



Freedom Church (Ceredigion)

Trustees Annual Report and Accounts

Period: 1st January 2025 to 31st December 2025

Charity Commission Registration Number: 1197658

Principal Address:

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

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Period: 1st January 2024 to 31st December 2025

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Freedom Church (Ceredigion)
Working name of Freedom Community Church
Report of Trustees, year end 31st December 2025

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 2025 up to 31st December 2025.

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 Andrew Tiffen (Secretary)
Mrs Rachel Tiffen
Mr Paul Hutchings
Mrs Nicola Hutchings
Mr Paul Anscombe (appointed 15/03/2025)

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 2025 initially remained as those from 2024, meeting 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 March 2025 an additional trustee was appointed to support the work of the charity, bringing a breadth of expertise to support ongoing growth and community engagement.

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 2025.

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 2025 by the Trustee board, with 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. This team saw some changes at the end of 2025. The trustees are grateful to all our committed volunteers, and the work they undertook 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 a baptism service held in June.

The charity continued hosting 'Messy Church Goes Wild' as a monthly worship gathering, with a focus on outdoors and with the provision of food. These events continued to be advertised to and open for the public to attend, as with all worship meetings.

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 regular committed attendance throughout the year.

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.

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. In May 2025, the charity hosted a Family Fun Day in partnership with River Dee Community Church in Flint. The event welcomed more than 180 attendees and marked the fifth anniversary of the Aber Dads project. Thanks to the dedication of a 50-strong volunteer team, the celebration was a great success.

The charity continues to maintain the vehicle purchased in 2022 for our projects and regular church activities.

In July 2025 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. 42 backpacks were provided through funds raised and donated.

In September and October 2025 a series of events were held to welcome and support students at the start of the university year. These events included provision of food, enabling faith study, and ongoing pastoral care. The charity recognises the value that students bring to our local community and the importance of serving those new to the area and living away from home.

In December 2025 the charity again worked with a local Domestic Abuse support charity to provide gifts and aid to under-resourced families during the Christmas period. In addition, the charity also supported the Children's Ward at Bronglais Hospital by donating toys and equipment for families to use during their stay.

During our Christmas Services held at the local primary school, the church was able to welcome significant numbers of visitors which indicated growing engagement as well as established connections with the local community throughout the year.

Financial Review

The 2025 budget was formally approved in January 2025 by the Trustees, ensuring that the reserves Policy was adhered to. The budget and funds held were subject to periodic reviews throughout the year by the trustees.

Any additional unrestricted reserves as of the 31st December 2025 will be utilised to continue to grow and develop the work of the church into 2026.

The Trustees have appointed Karen Silcox, Plumtree Bookkeeping and Accountancy, to undertake the Preparation and Independent Examination of the 2025 accounts.

In 2025 we received £56,277 (2024 £29,140). 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 £32,661 (2024 £25,434). 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 £48,261 in cash reserves of which £1,516 is restricted. Our reserves policy is set at 6 months of running costs we agreed in 2024 to aid future planning and resilience, which would be based off the agreed budget. For 2025 that reserve would be £16,097. For the 2026 budget the reserves will now be £23,997. The remaining unrestricted reserves will be used to grow the work of the church by looking into building/venue opportunities, and increasing community engagement/mission work within our charitable objectives.

Signed: 

Jonathan Butler, Chair of Trustees

Date: 21 / 04 / 2026



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 2025

**Charity
no (if any)**

1197658

Set out on pages

1-11

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended **31 / 12 / 2025**

**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:

Karen Silcox

Date:

22 / 04 / 2026

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

Freedom Church (Ceredigion) Receipts and Payments Accounts


Period 1st January to 31st December 2025

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	11,620	-	-	11,620	7,290
Non regular giving gift aid	17,072	405	-	17,477	1,195
Other giving (see note 2)	14,200	1,842	-	16,042	13,332
Stewardship income (non gift aid)	2,844	-	-	2,844	2,988
Gift aid reclaimed	7,306	126	-	7,432	1,865
Charitable Activity Income	232	130	474	836	2,167
Interest Earned	26	-	-	26	303
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	53,300	2,503	474	56,277	29,140
Total receipts	53,300	2,503	474	56,277	29,140
Payments					
AOG 3% giving	925	-	-	925	557
Church Running Costs (see note 3)	7,979	856	526	9,361	7,456
Discipleship costs	306	-	-	306	272
Equipment	-	-	313	313	1,875
Events	1,915	-	169	2,084	979
Mission (see note 4)	1,497	1,748	-	3,245	2,257
Salaries & Wages	14,503	-	-	14,503	10,927
Team Costs (see note 5)	1,877	10	37	1,924	1,112
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	29,002	2,614	1,045	32,661	25,435
Total payments	29,002	2,614	1,045	32,661	25,435
Net of receipts/(payments)	24,298	- 111	- 571	23,616	3,705
Transfers between funds	- 1800	1,229	571	-	-
Cash funds last year end	24,246	398	-	24,644	20,939
Cash funds this year end	46,744	1,516	0	48,201	24,644

Freedom Church (Ceredigion) Receipts and Payments Accounts
Period 1st January to 31st December 2025

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

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Youth to nearest £
Cash funds	Redwood Bank	25,000		-
	Lloyds Saver	-		
	Lloyds Current	21,702	1,516	-
	Stripe	33		
	Sum up	9		
	Total cash funds	46,744	1,516	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Youth to nearest £
Other monetary assets	Gift aid claim December 2025	240	-	-
	Stripe Closing balance	33	-	-
	Sumup closing balance	8	-	-
	Details	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
	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities	Independent Examiner fee	Unrestricted	325	01 May 2026
	HMRC PAYE Q4 2024	Unrestricted	364	23 January 2026
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name		Date of approval
		Jonathan Butler		21 / 04 / 2026

Freedom Church (Ceredigion) Receipts and Payments Accounts

Period 1st January to 31st December 2025

Section C Notes To The Accounts

Note 1 Basis of preparation

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 and the Charities (Accounts and Reports Regulations) 2008. These accounts are prepared on a receipts and payments basis.

Note 2 Breakdown Of Other Giving Receipts

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Youth	Total	2024
Cash Donations	803	0	0	803	764
Non Regular Giving (Non Gift Aid)	5,758	1,050	0	6,808	6,833
Regular Giving (Non Gift Aid)	7,639		0	7,639	5,735
Other Income	0	792	0	792	0
Total	14,200	1,842	0	16,042	13,332







Note 3 Breakdown of Church Running Costs Payments

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Youth	Total	2024
Advertising / Promotional	66	39	48	153	202
Auto	1,092			1,092	607
Insurances	326	0	0	326	644
Office/General Administrative Expenditures	847	25	0	872	10
Other Expenditure	0	0	3	3	1
Phone Costs	60	0	0	60	65
Printing, Postage and Stationery	0	0	0	0	2
Rent of Buildings	3,296	792	475	4,563	4,523
Subscriptions & Memberships	1,553	0	0	1,553	818
Sunday Service Costs	739	0	0	739	583
Total	7,979	856	526	9,361	7,456

Note 4	Breakdown Of Mission Payments				
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Youth	Total	2024
Local Mission	235	1,748	0	1,983	1,867
Mission Giving	1,262	0	0	1,262	390
Total	1,497	1,748	0	3,245	2,257
Note 5	Breakdown of Team Costs Payments				
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Youth	Total	2024
Team Appreciation	692	10	7	709	519
Training	888	0	30	918	185
Travel and Accommodation	297	0	0	297	408
Total	1,877	10	37	1,924	1,112
Note 6	Movement on Restricted Funds				
2025					
	Funds brought forward	Income	Expenditures	Transfers	Fund balances carried forward
Fund name					
Epic / Aber Dads	249	953	-841	1155	1516
Backpacks	149	1550	-1773	74	0
Total	398	2503	-2614	1229	1516
2024					
	Funds brought forward	Income	Expenditures	Transfers	Fund balances carried forward
Fund name					
Epic / Aber Dads	359	1442	-1552	0	249
Backpacks	390	1233	-1474	0	149
Total	749	2675	-3026	0	398
Note 7	Trustee payments and related party transactions				
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 2025 For completeness we want to note that no other trustee has received payment for their role as being a trustee or has received any expenses in connection to this role. There were no related party transactions. The Charity's insurance provides trustee indemnity cover					

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