Franche Community Church, Kidderminster

Chestnut Grove, Kidderminster DY11 5QA

Registered Charity Number: 701151

Trustees' Annual Report for the period **1st January – 31st December 2025**

Overview

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

Despite various changes, FCC has continued in its mission to serve the community of Franche and the surrounding area.

FCC continues to operate as a registered charity governed by a Constitution, which the Trustees have reviewed, although with no changes, to ensure it reflects the current status and needs of the church.

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

Governance and Trustees

The Trustees met monthly throughout 2025 to oversee the charity's operations and finances.

The Trusteeship continued to operate with two people, namely Richard Hague, Chair and John Balcon, Treasurer & Administrator, although they were fully aware that this did not fulfil the Constitution's objective of having three Trustees as quorate.

During the year, the Trustees continued to seek an additional Trustee in line with the FCC Constitution.

To assist transparency , confidentiality and accountability, two other people were requested to attend the Trustee's meetings, namely Heidy Hague as Elder and Observer together with Merle Balcon as Note-taker & Minutes writer and Observer.

Leadership

During 2025, Richard & Heidy Hague served as the Elders and the Church Leaders.

Staffing

John Balcon, as the Wyre Forest Food Bank Manager continued in employment as FCC's one staff member.

The payroll was administered via Stewardship for his salary, pension and National Insurance contributions together with FCC. as the employer, for his pension and National Insurance contributions.

His salary was aligned with the recommendations of The Resolution Foundation.

Safeguarding

There were no safeguarding issues during the year.

Richard Hague and John Balcon are the Safeguarding officers.

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

Finance

With the advice of our independent examiner, by regularly updating and reviewing the monthly accounting spreadsheets, the Trustees now have a more transparent view of the Charity's finances.

Both income and expenditure have reduced during 2025, compared with 2024 – see the 2025 SOFA.

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

During the year, funds have been monitored with transfers between the Current and Savings Accounts, as appropriate.

The Treasurer is John Balcon.

The Independent Examiner is Brian Price.

His report is attached with this report together with the 2025 SOFA.

Brian Price has offered to be the Independent Examiner for 2026, which the Trustees accepted.

Oversight and Transition

Discussions continued between FCC and Hope Church, Worcester, who are part of the Catalyst Network.

FCC is continuing to pursue a partnership with Hope Church, with the forming of Hope Church Kidderminster, which meets at the Franche Community Church site on Sundays.

There have been a number of descriptions to describe the link with Worcester like partnership, congregation, plant, replant, etc., and these conversations have continued.

During 2025 FCC continued to give financially to Pioneer up to 30 Nov 2025 and to Hope Church Worcester (HCW) to the end of the year 2025.

Vision & 3-year Strategy for Sept 2028

In March 2025 there was a meeting at FCC with 2 ministers from Manchester, who are part of the Catalyst Network, together with the leaders from Worcester and the FCC Transition team to develop a Vision for Franche / Hope Church Kidderminster.

This was portrayed pictorially as a house, with a foundation of Culture, 3 pillars of Devotion, Community & Mission with various objectives and a roof, with its overall mission.

The vision & strategy was developed further with Hope Church, Worcester with a number of revisions and the revised vision & strategy was presented to the church at the FCC AGM in Sept 2025.

Ministries:

Preaching / Teaching ministry

As the connection with Hope Church Worcester developed and the concept of Hope Church Kidderminster grew, banners with the word Hope were added to the front and rear of the Church.

A number of different preachers from Hope Church Worcester led the Sunday services, together with local preachers from Franche Community Church and visiting preachers.

The Sunday worship was led by 3 different worship leaders throughout the year, who were also musicians and whom the church has appreciated.

A table was always provided for children to do creative activities, whether there were children present or not.

For most Sundays, the services followed a pattern of musical worship; prayer & testimonies; preaching / teaching; and communion.

This was followed by a time of fellowship over refreshments and monthly there was a Bring and Share meal after the service.

The Bring and Share was organised by two different people during the year.

There have been weekly “Gathering” meetings at FCC on Tuesday evenings primarily led by Heidy Hague to explore more of the Bible and to discuss the message on the previous Sunday.

Food Bank Ministry

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

It is unique locally, as it provides a a service where volunteer drivers deliver directly to the clients’ accommodation.

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.

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 continue to be able to meet all the referral needs every week.

This is primarily due to the many wonderful and committed volunteers and the varied donor base.

Craft and Chatter Ministry

A Craft & Chatter group has helped many non-church people & church members to come together to talk and meet others, whilst learning new crafting skills.

Ladies Prayer Ministry

A Ladies Prayer group led by Heidy Hague has been meeting monthly.

Property and Facilities

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

Many groups use the property, especially different interest groups of the Wyre Forest & District University of the Third Age (u3a), Zumba (exercise), Games Night and Brownies.

It is also used by the Salvation Army – Employment Plus to help clients find employment.

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

Connections with local churches

Churches Together in Kidderminster (CTIK) Easter Hunt Trail in White Wickets in April 2025 was very successful with many volunteers representing a number of different congregations, reaching many children and their supporting adults and they all heard the Easter Story from different people.

The children had to complete the trail around White Wickets, the local park and correctly answer questions about the Easter story and then they all received an Easter egg.

The Mens’ Breakfast meets at FCC every 3 months, where men from different churches, and no church connection, meet for a simple breakfast and an encouraging message.

Wider connections

The Church is a member of The Evangelical Alliance.

Locally we are involved with other churches especially through the Kidderminster Ministers lunches which meet at various churches in the area.

We are also connected with the Kidderminster and Husum Twinning Association and have been developing the twinning of churches between Kidderminster and Husum, Germany.

Looking Ahead

The Trustees and Elders are committed to:

- Developing the partnership with Hope Church, Worcester and the formation of Hope Church Kidderminster
- Deepening discipleship and spiritual growth
- 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, September 2026
updated 10-09-26

FRANCHE COMMUNITY CHURCH

Summary of Financial Activities
For the Period 1st January to 31st December 2025

		Church	Food Bank	Total funds	Previous Year
INCOME					
	Planned giving	6,690		6,690	8,754
	Collections	1,802		1,802	4,247
	Gifts to Church	923		923	1,195
	Gift Aid recovered	0		0	2,529
	Govt Grants		22,500	22,500	17,389
	Non-Govt Grants		1,000	1,000	15,790
	Investments	2,069		2,069	1,659
	Food Bank		30,497	30,497	36,071
	Church Hire	6,332		6,332	6,394
Total income		17,816	53,997	71,812	94,028
EXPENDITURE					
	Missionary and Charitable giving	3,118		3,118	2,155
	Staffing		16,835	16,835	35,349
	Church Overheads	9,099		9,099	8,398
	Food Bank Overheads		3,693	3,693	3,933
	Food Bank Produce		21,552	21,552	28,531
Total expenditure		12,217	42,080	54,297	78,366
Net income/ (expenditure) resources before transfer		**5,598**	**11,916**	**17,515**	**15,662**

Statements of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Savings Accounts - Kingdom Bank	94,345	72,607
Savings Accounts - Co-operative Bank	17,831	10,000
Current Account - Co-operative Bank	2,515	14,569
Total Current Assets	114,691	97,176

Signed on behalf of Trustees

Richard P Hague (Chairman)

As of 23th March 2026

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 2025**

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: 18. April 2026.

Relevant professional qualification or body:

Address: 1 Humphries Drive
Hodbrook
Kidderminster
Worcs DY10 1XQ