



Annual Report of  
**Freedom Church Network**

Registered Charity Number 1195962

For the year ended **31 December 2024**



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## Reference and administrative details

*For the year ended 31 December 2024*

Name of charity: Freedom Church Network

Charity registration number: 1195962

Trustees:

Rev Dr David A. Hull	(Chair)
Adrian Lewis	(Treasurer)
Sarah Whybrew	(resigned 8 June 2025)
Kate Kernahan	(appointed 8 June 2025)
Andrew Fleet	(appointed 14 April 2024)
Michael Cocklin	(resigned 14 April 2024)
Deborah Bedingfield	(resigned 14 April 2024)
Michaela Willcox	(resigned 14 April 2024)

Registered office and principal address: Freedom Church Network  
c/o Freedom Church Bristol  
Acorn House  
The Kingswood Estate  
Britannia Road  
Bristol BS15 8DB

Independent examiner: Burton Sweet Ltd  
Cooper House  
Lower Charlton Estate  
Shepton Mallet,  
Somerset, BA4 5QE

Bankers: Co-operative Bank plc  
PO Box 50  
Skelmersdale  
WN8 6YL



## **Trustees' report for the year ended 31 December 2024**

The trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2024. The trustees who served during the year and up to the date of this report are set out on page 2. In submitting their report and the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2024, the trustees have adopted the provisions of The Charities Act 2011 in preparing the Annual Report and financial statements of the charity.

### **Charitable Objects**

In summary, Freedom Church Bristol exists to:

- advance the Christian faith;
- further the work of the Free Methodist Church, including through:
  - regular church services,
  - educational services,
  - grants to relieve financial hardship,
  - public outreach,
  - missionary work,
  - the establishment of new churches according to the same basis of faith.

### **Structure, Governance and Management**

2024 marked a transformative year for the charity, with a restructuring of its constitution and an accompanying change of name from Freedom Church Bristol to Freedom Church Network, taking legal effect on 14 April 2024. These changes, which replaced the original Association Model with a new Foundation Model, created a governance structure suited to a network of three distinct church communities, reflecting the organic development of the charity's mission beyond its origins in Bristol to encompass its growing church plants in Wiltshire and South Lincolnshire on a more equal footing.

The charity continues to be part of the Free Methodist Church UK (FMC UK). Under the new constitution, each location – as it moves towards becoming a 'Full Society' within the FMC UK – is represented by a locally-elected trustee. As mandated in the FMC Book of Discipline, these trustees are each appointed for a period of one year (with the possibility of re-appointment) by the Annual Society Meeting of the respective church. This ensures local voices are heard in network-wide decision making and maintains appropriate oversight and accountability.

Seeking to balance strategic oversight with operational efficiency, the trustees delegate day-to-day decisions to the respective Church Leadership Teams (CLTs), which have responsibility for local ministry decisions, pastoral care, and community engagement. This allows the trustees to focus on legal compliance, network-wide coherence, and fostering cooperation across the three locations. The trustees hold three formal business meetings per year, with additional ad hoc meetings as necessary.



The constitution continues to allow for trustee remuneration subject to appropriate controls, with which the trustees have complied. The Chair of Trustees, in his capacity as Lead Pastor of Freedom Church Bristol, is the sole remunerated trustee. The level of remuneration is recommended by the Annual Conference of the FMC UK and approved by a majority of non-remunerated trustees. Part of his remuneration was covered through the generous financial support of individual donors, enabling him to be released for an average of two days per week, to offer a ministry of Wesleyan evangelical leadership across the UK.

### **Activities, Developments and Achievements**

The year 2024 saw significant developments across all three locations within the Freedom Church Network, each building on established foundations while pursuing local growth and mission opportunities:-

**Freedom Church Bristol** continued its established pattern of Sunday morning worship, children's activities, youth group, and mid-week home groups, alongside a monthly women's gathering and men's prayer breakfast. The church welcomed new members during the year, with particular encouragement from the addition of mature believers who strengthened the community's spiritual foundation. A steady stream of children continued to attend, often accompanied by young mothers who frequently spent time in the creche. Home group participation remained strong with new leaders emerging to support this vital aspect of church life. Young adults' ministry developed well throughout the year. The church's American Sports Camp, held at Lees Hill in late July, attracted over 30 young people and served as an effective outreach initiative. By the autumn, the leadership team was actively considering how best to facilitate continued growth as Sunday morning attendance at times approached capacity.

**Freedom Church Wiltshire** experienced substantial growth in both attendance and community engagement. Sunday worship, mid-week home groups and monthly prayer meetings continued. The congregation's covenant to contribute £10,000 annually for three years, combined with a grant from the FMC UK's Kingdom Builders fund, enabled the church to complete the recruitment process for a part-time pastor, to take up the post in 2025. The church deepened its community connections through regular participation in coffee mornings in Wanborough and the development of valuable relationships within the local farming community in Brinkworth. The congregation continued its support of a network of seven churches in Belarus, hosting visits from trainee pastors as part of this international partnership. Within the church at home, a growing sense of fellowship and unity was fostered through practical initiatives such as circulating a church directory to encourage greater sharing of prayer requests.

**Freedom Church South Lincolnshire** achieved the significant milestone of relocating its Sunday services from a private home to the local village hall, reflecting steady growth in the congregation. The life of the church continued to develop, as it celebrated with one attendee who made a commitment to Christian faith during the year, and an in-person home group was launched in the autumn, supplementing the existing community activities. The move to public premises represents both practical growth and increased visibility within the local community.



**Central to the life of all three churches** has continued to be the proclamation of the good news of Jesus Christ, and the encouragement in Christian discipleship of his followers. All churches have sought to equip and inspire their members to live out their Christian faith through personal witness and practical service within their respective communities, which is at the heart of the network's approach to local mission.

## **Public Benefit Statement**

The charity complies with the public benefit requirement through its charitable objectives.

The Trustees confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the charity's aims and objectives and in planning future activities.

## **Volunteer Leadership and Service**

Freedom Church is dependent on the volunteers from within its membership and wider community who give so freely of their time, gifts and energy in leadership and service, as well as in financial giving. The trustees record their gratitude to all who share so generously in this work. Similarly, the Chair & Lead Pastor records his very great thanks to the board of trustees which serves alongside him in leadership of the charity.

## **Financial review**

Total Bristol general fund receipts for 2024 were £54,876, receipts for Wiltshire £11,539 and for South Lincolnshire £2,721. Additionally, £69 was received for the S Lincs Missions Fund (a designated fund), and for restricted funds, receipts of £14,945 have been received for Personal Support, Receipts of £1,000 for the PA Equipment Fund, receipts of £256 for the Wiltshire Charity Collections Fund and receipts of £20,130 for the Wiltshire Pastor fund.

## ***Reserves policy***

It is the policy of Freedom Church Network to maintain a balance of unrestricted funds when available to meet unforeseen situations. Reserves may be held in a separate deposit account to enable the charity to benefit from accrued interest.

Total reserves held at the end of 2024 (see note 11) amount to £77,460 of which £19,696 are restricted funds. Total unrestricted funds are £57,764 of which £2,979 is the value of unrestricted fixed assets. Free reserves are therefore £54,785 which equate to 9.5 months of 2024 unrestricted fund expenditure excluding depreciation (2023 – 7 months) – a 36% increase on the reserves position relative to unrestricted fund monthly expenditure in 2023. The trustees feel this level is prudent in view of the charity's current and expected level of income and expenditure in 2025.



## Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the above trustees' report.  
Signed on behalf of the trustees of Freedom Church Bristol,

Acorn House  
Kingswood Estate  
Britannia Road  
Kingswood  
Bristol  
BS15 8DB

**Rev Dr David A. Hull**

*Chair & Lead Pastor,*

*Freedom Church Network*

**Date:** 28th October 2025  
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## **Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Freedom Church Network**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Freedom Church Network (the Charity) for the year ended 31 December 2024.

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

As the charity trustees of the Charity 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 Charity'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**

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

- accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- the accounts do not accord with those records; or
- the accounts do 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.

*Joshua Kingston*

Josh Kingston ACA  
Burton Sweet Limited  
The Clock Tower  
5 Farleigh Court  
Old Weston Road  
Flax Bourton  
Bristol BS48 1UR

Date: 28th October 2025  
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## Statement of financial activities

For the year ended 31 December 2024

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	<b>Total 2024 £</b>	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	<b>Total 2023 £</b>
<b>Income from:</b>						
Donations and legacies	68,287	36,331	<b>104,618</b>	62,799	18,893	<b>81,692</b>
Investments	918	-	<b>918</b>	835	-	<b>835</b>
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Total income</b> (see Notes 3 & 4)	69,205	36,331	<b>105,536</b>	63,634	18,893	<b>82,527</b>
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>						
Charitable activities	72,750	19,912	<b>92,662</b>	99,794	19,814	<b>119,608</b>
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Total expenditure</b> (see notes 5, 6 & 7)	72,750	19,912	<b>92,662</b>	99,794	19,814	<b>119,608</b>
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>	(3,544)	16,418	<b>12,874</b>	(36,160)	(921)	<b>(37,081)</b>
Fund transfers in	-	75	75	-	-	-
Fund transfers out	<hr/> (75)	<hr/> -	<hr/> (75)	<hr/>	<hr/> -	<hr/> -
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	(3,619)	16,493	<b>12,874</b>	(36,160)	(921)	<b>(37,081)</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>						
Total funds brought forward	61,383	3,203	<b>64,586</b>	97,542	4,125	<b>101,667</b>
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>	57,764	19,696	<b>77,460</b>	61,383	3,203	<b>64,586</b>
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>



## Balance sheet

As at 31 December 2024

	2024	2023
	£	£
<b>Fixed assets:</b> (see Note 8)		
Tangible assets	2,979	2,747
<b>Current assets:</b> (see Note 9)		
Debtors	1,297	3,146
Cash at bank and in hand	74,022	57,470
Prepayments	<u>1,967</u>	<u>2,174</u>
	77,286	62,790
<b>Liabilities:</b> (see Note 10)		
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	<u>(2,805)</u>	<u>(951)</u>
<b>Net current assets</b>	<u>74,481</u>	<u>61,839</u>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>	<u>77,460</u>	<u>64,586</u>
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year</b>	-	-
<b>Net assets</b>	<u>77,460</u>	<u>64,586</u>
<b>Funds of the charity</b>		
Unrestricted funds: (see Note 12)		
General funds	54,841	58,184
Designated funds	<u>2,923</u>	<u>3,199</u>
Total unrestricted funds	57,764	61,383
Restricted funds (see Note 13)	<u>19,696</u>	<u>3,203</u>
<b>Total charity funds</b>	<u>77,460</u>	<u>64,586</u>

**Rev Dr David A. Hull**

*Chair & Lead Pastor,*

*Freedom Church Network*

Date: 28th October 2025



## Notes

*(forming part of the financial statements)*

### 1 General information and basis of preparation

#### 1.1 Basis of accounting

Freedom Church Network is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation registered with the Charity Commission England and Wales.

The address of the registered office and the nature of the charity's operations and principal activities are given in the Trustees' Report.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011 and UK Generally Accepted Practice as it applies from 1 January 2015.

The financial statements have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and have departed from the Charities (Accounting and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a 'true and fair view'. This departure has involved following the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), including "Amendments to Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland".

The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention, modified to include certain items at fair value. The financial statements are prepared in sterling which is the functional currency of the charity and rounded to the nearest £1.

The significant accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out in note 2, which have been consistently applied to all years presented unless otherwise stated.

#### 1.2 Changes to accounting estimates

No changes to accounting estimates have occurred in the reporting period.

#### 1.3 Material prior year errors

No material prior year error has been identified in the reporting period.



## Notes

*(forming part of the financial statements)*

### 2 Accounting policies

#### 2.1 Income

These are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when:

- the charity becomes entitled to the resources;
- the trustees are virtually certain they will receive the resources; and
- the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

There has been no offsetting of assets and liabilities, or income and expenses, unless required or permitted by the FRS 102 SORP or FRS 102.

Grants and donations are only included in the SoFA when the general income recognition criteria are met.

Gift Aid receivable is included in income when there is a valid declaration from the donor. Any Gift Aid amount recovered on a donation is considered to be part of that gift and is treated as an addition to the same fund as the initial donation unless the donor or the terms of the appeal have specified otherwise.

Donated goods are measured at fair value (the amount for which the asset could be exchanged) unless impractical to do so.

The cost of any stock of goods donated for distribution to beneficiaries is deemed to be the fair value of those gifts at the time of their receipt and they are recognised on receipt. In the reporting period in which the stocks are distributed, they are recognised as an expense at the carrying amount of the stocks at distribution.

The value of any voluntary help received is not included in the accounts but is described in the trustees' annual report.

Income from interest is included in the accounts when receipt is probable and the amount receivable can be measured reliably.

#### 2.2 Expenditure and liabilities

Liabilities are recognised where it is more likely than not that there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out resources and the amount of the obligation can be measured with reasonable certainty.

No material item of deferred income has been included in the accounts.

The charity has creditors which are measured at settlement amounts less any trade discounts.

#### 2.3 Assets

Tangible fixed assets are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year, and cost at least £500. They are valued at cost less accumulated depreciation. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost or valuation less any residual value of each asset over its expected useful life, as follows:

Freehold property	- 2% per annum on cost
Fixtures, fittings and equipment	- 12.5 - 25% per annum on cost

Debtors (including trade debtors) are measured on initial recognition at settlement amount after any trade discounts or amount advanced by the charity. Subsequently, they are measured at the cash or other consideration expected



to be received.

## Notes

*(forming part of the financial statements)*

### 2 Accounting policies (continued)

#### 2.4 **Leasing**

Rental charges under operating leases are charged to the SoFA on a straight line basis over the term of the lease.

#### 2.5 **Pension costs**

The pension costs charged in the financial statements represents the contributions payable to the scheme in respect of the accounting period.

#### 2.6 **Funds**

Restricted funds are to be used for specific purposes as laid down by the donor. Expenditure which meets the criteria is allocated to the fund.

Unrestricted funds relate to incoming resources received or generated for the charity's purposes.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the charity's trustees for particular purposes.

#### 2.7 **Statement of cash flows**

The charity has opted to prepare the accounts under Charities SORP (FRS102) and has adopted Update Bulletin 1 and is exempted from preparing a cash flow statement on the grounds that it is a small charity.



## Notes

*(forming part of the financial statements)*

### 3 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	<b>Total 2024</b>	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£
Donations & planned giving	54,852	33,094	<b>87,946</b>	61,363
Tax recoverable on Gift Aid	11,016	3,237	<b>14,253</b>	12,277
Other receipts	2,419	-	<b>2,419</b>	8,051
	<u>68,287</u>	<u>36,331</u>	<u><b>104,618</b></u>	<u>81,692</u>

### 4 Income from investments

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	<b>Total 2024</b>	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£
Bank interest	<u>918</u>	<u>-</u>	<u><b>918</b></u>	<u>835</u>

### 5 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	<b>Total 2024</b>	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£
Staff costs	29,587	18,318	<b>47,905</b>	67,225
Donations & mission giving	7,439	594	<b>8,033</b>	7,158
Administration expenses	35,724	1,000	<b>36,724</b>	45,225
	<u>72,750</u>	<u>19,912</u>	<u><b>92,662</b></u>	<u>119,608</u>



## Notes

(forming part of the financial statements)

### 6 Trustee Remuneration

#### 6.1 Remuneration

Name of trustee or related party	Legal Authority	Amounts Paid	
		2024	2023
		£	£
D Hull as Lead Pastor	Governing document	47,905	44,643
J Greene as Assistant Pastor (resigned 31/08/23)	Governing document	0	22,582

#### 6.2 Expenses

	2024	2023
Number of trustees who were paid expenses	5	3
Nature of the expenses	Various*	Travel
	£	£
Total amount paid	1,087	1,498

\*Expenses 2024 covered travel, accommodation, subsistence, printing costs, reimbursement of church licence costs etc.

### 7 Staff costs and numbers

#### 7.1 Staff Costs

	Total	Total
	2024	2023
	£	£
Salaries	43,062	59,088
Employer's NI	581	1,924
Employer's Pension	3,424	4,830
Group Life cover/Income Protection scheme	838	1,383
	47,905	67,225

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was £60,000 or more.

#### 7.2 Staff Numbers

<i>Average number of staff employed</i>	2024	2023
Full time	1	2
Part time	0	0
	1	2
<i>Average number of full-time equivalent employees in the year</i>	2024	2023
Charitable activities	1	2

#### 7.3 Key Management Personnel

The key management personnel of the charity comprise the trustees and the other key management personnel as listed on page 1. The total amount of employee benefits (including employer pension contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the charity was £47,905 (2023 = £67,225).



## Notes

(forming part of the financial statements)

### 7.4 Defined Contribution Pension Scheme

The charity contributes to a defined contribution pension scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charity in an independently administered fund. Contributions payable for the year are disclosed in note 7.1 above. At the year end and the previous year end there were no outstanding contributions.

## 8 Tangible Fixed Assets

	Fixtures, Fittings & Equipment £	Total £
<b>Cost</b>		
At 1 January 2024*	5,975	5,975
Additions	2,180	2,180
<b>At 31 December 2024</b>	<b>8,993</b>	<b>8,993</b>
<b>Depreciation</b>		
At 1 January 2024	3,228	3,228
Charge for year	1,948	1,948
<b>At 31 December 2024</b>	<b>5,176</b>	<b>5,176</b>
<b>Net book values</b>		
<b>At 31 December 2024</b>	<b>2,979</b>	<b>2,979</b>
At 31 December 2023	2,747	2,747

9 Debtors	2024 £	2023 £
Trade debtors	1,297	3,146
Prepayments	1,967	2,174
	<b>3,264</b>	<b>5,320</b>

10 Creditors	Amounts falling due within one year		Amounts falling due after more than one year	
	2024 £	2023 £	2024 £	2023 £
Taxation and social security	645	-	-	-
Accruals and deferred income	2,160	951	-	-
	<b>2,805</b>	<b>951</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>





## Notes

(forming part of the financial statements)

### 11 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £
<b>Fund balances at 31 December 2024 as represented by:</b>			
Tangible fixed assets	2,979	-	<b>2,979</b>
Current assets	57,590	19,696	<b>77,286</b>
Current liabilities	(2,805)	-	<b>(2,805)</b>
	<u>57,764</u>	<u>19,696</u>	<u><b>77,460</b></u>

### 12 Unrestricted funds

	At 1 January 2024 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	At 31 December 2024 £
Bristol general fund	45,686	54,876	(54,265)	(5,742)	<b>40,555</b>
Wiltshire general fund	7,068	11,539	(7,820)	(1,154)	<b>9,633</b>
South Lincs general fund	5,429	2,722	(3,226)	(272)	<b>4,653</b>
Designated funds:					
Bristol mission fund	1,355	-	(6,167)	5,487	<b>675</b>
Bristol benevolent fund	28	-	(255)	255	<b>28</b>
Wiltshire mission fund	1,526	-	(965)	1079	<b>1,640</b>
South Lincs mission fund	291	69	(52)	272	<b>580</b>
	<u>61,383</u>	<u>69,206</u>	<u>(72,750)</u>	<u>(75)</u>	<u><b>57,764</b></u>

### 13 Restricted funds

	At 1 January 2024 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	At 31 December 2024 £
Bristol personal support	2,590	14,945	(18,318)	-	<b>(783)</b>
Bristol PA Equipment Fund*	-	1,000	(1,000)	-	<b>0</b>
Wiltshire Charity Collections	513	256	(594)	75	<b>250</b>
Wiltshire Pastor Fund	100	20,129	-	-	<b>20,229</b>
	<u>3,203</u>	<u>36,330</u>	<u>(19,912)</u>	<u>75</u>	<u><b>19,696</b></u>

\*new fund in 2024

#### Purposes of restricted funds

Bristol Personal Support fund – This fund consists of donations specifically for the National responsibilities of the Lead Pastor in Bristol. Under his contract terms any deficit is covered from the Bristol General Fund.

Bristol PA Equipment Fund – this fund consists of donations specifically for the purchase of new PA and associated electronic equipment for use by the church in its activities.

Wiltshire Charity Collections fund – This fund receives donations for specific charities.

Wiltshire Pastor Fund – this fund receives donations towards the employment of a pastor for the Wiltshire church.

### 14 Transactions with related parties

No related party transactions took place in the period of account, other than certain trustees' remuneration and expenses already disclosed in note 7.