

Annual Report

2023-2024



FRESH
EXPRESSIONS

Who We Are



A MOVEMENT OF MISSION-SHAPED COMMUNITIES

Calling ordinary
Equipping people for the
Connecting contextual
Networking mission of the
 extraordinary
 God

Fresh Expressions is a growing movement of everyday people across all denominations, starting new Christian communities in the nooks and crannies of people's everyday lives. From new housing to rural, urban to suburban, messy church and third age to forests, coffee shops, beaches, pubs, barns, online and even church buildings! Fresh Expressions of church can increasingly be found across the UK and around the world, helping those who would never approach a traditional church service to encounter the reality of Jesus.

With over 30 years' experience of pioneering in creative and contextual ways, accompanied by robust theological research, reflections and reports on how Fresh Expressions have gathered and disciplined people

who weren't connecting with traditional forms of church, we know all about the challenges and joys of pioneering, but more importantly we know this approach to mission works.

We're not a denomination. We're not a pathway to ordination. We're a grassroots movement filled with people who can't stop thinking about who isn't in church and want to do something about it. We're a band of misfits, visionaries, prophets, evangelists and creative entrepreneurs who can see what isn't there and have the grit and faith to go out, listen, love, serve, tell people about Jesus and work with their new communities to create a new and authentic expression of church that makes sense to them.

info@freshexpressions.org.uk
www.freshexpressions.org.uk



**The church needs
to be open to
being in constant
state of renewal
and challenge
to stay close to
radical patterns of
discipleship,**



ANON FX PRACTITIONER

**TAKEN FROM A FEEDBACK
QUESTIONNAIRE IN NOV 23**

the fx Prayer



GRACIOUS GOD,

KEEP US EVER MINDFUL OF YOUR PRESENCE
THANKFUL FOR WHAT HAS BEEN
AND EXCITED FOR WHAT IS TO COME.
MAY WE WALK IN HUMILITY
ALWAYS HUNGRY FOR MORE OF YOU.
OPEN OUR EARS THAT WE WOULD ALWAYS HEAR YOU.
BREAK OUR HEARTS FOR WHAT HURTS YOU.
HOLY SPIRIT, LEAD US ALWAYS TO WHERE YOU NEED US TO BE.
EQUIP US TO BE A COURAGEOUS MOVEMENT
TELLING STORIES OF HOPE AND PROCLAIMING,
IN FRESH WAYS,
THE GOOD NEWS TO THIS GENERATION;
TO THE GLORY OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOUR JESUS CHRIST

AMEN

How we work



How do we structure a charity so it supports a genuine move of the Holy Spirit? How to support a movement that is led by God and not by any one individual?

That’s a question the FX team has continuously wrestled with over the years, and has led to a structure including a board, a leadership community and the operations team.

We’ve been running this structure successfully for a few years which has been a positive change.

The purpose of the charity is “to serve the fresh expressions movement and help it flourish”.

The relationships within and between the charity, the movement, the operations team and the leadership community can be illustrated as follows:

The fx movement is served by the charity and the leadership community through:

- prophetic listening to the voice of the Spirit in the movement,
- advocating for contextual mission and fx practitioners,
- connecting individuals and networks enabling collaboration,
- affirming and championing these individuals and networks.

The purpose of the fx leadership community is to respond to and for the fx movement by ‘fanning the flames’ of the networks and holding a common vision for the movement. It also provides strategic guidance as to how the charity can best deploy the FX Operations Team.

The FX board provides governance and finance that enables the charity to offer...

...the FX operations team who serve the movement and help the individuals and networks within it to flourish through effective connecting, resourcing and communicating.

OUR PURPOSE

“to serve the fresh expressions movement and help it flourish”

PUBLIC BENEFIT

Fresh Expressions Limited’s purpose has always been and will continue to encourage innovative ways of making church available to all members of the public. The Trustees have had regard to The Charities Commission guidance on public benefit. The Trustees believe that the activities of the Charity encourage faith and moral values across all communities and are available to all. The principle of embedding actually encourages even greater local community engagement and therefore benefit for all.

How We Work

CHARITY NUMBER:
1080103

COMPANY NUMBER:
03598030

OFFICE ADDRESS

Fresh Expressions, 22
Brook Drive, Bude,
England, EX23 8NY

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER:

Susan Monckton-Rickett,
21 School Lane, Lawford,
Manningtree, Essex, CO11
2HZ

BANK:

The Co-Op Bank, PO
Box 101, 1 Balloon Street,
Manchester M60 4EP

SOLICITORS:

Anthony Collins Solicitors,
134 Edmund Street,
Birmingham B3 2ES

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freshexpressions.org.uk

IN - @freshexpressionsuk

YT - @freshexpressionsuk

TK - @freshexpressionsuk

TW - @freshexpression

FB - @freshexpression

DIRECTORS & TRUSTEES

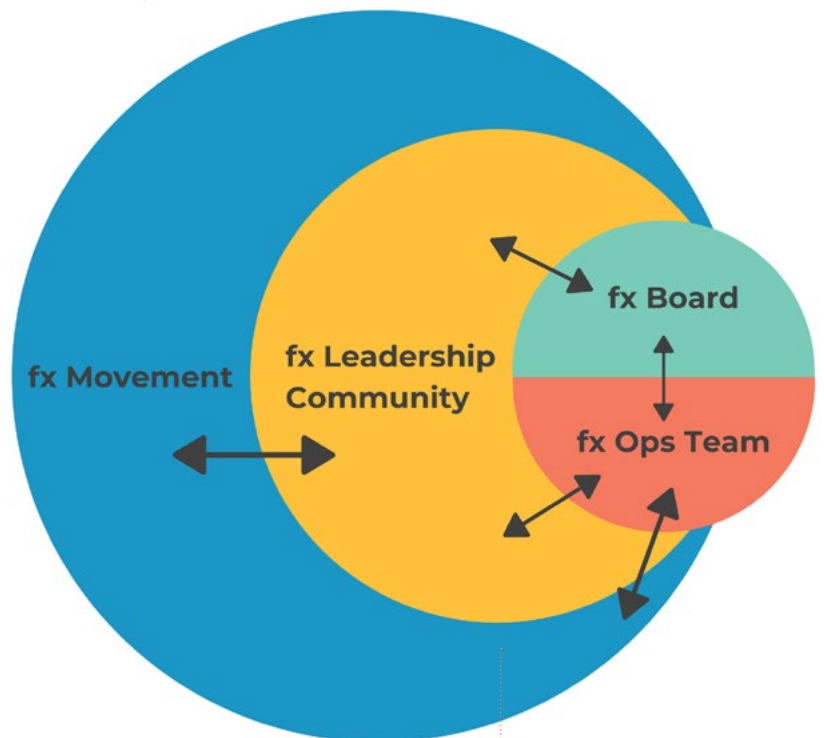
- A McCombe
- L M Newton Minister of Religion
- M P Williamson Charity CEO
- M R Harrison Bishop of the Church of England
- A Buhari CEO & Founder

OPERATIONS TEAM

- Rev'd Simon Goddard (Resourcing)
- Tim Lea (Networking)
- Mark Robinson (Communications)
- Suzie Wall (Events & Administration)
- Joshua Barker (Intern)

LEADERSHIP COMMUNITY

This group is made of a number of experienced practitioners from our movement with different denominations and experiences which aim to reflect the depth and breadth of the movement. They offer a key perspective that helps us to keep connected to our grass-roots. This group grows and contracts as new people join and others relinquish the responsibility.





**We have
rediscovered
the value of
imagination,
creativity and
even playfulness.**



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QUESTIONNAIRE IN NOV 23



Chair's Report



Thank you for giving us the opportunity to share what Fresh Expressions has achieved over the last year! There's lots to share with you in the coming pages.

We continue to work with some of the largest church denominations in the UK as our major partners; the Church of England, the Church of Scotland, the Baptist Church, the Methodist Church, the Salvation Army and the United Reformed Church. Each of them continue to use FX methodology as a key part of their evangelism strategies, developing new missional communities to reach unreached people across the country. We're providing resources and running learning hubs for their pioneers to help their work.

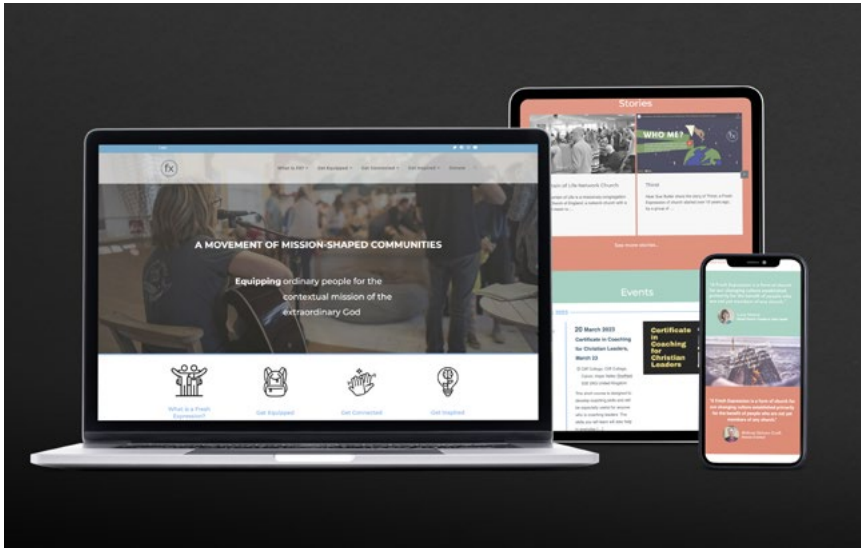
We're also networking with a number of other denominations and newer church networks who historically have grown through attractional church models, but are now also looking towards more of a mixed ecology, using missional church alongside their existing methods.

And we also find ourselves fielding growing requests from other nations around the world wanting to learn from our expertise and use the FX six-step journey to fuel their church pioneering work. Contacts from the Far East and East Africa are starting to implement it, showing the model is relevant beyond western, post-Christendom cultures.

We're excited for the future, as we continue helping ordinary people to start new church communities that can reach those outside the usual church world with the life transforming gospel of Jesus. Read on, and hopefully you'll be excited too!

MARK WILLIAMSON

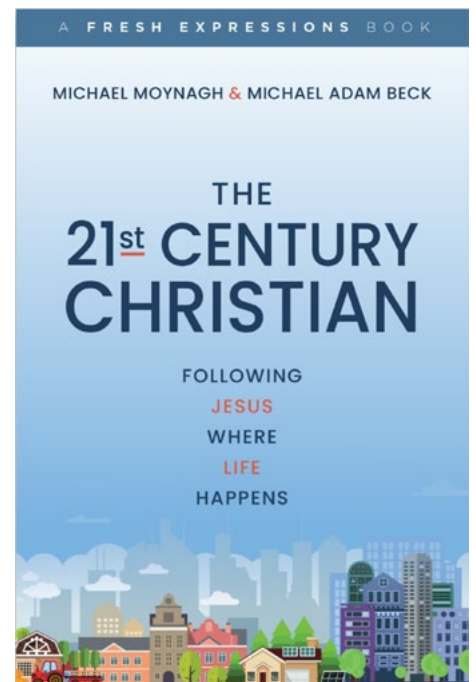
Chair of Fresh Expressions Board



the mission shaped podcast



<p>Linda Maslen the mission shaped podcast</p> <p>S01 Ep6 Linda Maslen – Wrestling with the congregation, literally! To finish of season one we've got a really great episode as Linda tells us about the different initiatives she and her</p> <p>Listen here ></p>	<p>Neal & Nicky Goodwin the mission shaped podcast</p> <p>S01 Ep5 Neal And Nicky Goodwin – Staying the course Neal & Nicky Goodwin know quite a bit about this doing church in different ways having been doing it for decades. Their</p> <p>Listen here ></p>	<p>Sarah Hulme the mission shaped podcast</p> <p>S01 Ep4 Sarah Hulme – Rural & Wild Sarah Hulme is part of the fx Leadership Community and is an fx practitioner exploring pilgrimage and how ministry might work in</p> <p>Listen here ></p>
<p>Eryl Parry the mission shaped podcast</p> <p>S01 Ep3 Eryl Parry Eryl Parry is a pioneer priest in the Church of Wales serving in the diocese of Conwy in North Wales and also</p> <p>Listen here ></p>	<p>Peter Laws the mission shaped podcast</p> <p>S01 Ep2 Peter Laws Peter Laws is an author and Podcast presenter. In this episode, we unpack how leading an online community works and how a</p> <p>Listen here ></p>	<p>Beth Munn the mission shaped podcast</p> <p>S01 Ep1 Beth Munn An introduction to the Podcast with Presenters Mark Robinson & Beth Munn. Beth is an fx Practitioner with the Salvation Army and</p> <p>Listen here ></p>





**Church which is
incarnation and
grassroots is
essential, and in
many ways better
represents the New
Testament model of
church.**



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QUESTIONNAIRE IN NOV 23**



some stats

EMAILS

SUBSCRIBER LIST APPROX:

9000

AVERAGE OPEN RATE

39%

PODCAST

LISTENS FROM
FEB 23 - APR 23

380

WEBSITE

PAGE VIEWS

610K

VISITORS

137K

SOCIALS

HOURS OF VIDEO WATCHED

530

FACEBOOK & INSTAGRAM
PROFILE VIEWS UP

280%

EVENTS

EVENTBRITE TICKETS
FOR ON & OFFLINE

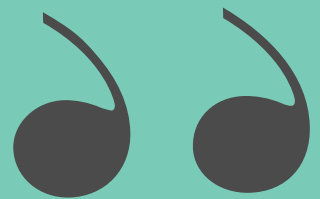
276

ZOOM GUESTS
APPROX

1K+



**It is not how we do
it, it's about our
relationship with
Christ and one
another**



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Networking Report



In 2022/2023, we marked significant milestones and hosted a variety of events that enriched our mission. Our bi-annual gatherings played a pivotal role in our journey. The March event, a hybrid gathering held at the Hayes in Swannick, explored the theme “More than,” encouraging us to seek what more God has in store for us. In September, our online gathering, themed “For such a time as this,” celebrated a significant birthday and set the stage for discerning our charity’s future direction.

Our event calendar also featured diverse offerings. “The E Word” delved into modern evangelism, addressing its relevance today. We conducted “Who Me” sessions for practitioners, providing an introduction to fresh expressions methods and practices. “Sharing Jesus” workshops equipped attendees with insights on effective utilization of the Sharing Jesus resource. The “Rural & Wild” workshops focused on uncovering opportunities in rural contexts, while “Explore Sabbath” events offered leaders an informal space to rediscover the value of rest and Sabbath.

Coaching emerged as an essential focus area. We expanded our coaching team through comprehensive training and held two evening events to boost coaches’ confidence and skills. The launch of our Coaching Hub further reinforced our commitment to coaching excellence.

These endeavors exemplify our dedication to growth, learning, and strengthening our impact in fresh expressions and community-building. As we move forward, we eagerly anticipate another year of transformative progress.





People who are part of Fresh Expressions are, overall, more committed long-term than those who are part of more traditional evangelistic/missional projects.



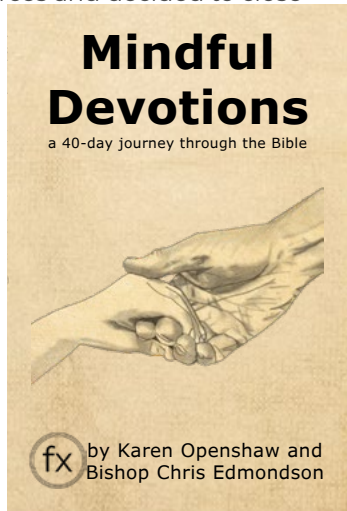
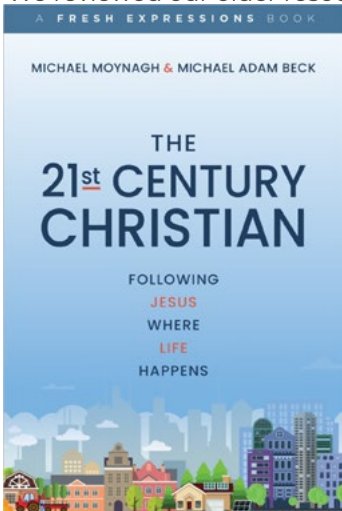
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Resourcing Report

The purpose of fx resourcing was to inspire and support those called to start new Christian communities. Over the past year, our main focus was the development of the Godsend resource and the rollout of learning communities for contextual mission.

We reviewed our older resources and decided to close



the 'FX Stories' and 'FX Godsend' apps due to low usage and high maintenance costs. The godsend.cloud website now serves as an accessible alternative, with strong user engagement. We also began consolidating features from fxresourcing.org onto the main freshexpressions.org.uk site, streamlining our web presence.

Excitingly, through our partnership with the Growing Faith Foundation's Flourish initiative, we created a version of Godsend for younger audiences. In 2024, we distributed 800 copies of the 'Flourish' edition to 40 church schools across 10 dioceses, offering training

for adults to help children start new worshipping communities.

We continued sharing our learning through the National Church Planting Network, the Methodist Church, and other partners. Our distinct approach remained valued, and we were confident in our unique contribution to these spaces.

Internationally, we collaborated with the Reuss Institute in Switzerland to publish a German translation of Godsend,

The **Methodist Church** 

 THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

 Protestantse Kerk

which we shared at the European Pioneer Gathering in Zurich. We also strengthened our connection with the Fresh Expressions USA team, preparing to roll out Godsend Hubs in new dioceses in 2025, along with the publication of three new books, making for an optimistic year ahead



**...listening humbly
and not thinking we
have the answer
already opens up
blessings in both
directions...**



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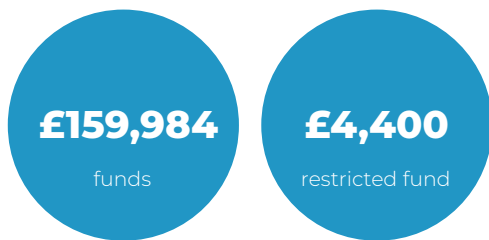
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Financial Review

FINANCIAL POSITION

The balance of the charity's funds now stands at £159,984 including a restricted fund balance of £4,400



RESERVES POLICY

The trustees have a policy of holding six months of operational expenditure in reserves. The charity does not have any employees but has a flexible Operations Team, enabling a light touch strategy that can deliver the charitable objectives and also respond quickly to changes in need or circumstances.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006.

Recruitment and appointment of new directors

Directors are appointed by The Board of Directors.

Organisational structure

The Board of Directors meets three to four times a year and receives reports on finance and projects from Operations Team and specialist advisors. Interim board meetings are occasionally arranged between meetings.

Individual Directors have light touch operational responsibilities for specific areas of expertise and activity and contracts will be negotiated to both facilitate a light touch and ensure strategic focus.

Induction and training of new directors

Prospective directors undergo a formal briefing by the Chairman of the Board and other directors as appropriate. Relevant documents, procedures and policies are supplied in connection with the day-to-day running of the organisation as part of an induction plan. Any training or personal development needs in line with the roles and responsibilities of Board Directors are arranged as required.

Key management remuneration

The charity has no paid staff. The Operations Team are paid monthly and reviewed annually.

Risk management

The Directors review the activities of the charity on a regular basis for exposure to a range of risks and are satisfied that arrangements are in place to mitigate these.



STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The trustees (who are also the directors of Fresh Expressions Limited for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Report of the Trustees and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

- Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to:
 - select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
 - observe the methods and principles in the Charity SORP;
 - make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
 - prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.



In so far as the trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant information of which the charitable company's examiner is unaware; and
- the trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant information and to establish that the examiner is aware of that information.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

The independent examiner, Sue Monckton-Rickett FACCA, will be proposed for re-appointment at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

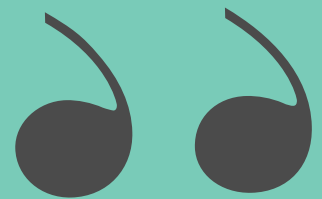
Approved by order of the board of trustees on 17th December 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

M P Williamson - Trustee





**It's much more than
new structures and
methods, it's about
rethinking what
church is.**



ANON FX PRACTITIONER

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QUESTIONNAIRE IN NOV 23**

Statement of Financial Activities

(INCORPORATING AN INCOME
AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)

	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Restricted Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2023 £
Income And Endowments From				
Donations and legacies	70,588	9,000	79,588	144,536
Charitable activities				
Resourcing	-	0	-	1,299
Networking	14,566	-	14,566	19,404
Other trading activities				
Investment income	3,733	-	3,733	4,542
	1,306	-	1,306	69
Total	90,192	9,000	99,192	169,850
Expenditure On				
Raising funds	4,346	0	4,346	-
Charitable activities				
Operating / Core Running Costs	23,015	-	23,015	22,207
Resourcing	21,405	7,000	28,405	30,165
Networking	70,750	189	70,938	77,841
Governance				
	621	0	621	3354
Total	120,236	7,189	127,425	133,567
Prior Year Adjustment	0	0	0	38
Net Income/(Expenditure)	-29,945	1,811	-28,134	36,321
Reconciliation Of Funds				
Total funds brought forward	180,785	7,333	188,117	151,797
Transfer between funds	4,744	-4,744	0	0
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	155,584	4,400	159,984	188,117

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

31 MARCH 2024

	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Designated/ Restricted Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2023 £
Fixed Assets				
Tangible Assets	0	-	0	-
Current Assets				
Stocks	842	-	842	1,958
Debtors	63,906	-	63,906	53,449
Prepayments and accrued income	1,356	-	1,356	9,027
Cash at bank	92,246	4,900	100,146	148,926
	161,350	4,900	166,250	213,360
Current liabilities				
Creditors falling due within one year	-5,766	-500	-6,266	-25,243
Net Current Assets	155,584	4,400	159,984	188,117
Total Assets Less Current Liabilities	155,584	4,400	159,984	188,117
Net Assets	155,584	4,400	159,984	188,117
Funds				
Unrestricted funds			155,584	180,785
Restricted funds			4,400	7,333
TOTAL FUNDS			159,984	188,117

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31 March 2024. In accordance with Section 145 of the Charities Act 2011, the accounts have been examined by an independent examiner and their report has been included in these Financial Statements.

The Directors (who are the charitable company's Trustees for the purposes of charity law) acknowledge their responsibilities for:

- ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records which comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and
- preparing Financial Statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of each financial year and of its net income or expenditure for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to Financial Statements, so far as applicable to the charitable company.

The Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies and were approved by the Board of Trustees on 17th December 2024 and were signed on its behalf by:

Mae Williams

M P Williamson - Trustee



God is always ahead of us doing a new thing, and we don't need to have all the answers at the beginning as he holds the roadmap for us.



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**TAKEN FROM A FEEDBACK
QUESTIONNAIRE IN NOV 23**



fx



FRESH
EXPRESSIONS