

MICHAEL ROBERTS CHARITABLE TRUST

England & Wales · Charity number 1065006

Details

Status Registered

Legal form Charitable company

Company number [03439299](#)

Registered 1997-10-23

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

Contact

Address MRCT Foodstore Unit 8
Housham Hall Farm
Harlow Road
Matching Tye
Harlow
Essex

Phone 01279724515

Email enquiries@mrct.org.uk

Website www.mrct.org.uk

Activities

Objects: TO PROMOTE SOCIAL INCLUSION FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT BY PREVENTING PEOPLE FROM BECOMING SOCIALLY EXCLUDED, RELIEVING THE NEEDS OF THOSE PEOPLE WHO ARE SOCIALLY EXCLUDED AND ASSISTING THEM TO INTEGRATE INTO SOCIETY.FOR THE PURPOSE OF THIS CLAUSE 'SOCIALLY EXCLUDED* MEANS BEING EXCLUDED FROM SOCIETY, OR PARTS OF SOCIETY, AS A RESULT OF ONE OF MORE OF THE FOLLOWING FACTORS: UNEMPLOYMENT; FINANCIAL HARDSHIP; YOUTH OR OLD AGE;ILL HEALTH (PHYSICAL OR MENTAL); SUBSTANCE ABUSE OR DEPENDENCY INCLUDING ALCOHOL AND DRUGS; POOR EDUCATIONAL OR SKILLS ATTAINMENT;LEARNING DIFFICULTIES; LEARNING AND PHYSICAL DISABILITIES; RELATIONSHIP AND FAMILY BREAKDOWN; POOR HOUSING (THAT IS HOUSING THAT DOES NOT MEET BASIC STANDARDS OF HABITABILITY).

Activities: To provide voluntary work and social opportunities for people with a disability and people who are socially disadvantaged. To provide emergency food for people in crisis and to reduce companies food wastage and redistribute it back into the community in Harlow and the surrounding area.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Human Resources, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Disability, The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty, Economic/community Development/employment
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, People Of A Particular Ethnic Or Racial Origin, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, Other Defined Groups, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** THE UNITED KINGDOM AND ELSEWHERE
- Essex
- Hertfordshire

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£753,708	£742,463	£134,496	19
2024-03-31	£567,227	£545,838	£259,742	18
2023-03-31	£369,876	£345,855	-	-
2022-03-31	£234,065	£254,846	-	-
2021-03-31	£277,323	£170,390	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Ayub Khan		2022-11-17
Gary Ronald Pattimore		2020-03-13
JEANETTE EHLERS		
James Briant		2024-11-05
Rev Jocelin Georgina Massey POYNTZ		2024-03-06
TERESA ANN KNOTT		2013-08-08

MICHAEL ROBERTS CHARITABLE TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1065006

Accounts

Company registration number 03439299 (England and Wales)

Charity registration number 1065006 (England and Wales)

THE MICHAEL ROBERTS CHARITABLE TRUST
ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

THE MICHAEL ROBERTS CHARITABLE TRUST

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees	J. Ehlers T.A. Knott G. Pattimore A. Khan Rev. J.G. Poyntz J.D. Briant	(Appointed 5 November 2024)
Chief Executive Officer	A. Thornton	
Country of incorporation	United Kingdom (England and Wales)	03439299
Charity registration	England and Wales	1065006
Registered office	Unit 8, Housham Hall Farm Matching Tye, Harlow Essex CM17 0PB	
Independent examiner	HB Accountants 28 Plumpton House Plumpton Road Hoddesdon Hertfordshire EN11 0LB	

THE MICHAEL ROBERTS CHARITABLE TRUST

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THE MICHAEL ROBERTS CHARITABLE TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

The trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the Trust's governing document, the Companies Act 2006, FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" and the Charities SORP "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)".

Objectives and activities

The principal activity of the charity during the year was the provision of support services to individuals and families experiencing hardship across Harlow. This included emergency food provision, affordable food access, essential household and children's items, advice and guidance services, and community-based support.

The charity continued to operate as a Christian organisation working inclusively with people experiencing poverty, vulnerability, isolation, homelessness, learning or physical disability, and crisis.

Public benefit

The trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the Trust should undertake.

Achievements and performance

Significant activities and achievements against objectives

During the year, the charity underwent a significant period of operational transition relating to its premises. Services initially operated from a temporary town centre unit, returned briefly to church-based premises, and subsequently relocated to a larger more permanent unit within Harlow's main shopping centre.

This move enabled the charity to consolidate all poverty-related services into a single, accessible location and contributed to increased service usage across the year. On average, approximately 250 individuals per day accessed support through the charity's services.

The principal projects delivered during the year were:

- Harlow Foodbank
- The Bounty Club (community supermarket)
- Bump to Five (baby-items bank plus pre-loved school uniform shop)
- Maybury Open Door (supportive drop-in centre for adults)
- Trussell Trust-funded projects: financial caseworker and Harlow Hive

The relocation supported a significant increase in activity within the Bounty Club, which accounts for a substantial proportion of the increase in total income shown in the Statement of Financial Activities. Membership exceeded 2,500 individuals, with regular users achieving estimated monthly household savings of £50- £60.

The charity also continued to host advice and guidance partners within its premises, including Citizens Advice Harlow, Community Hub, and Integration Services. In addition, the charity delivered its own Harlow Hive project, supporting individuals with lived experience of poverty to engage with services and address issues affecting them.

THE MICHAEL ROBERTS CHARITABLE TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Premises and Partnerships

MRCT's registered office is just outside the town on a farm that stores and sorts the Foodbank's food: "The Store House". Costs for this have been supported by Harlow Council's Partnership Fund and the Mulberry Trust.

Alongside that the town's main shopping centre has given us premises are owned by the local authority with no rent or business rates payable. Utilities and occupancy-related costs are reflected within the expenditure on rent and utilities shown in the accounts.

Further support was received from Essex County Council towards the development of the Bounty Club community supermarket, including funding for an outreach vehicle, which is recorded within the charity's fixed assets and depreciation policy.

Community Engagement and Volunteering

Community involvement remains central to the charity's work. We have around 100 regular volunteers including volunteers with learning difficulties or physical disabilities. A significant proportion of volunteers supporting the Bounty Club were recruited from within the membership, contributing lived experience and supporting cost-effective delivery of that project

The charity also undertook consultation and engagement activity through focus groups and through the Harlow Hive project, which informed service development and partnership working across the organisation.

Service Activity Summary

- Harlow Foodbank supported households experiencing crisis, distributing over 4,200 food parcels of food items and other essential items donated by the general public. In this reporting period 84,751Kg of food was donated to the Foodbank, and 78,422 given out.
- The Bounty Club expanded significantly, contributing to increased turnover , purchasing £164,066 of stock and holding closing stock valued at £34,318.
- Bump to Five distributed over 1,000 parcels of items donated by the general public, supporting approximately 1,500 children, with donated items valued at approximately £110,000.
- Maybury Open Door continued to provide regular social and developmental activities for adults, with consistent weekly attendance of around 150 per week. Regular users and volunteers include persons with mental health issues, sensory deficits, physical disability and Senior Citizens as well as persons with learning difficulties.
- Trussell Trust-funded projects supported community engagement and poverty-related work, with activity reported within restricted funds and further amplified here, as follows:

Trussell Trust Projects – 2024/25

MRCT founded its food bank 16 years ago, operating as an independent self-governing service in affiliation with the Trussell Trust. During 2024/25 the Trussell Trust funded two supporting roles. These operated from the Community Support Centre, extending our support beyond emergency food provision to address the underlying causes of poverty.

Financial Caseworker Support

Funding enabled the placement of a Citizens Advice Harlow financial caseworker, providing residents with independent FCA-accredited debt advice. This support helps people stabilise their finances and improve budgeting, and is increasingly enabling foodbank users to reduce repeat reliance on emergency food support as underlying debt and income issues are addressed.

During the year:

- 226 individuals accessed the service
- 70 people received support to consolidate and manage £212,106 of debt
- £44,933 of debt was written off
- 82 individuals achieved increased income through previously unclaimed benefits, averaging £5,340 per person (total £437,914)
- An estimated 109 individuals no longer required Foodbank support following intervention

THE MICHAEL ROBERTS CHARITABLE TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Campaigns and Organising (Harlow Hive)

A second Trussell Trust-funded role supported people with lived experience of poverty to self-organise and engage in local campaigning through the Harlow Hive project. The project focuses on developing community voice, leadership, and engagement with decision-makers.

During 2024/25, activity focused on building community power and stakeholder engagement, resulting in:

- . A user-led council housing repairs campaign, generating over 50 resident responses and contributing to changes in council practice
- . Strengthened collaboration with local organisations through the “Communitree” information initiative, improving awareness of support services across Harlow
- . Successful advocacy outcomes, including:
 - Retention of housing for evicted Redstone House residents
 - Improvements to local council housing repair processes
 - Adjustments to local bus routes to better connect residents to employment opportunities
 - Expansion of a school uniform affordability campaign across multiple local schools

Financial review

Total income for the year was £753,708 (2024: £416,538). The increase reflects growth in charitable trading activity, particularly within the Bounty Club.

Total expenditure for the year was £742,463 (2024: £531,640).

The net movement in funds resulted in a deficit of £11,245, which reflects planned investment in service expansion, increased staffing, stock holding, and premises-related costs.

Reserves policy

The charity’s reserves position remains under regular review by the Trustees, with unrestricted funds of £120,476 held at the year end. Our reserves policy aims at retaining operational cost for 6 months which we are just short of. Restricted funds are maintained in accordance with funder requirements leaving the Foodbank well-funded on a restricted basis in unforeseen circumstances.

Plans for future periods

The Trustees will continue to focus on:

- Consolidating the town centre hub
- Managing costs responsibly while maintaining service levels
- Developing outreach capacity
- Strengthening partnership working
- Ensuring financial sustainability in a challenging economic environment

Structure, governance and management

The Trust is a company limited by guarantee and is governed by the Memorandum and Articles of Association.

THE MICHAEL ROBERTS CHARITABLE TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

The trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, and who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

J. Ehlers

T.A. Knott

G. Pattimore

M. Parsons

(Resigned 3 July 2024)

A. Khan

Rev. J.G. Poyntz

J.D. Briant

(Appointed 5 November 2024)

Recruitment and appointment of trustees

The Trustees have adopted a formal process for the nomination, selection and appointment of new Trustees to ensure appropriate governance, transparency and compliance with Charity Commission requirements, while maintaining the Trust's founding ethos.

In accordance with the charitable objects and faith-based ethos of MRCT, Trustees must be practising Christians.

The proposer of any nominee is responsible for confirming, to the best of their knowledge, that this requirement is met. All Trustees must also meet the eligibility requirements set out by the Charity Commission and confirm that they are not disqualified from acting as a charity trustee.

Potential candidates may be proposed by existing or former Trustees, members of staff, volunteers, or by invitation to partner organisations. The Board may also choose to advertise Trustee vacancies where appropriate. Once a vacancy has been identified, the Chair coordinates the recruitment process on behalf of the Board. Initial approaches to prospective candidates are conducted informally and on an exploratory basis. With the individual's consent, a formal nomination is submitted to the Board.

The Board considers nominations either at a duly convened meeting or via formal email circulation. A unanimous decision of the Trustees is required to proceed with inviting a nominee to confirm their interest. The Chair writes formally to the nominee outlining the selection process; the ethos and work of MRCT; the statutory duties and responsibilities of charity trustees; confirmation that appointment is subject to Board approval. Nominees are required to respond within two weeks, providing a CV and a written statement outlining their motivation and the skills and experience they would bring to the Board. All applications are circulated to Trustees in advance of the next Board meeting for consideration. Appointment requires unanimous agreement of the Board. Where there are more suitable candidates than vacancies, the Board may conduct informal interviews prior to making a final decision.

Successful candidates are informed in writing and assume office from the date confirmed by the Board. All appointments are recorded in the minutes. The Company Secretary (or the Chair, where applicable) ensures that the appointment is registered with the Charity Commission within one month.

Trustees are expected to engage actively in Board meetings and governance matters. Where a Trustee has not attended meetings or engaged in Board business for six months, the Chair will seek clarification, and the Board will determine appropriate action.

Trustees may resign by providing a minimum of 30 days' notice (verbal or written), except in circumstances of serious illness, family crisis, death or criminal conviction. All resignations are formally recorded in Board minutes.

THE MICHAEL ROBERTS CHARITABLE TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Organisational structure

The charity is governed by a Board of six Trustees, supported by a volunteer Honorary Treasurer. The Trustees meet formally at four-monthly intervals, alongside an annual strategic away-day to review performance, risks, and future priorities.

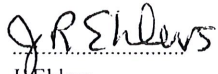
The Board appoints the Chief Executive Officer, who during the year had responsibility for the management of a staff team of approximately 20. The CEO is accountable to the Trustees for operational delivery, financial performance, and strategic implementation.

The Honorary Treasurer provides monthly financial reporting to the Board. In addition, Trustees receive regular operational reports from all projects throughout the year, enabling ongoing oversight of activity, performance, and risk.

Day-to-day service delivery is managed through project structures led by full-time project managers, who are responsible for staff supervision and volunteer management within their respective teams.

The Operations Manager oversees organisational policies and compliance, including human resources, health and safety, local authority licensing, and food safety standards, ensuring that services are delivered in line with regulatory and good-practice requirements.

The trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.


.....
J. Ehlers

Trustee

Date: 12.3.26.....

THE MICHAEL ROBERTS CHARITABLE TRUST

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE MICHAEL ROBERTS CHARITABLE TRUST

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of The Michael Roberts Charitable Trust (the Trust) for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the Trust (and also its directors for the purposes of company law), you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Having satisfied myself that the financial statements of the Trust are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006 and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011. In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act 2011.

Independent examiner's statement

Since the Trust's gross income exceeded £250,000, the independent examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the Charities Act 2011. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of I.C.A.E.W., which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- 1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 386 of the Companies Act 2006.
- 2 the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
- 3 the financial statements do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 other than any requirement that the financial statements give a true and fair view, which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
- 4 the financial statements have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their financial statements in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.



HB Accountants

28 Plumpton House

Plumpton Road

Hoddesdon

Hertfordshire

EN11 0LB

Date: 2/3/26

THE MICHAEL ROBERTS CHARITABLE TRUST

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Current financial year		Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Total	Total
	Notes	2025 £	2025 £	2025 £	2025 £	(As restated) 2024 £
Income from:						
Donations and legacies	3	129,869	-	289,970	419,839	381,309
Charitable activities	4	242,784	-	86,687	329,471	109,255
Investments	5	4,398	-	-	4,398	1,657
Total income		<u>377,051</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>376,657</u>	<u>753,708</u>	<u>492,221</u>
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds	6	4,720	-	-	4,720	-
Charitable activities	7	202,068	-	535,675	737,743	531,640
Total expenditure		<u>206,788</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>535,675</u>	<u>742,463</u>	<u>531,640</u>
Net income/(expenditure)		170,263	-	(159,018)	11,245	(39,419)
Transfers between funds		(121,400)	-	121,400	-	-
Net movement in funds		48,863	-	(37,618)	11,245	(39,419)
Reconciliation of funds:						
Fund balances at 1 April 2024		<u>59,079</u>	<u>26,554</u>	<u>37,618</u>	<u>123,251</u>	<u>162,670</u>
Fund balances at 31 March 2025		<u>107,942</u>	<u>26,554</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>134,496</u>	<u>123,251</u>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

THE MICHAEL ROBERTS CHARITABLE TRUST

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED) INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Prior financial year (As restated)		Unrestricted funds general	Unrestricted funds Redundancy fund	Restricted funds	Total
	Notes	2024 £	2024 £	2024 £	2024 £
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	3	68,419	-	312,890	381,309
Charitable activities	4	33,788	-	75,467	109,255
Investments	5	1,657	-	-	1,657
Total income		103,864	-	388,357	492,221
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	7	79,525	-	452,115	531,640
Total expenditure		79,525	-	452,115	531,640
Net income/(expenditure)		24,339	-	(63,758)	(39,419)
Transfers between funds		(54,540)	-	54,540	-
Net movement in funds		(30,201)	-	(9,218)	(39,419)
Reconciliation of funds:					
Fund balances at 1 April 2023		89,280	26,554	46,836	162,670
Fund balances at 31 March 2024		59,079	26,554	37,618	123,251

THE MICHAEL ROBERTS CHARITABLE TRUST

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MARCH 2025

		2025		2024 as restated	
	Notes	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	13		7,470		7,971
Current assets					
Stocks	14	34,318		14,198	
Debtors	15	11,524		6,321	
Cash at bank and in hand		207,099		255,364	
		252,941		275,883	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	16	(125,915)		(160,603)	
Net current assets			127,026		115,280
Total assets less current liabilities			134,496		123,251
The funds of the Trust					
Restricted income funds	18		-		37,618
Unrestricted funds - general	20		107,942		59,079
Unrestricted funds - Redundancy fund	19		26,554		26,554
			134,496		123,251

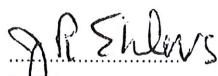
The company is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, for the year ended 31 March 2025.

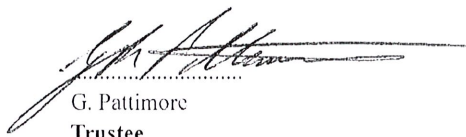
The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the trustees on 10.3.20


J. Ehlers
Trustee


G. Pattimore
Trustee

THE MICHAEL ROBERTS CHARITABLE TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

The Michael Roberts Charitable Trust is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is Unit 8, Housham Hall Farm, Matching Tye, Harlow, Essex, CM17 0PB.

1.1 Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Trust's governing document, the Companies Act 2006, FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" and the Charities SORP "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)". The Trust is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The Trust has taken advantage of the provisions in the SORP for charities not to prepare a statement of cash flows.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the Trust. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Trust has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors or grantors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Endowment funds are subject to specific conditions by donors that the capital must be maintained by the Trust.

1.4 Income

Income is recognised when the Trust is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the Trust has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the Trust has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

THE MICHAEL ROBERTS CHARITABLE TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

1 Accounting policies (continued)

1.5 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges are allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

1.6 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Fixtures and fittings	25% reducing balance
Motor vehicles	25% reducing balance

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in the statement of financial activities.

1.7 Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting end date, the Trust reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

1.8 Stocks

Stocks are stated at the lower of cost and estimated selling price less costs to complete and sell. Cost comprises direct materials and, where applicable, direct labour costs and those overheads that have been incurred in bringing the stocks to their present location and condition. Items held for distribution at no or nominal consideration are measured the lower of replacement cost and cost.

Net realisable value is the estimated selling price less all estimated costs of completion and costs to be incurred in marketing, selling and distribution.

1.9 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

THE MICHAEL ROBERTS CHARITABLE TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

1 Accounting policies (continued)

1.10 Financial instruments

The Trust has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the Trust's balance sheet when the Trust becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the Trust's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

1.11 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the Trust is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

1.12 Retirement benefits

Payments to defined contribution retirement benefit schemes are charged as an expense as they fall due.

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the Trust's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

THE MICHAEL ROBERTS CHARITABLE TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

3 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £
Donations and grants	129,869	289,970	419,839	68,419	312,890	381,309

4 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £
Sale of goods	235,905	-	235,905	33,788	-	33,788
Services provided under contract	6,879	86,687	93,566	-	75,467	75,467
	242,784	86,687	329,471	33,788	75,467	109,255

5 Income from investments

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £
Interest receivable	4,398	1,657

6 Expenditure on raising funds

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £
Fundraising and publicity		
Advertising	4,720	-

THE MICHAEL ROBERTS CHARITABLE TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

7 Expenditure on charitable activities	2025	2024
	£	£
Direct costs		
Staff costs	387,323	322,595
Depreciation and impairment	501	3,984
Food purchases	179,800	36,712
Rent and utilities	41,397	28,242
Motor and travel	14,775	17,019
Insurance and professional fees	13,953	12,534
Repairs and renewals	17,825	16,809
Telephone	4,895	4,167
Printing, postage and stationery	4,156	1,274
Training	1,839	671
Bank charges	1,067	691
CAB project worker	46,448	58,469
Other operating costs	13,872	26,663
	<u>727,851</u>	<u>529,830</u>
Grant funding of activities (see note 8)	6,052	1,000
Share of support and governance costs (see note 9)		
Governance	3,840	810
	<u>737,743</u>	<u>531,640</u>
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds - general	202,068	79,525
Restricted funds	535,675	452,115
	<u>737,743</u>	<u>531,640</u>
8 Grants payable	2025	2024
	£	£
Grants to institutions:		
Heart 4 Harlow	600	600
Ciaster	-	100
Middle East Christian Aid	300	300
St Paul's Harlow Restoration Fund	5,000	-
MacMillan	152	-
	<u>6,052</u>	<u>1,000</u>

THE MICHAEL ROBERTS CHARITABLE TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

9 Support costs allocated to activities

	2025 £	2024 £
Governance	3,840	810

Governance costs comprise:	2025 £	2024 £
Accountancy	3,840	810
	<u>3,840</u>	<u>810</u>

10 Trustees

None of the trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits from the Trust during the year.

11 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2025 Number	2024 Number
	18	16

Employment costs	2025 £	2024 £
Wages and salaries	357,863	296,251
Social security costs	18,735	18,687
Other pension costs	10,725	7,657
	<u>387,323</u>	<u>322,595</u>

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was more than £60,000.

Remuneration of key management personnel

The remuneration of key management personnel was as follows:

	2025 £	2024 £
Aggregate compensation	47,196	46,022

12 Taxation

The charity is exempt from taxation on its activities because all its income is applied for charitable purposes.

THE MICHAEL ROBERTS CHARITABLE TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

13 Tangible fixed assets

	Fixtures and fittings	Motor vehicles	Total
	£	£	£
Cost			
At 1 April 2024	6,242	38,871	45,113
At 31 March 2025	6,242	38,871	45,113
Depreciation and impairment			
At 1 April 2024	6,231	30,911	37,142
Depreciation charged in the year	11	490	501
At 31 March 2025	6,242	31,401	37,643
Carrying amount			
At 31 March 2025	-	7,470	7,470
At 31 March 2024	11	7,960	7,971

14 Stocks

	2025	2024
	£	£
Finished goods and goods for resale	34,318	14,198

15 Debtors

Amounts falling due within one year:	2025	2024
	£	£
Other debtors	7,618	6,321
Prepayments and accrued income	3,906	-
	11,524	6,321

16 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025	2024
	£	£
Other creditors	4,770	9,104
Accruals and deferred income	121,145	151,499
	125,915	160,603

THE MICHAEL ROBERTS CHARITABLE TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

17 Retirement benefit schemes

	2025	2024
	£	£
Defined contribution schemes		
Charge to profit or loss in respect of defined contribution schemes	10,725	7,657

The Trust operates a defined contribution pension scheme for all qualifying employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the Trust in an independently administered fund.

18 Restricted funds

The restricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used.

	At 1 April 2024	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	At 31 March 2025
	£	£	£	£	£
Maybury Open Door	-	32,557	(82,163)	49,606	-
Harlow Foodbank	-	267,925	(283,029)	15,104	-
Bump to 5	-	12,883	(34,611)	21,728	-
Bounty Club	37,618	63,292	(135,872)	34,962	-
	<u>37,618</u>	<u>376,657</u>	<u>(535,675)</u>	<u>121,400</u>	<u>-</u>
Previous year:					
	At 1 April 2023	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	At 31 March 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
Maybury Open Door	-	34,177	(53,313)	19,136	-
Harlow Foodbank	46,836	227,930	(302,610)	27,844	-
Bump to 5	-	22,466	(30,026)	7,560	-
Bounty Club	-	103,784	(66,166)	-	37,618
	<u>46,836</u>	<u>388,357</u>	<u>(452,115)</u>	<u>54,540</u>	<u>37,618</u>

THE MICHAEL ROBERTS CHARITABLE TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

19 Designated funds

These are unrestricted funds which are material to the Trust's activities.

	At 1 April 2024	At 31 March 2025
	£	£
Redundancy reserve	26,554	26,554
	<u>26,554</u>	<u>26,554</u>
Previous year:	At 1 April 2023	At 31 March 2024
	£	£
Redundancy reserve	26,554	26,554
	<u>26,554</u>	<u>26,554</u>

20 Unrestricted funds

The unrestricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants which are not subject to specific conditions by donors and grantors as to how they may be used. These include designated funds which have been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the trustees for specific purposes.

	At 1 April 2024	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	At 31 March 2025
	£	£	£	£	£
General funds	59,079	377,051	(206,788)	(121,400)	107,942
	<u>59,079</u>	<u>377,051</u>	<u>(206,788)</u>	<u>(121,400)</u>	<u>107,942</u>
Previous year:	At 1 April 2023	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	At 31 March 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
General funds	89,280	103,864	(79,525)	(54,540)	59,079
	<u>89,280</u>	<u>103,864</u>	<u>(79,525)</u>	<u>(54,540)</u>	<u>59,079</u>

21 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds general	Unrestricted funds Redundancy fund	Restricted funds	Total
	2025	2025	2025	2025
	£	£	£	£
At 31 March 2025:				
Tangible assets	7,470	-	-	7,470
Current assets/(liabilities)	100,472	26,554	-	127,026
	<u>107,942</u>	<u>26,554</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>134,496</u>

THE MICHAEL ROBERTS CHARITABLE TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

21 Analysis of net assets between funds (continued)

	Unrestricted funds general	Unrestricted funds Redundancy fund	Restricted funds	Total
	2024	2024	2024	2024
	£	£	£	£
At 31 March 2024:				
Tangible assets	7,971	-	-	7,971
Current assets/(liabilities)	51,108	26,554	37,618	115,280
	<u>59,079</u>	<u>26,554</u>	<u>37,618</u>	<u>123,251</u>

22 Related party transactions

There were no disclosable related party transactions during the year (2024 - none).

23 Prior year adjustment

In the year ended 31 March 2024, income received in advance was not accounted for. This totalled £150,689 of which £42,959 was unrestricted funds and £107,730 was restricted funds. In addition stock of £14,198 was not accounted for. In the year ended 31 March 2023, income received in advance was not accounted for. This totalled £75,683 all of which was restricted funds. The prior year accounts have therefore been restated accordingly.

MICHAEL ROBERTS CHARITABLE TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1065006

Accounts

REGISTERED NUMBER: 03439299 (England & Wales)
CHARITY NUMBER: 1065006

Report of the Trustees and
Unaudited Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31st March 2023
for
The Michael Roberts Charitable Trust
Limited by Guarantee

The Michael Roberts Charitable Trust
(Limited by Guarantee)

Charity Information
for the year ended 31st March 2023

TRUSTEES:

J Ehlers (Chair of Trustees)
P Balkwill
T A Knott
D C Norkett – resigned 23rd November 2022
G Pattimore
M Parsons
A Khan – appointed 16th November 2022

NB: Trustees are also Directors of the Company

REGISTERED OFFICE:

Unit 8
Housham Hall Farm
Harlow Road
Matching Tye
Harlow
CM17 0PB

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 3439299 (England and Wales)

ACCOUNTANTS:

Pigram & Co
43 Bluebell Drive
Stansted
Essex
CM24 8XP

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1065006

BANK:

Barclays Bank Plc
14 The Water Gardens Centre
Harlow
Essex
CM20 1AN

The Michael Roberts Charitable Trust
(Limited by Guarantee)

Report of the Trustees
For the year ended 31st March 2023

The Trustees, who are also Directors of the Charity for the purpose of the Companies Act 2006, present their report together with the financial statements of the Company for the year ending 31st March 2023.

PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY

The principal activity of the Company in the year under review was that of a Christian Charity, working in the community with a wide range of people, including people with a learning / physical disability, people vulnerable and / or isolated through homelessness or being vulnerably housed and people in crisis with emergency food. The Company also worked with local fresh food companies assisting them to reduce their surplus food by picking it up and redistributing it into the local community to front-line professional care agencies.

The governing document is the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Company.

All Trustees offer themselves for election at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

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

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD


..... Andrew Thornton

Dated: 5th July 2023

THE MICHAEL ROBERTS CHARITABLE TRUST (LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
for the Year Ended 31 March 2023**

	Notes	Unrestricted General Fund £	Maybury Open Door £	Harlow Foodbank £	Bump to 5 £	Storehouse Upkeep £	Storehouse Rent/Utilities £	Bounty Club £	Trussell Trust Projects £	Redundancy Reserve £	2023 Total £	2022 Total £
INCOME and ENDOWMENTS FROM:												
Donations & Legacies		55,232	37,738	146,359	1,750	7,693	24,300	29,548			302,620	217,975
Income from Charitable Activities									66,710		66,710	16,000
Investment Income		546									546	90
TOTAL INCOME and ENDOWMENTS		55,778	37,738	146,359	1,750	7,693	24,300	29,548	66,710	-	369,876	234,065
EXPENDITURE ON:												
Income Generation		2,823									2,823	2,566
Expenditure on Charitable Activities												
Salaries		24,690	38,638	111,836	14,450			28,167			217,781	149,684
Training			231	1,110	198			210			1,749	1,570
Travel & Subsistence Expenses				1,137	871						2,008	1,064
Rent/Utilities			1,476	2,660			17,884				22,020	22,225
Telephone & Internet			112	761			2,131				3,004	4,386
Printing, Postage & Stationery							3,004				3,004	2,405
Motoring Costs				6,033				3,210			9,243	7,989
Ongoing Costs - Craft, Cleaning, Food, Day-to-Day			1,172	16,948	5,479						23,599	15,962
Insurance & Professional				3,960			1,959	999			6,918	4,593
New Equipment, Renewals & Upkeep											7,219	35,165
Bank Charges				473		7,219					473	111
Charitable Donations		1,150									1,150	1,150
Trussell Trust Projects									44,109		44,109	5,280
Depreciation	4	5									5	6
Independent Examiner & Accountancy Fees	2	750									750	690
TOTAL EXPENDITURE ON:		29,418	41,629	144,918	20,998	7,219	24,978	32,586	44,109	-	345,855	254,846
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS FOR THE YEAR		26,360	(3,891)	1,441	(19,248)	474	(678)	(3,038)	22,601	-	24,021	(20,781)
Balances brought forward at 1 April 2022		114,208	-	61,229	-	-	1,621	-	10,720	26,554	214,332	235,113
Transfer between Funds		(26,177)	3,891	-	19,248	-	-	3,038	-	-	-	-
BALANCES CARRIED FORWARD AT 31 MARCH 2023		114,391	-	62,670	-	474	943	-	33,321	26,554	238,353	214,332

This page forms part of these financial statements

The Michael Roberts Charitable Trust
(Limited by Guarantee)

Balance Sheet
As at 31st March 2023

	Notes	31 st March 2023		31 st March 2022	
		£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS					
Fixtures & Fittings	4				
Cost		6,242		6,242	
Less: Depreciation		<u>(6,227)</u>		<u>(6,222)</u>	
			15		20
Motor vehicles					
Bounty Club Van Cost		13,500		13,500	
Foodbank Van Cost		13,431		13,431	
Less: Depreciation		<u>(26,931)</u>		<u>(26,931)</u>	
			-		-
			<u>15</u>		<u>20</u>
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors – rent deposit	5	3,750		3,750	
Debtors – Gift Aid		1,603		1,408	
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>233,736</u>		<u>210,858</u>	
		239,088		216,016	
CURRENT LIABILITIES					
Amounts falling due within one year	6	<u>750</u>		<u>1,704</u>	
NET CURRENT ASSETS			<u>238,338</u>		<u>214,312</u>
NET ASSETS			<u>238,353</u>		<u>214,332</u>
FUNDS					
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS					
General			114,391		114,208
RESTRICTED FUNDS					
Foodbank			62,670		61,229
Storehouse Upkeep			474		-
Storehouse Rent/Utilities			943		1,621
Bump to 5	10		-		-
Bounty Club	9		-		-
Redundancy Reserve			26,554		26,554
Maybury Open Door			-		-
Trussell Trust Projects			33,321		10,720
			<u>238,353</u>		<u>214,332</u>

This page forms part of these financial statements

The Michael Roberts Charitable Trust
(Limited by Guarantee)

Trustees Statement
For the year ended 31st March 2023

The charity is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31st March 2023.

The members have not required the Company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31st March 2023 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The Trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for:

- (a) ensuring that the Company keeps accounting records which comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and
- (b) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Company as at the end of each financial year and of its profit or loss for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the Company.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 5th July 2023 and were signed on their behalf by:


.....
Jeanette Ehlers


.....
Gary Pattimore

The Michael Roberts Charitable Trust
(Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the Financial Statements
for the year ended 31st March 2023

1. **STATUTORY INFORMATION**

The Michael Roberts Charitable Trust is a private company, limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales. The company's registered number and registered office address can be found on the Charity Information page.

2. **ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

Basis of preparing the financial statements

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions of Section 1A "Small Entities" of Financial Reporting Standard 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Turnover

Turnover represents donations and gifts, as analysed in the Statement of Financial Activities, measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable, excluding discounts, rebates, value added tax and other sales taxes.

Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Fixtures and fittings	-	25% on reducing balance
Computer equipment	-	25% on reducing balance
Motor vehicles	-	33.3% on cost

Taxation

The Company is a registered charity as defined by the Charities Act 1960 and as such no taxation has been provided for in these accounts.

Hire purchase and leasing commitments

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to profit or loss on a straight-line basis over the period of the lease.

3. **EMPLOYEES AND DIRECTORS**

The average number of employees during the year was 8.

4. **TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS**

	<u>Fixtures & Fittings</u>	<u>Motor Vehicles</u>	<u>Computer Equipment</u>	<u>Total</u>
	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
COST:				
At 1 st April 2022	6,242	26,931	615	33,788
Additions	-	-	-	-
At 31 st March 2023	<u>6,242</u>	<u>26,931</u>	<u>615</u>	<u>33,788</u>
DEPRECIATION:				
At 1 st April 2022	6,222	26,931	615	33,768
Charge for Year	5	-	-	5
At 31 st March 2023	<u>6,227</u>	<u>26,931</u>	<u>615</u>	<u>33,773</u>
NET BOOK VALUE				
At 31 st March 2023	<u>15</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>15</u>
At 31 st March 2022	<u>20</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>20</u>

This page forms part of these financial statements

The Michael Roberts Charitable Trust
(Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the Financial Statements
for the year ended 31st March 2023

5. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	31st March 23	31st March 22
	£	£
Tax recoverable	1,603	1,408
Rent deposit	<u>3,750</u>	<u>3,750</u>
	<u>5,353</u>	<u>5,158</u>

6. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	31st March 23	31st March 22
	£	£
Other creditors and accruals	-	1,014
Accountancy	<u>750</u>	<u>690</u>
	<u>750</u>	<u>1,704</u>

7. RESTRICTED FUNDS

A full description of the restricted funds is contained in the Report of the Trustees. Financial details are contained in the Statement of Financial Activities on page 3.

8. HARLOW FOODBANK

Harlow Foodbank received non-perishable food donations totalling 114,420 Kg. During the year 112,492 Kg of non-perishable food was distributed to people in crisis and at the Balance Sheet date 1,928 Kg of non-perishable food was held for distribution in 2023/24.

9. BOUNTY CLUB

The Bounty Club picked up and distributed 325,000 Kg of fresh chilled surplus food which was made available to low income households through the Foodbank and Bounty Club operating from St Paul's Church in Harlow during the financial year.

10. BUMP TO FIVE

Bump to Five collected and redistributed over 20,000 items, from socks to coats, to pushchairs, cots and beds to support over 300 children aged 0 – 5 in 229 families living in poverty. It continues to hold a similar quantity to distribute in 2023/24.

Michael Roberts Charitable Trust
(Limited by Guarantee)

Income and Expenditure Account
for the year ended 31st March 2023

	Notes	31 st March 2023		31 st March 2022	
		£	£	£	£
Income					
VOLUNTARY SOURCES					
General Donations		25,685		42,869	
Maybury Open Door		37,738		27,938	
Harlow Foodbank	8	146,359		115,061	
Bump to 5	10	1,750		2,195	
Harlow Foodbank Storehouse Upkeep		7,693		2,800	
Harlow Foodbank Storehouse Utilities		24,300		26,500	
Bounty Club	9	59,095		612	
Trussell Trust Projects		<u>66,710</u>		<u>16,000</u>	
GROSS PROFIT			<u>369,330</u>		<u>233,975</u>
Other income					
Bank Interest		<u>546</u>		<u>90</u>	
			<u>546</u>		<u>90</u>
TOTAL INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS			369,876		234,065
Expenses					
DIRECT CHARITABLE EXPENDITURE					
Salary		217,781		149,684	
COMMUNITY SERVICES PROJECTS					
Maybury Open Door		1,172		2,557	
Harlow Foodbank	8	16,948		13,405	
Bump to 5	10	5,479		7,012	
Trussell Trust Projects		44,109		5,280	
Storehouse – new equipment, renewals, refurbishment		<u>7,219</u>		<u>28,153</u>	
			292,708		206,091
PROFIT/(LOSS) CARRIED FORWARD			77,168		27,974

This page does not form part of these financial statements

The Michael Roberts Charitable Trust
(Limited by Guarantee)

Income and Expenditure Account
for the year ended 31st March 2023

	31 st March 2023		31 st March 2022	
	£	£	£	£
Brought forward		77,168		27,974
OTHER EXPENDITURE				
Rent	22,020		22,225	
Telephone & Internet	3,004		4,386	
Printing, Postage & Stationery	3,004		2,405	
Motoring Costs	9,243		7,989	
Training	1,749		1,570	
Accountancy	750		690	
Donations	1,150		1,150	
Publicity & Income Generation	2,823		2,566	
Insurance & Professional	6,918		4,593	
Bank Charges	473		111	
Travelling	2,008		1,064	
		53,142		48,749
		<hr/>		<hr/>
		24,026		(20,775)
Depreciation				
Fixtures & Fittings	<hr/> 5		<hr/> 6	
		<hr/> 5		<hr/> 6
NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)		<u>24,021</u>		<u>(20,781)</u>

This page does not form part of these financial statements

The Michael Roberts Charitable Trust
(Limited by Guarantee)

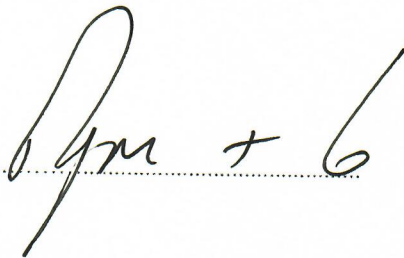
Annual Review Statement

The attached Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2023 have been prepared from information, records and explanations supplied and in accordance with current guidelines.

No issues worthy of being reported to the Treasurer have arisen during the year.

I am satisfied that the deficit of Income over Expenditure of £24,021 represents the charity's activities for the period and that the carried forward monetary balances agree with the bank and building society accounts of the charity.

Signed:



Date:

31st Jun 2023

Pigram & Co
43 Bluebell Drive
Stansted
Essex
CM24 8XP

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements

MICHAEL ROBERTS CHARITABLE TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1065006

Accounts

REGISTERED NUMBER: 03439299 (England & Wales)
CHARITY NUMBER: 1065006

Report of the Trustees and
Unaudited Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31st March 2023
for
The Michael Roberts Charitable Trust
Limited by Guarantee

The Michael Roberts Charitable Trust
(Limited by Guarantee)

Charity Information
for the year ended 31st March 2023

TRUSTEES:

J Ehlers (Chair of Trustees)
P Balkwill
T A Knott
D C Norkett – resigned 23rd November 2022
G Pattimore
M Parsons
A Khan – appointed 16th November 2022

NB: Trustees are also Directors of the Company

REGISTERED OFFICE:

Unit 8
Housham Hall Farm
Harlow Road
Matching Tye
Harlow
CM17 0PB

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 3439299 (England and Wales)

ACCOUNTANTS:

Pigram & Co
43 Bluebell Drive
Stansted
Essex
CM24 8XP

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1065006

BANK:

Barclays Bank Plc
14 The Water Gardens Centre
Harlow
Essex
CM20 1AN

The Michael Roberts Charitable Trust
(Limited by Guarantee)

Report of the Trustees
For the year ended 31st March 2023

The Trustees, who are also Directors of the Charity for the purpose of the Companies Act 2006, present their report together with the financial statements of the Company for the year ending 31st March 2023.

PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY

The principal activity of the Company in the year under review was that of a Christian Charity, working in the community with a wide range of people, including people with a learning / physical disability, people vulnerable and / or isolated through homelessness or being vulnerably housed and people in crisis with emergency food. The Company also worked with local fresh food companies assisting them to reduce their surplus food by picking it up and redistributing it into the local community to front-line professional care agencies.

The governing document is the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Company.

All Trustees offer themselves for election at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

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

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD


..... Andrew Thornton

Dated: 5th July 2023

THE MICHAEL ROBERTS CHARITABLE TRUST (LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
for the Year Ended 31 March 2023**

	Notes	Unrestricted General Fund £	Maybury Open Door £	Harlow Foodbank £	Bump to 5 £	Storehouse Upkeep £	Storehouse Rent/Utilities £	Bounty Club £	Trussell Trust Projects £	Redundancy Reserve £	2023 Total £	2022 Total £
INCOME and ENDOWMENTS FROM:												
Donations & Legacies		55,232	37,738	146,359	1,750	7,693	24,300	29,548			302,620	217,975
Income from Charitable Activities									66,710		66,710	16,000
Investment Income		546									546	90
TOTAL INCOME and ENDOWMENTS		55,778	37,738	146,359	1,750	7,693	24,300	29,548	66,710	-	369,876	234,065
EXPENDITURE ON:												
Income Generation		2,823									2,823	2,566
Expenditure on Charitable Activities												
Salaries		24,690	38,638	111,836	14,450			28,167			217,781	149,684
Training			231	1,110	198			210			1,749	1,570
Travel & Subsistence Expenses				1,137	871						2,008	1,064
Rent/Utilities			1,476	2,660			17,884				22,020	22,225
Telephone & Internet			112	761			2,131				3,004	4,386
Printing, Postage & Stationery							3,004				3,004	2,405
Motoring Costs				6,033				3,210			9,243	7,989
Ongoing Costs – Craft, Cleaning, Food, Day-to-Day			1,172	16,948	5,479						23,599	15,962
Insurance & Professional				3,960			1,959	999			6,918	4,593
New Equipment, Renewals & Upkeep							7,219				7,219	35,165
Bank Charges				473							473	111
Charitable Donations		1,150									1,150	1,150
Trussell Trust Projects									44,109		44,109	5,280
Depreciation	4	5									5	6
Independent Examiner & Accountancy Fees	2	750									750	690
TOTAL EXPENDITURE ON:		29,418	41,629	144,918	20,998	7,219	24,978	32,586	44,109	-	345,855	254,846
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS FOR THE YEAR		26,360	(3,891)	1,441	(19,248)	474	(678)	(3,038)	22,601	-	24,021	(20,781)
Balances brought forward at 1 April 2022		114,208	-	61,229	-	-	1,621	-	10,720	26,554	214,332	235,113
Transfer between Funds		(26,177)	3,891	-	19,248	-	-	3,038	-	-	-	-
BALANCES CARRIED FORWARD AT 31 MARCH 2023		114,391	-	62,670	-	474	943	-	33,321	26,554	238,353	214,332

This page forms part of these financial statements

The Michael Roberts Charitable Trust
(Limited by Guarantee)

Balance Sheet
As at 31st March 2023

	Notes	31 st March 2023		31 st March 2022	
		£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS					
Fixtures & Fittings	4				
Cost		6,242		6,242	
Less: Depreciation		<u>(6,227)</u>		<u>(6,222)</u>	
			15		20
Motor vehicles					
Bounty Club Van Cost		13,500		13,500	
Foodbank Van Cost		13,431		13,431	
Less: Depreciation		<u>(26,931)</u>		<u>(26,931)</u>	
			-		-
			<u>15</u>		<u>20</u>
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors – rent deposit	5	3,750		3,750	
Debtors – Gift Aid		1,603		1,408	
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>233,736</u>		<u>210,858</u>	
		239,088		216,016	
CURRENT LIABILITIES					
Amounts falling due within one year	6	<u>750</u>		<u>1,704</u>	
NET CURRENT ASSETS			<u>238,338</u>		<u>214,312</u>
NET ASSETS			<u>238,353</u>		<u>214,332</u>
FUNDS					
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS					
General			114,391		114,208
RESTRICTED FUNDS					
Foodbank			62,670		61,229
Storehouse Upkeep			474		-
Storehouse Rent/Utilities			943		1,621
Bump to 5	10		-		-
Bounty Club	9		-		-
Redundancy Reserve			26,554		26,554
Maybury Open Door			-		-
Trussell Trust Projects			33,321		10,720
			<u>238,353</u>		<u>214,332</u>

This page forms part of these financial statements

The Michael Roberts Charitable Trust
(Limited by Guarantee)

Trustees Statement
For the year ended 31st March 2023

The charity is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31st March 2023.

The members have not required the Company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31st March 2023 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The Trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for:

- (a) ensuring that the Company keeps accounting records which comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and
- (b) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Company as at the end of each financial year and of its profit or loss for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the Company.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 5th July 2023 and were signed on their behalf by:


.....
Jeanette Ehlers


.....
Gary Pattimore

The Michael Roberts Charitable Trust
(Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the Financial Statements
for the year ended 31st March 2023

1. **STATUTORY INFORMATION**

The Michael Roberts Charitable Trust is a private company, limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales. The company's registered number and registered office address can be found on the Charity Information page.

2. **ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

Basis of preparing the financial statements

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions of Section 1A "Small Entities" of Financial Reporting Standard 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Turnover

Turnover represents donations and gifts, as analysed in the Statement of Financial Activities, measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable, excluding discounts, rebates, value added tax and other sales taxes.

Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Fixtures and fittings	-	25% on reducing balance
Computer equipment	-	25% on reducing balance
Motor vehicles	-	33.3% on cost

Taxation

The Company is a registered charity as defined by the Charities Act 1960 and as such no taxation has been provided for in these accounts.

Hire purchase and leasing commitments

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to profit or loss on a straight-line basis over the period of the lease.

3. **EMPLOYEES AND DIRECTORS**

The average number of employees during the year was 8.

4. **TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS**

	<u>Fixtures & Fittings</u>	<u>Motor Vehicles</u>	<u>Computer Equipment</u>	<u>Total</u>
	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
COST:				
At 1 st April 2022	6,242	26,931	615	33,788
Additions	-	-	-	-
At 31 st March 2023	<u>6,242</u>	<u>26,931</u>	<u>615</u>	<u>33,788</u>
DEPRECIATION:				
At 1 st April 2022	6,222	26,931	615	33,768
Charge for Year	5	-	-	5
At 31 st March 2023	<u>6,227</u>	<u>26,931</u>	<u>615</u>	<u>33,773</u>
NET BOOK VALUE				
At 31 st March 2023	<u>15</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>15</u>
At 31 st March 2022	<u>20</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>20</u>

This page forms part of these financial statements

The Michael Roberts Charitable Trust
(Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the Financial Statements
for the year ended 31st March 2023

5. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	31st March 23	31st March 22
	£	£
Tax recoverable	1,603	1,408
Rent deposit	<u>3,750</u>	<u>3,750</u>
	<u>5,353</u>	<u>5,158</u>

6. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	31st March 23	31st March 22
	£	£
Other creditors and accruals	-	1,014
Accountancy	<u>750</u>	<u>690</u>
	<u>750</u>	<u>1,704</u>

7. RESTRICTED FUNDS

A full description of the restricted funds is contained in the Report of the Trustees. Financial details are contained in the Statement of Financial Activities on page 3.

8. HARLOW FOODBANK

Harlow Foodbank received non-perishable food donations totalling 114,420 Kg. During the year 112,492 Kg of non-perishable food was distributed to people in crisis and at the Balance Sheet date 1,928 Kg of non-perishable food was held for distribution in 2023/24.

9. BOUNTY CLUB

The Bounty Club picked up and distributed 325,000 Kg of fresh chilled surplus food which was made available to low income households through the Foodbank and Bounty Club operating from St Paul's Church in Harlow during the financial year.

10. BUMP TO FIVE

Bump to Five collected and redistributed over 20,000 items, from socks to coats, to pushchairs, cots and beds to support over 300 children aged 0 – 5 in 229 families living in poverty. It continues to hold a similar quantity to distribute in 2023/24.

Michael Roberts Charitable Trust
(Limited by Guarantee)

Income and Expenditure Account
for the year ended 31st March 2023

	Notes	31 st March 2023		31 st March 2022	
		£	£	£	£
Income					
VOLUNTARY SOURCES					
General Donations		25,685		42,869	
Maybury Open Door		37,738		27,938	
Harlow Foodbank	8	146,359		115,061	
Bump to 5	10	1,750		2,195	
Harlow Foodbank Storehouse Upkeep		7,693		2,800	
Harlow Foodbank Storehouse Utilities		24,300		26,500	
Bounty Club	9	59,095		612	
Trussell Trust Projects		<u>66,710</u>		<u>16,000</u>	
GROSS PROFIT			<u>369,330</u>		<u>233,975</u>
Other income					
Bank Interest		<u>546</u>		<u>90</u>	
			<u>546</u>		<u>90</u>
TOTAL INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS			369,876		234,065
Expenses					
DIRECT CHARITABLE EXPENDITURE					
Salary		217,781		149,684	
COMMUNITY SERVICES PROJECTS					
Maybury Open Door		1,172		2,557	
Harlow Foodbank	8	16,948		13,405	
Bump to 5	10	5,479		7,012	
Trussell Trust Projects		44,109		5,280	
Storehouse – new equipment, renewals, refurbishment		<u>7,219</u>		<u>28,153</u>	
			292,708		206,091
PROFIT/(LOSS) CARRIED FORWARD			77,168		27,974

This page does not form part of these financial statements

The Michael Roberts Charitable Trust
(Limited by Guarantee)

Income and Expenditure Account
for the year ended 31st March 2023

	31 st March 2023		31 st March 2022	
	£	£	£	£
Brought forward		77,168		27,974
OTHER EXPENDITURE				
Rent	22,020		22,225	
Telephone & Internet	3,004		4,386	
Printing, Postage & Stationery	3,004		2,405	
Motoring Costs	9,243		7,989	
Training	1,749		1,570	
Accountancy	750		690	
Donations	1,150		1,150	
Publicity & Income Generation	2,823		2,566	
Insurance & Professional	6,918		4,593	
Bank Charges	473		111	
Travelling	2,008		1,064	
		53,142		48,749
		<hr/>		<hr/>
		24,026		(20,775)
Depreciation				
Fixtures & Fittings	<hr/> 5		<hr/> 6	
		<hr/> 5		<hr/> 6
NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)		<u>24,021</u>		<u>(20,781)</u>

This page does not form part of these financial statements

The Michael Roberts Charitable Trust
(Limited by Guarantee)

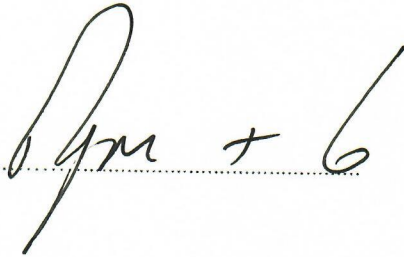
Annual Review Statement

The attached Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2023 have been prepared from information, records and explanations supplied and in accordance with current guidelines.

No issues worthy of being reported to the Treasurer have arisen during the year.

I am satisfied that the deficit of Income over Expenditure of £24,021 represents the charity's activities for the period and that the carried forward monetary balances agree with the bank and building society accounts of the charity.

Signed:



Date:

31st Jun 2023

Pigram & Co
43 Bluebell Drive
Stansted
Essex
CM24 8XP

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements

MICHAEL ROBERTS CHARITABLE TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1065006

Accounts

Michael Roberts Charitable Trust

Developing lives, enriching community

Annual Report

2021-22





CONTENTS & VISION

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- Introduction by Chief Executive Officer 3
- Thank you & farewell Michael Roberts 4
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Our vision is that everyone can belong and participate in their communities, knowing that they are significant, valued, included and wanted.

Our vision is that no one should go hungry, or without the means to bring up their children, heat their homes or live in dignity.

In that position should know that they are supported by those around them until things are good again.

Our vision is fueled by the belief that nobody is excluded, unwanted or overlooked by God, whose love is revealed through Jesus.

Guide to images on front cover:
Left to right—Bounty Club pick up at Brakes | Foodbank recipient at St Paul's | SES Christmas Party at Paringdon Sports Centre | Bump to Five at HTS River Way receives a Christmas donation from The Rent Guarantee Company | Maybury Open Door welcomes newcomers to their Christmas Party in Momples Road | Bump to Five donations supporting newly arrived Afghan refugees at Harlow Hotel | M18 Foods accept a new donation point in East Road | Church of Pentecost donating food to the Store House at Housham Hall Farm | Church Langley Tesco Christmas collection | MRCT Sale of Stansted Airport donated items at North Weald Market.



INTRODUCTION FROM OUR CEO



This past year saw a slow and steady emergence from the shadows of Covid.

We report here on the actions we took to lessen its impact on those most vulnerable: whose livelihoods hit rock bottom or resilience struggled in lockdown. In this year we kept our focus to help those most affected.

As a result our projects, our work, and our budgets continued to grow. We hope you will be gladdened to see all we are now doing to help Harlow and the villages. It has been a truly collective effort thanks to our amazing supporters and partners. Thank you!

Our focus is relatively simple: we want people to live in dignity, knowing they are cared for and valued. And when they have got the strength to do so, we hope they might offer that back, creating a cycle of hope.

This cycle of care and hope came into sharp relief when Michael Roberts, the man whose name we bear, passed away in March this year.

Not many people knew who Michael was. Many assume that he was the wealthy benefactor behind our charity. But that couldn't be much further from the truth...

Michael was a man born with Down's Syndrome who had next to no money, was mostly brought up in care - needing institutional support for daily living. Michael's speech was hard to understand, and yet his warmth, empathy and unreserved appreciation of those around him left everyone who met him feeling good about life. His faith, optimism and cheeky humour regularly lit up a room, without the need for words.

We are proud to carry Michael's name forward through the impacts of our many projects. On the next page we profile his life and contribution to our ongoing work. We hope that our actions proclaim the values and beliefs that Michael held, and communicated... with or without words. We hope that we can be as infectious as he was in making this world a better place! Thank you for inspiring us so much, Michael Roberts, rest in peace.

MRCT may be growing, but our work continues to be delivered effectively thanks to the selfless giving of those who work alongside our small staff team every day. Like a well-oiled machine the support of around 100 volunteers a week makes it all happen. We and Harlow owe them a great debt of gratitude. Similarly our

Trustees and wonderful Hon Treasurer Rob Carrington drive us forward with an inspiring consistency, dedication and vision. They ask all the tough questions that keep us sharp - thanks again!

But alongside that, it is hard to quantify just how many people help their neighbours through MRCT. The thousands of people who drop an item into the Foodbank basket, the Facebook supporters that pass on our requests for help, the hundreds of community partners, the businesses who give us surplus food, the advisors who come in to our settings to support clients and the amazing churches who lend us their premises and people: St Paul's, Harefield and the Salvation Army.

Fundamental to that comes the support of those who regularly donate money, whether monthly or annually, small or large, many anonymous, many collective like churches and businesses. At the end of every year our books balance and our faith increases. Thanks everyone!

This is the generosity that we hope Harlow will recognise as essential to building a strong and prosperous town, with kind and welcoming neighbours, friendly villages, safe places for our children to grow up and good-hearted governance .

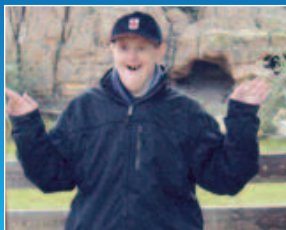
All of these things take warmth, generosity, trust, hope and optimism: a faith that the goodness in others and the goodness in ourselves belong together, and can overcome.

For being part of this we thank our God and You.

**Together we make love and dignity happen.
What a great thing!**

Andy Thornton
Chief Executive Officer





THANK YOU & FAREWELL MICHAEL ROBERTS

The Michael Roberts Charitable Trust, has been running for nearly 25 years now.

In that period we have achieved things that could never have been imagined when our Co-Founders Gary & Teresa Knott stepped out in faith to establish the charity.

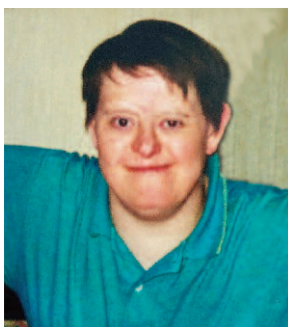
Typical of Gary & Teresa was their decision to name it after one of their inspirations: someone whose generosity and openness had inspired them hugely: Michael Roberts.

We are often asked who Michael Roberts is? People assume he was a rich man who generously gave money to those in need: the type that more normally have a charity named after them.

But in some ways Michael was the opposite.

He was a man born with Down's Syndrome, with no significant money to his name. His speech was quite unclear, but in his own way he generously handed out much more than money: he beamed out love, joy and happiness – in unreserved quantities. In him Gary & Teresa saw the image of the God that they all loved, emblematic of what the charity would go on to do.

In March '22, we are sad to say, Michael died at the age of 62.



Michael shared much of the journey of MRCT and we are forever grateful to him.

The picture here shows him in Poland in 1999 where at aged 40 he accompanied a delegation from MRCT to visit facilities in Poland. Care centres were being set up after that country had

tragically failed the needs of those orphaned and discarded. So many with learning difficulties and severe physical disabilities were found neglected, deprived of sensory stimulus. Michael's presence transformed the visit as his vitality showed what was possible for those overlooked and considered incompetent with Down's Syndrome there.

MRCT joined in the response to that by setting up an activity programme and sensory room in an existing residential home, not a new centre and employing and training Polish care workers to run it. This initially helped 'The 31 people behind the door' but the ethos then



spread further to help hundreds find their way.

We made a video of that journey – '31 People Behind the Door' – revealing the disturbing situation that was given a significant boost through our earlier work. You can watch it here. (QR)



Michael was also a core member of our Living Stones Drama Group. He loved acting, relishing his role as the snooty Bishop in the parable of the Good Samaritan. You can see this here (QR) in another archive video which captures this extraordinary group in the 1990s.



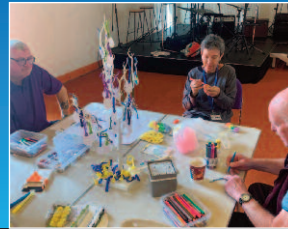
Michael went on to become a founder member and regular attendee of Maybury Open Door. He is remembered with great fondness by those who recall his effusive thankful speeches to guests who came to the centre – even though the content was very hard to discern. He was just 'a very kind, happy man'.

We are proud to keep Michael's name alive; honouring the joy that he brought to the world. He was the kind of person that easily gets overlooked. Yet so many were moved to tears when they met him, discovering something very precious through his immediacy and uninhibited empathy for them.

It is a comfort to picture Michael and Gary having a good catch-up in heaven, now that Michael has found his voice. Michael out of his wheelchair, talking effusively about those great years, and how The Maybury Open Door continues to bring to life their shared belief that everyone has something great to bring to this world. We all have a light to shine and share!

Thank You for a life beyond words, Michael Roberts.

We celebrate you – at home now with the God you loved so much: fully free.



MAYBURY OPEN DOOR



Maybury Open Door is our drop in centre which operates 3 days a week in two church venues in the town.

Maybury supports a wide range of adults including the elderly, people with a disability or learning difficulties, homeless, isolated people and others who just need to venture out and meet new friends.

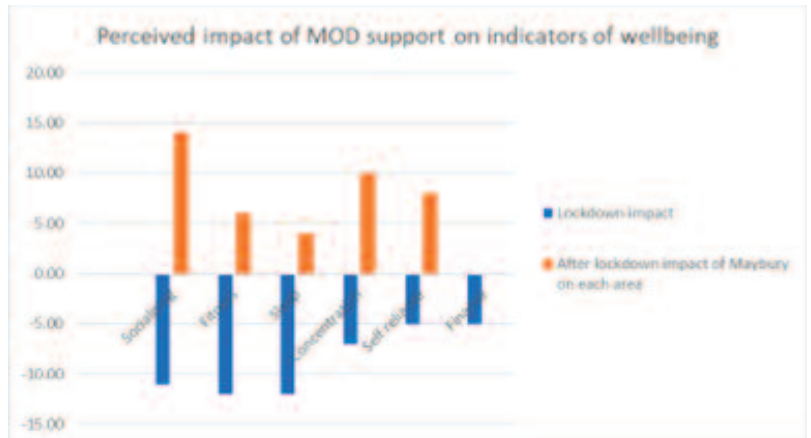
In a year dominated by Covid restrictions Maybury slowly got back to some of the old routines. We could open for longer hours, operating not just as support groups, but as a drop-in again. Christmas Parties were held at Harefield Church and St Paul's with guest singers and a communal meal - just before the new variant arrived and closed us down again for January.

Towards the end of March facemask regulations could be slackened and visitors could circulate more. All the regular games and pastimes could return, and though life in general had been harder, with attendees unable to talk face-to-face with Doctors, Psychiatrists or others in a position to help them, the Maybury team provided a place to feel safe and belong.

Our research throughout the year, when regulars returned after being confined to home, showed strong indications of the part Maybury previously played in their lives. Regular attendees felt that the lockdown had affected their sleep patterns, concentration levels, fitness and confidence to socialise. These lost faculties bounced back over the weeks they returned to Maybury although for some the impact is slower than others.

After a second disrupted year we would particularly like to thank our staff team and our regular volunteers for their dedication and flexibility. This project more than any other has needed to respond to the changes in our national life, and their constant concern for our regular attendees has been outstanding.

Similarly the funders who helped us create extra resources: The All Churches Trust, Harlow Health Centres Trust and partner churches at Harefield and St Paul's have been wonderful.



Special thanks...
Our thanks go again to the amazing staff and volunteers who have made Maybury such a special place for old friends and new, every week.

“ This has been great, I will definitely come back, thank you.
Glad to be back again.
The Team help me to keep things going in the right direction.
Coming here helps me with my routine, I don't know what I would do without the club. **”**



HARLOW FOODBANK & BOUNTY CLUB



2021-22 saw our food projects work closer for the benefit of households in need.

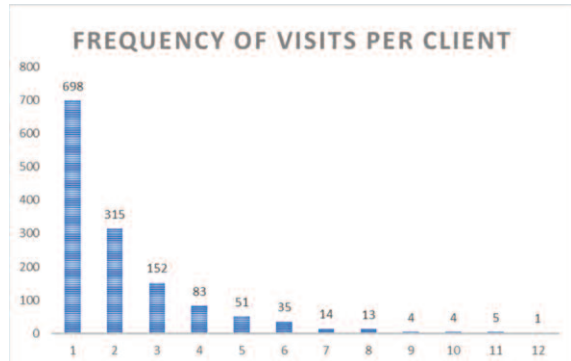
In the year previous to this, we saw an unprecedented hiatus with the complete lockdown at the arrival of Covid.

This year saw some let up in the first few months, until winter when numbers at the Foodbank slowly rose again. The activity in our Store House was very different from the previous year. We were inundated in 20/21, yet in 21/22 donations to us decreased but the demand increased.

Unlike the previous year when we were able to help out many other charities around the town, we had to stay focused on maintaining our stocks to ensure that the Foodbank honoured its commitment to voucher holders. We supplemented this with an increasing amount of fresh food from the Bounty Club, so that recipients received the standard package plus a choice of fresh fruit and vegetables - thanks to Brakes and Bidfood who continue to give us the pick of fresh items with around a week's dates left on them.

Our voucher count at the end of the year was around 83% on the previous (thankfully fewer needed our support) although it has subsequently risen to the same level in the 22/23 financial year as we report.

For the second year we were affected by the restraints on schools and businesses: where fewer attendees and restrictions on handling items led to lower giving at Harvest. We were grateful to many who responded to our



special appeal and used their ingenuity to gather food for those in need, despite the restrictions.

By Christmas the message was getting through that we were regularly having to buy food to support the dwindling levels of stock in the Store House, and our appeals in the town's supermarkets received great support at what turned out to be a highly demanding Christmas period.

We want to thank our volunteers (young and old) who gave their time over the year to gently persuade their shoppers to remember their neighbours at that time. Our ongoing thanks to Tesco and ASDA for welcoming us into their stores, and more than anything, the people of Harlow who have dug deep in support of their neighbours.



What does 182 tonnes of food look like? Here is our Storehouse. When full it will hold around 40 tonnes on 110 palettes stacked to 4 foot high. We are emptying it around once every 3 months.





HARLOW FOODBANK & BOUNTY CLUB

How many times do people use the foodbank in a year?



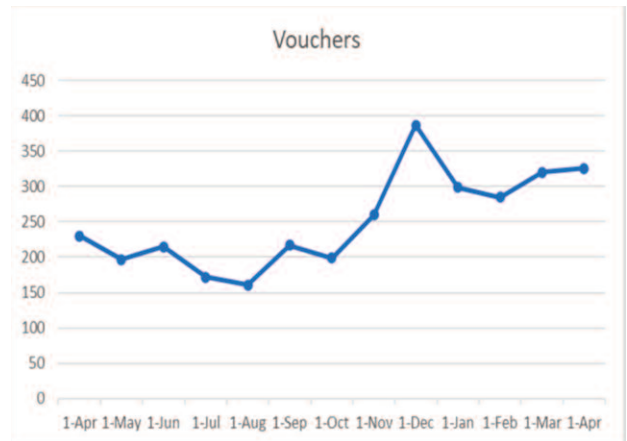
This is a question we are often asked. Some think that people become dependent on us—getting food from us and spending the equivalent money on the ‘wrong kind of things’. Others think we will refuse to give any more food after they have been three times.

Our philosophy is that we are here to make sure that people can remain resilient and feel supported in times of crisis. Every food parcel is literally a gift from their neighbours, saying ‘we’re on your side’. Our job is to pass that on in the spirit it was given...

On the left here is our analysis of number of vouchers given per client: broadly similar to previous years.

As you can see, for most people the number of times they visit is one. Some (a tiny percentage) come over ten times, though seldom in a row... usually because they have hit hard times more than once in the year.

And for those who do numbers... the average is 2.16 times.



Foodbank food given out 2020—21
108,000 kg

7,045
individuals fed via 3,620 packages

83%
of food given in the previous exceptional year

74,000 kg
fresh food to the Foodbank, Harlow schools & charities

2,932
children getting 4 days' food portions



From fresh, to fridge, to Foodbank

Our ability to extend the work of the Bounty Club got a boost this year with a grant from the Sainsbury Foundation for a new industrial fridge, followed by two smaller recycled ones from Phoenix Resources.

Alongside our refrigerated pick-up van we can now keep temperatures low throughout, storing fresh meat as well as fruit and veg. This has helped us extend our fresh food offering into a new kind of Bounty Club in 22/23 operating for non-Foodbank families who can pay a £2.50 weekly membership for a large bag of food.





BUMP TO FIVE

What an amazing year unfolded!



Last year we reported on our preparatory work to launch a facility to support families by collecting and redistributing essential items for children: newborn to five years of age.

After our first appeal for items to redistribute we quickly filled the area in the Store House assigned for the project. The public were unceasingly generous with items, and it was clear that we needed more space as requests for support started coming in.

To our great delight HCT, Harlow's environmental service company who had helped us to store overflow food during Covid, agreed that we could operate from a large area in their premises. All items were shipped down to there and sorted to be packaged up by our volunteers.

We officially launched in September and by the end of March we had dealt with 200 referrals. These came from a number of agencies and professionals around the town as well as some self-referrals: either people who had found our service through the grapevine, or been given information on how to get support when they attended the Foodbank. Figures have since stabilised at around 50-60 referrals a month: three times our initial forecast.

The most common items that we are asked for are clothes, nappies and other small items—but as the table here indicates, by June this year we have given out a huge variety of items in hundreds of bundles

All of these items have been donated to us by members of the public, often from well outside Harlow, wanting to help other families.

Some of these items are surprisingly large, and can be a complete game-changer for families. An example would be the day we dropped off a cot and other items to a man who was separating from his wife and moving into a permitted development in the town. We learned that unless he had that equipment his baby would not have been able to come and visit him. But now we had helped keep the family together. What started as a physical item became a child knowing their two parents...



Most requested items:	
Clothes	200
Nappies	171
Toiletries	90
Formula	65
Buggy/ pushchair	44
Cot	37
Shoes	25
Bedding	24
Bouncy chairs	22
Highchair	21
Moses basket	15
Blankets	13
Stair gate	12
Feeding bottles	12
Steriliser	10
Changing mats	9
Toys	6
Changing bags	6
Slings/ carriers	5
Bath	4
Play mat	2
Bed	1
Bunk bed	1
Walker	1
Chest of drawers	1
Baby monitor	1
Bibs	1
Grand Total	799



Bump To Five launched in September 2021 supported by HTS





THE CHANGING MINDS PROJECT

The Trussell Trust exists to end hunger, not run Foodbanks: what's the difference?

Supported by Trussell Trust we have embarked on a 3 year project to 'Change Minds' about the need for Foodbanks.

You may think this means we want to get more food out to people. Of course, if they need it we do. But we would prefer people to not be going hungry.

We want to end hunger. If that means helping feed people, as a last resort we will.

So the Changing Minds project has begun its 3 year plan by simply collecting the stories of people coming

to the Foodbank. "What has led to you coming here today", our researcher Emma asked hundreds of people.

Around 70 sat down with her and told their stories in detail. We can't tell you who they are, but we can give you a flavour of common threads. The stories are painful if you have the heart to put yourself in their shoes.

In that sense, we hope people will begin to wonder how a rich country like ours can tolerate leaving people so vulnerable?

"I make some clothes and I love cooking. I stretch everything I get as far as I can. I'm hoping to sew some Christmas bits and sell them on Facebook, to help out, but at the minute I've added up my bills and I either pay my direct debits or my children have a Christmas. I've got £33 after they're all paid. I don't know what to do, really."

"Despite being terminally ill, even if I've been hungry, and even if I have to go out to work through it all, my children and my family will be fed and warm. The trip to the foodbank has saved us."

"Travelling in Harlow is really expensive. It's £5.60 for a day ticket for all three of us to travel to two different schools. The bus only comes once an hour. I seem to spend most of the day waiting for a bus."

"The chemo really had a big affect on my wellbeing – it has changed my personality and I find myself really short tempered. The government should be more realistic and stop cracking the whip. I want to be active and enjoy life but I feel that we are pointed towards things that will eventually lead us to feel bad. I'd like to do more to help people, because I think in life, that's all we can do."

"At 56, I've gone from working, having a home, having a wife, everything, to being here at the foodbank. It feels very shameful."

"Now I'm here at the foodbank I feel like a zero. When we were moved into our place in one of the permitted developments in Harlow we didn't have anything – no furniture or kitchen utensils. I had to buy all new school uniform and a TV. I have no one to turn to. All my money is gone."

"When your circumstances change, like mine have, it greatly impacts all of your life, and leaves you with a bleak future. You lose friends because you lose the ability to socialise. Friends and family fall away."

"I have been a carer for 30+ years – I looked after my family members from the age of 13. I worked all through covid but last May it all became too much and I had to stop. I'd been working for seven days a week, juggling family commitments and it was all too much. I just couldn't do it anymore. The doctor signed me off for a while and then I just had to leave. I've gone from £600-700 a week to £258/month on Universal Credit."

Next year these stories will be used to create a greater understanding of the predicaments of people who use our Foodbanks, through creating materials for Schools, Churches and Businesses. We believe that many of the public have little insight into the reality of life for those who come to us, and commonly believe false myths that lead to blame or an absolution of our collective responsibility to care for each other.

Would you prefer to be in a country that had no need of Foodbanks?



RESPONDING TO POVERTY IN HARLOW

Costs going up, benefits losing pace, things don't look good...

Last year we printed this graph of the relationship between levels of benefits and the cost of living.

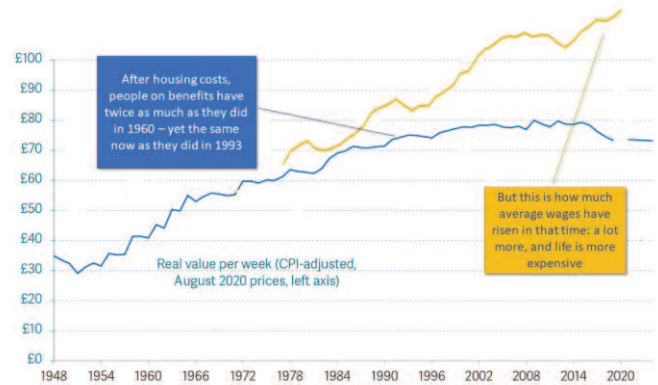
It shows how the levels of benefit support have continued to drop in real terms, year on year, leaving dependents in an increasingly fragile position. As our Changing Minds stories show, they are vulnerable to destitution should life deal them any unexpected knocks.

As a charity we don't take a party-political stance, but recognise that numbers like these represent collective decisions made at government level, well beyond our control.

We are members of the Harlow Poverty Alliance, a broad network of voluntary and statutory agencies working in Harlow. We meet monthly to discuss how we can help reduce local poverty and support those affected by it.

It is currently chaired by our CEO, and the Alliance felt a strong concern for those in the town as the financial year drew to a close. Why?

Predictions of inflation rising by 10% started to be broadcast. We were aware that our neighbours on benefits were already floundering after the £20 a week uplift during COVID was removed. If people were struggling then, what would happen if inflation added 10% to the living costs of those dependant on benefits? They would clearly need a 10% uplift just to standstill.



But this uplift didn't happen. In March the increase for April was set at worrying 3.1%. We contacted our MP Robert Halfon who kindly wrote to the Secretary of State responsible for benefits to express our concern and forwarded us back his reply: the benefit level rise is customarily benchmarked at the level of inflation in the previous September, which was 3.1%. Yet that was when the inflation level had been kept artificially low by state intervention in the economy during Covid.

Other factors compounded the situation in the town such as the removal of price caps on house rentals causing rent levels to rise for many. The war in Ukraine has compounded this, leaving us in financially perilous territory. We hardly need to mention 'the cost of living crisis' on this page as it is everywhere on our TV screens right now.



Looking at the coming year

The current trend for the Foodbank in 2022/23 indicates that 9-10,000 visitors will come in this year. This is 20% more than last year's 7,000. But alongside this we expect to distribute a further 15,000 low cost food bags to around 2,000 families at the Bounty Club, stopping them from slipping into crisis.

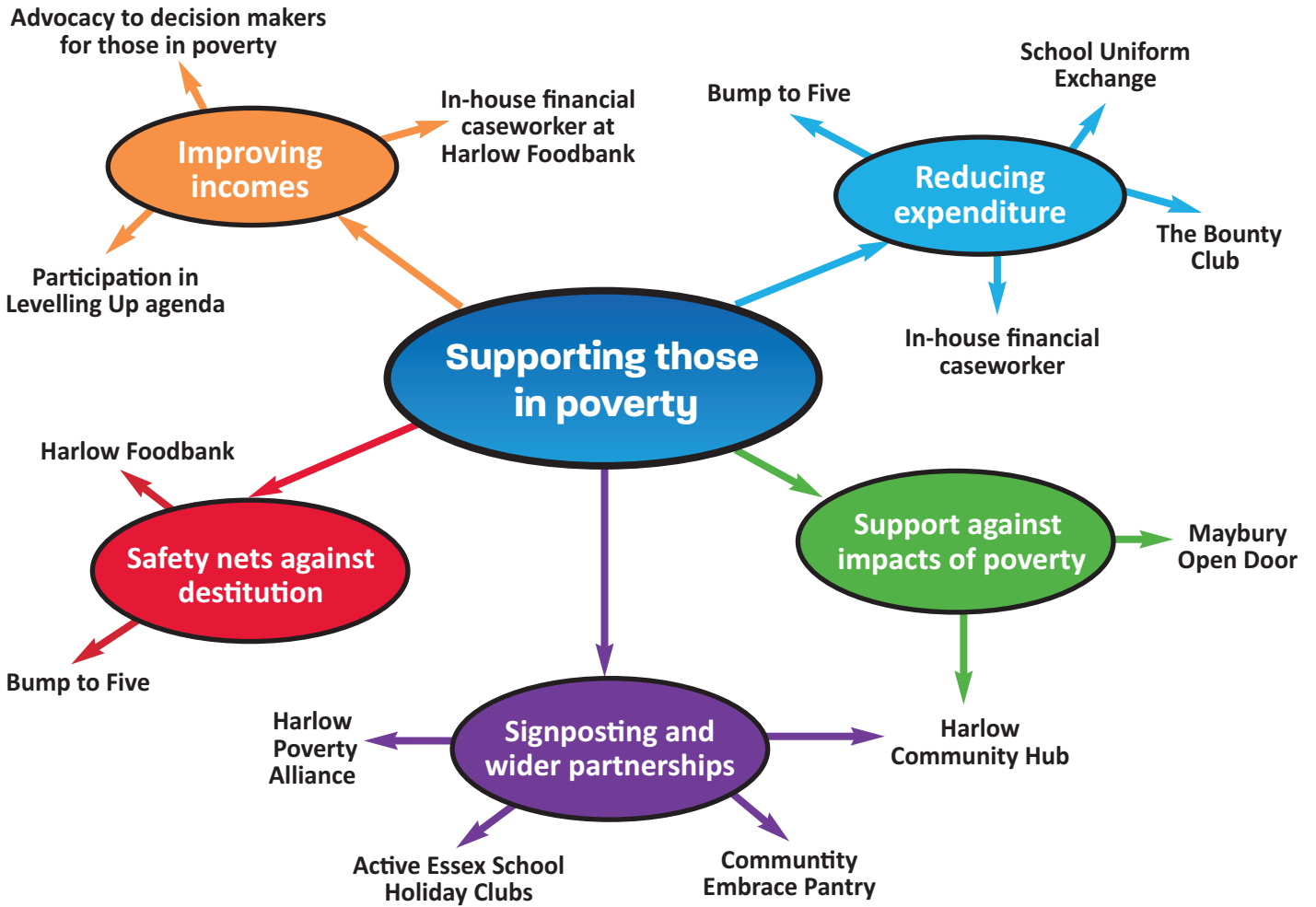
This pattern of inflation racing ahead of incomes will affect us all. At times like this we often say 'we are all in this together' but those nearest the breadline are 'in it' more than others and we will continue to work for them. However, there are only a few options that can be considered at this point:

- Improving incomes
- Reducing expenditure
- Providing a safety net for those made destitute
- Collaborating with others to ensure that support is there for people trying to withstand the many secondary impacts of poverty such as mental health issues.



RESPONDING TO POVERTY IN HARLOW

What are we doing in response to this?



How might you help?

- Come and join the conversations led by the Harlow Poverty Alliance—seeking grass roots ideas along with wider collaborations across the region.
- Consider how you / your institution, business, organisation might play your part to support those most affected at this time
- Pray for / cheer on the Harlow Poverty Alliance - helping all agencies to share their information, work together, innovate and destigmatise poverty. The sooner people access help and address any mounting problem, the better.



OUR COLLABORATIONS

MRCT is committed to working in partnerships. From the Foodbank which works alongside hundreds of voucher writers from agencies around the town, to one-off projects, we want to create the best outcomes for people in and around the town by working with all those with similar concern and hope.

Here is a snapshot of four that have made a difference in this past year.

Heart 4 Harlow

This is the joint churches' movement in the town. There are around 45 churches in Harlow and neighbouring villages, and many affiliate to this community who come together to pray and collaborate on projects that help different groups in the area.

Heart 4 Harlow members have been wonderfully supportive of MRCT over the years, we really treasure this.

This past year we supported the Heart 4 Harlow Awards: held in the Playhouse in April. These celebrated the great contribution of individuals and organisations to the social fabric of the town: from sports clubs to Chaplains, recognising the unique gifts that got us through the time of Covid.

For more information on Heart 4 Harlow please see www.heart4harlow.org.uk

The Harlow Community Hub

This was the name for the Council-run emergency support service set up at the start of Covid. When the pandemic began to decline we were aware of its great benefit. Many were affected when the Job Centre were told they could no longer write Foodbank vouchers. Where could people turn?

Thankfully Rainbow Services gathered a coalition of agencies and received support from Harlow Council to continue to promote a wide range of support, advice and signposting services to our constituents: from Foodbank vouchers to Mental Health to fuel vouchers and beyond. Core partners are:

Rainbow Services | Citizens Advice Harlow | Harlow Volunteer Centre | MIND in West Essex | ISS | MRCT

Harlow Poverty Alliance

Our CEO is Chair of this group which commenced during Covid and has since grown to incorporate most groups across the town who address issues related to poverty: currently 25 in total. The Alliance launched an inaugural conference in June '22 bringing more people together in support of those affected by poverty. Although not in the year we report on here – this event attracted a large audience and amassed widespread support, consolidating much that we had done over the previous year. A report from it is available in the news section of our web site.

The Trussell Trust

We are affiliates of the Trussell Trust whose work and impact has increased exponentially over the past few years. This has brought enormous benefits to our work, informing us of wider trends as well as directly funding projects to extend our impact, such as the Changing Minds Project and more recently in 2022 giving us the funding to host a Finance Caseworker in the Foodbank. Everyone attending the Foodbank will now be given the option to have direct support in assessing their financial situation: from correct levels of income and benefits to debt and budgeting advice. This is a fantastic boost to our work!



Harlow Community Hub
Support for people in crisis

Rainbow SERVICES

- Helpline 10am-2pm (01279 927005)
- Visit the Community Hub – Harvey Centre, St Pauls, Moot Hall.
- Visit our Pop Up Hub around Harlow
- Email: harlowcommunityhub@rainbowservices.org.uk

HARLOW POVERTY ALLIANCE

MORNING CONFERENCE

Addressing the causes and impacts of poverty in Harlow: *taking stock & moving forwards*

WHEN
June 24th, 2022 9am - 130pm

WHERE
Harlow Rugby Club
Lalton Park, Newnham Way CH20 3JF

ALL WELCOME
Free entrance - advance

ADVANCE TICKETS

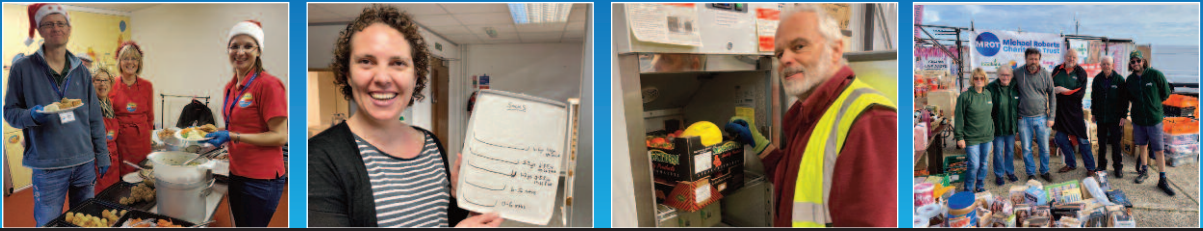
WHO IS IT FOR?
Frontline workers
Community leaders
Policy makers
Those who help Harlow
Those affected by poverty

TOPICS
Understanding Daily Credit
Budget Facts and Figures
What factors contribute?
The lived experience of poverty in the town
Responsibility to businesses of poverty in the town
Levelling up - what can be done?
Preventing crisis
Working with Robert
Hullin MP - *How can we move forwards?*

BENEFITTING
People affected by poverty in Harlow
Professional practice

WWW.EVENTBRITE.CO.UK (SEE QR!)





MRCT STAFF & VOLUNTEERS



Andy David Margaret

Head Office

Andy Thornton – Chief Executive Officer, Company Secretary
 David Evans – Director of Community Services
 Margaret O’Donovan – Director of Operations

Harlow Foodbank

Patrick Coppeard – General Manager, Harlow Foodbank
 Adrian Smith – Assistant Manager (Bank), St Paul’s Satellite
 Marc Edmans – MRCT Logistics & Operational Assistant



Patrick Adrian Marc

Bounty Club

Trevor Stanesby – Bounty Club Coordinator

Maybury Open Door

Clair Forway – Community Worker
 Suzie Raraty – Community Worker
 Karolina Sadowska – Community Worker
 Michael Raven – Assistant Community Worker
 Liz Bellworthy – Community Worker - Bank Worker
 Moira Luff – Community Worker - Bank Worker



Trevor Clair Suzie

Bump-to-Five

Fernanda Champness – Bump to Five Project Manager

Changing Minds

Emma Batrick – Research and Campaigns – Changing Minds



Karolina Michael Liz

MRCT Trustees

Jeanette Ehlers (Chair)
 Pat Balkwill
 Gary Pattimore
 David Norkett
 Teresa Knott (Co-Founder and Trustee)
 Matt Parsons



Moira Fernanda Emma

Honorary

Robert Carrington – Honorary Treasurer



MRCT has ten times more volunteers than staff. It is impossible to stress how much our achievements depend on their hard work and good will—thanks so much to every one!

Our volunteers help with all the projects that you have read about, and we are always looking for more.

From sorting food or baby’s items to picking up, working at Maybury, helping with a Supermarket day for a few hours every 6 months to being involved in a project or campaign group, there are so many ways to help us help others! Check out the volunteers page on our web site for full details of how, where and when you might get involved!

www.mrct.org.uk/get-involved/volunteer-3/



COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

MRCT's work is a tremendous feat of collaboration from so many people who bring their goodwill to help people across the town. We are thankful to all those listed here (and we hope we haven't forgotten any!) for playing their part in supporting Harlow and the surrounding areas with us in the past year.



The Bounty Club operates a refrigerated van picking up three days a week from food wholesalers in order to get fresh food to individuals and organisations who support communities in need. This also enables us to give fresh food to recipients at our Foodbank. Picking up this food also avoids thousands of Kgs of fresh food going to landfills every year, redirecting it to those who otherwise could not afford it.



Bidfood provide a wide variety of surplus, short dated, soft drinks and fresh food for us to redistribute across the town. Through doing this they help schools, disadvantaged people and local agencies.



Brakes provide a wide range of surplus, short dated fresh food and meat, allowing us to access their stock and choose what we can distribute to partners, schools, individuals and the food bank.



Harlow Foodbank stops people going hungry by acting as a resource for frontline professionals who are supporting those in crisis across the town. Over 200 professionals and organisations can write vouchers which authorise their clients to pick up enough food for at least four days. Individuals can also ask the food bank for help, and they will always be helped and at the same time referred to a supportive agency to address the causes of their lack of money for food.



St. Paul's Church in the town centre hosts our food bank for four days a week. We could not operate without their fantastic support for us and for the people of Harlow. They are true allies and show constant flexibility and cooperation in our mission. Thanks so much!



The Salvation Army in Harlow are our second wonderful delivery partner. They operate the Foodbank on Wednesdays (until Christmas 2021 a day when Saint Paul's church was not open) deploying their team member Lorraine Evans and resources as true partners in our mission to support those in need. We are so grateful to them!



UK Salads have provided an assortment of fresh salad items each week which we can then distribute to clients at the food bank. their consistent support has helped thousands this year.



High Trees Packers' consistent generosity has enabled us to provide a supply of fresh potatoes through the food bank year on year. This is a hugely valuable resource to people in need.



Greenways Eggs continue to provide our food bank in Harlow town centre with a supply of fresh eggs each week which helps to complement the range of non-perishable food we give to all our food bank referrals. Thanks again to Jenny Fish for her great support.



Special thanks again to Tesco who have not only allowed us to pick up a huge amount of food from all the supermarkets around the town but they also top up the amount given by donors in the store with a further 20% of financial contribution to help with our running costs. They, and their customers have been phenomenal this year.



Thanks too to Sainsbury's for faithfully providing a place for their customers to contribute donations of food to our food bank, day in and day out. Thanks for keeping them safe when they overflowed many times this year!



Many thanks to Asda and their fab Community Champion Gemma in the Water Gardens for such warm cooperation in providing a basket for donations from their customers. Again, this year these overflowed and fresh ones were provided when full.



Lok'n'Store have supported our work since we opened in 2009 come up currently providing a drop off point for food donations throughout the year. This has been a consistent and fantastic resource, thanks so much!



Poundland have been an invaluable community partner since 2017. Providing a wide range of non-perishable foods, toiletries, household items, sweets and drinks, these add important extras to local people in crisis.



SES Group provided a hugely generous party for Harlow children who might not have had a present last Christmas. We acted as a go-between with local agencies who knew who they might be, and the staff team at SAS group went chose, bought, wrapped and gave out presents (and more) at a special event which also supported recently arrived Afghan refugees.



COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS



Land Sherriff's bought beautiful Body Shop cosmetic gifts for mum's (often the most overlooked) who came to the Foodbank – a very thoughtful treat... they also lend us their big vans for special occasions and come to volunteer in our Store House! Thanks Tyler, Vanda and team.



Thanks to iRead books for donating thousands of childrens, puzzle and colouring in books as bonus items for the FoodBank and also to other agencies we partner with across the town.



Maybury Open Door operates their drop in in two centres across the town. We thank our hosts St Paul's and Harefield Churches who so warmly and committedly work with us to provide this enduring safe space for attendees.



Based on the edge of town, the store house hosts our offices as well as a copious two-storey storage space for food and other items that are donated to us.

We cannot thank our partners, Lawsons builders, enough for sponsoring our vans, for renovating our store house by installing office spaces for the whole organisation, and this year by donating 72 steel girders that now underpin the 1st floor making it strong enough for the kind of quantities of food we are now storing and redistributing. Lawson's have given us a free van and forklift and service the forklift for us. This family-run business exemplify generosity and social responsibility and have inconspicuously changed so many lives in our town.



We are deeply grateful to Harlow Council and also to the Mulberry Trust for underpinning the costs of running the Store House.



We would like to thank Bristol Street Motors who diligently support us by offering free services and cost price repairs to our fleet of 3 vans. They keep us on the road!



Bump to Five takes in essential items for children, new-born to five years old, and sorts them into bundles of requested items, dispatching them to families who need them. These are mostly referred to us by caring agencies and professionals around the time, and some ae self-referred from the Foodbank.



HTS continue to support us by lending us storage space for the Bump to Five project. This is a perfect space nearer the town centre so that stored items stay warm and dry, as do the volunteers who work so hard there.



The Michael Roberts Charitable Trust is the parent organisation that runs the projects operated above. Founded in 1997 by Teresa and Gary Knott, the Trust has flexibility to respond to a wide range of needs in Harlow and the surrounding areas.



We would like to thank the Trussell Trust, our associates in running the food bank. The Trussell trust runs a national network of food banks offering guidance through regional staff, materials, partnerships, data management, additional grants, networking, statistical analysis, national campaigning advice and solidarity.

We want to thank our colleagues at the Bishop Stortford food bank for our ongoing close working partnership. This allows us both to get the best out of working in neighbouring towns, sharing ideas and resources to the full.



We would like to thank all organisations in Harlow who partner with us by referring those in need to the food bank. These partnerships go much deeper than writing vouchers: we are in constant touch with frontline staff who advise us on the best way to respond and collaborate in addressing the needs of those facing poverty in Harlow.



In particular we would like to thank Rainbow Services, Harlow's central support charity for the other charities and agencies in the town. We thank them for their leadership in the voluntary sector, in the Community Hub and the consistently warm-hearted support they give when we need a friend!



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS



All Churches Hope Beyond Fund (funding support)
 ASDA (food collection point)
 Bidfood, Harlow (surplus fresh food supplies)
 Bishop's Stortford Foodbank (foodbank partner)
 Brakes, Harlow (surplus fresh food supplies)
 Bristol Street Motors (van servicing and repair)
 Burnt Mill Academy (student supermarket collections)
 CAF Resilience Fund (funding support)
 Church and School partners (general and harvest food donations)
 Church Langley Church (funding partner)
 Church of Holy innocents, High Beach (funding partner)
 Create Identitee (MRCT clothing)
 Customers at Mecca Bingo Harlow (Christmas Foodbank Donations)
 Essex Alliance of Local Councils (funding support)
 Essex Community Foundation (funding support)
 Free Cakes for Kids (celebration cakes for foodbank client's children)
 Freshwaters Church (funding partner)
 Front-Line Professional Agencies (community partners)
 Gateway Freedom Church (funding partner)
 Greenways Eggs (egg donations)
 Halifax (foodbank delivery point and cash collection boxes)
 Harefield Church, Harlow (free use of building)
 Harlow Autos Ltd (Foodbank van revamp)
 Harlow Council (Store House funding support)
 Harlow Health Centres Trust (funding support)
 Heart4Harlow (community partner)
 High Beach Church, Epping Forest (regular funding partner)
 High Trees Packers (potato donations)
 HTS Group, Harlow (storage space and waste disposal)

Laing Family Trust (Maybury Open Funder)
 Land Sherriff's (Christmas gifts for mums)
 Lawsons (Whetstone) Ltd (vehicle and equipment donations, office rebuild)
 LknStore (foodbank delivery point)
 Masonic Charitable Foundation (Foodbank donation)
 Mayfield Farm Bakery (bread and rolls donations)
 Mulberry Trust, Harlow (significant funding support)
 Phoenix Resources Harlow (free use of town centre premises)
 Poundland Distribution Centre Harlow (food, toiletry and household donations)
 Rainbow Services (community partner)
 Robert Halfon MP
 Rodect Pest Control (pest control partner)
 Rotary Club of Harlow Tye (funding support)
 Sainsbury's, Harlow and Bishop's Stortford (foodbank collection point)
 Sainsbury's at Neighbourly (Foodbank Fridge)
 Salvation Army, Harlow (foodbank satellite centre on Wednesdays)
 Santander (foodbank delivery point)
 SES Group (Christmas gifts for children)
 St Paul's Church, Harlow (discounted use of building)
 Stansted Airport (London) (food, toiletry and gift donations)
 Stuart & Kathryn Tinney, Housham Hall Farm (landlords)
 Tesco, Harlow and Bishop's Stortford (foodbank collection point and cash top-up)
 The Rent Guarantee Company (Christmas Donations)
 Trussell Trust Foodbank Network (foodbank partner)
 UK Salads (salad donations)
 Waitrose, Bishop's Stortford (foodbank collection point)



Michael Roberts Charitable Trust

Store House, Unit 8, Housham Hall Farm, Harlow Road,
 Matching Tye, Harlow CM17 OPB
 Tel: 01279 724515 Email: enquiries@mrct.org.uk

www.mrct.org.uk

Registered Charity No: 1065006
 Registered Company No: 3439299



REGISTERED NUMBER: 03439299 (England & Wales)
CHARITY NUMBER: 1065006

Report of the Trustees and
Unaudited Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31st March 2022
for
The Michael Roberts Charitable Trust
Limited by Guarantee

The Michael Roberts Charitable Trust
(Limited by Guarantee)

Contents of the Financial Statements
for the year ended 31st March 2022

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The Michael Roberts Charitable Trust
(Limited by Guarantee)

Charity Information
for the year ended 31st March 2022

TRUSTEES:

J Ehlers (Chair of Trustees)
P Balkwill
T A Knott
D C Norkett
G Pattimore
M Parsons (appointed 24th November 2021)

NB: Trustees are also Directors of the Company

REGISTERED OFFICE:

Unit 8
Housham Hall Farm
Harlow Road
Matching Tye
Harlow
CM17 0PB

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 3439299 (England and Wales)

ACCOUNTANTS:

Pigram & Co
43 Bluebell Drive
Stansted
Essex
CM24 8XP

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1065006

BANK:

Barclays Bank Plc
14 The Water Gardens Centre
Harlow
Essex
CM20 1AN

The Michael Roberts Charitable Trust
(Limited by Guarantee)

Report of the Trustees
For the year ended 31st March 2022

The Trustees, who are also Directors of the Charity for the purpose of the Companies Act 2006, present their report together with the financial statements of the Company for the year ending 31st March 2022.

PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY

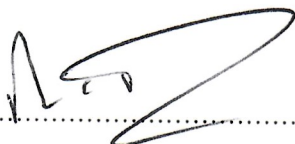
The principal activity of the Company in the year under review was that of a Christian Charity, working in the community with a wide range of people, including people with a learning / physical disability, people vulnerable and / or isolated through homelessness or being vulnerably housed and people in crisis with emergency food. The Company also worked with local fresh food companies assisting them to reduce their surplus food by picking it up and redistributing it into the local community to front-line professional care agencies.

The governing document is the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Company.

All Trustees offer themselves for election at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

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

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD



..... Andrew Thornton

Dated: 29 / 7 / 22

THE MICHAEL ROBERTS CHARITABLE TRUST (LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
for the Year Ended 31 March 2022**

	Unrestricted		Restricted Funds							2022	2021	
	General Fund	£	Maybury Open Door	Harlow Foodbank	Bump to 5	Storehouse Upkeep	Storehouse Ren/Utilities	Bounty Club	Changing Minds	Redundancy Reserve	Total	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
INCOME and ENDOWMENTS FROM:												
Donations & Legacies	42,869		27,938	115,061	2,195	2,800	26,500	612	16,000		217,975	265,749
Localgiving Foundation Community Match Challenge											-	6,349
Income from Charitable Activities									16,000		16,000	4,900
Investment Income	90										90	325
Other Income												
TOTAL INCOME and ENDOWMENTS	42,959		27,938	115,061	2,195	2,800	26,500	612	16,000	-	234,065	277,323
EXPENDITURE ON:												
Income Generation	2,566		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,566	2,333
Expenditure on Charitable Activities												
Salaries	18,326		27,698	91,004	8,047			4,609			149,684	114,998
Training			386	1,184							1,570	663
Travel & Subsistence Expenses				797	267						1,064	364
Rent/Utilities			1,476	1,344			19,405				22,225	22,517
Telephone & Internet			99	1,074			3,213				4,386	2,398
Printing, Postage & Stationery			357				2,048				2,405	1,942
Motoring Costs								2,433			7,989	3,742
Ongoing Costs - Craft, Cleaning, Food, Day-to-Day			2,557	13,405							15,962	5,154
Localgiving Foundation Community Match Challenge											-	6,349
Insurance & Professional				1,827			1,787	979			4,593	5,118
New Equipment, Renewals & Upkeep				-	7,012						35,165	2,543
Bank Charges				111							111	101
Charitable Donations	1,150										1,150	1,500
Changing Minds									5,280		5,280	
Depreciation	4	6									6	8
Independent Examiner & Accountancy Fees	2	690									690	660
TOTAL EXPENDITURE ON:	22,738		32,573	116,302	15,326	28,153	26,453	8,021	5,280	-	254,846	170,390
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS FOR THE YEAR	20,221		(4,635)	(1,241)	(13,131)	(25,353)	47	(7,409)	10,720	-	(20,781)	106,933
Balances brought forward at 1 April 2021	137,011		5	62,470	-	5,776	1,574	1,723	-		235,113	128,180
Transfer between Funds	(43,024)		4,630	-	13,131	19,577	-	5,686	-		-	-
BALANCES CARRIED FORWARD AT 31 MARCH 2022	114,208		-	61,229	-	-	1,621	-	10,720	26,554	214,332	235,113

This page forms part of these financial statements

The Michael Roberts Charitable Trust
(Limited by Guarantee)

Balance Sheet
As at 31st March 2022

	Notes	31 st March 2022		31 st March 2021	
		£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS					
Fixtures & Fittings	4				
Cost		6,242		6,242	
Less: Depreciation		<u>6,222</u>		<u>6,216</u>	
			20		26
Motor vehicles					
Bounty Club Van Cost		13,500		13,500	
Foodbank Van Cost		13,431		13,431	
Less: Depreciation		<u>26,931</u>		<u>26,931</u>	
			-		-
			<u>20</u>		<u>26</u>
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors – rent deposit	5	3,750		3,750	
Debtors – Gift Aid		1,408		716	
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>210,858</u>		<u>242,259</u>	
		216,016		246,725	
CURRENT LIABILITIES					
Amounts falling due within one year	6	<u>1,704</u>		<u>11,638</u>	
NET CURRENT ASSETS			<u>214,312</u>		<u>235,087</u>
NET ASSETS			<u>214,332</u>		<u>235,113</u>
FUNDS					
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS					
General			114,208		137,011
RESTRICTED FUNDS					
Foodbank			61,229		62,470
Storehouse Upkeep			-		5,776
Storehouse Rent/Utilities			1,621		1,574
Bump to 5	10		-		-10
Bounty Club	9		-		1,723
Redundancy Reserve			26,554		26,554
Maybury Open Door			-		5
Changing Minds			10,720		-
			<u>214,332</u>		<u>235,113</u>

This page forms part of these financial statements

The Michael Roberts Charitable Trust
(Limited by Guarantee)

Trustees Statement
For the year ended 31st March 2022

The charity is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31st March 2022.

The members have not required the Company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31st March 2022 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The Trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for:

- (a) ensuring that the Company keeps accounting records which comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and
- (b) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Company as at the end of each financial year and of its profit or loss for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the Company.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 6th July and were signed on their behalf by:


.....
Jeanette Ehlers


.....
Gary Pattimore

The Michael Roberts Charitable Trust
(Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the Financial Statements
for the year ended 31st March 2022

1. **STATUTORY INFORMATION**

The Michael Roberts Charitable Trust is a private company, limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales. The company's registered number and registered office address can be found on the Charity Information page.

2. **ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

Basis of preparing the financial statements

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions of Section 1A "Small Entities" of Financial Reporting Standard 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Turnover

Turnover represents donations and gifts, as analysed in the Statement of Financial Activities, measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable, excluding discounts, rebates, value added tax and other sales taxes.

Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Fixtures and fittings	- 25% on reducing balance
Computer equipment	- 25% on reducing balance
Motor vehicles	- 33.3% on cost

Taxation

The Company is a registered charity as defined by the Charities Act 1960 and as such no taxation has been provided for in these accounts.

Hire purchase and leasing commitments

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to profit or loss on a straight-line basis over the period of the lease.

3. **EMPLOYEES AND DIRECTORS**

The average number of employees during the year was 6.

4. **TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS**

	<u>Fixtures & Fittings</u>	<u>Motor Vehicles</u>	<u>Computer Equipment</u>	<u>Total</u>
	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
COST:				
At 1 st April 2021	6,242	26,931	615	33,788
Additions	-	-	-	-
At 31 st March 2022	6,242	26,931	615	33,788
DEPRECIATION:				
At 1 st April 2021	6,216	26,931	615	33,762
Charge for Year	6	-	-	6
At 31 st March 2022	6,222	26,931	615	33,768
NET BOOK VALUE				
At 31 st March 2022	20	-	-	20
At 31 st March 2021	26	-	-	26

This page forms part of these financial statements

The Michael Roberts Charitable Trust
(Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the Financial Statements
for the year ended 31st March 2022

5. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	31 st March 22	31 st March 21
Tax recoverable	£	£
Rent deposit	1,408	716
	<u>3,750</u>	<u>3,750</u>
	<u>5,158</u>	<u>4,466</u>

6. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	31 st March 22	31 st March 21
Other creditors and accruals	£	£
Garfield Weston Grant	1,704	1,638
	<u>-</u>	<u>10,000</u>
	<u>1,704</u>	<u>11,638</u>

7. RESTRICTED FUNDS

A full description of the restricted funds is contained in the Report of the Trustees. Financial details are contained in the Statement of Financial Activities on page 3.

8. HARLOW FOODBANK

Harlow Foodbank received non-perishable food donations totalling 103,566 Kg. During the year 108,309 Kg of non-perishable food was distributed to people in crisis and front-line professional agencies and at the Balance Sheet date 18,593 Kg of non-perishable food was held for distribution in 2022/23.

9. BOUNTY CLUB

The Bounty Club received and distributed 74,170 Kg of fresh chilled surplus food to front-line professional agencies, organisations, foodbank clients and charities in Harlow during the financial year.

10. BUMP TO FIVE

Commencing during this financial year our latest project redistributes donated items to families with children from new-born to five years old. In the last six months of the year we had thousands of items donated to build up a stock for the coming year, and items ranging from nappies and food to clothes, buggies, cots and cot beds supported we helped 142 families on low income, around 60% of which were referred from agencies and 40% self-referred.

The Michael Roberts Charitable Trust
(Limited by Guarantee)

Income and Expenditure Account
for the year ended 31st March 2022

	31st March 2022		31st March 2021	
	£	£	£	£
Brought forward		27,974		148,279
OTHER EXPENDITURE				
Rent		22,225		22,517
Telephone & Internet		4,386		2,398
Printing, Postage & Stationery		2,405		1,942
Motoring Costs		7,989		3,742
Training		1,570		663
Accountancy		690		660
Donations		1,150		1,500
Publicity & Income Generation		2,566		2,333
Insurance & Professional		4,593		5,118
Bank Charges		111		101
Travelling		1,064		364
		48,749		41,338
		(20,775)		106,941
Depreciation				
Fixtures & Fittings		6		8
Motor Vehicles		-		-
		6		8
NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)		<u>(20,781)</u>		<u>106,933</u>

This page does not form part of these financial statements

The Michael Roberts Charitable Trust
(Limited by Guarantee)

Annual Review Statement

The attached Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2022 have been prepared from information, records and explanations supplied and in accordance with current guidelines.

No issues worthy of being reported to the Treasurer have arisen during the year.

I am satisfied that the deficit of Income over Expenditure of £20,781 represents the charity's activities for the period and that the carried forward monetary balances agree with the bank and building society accounts of the charity.

Signed:

Date:

Pigram & Co
43 Bluebell Drive
Stansted
Essex
CM24 8XP

The Michael Roberts Charitable Trust
(Limited by Guarantee)

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Signed:



Date:

13th August 2022

Pigram & Co
43 Bluebell Drive
Stansted
Essex
CM24 8XP



Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/ members of

THE MICHAEL ROBERTS CHARITABLE TRUST

On accounts for the year ended

31st March 2022 Charity no (if any) 1065006

Set out on pages

3 - 9 (Remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/03/2022

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

~~The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of [insert name of applicable listed body]]. Delete [] if not applicable.~~

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below *) which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
• the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
• the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:

[Signature]

Date:

13th August 2022

Name:

Justin Pignani FCCA

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body

FCCA

(if any):

Address:

Section B

Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

MICHAEL ROBERTS CHARITABLE TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1065006

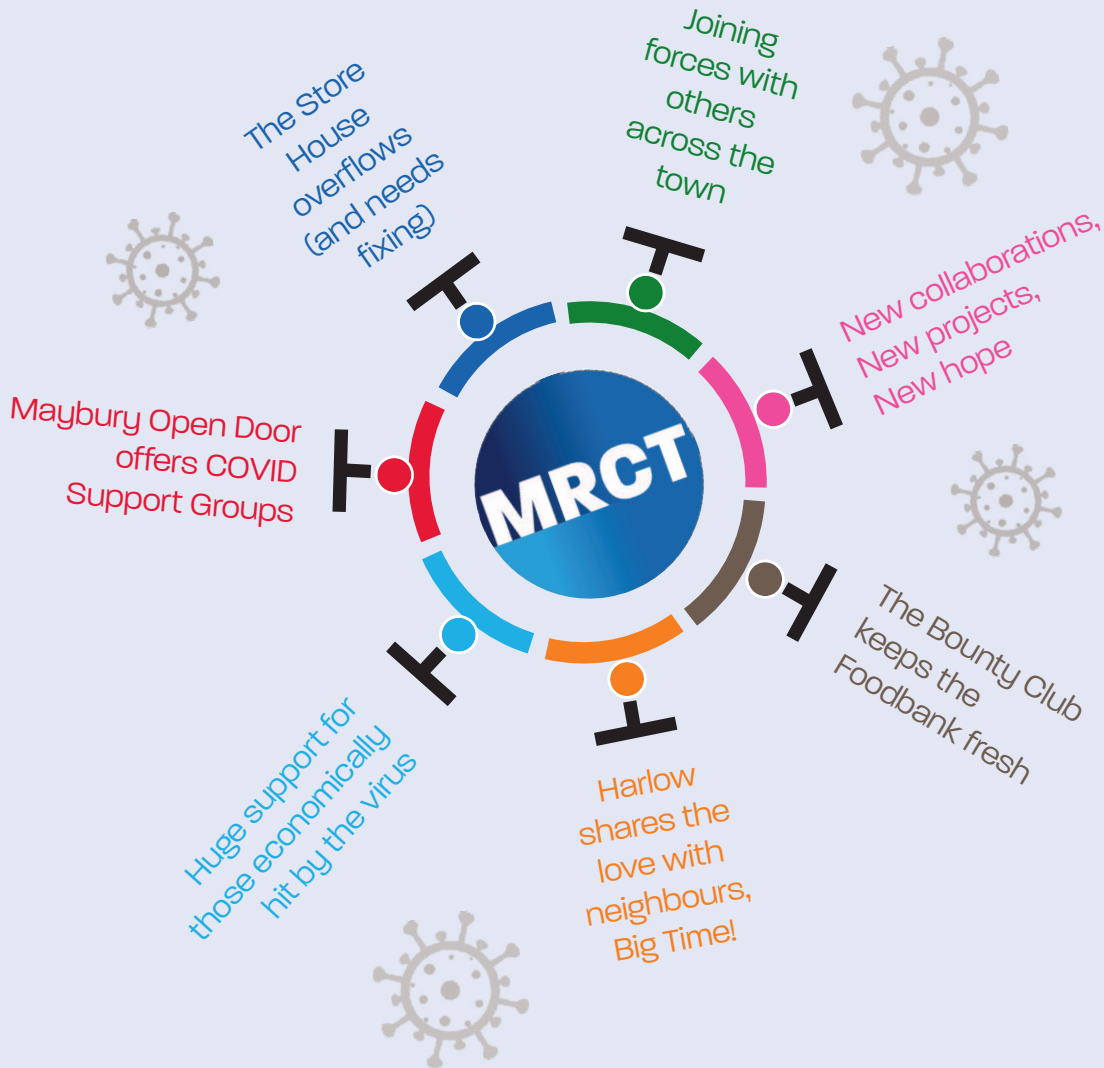
Accounts

Michael Roberts Charitable Trust

Developing lives, enriching community

Annual Report

2020-21

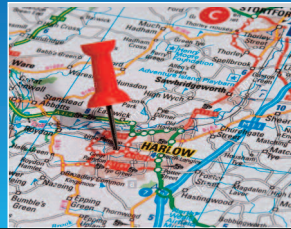


A year like no other...

Faith, hope and love in the global lock down

Our response - thanks to your help!





CONTENTS & VISION

● Our Vision Statement	2
● Introduction by Chief Executive Officer	3
● Maybury Open Door	4
● Feeding Harlow during the Pandemic - Foodbank and Bounty Club	5- 7
● Inspiring acts of kindness in an exceptional year	8-9
● Tackling Hardship in Harlow—what is coming next?	10-11
● Bump-to-Five & the Store House fix	12
● MRCT Staff and Volunteers	13
● Our Community Partnerships	14-15
● Acknowledgements	16

Our vision is that everyone can belong and participate in their communities, knowing that they are significant, valued, included and wanted.

Our vision is that no one should go hungry, or without the means to bring up their children, heat their homes or live in dignity. Anyone in that position should know that they are supported by those around them until things are good again.

Our vision is fuelled by the belief that nobody is excluded, unwanted or overlooked by God, whose love is revealed through Jesus.



INTRODUCTION FROM OUR CEO



Last year gave “2020 vision” a whole new meaning... Who could have foreseen it?

This report summarises ‘business not as usual’ as we took our place amongst the many agencies and individuals whose heroic work tackled the impact of the coronavirus in and around Harlow.

The team at MRCT were incredible: flexible, innovative and resilient. I can’t thank our staff, volunteers and trustees enough for the way they expended themselves in service.

Each of our projects had a different kind of demand; some had to close for months, others went into overdrive. I arrived halfway through the year as we improvised in response to the fast-changing landscape.

It was sadly a year of great tragedy for so many people. Lives snatched away too soon by the virus. Families in crisis through the pressures of lockdown. Financial pressures lead to the highest ever demand on Foodbanks. Research found that more than 1 in 20 households in the UK accessed Foodbank support. That figure is the same for us in Harlow: 5% of households have been to the Foodbank one or more times.

Alongside this we also saw the best of human nature. Spontaneous generosity and thoughtfulness; the wonders of our welfare systems in action: NHS, caring services, and the government’s financial rescue packages redistributing our common wealth for common benefit.

In this review you will see so many examples of this generosity emanating from MRCT’s work.

More than ever we served as a conduit for the good will of neighbour to neighbour. We received an incredible amount of food donations, financial donations and heart-warming encouragement for being part of a townwide army of volunteers who joined forces to meet others’ needs.

When trouble struck, MRCT was ready - and for that we again thank our Founders, Gary and Teresa Knott, for their ‘2020 vision’: building MRCT on a strong foundation of faith rooted in the love of God for those on the margins. This

came into vivid perspective as we all experienced the effects of social isolation. We could clearly see why Maybury Open Door attendees have valued its life-changing support for over 20 years!

In 2020 -21 the economic response to the virus showed the enormous difference that a £20 a week boost can make to millions on Universal Credit; and what a shock it would be to now remove it. At the end of the year I was left considering how we as a nation are applying that ‘golden rule’ of all faiths: treating others as we would like to be treated. If we did we would create a national insurance system (UC) that offers each of us what we could live on if disaster struck us in the way it has so many this year. Right now that doesn’t seem to be in place.

This report reflects on why this matters to us as Trussell Trust associates. Trussell Foodbanks don’t exist to give food away, but to end hunger. We would prefer to not exist! That is part of our vision as we tackle the effects and the causes of poverty together.

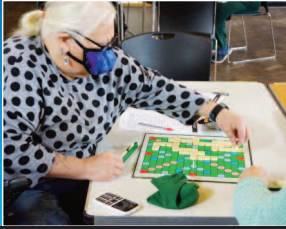
Through the generosity of individuals, churches and other faith groups, businesses, charities, through well-placed social interventions and supportive social policy we look for a better world.

For that we work, pray, thank God, and with huge gratitude - we thank you!



Andy Thornton
Chief Executive Officer
June 2021





MAYBURY OPEN DOOR



Maybury Open Door is our drop in centre which operates 3 days a week in two church venues in the town.

Maybury supports a wide range of adults including elderly, people with a disability, homeless, isolated people and others who just need to venture out and meet new friends.

For over 20 years Maybury has been a valuable remedy for those needing friendship and support.

In April 2020 the whole population began to get a taste of what it is like to be isolated. Lockdown was tough!

Sadly, at that same moment the infectiousness of COVID meant that groups like Maybury Open Door had to close their doors. All of our staff team were put on furlough.

You can imagine the sadness and helplessness of the situation.

By October we were desperate to restart the service and discovered that we could change its format to become a 'Support Group': a government – approved way of giving up to 15 people more intensive and structured support in a COVID safe environment.

Our team had been keeping in touch with Maybury regulars by phone to check that they were OK. Now a Support Group would offer them the chance to return to Maybury. So we brought the team back from furlough!

Then the rules changed, again and again... and it wasn't until March that we could schedule restarting fully. However over that period we were in touch with our regulars by phone, and that familiar listening ear made a big difference.

Thankfully the Support Group format got a great boost when we received funding from the CAF Resilience Fund, enabling us to develop the service as a tailor made response to the isolation experienced through COVID.

By the end of the year the Support Group members were reporting a significant boost in their well-being. Maybury was their 'family' and they had been able to come home.

Special thanks...
Our thanks go again to the amazing staff and volunteers who have made Maybury such a special place for old friends and new, every week.



Here are some of their comments:

"I really struggled during the lock-down because I am on my own and really worried about everything. I missed very much social contact and social interaction."

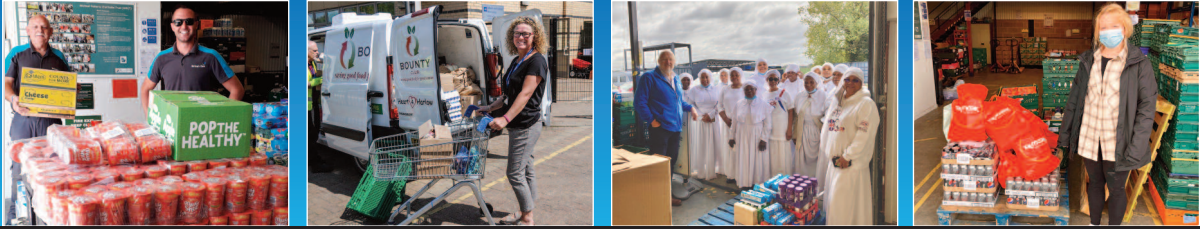
"Finally I can put something in my calendar and look forward to it every week"

"The Team help me to keep things going in the right direction."

"M.O.D opening again has lifted the heavy feeling during covid."

"During COVID I lost all confidence—I didn't go out anywhere for a whole year. This is the one place I now come and socialise..."





HARLOW FOODBANK & BOUNTY CLUB



The story of the year- in one graph...



Until 2020 Harlow Foodbank gave out nearly all the 'emergency food' across the town.

By April 2020 a number of supportive charities alongside the government-funded Community Hub were supporting those shielding from the virus. Thousands of the most vulnerable were told to stay at home and wait for food to be brought to them.

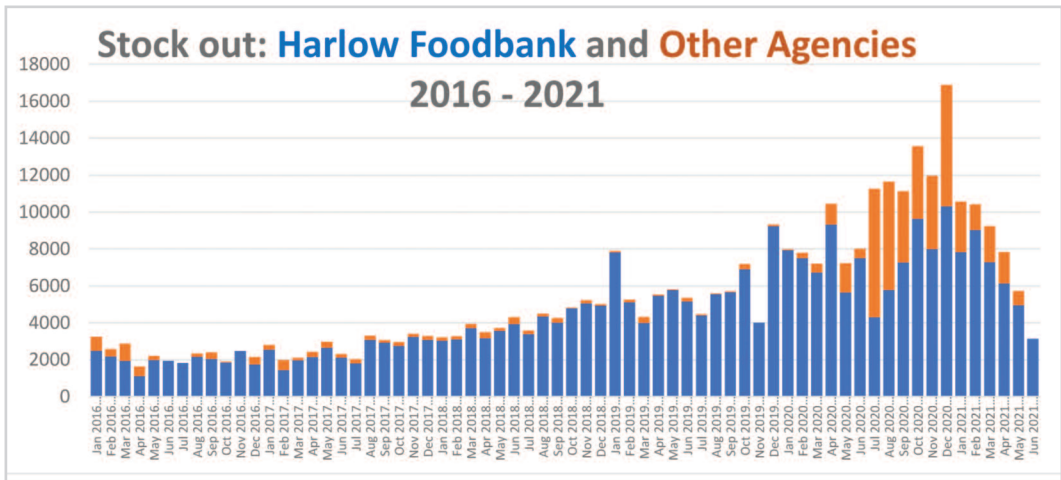
A number of charities started to collect short shelf-life items from supermarkets and deliver to neighbours across the town the next day.

By contrast Harlow Foodbank specialises in storing and distributing longer life food. We

realised we could help other food donors and take advantage of their capacity to deliver. We supplied longer shelf-life food to add to their parcels. As more people asked them for help we continued, supplying the food equivalent of over 100,000 meals in partnership with others.

As a result our statistics for last year look different!

They can be split into 2: the food we gave away through our own Foodbank (blue on graph), and that which we gave away through others (orange).



Special thanks...

We want to give special thanks and recognition to our awesome staff, volunteers and those amazing charities and organisers who stepped up to distribute food to their communities during the pandemic.

In particular our partners at:

- Community Embrace
- Changing Lives
- Safer Places
- Streets 2 Homes

- 169,077 kg** Total food given out 2020—21
- 8,441** individuals fed via 3,620 packages
- 153%** food given this year compared to last
- 15,156 kg** fresh food to Harlow schools & charities
- 3,466** children getting 4 days' food portions
- 42,694 kg** to other charities (101,000 meals)
- 28,733** meals to Harlow Permitted Developments

! Unbelievable but true...
If all the food we gave out last year was sugar, the bags could stretch from Harlow to Chelmsford !





HARLOW FOODBANK & BOUNTY CLUB



Record breaking donations



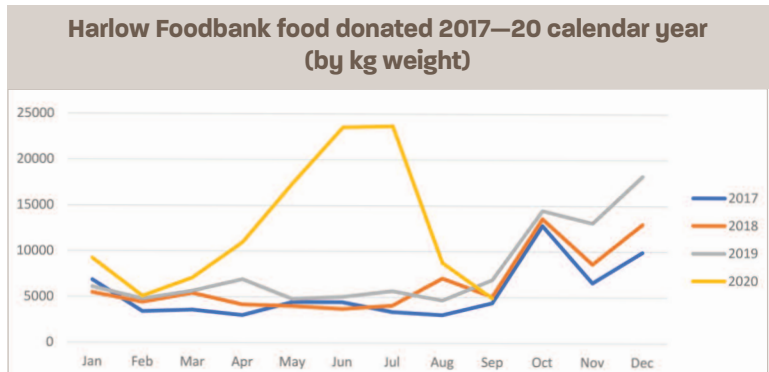
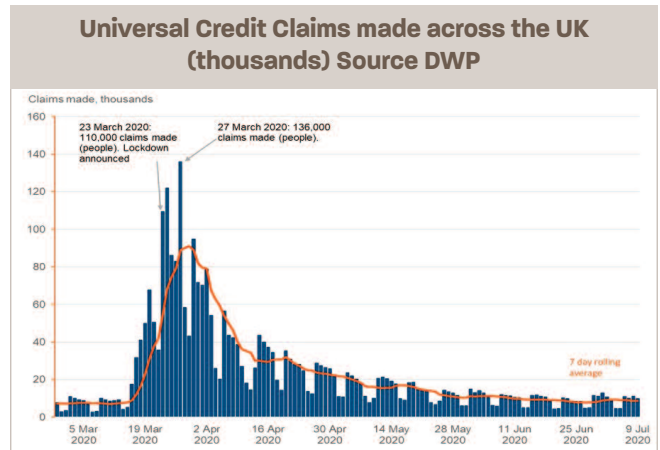
On page 5 we summarised the incredible amount of food that went through the Store House and Foodbank in 2020-21. There really has never been a year like it.

This graph from the government's web site tells the back story: a huge rise in claimants reaching out for Universal Credit support when other elements of government support didn't apply to them.

Below that national picture is our graph of stock coming in to the Foodbank.

In comparison to the previous year's pattern we saw a huge rise in donations (yellow line) soon after the lockdown.

This was a combination of the increase in local individuals giving generously through the supermarkets, plus many local businesses who, when forced to close, cleared their shelves and sent the stock our way. Thanks everyone!



A Harvest for Harlow

When schools returned in September they were thinking about catching up with lost time. Few were thinking about business as usual, such as Harvest Festivals (our second busiest time of year for donations aside from Christmas).

We were delighted to have support from Harlow-based CBBC actress Hannah-Jane Fox to make a short video that shows schools what happens to food donated to us. You can still watch it on our Facebook site or through https://youtu.be/uc-wMFvB_C8.

In our enthusiasm to help the town we just stacked it all up! On page 12 we tell the story of when the Store House started to buckle under the pressure...

Thankfully many schools and churches found ways to do COVID-safe food collections for us. Most schools sent a willing teacher with their donations, and some churches held donations days when the buildings were closed. Thanks so much to all those who gave at Harvest!





HARLOW FOODBANK & BOUNTY CLUB



Free School Meal Children get our help



Over the 2020 summer holidays the government stepped in with funds for parents whose children were on Free School Meals. By the October half-term there was controversy as this was not going to be sustained.

Footballer Marcus Rashford stole the headlines with a powerful voice advocating for children in poverty.

Harlow Council asked us to help and funded us to give food parcels to children on Free School Meals.

Within a day we had got the word out to 60,000 people through our Facebook network, notifying them that this support was available.

During that week we supported 515 children in 209 families, and thankfully the government changed their policy for the rest of the year, ensuring that all families got holiday meal support.



Christmas goes crazy

By Christmas our Store House was bulging. Trevor joined forces adding the Bounty Club van to our pick-up fleet. This ensured that we could pick up the huge quantities of food being donated through supermarkets (see image below) and hundreds joined our 12 days of Christmas appeal to give more food and thousands of pounds in donations. We gave parcels to 1,900 in this period.



Special thanks...
In order to overcome problems reaching those in need we set up relationships with Harlow Schools, placing our food parcels on their premises ready to hand to those in need.
We are grateful to the 20 schools who took up the offer and helped families directly throughout the year.

Door service only

Sadly our team at St Paul's and the Salvation Army were constrained to giving food to clients by the front door.

We want to give special thanks and credit to all those who still showed up despite the health risks and gave out a record number of food parcels in an extraordinary year's service.



Diary of an amazing year! So many Thank yous

2020

APRIL 30

Supporters recognise that we are becoming 'the 4th Emergency Service', supporting those confined to their homes.



MAY 16

Bobby McGlinchy (aged 7) made his first delivery. He went on to collect 1836.5 kg of food from neighbours over the next year!



MAY 18

Volunteers offer to help us deliver to people's homes - We had previously only been able to give out through our church.

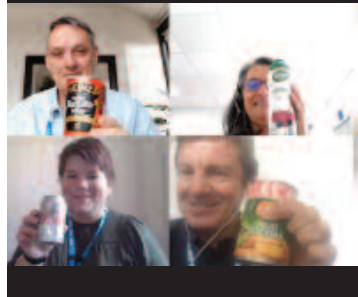


MAY 23

Elite Direct experiments with an online Pilates and Yoga class, raising £614 for us in the process.

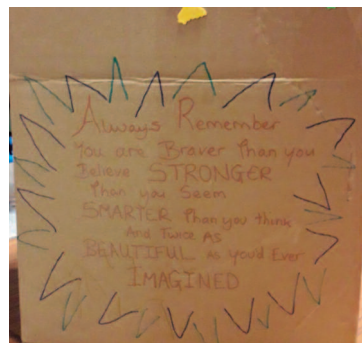
MAY 23

TEAMS at Princess Alexandra Hospital kindly decide to support the Foodbank, encouraging colleagues to donate cans for vulnerable local families. The first 500 are given!



JUNE 1

British Gas deliver food to us for Trussell Trust... two volunteer drivers, Gavin and Andy met up after losing contact 25 years ago by chance on our forecourt!!



JUNE 4

The first of hundreds of boxes inscribed with an uplifting message of support arrives...this one from friends at PAH.



SEPTEMBER 12

2 consignments of eggs arrive from Poundland. In the next 2 days 20,000 eggs were distributed across Harlow Schools, charities, family support, permitted developments!

SEPTEMBER 15/ 16

ITS interactive donate 3,500 Matteson sausages and an anonymous donor drops 1000 bags of Doritos via our Lok'nStore drop off.



OCTOBER 1

We put out a Facebook request for 200 sanitizers and within 48 hours we had over 3,000.



In a year when many of life's options were not available to us, so many people became mindful of the situation of others less fortunate. We want to thank all those, very many of whom were anonymous, for their acts of thoughtfulness that boosted our activity and blessed the town.

any acts of kindness & solidarity.
everyone!

2020-21

OCTOBER 23

Kelloggs respond to Robert Halfon MP's request to support us after he meets them to discuss child poverty. Andy meets his old friend, the Pop Tarts.



OCTOBER 26

Our Facebook news informing Harlow parents that Free School Meal kids can get support from us is shared 868 times, reaching 57,537 people.



NOVEMBER 4

Rough Creed motorcycle club hold a fundraiser and arrive with 2 car loads of food for us (but the bikes looked so much better for the photo!).



NOVEMBER 24

Food continues to pour into our Store House - this van load of 340 kg came from Lewis Landscapes and their wonderful clients.

DECEMBER 9

SES Group sponsor a Christmas Presents event for us, providing tailor made presents to 57 children from different care settings.



DECEMBER 14

The Land Sherriffs sponsor beautiful Body Shop perfume bags for Mums coming to the Foodbank at Christmas- no one overlooked!



JANUARY 8

Young Adiyat Kabir raises £300 within an hour after a speech at the Harlow Mosque. Adi arrived with 270 kg of food... And more a few weeks later!



FEBRUARY 4

Local book manufacturers Colette and Jonathan Holland from I-read bring a second pile of books for us to redistribute across the town - we have given away thousands!

MARCH 18

Income from government support via the Essex Alliance of Local Authorities keeps coming in, supporting us to buy additional food to top up low stock items and help families.



MARCH 29

Our neighbouring business offers us beautiful boxes of natural cosmetics to pass on to Mums at Bump-to-Five. What a treat!



These snapshots of moments are literally the tip of the iceberg. They do not include the thousands of pounds of donations that came our way. These have enabled us to expand our work bringing relief to those who will struggle financially in the coming years. A million thank yous!



RESPONDING TO POVERTY IN HARLOW



Why the need?

There are now more Foodbanks in the UK than there are McDonald's¹.

This growth has happened in the last 12 years. Why?

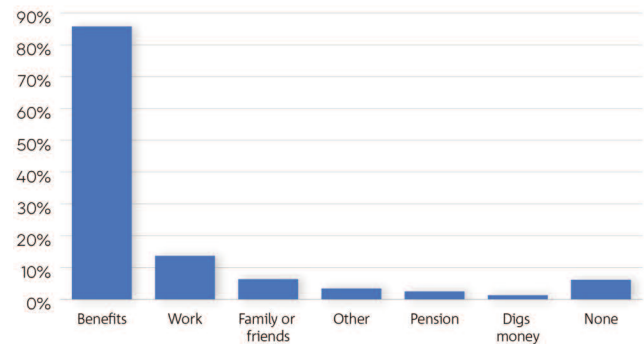
Some think that people now use Foodbanks 'because they are there', suggesting there is an illusion of more poverty as Foodbank supply has created demand.

Recent research has debunked that view². Nearly everyone finds it harsh to go to a Foodbank for help when you'd rather afford your own choice of food.

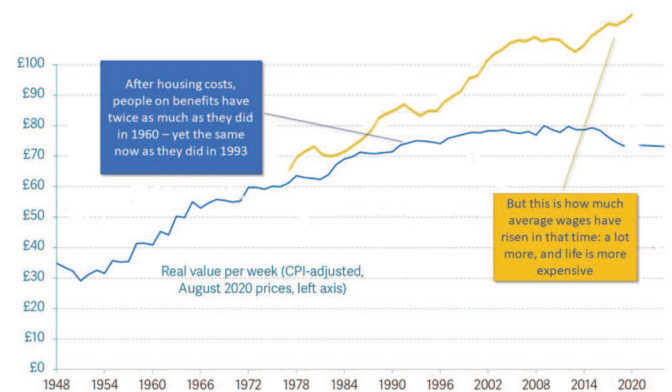
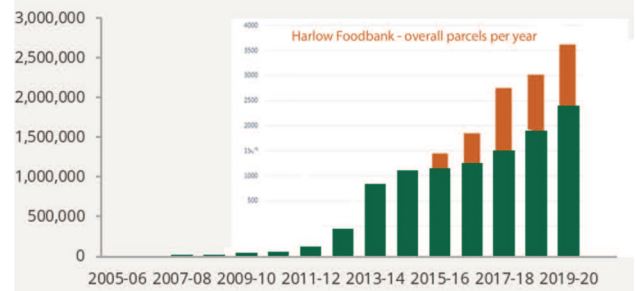
2021 Trussell Trust research³ clearly connects a long-term low rate of benefit support with more widespread hardship.

This relates to how small unemployment benefit levels are, and also the way it is administered.

Current Sources of Household income among people referred to Trussell Trust Foodbanks



Trussell Trust three-day emergency food supply parcels 2005-06 to 2020-21



“ The key design features of the social security system affecting people referred to Foodbanks:

- having to wait five weeks for the first Universal Credit (UC) payment,
- very low rate of UC standard allowance, deductions from UC to repay UC advances and other debts,
- low Local Housing Allowance rates and caps....

Trussell Trust State of Hunger Report 2021 ”

Lets put that into numbers, the situation is shocking...

- The average household in the UK has £2,000 left per month after housing costs.
- The average household fully dependent on benefits has £290, not £2,000⁵.
- The average person coming into a Trussell Trust Foodbank is in a household living on £215 – just over 1/10 of average³.
- 7 / 10 Foodbank recipients had at least one challenging life experience such as relationship breakdown/divorce/job loss/bereavement in the past year³.
- It doesn't take much to go wrong and tip you from poverty into destitution when you are on benefits.

This graph above shows how the real value of benefits went up as our standards of living rose, but pretty much levelled off in the 1990s⁴. Compared to others, benefit recipients receive very little. And now, because of COVID many have a drop in income with high outgoings. It's not long to crisis point.

References: 1) House of Commons Library Statistics 2) Trussell Trust: State of Hunger Report 2019 & 3) 2021, 4) Resolution Foundation: Living Standards Outlook 2021, 5) Institute for Fiscal Studies: Living standards, poverty and inequality in the UK: 2020, 6) Essex County Council Countywide Report 2019, 7) Harlow Poverty Partnership.



RESPONDING TO POVERTY IN HARLOW



What does next year look like for Harlow?

If you look at many statistics for Harlow and then compare them to UK the numbers are very similar (see right)

You could say that we are the UK on a small scale (with some exceptions).

That means that what affects the country will probably happen similarly here.



Issue	Harlow %6	UK %6
Aged 0-15	22.4	19.2
Aged 16 - 64	62.2	62.6
Aged 65+	15.3	18.2
White British	84	80
White non-British	5.2	5.7
Mixed/Multiple Ethnic	2.1	2.3
Asian British	4.6	7.8
Black British	3.8	3.5
Other ethnic groups	0.5	1
One Person household	30.6	30.2
One person 65+	13.4	12.4
One family 2 parent household	32	33
One family Lone parent	13.1	10.6
Households solely aged 65+	20	21
Learning disability	2.36	2.36
Free School Meal eligibility	12.6	13.3
Child Tax Credit receipt	16.6	16.6
Early Years Good Level Devept	72	71.5
GCSE Ave Attainment 8 score	42.8	44.5
Obesity	32.8	31.9
Smoker	14.8	14.9
Alcohol related hospital adm	2.36	2.22
Drug related deaths	0.0055	0.0043
Under 20 conceptions	16.2	13.5
Out of work benefit claimants	3.5	2.6
Child poverty rate: relative	19	19
Child poverty rate: absolute	15	16
Households using Foodbanks	5	5

UK / Harlow Predictions for 2021 –22

UK unemployment is predicted to rise by 900,000 - so in Harlow around 1,152 (approx. 30% more than before COVID).

If the £20 uplift in Universal Credit is taken away 1,546 more of our 88,500 population will go into poverty.

512 of them will be children: increasing Harlow child poverty rate from 1 in 5 to 1 in 4.

This level is predicted to rise over the course of the current parliament.

Meanwhile Council rental and tax levels are expected to rise 2 -5 %.

These are worrying trends - for many it will feel like the pandemic is over - for others the economic impact will be long and painful. Already the support agencies in Harlow are reporting many people reaching financial crisis for the first time in their lives⁷.



How might you help?

- Please get behind Trussell Trust’s request to contact your MP and ask that the £20 uplift on Universal Credit (a gamechanger for millions during COVID) can be retained after September 2021.
- Recognise that the COVID crisis isn’t over for thousands who rely on our support—and PLEASE keep giving food to the Foodbank!
- Tell people about our new project, Bump-to-Five! It will offer essential items to parents of young children—working in partnership with Harlow agencies and bringing further support to those who might need help for a while.
- Follow our new 2-year project interviewing users of our services, hearing their stories of reaching crisis point. We will highlight how best to understand and intervene with those at risk from financial crisis.
- Pray for / cheer on the Harlow Poverty Partnership—helping all agencies to share their information, work together, innovate and destigmatise poverty. The sooner people access help and address any mounting problem, the better.



NEW PROJECT / THE STORE HOUSE



Baby & Toddler Bank



For years MRCT has been planning to expand our range of services to the town by providing the baby/toddler equivalent of a Foodbank. Items for children will be collected, sorted, stored and redistributed to parents who otherwise might find it difficult to afford them.

In January 2021 we kicked this off with an in depth consultation of all of the services who help parents of young children. The message was very clear: unanimous support and belief that MRCT were the right people to lead on this.

Our respondents advised us that there is also a need for more social support, not just items like clothes, nappies or pushchairs.

We have pushed ahead with a plan, testing out the full scope as we go along. We have been hugely blessed with support from HTS who have given us space in their premises to store items before packing them to go out.

We will launch the project for donations in July, and then invite our partner agencies to start writing vouchers for their clients in September.

We now have our Project Manager in place (Fernanda) and we will plot the next level of service in close consultation with those who support parents in need. We are so thrilled to get this project going!!



“ Kind, warm, approachable – carry on with the way the foodbank is doing it. **...follow the foodbank’s lead, as it already operates with great levels of empathy and is non-judgmental.** ”



Lighten the load



Our Store House in Matching Tye is the beating heart of our operations. Last year we told of how this barn was transformed by an unbelievably generous donation of Lawsons Builders to us, creating our offices on the mezzanine floor and upscaling our capacity hugely.

Without it we could have never tackled the demands of the pandemic.

However... about half way through the year we noticed that the mezzanine really wasn't built to handle the tonnage we were taking in: the upper floor was buckling under the strain.

We had to quickly lighten the load! Harlow Council helped us find an overflow storage space at HTS, and later the Trussell Trust funded another at Lok'nStore. Then Wincanton, Edinburgh Way offered us free space and the Land Sherriff's free use of a van to move everything.

Then... wonder of wonders, Lawsons our sponsoring building firm gave us all the steel we needed to replace the current beams. This breathtakingly generous offer has future-proofed our operations and as we go to press with this report the whole place is now done: 10 times stronger and ready for anything! Hallelujah!!





MRCT STAFF & VOLUNTEERS



Gary



David



Margaret

Head Office

Andy Thornton— Chief Executive Officer, Company Secretary (commenced Sept 2020)

David Evans – Director of Community Services

Margaret O’Donovan – Director of Operations



Belinda



Patrick



Trevor

Harlow Foodbank

Belinda Glanfield – Manager, St Paul’s Satellite

Adrian Smith—Assistant Manager (Bank), St Paul’s Satellite

Store House

Patrick Coppeard – Store House Manage

Bounty Club

Trevor Stanesby – Bounty Club Coordinator



Clair



Suzie



Karolina

Maybury Open Door

Clair Forway – Community Worker

Suzie Raraty – Community Worker

Karolina Sadowska – Community Worker

Michael Raven – Assistant Community Worker

Liz Bellworthy – Bank Worker

Moira Luff – Bank Worker



Michael



Liz



Moira

Bump-to-Five

Fernanda Champness —Bump to Five Project Manager

MRCT Trustees

Jeanette Ehlers (Chair)

Pat Balkwill

Gary Pattimore

David Norkett

Teresa Knott (Co-Founder and Trustee)



Fernanda

Honorary

Robert Carrington – Honorary Treasurer

MRCT achieves so much because of our amazing volunteers! We have ten times more volunteers than staff. In the past year our volunteers have been extra-flexible: some have had to shield and others have doubled the amount of time they could offer. We can’t thank them enough!!

Our volunteers help with all the projects that you have read about, and we are always looking for more as we expand.

From sorting food or baby’s items to picking up, working at Maybury, helping with a Supermarket day for a few hours every 6 months to being involved in a project or campaign group, there are so many ways to help us help others!



Check out the new volunteers page on our web site for full details of how, where and when you might get involved! mrct.org.uk/getinvolved/volunteer/



COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

This report has catalogued so many exceptional partnerships and donations that characterised the past year. We could never have been ready for any of these if it were not for many years of strong community relations, giving us the capacity to respond to people in and around Harlow. Many of the partnerships below have been the mainstay of years of our work and we want to thank them hugely for maintaining this in 20 - 21.



The Bounty Club operates a refrigerated van picking up three days a week from food wholesalers in order to get fresh food to individuals and organisations who support communities in need. This also enables us to give fresh food to recipients at our Foodbank. Picking up this food also avoids thousands of kgs of fresh food going to landfills every year, redirecting it to those who otherwise could not afford it.



Bidfood provide a wide variety of surplus, short dated, soft drinks and fresh food for us to redistribute across the town. Through doing this they help schools, disadvantaged people and local agencies.



Brakes provide a wide range of surplus, short dated fresh food and meat, allowing us to access their stock and choose what we can distribute to partners, schools, individuals and the Foodbank.



Harlow Foodbank stops people going hungry by acting as a resource for frontline professionals who are supporting people in need across the town. Over 200 professionals and organisations can write vouchers which authorise their clients to pick up enough food for at least four days. Individuals can also ask the Foodbank for help, and they will always be helped and at the same time referred to a supportive agency to address the causes of their lack of money for food.



St. Paul's Church in the town centre hosts our foodbank for four days a week. We thank them for their huge support for us and for the people of Harlow. They are true allies and show constant flexibility and cooperation in our mission. Thanks so much!



The Salvation Army in Harlow our second wonderful delivery partner. They operate the Foodbank on the day that Saint Paul's church is not open, deploying their team member and resources as true partners in our mission to support those in need. We are so grateful to them!



UK Salads have provided an assortment of fresh salad items each week which we can then distribute to clients at the foodbank. their consistent support has helped thousands this year.



High Trees Packers' consistent generosity has enabled us to provide a supply of fresh potatoes through the Foodbank year on year. This is a hugely valuable resource to people in need.



Greenways Eggs continue to provide our Foodbank in Harlow town centre with a supply of fresh eggs each week which helps to complement the range of non-perishable food we give to all our Foodbank referrals. Thanks again to Jenny Fish for her great support.



Special thanks again to Tescos who have not only allowed us to pick up a huge amount of food from all the supermarkets around the town but they also top up the amount given by donors in the store with a further 20% of financial contribution to help without running costs. They, and their customers have been phenomenal this year.



Thanks too to Sainsbury's for faithfully providing a place for their customers to contribute donations of food to our Foodbank, day in and day out. Thanks for keeping them safe when they overflowed many times this year!



Many thanks to Asda in the water gardens for such warm cooperation in providing a receptacle for donations from their customers. Again, this year these overflowed and fresh ones were provided when full.



Lok'nStore have supported our work since we opened in 2009 come up currently providing a drop off point for food donations throughout the year. This has been a consistent and fantastic resource, thanks so much!



Poundland have been an invaluable community partner since 2017. Providing a wide range of non-perishable foods, toiletries, household items, sweets and drinks, these add important extras to local people in crisis. Not to mention 21,000 eggs!



SES Group provided a hugely generous party for Harlow children who might not have had a present last Christmas. We acted as a go-between with local agencies who knew who they might be, and the staff team at SAS group went chose, bought, wrapped and gave out presents (and more) at a special event.



COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS



Land Sherriff's approached us at Christmas to support families in need. They ended up buying beautiful Body Shop cosmetic gifts for mums (often the most overlooked) who came to the Foodbank. This was a very thoughtful treat... they also lend us their big vans for special occasions! Thanks so much!



Thanks to iRead books for donating thousands of childrens, puzzle and colouring in books as bonus items for the FoodBank and also to other agencies we partner with across the town.



Maybury Open Door operates their drop in in two centres across the town. We thanks our hosts St Paul's and Harefield Churches who so warmly and committedly partner with us to provide this enduring safe space for attendees.



Based on the edge of town, the store house hosts our offices as well as a copious two storey storage space for food and other items that are donated to us.

We cannot thank our partners, Lawson's builders, enough for sponsoring our vans, for renovating our store house by installing office spaces for the whole organisation, and this year by donating 72 steel girders that now underpin the 1st floor making it strong enough for the kind of quantities of food we are now storing and redistributing. Lawson's have given us a free van and forklift and service the forklift for us. This family-run business exemplify generosity and social responsibility and have inconspicuously changed so many lives in our town.



HTS saved our skin this year by offering us overflow space for our stock when the storehouse got full. They have continued to be supportive this year by allowing us to keep using that space as the store for children's items that will be given out in the bump to five project. Their flexibility has been fantastic and enabled us to grow our services to the town.



Thanks too to Wincanton distribution centre for offering us free shelf space for our food when we were otherwise full at the Store House!



We are deeply grateful to Harlow Council and also to the Mulberry Trust for underpinning the costs of running the store house.



We would like to thank Bristol Street Motors who diligently support us by offering free services and cost price repairs to our fleet of 3 vans. They keep us on the road!



The Michael Roberts Charitable Trust is the parent organisation that runs the projects operated above. Founded in 1998 by Teresa and Gary Knott, the Trust has flexibility to respond to a wide range of needs in Harlow and the surrounding areas.



We would like to thank the Trussell Trust, our associates in running the Foodbank. The Trussell trust runs a national network of Foodbanks offering guidance through regional staff, materials, partnerships, data management, additional grants, networking, statistical analysis, national campaigning advice and solidarity.



We want to thank our colleagues at the Bishop Stortford Foodbank for our ongoing close working partnership. This allows us both to get the best out of working in neighbouring towns, sharing ideas and resources to the full.



We would like to thank all organisations in Harlow who partner with us by referring those in need to the Foodbank. These partnerships go much deeper than writing vouchers: we are in constant touch with frontline staff who advise us on the best way to respond and collaborate in addressing the needs of those facing poverty in Harlow.

In particular we would like to thank Rainbow Services, Harlow's central support charity for the other charities and agencies in the town. We thank them and Harlow Council for the amazing response they facilitated to the coronavirus through the Community Hub.



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS



All Churches Hope Beyond Fund (funding support)
 ASDA (food collection point)
 Bidfood, Harlow (surplus fresh food supplies)
 Bishop's Stortford Foodbank (foodbank partner)
 Brakes, Harlow (surplus fresh food supplies)
 Bristol Street Motors (van servicing and repair)
 Burnt Mill Academy (student supermarket collections)
 CAF Resilience Fund (funding support)
 Church and School partners (general and harvest food donations)
 Church Langley Church (funding partner))
 Church of Holy innocents, High Beach (funding partner)
 Country Food Trust (high protein game food pouches)
 Create Identitee (MRCT clothing)
 Essex Alliance of Local Councils (funding support)
 Essex Community Foundation (funding support)
 Free Cakes for Kids (celebration cakes for foodbank client's children)
 Freshwaters Church (funding partner)
 From a Mother to Another (children's clothing donations)
 Front-Line Professional Agencies (community partners)
 Gateway Freedom Church (funding partner)
 Greenways Eggs (egg donations)
 Halifax (foodbank delivery point and cash collection boxes)
 Harefield Church, Harlow (free use of building)
 Harlow Council (Store House funding support)
 Harlow Health Centres Trust (funding support)
 Heart4Harlow (community partner)
 High Beach Church, Epping Forest (regular funding partner)
 High Trees Packers (potato donations)
 HTS Group, Harlow (storage space and waste disposal)
 Land Sherriff's (Christmas gifts for mums)

Lawsons (Whetstone) Ltd (vehicle and equipment donations, office rebuild)
 Local Giving Foundation Community Match Challenge (funding support)
 LoknStore (foodbank delivery point)
 Mayfield Farm Bakery (bread and rolls donations)
 Mulberry Trust, Harlow (significant funding support)
 Passmores Academy (student supermarket collections)
 Poundland Distribution Centre Harlow (food, toiletry and household donations)
 Rainbow Services (community partner)
 Robert Halfon MP
 Rodect Pest Control (pest control partner)
 Rotary Club of Harlow Tye (funding support)
 Sainsbury's, Harlow and Bishop's Stortford (foodbank collection point)
 Salvation Army, Harlow (foodbank satellite centre on Wednesdays)
 Santander (foodbank delivery point)
 SES Group (Christmas gifts for children)
 Sobell Charitable Trust (funding partner)
 St Paul's Church, Harlow (discounted use of building)
 Stansted Airport (London) (food, toiletry and gift donations)
 Stuart & Kathryn Tinney, Housham Hall Farm (landlords)
 Swithenbank, Hoddesdon (surplus fresh food supplies)
 Tesco, Harlow and Bishop's Stortford (foodbank collection point and cash top-up)
 Trussell Trust Foodbank Network (foodbank partner)
 UK Salads (salad donations)
 Waitrose, Bishop's Stortford (foodbank collection point)



Michael Roberts Charitable Trust

Store House, Unit 8, Housham Hall Farm, Harlow Road,
 Matching Tye, Harlow CM17 OPB
 Tel: 01279 724515 Email: enquiries@mrct.org.uk

www.mrct.org.uk

Registered Charity No: 1065006
 Registered Company No: 3439299



REGISTERED NUMBER: 03439299 (England & Wales)
CHARITY NUMBER: 1065006

Report of the Trustees and
Unaudited Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31st March 2021
for
The Michael Roberts Charitable Trust
Limited by Guarantee

The Michael Roberts Charitable Trust
(Limited by Guarantee)

Contents of the Financial Statements
for the year ended 31st March 2021

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The Michael Roberts Charitable Trust
(Limited by Guarantee)

Charity Information
for the year ended 31st March 2021

TRUSTEES:

J Ehlers (Chair of Trustees)
P Balkwill
T A Knott
D C Norkett
J R Woodward (resigned 3rd September 2020)
G Izzard (resigned 18th August 2020)
G Pattimore

NB: Trustees are also Directors of the Company

REGISTERED OFFICE:

Unit 8
Housham Hall Farm
Harlow Road
Matching Tye
Harlow
CM17 0PB

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 3439299 (England and Wales)

ACCOUNTANTS:

Pigram & Co
Unit 5
Hatfield Regis Grange Business Units
Hatfield Broad Oak
Bishop's Stortford
Hertfordshire
CM22 7JZ

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1065006

BANK:

Barclays Bank Plc
14 The Water Gardens Centre
Harlow
Essex
CM20 1AN

The Michael Roberts Charitable Trust
(Limited by Guarantee)

Report of the Trustees
For the year ended 31st March 2021

The Trustees, who are also Directors of the Charity for the purpose of the Companies Act 2006, present their report together with the financial statements of the Company for the year ending 31st March 2021.

PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY

The principal activity of the Company in the year under review was that of a Christian Charity, working in the community with a wide range of people, including people with a learning / physical disability, people vulnerable and / or isolated through homelessness or being vulnerably housed and people in crisis with emergency food. The Company also worked with local fresh food companies assisting them to reduce their surplus food by picking it up and redistributing it into the local community to front-line professional care agencies.

The governing document is the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Company.

All Trustees offer themselves for election at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

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

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD



..... Andrew Thornton

Dated: 7/7/2021

**THE MICHAEL ROBERTS CHARITABLE TRUST
(LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

for the Year Ended 31 March 2021

	Notes	Unrestricted		Restricted Funds							2021 Total	2020 Total	
		General Fund	£	Maybury Open Door	Harlow Foodbank	Baby Bank	Storehouse Upkeep	Storehouse Rent/Utilities	Bounty Club	Redundancy Reserve			£
INCOME and ENDOWMENTS FROM:													
Donations & Legacies		50,448		22,157	153,644	-	9,000	26,500	4,000	-		265,749	165,041
Localgiving Foundation Community Match Challenge		-		-	6,349	-	-	-	-	-		6,349	-
Income from Charitable Activities		-		-	4,900	-	-	-	-	-		4,900	-
Maybury Open Door		-		-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-
Investment Income		325		-	-	-	-	-	-	-		325	9,989
Other Income													549
Sales		-		-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	79
TOTAL INCOME and ENDOWMENTS		50,773		22,157	164,893	-	9,000	26,500	4,000	-		277,323	175,658
EXPENDITURE ON:													
Income Generation		1,333		-	-	1,000	-	-	-	-		2,333	1,132
Expenditure on Charitable Activities		10,887		20,440	83,671	-	-	-	-	-		114,998	116,083
Salaries		-		138	525	-	-	-	-	-		663	1,106
Training		-		-	364	-	-	-	-	-		364	1,153
Travel & Subsistence Expenses		-		1,476	1,344	-	-	19,697	-	-		22,517	18,420
Rent		-		98	815	-	-	1,485	-	-		2,398	2,103
Telephone & Internet		-		-	-	-	-	1,942	-	-		1,942	2,582
Printing, Postage & Stationery		-		-	2,480	-	-	-	1,262	-		3,742	4,657
Motoring Costs		-		-	4,473	-	681	-	-	-		5,154	7,431
Purchases - Craft, Cleaning, Food, Day-to-Day		-		-	6,349	-	-	-	-	-		6,349	5,502
Localgiving Foundation Community Match Challenge		-		-	2,301	-	-	1,802	1,015	-		5,118	3,645
Insurance & Professional		-		-	-	-	-	-	-	-		2,543	282
New Equipment & Renewals		-		-	101	-	-	-	-	-		101	1,500
Bank Charges		1,500		-	-	-	-	-	-	-		1,500	12
Charitable Donations		8		-	-	-	-	-	-	-		8	636
Depreciation	4	660		-	-	-	-	-	-	-		660	170,390
Independent Examiner & Accountancy Fees	2	14,388		22,152	102,423	1,000	3,224	24,926	2,277	-		170,390	166,244
TOTAL EXPENDITURE ON:		14,388		22,152	102,423	1,000	3,224	24,926	2,277	-		170,390	166,244
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS FOR THE YEAR		36,385		5	62,470	(1,000)	5,776	1,574	1,723	-		106,933	9,414
Balances brought forward at 1 April 2020		101,626		-	-	-	-	-	-	26,554		128,180	118,766
Transfer between Funds		(1,000)		-	-	1,000	-	-	-	-		-	-
BALANCES CARRIED FORWARD		137,011		5	62,470	-	5,776	1,574	1,723	26,554		235,113	128,180
AT 31 MARCH 2021													

This page forms part of these financial statements

The Michael Roberts Charitable Trust
(Limited by Guarantee)

Balance Sheet
As at 31st March 2021

	Notes	31 st March 2021		31 st March 2020	
		£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS	4				
Fixtures & Fittings					
Cost		6,242		6,242	
Less: Depreciation		<u>6,216</u>		<u>6,208</u>	
			26		34
Motor vehicles					
Bounty Club Van Cost		13,500		13,500	
Foodbank Van Cost		13,431		13,431	
Less: Depreciation		<u>26,931</u>		<u>26,931</u>	
			-		-
			26		34
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	5	4,466		5,471	
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>242,259</u>		<u>144,559</u>	
		246,725		150,030	
CURRENT LIABILITIES					
Amounts falling due within one year	6	<u>11,638</u>		<u>21,884</u>	
NET CURRENT ASSETS			<u>235,087</u>		<u>128,146</u>
NET ASSETS			<u><u>235,113</u></u>		<u><u>128,180</u></u>
FUNDS					
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS					
General			137,011		101,626
RESTRICTED FUNDS					
Foodbank			62,470		-
Storehouse Upkeep			5,776		-
Storehouse Rent/Utilities			1,574		-
Bounty Club			1,723		-
Redundancy Reserve			26,554		26,554
Maybury Open Door			5		-
			<u>235,113</u>		<u>128,180</u>

The Michael Roberts Charitable Trust
(Limited by Guarantee)

Trustees Statement
For the year ended 31st March 2021

The charity is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31st March 2021.

The members have not required the Company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31st March 2021 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.


The Trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for:

- (a) ensuring that the Company keeps accounting records which comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and
- (b) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Company as at the end of each financial year and of its profit or loss for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the Company.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on Wednesday 7th July 2021 and were signed on their behalf by:


.....
Jeanette Ehlers


.....
Teresa Ann Knott

The Michael Roberts Charitable Trust
(Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the Financial Statements
for the year ended 31st March 2021

1. **STATUTORY INFORMATION**

The Michael Roberts Charitable Trust is a private company, limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales. The company's registered number and registered office address can be found on the Charity Information page.

2. **ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

Basis of preparing the financial statements

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions of Section 1A "Small Entities" of Financial Reporting Standard 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Turnover

Turnover represents donations and gifts, as analysed in the Statement of Financial Activities, measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable, excluding discounts, rebates, value added tax and other sales taxes.

Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Fixtures and fittings	- 25% on reducing balance
Computer equipment	- 25% on reducing balance
Motor vehicles	- 33.3% on cost

Taxation

The Company is a registered charity as defined by the Charities Act 1960 and as such no taxation has been provided for in these accounts.

Hire purchase and leasing commitments

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to profit or loss on a straight-line basis over the period of the lease.

3. **EMPLOYEES AND DIRECTORS**

The average number of employees during the year was 5.

4. **TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS**

	<u>Fixtures & Fittings</u>	<u>Motor Vehicles</u>	<u>Computer Equipment</u>	<u>Total</u>
	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
COST:				
At 1 st April 2020	6,242	26,931	615	33,788
Additions	-	-	-	-
At 31 st March 2021	<u>6,242</u>	<u>26,931</u>	<u>615</u>	<u>33,788</u>
DEPRECIATION:				
At 1 st April 2020	6,208	26,931	615	33,754
Charge for Year	8	-	-	8
At 31 st March 2021	<u>6,216</u>	<u>26,931</u>	<u>615</u>	<u>33,762</u>
NET BOOK VALUE				
At 31 st March 2021	<u>26</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>26</u>
At 31 st March 2020	<u>34</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>34</u>

These notes form part of these financial statements

The Michael Roberts Charitable Trust
(Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the Financial Statements
for the year ended 31st March 2021

5. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	31st March 21	31st March 20
	£	£
Tax recoverable	716	1,721
Rent deposit	<u>3,750</u>	<u>3,750</u>
	<u>4,466</u>	<u>5,471</u>

6. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	31st March 21	31st March 20
	£	£
Other creditors and accruals	1,638	1,884
Garfield Weston Grant	<u>10,000</u>	<u>20,000</u>
	<u>11,638</u>	<u>21,884</u>

7. RESTRICTED FUNDS

A full description of the restricted funds is contained in the Report of the Trustees. Financial details are contained in the Statement of Financial Activities on page 3.

8. HARLOW FOODBANK

Harlow Foodbank received non-perishable food donations totalling 192,413 Kg. During the year 169,077 Kg of non-perishable food was distributed to people in crisis and front-line professional agencies and at the Balance Sheet date 23,336 Kg of non-perishable food was held for distribution in 2021/22.

9. BOUNTY CLUB

The Bounty Club received and distributed 15,156 Kg of fresh chilled surplus food to front-line professional agencies, organisations, foodbank clients and charities in Harlow during the financial year.

10. RECYCLING PROJECT

MRCT has continued to develop positive partnership relationships in 2020/21 with Stansted Airport (London) and Poundland Distribution Centre (Harlow). The former was heavily affected by the COVID lockdown. During this financial year the charity has received the following from these two partners which has been distributed back into the community:

Stansted Airport = 687 Kg

Poundland Distribution Centre (Harlow) = 3,009 Kg

Items being recycled include non-perishable food, toiletries, household products, soft drinks, perfumes, sweets and other assorted miscellaneous products which have been distributed to front-line professional agencies, charities, foodbank clients and other local organisations.

11. MAYBURY OPEN DOOR

£21,175 was received from the CAF Resilience Fund for Maybury Open Door.

These notes form part of these financial statements

The Michael Roberts Charitable Trust
(Limited by Guarantee)

Income and Expenditure Account
for the year ended 31st March 2021

	31 st March 2021		31 st March 2020	
	£	£	£	£
Income				
VOLUNTARY SOURCES				
General Donations	50,448		46,973	
Maybury Open Door	22,157		24,275	
Bounty Club	4,000		6,592	
Harlow Foodbank	164,893		85,540	
Harlow Foodbank Storehouse Upkeep	9,000		-	
Harlow Foodbank Storehouse Utilities	26,500		11,650	
Sales	-		79	
GROSS PROFIT		276,998		175,109
Other income				
Bank Interest	325		549	
		277,323		175,658
Expenses				
DIRECT CHARITABLE EXPENDITURE				
Salary	114,998		116,083	
COMMUNITY SERVICES PROJECTS				
Maybury Open Door	-		1,431	
Harlow Foodbank	10,822		6,000	
Storehouse – new equipment, renewals, refurbishment	3,224		3,645	
		129,044		127,159
PROFIT/(LOSS) CARRIED FORWARD				
		148,279		48,499

This page does not form part of these financial statements

The Michael Roberts Charitable Trust
(Limited by Guarantee)

Income and Expenditure Account
for the year ended 31st March 2021

	31 st March 2021		31 st March 2020	
	£	£	£	£
Brought forward		148,279		48,499
OTHER EXPENDITURE				
Rent	22,517		18,420	
Telephone & Internet	2,398		2,103	
Printing, Postage & Stationery	1,942		2,582	
Motoring Costs	3,742		4,657	
Training	663		1,106	
Accountancy	660		636	
Donations	1,500		1,500	
Publicity & Income Generation	2,333		1,132	
Insurance & Professional	5,118		5,502	
Bank Charges	101		282	
Travelling	364		1,153	
		41,338		39,073
		<hr/>		<hr/>
		106,941		9,426
Depreciation				
Fixtures & Fittings	8		12	
Motor Vehicles	-		-	
		<hr/>		<hr/>
		8		12
NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)		<u>106,933</u>		<u>9,414</u>

The Michael Roberts Charitable Trust
(Limited by Guarantee)

Annual Review Statement

The attached Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2021 have been prepared from information, records and explanations supplied and in accordance with current guidelines.

No issues worthy of being reported to the Treasurer have arisen during the year.

I am satisfied that the surplus of Income over Expenditure of £106,933 represents the charity's activities for the period and that the carried forward monetary balances agree with the bank and building society accounts of the charity.

Signed:



Date: 12th July 2021

Pigram & Co
Unit 5
Hatfield Regis Grange Business Units
Hatfield Broad Oak
Bishop's Stortford
Hertfordshire
CM22 7JZ



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/ members of

Charity Name: THE MICHAEL ROBERTS CHARITABLE TRUST

On accounts for the year ended

31st March 2021 Charity no (if any) 1065006

Set out on pages

3-9 (remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/03/2021.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

[The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of [insert name of applicable listed body]]. Delete [] if not applicable.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below *) which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
• the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
• the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:

[Signature]

Date:

12th July 2021

Name:

JUSTIN PIGGAM

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body

FCCA - Fellow of the ACCA

(if any):

--

Address:

UNIT 5, MATFIELD REGIS GRANGE BUSINESS UNITS
MATFIELD ROAD OAK, BISHOPS STOKEFORD
MERTONSHIRE, CV22 7JZ

Section B

Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

None.
