

Charity Number: 1060870

The Branches Christian Fellowship

Annual Report and Financial Statements
For the Year Ended

31st August 2020

Pennine Accounting Limited
Suite 1, 33 Harehill Road
Littleborough
Lancashire
OL15 9AD

01706 558584

The Branches Christian Fellowship

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The Branches Christian Fellowship

Reference and Administrative Details

Charity Name	The Branches Christian Fellowship
Charity Number	1060870
Correspondence Address	3 Bank Close Littleborough Lancashire OL15 0DP
Trustees	Mr David Clark Mr Wayne Hudson Mr Andrew Pringle Rev Alan Anthony Reeve MA Mr Howard Carl Smith Mrs Janet Smith
Date Constituted	8 th December 1996
Accountant	Pennine Accounting Limited Suite 1, 33 Harehill Road Littleborough Lancashire OL15 9AD
Bankers	Virgin Money and Kingdom Bank

Branches Christian Fellowship

Registered Charity 1060870

Annual Trustees Report for year ended 31st August 2020

The objects of the Branches Christian Fellowship are to advance the Christian faith and to assist in the relief of human suffering and poverty. As per the rest of the UK, covid has restricted significant parts of our activities however, we have still continued to fulfil our objects. This included starting a new “Branches of Hope” initiative to support vulnerable families working with key council teams, NHS practices and Schools.

We are continuing to be blessed with growth and seeing the fruit that God promises, including believers baptisms, child dedications, lives being transformed and healings (physical and emotional) taking place exactly as described in the Bible.

As we write this report we are still under the relevant UK covid restrictions.

Sept 2019 – Feb 2020

During this period the Church functioned in its full capacity. On Sundays we held our services inviting everyone from the area to hear the Gospel and to commit their lives to Jesus. We held various believers baptisms, new baby dedications and people’s lives of all ages, backgrounds and nationalities being changed by God.

We are seeing stronger relationships being built across the Churches in Rochdale which is a central part of our vision as is supporting other Christian based groups. For example, we hosted the National Women’s Day of Prayer in Jan 2020 where ladies from all over the country came to pray for Rochdale.

Our weekly / monthly activities include

- ⇒ Sunday Services
- ⇒ Family Groups which include bible study, prayer and fellowship
- ⇒ Kids Klub for primary school children
- ⇒ Saplings for the pre-school mums and children
- ⇒ Youth nights for High School children
- ⇒ Place of Welcome, which is part of a national initiative to offer a place to which people can come to relax, enjoy tea, coffee and cakes and meet informally with other people who may be lonely.
- ⇒ S.U.P.A. = School Uniform Pass Around where we offer parents to come and exchange local school uniforms or simply take those donated as a gift
- ⇒ Foodbank as part of the Trussell Trust
- ⇒ Branches corporate prayer events
- ⇒ Rochdale Leaders meeting with leaders from Churches of all denominations
- ⇒ Rochdale Townwide prayer events

Annual Fellowship Weekend Away

In October 2019 a large number of us went away for the weekend to an outward bound centre in North Wales. Phil Shaw was our guest speaker and as well as teaching sessions we also had social activities, which help to build up a greater sense of community and belonging together.

March 2020 – August 2020

From March 2020 the UK was placed under covid restrictions which meant that the ‘normal’ life of the Church was changed as we were prevented from meeting together. Like other Churches, we immediately resorted to utilising the appropriate technology to broadcast our services firstly from people’s homes and then as restrictions eased, we broadcast them from the Church building. This meant that we provided a significant amount of our activities online rather than face to face.

The main areas impacted were the cessation of saplings, Kids Klub, Places of Welcome as they were not practical if not held face to face. However, even during this lockdown period the Kids Klub team made suitably distanced visits to the children / families dropping off activities, magazines and other goodies to encourage, bless and keep in touch and for a few months we reached out to the older, more isolated, vulnerable and lonely people in the area which was well received.

Food Bank and New Branches of Hope service

During the lockdown, we were allowed to continue to offer our Food Bank services and these were extended to cover other vulnerable people with a scheme called Branches of Hope. This is linked to the Bradford based, national Transforming Lives for Good (TLG). We have linked with various council teams, (e.g. Sure Start, Home Start, Early Help), NHS teams (e.g. Focused Care practitioners, Pennine Care trust) and several school pastoral leaders / child welfare offices in order to identify families who are in need of food, toiletries and other supplies. During the 6 months (Mar – Aug), we gave away over 200 food parcels, helping in the region of 1000 people, consisting of over 3 tons of food. This was all donated by people from across the area including shops, other Churches, work places. This has been a tremendous blessing and built strong, caring relationships between the Church, the council, the NHS teams and schools. We are continuing this service going forward.

From June to Aug 2020 we saw a phased easing of restrictions which allowed the Church to start meeting together under the relevant covid guidelines. However, further UK restrictions were brought into bear later in 2020 that again impacted the Church not covered by this report.

Funding and giving

As in previous years we have made gifts from our funds to a variety of Registered Charities, working both in this country and overseas. As a Charity we continue to be self-financing, and have not made any appeals for financial help to the general public.

Reserves Policy

The trustees are confident that the charity is not dependent upon any one source of income to support its charitable activities. It has regular receipts from a number of donors. The trustees have agreed to ensure that sufficient reserves are always held to meet the usual running costs of the charities activities over a six month period. This is currently anticipated to be £9,000. At the date of this report cash balances in excess of £70,000 are held. and the trustees are therefore confident, especially given the discretionary nature of much of their annual spend, that the charity has adequate funds to enable it to continue to meet the costs of its charitable activities for the foreseeable future.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alan Pearce', with a horizontal line underneath.

Signed

(Chairman/Trustee)

The Branches Christian Fellowship

Independent Examiner's Report

Independent Examiner's report to the trustees of The Branches Christian Fellowship

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of The Branches Christian Fellowship (the Trust) for the year ended 31st August 2020

Responsibilities and basis of the report

As the charity trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act')

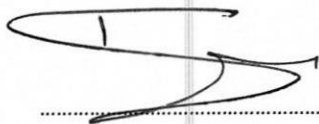
I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent Examiner's Statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



29th June 2021

Ian Cunningham
AAT Licensed Accountant

Pennine Accounting Limited
Suite 1
33 Harehill Road
Littleborough
Lancashire
OL15 9AD

Ian Cunningham is
Licensed and regulated by AAT under license number 10254750

The Branches Christian Fellowship

Receipts and Payments Account for the year ended 31st August 2020

	General Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
Incoming Resources Charitable Giving				
Give as you earn	4512	—	4512	6912
Gift Aid Donations (& Gift Aid Relief)	45970	—	45970	29942
Other Gifts	—	103	103	10000
Other Income				
Other Income	2751	400	3151	4664
Bank Interest	159	—	159	2
Total Incoming Resources	53392	503	53895	51520
<u>Resources Expended</u>				
Direct Charitable Expenditure				
Evangelism	282	—	282	2115
Ministry Gifts	3550	—	3550	2920
Tithe Donations	1850	—	1850	4050
Other Gifts & Donations	1182	—	1182	136
Stephen Centre	—	240	240	452
Church Weekend	1504	2172	3676	1629
M Smith Ministry	—	750	750	250
Rev A Reeve & ministries	—	—	—	2522
Childrens' Ministry & Kids Klub	3861	—	3861	1903
Other Expenditure				
Premises and Utilities	2953	—	2953	3641
General Running Expenses	5225	—	5225	4735
Building repairs and renewals	9367	—	9367	6695
Purchase of Equipment	—	—	—	1740
Gross Expenditure	29774	3162	32936	32788
Loan repayment to external funder	—	—	—	11500
Total Outgoing Resources	29774	3162	32936	44288
Net Receipts/(Payments)	23618	-2659	20959	7232
Transfers to/(from) funds	-2040	2040	—	—
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	21578	-619	20959	7232

The Branches Christian Fellowship

Transfers and movements

	£
Total cash assets brought forward	53,661
Plus income/(deficit) for the year	<u>20,959</u>
Cash funds this year end	74,620

Statement of Assets and Liabilities for the period ended 31st August 2020

	£	£	£	£
Cash Funds	2,020		2,019	
Bank account No.1	39,868		18,446	
Bank account No.2 (Note 1)	4,593		5,215	
Treasury Bank Building Fund	<u>30,159</u>		<u>30,000</u>	
Total Cash Assets	74,620		53,661	
Other Assets retained for the charity's own use				
(Unrestricted Fund)				
Freehold Property	114,224		114,224	
Kitchen	3,000		3,000	
Moveable Equipment	2,164		2,164	
Integrated Features (PA System)	<u>3,200</u>		<u>3,200</u>	
Total other assets	122,588		120,848	
Total Assets		197,208		176,249
Total Assets less Total Liabilities		197,208		176,249
 Net Charitable assets brought forward		176,249		155,777
Increase/(decrease) in assets during the year		<u>20,959</u>		<u>20,472</u>
Total net charitable assets		197,208		176,249

Approved by the trustees on 29 June 2021 and signed on their behalf by:



Andrew Pringle

The Branches Christian Fellowship

Notes to the Accounts

1. The 'Number 2 Account' receives donations to fund ministry and educational work of the charity and is therefore 'restricted' for this purpose.