

Franch Community Church, Chestnut Grove, Kidderminster, DY11 5QA

Registered Charity Number 701151

Trustees' Annual report for the period 1st January – 31st December 2021

Franch Community Church is registered with the Charity Commission and governed by a Constitution. The Church is led by the Minister and an Elder, who chairs the Trustees, and they are continuing to develop a wider support team to assist them in the oversight of the growing work. They function through full consultation with the other Trustees and members of the Church.

The Trustees meet monthly to oversee all aspects of the charity and to receive reports from the Minister, Food Bank Manager, Treasurer and the Chair of the Trustees. During this unsettled period we have managed our responsibilities and can report that the Charity has continued in a good position throughout 2021, despite the ongoing uncertainty with regards to Covid-19.

The continued aim of the Charity is to serve the community in Franch by providing both spiritual and practical help, through support and guidance for its members and anyone within the wider Wyre Forest area of Kidderminster, Bewdley and Stourport-on-Severn in the county of Worcestershire.

Some of those who view Franch Community Church as their church are actively involved and included as volunteers within a wide range of tasks, from simply providing a listening ear, to open advice, food box packers and distributors. We seek to offer support through our connections with various Franch, Marlpool and Habberley groups, and with County, District and Town Councillors and Council Officers.

Our Minister also seeks to pray and offer spiritual support (through the joy, hope and the blessing of the Christian Faith), within the Church and the wider community to anyone who requests this. He continues to work with the local schools, councillors, agencies and the wider community. He is increasing our connections with other charities working in our area, including this year agreeing to be a director for our local Home Start group. He continues to be involved in the operation of a "Messy Church" based at a local school, which is the joint effort of three local churches, and this is planned to recommence at Easter 2022.

We are a Church seeking to support everyone in the Wyre Forest through connecting and communicating with our local community. Our premises are located in the heart of the Franch estate adjacent to Franch Community Primary School. We have continued operating on Tuesday and Friday for the Food Bank distribution of food and bread, and have

reopened the building for other events as permitted during the continuing Covid-19 outbreak.

Requests by referrals for Food Bank support have grown enormously and with the help and good enterprises of local schools, churches and businesses, personal contributions and regular collections from local supermarkets and working with the Kidderminster Food Bank, we have been able to sustain this work and distribute food as required, throughout the year.

During 2021, we have also received funding from The Intouch Foundation, the Wyre Forest District Council's Covid Winter & Summer Relief Funds, WFDC Covid Recovery Grant, Worcestershire County Council's Covid Relief Fund, Community Housing and directly from the Lottery Community Fund which has helped us to improve our infrastructure with improved food storage and the general running costs of the Food Bank.

Other significant financial support has come from All Churches Trust Fund, Bewdley Rotary Club, Grantham York Trust, Franche Community School, Hope Church, MB Distribution and Kidderminster Male Voice Choir.

Franche Community Church's established Food Bank provides a unique distribution service to the community with emergency food boxes packed to meet individual and family needs, distributed only to those referred to us by the Community Housing Group, Citizens Advice, Job Centre Plus, WFDC Hub, Barnardo's and Brookside Children's Centres, Home Start, Onside Advocacy (and other NHS affiliates), St Basil's Hostel, various churches and local schools, as well as other charities and community groups.

This year, we have altered our regular Sunday morning worship service, our vision has changed to include eating together, and creating a welcoming church family that is open to everyone. To make it all inclusive we have begun to focus on spreading the Christian message to families, young people and those who have never heard it or been to a church. Alongside which we continue to meet to pray on a weekly basis for the needs of our community, the nation, and the mission of the church, by using Facebook, YouTube, WhatsApp and Zoom meetings; we seek to encourage the learning and practice of an evangelical, charismatic, Godly and Biblical lifestyle that can impact those who regularly attend, along with those who visit occasionally either online or in person.

We are looking to continually improve the facilities as funds permit. This year we have upgraded our lighting to LED's and have improved our audio visual equipment (received from grants). This has enabled us to further our vision to provide facilities for the local community in a safe and friendly environment, and also connect with the wider community through

social media. We also continue to offer off-road parking in an area of Franche that is often congested.

Given the current trends in donating to charities in general we are thankful for the support we receive from our members and other contributors, both individuals and organisations that faithfully support our work.

2021 has been another very difficult year for the Charity with so many unknowns making planning extremely difficult, with lockdowns, the closure of buildings, the restrictions on worship and an exploding demand for Food Bank support.

Restrictions have also meant that we have been unable to let the building for part of this year, thus reducing one of the regular income streams for the Charity, with a direct impact on the community at large.

Overall we have been surprised and delighted by the increased support we have received both financially and voluntarily. However this has placed an enormous strain on the team running the Food Bank.

We ended the year still in a place of limbo with no clear pathway out of the virus and thus are still finding it difficult at this stage to plan for the future. We have struggled to establish a budget or plan for the future; however we are confident that the Charity is secure going forward and will be able to recover the lost ground once all restrictions are lifted as we are maintaining communication with those in the community looking for suitable facilities.

Through the input of our independent Examiner we continue to revise our methods of accounting by improving our monthly spreadsheets which has enabled the Trustees to have a more transparent view of the Charity's finances.

The Trustees of Franche Community Church are Sam Guille, Minister; Paul Guille, Chair; Richard Hague; Jayne Maclean and John Balcon, Manager of the Food Bank.

Treasurer is Mrs Barbara Guille.

Our independent Examiner is Mr. John Scott.

His report is attached with this report.

Franche Community Church is overseen by the National Pioneer Network of Churches.

The Church is also a member of The Evangelical Alliance.

Locally we are involved with 'Churches Together in Kidderminster' working with them and other ministers and churches in the Wyre Forest area to

provide support to each other and in the community as our local area requires, and we are also connected with the Kidderminster and Husum Twinning Association participating in a currently Covid deferred visit from Germany, being re-planned for June 2022.

Signed on behalf of the Charity's Trustees

Paul Guille

FRANCHE COMMUNITY CHURCH

Summary of Financial Activities For the Period 1st January to 31st December 2021

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	Previous Year
INCOME				
Planned giving	6675		6675	10233
Collections and undesignated giving	7515		7515	4174
Gifts to Church	3354		3354	15526
Other voluntary receipts	0		0	868
Gift Aid recovered	0		0	3470
Investments	0		0	0
Food bank		58983	58983	39795
Receipts from Church Hire	1953		1953	717
Total income	19497	58983	78480	74783
EXPENDITURE				
Missionary and Charitable giving	482		482	872
Clergy and Staffing costs	17666		17666	15160
Church Running Expenses	14478		14478	8736
Food Bank		42984	42984	30460
Total expenditure	32626	42984	75610	55228

Net income/ (expenditure) resources before transfe **-13129 15999 2870**

Statements of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Savings Account	0
Co-operative Bank	40710
Total Current Assets	40710

Signed on behalf of Trustees

Paul Guille (Chairman)

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Franche Community Church

I report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ending 31st December 2021

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The Charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to :

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- To follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- To state whether particular matters have come to my attention

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- To keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
- To prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Name:

JOHN SCOTT

Relevant professional qualification or body:

ACMA (Ret'd)

Address:

38 PARK LANE, BENDLEY, WORCS, DY12 2EU

Date:

6/9/22

