

**REPORT AND STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2023**

**FAITH CHRISTIAN GROUP (READING) CIO  
CHARITY REGISTRATION No: 1163355**

## **FAITH CHRISTIAN GROUP (READING) CIO**

### **LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION**

<b>Other working names</b>	Faith Christian Group Faith ReadiFood B4N Bed for the Night
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<b>Trustees at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023</b>	Mr Peter Horne Mrs Helen Martin Mr Edward Rundell Mrs Stella Stroud
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### **GOVERNING INSTRUMENT**

Faith Christian Group is constituted as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation whose only voting members are its trustees. It was registered with the Charity Commissioners on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2015.

### **OBJECTS**

The objects of the CIO are, for the public benefit:

- a) to advance the Christian faith in Reading and other parts of the United Kingdom and the world as the charity trustees may from time to time determine; and
- b) to relieve persons in conditions of need, hardship or distress or who are aged or sick in Reading and other parts of the United Kingdom and the world as the charity trustees may from time to time determine.

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2023**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Faith Christian Group (Reading) CIO for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023.

**Responsibilities and basis of report**

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

Having satisfied myself that the accounts are eligible for independent examination. I report in respect of my examination of the CIO'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 2011 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.



Mr Michael Homer AFA MIPA

Independent Examiner  
MCH Accountants Ltd  
68 Charlton Road  
Andover  
Hampshire  
SP10 3JN

**DATED: 18/10/2024**

## FAITH CHRISTIAN GROUP (READING) CIO

### TRUSTEES REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2023

#### Organisation

The work of Faith is primarily to fight physical poverty among the homeless, needy and deprived, and by so doing to share the gospel through love, care and practical service. This work is carried out largely by teams of volunteers as well as part-time staff, mostly Christians from many different churches in and around Reading. In 2023 Faith employed eight part-time staff, with one temporary member of staff in addition.

The organisation was running for some time before receiving charity status in 1996 as Faith Christian Group (Reading) Trust. Since 2015, the organisation has been a charitable incorporated organisation (CIO).

#### 2023 review

Throughout 2023, Faith worked in four main, and Reading Pantries, which are subsidised food shops where members can choose food as well as content at a café run alongside each site. related ways to achieve its objects: "Readistreet" and "A Bed for the Night" (B4N), which work with the hungry and homeless on the streets of Reading and "ReadiFood" which provides food parcels to individuals and families who are housed, but struggling to make ends meet, and Reading Pantries, which are subsidised food shops where members can choose food as well as content at a café run alongside each site.

**"ReadiStreet"** involves the distribution of food to those on the streets. On Tuesday to Friday evenings, the support of Reading Minster Church gives us a town centre base from which we offer free sandwiches (kindly donated by Pret a Manger) and hot soup to the hungry and homeless of Reading. We have different partners who come on different evening offering hot food. On Sundays, we run the Tea Bar to provide free hot and cold drinks and soup and rolls. A key element of this work is to demonstrate to everyone we meet on the streets that they are valued individuals.

**"ReadiFood – Reading's Food Bank"** is a service delivering food parcels to families and individuals in need throughout the town. Those in need are referred by RBC Social Services, Job Centre, Citizens Advice and other charities, agencies and churches. The average number of food parcels delivered in 2023 was 170 per week.

**A Bed for the Night (B4N)** didn't open in 2023, although plans were put in place to return to opening the winter night shelter 7 nights per week starting in early 2024.

**"Reading Pantries"** During the year, we rebranded our pantry name to be Reading Pantries with a wider vision to open a food pantry in every community across Reading over the next few years.

This year saw us add Coley Park Pantry, Whitley Wood Pantry and Pavilion Pantry to our already established Norcot Pantry. A pantry is a membership-based food shop where, for a nominal subscription, members can buy subsidised goods, so giving choice and support for those on low incomes or on benefits. We now have over 200 members able to use the shops. A café running alongside each shop creates a setting where members could be better supported and signposted to other partner agencies if additional help was needed.

#### Journey 2 work

2023 saw us also rebrand our women's project that had initially been set up by funding from Sage to Journey 2 Work. This project offers a mentoring and work experience programme for ladies wanting to return to employment. 5 ladies were given one-to-one support and worked in our food warehouse to gain confidence and skills to help in the job-hunting process.

#### Relationships

Building relationships over time is a key factor in the success of what we do. Providing some sandwiches on the street, or a food parcel via ReadiFood, can lead to befriending and further opportunities to help in many other practical ways. We have seen members helped and support through our Pantries. On occasions Faith has to act as an advocate for those without a voice, and the charity helped a number of individuals in this way during the year.

We have continued to work hard to maintain good working relationships with relevant agencies and organisations in the town, including the various sections of RBC such as Social Services, Housing, Homeless and Housing Pathways.

#### Safeguarding

All charities are required to report serious safeguarding incidents to the Charity Commission. There were no such incidents to report.

## FAITH CHRISTIAN GROUP (READING) CIO

### Financial summary

We receive financial support from many individuals, accounting for over 65% of giving, local churches and a number of local businesses and organisations. In addition to the direct financial donations received, a significant value of food and other items were donated to FAITH for distribution to people in need. Prior year 2021 was an exceptional year, along with 2020, where individuals and local authorities notably increased giving in reaction to COVID; with the return to more normalised conditions grant income and gifts from Organisations have reduced in 2022 more akin to pre-COVID levels, which is in line with expectation.

In the year ended 31 December 2023 the Charity had an overall deficit of £22,814 as the Charity looks to effectively deploy reserves in a controlled manner. Overall costs were in line with the prior year 2021 with similar levels of staffing and expenditure, with cost allocations shifting between projects, notably as activities for Bed for the Night decreased and Food Pantries increased.

Reserves remain high due to the carried-forward surplus from the COVID period. The forward-looking plan remains to be the use of these resources effectively over a period of time rather than any immediate big outlay, considering our largest expense is ongoing staff costs.

### THANKS

The trustees thank all the volunteers and paid staff for all their hard work in 2022 enabling Faith to serve so many of the disadvantaged and poor in Reading. Also, the trustees would like to express their thanks to churches, organisations and individuals in and around Reading for their support. The trustees are very grateful for the generous financial support the charity receives, as without this continuing and increasing support Faith would not have been able to serve the needy in Reading.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees

P. Hore 18/10/24

# FAITH CHRISTIAN GROUP (READING) CIO

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023

Analysis of Total Income and Expenditure by Activity - 2023							2022
	General Funds	Street work	Bed for the Night	Readifood	Food Pantries	Total Funds Unrestricted and Restricted	Total Funds Unrestricted and Restricted
	2023 £	2023 £	2023 £	2023 £	2023 £	2023 £	2022 £
<b>RECEIPTS :</b>							
Donations from							
Churches	18,236		500	9,345		28,081	15,998
Organisations	11,983	1,000	500	17,747		31,230	35,753
Grants				10,000		10,000	37,154
Individuals	167,860	350	57	36,530	960	205,756	199,552
Membership Subscriptions					6,394	6,394	1,487
Other including Interest	5,229				1,397	6,626	1,836
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>203,308</b>	<b>1,350</b>	<b>1,057</b>	<b>73,621</b>	<b>8,751</b>	<b>288,087</b>	<b>291,780</b>
<b>PAYMENTS :</b>							
Food and other assistance (Excluding donated food)	8	8,222	502	4,440	5,110	18,282	24,090
Staff Costs	82,391	21,481	3,045	75,009	17,516	199,441	175,531
Support work	8			14		22	2,024
Vehicle Lease Costs				2,400		2,400	2,400
Vehicle Depreciation		3,400		94		3,494	5,200
Vehicle Running Costs	1,306	1,194		7,246	5	9,752	8,788
Equipment	1,723	1,366		1,782	5,154	10,024	8,826
Training, Networking & CRBs	570	339			84	992	735
Office Warehouse Rent & Rates	13,165	1,386	222	22,341	1,130	38,245	37,842
Property Maintenance & Insurance	9,907	707	420	2,469	577	14,080	12,491
Utilities	5,784	609	98	2,127	497	9,114	6,587
Office Supplies	8,216	1,136	4	709	62	10,127	6,713
Computer Equipment Software	1,401		379	61	494	2,335	2,150
Telephone Costs	3,663	89		698		4,450	4,244
Postage	484				36	520	370
Publicity & newsletter	1,223	46	68	983	535	2,855	4,176
Professional Fees	4,554		395			4,949	6,168
Bank Charges	246					246	161
Projects & Partnerships	500				10,975	11,475	5,000
Governance	900					900	1,075
<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>	<b>136,048</b>	<b>39,976</b>	<b>5,133</b>	<b>120,372</b>	<b>42,174</b>	<b>343,704</b>	<b>314,569</b>
<b>TOTAL SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)</b>	<b>67,260</b>	<b>(38,626)</b>	<b>(4,076)</b>	<b>(46,751)</b>	<b>(33,423)</b>	<b>(55,617)</b>	<b>(22,789)</b>
<b>TRANSFERS from</b>							
General Funds	<b>(116,631)</b>	<b>38,626</b>	<b>4,076</b>	<b>46,751</b>	<b>27,177</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>BALANCE at 01 January 2023</b>	<b>289,248</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>6,246</b>	<b>295,494</b>	<b>318,283</b>
<b>BALANCE at 31 December 2023</b>	<b>239,878</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>239,878</b>	<b>295,494</b>



**FAITH CHRISTIAN GROUP (READING) CIO**  
**ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

**FAITH CHRISTIAN GROUP (READING ) CIO**  
**ACCOUNTS for the YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

BALANCE SHEETS as at	31 December 2023 £	31 December 2022 £
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>		
Fixed Assets at Cost or Valuation	41,417	41,417
Accumulated Depreciation	<u>(19,398)</u>	<u>(14,424)</u>
Total Fixed Assets	22,019	26,993
 Sundry Debtors	 3,788	 2,660
Prepayments	12,120	11,861
Cash at bank and in hand	<u>244,101</u>	<u>288,917</u>
Current Assets	260,018	303,439
Taxation and social	(3,100)	(1,663)
Other creditors	<u>(2,659)</u>	<u>(875)</u>
Creditors due within a year	(5,759)	(2,538)
 Creditors due after a year	 <u>(36,400)</u>	 <u>(32,400)</u>
 <b>NET ASSETS</b>	 <u>217,859</u> <u>239,878</u>	 <u>268,501</u> <u>295,494</u>
 Street Work Restricted Fund	 -	 -
B4N Restricted Fund	-	-
Readifood Restricted Fund	-	-
Food Pantries Restricted Fund	-	6,246
General Fund	<u>239,878</u>	<u>289,248</u>
<b>CHARITY FUNDS</b>	<u>239,878</u>	<u>295,494</u>

**TRUSTEES RESPONSIBILITIES IN RELATION TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

The trustees have considered the best approach to present the accounts to give a fair view of the charity's financial results for the calendar year ended 31 December 2023 and to allow proper comparisons with the results in 2022.

Approved by the Trustees on 18/10/24 and 18/10/24

Signed on their behalf by  Trustee P. Horne Trustee

## **FAITH CHRISTIAN GROUP (READING) CIO**

NOTES to the Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2023

### **Note 1 Basis of preparation**

#### **1.1 Basis of accounting**

These accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 and with the Charities Act 2011.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

#### **1.2 Going concern**

The accounts are prepared on a "going concern" basis. The Trustees actively review the major risks which the charity faces on a regular basis and believe that maintaining the free reserves stated combined with an annual review of the controls over key financial systems will provide sufficient resources in the event of adverse conditions. The Trustees have also examined other operational and business risks which they face and confirm that they have established systems to mitigate the significant risks.

### **Note 2 Accounting Policies**

The Accounting Policies, used and applied consistently throughout the period, are set out below. The Trustees have reviewed the other accounting policies covered by the Financial Reporting Standard and consider they are not applicable to this period's accounts.

#### **2.1 Income recognition**

Income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when the charity becomes entitled to the resources, the monetary value can be measured and it is more likely than not that the charity will receive the resources.

#### **2.2 Offsetting**

There has been no offsetting of assets and liabilities, or income and expenses, unless required or permitted by FRS 102.

#### **2.3 Grants**

Grants and donations are only included in the SoFA when the general income recognition criteria are met. In the case of performance-related grants, income is only recognised when the performance related conditions are met. The charity has received a local government grant in the reporting period.

#### **2.4 Tax reclaims on donations and gifts**

Gift Aid receivable is included in income when there is a valid declaration from the donor. Any Gift Aid amount recovered on a donation is considered to be part of that gift and is treated as an addition to the same fund as the initial donation unless the donor or the terms of the appeal have specified otherwise.

#### **2.5 Donated food, goods and services and volunteer help**

The value of any donated food, goods and services and volunteer help received is not included in the accounts but is described in the trustees' annual report.

#### **2.6 Liability recognition**

Liabilities are recognised where it is more likely than not that there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out resources and the amount of the obligation can be measured with reasonable certainty.

#### **2.7 Redundancy cost**

The charity made no redundancy payments during the reporting period.

#### **2.8 Deferred income**

No material item of deferred income has been included in the accounts.

#### **2.9 Tangible fixed assets for use by charity**

These are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year, and cost at least £1,000. They are valued at cost or valuation. The depreciation rates and methods used are disclosed in Note 6.



## FAITH CHRISTIAN GROUP (READING) CIO

### 2.10 Debtors

Debtors and loans receivable are measured on initial recognition at settlement amount or amount advanced by the charity. Subsequently, they are measured at the cash or other consideration expected to be received.

### 2.11 Creditors

The charity's creditors are measured at settlement amounts less any trade discounts

### 2.12 Volunteer Help

The value of any voluntary help received is not included in the accounts but is described in the trustees' annual report.

## Note 3 Restricted Funds

### 3.1 Restricted Funds for the year ended 31st December 2023

	Street Work	Bed for the Night "B4N"	Readifood	Food Pantries	Total Restricted Funds
	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Balances at 31 December 2022</b>	-	-	-	6,246	6,246
2023 Donations from					
Churches		500	9,345		9,845
Organisations	1,000	500	17,747		19,247
Grants			10,000		10,000
Individuals	350	57	36,530	960	37,896
Membership Subscriptions				6,394	6,394
Other including Interest				1,397	1,397
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>1,350</b>	<b>1,057</b>	<b>73,621</b>	<b>8,751</b>	<b>84,779</b>
Contribution towards Staff Costs	1,350	1,057	49,445	12,793	64,645
Property Costs			17,757	2,204	19,960
Vehicle Costs			6,421		6,421
Other Costs					
<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>1,350</b>	<b>1,057</b>	<b>73,622</b>	<b>14,997</b>	<b>91,026</b>
<b>BALANCES at 31 December 2023</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

### 3.2 Restricted Funds Details

The **Street Work Restricted Fund** represents donations to support the distribution of food and drink to those on the streets.

The **Bed for the Night Restricted Fund** - funds donated towards the cost of running the night shelter or drop-in Hub. Preparation and training costs can be incurred in the prior year in preparation for the "B4N" in the following January to March, which means that the costs of a winter's night shelter are reported in two accounting periods.

The **Readifood Restricted Fund** represents funds donated specifically for use for the food parcel service, this year the funds were used for expenses directly related to Readifood including a contribution to salaries for those working for Readifood.

The **Food Pantries Restricted Fund** represents donations to support the provision of food distribution through Food Pantries.

## FAITH CHRISTIAN GROUP (READING) CIO

### 3.3 Unrestricted Funds Details

The **General Fund** represents income donated which is not given for a restricted purpose. In the Income and Expenditure Statement any costs that cannot be readily allocated or apportioned to the activities of the Streetwork, Bed for the Night, Readifood or Food Pantry are shown under General Funds. Any deficits on the activities are funded by transfers from the General Fund.

#### Note 4 Staff Costs and Numbers

	CIO 2023 £	CIO 2022 £
Gross Wages and Salaries	184,117	163,568
Employer's National Insurance Costs	13,318	11,463
(net of Employment Allowance)	(5,000)	(5,000)
Pension Contributions	7,006	5,500
	<u>199,441</u>	<u>175,531</u>
Number of employees		
Full Time	1	1
Part-time	10	9
Temporary - Part time	3	3
	<u>14</u>	<u>13</u>

No employees received employee benefits for the reporting periods of more than £60,000 per annum.

#### Note 5 Pension Scheme

The Charity enrolls all employees that meet the criteria for automatic enrolment and pays employer's contributions to the workplace pension scheme NEST (National Employment Savings Trust).

#### Note 6 Tangible fixed assets

	2023 Motor Vehicle £	2023 Fixtures & Fittings £	2023 Total £	2022 Motor Vehicle £	2022 Fixtures & Fittings £	2022 Total £
<b>Cost or Vauation</b>						
At the beginning of the year	26,094	15,323	41,417	26,094	8,135	34,229
Additions	-	-	-	-	7,188	7,188
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-	-
At end of the year	<u>26,094</u>	<u>15,323</u>	<u>41,417</u>	<u>26,094</u>	<u>15,323</u>	<u>41,417</u>
<b>Depreciation</b>						
At the beginning of the year	12,700	1,724	14,424	7,500	406	7,906
Depreciation	3,494	1,480	4,974	5,200	1,318	6,518
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-	-
At end of the year	<u>16,194</u>	<u>3,204</u>	<u>19,398</u>	<u>12,700</u>	<u>1,724</u>	<u>14,424</u>
<b>Net book value</b>	<u>9,900</u>	<u>12,119</u>	<u>22,019</u>	<u>13,394</u>	<u>13,599</u>	<u>26,993</u>

Basis of depreciation – straight line

The other fixed assets acquired from Faith Trust with individual values of less than £1,000 are summarised below:

	Estimated original value
Office furniture and equipment	3,000

## **FAITH CHRISTIAN GROUP (READING) CIO**

### **Note 7 Creditors falling due after one year**

On 31 March 2016, the FAITH Christian Group rented 33 Boulton Road under a Full Repairing and Insuring lease. In March 2021 the lease was extended for 5 years. The Trustees resolved to provide for the Full Repairing obligation by providing for the repairs through the life of the lease. In 2023 the provision was reviewed and assessed reasonable to hold at £36,400 going forward.

### **Note 8 Payments to Trustees**

In the year Trustees conducted interviews for the Director position during which lunch was paid by the charity for three trustees, totalling £37. No other payments were made to trustees or any persons connected with them during this financial period other than purchases made on behalf of the charity for which a trustee has been reimbursed. No other material transaction took place between the organisation and a trustee or any person connected with them.

### **Note 9 Fees for examination of the accounts**

Fees towards Independent Examination of £900 were accrued for in 2024 (2023 fees £875).