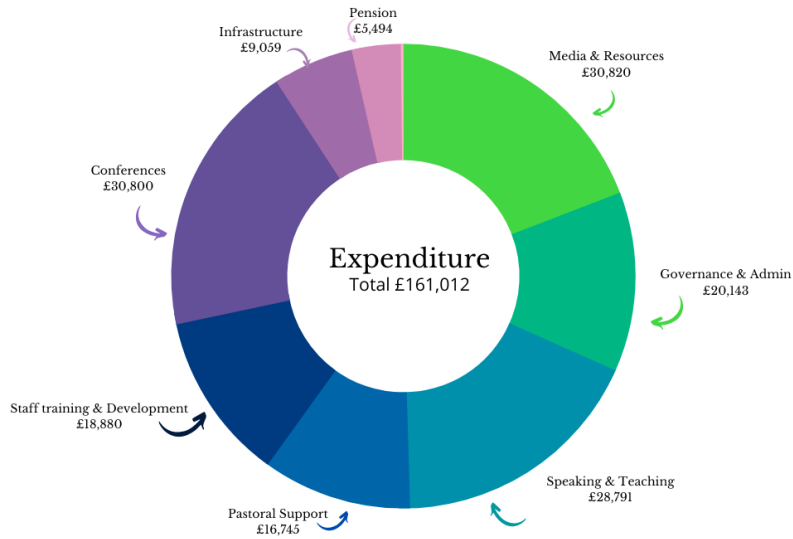
Total £166,448



As a charity, we rely exclusively on donations from our supporters, and we are very grateful to the TFT members, churches and other organisations who have donated over the last year. We are thankful to God for this provision.

Over the year 2022/2023, expenditure was higher than 2021/22 due to rising costs and the lifting of restrictions of COVID, meaning we were able to do more in person.

Thanks to the generosity of so many and the situation just described, we ended the year with a surplus of £5,437. We kept our statutory reserve at £43,000 for the year, with the rising cost of living.



The chart above illustrates how our financial resources were spent during the reporting period. A little under 80% of our expenditure went towards staff salaries and pensions to enable them to carry out our core activities. Please note that staff salaries are reflected in various expenditure allocation within separate ministry sections in the chart.

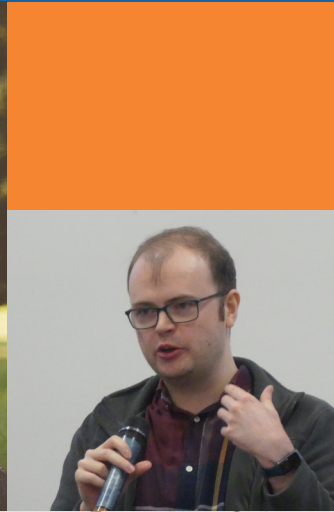
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The expenditure shown for pastoral support is relatively low, because a substantial amount of care is provided by volunteers. We remain grateful for our team of VWs, without whom our costs would be much higher. Not labelled on the chart is £280 to a new area of the ministry, outreach.

TFT's stated public benefit is "the advancement of the Christian faith, in particular (but not limited to) providing teaching based on the biblical principles in the Statement of Faith on issues around sexuality and by providing support for those who are struggling with such issues."

In practice, this means providing teaching within churches on issues related to same-sex attraction, as well as providing pastoral care and guidance to church leaders, individuals and families affected. The main activities undertaken for the public benefit include pastoral support and teaching at churches, colleges and other organisations.





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Receipts and Payments Accounts for the period 01/05/22 to 30/04/23

Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last Year Total funds to the nearest £
Receipts			
Total Donations	£150,673	£150,673	£138,487
Sales and fees	£15,776	£15,776	£15,153
Total receipts	£166,449	£166,449	£153,640
Payments			
Expenses	£11,709	£11,709	£8,597
Media & Resources	£3,286	£3,286	£4,038
Salaries & Nat. Insurance	£113,458	£113,458	£105,849
Office Rent & Utilities	£3,917	£3,917	£3,661
Post	£3,020	£3,020	£2,316
Comms & tech Support	£2,094	£2,094	£1,155
Office Equipment	£1,184	£1,184	£901
Transaction Fees	£1,864	£1,864	£1,017
Miscellaneous expenses	£0	£0	£38
Conferences & Meetings	£14,986	£14,986	£12,010
Pensions	£5,494	£5,494	£4,584
Total Payments	£161,012	£161,012	£144,167
Net of receipts/payments	£5,437	£5,437	£9,473
<i>Cash funds last year end</i>	£96,394	£96,394	
<i>Cash funds this year end</i>	£101,831	£101,831	

Statement of assets & liabilities at the end of the period

		Unrestricted funds to the nearest £
Cash funds	Bank	£101,813
	PayPal	£20
	Cash	£0
	Total	£101,832

No other assets or liabilities

Signed by the Treasurer

Date:

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF
TRUE FREEDOM REUST**

I report on the accounts for the year ended 30 April 2023

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and the Independent Examiner

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:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- 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
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect,

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have not come across any other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Date 30 December 2023

Signed



A. E. M. McGraa
18, Poulton Green Close,
Bebington,
Wirral.
CH63 9FS

TRUE FREEDOM TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1159015

Accounts



Ministry Overview



Encouraging Christians facing same-sex temptations with biblical clarity and supportive community

MAY 2021 - APRIL 2022

TFT's stated public benefit is "the advancement of the Christian faith, in particular (but not limited to) providing teaching based on the biblical principles in the Statement of Faith on issues around sexuality and by providing support for those who are struggling with such issues."

In practice, this means providing teaching within churches on issues related to same-sex attraction, as well as providing pastoral care and guidance to church leaders, individuals and families affected. The main activities undertaken for the public benefit include pastoral support and teaching at churches, colleges and other organisations.

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1 - Introduction

The story of 2021-22 for True Freedom Trust (TFT) was about returning to ministry in-person, whilst keeping hold of what worked well online. The greater appetite and access to online gatherings meant that we ran our first series of Online Workshops for church leaders in April/May 2021 and then repeated the series in November 2021. These workshops equipped leaders to provide good quality pastoral care for same-sex attracted people in their churches and were much appreciated.

There was great anticipation about holding our National Conference in person in October 2021, having held the previous year's event online. The attendance was good as everyone enjoyed being back together for a long weekend, appreciating the fellowship and the teaching about being a "light to the world". Another long-awaited moment happened in April 2022, when we were able to hold the first of our touring "Steadfast" day conferences, having had to cancel the first in the series we had planned way back in March 2020 due to Covid.

The autumn of 2021 also marked a significant return to activity for our speaking ministry, which had been largely on hold for the preceding eighteen months. Indeed, there was one weekend in November 2021 when we managed to provide speakers for four separate speaking engagements – definitely helped by now having a team of speakers!

During this year, we have also provided information to members who wished to engage with the Westminster government's consultation on conversion therapy legislation. Whilst TFT does not offer therapy of any kind, nor does it seek to change anyone's sexual orientation, we have been keen to ensure that freedoms continue for Christians with same-sex feelings to receive support, prayer and pastoral care.

I'm so thankful to God for all our trustees, volunteers and members who have kept on supporting one another during a long period that has been so isolating for many. At a time when some are turning their backs on biblical teaching, it's been a great encouragement for TFT members to keep spurring one another on in their faith.

Stuart Parker, Director of TFT





2 - Ministry Overview

Ascend Magazine

In 2021-22, we produced another four editions of Ascend. We covered the themes of “responding well to opposition”, “caring for one another”, “marriage and singleness” and “biblical inclusion and diversity”. Ruth, our women’s worker, was our guest editor for the Spring 2022 edition, as part of our effort to increase the diversity of our pool of writers.

We continue to send out copies of Ascend by post and email to anyone who signs up to receive it. With the return to speaking engagements in person, we have once more started printing additional copies to hand out at those events.

Speaking and Teaching

It was a great encouragement to us to see our speaking & teaching ministry return to normal following the easing of coronavirus restrictions in the latter half of 2021. We received a number of bookings for the autumn term, from both longstanding supporters of TFT and new churches we have not visited before. In particular, a number of speaking requests have come in off the back of the conversations going on in various denominations, where churches hope to discern a way forward on issues such as same-sex marriage. We do not take these opportunities for granted, and are thankful for the many opportunities we have had to present the joy and hope found in the gospel of Jesus Christ. We undertook 30 speaking engagements at 23 locations throughout the year, broken down as follows:

- Bible Colleges: 6
- Internal: 4
- Church Services: 9
- Seminars: 11

The year also marked a significant change to our way of working as, instead of having a dedicated member of staff attending all engagements themselves, we have launched our speaking team comprising of TFT volunteers specifically trained to teach on behalf of TFT. The volunteers are overseen by our Teaching & Outreach Manager, Simon. We closed the year with 11 speakers on our books, with various levels of experience. The speaking team enhances TFT’s ability to speak into different denominations and contexts, and also allows the ministry to operate in a more cost-effective way.

Support Groups

Our support groups (Barnabas Groups) are specifically to help those who have same-sex attraction, but also welcome others who have a serious interest in the issue, such as ministers etc. The groups are led by experienced Voluntary Workers and group size ranges from about four to twenty members. They typically meet monthly for biblically based discussion, sharing and encouragement. Many of the groups meet socially too. Some groups are men only and some mixed gender.



We have groups in Belfast (two groups), Dublin, Edinburgh, Leeds, Preston, Manchester, Southampton/Bournemouth, Guildford, London (two groups), Essex, Wirral, Cambridge, Sheffield and Birmingham. Since the start of the Covid pandemic we have developed more online groups, and these can cater for members not within reach of any of the above locations, including quite a number of people overseas. We now have online groups for men, for women, for mixed gender, one for married men and one for parents of same-sex attracted children. This means a significant increase in total membership of Barnabas Groups.

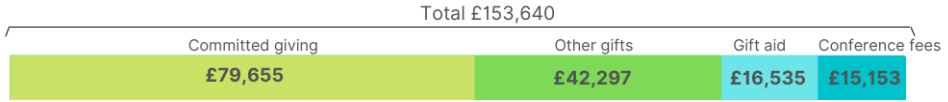
Conferences

Owing to Covid restrictions we had a second year with no local day conferences. We ran “Exiles” online instead in June 2021. The speakers were Andy Robinson (Living Out) and Stuart Parker. About 70 delegates attended. Our residential National Conference “Light to the World” in October 2021, with speaker Anne Witton, was the first return to meeting in-person. About 100 delegates attended.



Financial Review

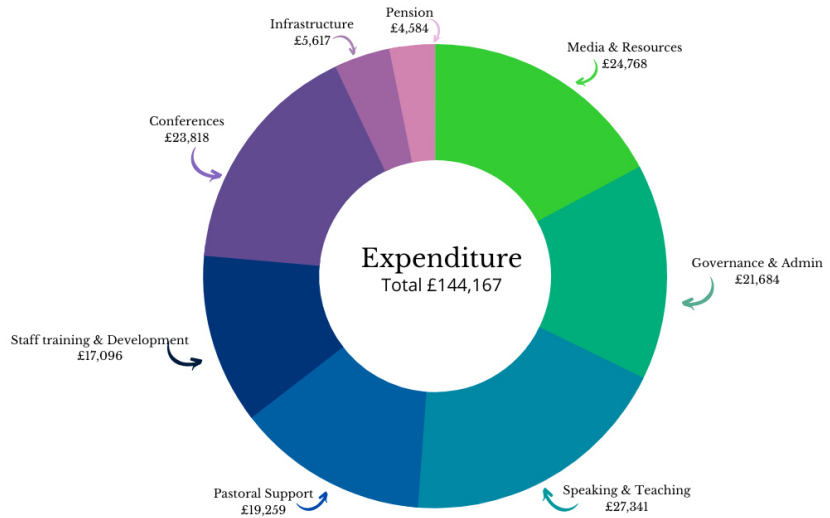
Income



As a charity, we rely exclusively on donations from our supporters, and we are very grateful to the TFT members, churches and other organisations who have donated over the last year.

Over the the 2021/2022 year, expenditure was lower than usual due to the impact of the Covid pandemic on our usual operations.

Thanks to the generosity of so many and the situation just described, we ended the year with a surplus of £9,473. We kept our statutory reserve at £31,000 for the year, which will be increased for next year.



The chart above illustrates how our financial resources were spent during the reporting period. A little under 80% of our expenditure went towards staff salaries and pensions to enable them to carry out our core activities. Expenditure for our Speaking & Teaching ministry increased on the prior year due to us having a dedicated member of staff looking after this area once again, and we were pleased to be able to attend speaking engagements in person once Covid restrictions were lifted in the autumn term. We remain grateful for our team of volunteers, without whom our costs would be much higher.

As said earlier, we have been able to start to meet in person again, which has increased some of our costs, but it's been great to be back at conferences meeting people face to face. We recognise the next financial year will be hard with the increase in inflation rates.



Online content

The TFT website enables us to publish and release resources which teach sexual ethics from the historic Christian perspective. It allows us to advertise events, enable people to donate to the ministry and it also provides a means for members of the public to contact us and access our services. The website enjoyed a total of 319,143 page views during the reporting period, which was just under half the visits received during the previous year. We noted fewer visits as the summer months came and Covid restrictions lifted.

Our podcast, Ascend Higher, has now been running for almost two years, with each podcast receiving an average of 150 downloads. What started as something to be released alongside our quarterly magazine has now attracted several other contributors wanting to take part and a number of “specials” have been recorded to release in the future. We continue to maintain Facebook, Twitter and YouTube pages, all of which provide us with additional outreach.

Members of the staff team meet regularly to review the website’s content and design and keep elements fresh. Quite a lot of work has been done behind the scenes in the 21/22 period upgrading the software on which our website/servers operate, and a number of actions have been taken to improve page rankings on search engines such as Google. The most popular articles of the last year were:



- “What does the Bible teach about same-sex practice?” – 174,038 views
- “Is it OK to masturbate?” – 65,116 views
- “Freedom from masturbation” – 4,144 views
- Book Review: “What does the Bible really teach about homosexuality?” - 2,485 views
- “Why would a loving God be against loving same-sex relationships?” - 2,143 views

Women's Work

The women's work is thriving with many new members joining groups and participating in conferences. As well as Anne as speaker at our National Conference, we held a day conference in February. The women's weekend away took place in May in Wirral with 10 women enjoying community with Bible teaching on the theme of "Strength for the Journey", food, games and outdoor activities. 2 new Voluntary Workers were appointed, one to support married women.

We held 2 Zoominars, where two women gave their testimonies and there were questions from participants about their stories. A second online Barnabas Group was set up for those unable to join a physical group near to them. Our European and overseas members see these groups as a lifeline, as similar ministries abroad are unable to function under government restrictions. Two book clubs meet monthly online. There are 48 members in our private Facebook group, "Women of Light", and the majority of those women are also connected to each other in WhatsApp groups. Women regularly write articles, reviews and testimonies for the Ascend magazine, anchor and lead at conferences and events and are members of the speaking team at TFT.

3 - Plans for 2022-2023

In May and June 2022, we are completing our "Steadfast" day conferences in Merseyside and London, encouraging Christians to remain steadfast in their faith, whatever the pressures they may face from the world around. For the London conference, we have extended a particular welcome to members from overseas to join us and to use the day to build connections with other ministries across Europe in particular.

In Autumn 2022, we have Julian Hardyman coming to speak at our National Conference on the theme of "Jesus, lover of my soul", based on his 2020 book of the same name. Julian will be explaining from the Bible book, Song of Songs, about Jesus' desire for us and how we can receive God's love for us as being wholehearted and full.



Jesus, Lover of My Soul
National Conference 2022

Whilst we are enjoying being able to put on conferences in-person once more, we also want to retain the best of the online provision that has worked so well during the lockdowns of 2020-21. We will continue providing online Barnabas Groups as well as the in-person ones. A much-appreciated recent innovation has been online Night Prayers, where members meet for 15 minutes of prayer together on weekday evenings. We plan to continue making as much of the teaching from in-person conferences available online as possible.

We will continue to strengthen our team of speakers, aiming to provide a network of trained speakers to help churches, Bible colleges and Christian events to understand the Bible well and to pastor people effectively. As demand continues to grow in the area of transgender, we will continue to learn and train our speakers and pastoral support workers in this matter.

With Simon now appointed as Teaching & Outreach Manager, we have slightly more capacity for outreach. This will involve building our profile and connections with churches and denominations that have had limited or no contact with TFT in the past.

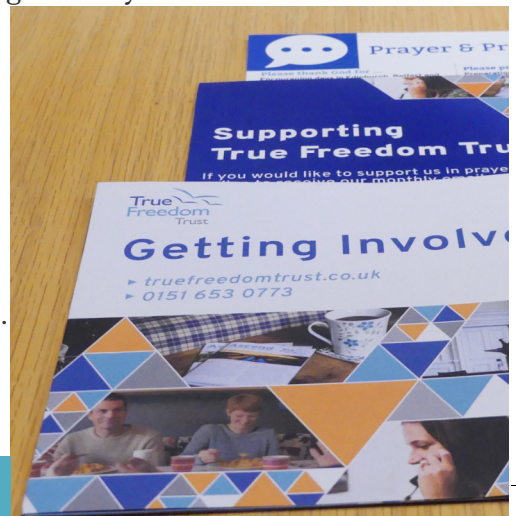
4 - Governance

Voluntary Workers

The majority of our voluntary workers provide one-to-one support and advice for those struggling with same-sex attraction (SSA) and for their pastors, families etc. This may be face to face or by other means according to geographical location and the needs of the situation, although of course for much of the year it had to be done remotely – using Zoom, phone etc.

This has probably instituted a permanent shift towards remote contact. However, as far as possible, a Barnabas Group leader will always meet a new applicant for his/her group. New requests for pastoral support come in at a rate of about a dozen per month. There is huge variety in terms of outcomes, but many of these become TFT members, attend events or join a Barnabas Group. During the year we had about forty volunteers on our register, a couple stepped down from service and we were delighted to make four new appointments. The pastoral volunteers specialise in support to one or more of the groups: parents with same-sex attracted sons/ daughters, SSA men, SSA women, married SSA men, spouses of SSA men, married SSA women and gender issues.

The VWs are organised into teams, each led by a Support VW who review their team



twice yearly, in particular ensuring that they still agree fully with the Basis of Belief, the Confidentiality Policy and the Safeguarding Policy. We were able to run two half-day training sessions using Zoom, at which the substantive issues were transgender issues, pastoral referrals and conversations, mental health issues, sexual addiction, and leading Barnabas Groups.

Membership

The project to refine our membership in order to strengthen our sense of unity and commitment has continued and we now have 1670 members. We continue to work through renewal as each member reaches the end of their five years of membership. The implementation of a stricter system for people to become members has proved effective and well-appreciated by both new members and by the TFT staff.

"I found that the honesty and openness from everyone at the TFT conference was refreshing, encouraging and unique. Everyone was happy to tell their stories and the reasons why they needed TFT. They were open about the battle and the struggle. Even the teaching from the front included personal sharing and was real." - Rachel

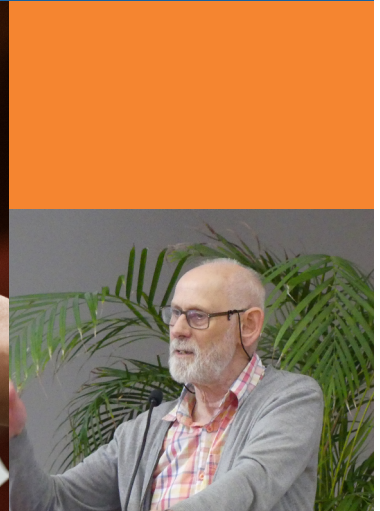
Trustees

During 2021-22, one Trustee retired, and two new Trustees were appointed. The Trustees going into 2022-23 are Iain Baker, Donald Dewar (Chair), Graham Baker, Naomi Skull, Robert Walsh, Laura Oliver, Duncan Beet and Jane Gibbs. From June 2021, they were able to meet once again in person.

Staff

During the year, Harry Warrell left the staff team to take up a position as a worship pastor. The staff team going into 2022-23 consists of Stuart Parker (Director), Simon Byrne (Teaching & Outreach Manager), Paul Bach (Pastoral & Events Co-ordinator), Ruth Daly (Women's Worker) and Owen Leadbetter (Digital Media Technician & Team Administrator).





TRUE FREEDOM TRUST (TFT) is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), governed by constitution dated 29/10/2014, registered in England and Wales with the Charity Commission. Charity number: 1159015

Receipts and Payments Accounts for the period 01/05/21 to 30/04/22

Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last Year Total funds to the nearest £
Receipts			
Total Donations	£138,487	£138,487	£172,453
Sales and fees	£15,153	£15,153	£390
<i>Total receipts</i>	£153,640	£153,640	£172,843
Payments			
Expenses	£8,597	£8,597	£2,123
Media & Resources	£4,038	£4,038	£4,176
Salaries & Nat. Insurance	£105,849	£105,849	£100,709
Office Rent & Utilities	£3,661	£3,661	£3,603
Post	£2,316	£2,316	£2,855
Phone & Internet	£1,155	£1,155	£958
Office Equipment	£901	£901	£1,084
Admin Fees	£1,017	£1,017	£3,120
Miscellaneous expenses	£38	£38	£0
Conferences & Meetings	£12,010	£12,010	£1,473
Pensions	£4,584	£4,584	£4,601
<i>Total Payments</i>	£144,167	£144,167	£124,702
Net of receipts/payments	£9,473	£9,473	£48,141
<i>Cash funds last year end</i>	£86,921	£86,921	
<i>Cash funds this year end</i>	£96,394	£96,394	

Statement of assets & liabilities at the end of the period

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £
Cash funds	
Bank	£95,537
PayPal	£836
Cash	£22
<i>Total</i>	£96,395

No other assets or liabilities

Signed by the Treasurer

Date:



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/
members of**

True Freedom Trust

**On accounts for the year
ended**

30th April 2022

**Charity no
(if any)**

1159015

Set out on pages

1 of 1

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 30/04/2022.

**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:

Date:

07/12/22

Name:

Mr Stuart Hull B.A. CPFA

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

The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA)
Membership Number: 00103466

Address:

8 Whiteways

Wimborne

Dorset, BH21 2PQ

TRUE FREEDOM TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1159015

Accounts



MINISTRY OVERVIEW



Encouraging Christians facing same-sex temptations with biblical clarity and supportive community

MAY 2020 - APRIL 2021

TFT's stated public benefit is "the advancement of the Christian faith, in particular (but not limited to) providing teaching based on the biblical principles in the Statement of Faith on issues around sexuality and by providing support for those who are struggling with such issues."

In practice, this means providing teaching within churches on issues related to same-sex attraction, as well as providing pastoral care and guidance to church leaders, individuals and families affected. The main activities undertaken for the public benefit include pastoral support and teaching at churches, colleges and other organisations.

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from TFT's Director

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Structure, Governance and Management

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1.0 - Introduction

The year 2020-21 was a challenging one for us all. Testimonies shared at our online conferences particularly highlighted how isolated many of our members who live alone have felt during the various lockdowns and restrictions.

In response, we convened online prayer meetings. We held celebrations at Christmas and Easter. As we all became more familiar with video calls, various members made themselves vulnerable by recording videos of how God had been working in their lives. As our team of staff and volunteers has grown in its ability to provide online ministry, we've offered more conferences this year than we've ever done before!

The hostile scrutiny that we've had from journalists over the last year has had its challenges. But I welcome the opportunity to explain the importance of our ministry and to show the high ethical standards that we follow. Indeed, the last year has shown how non-judgemental, biblically faithful support has been a lifeline to many.

We long to meet again in person. However, we intend to continue some online ministry in the future, as it allows us to include people living further away. This quote from one woman at our April 2021 "friendship" conference shows how encouraging an online event can be:

"There was a deep sense of openness and a willingness to share. It is great to realise that others know just how you feel and are willing to share their experiences. This gives us tools to aid us in times of struggle and draws us closer to the Lord."

Overall, I'm so impressed at how our staff, volunteers and members have stepped up and supported one another through this time. Barnabas Group leaders have taken their groups online and involved people who could not travel to in-person meetings. My thanks go to all those who have continued to support the ministry in giving and prayer during an uncertain year. The support has been vital to so many.

Stuart Parker
Director of TFT

"My spiritual, emotional and mental health has changed immeasurably for the better because of the approach of TFT. I no longer feel I have to fight myself all the time or keep a part of me distanced from God. Of course, I still have to deal with temptation, but that would be the case whatever my sexuality. TFT has supported me in living a life that is honouring to God." - John





2.0 - Ministry Overview

Ascend Magazine

We produced four more editions of Ascend magazine, featuring a range of TFT members writing articles, testimonies and reviews. In 2020-21, we tackled the themes of “sharing life with others”, “staying safe”, “not having biological children” and “the cost of discipleship”. Our recent membership overhaul has prompted some longstanding members to opt for the email version rather than the printed version, meaning we now post out around 900 copies to members and churches each quarter - a reduction of about 100. However, we’ve added another 400 recipients to the email version of Ascend, bringing the total to around 1300 electronic subscribers. This is the first time that the email version has been more popular than the printed version.

Speaking and Teaching

The Speaking & Teaching area of our ministry is the part that has been most affected by the coronavirus pandemic. As churches across the UK have had to cancel in-person meetings and navigate the move to online formats, the amount of speaking invitations we received dropped considerably. However, we were still able to teach in person at some Bible Colleges and undertook several external online speaking engagements.

In August 2020, our Head of Speaking & Teaching, Rob stepped down in order to pursue a call to ordained ministry. This, combined with the pause in our speaking calendar, gave us time to reflect on how we might run this part of our ministry in a more cost-effective way. In April 2021 we appointed Simon to the role of Speaking Team Manager. Where previously the staff team took on many speaking engagements, Simon’s remit will be to help develop our team of volunteer speakers, who will support this arm of our ministry and tailor content to their local context.

Support Groups

Our support groups (Barnabas Groups) are primarily for helping those experiencing same-sex attraction, but they also welcome others who have a serious interest in the issue, such as family, ministers etc. Voluntary Workers lead the groups and they range in size from about four to twenty members. They typically meet monthly for biblically-based discussion, sharing and encouragement. Many of the groups meet socially too. We have groups in Belfast (two), Dublin, Edinburgh, Leeds, Preston, Manchester, Southampton, Guildford,



London (two), Essex, Wirral, Cambridge, Sheffield and Birmingham and an online group for members not within reach of these locations. During the year we started an online group for women and an online group for married men. Owing to COVID, the groups could not meet in person for most of the year, but almost all of them met using Zoom, or otherwise maintained contact by phone etc.

Conferences

Owing to COVID restrictions, we ran all of our conferences online rather than in-person. We had planned to take our “Honey from the Rock” conference to four UK cities but ended up cancelling this tour and running it online in February 2021. TFT members Nat and Donald were the speakers.

We substituted our usual biennial London conference with an online version called “Never Alone”, with Stuart P (TFT Director) and Stuart F (TFT member) as speakers. There was a strong demand for this conference and we ran it three times in May and June 2020. In April 2021, we ran the online women’s conference “In Pursuit of Biblical Friendship” with TFT member Jem as our speaker.

*“Talks were both excellent. Really easy to listen to, biblical, well applied. Top notch.”
- Never Alone attendee*

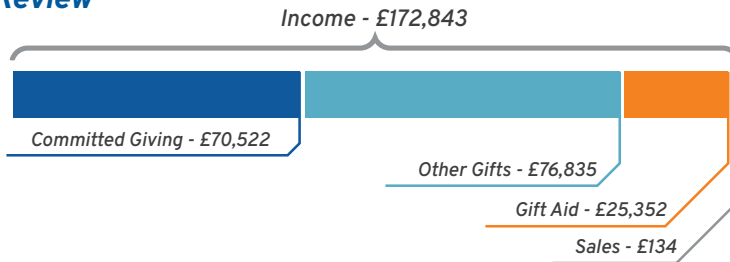
By having shorter talks and times in breakout groups, we found the online format to be very effective. It also had the benefit of being able to run a repeat at a later date.

“Thanks so much for the conference today - it’s hard to put into words how helpful I’ve found it and how blessed I’ve been.” - Honey From the Rock attendee

Our National Conference was called “The Intimacy Deficit”, with Ed Shaw from Living Out as our speaker. We were more ambitious with this and ran a longer meeting with interest-based breakout groups in the afternoon. We finished the day with some entertainment in the early evening.

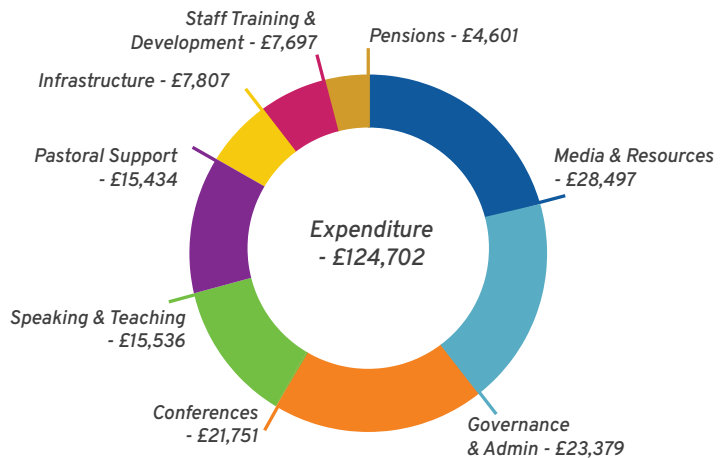


Financial Review



As a charity, we rely exclusively on donations from our supporters, and we are very grateful to the TFT members, churches and other organisations who have donated over the last year.

This year we are particularly grateful for the overwhelming support of our Back to Church campaign, to raise funds for the new role of Speaking Team Manager and training our team of volunteer speakers.



Thanks to this campaign, and a decrease in expenditure owing to COVID restrictions, we ended the year with a total surplus of £48,141. The money raised from the Back to Church campaign will be spent over the next 2 years.

During the year, 80% of total expenditure went on paying for the staff team to undertake and coordinate the core activities of pastoral care, and provision of online events throughout the year.

The graph above illustrates the various ministry areas where the team's resources were spent throughout the last year. We are incredibly thankful for our many pastoral support workers without whom our expenditure in this area would be much higher.



Online Content

The TFT website serves as the ‘shop window’ to our ministry and it contains everything an enquirer may want to know about who we are, what services we provide, and what beliefs and values we hold. Throughout 2020-21, we have been regularly uploading articles and resources in order to help both individuals and churches with their thinking as they wrestle with issues of faith, sexuality and identity.

One major fresh addition in the 2020-21 financial year was the introduction of Ascend Higher, a sister podcast to our Ascend magazine. In these podcasts, listeners can get to know the authors behind some of our resources and dig a little deeper into particular articles. Our website can play the podcast directly, or listeners can find it on major podcasting platforms. Early listening figures are encouraging, with our most popular episode being played/downloaded 142 times so far.

Members of our staff team continue to meet regularly to look at ways to keep our website feeling fresh, and improve our search engine optimisation, so that others can find our services. Pages on our website were viewed 671,230 times in the reporting period. Most of our views continue to come via search engines, though we also increased our following and click-throughs on social media.

Women’s Work

It delighted us to see an increase in the amount of work with women this year. There are now 48 Women members on our private Facebook group, “Women of Light”. Because of COVID restrictions, there has been a greater connection with our European and overseas members via Zoom meetings. We held three Zoominars, which were online video meetings where two women gave their testimonies and then responded to questions about their stories. We also set up an online women’s Barnabas Group for those who weren’t able to join a physical group near to where they live. There are now two book clubs, which meet monthly online. As well as an annual conference, we held a day conference led by two members to replace our weekend away. We appointed three new female volunteers and had female speakers at two conferences. Women also wrote articles, reviews and testimonies for our Ascend magazine, recorded contributions on video and anchored and led at conferences and events.



3.0 - Plans for 2020-2021

Following the postponement of the Exiles conference in 2020, we are running this as an online conference in June 2021. This is the third time we have collaborated with Living Out to put on a joint conference.

In autumn 2021, we are planning to run our National Conference as a residential in-person event, provided that we can run it safely and in line with government guidance. Our speaker, Anne Witton, will look at how staying faithful to the biblical teaching on sexuality can make Christians a “Light to the World”.



Recent online women’s conferences have been a great success. As a result, the women’s conference has now become an annual fixture in the calendar, and we are expecting to run another one in spring 2022.

Our pastoral team of staff and volunteers will continue to provide pastoral care online and by phone. We are getting ready for Barnabas Groups and events to return to meeting in person once more. However, we also recognise that doing ministry online over the last year has been a wonderful opportunity for us to connect better with distant members.

With Rob leaving the staff team in August 2020, we have been without a member of staff dedicated to our speaking work, until Simon’s appointment in April 2021 as Speaking Team Manager. Simon will focus on rebuilding our speaking work, as churches once more consider inviting external speakers. His new role also involves increasing the training we provide to our speaking team, particularly in the growing area of online teaching.

We plan to develop and grow our series of online workshops for church leaders, which we piloted in April 2021, over the coming year. These interactive workshops help to equip church leaders with the skills and understanding to pastor, teach and witness around biblical sexuality. The target audience for these workshops is anyone in a position of leadership within churches. We look forward to churches bringing teams of small group leaders along to these workshops.

4.0 - Structure, Governance and Management

Voluntary Workers

Most of our volunteers function as pastoral support workers, providing one-to-one support and advice for those struggling with same-sex attractions and for their pastors, families etc. This may be face-to-face where practical, although for most of 2020-21 it has had to be done remotely, using Zoom, phone and email. Additional requests for pastoral support came in at a rate of about a dozen per month. There was a huge variety in terms of outcomes, but many of these people became TFT members, attended events or joined a Barnabas Group. During the year, we had about forty volunteers on our register: a few stepped down from service and we were delighted to make three new appointments. A small team of volunteers specialised in support to parents with same-sex attracted children, while others focused on men, women, married strugglers, or spouses of strugglers. We organised the volunteers into teams, each led by a support volunteer who reviewed their teams twice yearly, ensuring that they still agree fully with the Basis of Belief, the Confidentiality Policy and the Safeguarding Policy. We ran four half-day training sessions between June 2020 and March 2021 using Zoom, where we trained volunteers in safeguarding, transgender, mental health and the updated approach to TFT membership.

Membership

Members are entitled to join our Barnabas Groups, take part in online support groups and attend conferences. Previously, membership was lifelong and open to all who agreed with our Basis of Belief and our Code of Confidentiality. At the end of 2020, we had 1665 individual members, but we had experienced minimal contact with many of them over recent years. We therefore decided to review our membership, in order to strengthen our sense of unity and commitment, with the expectation that some members would not renew. It also gave an opportunity for members to update contact details, renew consent for holding personal



data (to comply with GDPR regulations) and reaffirm their agreement to the Basis of Belief and the Code of Confidentiality. Membership now lasts for five years, after which we will once again invite members to renew by reaffirming their consent and agreement. We are progressively working through renewal invitations as each member reaches the five years of membership.

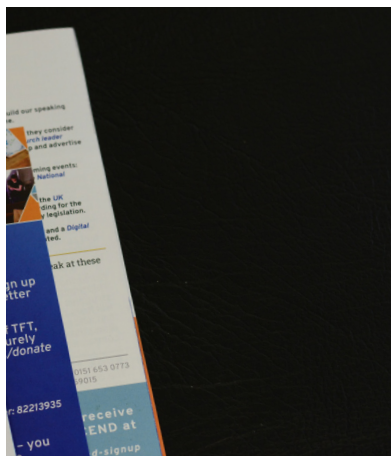
In order to enhance security and encourage commitment to membership, in January 2021 we implemented a more rigorous system for becoming a member. Applicants are now invited to complete a short application form, show proof of identity, explain their Christian faith and church involvement, and take part in an online workshop so that TFT staff may get to know them a little and ensure that they understand the workings of TFT and its membership system.

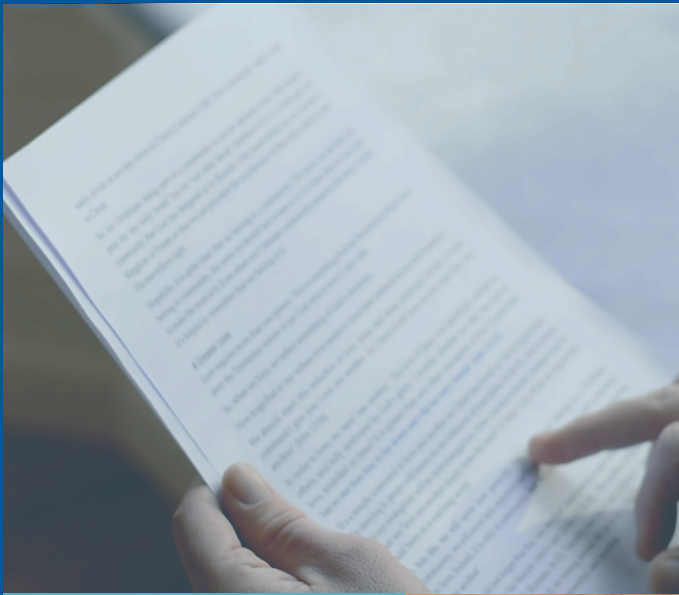
Trustees

During 2020-21, one Trustee retired, and one new trustee was appointed. The Trustees going into 2021-22 are Iain Baker, Donald Dewar (Chair), Graham Baker, Naomi Skull, Robert Walsh, Anne Witton and Laura Oliver. They met three times this year via Zoom because of COVID restrictions.

Staff

During the year, two members of staff left the team to pursue other ministry opportunities, with others increasing their hours/responsibilities. The staff team going into 2021-22 includes Stuart Parker (Director), Simon Byrne (Operations & Outreach), Paul Bach (Pastoral & Events Co-Ordinator), Ruth Daly (Women's Worker) and Harry Warrell (Digital Media Engineer).





True Freedom Trust (TFT) is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation -Foundation (CIO), governed by constitution dated 29/10/2014, registered in England and Wales with the Charity Commission. Charity number: 1159015

Receipts and Payments Accounts for the period 01/05/20 to 30/04/21

Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last Year Total funds to the nearest £
Receipts			
Total Donations	£172,453	£172,453	£116,407
Sales and fees	£390	£390	£14,278
Total receipts	£172,843	£172,843	£130,685
Payments			
Expenses	£2,123	£2,123	£12,750
Media & Resources	£3,825	£3,825	£4,330
Salaries & Nat. Insurance	£100,709	£100,709	£117,530
Office Rent & Utilities	£3,603	£3,603	£3,603
Post	£2,855	£2,855	£1,999
Phone & Internet	£946	£946	£704
Office Equipment	£1,084	£1,084	£1,841
Admin Fees	£3,120	£3,120	£2,201
Miscellaneous expenses	£0	£0	£0
Conferences & Meetings	£1,473	£1,473	£12,547
Pensions	£4,601	£4,601	£2,900
Total Payments	£124,339	£124,339	£160,405
Net of receipts/payments	£48,504	£48,504	-£29,720
<i>Cash funds last year end</i>	<i>£38,417</i>	<i>£38,417</i>	
<i>Cash funds this year end</i>	<i>£86,921</i>	<i>£86,921</i>	


Statement of assets & liabilities at the end of the period

		Unrestricted funds to the nearest £
Cash funds	Bank	£86,156
	PayPal	£719
	Cash	£47
Total		£86,922

No other assets or liabilities

Signed by the Treasurer

Date:


18th January 2022



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

Charity Name
True Freedom Trust

On accounts for the year
ended

30th April 2021

Charity no
(if any)

1159015

Set out on pages

1 and 2

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended **30/04/2021**.

Responsibilities and
basis of report

As the charity's trustees, 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 all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent
examiner's statement

While the charity's gross income does not exceed £250,000, I am a qualified member of Chartered Institute of Public Finance & Accountancy (CIPFA).

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below *) which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

Signed:

Date:

21/01/2022

Name:

Stuart Hull

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body

CIPFA Membership Number 00103466

Address:	CIPFA Head Office
	77 Mansell Street
	London, E1 8AN

Section B**Disclosure**

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material 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.

There are no items that need to be disclosed from my Independent Examination