

Charity Number: 1060870

The Branches Christian Fellowship
Annual Report and Financial Statements
For the Year Ended

31st August 2024

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 Andrew Pringle 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 Branches Christian Fellowship
Annual Trustees Report for y/e 31st August 2024

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

Sept 2023 – Aug 2024 Summary

Our numbers have remained consistent through-out the year. There is good growth in the people attending our Places of Welcome (PoW) weekly outreach and community meal. Around 30 people per week attend, having a freshly prepared meal and great fellowship.

In contrast, HMRC (Heywood, Middleton & Rochdale Circle), who we helped run their weekly over 55's luncheon club in Smallbridge, took the decision to stop because of dwindling numbers. One of the reason being the cost of the meal.

This year saw the start of running a new holiday club for the children in the area. Funding received from the Council Your Trust Rochdale and we will continue to see where this leads. Over 40 children attended each day and at the Council led session that shared what had happened across the various holiday clubs only Branches saw double figure attendances.

As part of our ongoing work, we have helped numerous Iranian families as they look to settle in the UK as well as seeing an uptake in the clients that make use of the Foodbank. Foodbank is proving to be a safe place where those with problems can come and be ministered to.

As the Church we seek not simply to offer them food but prayer and other support.

This work extends to offering 'Branches of Hope', which are bags of food to those families who are in immediate real need as identified by key social teams, like the School Pastoral supports and Social teams.

Our work with Rochdale council continues as we hold their Smallbridge Partnership Board meetings where the people of Smallbridge can discuss with the Council teams what they would like to see done in the area.

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

This years saw our Youth Team initiate work across the other Youth groups across the Rochdale Churches which has resulted in the creation of regular townwide youth events.

Our weekly / monthly activities include

- ⇒ Sunday Services
- ⇒ Family Groups which include bible study, prayer, fellowship and social activities
- ⇒ Public Reading of the Bible
- ⇒ 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.
- ⇒ 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
- ⇒ Smallbridge Holiday club

Calendar highlights during the year

Sep 2023 – Community Annual Fun day.

Oct 2023 – Outreach Light Party which is an alternative to Halloween undertaken.

Nov 2023 – Joined with the Churches of Rochdale to hold a 3 day outreach event. Branches led on the Youth and Children's work on the Saturday. Fantastic weekend to build relationships with the Christians across Rochdale and be a witness to the wider town.

Dec 2023 – Carol Service and Christmas Services. The Children's teams distributed food parcels to elderly folk in bungalows around the church which was well received. Leading up to Christmas we have a 'Foodbank Advent' calendar where each day people could donate something to the Foodbank work.

Jan 2024 - Started the year with a week of prayer, seeking clear focus on God's plan for the Church.

Holiday club under for Children of the area, over 40 children attended. Looking to see if there are further opportunities in 2024.

Mar 2024 – Church weekend away in a new venue, Quinta Hall Christian Conference Centre, Shropshire. Alan and Jackie Hamilton once again joined and ministered to the Fellowship over the weekend. Great weekend to build stronger Church relationships, have great fun and just spend time together. Booked 2025 already – we'll be back.

Easter 2024 – Good Friday saw the Church hold an 'open door' day where people could just come and sit, pray, receive prayer, just chat and even ask what Easter is all about. Easter Sunday family service was linked to our Kids Klub prize giving and saw parents and those who have parental responsibilities join with the Children of Kids Klub. Great morning held

April 2024 – Saw the death of Alan Reeve, Branches first Pastor and was a founder member of the Fellowship. A great celebration was held with many people from across the town joining in the service. He will be greatly missed

May 2024 – We led a 'walk of witness' through the Smallbridge Area playing music, singing and witnesses to the people. A good number of people came onto the streets, people opening doors and saying how good this was. A few families from the area itself joined in and then listened to our outdoor service on Stephenson Square.

June 2024 – Local Hamer Primary school who we have good contacts brought the children of Year 3 & 4 to the Church so that we could share "why Christians support the Community". Nearly 90 children attended the two sessions and great feedback received from the teachers and kids. The children are from all different faiths and backgrounds and it was fantastic to hear them ask so many questions especially about the different aspects of faith. Door opening to more schools coming.

Several adult baptisms and children dedications through out the year.

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 £10,000. At the date of this report cash balances in excess of £65,000 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.

Signed

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'ASMA' or similar, written over a horizontal line.

(Chairman / Trustee)

The Branches Christian Fellowship Independent Examiners Report

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

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the financial statements of The Branches Christian Fellowship for the year ended 31 August 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of 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").

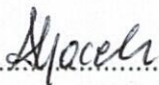
I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

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 which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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.



Angelika Gacek MAAT
Pennine Accounting Limited
109A Church Street
Littleborough
Lancashire
OL15 8AA

18 June 2025

The Branches Christian Fellowship

Receipts and Payments Account for the year ended 31st August 2024

	General Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Incoming Resources Charitable Giving				
Give as you earn	—	—	—	—
Gift Aid Donations (& Gift Aid Relief)	44390	—	44390	33901
Other Gifts & Donations	—	—	—	—
Other Income	—	—	—	—
Other Income	8414	—	8414	7,382
Bank Interest	—	741	741	202
Total Incoming Resources	52804	741	53545	41484
<u>Resources Expended</u>				
Direct Charitable Expenditure				
Evangelism	2110	—	2110	351
Ministry Gifts	870	—	870	2155
Tithe Donations	5400	—	5400	4525
Other Gifts & Donations	807	—	807	100
Stephen Centre	—	—	—	40
Training	—	—	—	79
Church Weekend	6986	—	6986	4843
Childrens' Ministry & Kids Klub	5019	—	5019	4234
Food Bank	1131	—	1131	1245
Other Expenditure	—	—	—	—
Premises and Utilities	9139	—	9139	5938
General Running Expenses	4833	—	4833	12335
Building Expenses	6365	—	6365	13141
Capital Expenditure	—	—	—	—
Gross Expenditure	42659	—	42659	48986
Net Receipts/(Payments)	10145	741	10886	-7502
Transfers to/(from) funds	-2040	2040	—	—
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	8105	2781	10886	-7502

The Branches Christian Fellowship


Transfers and movements

	£
Total cash assets brought forward	73,460
Plus income/(deficit) for the year	<u>10,886</u>
Cash funds this year end	84,346

Statement of Assets and Liabilities for the period ended 31st August 2024

	£	£	£	£
	2024		2023	
Cash Funds				
Bank account No.1	40,440		33,206	
Bank account No.2 (Note 1)	12,445		9,533	
Treasury Bank Building Fund	<u>31,461</u>		<u>30,720</u>	
Total Cash Assets	84,346		73,460	
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		7,226	
Integrated Features (PA System)	<u>3,200</u>		<u>3,200</u>	
Total other assets	142,281		142,281	
Total Assets	226,627		215,741	
Total Assets less Total Liabilities	226,627		215,741	
 Net Charitable assets brought forward	 215,741		 223,242	
Increase/(decrease) in assets during the year	<u>10,886</u>		<u>(7,501)</u>	
Total net charitable assets	226,627		215,741	

Approved by the trustees on XX May 2025 and signed on their behalf by:



Andrew Pringle
 Treasurer

The Branches Christian Fellowship
Notes to the Accounts

<u>Asset Category</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>Cost</u>
<u>Freehold Property</u>	Church Freehold Property	£114,224
	Property improvements	£14,631
		<u>£128,855</u>
<u>Kitchen</u>	Kitchen	£3,000
		<u>£3,000</u>
<u>Moveable Equipment & furnishings</u>	Dyson Vacuum Cleaner	£249
	Strimmer	£175
	Music equipment	£6,133
	Furniture	£669
		<u>£7,226</u>
<u>Integrated Features</u>	PA System	£3,200
		<u>£3,200</u>
	Total	<u>£142,281</u>