

Trustees' Annual Report & Accounts for
Freedom Vineyard Dartford



For the year ending March 2021

Charity Number: 1184259

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Change Management

Revision	Date	Author(s)	Status
1.0	26 th Jan 2022	G Blow & D Bridge	Published

1. Charity Details

Charity Name: Freedom Vineyard Dartford

Registration Number: 1184259

Registered Address: 19 Carrington Road
Dartford
Kent
DA1 1XN

Trustees: David Anthony Bridge (Chair)
Amanda Jane Blow
Glen Geoffrey Blow
Michael Lopez

Banking: Co-operative Bank

2. Charity Management

The charity is managed in line with our constitution which was formed as a CIO on the 4th July 2019.

The strategic direction for the charity is set by the Lead Pastors (who were also the Trustees at the close of the financial year).

Two of the trustees have undertaken specific responsibility with respect to the charity's governance: David Bridge acts as treasurer and Amanda Blow is the Safeguarding Lead.

The trustees meet quarterly to review charity performance, operations, risk and finances.

At this stage in the charity's life, the trustees shall recruit new or additional trustees from within the membership of the Freedom Vineyard Dartford church community wherever possible. The trustees shall prayerfully consider future trustee(s), with a view based on:

- Their commitment to the life of the charity,
- skills/professional qualification and/or experience that can aid the charity,
- their character & temperament, and

- if two equally suitable candidates are in consideration for a single post, then the appointment that will increase overall trustee diversity will be strongly considered.

All trustees undergo enhanced DBS checks before appointment and annually thereafter.

3. Activities, Objectives & Achievements

The charity met its initial objectives to:

1. gather a cohort of individuals and families that would commit to be a part of the church plant.
2. cast the vision for the church plant,
3. encourage members to consider giving regularly to the charity.
4. to establish a rhythm of events that would provide a foundation for us to realise our aims.

Having established a core membership, the charity's original plans for the period of this report were to conduct outreach to identify people and partner organisations where we could provide benefit. However, like all charities, the impact of the Coronavirus pandemic radically impacted our plans and day-to-day operations.

As the country locked down, we responded by shifting our focus towards providing support to individuals in both the church community and in Dartford.

We transitioned the live weekly events in Costa Coffee Dartford to a weekly online event that was pre-recorded and broadcast online at a regular time each week. Although we saw tremendous reach with these online events in the first two weeks, engagement dropped off soon after. We therefore pivoted to weekly online meetings that were closer to a traditional church service; first on Facebook Live and then subsequently on Zoom.

The idea behind these meetings was to provide a touchpoint for both the church community and any virtual guests that wished to attend; for both worship and also friendship and emotional support – ensuring that nobody was isolated in their homes with no contact.

Our small group also transitioned online, so that they could keep meeting and were an invaluable source of pastoral support.

To address the potential financial needs for anyone in crisis during the pandemic, the leaders and trustees resolved to create a Share Fund to directly help with specific financial hardship situations. Awarding criteria were set up

and two members of the church were appointed to receive and consider any applications; and prayerfully make recommendations to the trustees. The charity made two such payments to relieve short-term hardships as a direct effect of the pandemic.

The charity also engaged with a local care home, that was under severe pressure (like all care homes during the year). We provided a video projector for the residents so they could enjoy their favourite films together. We also provided care packs to the staff to recognise the hard work and care provided, in such trying times.

We also continued with our policy of donating at least 20% of our income to other charities that provided poverty/hardship relief, community development or other valuable social action. To this end, the charity made payments of

- £1650 to the Dartford Foodbank
- £2648 to the Waystation Vineyard in Mandalay, Myanmar (via a UK charity) and raised a further £1414, totalling £4062

during the financial year.

The charity also encouraged members to support their immediate community by proactively making connections with their neighbours to ensure that people were not isolated and at additional risk during the lockdowns. To this end, many connections were made that resulted in events that bolstered communities. Specific highlights were socially distanced “garden parties” (where residents all came out into their respective gardens at a specific time) to celebrate the VE Day anniversary) and organising a weekly street singalong during the “clap for the NHS”. Lasting connections have been made through these efforts.

Despite the pandemic, the charity has moved forward positively during the financial year, and we remain expectant to be able to expand the reach and impact of the charity further as we come out of lockdown.

4. Financial Report

All figures shown to the nearest £

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Last year
Receipts					
Voluntary donations	22368	1699	0	24067	16615
Refunds on cancelled training	337	0	0	337	0
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	22705	1699	0	24404	16615
Asset and investment sales					
Sub total	0	0	0	0	0
Total receipts	22705	1699	0	24404	16615

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Last year
Payments					
Meeting room rent	0	0	0	0	250
Resources for small groups, kids and youth	235	0	0	235	516
Outreach including Costa hospitality	1344	0	0	1344	3370
Postage, stationary and software	1153	0	0	1153	329
Training and conferences	224	0	0	224	952
Governance, insurance and licences	1522	0	0	1522	223
Gifts - small items	826	0	0	826	131
Gift – Fegans	0	0	0	0	1100
Gift - Love the One	0	0	0	0	1100
Gifts - Mercy Outreach UK	2648	1414	0	4062	0
Gifts - Priory Mews Care Home	1989	285	0	2274	0
Gifts - Dartford Foodbank	1650	0	0	1650	0
Gift - Vineyard National Gathering	500	0	0	500	0
Gifts - Hardship relief	900	0	0	900	0
Promotional items	0	0	0	0	577
Equipment	478	0	0	478	219
Other expenditure	0	0	0	0	124
Sub total	13469	1699	0	15168	8891
Asset and investment purchases					
Initial PA setup	0	0	0	0	1767
Sub total	0	0	0	0	1767
Total payments	13469	1699	0	15168	10658

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Last year
Net of receipts/(payments)	9236	0	0	9236	5957
Transfers between funds	0	0	0	0	0
Cash funds last year end	5957	0	0	5957	0
Cash funds this year end	15193	0	0	15193	5957

Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds
Cash Funds	Co-operative Bank	15142	0	0
	Petty Cash	51	0	0
	Total cash funds	15193	0	0
Other Monetary Assets		0	0	0

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost	Current value
Investment Assets			0	0
Assets retained for the charity's own use	Initial PA setup	Unrestricted	1767	0

Liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due	When due
			0	

5. Reserves

Currently Freedom Vineyard holds no funds in Reserves as at this early stage it was deemed unnecessary as there are negligible risks to the charity's operation. This is reviewed regularly by the Trustees.

6. Funds Held as a Custodian Trustee

There are no funds held as a Custodian Trustee.