



Freedom Church (Ceredigion)

Trustees Annual Report and Accounts

Period: 1st January 2024 to 31st December 2024

Charity Commission Registration Number: 1197658

Principal Address:

C/O Aberystwyth Football Club, Park Avenue, Aberystwyth, SY23 1PG

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Freedom Church (Ceredigion)
Working name of Freedom Community Church
Report of Trustees, year end 31st December 2024

Reporting Period

Freedom Community Church ('FCC') is registered as a CIO with the Charity Commission in England and Wales. This report covers the period 1st January 2024 up to 31st December 2024.

Administration and Reference details

WORKING NAME OF CHARITY: Freedom Community Church

REGISTERED OFFICE:

% Aberystwyth Football Club, Park Avenue, Aberystwyth, SY23 1PG

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1197658

PRINCIPAL BANKERS: Lloyds Bank, Bristol

Trustees and Responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records in order to prepare these annual financial statements, and where necessary for Independent Examination.

Trustees: Mr Jonathan Butler (Chair)
Mr Mark Jarvis (Treasurer, resigned from Trustees as of 31/12/2024)
Mr Andrew Tiffen (Secretary)
Mrs Rachel Tiffen
Mr Paul Hutchings
Mrs Nicola Hutchings
Mr Timothy Robertson (resigned from Trustees 29/04/2024)

Structure, Governance and Management

The charity of FCC is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) governed by the constitution dated 25th January 2022. This constitution is formed using a pre-agreed format between the Charity Commission and Assemblies of God Great Britain Incorporated (AoGGB) for their status churches.

The CIO Foundation model constitution remains the governing document for this church located in Aberystwyth, Ceredigion.

Trustees may be appointed by ordinary resolution by the members, or by a decision of the trustees. The trustees for 2024 initially remained as those appointed as trustees at time of constitution and met online throughout the year on a quarterly basis.

There has been regular contact between The Chair and Treasurer outside of these meetings to ensure relevant actions are undertaken and completed. The policies for FCC have been adhered to and updated as necessary, quarterly meetings provide a minuted record of these. In 2024 two of the trustees stepped down, having given suitable notice periods and demonstrated significant service to the charity. Work was commenced to identify and appoint an additional trustee for 2025.

The Chair of Trustees is also the Lead Pastor of FCC, as is common within AoGGB status churches and the constitution, and continues as the sole employee of FCC in 2024.

Objectives and Activities for Public Benefit

The constitution for FCC to operate as a CIO was accepted in January 2022 upon registration with the Charity Commission in that same month.

The objectives of the charity as set out in the Constitution (“the Objects”) are for the benefit of the public:

- (a) to advance the Christian faith in accordance with the Statement in such ways and in such parts of the UK or the world as the Trustees and Leadership from time to time may think fit.
- (b) to relieve sickness and financial hardship and to promote and preserve good health by the provision of funds, goods or services of any kind including the provision of counselling and support in such parts of the UK or the world as the Trustees and Leadership from time to time think fit.
- (c) to advance education in such ways and in such parts of the United Kingdom or the world as the Trustees and Leadership from time to time may think fit.

It is the trustees’ submission that these objects are achieved through the running of a church based in Aberystwyth, Ceredigion.

The registered office for the charity is Aberystwyth Football Club, Park Avenue, Aberystwyth, SY23 1PG.

The trustees have taken account of the Charity Commission’s guidance and believe that they demonstrate that public benefit has been provided through seeking to meet the spiritual and pastoral needs of people in the local community through FCC’s activities and services as summarised below.

Achievements and Performance

As a church, FCC’s primary activities and achievement are reached through worship services, meetings for faith study and provision of activities and services to the local community as a church.

The church is led by Jonathan and Carly Butler as Pastors, with Jonathan an accredited minister with AoGGB.

The church continued employing Jonathan as Church Pastor on a part-time basis, with an employment review conducted in April 2024 by the Trustee board, giving due attention to conflict of interest and in keeping with the Governing Document of the charity.

Carly remains a volunteer in her role.

As Pastors they (JB and CB) lead and are responsible for the spiritual direction of the church. A ‘Core Team’, made up of volunteers, from within the church continued meeting through the year as the team increased in size by the end of 2024. This team again enabled the church to grow in serving the local community through the charity’s objectives.

Sunday worship meetings, open to and attended by members of the public, were held weekly throughout the year with the regular meeting venue of the church continuing at the hired local primary school hall. Regular church attendance increased, with baptism service held in the summer.

Midweek meetings were held by the church, meeting in attendees' homes for Bible study, prayer and exploration of the Christian faith. These midweek meetings saw an increase in attendees throughout the year with meetings hosted in the wider geographical area of north Ceredigion.

The charity has continued working to support local families living in the community through our 'Aber Dads' project, which works in partnership with EPIC Dad Community Interest Company. The 'Aber Dads' project hosts fun clubs for fathers and their children, peer support and family wellbeing provision, alongside parenting courses/mentoring. A bowling day trip was organised for these families, being subsidised by the church to commemorate the project's birthday.

The vehicle that was previously purchased in 2022 for this project and regular church activities has been maintained under the management and cost of FCC.

The charity continued running a fortnightly youth group fulfilling the charitable objectives. The youth group, open to and attended by young people from the locality, met in a community hall hired by the charity. The established connections with local schools and families, through the charity's other services and activities, enabled this youth group to continue growing.

In July 2024 the charity worked with two local primary schools, as well as those linked to the youth group, to supply under-resourced families with brand new backpacks, filled with essential stationery and Bibles, for their children moving from primary to secondary school. Over 40 backpacks were provided through funds raised and donated, as well as a small grant from 'Magic Little Grants'.

The charity enjoyed ongoing development of 'Messy Church Goes Wild' as a monthly worship gathering in which food is provided to those attending. These events continued to be advertised to and open for the public to attend, as with all worship meetings.

In December 2024 the charity again worked with a local Domestic Abuse support charity to provide gifts and aid to under-resourced families during the Christmas period. The church was able to welcome significant numbers of visitors during Christmas Services held at the local primary school, demonstrating meaningful connections and engagement with the local community throughout 2024.

Financial Review

The 2024 budget was formally approved in April 2024 by the Trustees, ensuring the reserves Policy at the time was maintained.

The reserves policy (Finance Process and Procedures) of FCC was updated in July 2024 by the Treasurer with agreement from the board, to hold reserves of funds equating to six months of the approved annual budget. This document includes the ethical investment policy.

Any additional unrestricted reserves as of the 31st December 2024 will be utilised to continue to grow and develop the work of the church into 2025.

The Trustees have appointed Karen Silcox, Plumtree Bookkeeping and Accountancy, to undertake the Preparation and Independent Examination of the 2024 accounts.

In 2024 we received £29,140 (2023 £24,112). The majority of our income comes from donations to the church and the trustees want to thank everyone who has given to the church in the past 12 months. We spent £25,434 (2023 £19,703). The single biggest change in our expenditure is an increase in the salary we have been able to provide for our minister Jon Butler. At the end of the year we held £24,644 in cash reserves of which £398 is restricted. This exceeds the 6 months running costs we aim to hold as a contingency reserve (currently valued at £11,000). On this basis the trustees are confident the church had enough funds (income and reserves) to ensure that the church was able to keep running for another 12 months.

Signed: 

Jonathan Butler, Chair of Trustees

Date: 28/04/2025



Freedom Church (Ceredigion) Receipts and Payments Accounts

Period 1st January to 31st December 2024

Section A Receipts and payments					
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Youth	Total funds	Last year
	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £
Receipts					
Regular giving gift aid	7,290	-	-	7,290	5,580
Non regular giving gift aid	137	1,058	-	1,195	4,241
Other giving (see note 2)	13,197	135	-	13,332	6,430
Stewardship income (non gift aid)	2,988	-	-	2,988	3,495
Gift aid reclaimed	1,625	240	-	1,865	2,740
Charitable Activity Income	387	1,342	438	2,167	1,626
Interest Earned	303	-	-	303	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	25,926	2,775	438	29,140	24,112
Total receipts	25,926	2,775	438	29,140	24,112
Payments					
AOG 3% giving	557	-	-	557	500
Church Running Costs (see note 3)	6,064	792	600	7,456	9,498
Discipleship costs	272	-	-	272	329
Equipment	966	709	200	1,875	1,391
Events	701	211	67	979	893
Mission (see note 4)	574	1,474	209	2,257	1,125
Salaries & Wages	10,927	-	-	10,927	4,369
Team Costs (see note 5)	1,080	-	32	1,112	968
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	21,140	3,186	1,108	25,434	19,073
Total payments	21,140	3,186	1,108	25,434	19,073
Net of receipts/(payments)	4,786	- 411	- 670	3,705	5,039
Transfers between funds	- 577	60	517	-	-
Cash funds last year end	20,037	749	153	20,939	15,900
Cash funds this year end	24,246	398	0	24,644	20,939

Freedom Church (Ceredigion) Receipts and Payments Accounts
Period 1st January to 31st December 2024

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

Categories	Details	Unrestrict ed funds	Restricted funds	Youth
		to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £
Cash funds	Lloyds Business Current Account	13,873	398	-
	Lloyds Business Current Account	10,373	-	-
	Total cash funds	24,246	398	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
		Unrestrict ed funds	Restricted funds	Youth
		to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £
Other monetary assets	HMRC Monies Owed Gift Aid Q4 2024	448	-	-
	Closing Balance 31st Dec 24 Stripe	40	-	-
	Closing Balance 31st Dec 24 Sum up	11	-	-
		Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
Assets retained for the charity's own use	Renault Kangoo	Unrestricted	-	3590
	Computer & AV Equipment	Unrestricted	-	3500
		Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities	Independent Examiner fee	Unrestricted	325	01 May 2025
	HMRC PAYE Q4 2024	Unrestricted	446	19 January 2025
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name		Date of approval
		JONATHAN BUTLER		28/04/2025
		PAUL HUTCHINGS		30/04/2025

Freedom Church (Ceredigion) Receipts and Payments Accounts

Period 1st January to 31st December 2024

Section C Notes To The Accounts

Note 1 Basis of preparation

Charities registered in England and Wales that are not companies are allowed under section 133 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Charities Act') to prepare receipts and payments accounts provided the charity's gross income is not over £250,000. The charity meets these criteria so the accounts have been prepared on a receipts & payments basis.

Note 2 Breakdown Of Other Giving Receipts

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Youth	Total	2023
Donations & legacies	0	0	0	0	1,531
Cash Donations	764	0	0	764	332
Non Regular Giving (Non Gift Aid)	6,698	135	0	6,833	2,819
Regular Giving (Non Gift Aid)	5,735		0	5,735	1,730
Other Income	0	0	0	0	18
Total	13,197	135	0	13,332	6,430

Note 3 Breakdown of Church Running Costs Payments

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Youth	Total	2023
Advertising / Promotional	202	0	0	202	542
Auto	607			607	2,206
Insurances	644	0	0	644	715
Office/General Administrative Expenditures	10			10	
Other Expenditure	1	0	0	1	1
Other professional services	0	0	0	0	34
Phone Costs	65	0	0	65	157
Printing, Postage and Stationery	2	0	0	2	6
Rent of Buildings	3,131	792	600	4,523	4,668

Note 3 continued	Breakdown of Church Running Costs Payments				
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Youth	Total	2023
Subscriptions & Memberships	818	0	0	818	748
Sunday Service Costs	583	0	0	583	421
				0	
Total	6,064	792	600	7,456	9,498
Note 4	Breakdown Of Mission Payments				
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Youth	Total	2023
Local Mission	184	1,474	209	1,867	730
Mission Giving	390	0	0	390	395
Total	574	1,474	209	2,257	1,125
Note 5	Breakdown of Team Costs Payments				
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Youth	Total	2023
Team Appreciation	487		32	519	386
Training	185			185	177
Travel and Accommodation	408			408	405
Total	1,080	0	32	1,112	968
Note 6	Movement on Restricted Funds				
2024	Epic Dads	Backpacks	Other Events	Total	
Receipts	£	£	£	£	
Charitable Activities Income	1342	0	0	1342	
Non Regular Giving (Non Gift Aid)	0	135	0	135	
Non Regular Giving (Gift Aid)	100	878	80	1058	
Gift Aid		220	20	240	
Total Income	1442	1233	100	2775	
Expenditure	£	£	£	£	
Church Running Costs	792	0	0	792	
Equipment	550	0	160	709	
Events	211	0	0	211	
Mission	0	1474	0	1474	
Total Payments	1552	1474	160	3186	
Net of Receipts/ Payments	-111	-241	-60	-412	
Transfer to Unrestricted funds			60	60	
Opening Balance	359	390	0	749	
Closing Balance	248	149	0	397	



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

**Independent examiner's
report on the accounts**

**Report to the trustees/
members of**

Freedom Church (Ceredigion)

**On accounts for the
year ended**

31st December 2024

**Charity
no (if any)**

1197658

Set out on pages

1-10

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended **31 / 12 / 2024**.

**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:

K. Silcox

Date:

01.05.2025

Name:

Karen Silcox

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

Member of Association of Accounting Technicians
Licence number 1003207

Address:

19 Beverley Close

Exeter

EX2 5NJ

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