

**FRESHBROOK CHURCH
TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH 2023**

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD
01 APRIL 2022 TO 31 MARCH 2023
FOR
FRESHBROOK CHURCH**

Charity Information

Registered – 20 June 2016

Charity Number 1167735

Trustees: 01 April 2022 - 31 March 2023

G Bennett
R Cheung
N Cox
S Cox
C Davison
D Davison
M Gresham
A Martin (Retired October 2022)
M Wood
L Wood

Chairman of the Trustees: D Davison

Registered Address:

Worsley Road
Freshbrook
Swindon
Wiltshire
SN5 8NU

Bankers: CAF Bank Limited

25 Kings Hill Avenue
Kings Hill
West Malling
Kent
ME19 4JQ

Independent Examiner: Mr D Hempstock

The Trustees present their report with the financial statements of the charity for this period.

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Structure, Governance and Management

The church is established under a constitution adopted by Members on 17 April 2016, and became a Registered Charity on 20 June 2016 (and became active on 01 October 2016).

The Constitution defines the Charity Trustees as the Elders and Deacons. The Elders and Deacons are drawn from the membership and are confirmed by election at a Church Meeting in accordance with the Church Rules. The only exception to this would be if the Church Meeting were to appoint a new Pastor/Associate Pastor from outside the church membership who would upon appointment, immediately become an Elder and therefore a Trustee.

Church meetings are held on a quarterly basis.

New Trustees are provided with an information pack which includes copies of the Trust Deed, recent Trustees reports and information on Trustee responsibilities. They are also briefed by the Chairman of the Trustees.

Trustees are able to attend training seminars for Church Trustees as required.

Risk management

The Trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error.

It is still the case that the major risk to the charity is that church offerings do not keep pace with the expenditure of the church. There have, for the last few years, been adequate reserves to cope with this and the 2022/2023 financial budget was set with an aim of reducing reliance on our reserves.

Objectives

The charity (Church) is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. Registration with the Charity Commission under the Charities Act 2011 was completed on 01 October 2016. The purposes of the Church as stated in the CIO document are:

- 1) The advancement of the Christian Faith in accordance with its Basis of Faith, primarily, but not exclusively, within the town of Swindon and the surrounding neighbourhood.
- 2) Such other charitable purposes as shall, in the opinion of the membership of the Church in a general meeting, put into practice the teaching of the Lord Jesus Christ in accordance with the Basis of Faith.

The effective management of the Church is left with the Trustees. The Trustees are in turn accountable to the members of the Church in accordance with the Church constitution document.

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Activities

The Trustees consider that the performance of the charity (Church) this year has been satisfactory.

We continue to broadcast our weekly services via YouTube and operated some group meetings on Zoom. This is particularly beneficial to those who are less able to get out or who are unwell.

The gospel has been preached faithfully throughout the year. In addition to the main Sunday Services, we have also continued with our popular family friendly Breakfast @ 9 programme.

Small Groups have also been run during the week enabling people to learn more about the Christian faith in an open and informal manner.

The Church continues to support mission work across the World. This includes long-term mission partners in Senegal and Columbia as well as short term partners in other parts of the world.

The Church usually provides activities for different age groups within the wider community, meeting specific needs, establishing contacts and building relationships. For example, there are groups for children and young people, parents and toddlers, day-time groups for older people and a seniors' lunch club held monthly and a weekly lunchtime 'Snack & Chat' meeting for local people.

Activities in local schools operate both independently and collaboratively with other agencies.

The church - in line with its objectives to undertake acts of kindness in the community:

- continues to be a nominated food distribution centre for Swindon Food Collective
- has opened an affordable food club for local residents on low income
- has created a welcome/wellbeing space for the community to use

The Church premises host numerous outside organisations, both secular and religious, throughout the year.

The Annual Christmas Market and Summer Bar-B-Q have proved very popular over the years and provide a successful link with the local community and other local Charities.

The volunteering of Church members in local initiatives such as Swindon Night Shelter and Swindon Street Pastors has also continued.

We continue to operate our wider Pastoral Care Team who are very much involved with helping those in need within our local community.

Achievements

The number of members of the CIO remained the consistent over this period.

During the year, as part of our 5-year programme of works, we continued to work on various aspects of the church fabric.

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Future Plans

The Trustees have continued to develop the ministry of the Church in line with the long-term plan for the Church.

We are actively seeking an Associate Pastor to join the team.

The church is able to run a CAP Money Management Course when needed or in response to perceived needs in the community for awareness of financial planning matters.

Other initiatives will be developed in response to perceived needs within the church or community as they arise.

Financial Report

The Trustees review the finances regularly as part of the effective stewardship of the Church.

Further information on our accounts can be found in the Trustees Responsibilities section and the attached Financial Balance Sheet.

However, both Income and Expenditure for the General Fund of the Church remained at similar levels to 2021/2022. This was helped by one off donations/bequests.

Depreciation of fixed assets

Assets are depreciated on a straight-line basis over their estimated useful life (usually assumed to be 5 or 10 years depending on the items). Items of equipment costing less than £1000 are not included in the church assets.

Reserves

The Trustees consider it to be expedient, in the light of their Risk Assessment, to hold reserves equivalent to three months normal running costs for the Church. This equates to £33,432 this period. This provides sufficient funds to cover the administration, management and support costs in the event of a significant and sustained drop in income.

Investment policy and objectives

The Constitution authorises the Trustees to make investments using the general funds of the CIO. At present there are no investments. Part of the Church cash assets are held in a savings account which generates a nominal return and our plan is to close this down and move the funds into our general account to consolidate the funds available.

Church gifts and Missionary support

The Trustees consider and approve all Church gifts and Missionary support. Where a donor has specifically requested that part or all of their donation should go to a particular individual or organisation then this wish is respected provided that it accords with the aims and objectives of the Church. If it does not the donation will not be accepted by the Church.

Employees

The charity had seven paid employees during the year:

- Senior Pastor (full-time)
- Associate Pastor (full-time) VACANCY
- Office Manager (part-time)
- Schools Worker (part-time)
- Families Worker (part-time)
- Connect 3:16 Co-ordinator (part-time)

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- Cleaner/Caretaker (1 x part-time)

Transactions with Trustees and other Connected Persons No Trustees received remuneration from the Church in 2022-2023 apart from those who are salaried employees.

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES RESPONSIBILITIES

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Report of the Trustees and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards.

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales, the Charities Act 2011, Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. These include the income and expenditure of the charity for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by order of the board of Trustees on 04 December 2023 and signed on its behalf by:



S Cox - Trustee and Church Administrator



D Davison - Trustee & Lead Pastor

Freshbrook Church

Report and Accounts
Year Ended 31 March 2023

Balance Sheet

			2023		2022		2021
					£		£
Freshbrook church building - Insurance valuation			3,785,818.00		3,785,818		3,785,818
Fixed Assets							
Fixtures, Fittings and Equipment							
Brought forward at net book value		21,877		20,640		24,446	
Add: Purchases in year				5,262		-	
Less: Depreciation charge for year		-3744.00	18,133	- 4,025	21,877	- 3,806	20,640
			3,803,951		3,807,695		3,806,458
Current Assets							
Cash & Bank balances:							
CAF High Interest Account			60,310		59,899		59,889
CAF Current Account							
General Fund		48,826		54,013		43,382	
Restricted Mission Fund		602		969		160	
Restricted Schools & Family Work		18,074				100	
Restricted Funds - Audio/Visual		19,070		20,000		250	
Little Freshers		699		210		226	
Snack & Chat		878		508		-	44,118
Connect 3:16		8,183					
Designated Gifts - other		-					
Restricted Fund		-	96,331	-	75,700		
Building Society		-			-		-
Petty Cash			200		200		200
Open House Lunch		0			-		101
Total Funds carried forward			156,841		135,799		104,308
Less: Current Liabilities							
Designated Funds							
Holding Account			- 534		- 280		
Total Assets			- 3,960,258		3,943,214		3,910,766
Freshbrook Church Building			3,785,818		3,785,818		3,785,818
Capital and Provisions							
Brought forward		157,396		125,050		103,929	
Adjustment for rounding		-2		- 3			
Adjustment to 2020-21		0		- 102			
Fixed Assets Purchased		0		5,262			
Surplus/(deficit)		17,045	174,440	27,189	157,396	21,121	125,050
			3,960,258		3,943,214		3,910,868

Freshbrook Church

Report and Accounts
Year Ended 31 March 2023

Income and Expenditure Account

	2023	2022	2021
		£	£
Income			
Gifts and Offerings			
Freewill offering	115,797	116,495	132,550
Restricted Income	19,070	20,000	5,460
Tax recovery and interest	24,847	7,133	31,654
Restricted Mission Fund	13,777	20	4,140
Youth work	-	27,263	25
		10	
Other Income	37,375	34,181	12,282
Total Income for the year	210,866	205,102	186,111
Expenditure			
Charitable Activities			
Salaries	40,075	72,684	80,040
Worker expenses	739	958	1,254
Direct charitable activities	32,054	4,600	18,503
Restricted Funds	16,023	22,832	4,140
Designated Funds - other	16,964	12,351	-
	105,855	113,425	103,937
Governance Costs			
Salaries	22,712	22,896	20,015
Office and administration	5,344	3,789	4,542
Other governance costs	4,496	4,588	4,561
Building maintenance	26,324	8,360	11,391
Utilities and IT	25,346	13,488	16,737
	84,222	53,121	57,246
Fixed assets purchased in year		5,262	
Depreciation	3,744	4,025	3,806
Total Expenditure for the year	193,821	175,833	164,989
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	17,045	29,269	21,122

Freshbrook Church

Report and Accounts
Year Ended 31 March 2023

Statement of Financial Activities

		2023	2022	2021
INCOMING RESOURCES	NOTES			
Gifts and Offerings	1	£ 173,491	£ 170,921	£ 173,829
Other Income	2	£ 37,375	£ 34,181	£ 12,282
Total Incoming Resources		<u>£ 210,866</u>	<u>£ 205,102</u>	<u>£ 186,111</u>
RESOURCES EXPENDED				
Charitable Activities	3	£ 105,855	£ 115,505	£ 103,937
Governance Costs	4	£ 84,222	£ 58,383	£ 57,246
Total resources expended		<u>£ 190,077</u>	<u>£ 173,888</u>	<u>£ 161,183</u>
NET INCOMING RESOURCES				
Funds Brought Forward	5	£ 135,519	£ 104,409	£ 79,483
Funds Carried Forward	6	£ 156,307	£ 135,519	£ 104,308
Net incoming resources		<u>£ 20,788</u>	<u>£ 31,110</u>	<u>£ 24,825</u>

Freshbrook Church

Report and Accounts
Year Ended 31 March 2023

Notes to the Accounts		2023	2022	2021
			£	£
1. GIFTS AND OFFERINGS				
Freewill Offering	115,797		116,495	132,550
Restricted Income	19,070		20,000	5,460
Restricted Mission Fund	13,777		7,133	4,140
Youthwork	-		20	25
Tax Refunds	24,305		27,263	31,627
Bank Interest	542		10	27
	173,491		170,921	173,829
2. OTHER INCOME				
Photocopying	47		38	98
Hire of Halls	10,752		10,133	7,370
Bookstall	803		524	43
Little Freshers (Baby and Toddler)	989		360	68
Snack and Chat	1,881		1,105	306
Catering	-		20	2
Breakfast at Nine	600		600	500
Women's Ministry	-		240	-
Tuesday Meeting	400		400	-
Connect 3:16	12,468			
Schools & Families Work	319		11,971	100
Grants Received	-		8,764	3,679
Other Income	13		26	116
Designated Gifts - Other	9,103		-	-
	37,375		34,181	12,282
Total Income Received	210,866		205,102	186,111
3. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES				
Salaries	40,075		72,684	80,040
Worker Expenses	739		958	1,254
Direct Charitable Activities	32,054		4,600	18,503
Restricted Mission Fund	13,778		22,832	4,140
Restricted Schools & Family Work	2,245			
Little Freshers	500		400	
Snack & Chat	1,411		823	
YFC1	750			
Breakfast at Nine	380		543	
Women's Ministry	-		164	
Tuesday Meeting	280		150	
Connect 3:16	4,286			
Designed Gifts - other	9,357		12,351	-
	105,855		115,505	103,937
4. GOVERNANCE COSTS				
Salaries	22,712		22,896	20,015
Office and Administration	5,344		3,789	4,542
Other Governance Costs	4,496		4,588	4,561
Building Maintenance	26,324		8,360	11,391
Utilities and IT	25,348		13,488	16,737
Fixed assets purchased in year			5,262	-
	84,222		58,383	57,246
Total Resources Expended	190,077		173,888	161,183
5. FUNDS BROUGHT FORWARD				
CAF High Interest Account	59,899		59,889	59,862
CAF Current Account:				
General Fund	54,013		43,382	17,840
Restricted Mission Fund	969		160	181
Restricted Schools & Family Work			100	1,311
Restricted Funds - Audio/Visual			250	482
Little Freshers	210		226	44,219
Snack & Chat	508			292
Connect 3:16				
Designed Gifts - other				
Restricted Fund	20,000			
Holding Account	- 280	75,420		
Building Society			-	-
Petty Cash	200		200	200
Open House Lunch Club	-		101	101
Total Funds Brought Forward	135,519		104,409	79,907
6.3 FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD				
CAF High Interest Account	60,310		59,899	59,889
CAF Current Account:				
General Fund	48,826		54,013	43,382
Restricted Mission Fund	602		969	160
Restricted Schools & Family Work	18,074			100
Restricted Funds - Audio/Visual	19,070			
Little Freshers	695		210	
Snack & Chat	878		508	
Connect 3:16	8,183			250
Designed Gifts - other	-			226
Restricted Fund			20,000	
Holding Account	- 534.00	95,797	- 280	75,420
				44,118
Building Society			-	-
Petty Cash	200		200	200
Open House Lunch Club			-	101
Total Funds Carried Forward	156,307		135,519	104,308



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/
members of**

Frershbrook Church

**On accounts for the year
ended**

31 March 2023

**Charity no
(if any)**

1167735

Set out on pages

One and Two

remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/03/2023.

**Responsibilities and
basis of report**

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

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

**Independent
examiner's statement**

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

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

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

Signed:

Date:

28/12/2023

Name:

Douglas Hempstock

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

Address:

29 Rycote Close

Grange Park

Swindon SN5 6AP

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

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