



FREEDOM CHURCH PARTNERS

“I’m new to Freedom Church – so what is a Partner?”

A Freedom Church Partner is someone who is committed to the vision and values of Freedom Church and who expresses this by fully participating in the life of the Church.

Freedom Church doesn’t have a membership. This reflects our heart that church should never be focused on creating a club for ourselves, but a desire to serve others and help them encounter Jesus.

We want choosing to Partner with Freedom Church to be significant decision, where you accept the challenge of stepping up to participate fully in Church life, joining something bigger than yourself, and the moment where you find a tangible sense of belonging.

In partnership, when Freedom Church wins in our vision to help people encounter Jesus for themselves, we all win. We’re totally in it together. We are better together.

“How do I become a Freedom Church Partner?”

There’s no badge, certificate or secret handshake – sorry, if that’s your thing! And there’s no test or forms to complete. Becoming a Freedom Church Partner is a self-selecting and self-evidencing, process. The best way to find out more is to attend a Newcomers Lunch, these are held regularly after our Sunday meetings. But when you consider yourself a partner with the Church, then you are a partner. Congratulations!

We regularly update our Partners list. This is where the ideal meets reality and the rubber hits the road. There are three main things that we can look for that indicate that you are a full Partner, we refer to these as our Time, Treasure and Talents.

“Tell me more – what do you mean by time, treasure and talents?”

- Time** We ask our Partners to give their time. We ask that Partners commit to regularly gathering with others from Freedom Church. Partners prioritise attending our weekend meetings and, where possible to be part of a Connect Group, or other similar group that helps them feel connected. We know lives are busy and full of competing demands, but we make turning up a habit.
- Treasure** We ask Partners to give their treasure. We expect Partners to commit to regularly giving to the work of Freedom Church. Partners are generous, cheerful givers. We fully believe in the biblical principle of giving the first 10% of everything we receive to God, but we also believe that the attitude of the giver really matters. Partners are encouraged to be generous and give what they can regularly as part of their worship and thanksgiving to God. Practically, many Partners do this through the ChurchSuite app or via the website (www.freedomchurch.uk/give-to-freedom), but you can always bring your cash on Sunday if that is easier for you.
- Talents** We ask Partners to give their talent. We ask that partners commit to regularly serving Freedom Church. We believe that everyone can create change and everyone has a unique part to play in church. Partners are quick to use the skills, gifts and abilities that they have been given to bless the Church. Whether you are a gifted musician, a great

encourager, a natural with children, someone who is great at helping new people feel at home or someone who enjoys lining chairs up really neatly - we have the perfect team for you to join. Find out more information at the Next Steps desk on a Sunday morning, on ChurchSuite or on our website (www.freedomchurch.uk/join-a-team). Getting involved is the best way to meet people and make new friends.

So if this all works for you, you are partnered with us – you're a Partner! If you want to become a Partner, but giving either your time, treasure or talents is impossible for you – please get in touch and we would love to discuss this with you.

“What does Freedom Church expect of Partners?”

There is no specific list of behaviour that we expect from our Partners (and there is no Partner Police secretly checking out your social media posts or watching how you treat your work colleagues - honest!). But we do expect those who consider themselves as partners of Freedom Church to reflect the values that we hold as a church family. Our partners try to love God with all their heart, soul and mind. Partners try and treat people in the way that they would hope to be treated. Partners speak well of the church, its leaders and its activities and are quick to speak up when they have concerns. We expect our Partners to be actively growing in their Christian faith – all with the goal of becoming more like Jesus. We are committed to growing, because we believe no one is finished yet. If you'd like support with this the Church Leadership Team or your Connect Group Leader would love to work with you.

“What can a Partner expect of Freedom Church?”

A Partner can expect high standards from Freedom Church. To create a clear, faith filled vision and a well thought out strategy, to communicate effectively, to use the generously given funds appropriately and create engaging Sunday meetings suitable for all age groups that will help everyone encounter God.

And whilst Freedom Church will do anything it can to help, support and encourage you, we do expect you to take personal responsibility and care for the people around you. We have an excellent Pastoral Team that works best when people ask for help, accept the help offered and show willingness to work together to see change.

“Are there other benefits of being a partner?”

Partners do have the opportunity to apply to the Freedom Fund, on behalf of a charity, individual or project that you think would benefit from financial support. The Freedom Fund is an amount of money that the church gives away each year to those in need. The application process is really simple – more information can be found on our website. If you would like Freedom Church to support you in a mission trip you couldn't otherwise afford, to support an overseas charitable project or to help a neighbour in need then you, as a Partner, can apply to the Freedom Fund.
