

CONNECT MINISTRIES

REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS (INCORPORATING TRUSTEES' REPORT)

The Directors (who are also the trustees) are pleased to present their annual report together with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31st August 2023, which are prepared to meet the requirements for a directors' report and accounts for Companies Act purposes. The directors have adopted the provisions of the Companies Act 2006 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (Charities SORP – FRS102), in preparing the annual report and financial statements of the charity.

Achievements and performance

Connect Ministries is a Christian charity with a desire to bring community transformation - one life at a time - by connecting people from the place of their current reality to a God-first, Jesus-centred, purpose-driven life.

The Charity endeavours to bring transformation by two approaches: directly by face-to-face beneficiary interactions; and also, indirectly by supporting the civil and social authorities within the community.

The Charity runs and oversees social action projects across a number of communities within a 20-mile radius of its registered office. Those social action projects include, but are not limited to, Street reach, Ballymena Foodbank serving circa 2,555 people in 2023 (last year 2,000), we successfully recruited a dedicated Foodbank Project Manager, and we also have Baby Essentials. We run Kids Reach, Sonshine Week community outreach programme in July where 100 church volunteers dedicated their time. We have a flourishing Dream Café, Furniture ministry, Community clean up and power washing.

In the reporting period, countless volunteers invested many more than 8,500 hours throughout the year, supporting a connection to frontline governmental and non-governmental organisations. The support provided ranges from befriending to emergency provisions in response to crises, from kids' clubs to drop in cafe providing hot meals free of charge to circa 75 people each week, to practical help and support bringing environmental improvement.

Our volunteer and staff investment resulted in supporting individuals' journeys through alcohol, drug rehabilitation, and engaging 6 people on probation, instilling hope into those without any, creating opportunity for people to find structure and purpose as well as meeting the immediate needs of individuals and communities to alleviate poverty and improve social welfare.

Connect also had the privilege of leading 25 people into a new faith in Jesus.

In 2023, we continued to be fully focused on responding to emergency provision of food, baby essentials and hygiene items to our local community through Ballymena Foodbank. Our staff team was arranged to help manage this and we engaged volunteers who delivered these supplies to the homes of those who were in most need.

Financial review and funds policy

During the year the Charity had total income of £101,753 and total expenditure of £108,039 resulting in a net deficit of £6,286. The net deficit for the year as shown in the statement of financial activities on page 7 has been transferred to the company's funds and has resulted in a decrease in total Charity funds from £53,029 to £46,743. Details of the financial position of the Charity at the year-end can be seen on page 8.

At the end of the year the Charity had £15,314 cash at bank. It is the aim of the Trustees, if possible, to maintain an unrestricted cash reserve equivalent to that of two months expenditure.

The company plans to continue its activities in the forthcoming years.

CONNECT MINISTRIES

REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS (*continued*)

Objectives and Activities (and how they deliver public benefit)

Purpose 1

Purpose:	To promote the benefit of the inhabitants of Northern Ireland (hereinafter called 'the area of benefit') without distinction of sex, sexual orientation, race or of political, religious or other opinion by associating together the said inhabitants and the local authorities voluntary and other organisations in a common effort to relieve poverty and to provide facilities in the interests of social welfare for the recreation and leisure time occupation with the object of improving the conditions of life of said inhabitants.
Beneficiaries:	Open to all of the public in Northern Ireland.
How they benefit:	The provision of facilities for public use. Through the provision of clothing or food. The adoption of a moral framework which encourages people to be good citizens.
How the benefits can be demonstrated:	Promotional materials. Improved behavior. Improvement in social, emotional and physical wellbeing of participants. Improvement in a person or group's person and/or financial circumstances.

Purpose 2

Purpose:	To advance the Christian religion.
Beneficiaries:	Open to all of the public in Northern Ireland.
How they benefit:	Access to public worship. Access to religious publications including sacred texts and literature.
How the benefits can be demonstrated:	Improved behaviour as a result of being involved in a public act of worship.

Activities

The Charity's main activities are as follows:

- To communicate, witness and implement the Gospel of Jesus Christ by means of example and the spoken and written word.
- To draw, make, accept, endorse, discount, execute and issue promissory notes, bills, cheques and other instruments, and to operate bank accounts in the name of the Company.
- To raise funds and to invite and receive contributions; provided that in raising funds the Company shall not undertake any permanent trading activities and shall conform to any relevant statutory regulations.
- To promote the formation and/or incorporation of or to otherwise acquire and fund from monies held by the Company as are not immediately required in discharge of the Company's other Objects either by the means of equity or debt such wholly owned non-charitable trading subsidiaries as the Company considers appropriate from time to time.
- To acquire, alter, improve and (subject to such consents as may be required by law) to charge or otherwise dispose of property.

Volunteers

The Trustees wish to acknowledge their deep appreciation of those who give freely of their time by serving on committees and helping with organisations and other ministry activities.

CONNECT MINISTRIES

REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS *(continued)*

Objectives and Activities (and how they deliver public benefit) *(continued)*

- To employ such staff, who shall not be directors of the Company, as are necessary for the proper pursuit of the Objects and to make all reasonable and necessary provision for the payment of pensions and superannuation to staff and their dependents.
- To establish or support any charitable trusts, associations or institutions formed for all or any of the Objects.
- To establish or secure the establishment of a Centre and to maintain and manage the same (whether alone or in co-operation with any local authority or other person or body) in furtherance of these Objects.
- To co-operate with other charities, voluntary bodies and statutory authorities operating in furtherance of the Objects or similar charitable purposes and to exchange information and advice with them.
- To pay out of the funds of the Company the costs, charges and expenses of and incidental to the formation and registration of the Company.

Reference and administrative details

Registered charity name:	Connect Ministries
Charity Commission registration number:	NIC101360
HMRC charity reference:	XR22389
Company registration number:	NI033172
Principle office and registered office:	C/O Green Pastures, The People's Church 1 Faith Avenue The Gateway Ballymena County Antrim BT42 3FF

Directors and Trustees of the Company

The directors who held office during the year, and in the period since 31st August 2023 to the date of these accounts were approved, were as follows:

Mr. Robert Kingston
Mrs. Sara Stephens
Mr William Wilson
Mr. Jeffrey Wright

Structure, governance and management

The Company is a charity limited by guarantee without share capital.

The Company is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association dated 30th October 1997. In the event of the Company being wound up members are required to contribute an amount not exceeding £10. The Board is responsible for the overall governance of the Company with the day-to-day management delegated to responsible individuals.

Directors are appointed in line with the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the company.

The Board of Directors are also known as Trustees for the purposes of the Charity Commission.

The Trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's Public Benefit requirement.

CONNECT MINISTRIES

REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS *(continued)*

Risk management

The directors have conducted a review of the major risks to which the charity is exposed. Financial risk is reviewed on a monthly basis having due regard to ongoing income and expenses.

Statement of directors' responsibilities

The directors (who are the trustees of Connect Ministries) are responsible for preparing the directors' report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial period. Under that law the directors have prepared the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law). Under Company law the directors must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including income and expenditure for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP-FRS102;
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statement; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

The directors are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charitable company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

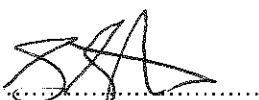
Funds held as custodian trustee on behalf of others

The charity does not hold any funds on behalf of others.

Small companies provision statement

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions relating to companies subject to the small companies regime within Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

Approved by the Board on 23rd April 2024 signed on its behalf by:



Mrs Sara Stephens
Trustee