

Mountsandel Christian Fellowship

Northern Ireland · Charity number 100058

Details

Status Received

Registered 2014-03-12

Register [View on the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland register](#)

Contact

Address The Sandel Centre
6 Knocklynn Road
Coleraine
Co. Londonderry
BT52 1wt
BT52 1WT

Phone 028 70352777

Email johnmark@mountsandelchristianfellowship.org

Website www.mountsandelchristianfellowship.org

Activities

Purposes: To glorify God and advance Christianity by bearing witness in word and action to the life and teachings of Jesus Christ and to the truths of Christianity as set out in the Holy Bible and summarized in Article 15 of this Memorandum. To advance education by teaching the precepts of the Bible, and of Christian doctrine, to people of all ages thus exemplifying the Biblical principle that that the 'church of the living God is a pillar and support of the truth'. To advance citizenship by inculcating Christian ethical behaviour in and among people of all ages. To respond to human need by relieving poverty. To promote reconciliation. To provide relief for those in need by reason of youth or financial disadvantage, whether in Coleraine, in Ireland or elsewhere throughout the world.

What the charity does: The prevention or relief of poverty, The advancement of education, The advancement of religion, The advancement of citizenship or community development, The advancement of human rights, conflict resolution or reconciliation or the promotion of religious or racial harmony or equality and diversity, The relief of those in need by reason of youth, age, ill-health, disability, financial hardship or other disadvantage

How the charity works: Education/training, Religious activities, Welfare/benevolent, Youth development

Who the charity helps: Children (5-13 year olds), Ethnic minorities, General public, Overseas/developing countries, Parents, Preschool (0-5 year olds), Youth (14-25 year olds)

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-01-31	£175,468	£160,230	£0	3

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Dr Paul Martin		
Mr Alan Hutton		
Mr Johnmark Mullan		
Mr Peter Howe		
Mr Timothy Brown		

Mountsandel Christian Fellowship

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100058

Accounts



Mountsandel Christian Fellowship	100058	
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Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	01/02/2024	To	31/01/2025	
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Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Member donations	148,784		-	148,784	166,463
Miscellaneous	947	-	-	947	
Gift Aid	25,507	-	-	25,507	24,817
Bank interest	230	-	-	230	249
	-	-	-	-	
A1 Sub total (Gross income for the Annual Return)	175,468			175,468	191,529
A2 Asset and investment sales (see tables 1 and 2 in section 7 of the guidance).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
A2 Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	175,468	-	-	175,468	191,529
A3 Payments					
Fellowship expenses	26,839	-	-	26,839	17,968
Fellowship outreach	18,990	-	-	18,990	67,690
MCF Charitable Trust	103,522	-	-	103,522	86,000
Bank charges	115	-	-	115	113
Expenditure - restricted		861	-	861	6,630
	-	-	-	-	-
A3 Sub total	149,466	861	-	150,327	178,401
A4 Asset and investment purchases (see tables 1 and 2 in section 7 of the guidance)					
	9,903	-	-	9,903	3,677
	-	-	-	-	-
A4 Sub total	9,903	-	-	9,903	3,677
Total payments	159,369	861	-	160,230	182,078
Net of receipts/(payments)	16,099	- 861	-	15,238	9,451
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	86,804	861	-	87,665	78,214
Cash funds this year end	102,903	-	-	102,903	87,665

Mountsandel Christian Fellowship - 100058 Period end date 31.01.25

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £	Total funds to nearest £	Last year to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Current Account	102,903	-	-	102,903	87,665
		-	-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-	-
	Total cash funds	102,903	-	-	102,903	87,665
	nces with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK

	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £	Total funds to nearest £	Last year to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-	-
				Total		

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)	Last year
B3 Investment assets			-	-	-
			-	-	-
			-	-	-
			-	-	-
		Total			

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)	Last year
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use				-	-
				-	-
				-	-
				-	-
				-	-
				-	-
			Total		

	Details	Fund to which liability relates	When due (optional)	Amount due (optional)	Last year
B5 Liabilities				-	-
				-	-
				-	-
				-	-
			Total		

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
John Mark Mullan	JOHN MARK MULLAN	21.10.25

Mountsandel Christian Fellowship

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100058

Accounts

MOUNTSANDEL CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 JANUARY 2024

Charity Name	Charity No.	
Mountsandel Christian Fellowship	100058	

Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	01/02/2023	To	31/01/2024	
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Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Member donations	159,463	7,000	-	166,463	143,417
		-	-	-	
Gift Aid	24,817	-	-	24,817	24,900
Bank interest	249	-	-	249	221
	-	-	-	-	
A1 Sub total (Gross income for the Annual Return)	184,529	7,000	-	191,529	168,538
A2 Asset and investment sales (see tables 1 and 2 in section 7 of the guidance).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
A2 Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	184,529	7,000	-	191,529	168,538
A3 Payments					
Fellowship expenses	17,968	-	-	17,968	16,548
Fellowship outreach	67,690	-	-	67,690	56,388
MCF Charitable Trust	86,000	-	-	86,000	77,918
Bank charges	113	-	-	113	101
Expenditure - restricted	-	6,630	-	6,630	4,470
	-	-	-	-	-
A3 Sub total	171,771	6,630	-	178,401	155,425
A4 Asset and investment purchases (see tables 1 and 2 in section 7 of the guidance)					
	3,677	-	-	3,677	-
	-	-	-	-	-
A4 Sub total	3,677	-	-	3,677	-
Total payments	175,448	6,630	-	182,078	155,425
Net of receipts/(payments)	9,081	370	-	9,451	13,114
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	72,704	5,510	-	78,214	65,100
Cash funds this year end	81,785	5,880	-	87,665	78,214

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £	Total funds to nearest £	Last year to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Current Account	81,785	5,880	-	87,665	78,214
		-	-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-	-
	Total cash funds	81,785	5,880	-	87,665	78,214
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK
B2 Other monetary assets	Details	-	-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-	-
			Total			
B3 Investment assets	Details		Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)	Last year
				-	-	-
				-	-	-
				-	-	-
		Total		-	-	
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details		Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)	Last year
				-	-	-
				-	-	-
				-	-	-
				-	-	-
				-	-	-
			Total		-	-
B5 Liabilities	Details		Fund to which liability relates	When due (optional)	Amount due (optional)	Last year
				-	-	-
				-	-	-
				-	-	-
			Total		-	-
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature		Print Name		Date of approval	
					24.10.24	

Mountsandel Christian Fellowship

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100058

Annual report

MOUNTSANDEL CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP
TRUSTEES' REPORT
YEAR ENDING 31 JANUARY 2024

MOUNTSANDEL CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP (NI 100058)

TRUSTEES' REPORT YEAR ENDING 31 JANUARY 2024

PUBLIC BENEFIT

The Charitable purposes of Mountsandel Christian Fellowship from which public benefit is derived are:

- To glorify God and advance Christianity by bearing witness in word and action to the life and teachings of Jesus Christ and to the truths of Christianity as set out in the Holy Bible
- To advance education by teaching the precepts of the Bible, and of Christian doctrine, to people of all ages thus exemplifying the Biblical principle that that the 'church of the living God is a pillar and support of the truth'.
- To advance citizenship by inculcating Christian ethical behaviour in and among people of all ages.
- To respond to human need by relieving poverty.
- To promote reconciliation.
- To provide relief for those in need by reason of youth or financial disadvantage, whether in Coleraine, in Ireland or elsewhere throughout the world.

ANNUAL REVIEW 2023-24

SUNDAY MORNINGS

Numbers attending MCF on Sunday mornings have continued to grow, with about 200 adults now attending either regularly or semi-regularly. There are also a number of people who regularly watch the services online because they are unable to attend in person due to ill health. Sunday mornings in MCF provide a warm and welcoming environment where people can connect together, and includes musical worship, communion, prayer, an open sharing time, and teaching about the Bible and its relevance to everyday life. Three separate programmes (pre-school, primary, secondary) are provided for 70—80 children and young people, looked after by teams of volunteers.

NEWCOMERS

This year we have seen new people connecting with the church almost every week. These newcomers come from a wide variety of social and religious backgrounds - some have moved to MCF from other churches, some are new to the area, some have no church background, and some are returning to church after a period of disconnection.

During this year we welcomed 35 new people into membership of MCF.

MOUNTSANDEL CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

LEADERSHIP TEAM

We are committed to a team model of leadership, and currently have a diverse team of 12 people who share responsibility for planning and running the activities of the church. A smaller team of 5 elders carries the primary responsibility for the spiritual health of the church.

PASTORAL CARE

People within the church provide practical and emotional support for each other in a variety of ways. This often happens informally in the life of the church, and also through home groups and small groups. The elders and leaders of MCF are also available to provide pastoral support, especially at times of illness and bereavement. We also have a number of pastoral care teams which are available to provide various forms of help (meals, transport, visits, etc.).

At Christmas a team of volunteers delivered hampers to a variety of people who were struggling financially or emotionally, and also delivered “bags of blessing” to the homes around the Sandel Centre. In addition, in light of the current cost of living crisis, the church established a “hardship fund” which was able to provide financial help to families and individuals who were finding it difficult to pay the bills. We also distributed oil vouchers (donated by one of our members) to those struggling to heat their homes. All of these efforts have been warmly welcomed.

MISSION CO-ORDINATOR

Ricky Linton has continued in the role of Mission Coordinator. This role involves helping the church to be more effective in impacting the local neighbourhood and wider world with the love and message of Jesus. Ricky works closely with the Sandel Centre manager on ways of connecting the church to the local community and those who use the building every day

MOUNTSANDEL CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Jenny Bruce continued in the role of Youth Worker, coordinating our volunteer teams and organising a wide variety of youth activities. The following activities currently happen regularly:

- **ANIMATE:** This is a creative Sunday evening youth group which has now developed a strong identity, and attracts about 30 young people from both church and neighbourhood. The group helps young people develop personally, socially and spiritually, and also find ways to serve the local community in practical ways.
- **EXPLORE:** A discussion group on Tuesday afternoons for young people (aged 12-14) who want to explore Christian faith and ask questions in a safe environment.
- **YOUTH HOME GROUP:** This is a small group for older teenagers (aged 15-18) which meets weekly. They explore different aspects of Christian faith and also seek to support and encourage each other.
- **WEEKENDS & CAMPS:** A group of more than 18 young people attended an Animate weekend away in Portrush in November 2023, and a group of 16 young people from MCF attended the Summer Madness festival in Portglenone in June 2023.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

The Sandel Centre hosts a wide variety of activities provide vital connection and community for different groups within our local community. These include a table tennis club, an Art Club, "Young at Heart" and "Wednesday Get-Together" (for older people), Jolly Tots (for babies and toddlers and their parents/carers), and Friday Fun Club (for Primary age children). This year we also ran seasonal community events at Christmas and Easter, as well as a special community festival week (Sandelfest) in August.

COMMUNITY GARDEN

The community garden continues to be an important resource and connection point for people in the neighbourhood. There are weekly opportunities for people to come and help in the garden, as well as special events at different times during the year. These included a kids' gardening club, a "story-time" for toddlers, and several opportunities for groups of children from church to be in the garden to learn and participate. The community garden team have also been invited by a local Mental Health Team to share their experience and skills in helping to start a new garden for patients on the Castlerock Road- this project is now flourishing.

MOUNTSANDEL CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

HOME GROUPS & SMALL GROUPS

These groups provide a smaller context where people can get to know each other better, share honestly, and encourage and pray for each other. They are also the primary context in which people can receive and give pastoral care for each other. Most of our home groups returned to meeting in person during this year. We currently have 9 groups meeting regularly, each with 8-16 people attending. We also have a number of smaller groups of 3 or 4 which meet regularly for support and encouragement.

MEN & WOMEN

MCF also provides a number of activities focused on the needs of women in our community, including a one-to-one mentoring programme (Women Journeying Together) and occasional Saturday morning Bible teaching mornings. There are also a number of events focused on the needs of men, including a Thursday-evening football group, participation in events hosted by Rumble (a ministry for men), and connections with a local Men's Shed in the Heights area of Coleraine.

DIGGING DEEPER

This is now an established ministry, seeking to serve the community in the Heights area of Coleraine, by offering help with gardening. The goal is to provide practical help and also some friendship for people who are isolated. The project also involved people from several other churches. There are now 5 teams which take turns going out on Saturday mornings during spring and summer. The project has been warmly welcomed and has been a help and encouragement to many people.

MISSION LINKS

As a church we have a connection with a number of missionaries and mission projects, which we seek to support in a variety of ways, including prayer, financial gifts, and pastoral support and friendship. This year these have included a link with Carlos and Ana Freitas, working with European Christian Mission in their native Portugal; Rachel Robinson, a young woman from our church who has been serving with Wycliffe Bible Translators in Cameroon; a young church plant in the city of Vlore in Albania; and an ongoing link with the work of Fields of Life in Uganda. We have also been continuing to develop new friendships and links with mission partners closer to home - with Chris and Hannah Agnew (pioneer church planters in Portrush), with Sligo City Church, with Christ in Youth (working with young people in the Republic of Ireland), and with Acacia Path (working with asylum seekers in the north coast region).

MOUNTSANDEL CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

UGANDA TEAM

A team from MCF traveled to Uganda in July with Fields of Life. The team included teenagers and adults with a wide variety of skills, and worked in two schools on northern Uganda as well as the surrounding communities. They provided a children's club in the schools, practical help with building/renovations, mental health training, business training, and the "I am girl" project (focused on period-health and sexual health for girls).

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

This year we were able to provide financial support to both overseas and local charities and their workers with significant funds targeted to help provide for those in need. Indicative gifts.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Our financial support was drawn from the voluntary contributions of the membership of Mountsandel Christian Fellowship. MCF Charitable Trust were the largest beneficiaries of the Fellowship (£86,000). In return Mountsandel Christian Fellowship benefitted from the services of three staff members. The Fellowship also contributed £7,700 to Causeway Voluntary Action Trust who in return took responsibility for the maintenance and other running costs of the facilities used by the Fellowship. Reserves grew by £9,451 to £87,665..

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Mountsandel Christian Fellowship is a charity registered with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland on 12th March 2014. Its governing documents are its Trust Deed and Governing Articles.

The Fellowship principally run the activities described above at The Sandel Centre, 6 Knocklynn Road, Coleraine, County Londonderry, BT52 1WT.

The charity trustees consist of the persons who currently serve as elders of the Fellowship and each trustee must be someone who has confirmed their acceptance of the basic doctrines of the Christian faith as stated in Article 15 of the governing document.

In setting our objectives and planning our activities for the year the trustees have given careful consideration to the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland's guidance on public benefit to ensure that the activities have helped to achieve the charity's purposes and provide a benefit to the beneficiaries.

The trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks.

MOUNTSANDEL CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

The trustees who served during the year were:

Timothy Brown

Paul Martin

John-Mark Mullan

The two new trustees were added as follows:

Peter Howe (added September 2023)

Alan Hutton (added September 2023)

None of the trustees has any beneficial interest in Mountsandel Christian Fellowship.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees

J M Mullan

Trustee

13.11.2024

Date

Mountsandel Christian Fellowship

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100058

Annual return

MOUNTSANDEL CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP
INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT
ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 JANUARY 2024

**MOUNTSANDEL CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
TO THE TRUSTEES OF MOUNTSANDEL CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP**

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 January 2024.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 65 of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 (the 2008 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- (i) examine the accounts under section 65 of the 2008 Act;
- (ii) to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 65 of the 2008 Act; and
- (iii) to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the next statement.

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention giving me cause to believe:

1. That accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 63 of the Charities Act
2. That the accounts do not accord with those accounting records
3. That the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act.
4. That there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination and have no concerns in respect of the matters (1) to (4) listed above and, in connection with following the Directions of the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, I have found no matters that require drawing to your attention.

Signed: 

WR Crymble

Chartered Management Accountants, 3 Governors Gate Lane, Hillsborough, BT26 6FX

Charity Number: NIC100058

Mountsandel Christian Fellowship

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100058

Accounts

Mountsandel Christian Fellowship	100058	
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Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	01/02/2022	To	31/01/2023	
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Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Member donations	126,541	10,430	-	136,971	109,202
Offerings	6,446	-	-	6,446	713
Gift Aid	24,900	-	-	24,900	20,198
Bank interest	221	-	-	221	226
Miscellaneous		-	-	-	667
		-	-	-	
		-	-	-	
		-	-	-	
A1 Sub total (Gross income for the Annual Return)	158,108	10,430	-	168,538	131,005
A2 Asset and investment sales (see tables 1 and 2 in section 7 of the guidance).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
A2 Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	158,108	10,430	-	168,538	131,005
A3 Payments					
Fellowship expenses	16,352	-	-	16,352	6,501
Home mission	7,413	-	-	7,413	16,750
Overseas mission	40,661	-	-	40,661	39,777
Fellowship outreach	7,864	450	-	8,314	7,724
MCF Charitable Trust	77,917	-	-	77,917	56,141
Capital expenditure	196	-	-	196	394
Bank charges	101	-	-	101	89
Hardship expenditure		4,470	-	4,470	-
		-	-	-	-
A3 Sub total	150,505	4,920	-	155,425	127,376
A4 Asset and investment purchases (see tables 1 and 2 in section 7 of the guidance)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
A4 Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	150,505	4,920	-	155,425	127,376
Net of receipts/(payments)	7,604	5,510	-	13,114	3,629
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	65,100	-	-	65,100	61,471
Cash funds this year end	72,704	5,510	-	78,214	65,100

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £	Total funds to nearest £	Last year to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Current Account	72,704	5,510	-	78,214	65,100
		-	-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-	-
	Total cash funds	72,704	5,510	-	78,214	65,100
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £	Total funds to nearest £	Last year to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-	-
	Total	-	-	-	-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)	Last year
B3 Investment assets			-	-	-
			-	-	-
			-	-	-
	Total		-	-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)	Last year
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Audio Visual Equipment (purchased 2020)	Unrestricted	462	-	-
	Musicians Platform (purchased Jan 2015)	Unrestricted	382	-	-
	Hospitality Equipment (purchased Dec 2014)	Unrestricted	1,000	-	-
	Electric Piano & Stand (purchased Dec 2009)	Unrestricted	1,405	-	-
	Audio Visual Equipment (purchased 2017)	Unrestricted	1,197	-	-
	OHP & AV Equipment (purchased 19/07/18 & 26/11/18)	Unrestricted	1,927	-	-
	Audio Visual Equipment (purchased 25/01/2019)	Unrestricted	1,160	-	-
	Audio Visual Equipment (purchased 28/04/2019)	Unrestricted	303	-	-
Total		7,837	-	-	

Categories	Details	Fund to which liability relates	When due (optional)	Amount due (optional)	Last year
B5 Liabilities				-	-
				-	-
				-	-
				-	-
	Total			-	-

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature


Print Name
 TIM BROWN

Date of approval
 23-10-23

Mountsandel Christian Fellowship

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100058

Annual report

MOUNTSANDEL CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP (NI100058) TRUSTEES' REPORT YEAR ENDING 31ST JANUARY 2023

PUBLIC BENEFIT

The Charitable purposes of Mountsandel Christian Fellowship from which public benefit is derived are:

- To glorify God and advance Christianity by bearing witness in word and action to the life and teachings of Jesus Christ and to the truths of Christianity as set out in the Holy Bible
- To advance education by teaching the precepts of the Bible, and of Christian doctrine, to people of all ages thus exemplifying the Biblical principle that that the 'church of the living God is a pillar and support of the truth'.
- To advance citizenship by inculcating Christian ethical behaviour in and among people of all ages.
- To respond to human need by relieving poverty.
- To promote reconciliation.
- To provide relief for those in need by reason of youth or financial disadvantage, whether in Coleraine, in Ireland or elsewhere throughout the world.

ANNUAL REVIEW 2022-23

SUNDAY MORNINGS

Numbers attending MCF on Sunday mornings have continued to grow, with about 200 adults now attending either regularly or semi-regularly. There are also a number of people who regularly watch the services online because they are unable to attend in person due to ill health. Sunday mornings in MCF provide a warm and welcoming environment where people can connect together, and includes musical worship, communion, prayer, an open sharing time, and teaching about the Bible and its relevance to everyday life. Three separate programmes (pre-school, primary, secondary) are provided for 70—80 children and young people, looked after by teams of volunteers.

NEWCOMERS

This year we have seen new people connecting with the church almost every week. These newcomers come from a wide variety of social and religious backgrounds - some have moved to MCF from other churches, some are new to the area, some have no church background, and some are returning to church after a period of disconnection. We have seen

particular growth this year among young adults in their 20s. We recently hosted a newcomers' lunch for about 40 new people (having hosted a similar lunch with similar numbers a year ago).

LEADERSHIP TEAM

We are committed to a team model of leadership, and currently have a diverse team of 11 people who share responsibility for planning and running the activities of the church. A smaller team of 3 elders carries the primary responsibility for the spiritual health of the church - we hope to add to this eldership group in the coming months.

PASTORAL CARE

People within the church provide practical and emotional support for each other in a variety of ways. This often happens informally in the life of the church, and also through home groups and small groups. The elders and leaders of MCF are also available to provide pastoral support, especially at times of illness and bereavement. We also have a number of pastoral care teams which are available to provide various forms of help (meals, transport, visits, etc.).

At Christmas a team of volunteers delivered hampers to a variety of people who were struggling financially or emotionally, and also delivered "bags of blessing" to the homes around the Sandel Centre. In addition, in light of the current cost of living crisis, the church established a "hardship fund" which was able to provide financial help to families and individuals who were finding it difficult to pay the bills. We also distributed oil vouchers (donated by one of our members) to those struggling to heat their homes. All of these efforts have been warmly welcomed.

MISSION CO-ORDINATOR

Ricky Linton has continued in the role of Mission Coordinator. This role involves helping the church to be more effective in impacting the local neighbourhood and wider world with the love and message of Jesus. Ricky works closely with the Sandel Centre manager on ways of connecting the church to the local community and those who use the building every day. He also organised and led an Alpha Course in the autumn for people interested in exploring the basics of the Christian faith, as well as a week of events focused on mental health in January.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Jenny Bruce continued in the role of Youth Worker, coordinating our volunteer teams and organising a wide variety of youth activities. The following activities currently happen regularly:

- **ANIMATE:** This is a creative Sunday evening youth group which has now developed a strong identity, and attracts about 30 young people from both church and neighbourhood. The group helps young people develop personally, socially and spiritually, and also find ways to serve the local community in practical ways.
- **EXPLORE:** A discussion group on Tuesday afternoons for young people (aged 12-14) who want to explore Christian faith and ask questions in a safe environment.
- **YOUTH HOME GROUP:** This is a small group for older teenagers (aged 15-18) which meets weekly. They explore different aspects of Christian faith and also seek to support and encourage each other.
- **WEEKENDS & CAMPS:** A group of more than 20 young people attended an Animate weekend away in Ballintoy in November 2022, and a group of 12 young people from MCF attended the Summer Madness festival in Portglenone in June 2022.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

The Sandel Centre hosts a wide variety of activities provide vital connection and community for different groups within our local community. These include a table tennis club, an Art Club, “Young at Heart” and “Wednesday Get-Together” (for older people), Jolly Tots (for babies and toddlers and their parents/carers), and Friday Fun Club (for Primary age children). This year we also ran seasonal community events at Christmas and Easter, as well as a special community festival week (Sandelfest) in August.

COMMUNITY GARDEN

The community garden continues to be an important resource and connection point for people in the neighbourhood. There are weekly opportunities for people to come and help in the garden, as well as special events at different times during the year. These included a kids’ gardening club, a “story-time” for toddlers, and several opportunities for groups of children from church to be in the garden to learn and participate. The community garden team have also been invited by a local Mental Health Team to share their experience and skills in helping to start a new garden for patients on the Castlerock Road- this project is now flourishing.

HOME GROUPS & SMALL GROUPS

These groups provide a smaller context where people can get to know each other better, share honestly, and encourage and pray for each other. They are also the primary context in which people can receive and give pastoral care for each other. Most of our home groups returned to meeting in person during this year. We currently have 8 groups meeting regularly, each with 8-16 people attending. We also have a number of smaller groups of 4 which meet regularly for support and encouragement. Our Home Groups Coordinator hopes to start 2 new groups later this year.

MEN & WOMEN

MCF also provides a number of activities focused on the needs of women in our community, including a one-to-one mentoring programme (Women Journeying Together) and occasional Saturday morning Bible teaching mornings. There are also a number of events focused on the needs of men, including a Thursday-evening football group, participation in events hosted by Rumble (a ministry for men), and connections with a local Men's Shed in the Heights area of Coleraine.

DIGGING DEEPER

This is now an established ministry, seeking to serve the community in the Heights area of Coleraine, by offering help with gardening. The goal is to provide practical help and also some friendship for people who are isolated. The project also involved people from several other churches. There are now 5 teams which take turns going out on Saturday mornings during spring and summer. The project has been warmly welcomed and has been a help and encouragement to many people.

MISSION LINKS

As a church we have a connection with a number of missionaries and mission projects, which we seek to support in a variety of ways, including prayer, financial gifts, and pastoral support and friendship. This year these have included a link with Carlos and Ana Freitas, working with European Christian Mission in their native Portugal; Rachel Robinson, a young woman from our church who has been serving with Wycliffe Bible Translators in Cameroon; Dave Moore, a young man working with pilgrims on the Camino de Santiago; and a young church plant in the city of Vlore in Albania. We have also been exploring new friendships and links with mission partners closer to home - with Chris and Hannah Agnew (pioneer church planters in Portrush), with Sligo City Church, and with Christ in Youth (working with young people in the Republic of Ireland).

UGANDA TEAM

During the last number of months, preparations have been made for a team from MCF to travel to Uganda in July with Fields of Life. The team of 20 includes teenagers and adults with a wide variety of skills, and will be working in two schools on northern Uganda as well as the surrounding communities. They will provide a children's club in the schools, practical help with building/renovations, mental health training, business training, and the "I am girl" project (focused on period-health and sexual health for girls).

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

This year we were able to provide financial support to both overseas and local charities and their workers with significant funds targeted to help provide for those in need. Indicative gifts are:

- Innovista (£12,861) who work to identify, equip and develop leaders to change their communities with the hope of Jesus. The funding this year was given to help provide humanitarian relief in Ukraine.
- GLO Europe (£10,500) who grow mission focused churches in Europe by working with existing churches and helping to establish new church-plants using a team ethos. Funds were directed this year to help a church building project in Vlore, Albania.
- Vineyard Compassion (£3,200), who provide people with emotional, practical and financial support at their crisis points of need, while also empowering them to tackle the underlying root causes of poverty. Funds were given to support their food bank.
- Special Support (£5,170), used to provide financial help to families and individuals who were finding it difficult to pay bills
- Sat-7 (£5,000), which aims to provide the churches and Christians of the Middle East and North Africa an opportunity to witness to Jesus Christ through inspirational, informative, and educational television services.
- Open Doors (£5,000) who work in over 60 countries, supplying bibles, train church leaders, providing practical support and emergency relief, and support Christians who suffer for their faith.
- European Christian Mission (£2,200), supporting church planting in Coimbra, Portugal.
- Christian Unions Ireland (£1,200), who aim to inspire and equip students to become passionate followers of Jesus by nurturing the growth of Christian Unions on campus.
- Tear Fund (£1,200) who are working in over 50 countries to alleviate severe poverty.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Our financial support was drawn from the voluntary contributions of the membership of Mountsandel Christian Fellowship. MCF Charitable Trust were the largest beneficiaries of the Fellowship (£77,917). In return Mountsandel Christian Fellowship benefitted from the services of three staff members. The Fellowship also contributed £10,300 to Causeway Voluntary Action Trust who in return took responsibility for the maintenance and other running costs of the facilities used by the Fellowship. Overall expenditure increased by £28,049 (22%) this year and revenue increased by £27,102 (21%). Reserves grew by £2,684 (4%) to £67,784.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Mountsandel Christian Fellowship is a charity registered with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland on 12th March 2014. Its governing documents are its Trust Deed and Governing Articles.

The Fellowship principally run the activities described above at The Sandel Centre, 6 Knocklynn Road, Coleraine, County Londonderry, BT52 1WT.

The charity trustees consist of the persons who currently serve as elders of the Fellowship and each trustee must be someone who has confirmed their acceptance of the basic doctrines of the Christian faith as stated in Article 15 of the governing document.

In setting our objectives and planning our activities for the year the trustees have given careful consideration to the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland's guidance on public benefit to ensure that the activities have helped to achieve the charity's purposes and provide a benefit to the beneficiaries.

The trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks.

The trustees who served during the year were:

Timothy Brown

William Robinson*

Paul Martin*

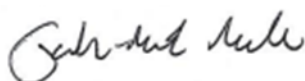
Arthur Williamson*

John-Mark Mullan

*Three of the Trustees were also Trustees of MCF Charitable Trust during 2022-23. William Robinson and Arthur Williamson resigned as trustees of MCF during the course of the year. None of the trustees has any beneficial interest in Mountsandel Christian Fellowship.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees

Trustee



Date

31/8/23

Mountsandel Christian Fellowship

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100058

Annual return

MOUNTSANDEL CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP
INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT
ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 JANUARY 2023

**MOUNTSANDEL CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
TO THE TRUSTEES OF MOUNTSANDEL CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP**

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 January 2023.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 65 of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 (the 2008 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- (i) examine the accounts under section 65 of the 2008 Act;
- (ii) to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 65 of the 2008 Act; and
- (iii) to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the next statement.

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention giving me cause to believe:

1. That accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 63 of the Charities Act
2. That the accounts do not accord with those accounting records
3. That the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act.
4. That there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination and have no concerns in respect of the matters (1) to (4) listed above and, in connection with following the Directions of the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, I have found no matters that require drawing to your attention.

Signed: 

WR Crymble

Chartered Management Accountants, 47 Coleraine Road, Ballymoney, BT53 6BS

Charity Number: NIC10058