

Franch Community Church, Kidderminster

Chestnut Grove, Kidderminster DY11 5QA

Registered Charity Number: 701151

Trustees' Annual Report for the period 1st January – 31st December 2024

Overview

This has been a year of transition for Franch Community Church (FCC) with challenges and a renewed vision.

Despite significant changes in leadership and oversight, FCC has continued in its mission to serve the community of Franch and the surrounding area.

FCC continues to operate as a registered charity governed by a Constitution, which the Trustees have reviewed periodically to ensure it reflects the current status and needs of the church.

Our premises, located adjacent to Franch Community Primary School, remain a good hub for worship, outreach, and community support.

Governance and Trustees

The Trustees met monthly throughout 2024 to oversee the charity's operations, finances, staffing and strategic direction.

The year saw several changes in Trustee roles resulting in the Trusteeship being reduced from four to two people. These transitions were handled with a commitment to continuity and accountability.

The Trustees are currently seeking additional Trustees in line with the FCC Constitution.

Leadership Transitions

2024 began under the inspired leadership of Minister Sam Guille, who had faithfully served FCC for seven years.

Sam's ability to communicate the message of Jesus in a relevant and engaging way, both within the church and in local schools, was a blessing to many. However, during the year, Sam discerned a calling toward education and announced his departure in September. His final service on 6th October was a moving celebration of his ministry.

Following Sam's departure, Paul Guille and Barbara Guille also stepped down from their roles, leaving Richard and Heidi Hague as the Elders and Church Leaders.

These transitions were marked by prayer and gratitude.

Staffing

A significant milestone in 2024 was the formal employment of FCC's two staff members:

- Sam Guille – Minister
- John Balcon – Food Bank Manager

Effective from 1st January 2024, both transitioned from self-employment to employment status, with contracts and job descriptions agreed and signed.

The payroll is administered via Stewardship.

Salaries are aligned with the recommendations of The Resolution Foundation.

Safeguarding

FCC addressed and resolved safeguarding issues during the year.

Trustees received safeguarding training from Pioneer.

FCC remains committed to maintaining a safe and welcoming environment for all.

Finance

Following the advice of our independent examiner, we continue to revise our methods of accounting by regularly updating our monthly spreadsheets, which has enabled the Trustees to have a more transparent view of the Charity's finances.

Both income and expenditure have reduced during 2024, compared with 2023.

There are sufficient Reserves to support the Charity for the foreseeable future.

During the year, funds have been transferred from the Current Account to new Savings Accounts.

The Treasurer was Mrs Barbara Guille until 15th Nov 2024 and then was, and is currently, John Balcon.

Our independent Examiner is Brian Richard Price.

His report is attached with this report together with the SOFA.

Mission

Under Sam's leadership, FCC focused on three ministry goals: deepening faith, strengthening fellowship, and expanding mission.

He continued these focuses until his departure.

While attendance at services remained low, the spiritual enthusiasm among members remained strong.

Preaching / Teaching ministry

While Sam was the main preacher during 2024, messages were also brought by the Elders and visiting speakers.

For most Sundays, the services followed a pattern of musical worship; preaching on a theme or following a series; testimony and spoken worship and communion.

A table was provided for children to do creative activities.

There were also opportunities for prayer ministry after the service.

Food Bank Ministry

The Wyre Forest Food Bank, is an independent Food Bank, a member of the Independent Food Aid Network (IFAN), and part of the ministry of FCC.

It continues to provide vital support to families and individuals in need.

It is recognised by the Wyre Forest District Council Financial Inclusion team, Community Housing and Citizens Advice as a unique and essential service to the Wyre Forest

It is primarily from these agencies that the referrals come.

A summer buffet was organised to celebrate the Food Bank's volunteers, past and present and promotional mugs and pens were distributed to volunteers and supporters to raise awareness and appreciation for this essential ministry.

Donations of both food and monies come from many individuals and a variety of organisations including businesses, churches and supermarkets, as well as occasional grants.

We are very pleased that we have been able to meet all the referral needs over the year.

Property and Facilities

FCC secured a new three-year contract for gas and electricity.

Monthly work parties ensure regular maintenance and improvements to the premises, which remain a valued resource for the local community.

Off-road parking is provided, behind the church, especially for the larger groups that use the building.

Groups

An Events group conducted successful events such as a Litter Pick, a Macmillan Coffee morning and supporting Operation Christmas Child.

A Knit and Natter group has helped many non-church people to come together to talk and meet new people, whilst knitting and doing other crafts.

Oversight and Transition

FCC has been part of the Pioneer Network for many years. However, due to geographical limitations, it became clear that a new oversight arrangement was needed. Discussions began with Hope Church, Worcester (Catalyst Network), and on 4th December, FCC formally agreed to pursue a partnership with Hope Church.

Pioneer has continued to offer support as a spiritual oversight.

FCC is grateful for their encouragement during this transitional period.

Looking Ahead

As FCC enters a new chapter, the Trustees and Leadership Team are committed to:

- Strengthening the partnership with Hope Church, Worcester
- Deepening discipleship and spiritual growth
- Enhancing community outreach and pastoral care
- Ensuring robust governance and financial stewardship

We give thanks to God for His faithfulness and to all who have served and are currently serving FCC.

May we continue to be a light in Franche and the surrounding area, sharing the hope of Christ with all.

Richard Hague

Chair of Trustees

Franchise Community Church, Kidderminster DY11 5QA

September 2025

FRANCHE COMMUNITY CHURCH

Summary of Financial Activities
For the Period 1st January to 31st December 2024

INCOME	Church	Food Bank	Total funds	Previous Year
Planned giving	8,754		8,754	7,516
Collections	4,247		4,247	4,794
Gifts to Church	1,195		1,195	2,145
Gift Aid recovered	2,529		2,529	2,805
Govt Grants	17,389		17,389	40,000
Non-Govt Grants	15,790		15,790	34,392
Investments	1,659		1,659	948
Food Bank		36,071	36,071	42,147
Receipts from Church Hire	6,394		6,394	6,929
Total income	57,958	36,071	94,029	141,676
EXPENDITURE				
Missionary and Charitable giving	2,155		2,155	1,917
Clergy and Staffing costs	35,349		35,349	25,508
Church Running Expenses	12,331		12,331	38,725
Food Bank		28,531	28,531	43,549
Total expenditure	49,835	28,531	78,366	109,699
Net income/ (expenditure) resources before transfer	8,123	7,540	15,663	31,977

Statements of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Savings Accounts - Kingdom Bank	72,607	50,948
Savings Accounts - Co-operative Bank	10,000	0
Current Account - Co-operative Bank	14,569	30,565
Total Current Assets	97,176	81,513

Signed on behalf of Trustees



Richard P Hague (Chairman)

7th April 2025

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 2024

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 of 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:

Brian Price

Signature:

Brian R. Price

Date:

29th April 2025

Relevant professional qualification or body:

Address:

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Hosbrook
Kiddminster
Ware
H10 1XL