



SHARING LIFE TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT AND ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Registered Charity Number: 1100176

SHARING LIFE TRUST (Registered Charity Number: 1100176)

Trustees

Philip Stratton (Chair)
Christine Waring
John Hulett
Steve Eyre
Gordon Taylor

The Trustees' Report and Accounts cover the year to 31 December 2024.

The composition of the trustee body shown above covers the full period from 1 January 2024 until the Trustees' Report and Accounts were approved.

Office

Unit D2
Station Yard
Thame
OX9 3UH

Independent Examiner

Lisa Walker FCCA
APS Accountancy Limited
4 Cromwell Court
New Street
Aylesbury
HP20 2PB

The governing document is the Charity's Constitution adopted when the charity was registered on 20 October 2003.

SHARING LIFE TRUST

Trustees' Report

The Trustees present their report and accounts for the year to 31 December 2024.

Purposes

The principal aims of the Charity are to relieve poverty and hardship.

Trustees

Trustees shall be no fewer than 2 and no more than 7. Other than the two founding trustees they are elected to serve for a term of 3 years and are eligible for re-election at a Trustee Meeting of the Charity in accordance with the requirements of the Constitution.

Reserves Policy

Reserves are required to cover an unexpected loss of income and to allow ongoing commitments to be met in these circumstances.

The Trust's income is predominantly from private donors, with occasional income from successful grant applications. Consequently, there is some inherent uncertainty over future cashflow and over the past 20 years we have survived on something of a hand-to-mouth basis.

Since the Covid pandemic, private income has increased dramatically, as has the demand on our FoodBank, for which we have recently recruited 2 part-time administrators.

Trustees agreed at the meeting on 6th September 2023 that we should place £50,000 into an instant access savings account to ensure the ongoing viability of the trust for a minimum period of one year should donations drop off significantly in the future.

This policy of covering one year's expenditure will be reviewed annually.

At 31st December 2024 the Trust held total funds of £116,866 of which £80,887 was in a reserves account.

Review of Developments, Activities and Achievements

Financial Reporting:

Due to the employment of staff in 2023 we recruited a book-keeper with payroll experience in March. At the end of the year our Treasurer stood down following a family bereavement, and one of the Trustees agreed to provide management reporting. When we submitted our 2023 accounts for inspection it became clear that the record-keeping was not complete and this led to the late filing of the Annual Return. We had no choice but to continue with this arrangement until the end of the year, whereupon a new book-keeping business was appointed for calendar year 2025.

SHARING LIFE TRUST
Trustees' Report (continued)

Review of the year by area:

Foodbank

The number of Foodbank parcels has increased further during the year by 7%, and a total of 1,702 food parcels were delivered to local addresses, providing for 1,042 adults and 940 children in 800 households. Requests were again overwhelmingly validated by other local agencies, and in total £46,202 was spent (an increase of 80% on the previous year), including supplementary items and energy top-ups.

Our online payment platform called 'Enthuse', launched to enable donations from the website, brought in over £19,000 and became a very significant source of support. Two other similar platforms generated a further £7,000 for the Foodbank between them.

We have 100+ volunteers covering the Foodbank and Community Larder, with around 80 regularly committed in both collecting food from supermarkets, packing food parcels and delivering to clients, and who are critical for us in responding to this growing demand in such difficult circumstances.

Community

In a development of the Foodbank, we have continued to expand the Community Larder scheme, which has over 155 members (an increase of 21% on the previous year), including many Ukrainian refugees. This offers unsold food items donated by supermarkets for scheme members to buy at very reduced cost; enabling people to benefit from the lower expense and also to regain control over their food shopping. An additional benefit (and motivation for around half the users) is to reduce the amount of wasted food going to landfill.

The Trust continued to support local people in need with emergency funding for clients of the Citizens Advice Bureau for some bankruptcy and Debt Relief Orders, and also to provide white goods for people unable to manage without a cooker or fridge, for example.

International

We support the Sharing Life/Rema clinic in Burundi, in conjunction with Rema UK (registered charity no. 1118650). The clinic provides healthcare in the province of Rutana, where a very large number of returnees from refugee camps in Tanzania have settled, either on land requiring negotiation with families who took it over following the genocides, or in Internally Displaced People camps. Steve visited in June along with the Rema UK Trustees and we continue to support the clinic's work with funding for medicines and malaria prevention.

We also carried on funding for the Calcutta Samaritans and Emmanuel Ministries in Kolkata, India with their work alongside substance abuse addicts and street children. We continued to support Bethan & Tenebou in Senegal and sent them £2,200 during the year towards their clinic and also continued to locally support Ukrainian refugees in partnership with other agencies.

Finally:

Trustees met for an awayday early in the year to discuss succession planning (amongst other business) and want to record our thanks to Derek Witchell for his dedication and long service as Trustee and wish him well in his retirement.

SHARING LIFE TRUST
Trustees' Report (continued)

Statement of Trustees Responsibilities

The Charities Act 2011 section 130 requires the Trustees to prepare accounts for each financial year sufficient to show and explain the Charity's transactions and which disclose with reasonable accuracy the Charity's financial position. In preparing those accounts the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the accounts, and;
- prepare the accounts on a going concern basis unless it can be assumed that the Charity will not continue to operate as such.

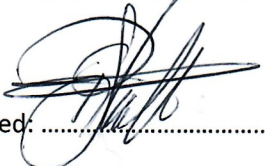
The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose the financial position of the Charity, with reasonable accuracy, at any time. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and for taking reasonable steps to prevent or detect fraud.

The Trustees have fulfilled the responsibilities as outlined above.

Accounts

The accounts are presented on a Receipts and Payment basis.

Approved on behalf of the Trustees on 6/10/25

Signed: 

Philip Stratton – Chair

Sharing Life Trust (Registered Charity No. 1100176)
Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Sharing Life Trust

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2024 set out on pages seven to eleven.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and the Independent Examiner

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

I report in respect of my examination of the charity'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

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- (a) the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act; or
- (b) the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- (c) 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.

Signed: ... *Lisa Walker*

Date: ... 13th October 2025

Lisa Walker FCCA
APS Accountancy Limited
4 Cromwell Court
New Street
Aylesbury
Bucks
HP20 2PB

Sharing Life Trust (Registered Charity No. 1100176)

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS

Year to 31 December 2024

	Note	2024	2023
		£	£
Incoming resources			
Grants, donations and other income	2	107,432	94,381
Interest income		711	166
		<hr/> 108,143	<hr/> 94,547
Resources expended			
Charitable activities	3	90,403	62,500
		<hr/> 17,740	<hr/> 32,047
Net incoming resources			
		<hr/> 17,740	<hr/> 32,047
Surplus/(deficit) for the year		<hr/> 17,740	<hr/> 32,047

BALANCE SHEET

As at 31 December 2024

	Note	2024	2023
		£	£
Current assets:			
Cash in hand		281	124
Bank accounts		116,585	99,002
Net current assets		<hr/> 116,866	<hr/> 99,126
Represented by:			
Balance at start of year		99,126	67,079
Net surplus/(deficit)		17,740	32,047
Total Funds	6	<hr/> 116,866	<hr/> 99,126

The financial statements were approved on behalf of the Trustees on 6/10/25

Signed: 

Philip Stratton – Chair

Sharing Life Trust
Notes to the Accounts
For the year ending 31 December 2024

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared on the Receipts and Payments basis.

Income

All incoming resources, including interest and dividends on investments, are included on receipt.

Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised as incurred.

Management and support expenditure is allocated to activities on the basis of the use of resources. Governance costs include any professional advice necessary to meet Charity Commission or other authority requirements.

Taxation

Sharing Life Trust is a charitable institution with exemption from UK taxation.

Fund Accounting

Funds held by the Charity are either:

Unrestricted funds – funds which can be used in accordance with the charitable objects.

Restricted funds – funds received on condition that they are expended on specific activities.

Sharing Life Trust
Notes to the Accounts
For the year ending 31 December 2024

2 GRANTS, DONATIONS & OTHER INCOME

	2024	2023
	£	£
Unrestricted		
Donations	77,465	37,684
Grants	11,000	-
Gift Aid claimed	5,249	6,757
	<u>93,714</u>	<u>44,441</u>
Restricted		
Foodbank	7,982	42,865
Ukraine Support	66	1,416
Burundi	5,170	5,059
India	-	600
Senegal	500	-
	<u>13,718</u>	<u>49,940</u>
TOTAL	<u>107,432</u>	<u>94,381</u>

3 RESOURCES EXPENDED

	2024	2023
	£	£
Caring in Thame including Thame Food Bank	65,420	46,202
Counselling Support	250	2,800
Ukraine Support	569	871
Burundi	4,808	3,360
India	5,000	4,400
Senegal	2,200	-
Oxfordshire CAB	5,000	-
Administration costs	7,156	4,867
TOTAL	<u>90,403</u>	<u>62,500</u>

Sharing Life Trust
Notes to the Accounts
For the year ending 31 December 2024

4 TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration, expenses or other benefits (2023: Nil).

5 STAFF COSTS	2024	2023
	£	£
Wages and salaries	19,278	13,981
Social security and pensions	-	-
	<u>19,278</u>	<u>13,981</u>

The average monthly number of employees during the year was 2 (2023: 2).
No employees received remuneration in excess of £60,000 (2023: Nil).

6 FUNDS

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £
Receipts 2023			
Grants and donations	87,306	7,075	94,381
Interest received	166	-	166
	<u>87,472</u>	<u>7,075</u>	<u>94,547</u>
Payments 2023			
Charitable activities	49,002	8,631	57,633
Administration costs	4,867	-	4,867
	<u>53,869</u>	<u>8,631</u>	<u>62,500</u>
Net (deficit)/surplus 2023	33,603	(1,556)	32,047
Balance at 1 January 2023	43,986	23,093	67,079
Transfers between funds	(15,838)	15,838	-
Balance at 31 December 2023	61,751	37,375	99,126
Receipts 2024			
Grants and donations	93,714	13,718	107,432
Interest and dividends	711	-	711
	<u>94,425</u>	<u>13,718</u>	<u>108,143</u>
Payments 2024			
Charitable activities	70,670	12,577	83,247
Administration costs	7,156	-	7,156
	<u>77,826</u>	<u>12,577</u>	<u>90,403</u>
Net (deficit)/surplus 2024	16,599	1,141	17,740
Balance at 1 January 2024	61,751	37,375	99,126
Transfers between funds	(4,248)	4,248	-
Balance at 31 December 2024	74,102	42,764	116,866

Sharing Life Trust
Notes to the Accounts
For the year ending 31 December 2024

7 RELATED PARTIES

There were no related party relationships to report (2023: none).