

Company registration number: NI641493

Charity registration number: 107843

# Living Branch Ministries

known as

The Way Bible College

(A company limited by guarantee)

Annual Report and Financial Statements

for the Year Ended 30 June 2024

**Living Branch Ministries**  
**known as The Way Bible College**

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**Living Branch Ministries**

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**Reference and Administrative Details**

<b>Trustees</b>	Jeannie Diane Hartley Mallory Anne Richardson Samuel Patrick Hartley Bruce Richardson
<b>Secretary</b>	Samuel Patrick Hartley
<b>Charity Registration Number</b>	107843
<b>Company Registration Number</b>	NI641493
<b>Registered Office</b>	43 East Mount Newtownards BT23 8SE
<b>Independent Examiner</b>	Mr John Hoyle 4 Brackenwood Drive Belfast BT8 6SQ



**Living Branch Ministries**  
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**Trustees' Report**

The annual report was approved by the trustees of the charity on 10 February 2025 and signed on its behalf by:



.....  
Samuel Patrick Hartley  
Company secretary and trustee

**Living Branch Ministries**  
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**Trustees' Report**

Report of the trustees (including Directors report) for the year ending 30 June 2024

The Trustees and Directors of the charitable company for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, have pleasure in presenting their report with the unaudited financial statements of the charitable company for the year ended 30 June 2024. The Trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), effective 1 January 2019 (Charities SORP 2019 (FRS 102)), in preparing the annual report and financial statements of the charitable company, which are also prepared to meet the requirements for a directors' report and accounts for company and charity law purposes.

**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS**

Company Registration number

N1641493 (Northern Ireland)

HMRC Charity Registration number

NI01150

Charity Commission for NI Registration number NIC107843

Registered office

43 East Mount

Newtownards

BT23 8SE

Directors

The Directors who served the charitable company during the year and up to the date of approval were as follows:

Diane Hartley

Sam Hartley

Mallory Richardson

Bruce Richardson

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**Trustees' Report**

Independent Examiner

John Hoyle FCCA

4 Brackenwood Drive

Belfast

BT8 6SQ

Bankers

Ulster Bank

11-16 Donegall Sq East

Belfast BT1 5UB

**STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

Governing document

Living Branch Ministries formed a company limited by guarantee, with company number N1641493 on 17 October 2016 and registered as a charity with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland NIC107843 on 17th May 2021. The company is governed by its Articles of Association.

Organisational structure

Living Branch Ministries has a Board of Trustees which meets formally a minimum of twice a year and is responsible for the strategic direction and policy of the charity. There were two meetings of the directors in this accounting period.

For the period covering this report the Board had four members. The day-to-day management and operation of activities is carried out by the founders of Living Branch Ministries Sam and Diane Hartley.

Recruitment and Appointment of Board of Directors

The Directors of the company Sam and Diane Hartley are also charity Trustees for the purposes of charity law.

The Directors of the company are elected through the consideration of other Directors and based upon examination of their Christian faith, character and conduct. The present Directors have a good knowledge of the ministry, how it operates and its plans and vision for the future. They have shown strong leadership in their contribution to the decision making within the ministry as well as in how they serve in the ministry in terms of leading and participation in various aspects of the ministry. They are keen to ensure that their contribution, and that of the ministry itself always benefits and adds value to those impacted by Living Branch Ministries. The Directors are committed to the ministry, as evidenced by their contribution as Directors, attendance at meetings and how they help others within the ministry.

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**Trustees' Report**

**Risk Management**

The Board has assessed the major risks to which the charitable company is exposed, in particular those related to its operations and finances, and systems and procedures have been established to mitigate those risks.

**PUBLIC BENEFIT STATEMENT**

The Trustees have complied with the duty to have due regard to the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland's statutory guidance on the public benefit requirement issued under the Charities Act (NI) 2008.

**OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES**

The year to 30 June 2024 has been one of continued charitable activities and provision of Public Benefit in many areas. The Trustees would like to thank all volunteers, staff, and all involved with the Charity's activities this year.

In this operating year Living Branch Ministries continued their Tuesday evening Bible study with the use of Zoom which enables the group to meet as many would not be able to attend because of travel difficulties. The Way Bible College continued to use the premises of Urban Grace Church York Road Belfast until 1st January 2024 when Living Branch Ministries became the sole tenants of the York Road Premises. The Trustees would like to thank Pastors, Craig and Tracey Seawright for their continued support, and in assisting with a smooth transition. The college is regulated and accredited by Open College Network Northern Ireland, and all appropriate updates to comply with OCN regulations have been met.

Our aim is to make learning accessible and affordable to anyone who wishes to learn how to fully realise their potential through understanding scientific and biblical principles that govern life to enhance their own quality of life and develop their God-given purpose. The course is designed to unlock and nurture potential that students may not have had previous opportunity to develop but also can build on previous learning that students may not have had the opportunity to take forward and use. The course is open to anyone with a desire to learn.

Accessibility to the course is of paramount importance to us, therefore we offer 3 learning pathways [Endorsed OCN courses at levels 3 and 2 (and a Certificate of Attendance for those who feel they are not academically inclined but wish to learn)].

The specific aims and objectives of Living Branch Ministries are as follows:

- The prevention or relief of poverty
- The advancement of education
- The advancement of religion
- The relief of those in need by reason of youth, age, ill-health, disability, financial hardship or other disadvantage

## **Living Branch Ministries**

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#### **Trustees' Report**

##### **ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE**

Below is a brief report on how Living Branch Ministries has fulfilled our aims and objectives:

##### **The prevention or relief of poverty:**

The above objective has been met by:

We are committed to improving the quality of life of individuals through teaching principles that develop potential (i.e. understanding personal worth through identity) and teach life skills that serve to protect life (i.e. setting boundaries in life), build confidence (i.e. through identifying and utilising untapped skills). We believe that if we equip individuals with skills they can use to improve employability and/or for personal development then this serves to develop all areas of life.

A number of our students are from disadvantaged economic backgrounds and do not have access to computers or internet. We are currently working with these students to teach them basic word processing skills using borrowed equipment.

We are also working with students who have a history of addiction, sign posting, making referrals and offering continued support and educating on its harmful effects and boundary setting. We also include life skills training such as budgeting.

We also welcome residents from a local nursing home, where they come for fellowship, refreshments and prayer.

##### **The advancement of Education:**

The above objective has been met by:

Direct benefits include training and equipping for people's benefit, as well as for their families and the community by way of personal development, education, equipping for further education, jobs, and preparation for life and Christian ministry.

- Tuesday night Bible study continues to take place on Zoom where all attendees are encouraged to participate in the study and bring forward their own understanding of the scripture. During the reporting period the group has continued with a deep study of the book of Revelation.
- Within the Bible College we have provided 1 to 1 tuition for 1 student to help solidify principles learned whilst in rehabilitation, to help create a sound foundation and promote a healthier lifestyle. This student graduated from his first year of studies, which is a significant milestone as he had no formal education. We have also supported this student with family mediation, signposting for counselling, and housing and employment concerns. We have encouraged students to develop their gifts and skillset through practical sessions whereby they have the opportunity to practise their strengths. Additionally we have used the skills of other students as mentors which have also helped develop their confidence.
- We have a number of students who have not completed formal education or earned qualifications and with 1 to 1 tuition and/or mentoring these students have made significant progress towards completing their portfolios.
- We have also provided skills training for students with the potential to teach.

##### **The advancement of Religion:**

The above objective has been met by:

## **Living Branch Ministries**

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#### **Trustees' Report**

As a Christian organisation we provide a Tuesday night bible study (via zoom), and we have set up a Bible College in conjunction with our church and through the Open College Network (OCN), whereby we incorporate the advancement of Christian principles with an OCN endorsed course.

- The purpose of the College is to help teach people their true identities according to God's original blueprint for their life and scientific principles. We aim to equip people to change established negative thinking patterns and replace them with healthy productive ones that will help individual overcome challenging circumstances. We believe that what we offer is a unique integrated learning experience to combine contextual biblical knowledge with related practical teaching that equip students to find and establish their destiny and purpose, whilst building character and confidence to empower them to make necessary adjustments to enhance their quality of life, improve relationships, reduce stress and improve employability opportunities.

#### **The relief of those in need by reason of youth, age, ill-health, disability, financial hardship or other disadvantage:**

The above objective has been met by:

We currently have around 15 students with a mix of full and part-time students. Current students are from various backgrounds, abilities, and cultures. We have 5 different nationalities represented within this group [English, Irish, Filipino, Finnish, and African] with 3 students having English as their second language. At least five students are over 65 years of age. The college has several students with disabilities which are all catered for.

#### **Future Plans for The Way Bible College**

This year we have transitioned from sharing the premises with Urban Grace Ministries to assuming full tenancy, which enabled us to have visible signage on display, and set up permanent classrooms to enable the second year classes to run from September 2024. We envisage continued growth of the College as current students have reported significant improvement in their mental health, ability to set healthy boundaries and general stability in their well-being and coping with life's challenges. Many have observed that the College provides a safe place with a community atmosphere. It would be our hope that we will continue to grow and provide this wide variety of support and education in future years. We hope to secure our own premises to facilitate the projected expansion.

#### **FINANCIAL REVIEW**

##### **Financial Position**

The accounts on pages 11-19 set out the income and expenditure of the charitable company, as well as its financial position at the year end.

The accounts show an overall surplus of £7,899 for the year in unrestricted funds, there being no restricted funds. The total unrestricted funds are £11,598 as at 30th June 2024.

##### **Going Concern**

After making appropriate enquiries, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charitable company has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the Accounting Policies.

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**Trustees' Report**

**STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES**

The Trustees and the Directors of Living Branch Ministries for the purposes of company law are responsible for preparing the Report of the Trustees and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the Directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year which 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 the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the Directors are required to

Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently.

Observe the methods and principles in the Charity SORP 2015 (FRS102).

Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.

State whether applicable United Kingdom Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements.

/Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to /presume that the charitable company continue in operation,

The Directors are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records which 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.

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER**

John Hoyle FCCA will be proposed for re-appointment at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

**SMALL COMPANY PROVISIONS**

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

Approved by order of the board Of Trustees 28 February 2025.

Sam Hartley Director



Diane Hartley Director

