

Harborough Christian Counselling Service

Report of the Trustees

For the year ended 31 March 2025

Objectives and Activities

Values

The values that underpin the service provided by the Harborough Christian Counselling Service cover confidentiality (respecting privacy); acceptance through non-judgemental approach; independence through giving people the right to make their own choices; respect by recognising that God made everyone unique and that individual dignity should be maintained; and finally equality in that the service is available to all, irrespective of race, religion, culture, sex, gender, age or disability.

Whilst the staff, counsellors and support workers of the charity will be Christian, the service is available to people of all faiths and none.

Operational report for the year 2024-25

The Bower House continues to provide a Counselling Service to residents of Market Harborough, the 2 Bowden villages and those living within a 10 mile radius of the town. Demand for the service continues at a high rate of referral.

Over 2000 counselling hours have been provided through the work of over 30 volunteer counsellors, managed by 2 part-time paid Service Co-ordinators.

Around 24 volunteer Support workers provide administrative assistance and welcome to clients as well as practical help in maintaining the property.

Since introducing the suggested minimum donation of £10 per session to clients, the average amount donated by clients has increased. Efforts are being made to encourage client donations with the aim of increasing this average to £15 per session and this is producing some results. It is important to note, however, that counselling continues to be offered to those who cannot afford to donate.

Other regular support has come from the Friends donations, from individual donations and from generous donations from local churches in Market Harborough. There has also been a number of fundraising events co-ordinated by a Finance committee of volunteers.

Report of the Governing Body

The Governing Body presents this report together with the financial statements of Harborough Christian Counselling Service for the year ended 31 March 2024. Harborough Christian Counselling Service is a registered charity, number 1076294. The address of the charity is: The Bower House, 32 Coventry Road, Market Harborough, Leicestershire, LE16 9BZ.

The financial statements comply with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), and with the Charities Act 2011.

The Constitution adopted 27 May 1999 is the governing document. The Chair is elected by members of the Governing Body. The Governing Body meets 4 times per year.

The Governing Body comprises:

1. The Chair of Churches Together in Market Harborough (Churches Together sponsors Harborough Christian Counselling Service).
2. Up to 2 further persons appointed by Churches Together.
3. The Service Co-ordinator
4. The Charity's Treasurer.
5. Other members appointed by the Governing Body

The Secretary of the Governing Body is appointed from amongst the its members and a minimum of 3 people are additionally appointed by the Governing Body to act as Holding Trustees.

The Joint Working Group of the Charity meets at least 10 time per year. The Chair and the Secretary of the Joint Working Group are elected by its members, who comprise the Charity's Treasurer, and between 6 and 10 other persons who are approved by the Governing Body.

Harborough Christian Counselling Service is established:

1. To provide a Christian counselling response to the needs of people in Market Harborough and the surrounding district (limited to a 10 mile radius from the town) for help, support and encouragement at times of crisis in their lives. The aim is to help and empower people to make their own decisions in appropriate ways to enable them to satisfactorily come through those crises.
2. To train and equip Christians to be involved in counselling and to enable Christians to utilise the gifts that God has given them.
3. To work alongside churches in their caring missions, and with secular organisations that care for people.

The income and property of Harborough Christian Counselling Service is used to further these objectives. As Harborough Christian Counselling Service is a registered charity, legally recognised as established for charitable purposes only, all funds raised are used to further the aims of the Charity.

The Charity remains in a satisfactory position as regards its reserves policy. This policy requires that the restricted funds held by the Charity represent the amount required for its winding up if it ceases to operate. These costs are estimated at £20,000 (2023 £20,000). The reserves policy is reviewed annually.

The Charity has Charity Trustee insurance in place indemnifying any officer against liability as a result of his/her negligence, up to an aggregate liability of £100,000.

On behalf of the Governing Body



Linda Gemmell - Chair

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE
TRUSTEES AND MEMBERS OF
HARBOROUGH CHRISTIAN COUNSELLING SERVICE**

I report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31 March 2025, which are set out on the following pages.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and the examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The Charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act; to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under
- section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report.

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

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements: -

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act. have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn, in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts reached.

Signed: 

Dated: 29/07/2025

HARBOROUGH CHRISTIAN COUNSELLING SERVICE
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

	2025	2024
	£	£
INCOME		
Donations	50615	36885
Other income	19033	27301
Building Society Interest	987	
Total Income	<u>70635</u>	<u>64186</u>
EXPENDITURE		
Establishment		
Rates	978	958
Light and heat	2667	2238
Water	312	366
Repairs, office equipment & cleaning	988	1236
Depreciation	13539	548
	<u>18483</u>	<u>5346</u>
Administration		
Salaries and on-costs	43182	40361
Stationary, office supplies and services	1624	2475
Telephone, broadband and bureau services	1926	2076
Membership subscriptions and Insurance	1981	1963
Independent examination fee	0	600
Training/Refunds	2620	4527
Fundraising expenses, sundries	813	
	<u>52145</u>	<u>52002</u>
Total Expenditure	<u>70629</u>	<u>57348</u>
Net Income /Loss for year	7	6838
Balance brought forward at 1 April 2024	<u>256035</u>	<u>249197</u>
	<u>256042</u>	<u>256035</u>

HARBOROUGH CHRISTIAN COUNSELLING SERVICE
BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 MARCH 2025

	2025		2024	
	£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS				
Freehold Property		248,744		261,836
Office furniture and equipment		<u>4,018</u>		<u>4,465</u>
		252,762		266,301
CURRENT ASSETS				
Debtors	568		825	
Cash	<u>107,657</u>		<u>93,985</u>	
	108,225		94,810	
Creditors				
Due in one year	500		1,432	
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>107,725</u>		<u>93,378</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>360,488</u>		<u>359,679</u>

On behalf of the Governing Body

L. J. Gemmell



Linda Gemmell - Chair

HARBOROUGH CHRISTIAN COUNSELLING SERVICE
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

1. Accounting Convention

The Accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention, as modified by the revaluation of freehold property to market value and in accordance with the 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) and the Charities Act 2011.

Fund Accounting

General income funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Governing Body in furtherance of the objectives of the Charity.

Tangible Fixed Assets and Depreciation

Depreciation is provided to write off the cost of tangible fixed assets over their useful lives as follows:

Freehold Property – 5% per annum,

Office Furniture and Equipment - 10% per annum - reducing balance.

The Governing Body has agreed to have the property revalued once urgent repairs are complete.

2. Donations

	2025	2024
Individual	35,865	34,468
Church and Related Organisations	10,083	2,033
Voluntary Organisations	<u>4,667</u>	<u>384</u>
	<u>50,615</u>	<u>36,855</u>

3. Other Income

Fundraising	9,869	11,360
Gift Aid	4,679	6,566
Legacies, interest and other income	5,472	
Grant from Market Harborough and Bowdens Charity		<u>9,375</u>
	<u>£20,020</u>	<u>£27,301</u>

HARBOROUGH CHRISTIAN COUNSELLING SERVICE
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

4. Fixed Assets

	Furniture & Equipment £	Freehold Property £	Total £
Cost			
As at 1 April 2024	33,601	261,836	295,437
Additions	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	-
As at 1 April 2025	<u>33,601</u>	<u>261,836</u>	<u>295,437</u>
Depreciation			
As at 1 April 2024	29,136		29,136
Charge for the year	447	13,092	13,539
Disposals	-	-	-
As at 1 April 2025	<u>29,583</u>	<u>13,092</u>	<u>42,675</u>
Net Book Value			
As at 1 April 2024	4,465	261,836	266,301