

Charity Number: 1060870

The Branches Christian Fellowship

Annual Report and Financial Statements

For the Year Ended

31st August 2023

**Pennine Accounting Limited
109a Church Street
Littleborough
Lancashire
OL15 8AA**

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 Peter Bowers Mr Andrew Pringle Rev Alan Anthony Reeve MA Mr Howard Carl Smith Mr Adam Smith
Date Constituted	8 th December 1996
Accountant	Pennine Accounting Limited 109a Church Street Littleborough Lancashire OL15 8AA
Bankers	Virgin Money and Kingdom Bank

The objects of the Branches Christian Fellowship are to advance the Christian faith and to assist in the relief of human suffering and poverty.

This year saw around a 15% growth in the Church with the average weekly congregation numbers being c.80 and the overall number well past 100, including many children. What is also a blessing is that 13 different nationalities now regularly attend. The foundations laid earlier in 2022, i.e. the setting up of four Family Groups, and the service teams has proven to be a positive move and been a good foundation for the growth, and what we pray will continue.

Another positive aspect was receiving council funding to support our work with Places of Welcome, Saplings and Foodbank as recognition of the positive work and influence on the Smallbridge Community where the Church is located. Associated with this is a new initiative with Heywood, Middleton & Rochdale Circle trust to run a weekly luncheon club for the over 55's in Smallbridge. This will further enhance our outreach to the lonely and more vulnerable in the area, whilst building closer relationships with the Council teams.

We continue to work closely with other Christian Churches and charities across the town and beyond, meeting weekly with seven other Townwide Church leaders for prayer and encouraging each other.

Invested in significant Church repairs, mainly focussed on new front door and drainage. This is the start of a longer term building updates which includes new windows, and redecorating internally. Looking at ideas as to how to extend the building to support ongoing growth.

Our weekly / monthly activities include

- ⇒ Sunday Services
- ⇒ Family Groups which include bible study, prayer, fellowship and social activities
- ⇒ Public Reading of the Bible ** new **
- ⇒ Saplings for the pre-school mums and children
- ⇒ Kids Klub for primary school children
- ⇒ Youth nights for High School children
- ⇒ Place of Welcome - a place to which people can come to relax, enjoy tea, coffee and cakes and meet informally with other people.
- ⇒ Heywood, Middleton & Rochdale Circle joint venture for Smallbridge Thursday Luncheon Club ** new **
- ⇒ 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 prayer events – regular prayer and praise

- ⇒ Rochdale Leaders – weekly meeting with leaders from Churches of all denominations
- ⇒ Rochdale Revival prayer – monthly gathering across the town to pray for revival

Calendar highlights during the year

Oct 2022 – Outreach Light Party which is an alternative to Halloween undertaken. Over 90 people attended, to join in the fun and here the gospel. People shared how it was great to see something better than 'trick or treat'

Nov 2022 – Received Rochdale Council financial grant to help Foodbank, Places of Welcome and Saplings with special recognition given for the community services Branches provides.

Dec 2022 – First Thursday Luncheon Club event in conjunction with Heywood, Middleton & Rochdale Circle. Carol Service and Christmas Service was great success. The Children's teams distributed food parcels to elderly folk in bungalows around the church which was well received

Jan 2023 – Started the year with a week of prayer, seeking clear focus on God's plan for the Church.

Feb 2023 – Church weekend away in Conwy, Wales – over 90 people go, largest number. Alan and Jackie Hamilton who we know from Proclaim Trust came and ministered to the group over the weekend, whilst Bing and Sarah who are from CoE Church Army, led our children's ministry. Great weekend to build stronger Church relationships, have great fun and just spend time together.

Mar 2023 – Christians Against Poverty (CAP) course ran at church helping people from all background, across all areas of Rochdale to manage money.

Easter 2023 – New idea tried by running a social media campaign run alongside hiding Easter eggs with relevant invites and messages across the Smallbridge area. Saw five new families come to the Easter Service.

April 2023 – Jacobed, who runs the Valientes school in Mexico who we have relationships with came to the UK and visited Branches to share about the amazing work they are doing. Great night to praise God and link with Christians across the world.

May 2023 – Children's team organised a litter pick around the Stevenson Square area as part of the **#LoveWhereULive** challenge organised by Message Trust. At night they went to Manchester for tea at the Trafford Centre and on to a Lift concert.

July 2023 – Barry Woodward, Evangelist and director of Proclaim Trust led out outreach weekend, Saturday night and Sunday morning. Around 200 people came to both events, where we saw 5 people committing their lives and then continuing to attend the Church.

The trustees of the Trust, the Trust, is a company which is the source of funds to support its charitable purposes. It has regular receipts from a number of donors. The trustees have agreed to ensure that sufficient resources are always held to meet the usual running costs of the charities activities over an agreed period. It is currently anticipated to be £10,000 in the date of the report cash balances in excess of £65,000 are held and the trustees are therefore confident, especially given the distinct and nature of most of the projects over the period, has adequate funding to this and continue to meet the costs of its charitable activities for the foreseeable future.

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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 2023

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')

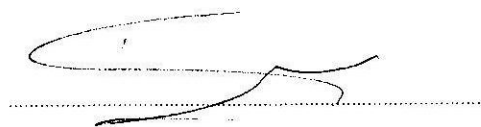
I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

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.



28th June 2024

Ian Cunningham
AAT Licensed Accountant

Pennine Accounting Limited
109a Church Street
Littleborough
Lancashire
OL15 8AA

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 2023

	General Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Incoming Resources Charitable				
Giving				
Give as you earn	—	—	—	—
Gift Aid Donations (& Gift Aid Relief)	33901	—	33901	31,481
Other Gifts & Donations	—	74	74	20
Other Income				
Other Income	7382	—	7382	2,604
Bank Interest	—	202	202	100
Total Incoming Resources	41282	275	41558	34205
Resources Expended				
Direct Charitable Expenditure				
Evangelism	351	—	351	4504
Ministry Gifts	2155	—	2155	1050
Tithe Donations	4525	—	4525	4165
Other Gifts & Donations	100	—	100	1469
Stephen Centre	—	40	40	240
Training	79	—	79	278
Church Weekend	4843	—	4843	1842
Childrens' Ministry & Kids Klub	4234	—	4234	3500
Food Bank	1245	—	1245	112
Other Expenditure				
Premises and Utilities	5938	—	5938	5648
General Running Expenses	9131	—	9131	5758
Building Expenses	13141	—	13141	1699
Capital Expenditure	—	—	—	5671
Gross Expenditure	45742	40	45981	35936
Net Receipts/(Payments)	-4459	235	-4423	-1731
Transfers to/(from) funds	-2040	2040	—	—
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	-6499	2275	-4423	-1731

The Branches Christian Fellowship

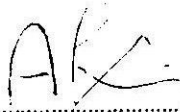
Transfers and Movements

	£
Total cash assets brought forward	80,961
Plus income/(deficit) for the year	(4,423)
Cash funds this year end	76,538

Statement of Assets and Liabilities for the period ended 31st August 2023

	£	£	£	£
	2023		2022	
Cash Funds				
Bank account No.1	33,206		42,909	
Bank account No.2 (Note 1)	9,533		7,533	
Treasury Bank Building Fund	30,720		30,519	
Total Cash Assets	73,460		80,961	
Other Assets retained for the charity's own use (Unrestricted Fund)				
Freehold Property	128,855		128,855	
Kitchen	3,000		3,000	
Moveable Equipment & Furnishings	7,226		7,266	
Integrated Features (PA System)	3,200		3,200	
Total other assets	142,281		142,321	
Total Assets		215,741		223,282
Total Assets less Total Liabilities		215,741		223,282
Net Charitable assets brought forward		220,527		220,527
Increase/(decrease) in assets during the year		(7,541)		(40)
Total net charitable assets		212,986		220,487

Approved by the trustees on 24 June 2024 and signed on their behalf by:



Andrew Pringle
Treasurer

The Branches Christian Fellowship

<u>Asset Category</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>Cost</u>
<u>Freehold Property</u>	Church Freehold	
	Property	£114,224
<u>Kitchen</u>	Property	
	improvements	£14,631
	Kitchen	£3,000
<u>Moveable Equipment & furnishings</u>		
	Dyson Vacuum Cleaner	£249
	Strimmer	£175
	Music equipment	£6,133
	Furniture	£669
<u>Integrated Features</u>		
	PA System	£3,200
	Total	<u>£142,281</u>