

Charity number: **1051796**

CHRISTIAN LIFE FELLOWSHIPS

TRUSTEES' REPORT & FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended
31st DECEMBER 2023

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LEGAL & ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

The following information is accurate as of 31 December 2023:

Charity Name:	Christian Life Fellowships	
Charity Number:	1051796	
Church Name:	PCF Church (Poynton Christian Fellowship), Poynton, Cheshire	
Charity Web Site:	www.pcfpoynton.com	
Financial year commencing:	1 st January 2023	
Financial year ending:	31 st December 2023	
Address:	307 Park Lane Poynton, Stockport, Cheshire SK12 1RJ	
Charity Trustees:	Wayne Wilson (Chairman) Andrew Allan (Treasurer) Richard Sheldon Dr Maggie Clifford	Simon Frank (Secretary) Debbie Longden Helen Jackson-Roberts
Church Council:	The Charity Trustees, Staff Ministers and Senior Leadership Team	
Property Holding Trustees:	Assemblies of God Property Trust	
Auditor:	Spencer Accounting Services 65 Arnfield Road, Withington Manchester M20 4AG	
Bankers:	Barclays Bank Kingdom Bank Hampshire Bank Green Pastures CBS	
Solicitors:	Geldards LLP (formerly Robinsons), 3 Mundy, HEANOR, Derbyshire, DE7 7EB	

The Trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements for the twelve months ending 31st December 2023. The Trustees who served during the Year and up to the date of this report are set out on page 3.

The Charity carries out its activities under the banner of **PCF Church** (Poynton Christian Fellowship).

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The Trust is an unincorporated Charitable Trust, set up by a deed dated 20th October 1993. A new constitution was adopted on 12th April 2007 and is the current version.

The Church Council

The Church Council is our senior decision-making body, comprising Ministers, Senior Leaders and Charity Trustees. An Annual General Meeting of the members of the church is held to receive reports and accounts.

Leadership Team

Wayne Wilson is the Senior Pastor and leads the church together with his Associate Pastor and wife, Clare Wilson.

They are supported by Josh Bull (Youth Pastor), Andrew Allan (Retired Minister – Finance Team), Leoni Gould (Worship Pastor) and our Senior Leadership Team, as well as our Charity Trustees. We are delighted to welcome Rhoda Henderson onto Team as Kids/Family Worker from Sept 2023.

Recruitment and Appointment of Trustees

In line with the Constitution, the existing Trustees are responsible for identifying and recruiting new Trustees. In so doing, consideration is given to respected members who attend regularly, who have the competencies for the role, the ability to contribute to the “*Team*” ethos and meet other established criteria.

New Trustees serve a probationary period of at least a year, which allows due consideration of a person’s suitability, competence, and specialist knowledge and skills. Annually the Senior Pastor discusses with existing Trustees the possibility of serving the Church in the role of Trustee for an additional year.

Connected Organisations

Although we are an autonomous local church, we belong to the Assemblies of God (AoG) movement and look to AoG for support, doctrinal oversight, ministerial accreditation, and national identity.

We are also members of Churches Together in Poynton and The Evangelical Alliance.

Risk management

The Charity Trustees consider the major risks to which the Charity is exposed and look to establish procedures to minimise and manage such risks. Church charity policies are regularly reviewed to ensure fit for purpose and to align with current Government & Charity Commission guidance.

Donations Policy

We aim to help other charities with similar aims, who are known to us and who have proved trustworthy in distributing monies where most needed, with minimal deductions for administration.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES OF THE CHARITY

The objects of the Charity are set out in the 2007 Constitution, which adopted the Model Deed for local Assemblies of God Churches. It states that: the objectives of the Church are for the benefit of the public:

- a) *To advance the Christian faith in accordance with the Statement of Faith in such ways and in such parts of the UK or the world as the Church Council sees fit.*
- b) *To relieve sickness and financial hardship and to promote and preserve good health by the provision of funds, goods or services of any kind through the provision of counselling and support in such parts of the UK or the world as the Church Council from time to time sees fit.*
- c) *To advance education in such ways and in such parts of the UK or the World as the Church Council from time to time may think fit.*

From this, the purpose of **PCF Church** is to provide a Pentecostal expression of the Christian faith, to make a difference in our community for good. We strive to **multiply** in all aspects of Christian faith as our people **connect** with one another, with the local community and with God, and as we **grow** in God, and **show** our faith in practical and spiritual ways.

Our facilities provide foremostly a facility where Christians can worship, and additionally a community facility that the people of Poynton and the surrounding areas can enjoy.

Within these purposes, the Trustees are mindful of The Charity Commission's guidance on the advancement of religion for the public benefit.

PUBLIC BENEFIT

As a church, we conduct a wide range of activities in pursuance of our charitable aims. We feel these activities provide benefit both to those who worship with us and to the wider community.

AS A CHURCH, WE OFFER:

Bible Teaching and Exposition

Bible teaching is a fundamental of the Christian faith and is especially important to us and forms one of the spiritual pillars of our church. Most of our services incorporate bible teaching in some form including teaching for the wider church, appropriate teaching for children and fun interactive bible studies for young adults.

Worship and Prayer

A second spiritual pillar in our church in that of Worship and Prayer. Vibrant contemporary worship is included in all our Sunday services, with music, worship, and prayer for all ages.

Special Events

We provided a wide range of services and events which our people and our community find beneficial and spiritually fulfilling including regular Sunday morning services, prayer meetings, music, and worship nights. No Christian calendar will be complete without special services for Easter and Christmas.

Baptism and Baby Dedication

These services are always well attended by family and friends as we celebrate congregation members following in obedience to biblical teachings on baptism, and as parents ask for God's blessing on their children and commit themselves to bring up their children wisely.

Weddings

Communities always need weddings, and our venue and facilities are well utilised to this end. To help young couples make the most of their marriage, we run marriage preparation courses, which gives a firm foundation for a lifelong relationship for those who are planning marriage.

Online Services

All our main services are streamed online providing a vital link to the church community. Having an online presence enables us to engage with the isolated, sick, vulnerable, and lonely.

TO THE WIDER COMMUNITY, WE OFFER:

Funeral Services

We serve our community by providing a full Christian funeral service, either at the church or elsewhere. We serve our members, their direct relatives, and the local community known by us.

Pastoral Care

Our Pastoral Team support our members that are in need with home and hospital visits where necessary. Our Connect Group Leaders take a lead in looking after their small groups and encourage members to look out for their neighbours and seek to home-visit those in need, particularly the sick, housebound, and isolated.

Children

As well as our regular Sunday Children's ministry under the banner of "*Lions*" (4-10yrs), we run several open services for families, young adults and children keeping our ethos of a multi-generational church alive. Special events include birthday parties, Easter, Christmas and the Light Party - which gave local families an attractive alternative to Halloween.

For the under 4 years of age, our crèche facility also hosts "*Little Feet*", for babies, toddlers and their parents in a safe and friendly environment.

Young Adults

We provide a range of events for young people in our community, including midweek groups, youth clubs, youth camps, bible studies, as well as a conference specially designed for young people. One of our aims is to teach "*life principles*" which will stand them in good stead for their futures, with many of our young adults are increasingly involved in volunteer work as part of the life and witness of the church in our community.

Ladies Groups

Ladies groups meet both electronically via social media platforms and also in-person in small groups. Regular events are held where women can get together and including meeting on ZOOM, local cafe and reaching and helping isolated people.

Men Gatherings

Men's groups are also meeting both electronically via social media platforms and in-person. Regular activities where friends & neighbours can get together and relate include walks, breakfasts, exercise programmes and meeting up to watch your favourite team play.

Building Facilities

Our facilities continue to be used by several community groups with more and more health, dance and exercise groups meeting weekly for both young and old alike.

Training & Education

We continue to run courses open to all, on important subjects like Mental Health Awareness, First Aid, Safeguarding, Bereavement and even Food Hygiene. Many of these courses are now online and are now even more accessible.

INFLUENCING OUR COMMUNITIES FOR GOOD:

Foodbanks

In addition to individuals and families we help directly, we have again partnered with (and supported practically and financially) local food banks and local charities that feed families in emergencies, provide food for needy children, which has enabled us to continue to help local families in need.

Community Service

Members of our church are encouraged to get involved practically in community projects and also service in their local councils. Our members support a wide range of charities that support community transport, orphanages, financially 'adopt' a third world child or take an isolated elderly neighbour their weekly groceries but to name a few.

High Schools

Our Youth Pastor works closely with the other local churches to support our local schools providing pastoral care for troubled pupils, youth courses and contribute to some of their learning outcomes such as "Life and Beyond" subjects.

Older People

For the seniors, we provide Small Groups, fellowship, and home visiting. We also provide bereavement care packs to support those who have suffered loss and in desperate need of love and care.

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

The Trustees are delighted to report on many positive outcomes for *PCF church* during the period under review.

WITHIN OUR COMMUNITY:

Online Church Services

As part of maintaining a healthy balance of attending church services, we continue to livestream all main services specifically aimed for those who are not able to attend due to health, distance and/or other personal reasons. Additionally, our online streaming service allows us to stream weddings, and funerals as we support the isolated, vulnerable, and lonely.

Pastoral Care & Community Response Team

To better support people in our church community, members are divided up into Connect Groups under the care of a Connect Group Leader. Our Connect group leaders continue to provide pastoral care offering practical support, visitation to the sick or isolated and oversee food deliveries, offering help wherever a need is identified.

Our response teams continued to provide care and support for those impacted by the economic pressure and for those in desperate need, debt, or missing basic essentials.

Handforth Church Plant

In May 2023 we expanded the church activities into the Handforth area. This community has several deprived areas with many needy families. The local churches in the area do not have capacity for children and youth work. By partnering with these churches and local charities, we aim to provide hope and love to a community in need.

Handforth Sunday evening services were started, and we were pleased to welcome new families soon after starting. To reach the community, we partnered with an amazing local charity – Hope Central – that provides support to the local community with foodbanks, debt management, substance abuse and job seeking support.

Hockley Centre Facilities

Various different dance / exercise / fitness small businesses use the Hockley Centre on a weekly basis with more than 500 people passing through the doors each week.

These small businesses are still impacted by the economic pressure the community face and have experienced a reduction in class attendance specifically in the aftermath of the covid pandemic.

To help these businesses, we have been able to:

- Provide a flexible booking system with friendly supportive administrators, and,
- keep the room hire costs at a minimum, well below the huge rise in energy costs.

Poynton Arts Festival

The Hockley Centre provided a venue at no cost to eight local artists. By providing the venue, arranging the booking system, PA & lighting equipment, with a complimentary café and art display, we were able to support these artists, and provide a loving and safe environment for the Arts Festival and local community.

Youth Events

The youth team continued to support the local community with youth related conferences, youth away weekends, and community outreach while partnering with other local churches in the area.

Poynton Youth Outreach Week

In partnership with the other local churches, Youth Leaders from three different churches partnered with *The Message Trust Evangelism School* Students connecting with local young people on the streets over the summer holidays through detached youth work. There was volleyball, football & cricket, PLUS our “LET’S TALK TENT” where young people were able to explore faith and interact with trained youth workers.

OVERSEAS COMMUNITY:

Our policy is to partner with other organisations where they/we can make a difference. Our giving helps in many ways, for example: international disaster relief, Bibles for deprived areas, and support for displaced refugees to name a few.

Local Communities

We supported underprivileged and orphaned children in India & Uganda.

International disaster relief

We supported the Turkey earthquake Appeal in February 2023, again later in the year we supported Morocco earthquake that caused widespread destruction, and Libya in September when catastrophic flooding resulted in loss of thousands of lives.

SIGNIFICANT DONATIONS:

In addition to supporting our church members and their families when required, our policy is to form partnerships with other local and international organisations where we can make a difference.

Food Banks

We continued to support our local Stockport food bank charity to provide food to families and children that go without. In the current economic climate, this charity has been inundated with requires for help.

We also partnered with Hope Central in Handforth. They understand that there are many, often complex, reasons why people end up in poverty including loss of employment, bereavement, illness, benefit issues, relationship breakdown and addictions, and Hope Central support these individuals and families out of the dire situations.

Local & International Organisations

We were able to support AoG Missions where missionaries are on the ground in dangerous countries providing love and support to families in desperate need of spiritual and practical help.

We also supported international ministries that make a difference in our world with biblical training and guidance, such as Dr John Andrew, and 24/7 Youth Prayer under the leadership of Josh Green.

FINANCIAL

On the financial side, our regular monthly income remains stable and consistent over the review period. Our members are faithful and very reliable, and we are thankful for their help and support and generous financial contributions.

The Trustees are very grateful to the Treasury Team for all the effort and over and above approach to supporting the Church Charity, in particular Pauline Hague, Mike Hughes and Andrew Allan.

FUTURE PLANS

The Church Charity seeks to continue to develop our work in the life of our church and the wider community, and to that end, we are looking at the structures and staffing needed to achieve this. Looking to the future, we need to provide facilities for the new church plant in Handforth and its associated community projects.

We continue to expand our reach and impact lives for the good, as we pursue our charitable objectives.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Funding sources & donations

The vast bulk of our income continues to be the "giving" by our members for which we are grateful. We also have some hire income from the Hockley Centre, and the rental income from the flats at 311 Park Lane.

Reserves Policy

As stated in our Accounts, any surplus we make goes to help us to build and maintain a sensible level of reserves, as per the Charity Commission guidelines for the "prudent charity". Thereafter funds are being held for planned expenditure, church multiplication and ongoing essential maintenance with the possibility of new premises at some stage.

Our current building has served us well, but the main building is now over 170 years old, so we seek to maintain a balance between keeping our premises in good order while looking also to the future.

Investments

Our four-part investment strategy continues to be:

- 1) Immediate Access funds - in the current account.
- 2) Short Term funds - in a 35 Day access account (for projects etc)
- 3) Medium Term funds – in a reserve account with 90-day access
- 4) Long Term funds – in an investment account with a one-year access

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the annual report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and the United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

Law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of Charity's financial activities during the year and of its financial position at the end of the year.

In preparing Financial Statements giving a true and fair view, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and which enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Acts.

They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by Trustees



Wayne Wilson

Chairman of Trustees

10/07/2024

Date

Notes:

The simplified **Receipts & Payments Statement** and **Net Worth Statement** for the year ending **31st December 2023** are simplified statements to demonstrate cash flow and balance sheet entries from the provisional accounts, before being adjusted for Assets Additions, Depreciation, Assets Disposals etc. This data is applied after the relevant calculations by our Accountants.

SIMPLIFIED NET WORTH STATEMENT**Notes**

ASSETS	31/12/2022	notes	31/12/2023	
Property & Equipment	£		£	
307 Park Lane	669,798	a,b	686,746	a) These values reflect depreciation, asset disposals etc.
311 Park Lane	278,273	a,b	278,273	b) Our buildings are having a full revaluation in Summer 2023.
	<u>948,071</u>		<u>965,019</u>	c) We have set aside this account for HCF
Cash & Current Bank Accounts				d) This is the deposit new tenants at 311 make, which is to be returned at the end of the lease if all is in order.
Cash	230		215	e) Barclays
CLF & PCF current accounts	27,579		29,460	1. Account no longer used - being run down
CLF Charity Account - HCF	0	c	9,751	2. "Restricted Funds" - donations for a given purpose .
Deposit Protection Service	475	d	475	3. Account no longer used - being run down
Barclays Bank "Temporary"	2,002	e.1	1	f) "Charity Reserve" - our aim is to have a minimum reserve of 6 months running costs, as per the Charity Commission guidelines for the prudent Charity.
Barclays Bank "Restricted Funds"	40	e.3	1	g) Immediate Access account for emergency funds and planned expenditure.
Barclays Bank "Allocated"	10,000	e.3	0	h) Building Fund - we recognise we will not be in our premises for ever, so we have started longer-term investment accounts to help us move when the time is right.
	<u>40,326</u>		<u>39,903</u>	i) A socially responsible investment for us, in this established Christian Social Enterprise which houses the homeless
Investment Accounts		f		j) The Credit Card statement for December is paid in January.
Barclays Bank "Projects"	25,063	g	25,301	k) No Trustee claimed expenses for Trustees meetings.
Redwood Bank 35 day notice a/c	83,044	f	85,404	l) Employees - at the year-end, the Charity had 2 full-time and 6 part-time employees.
Kingdom Bank Church Reserve	82,445	g	84,434	
Hampshire Trust Bank 1 year bond	80,841	h	83,870	
Green Pastures 2 year loan stock	51,500	i	53,045	
	<u>322,893</u>		<u>332,054</u>	
TOTAL ASSETS	£ 1,311,290		£ 1,336,976	Important Note - these are simplified accounts in draft form. The full version is being finalised with the Auditor & will be filed with The Charity Commission & displayed online shortly.
LIABILITIES				
Credit Card expense & fee accruals	897	j	1,680	
TOTAL LIABILITIES	897		1,680	
NET ASSETS	<u>£1,310,393</u>		<u>£1,335,296</u>	

SIMPLIFIED RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS STATEMENT

<u>RECEIPTS</u>	2022	2023	note
Church Giving	£	£	
Standing Orders	106,187	114,148	
Offerings etc	63,005	61,928	
	169,192	176,076	
Misc. Income			
Rental Income 311	14,400	13,885	
Rental Income Hockley Centre	22,798	24,860	
	37,198	38,745	
Other Income			
Tax Reclaim	47,735	32,680	a
Bank Interest	2,217	9,270	b
Misc. donations, misc & exceptional	6,753	5,364	
	56,705	47,314	
Special Offerings	33,105	35,028	
TOTAL RECEIPTS	£ 296,200	£ 297,163	a

<u>PAYMENTS</u>	2022	2023	
Building 307-9 Park Lane	£	£	
Utilities, Insurance etc.	12,535	20,572	c
Repairs, Renovations & Improvements	6,219	6,236	
Cleaning & consumables	686	1,014	
Equipment, fixtures & fittings	3,436	8,007	d
	22,876	35,829	
Building 311 Park Lane			
Utilities	0	35	
Professional fees	686	828	
Maintenance, refurbishment & misc.	3,865	6,814	e
	4,551	7,677	

	2022	2023	note
Church Family			
Audio, Video and Music	455	580	
Childrens Church	16	664	
Youth Work	739	2,355	f
Pastoral, Events, meetings etc.	4,735	4,060	
Church family training	1,400	3,509	g
	7,345	11,168	
Church Running Costs			
Professional and Bank Fees	2,491	7,419	h
Office expenses & Equipment	1,887	2,625	
Subscriptions and fees	4,345	5,480	
	8,723	15,524	
Mission & Ministries			i
Events, Mission, Visiting Ministries etc	6,453	8,279	
Mission & Ministry Gifts	22,200	16,226	
Benevolent / Charitable Gifts, Min Support etc	766	26,749	
Assemblies of God (contributions)	7,200	7,200	
	36,619	58,454	
Staff Costs			
Remuneration, Pension, NI etc	172,110	161,165	
Ministry Expenses, Travel & Training	5,124	1,190	j
	177,234	162,355	
TOTAL PAYMENTS	£ 257,348	£ 291,007	

SURPLUS/DEFICIT	£ 38,852	£ 6,156	k
Asset Additions, Depreciation, Disposals etc will reduce these figures			

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2023

These are very simple cash flow and balance sheet statements from the provisional accounts, before we have adjusted them for Assets Additions, Depreciation, Assets Disposals etc. These data are applied after the relevant calculations by our Accountants.

The following notes provide additional information on some of the larger movements in the Receipts & Payments Account:

- a) Income - our figures were distorted by delayed 2021 HMRC payments actually received in 2022, which affects the year-on-year comparison. Church Giving was steady despite the economic downturn and our changing congregation.
- b) Bank Interest rose, reflecting higher interest rates.
- c) Utilities – up significantly reflecting increased energy costs across the UK
- d) Equipment, Fixtures & Fittings – the major items here included an Apple mac at PCF, Roland keyboard at HCF, and new heating control units and locks at PCF.
- e) 311 Maintenance – this year included some new windows upstairs.
- f) Youth Work – includes major activities e.g. Youth Getaway and Limitless
- g) Church Family Training – includes Ministerial Training, RightNow Media, First Aid and Safeguarding courses.
- h) Professional & Bank Fees – includes Accountant's fees, support with finances etc
- i) Mission & Ministries – the mix within this Category varies each year, and this year our focus was setting up and running HCF. Also, we have moved Honoraria to the Ministry Support category to separate from staff costs. Overall, we are delighted to have maintained our target of 10% of Church Giving
- j) Staff Costs – Ministry Support in 2022 included 2 years Conference expenses for the AoG Conference.
- k) Surplus/deficit – these are simple accounts. We will be calculating Asset Additions, Depreciation, Disposals etc which will affect these figures significantly