

FRESHBROOK CHURCH

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD
01 APRIL 2024 TO 31 MARCH 2025
FOR
FRESHBROOK CHURCH**

Charity Information

Registered – 20 June 2016

Charity Number 1167735

Trustees:

P Bailey
G Bennett
R Cheung
N Cox
S Cox
J Cullis
C Davison
D Davison
M Gresham (Resigned September 2024)
K Stead (Joined February 2025)
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: Jonathan Skinner (ICAEW)

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

FRESHBROOK CHURCH

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 can 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. The Trustees continue to monitor the situation on a regular basis.

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.

The trustees have paid due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit in deciding what activities the charity should undertake. The trustees consider that they have acted in the public benefit.

FRESHBROOK CHURCH

Activities

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

Although most meetings take place within the church building, we continue to broadcast our weekly Sunday morning service via YouTube. We also operate some group meetings on Zoom. These types of media are particularly beneficial to those who are less able to get out or who are unwell.

The gospel has been preached faithfully throughout the year

Small Groups and 'Alpha' courses 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, France, South Africa and Columbia as well as short term partners in other parts of the world.

The Church provides activities for different age groups within the wider community, meeting specific needs, establishing contacts and building relationships. For example, there are weekly groups for children and young people; parents and toddlers; day-time groups for older people and a weekly lunchtime 'Snack & Chat' meeting aimed at lonely or isolated local residents. There is also a monthly seniors' lunch club. A weekly after school club for primary aged children which is enjoyed by the parents and children alike.

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 (a local version of Foodbank)
- continues to operate an Affordable Food Club for residents on low income
- continues to operate a welcome/well-being space for the community to use

The Church premises host numerous outside organisations, both secular and religious, throughout the year. For example, the blood donation service runs monthly sessions and both Brownies and Rainbows have groups which meet here every week as do Swindon Choral Society.

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 help raise funds for 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.

FRESHBROOK CHURCH

Achievements

The number of members of the CIO have on the whole stay stable, with people leaving and new people arriving.

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

In addition to this general maintenance programme, we installed a new AV and PA system during this year.

Future Plans

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

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.

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

Total receipts for the year were £246,547 and total payments were £278,524

At 31 March 2025 the charity held cash funds of £74,533 in unrestricted funds and £15,404 in restricted funds.

Church Manse

The church still owns a manse, purchased in 2024, for the Associate Pastor and his family to live in. The church has a loan secured on the property, and an equity mortgage with trustee P Bailey and state that as at 31 March 2025, total loans outstanding are £268,211

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 £35,398 this financial 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.

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 their donation should go to a particular individual or organisation then this wish is respected if it accords with the aims and objectives of the Church. If it does not the donation will not be accepted by the Church.

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Employees

The charity had seven paid employees during the year:

- Senior Pastor (full-time)
- Associate Pastor (full-time)
- Office Manager (part-time)
- Schools Worker (part-time)
- Community Worker (part-time)
- Connect 3:16 Co-ordinator (part-time)
- Cleaner/Caretaker (1 x part-time)

Transactions with Trustees and other Connected Persons

No Trustee receives any remuneration from the CIO for their role as a Trustee.

Trustees who are also employees receive remuneration solely in relation to their employment.

Approval of Report

This report was approved by order of the board of Trustees on 6th October 2025 and signed on its behalf by:



S Cox - Trustee and Church Administrator/Treasurer



D Davison – Chair of Trustees & Lead Pastor



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name
Freshbrook Church

No (if any)
1167735

CC16a

Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	Period start date	To	Period end date
	01-Apr-24		31-Mar-25


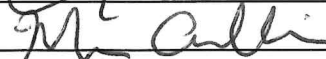
Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Freewill Offering and one off gifts	117,160	21,830	-	138,990	194,823
Tax recovery	28,633	7,123	-	35,756	29,632
Bank interest	2,332			2,332	1,891
Hire of hall and other income	11,150	-	-	11,150	13,710
Groups, and event income	37,044		-	37,044	7,940
Manse		21,275	-	21,275	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	196,319	50,228	-	246,547	247,996
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
Bank Loan receipts		-	-	-	276,000
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	276,000
Total receipts	196,319	50,228	-	246,547	523,996
A3 Payments					
Salaries (Charitable activities)	76,979		-	76,979	58,377
Worker Expenses	288	-	-	288	598
Direct charitable activities	30,444	49,091	-	79,535	51,342
Salaries (Support costs)	26,243	-	-	26,243	23,060
Office and administration	7,371	-	-	7,371	6,006
Other governance costs	6,727	-	-	6,727	4,849
Building Maintenance	23,333			23,333	11,220
Utilities and It	24,517	-	-	24,517	18,020
Manse purchase expenses, renovation and running costs		18,532		18,532	28,467
Sub total	195,901	67,623	-	263,524	201,939
A4 Asset and investment purchases. (see table)					
Property purchase		-	-	-	350,000
Bank loan repayments -Capital element		4,837		4,837	1,952
Bank loan repayments - Interest element		10,163	-	10,163	4,298
Sub total	-	15,000	-	15,000	356,250
Total payments	195,901	82,623	-	278,524	558,189
Net of receipts/(payments)	418	- 32,395	-	- 31,977	- 34,193
A5 Transfers between funds					
A6 Cash funds last year end	84,860	37,054	-	121,914	156,107
Cash funds this year end	85,278	4,659	-	89,937	121,914

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

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	CAF gold	22,937	4,659	-
	CAF Cash	20,625		-
	Kingdom bank	41,716	-	-
	Total cash funds	85,278	4,659	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
		Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets	Details	-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
	Church building		-	3,785,818
	Manse		350,000	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B5 Liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
	Secured Loan		208,750	
	Equity Loan		46,000	
			-	
			-	
			-	

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

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	DAVID DAVISON	6 OCT 25
	JOHN COLLIS	6/10/25



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/
members of**

Freshbrook Church

**On accounts for the year
ended**

31 March 2025

**Charity no
(if any)**

1167735

Set out on pages

1 & 2

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31 / 03 / 2025

**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**

The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants for England and Wales (ICAEW)

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:

- 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: 11/09/2025

Name:

Jonathan Skinner

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

Institute of Chartered Accountants for England and Wales (ICAEW)

Address:

Lane House, Gills Hill Lane

Radlett

WD7 8DD

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.

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