

PRESTON AND SOUTH RIBBLE (NORTH) STREET PASTORS.

Registered Charity 1131660

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025



An initiative of Ascension Trust



**The Queen's Award
for Voluntary Service**

PRESTON AND SOUTH RIBBLE (NORTH) STREET PASTORS.

Registered Charity 1131660

Trustees Annual Report and Accounts for the 12 months ended 31 March 2025

Reference and Administration details

Trustees	Margaret Elaine Jefferson (Chairperson) Dion DeVilliers (Treasurer) Nina Woodfield (Secretary) Lynn Pauline Yates William Dawson
Bankers	HSBC Bank Plc, 49a Fishergate, Preston, PR1 8BH
Independent Examiner	Ian Higginbotham FCIB, 7 Whittle Green, Woodplumpton, Preston, PR4 0WG

Structure, governance, objectives and management.

This charity's governing instrument is a trust deed dated 1 September 2009. The charity was registered with the Charity Commission 16 September 2009 having commenced work in July 2008 under the supervision of the registering trustees.

The objectives of the Trust are to advance the Christian Faith by

- (1) caring, listening, and helping people on the streets,
- (2) relieving sickness and hardship,
- (3) advancing education in accordance with Christian principles.

Charity Commission

The contact details for the Charity Commission is Mr Dion DeVilliers.

Background

The project was incorporated 17 July 2008 when it was accredited by the Ascension Trust as an official Street Pastor scheme. After training 25 volunteers from 10 different local churches the project commenced patrolling local streets December 2008. We are pleased to report that we now have 37 Street Pastors from 21 local churches patrolling in the Plungington area and Preston City Centre.

Operational areas

Patrols continue in Preston city centre and Plungington areas with daytime city centre patrols once a month. We continue to enjoy good community relations with residents, business' and the general public that we meet.

We can continue to report the police acknowledge our presence on the streets as a factor contributing to reductions in anti social behaviour and to the City's communities feeling safer.

In the city centre we continue to support and encourage the homeless and those begging on the street, as well as looking out for young people in vulnerable situations. We have made early interventions to prevent violence occurring. Our signposting leaflet continues to be revised and contains many references to local help and support agencies.

Support

The Trustees pay tribute to our great volunteers, and the churches and church groups that have, in turn supported them. Without that widespread support and funds from our individual supporters we would not have been able to operate. During the year we received funding from local charities and Preston City Council Volunteers Fund. We are also extremely thankful for continued generous gifts from many local Churches and regular personal giving.

We are extremely thankful to our Senior Street Pastors who do so much to manage, develop and train their teams . As a faith based venture we are delighted to record that our trust in God to walk with us, and meet our needs on the streets continues to be a remarkable experience. We have been in some tough places, but never felt afraid.

Review of Community Benefit

We have served the local community during the year in undertaking our Street Pastor responsibilities, at no charge to the local communities which we serve. In fact residents are generally amazed when they find that volunteers receive no payment for the work they do in the City Centre, or in the other communities in which they themselves by and large do not live. We have been thanked by many parents on the streets, who record their gratitude for the help we have given their children when we have arranged and paid for a taxi to get them safely home when they were intoxicated, and without the means to pay.

	2025	2024
Total Number of Volunteers on the books at 31 March	35	36
Non-walkers at 31 March for health and temporary reasons	2	4
Number of patrolling hours contributed	1098	1068
Number individuals offered help and guidance	1798	1864
Panic alarms given to vulnerable young women	0	0
Space blankets distributed to street sleepers	47	27
Flip Flops - given to late night clubbers unable to walk	68	44
Sleeping Bags/Tents/Warm Clothing distributed	345	268
Food and Drink	1842	1738
Sharps/glass picked up and disposed of	460	552
People signposted to local support	103	59
Number of Patrols	91	83

We experience challenges in keeping up the numbers of new volunteers we need as existing volunteers stand down, usually after three to four years very valued service. A mix of local and online training is in place from the Ascension Trust and we are pleased to advise that we have 3 in training.

Homelessness seems to be an issue in the city slightly and sofa surfing and street begging also remain. We continue to provide hot drinks and snacks to those that need them whilst the police are understandably under increasing pressure to reduce the number of people begging. Most of whom are known to them and we pay tribute to their efforts of care for them. Our Street Pastors continue to encourage those we meet to seek the assistance that is available through the many services offered by a wide range of voluntary agencies in the city. The efforts of the Council and the Foxton Centre continue to try and address long term homeless through temporary accommodation with a new Night Service being introduced soon by the Council.

Review of risk management and financial performance

Trustees review financial and other risks at regular Trustee meetings, and particularly ensure that personal safety issues for the volunteers are carefully considered. We are compliant with our insurer's safety requirements, the requirement for basic DBS checks on all our volunteers, and the policy manuals of the Ascension Trust covering all operational aspects of the Trust. The attached accounts show the current state of the finances, which the Trustees consider to be sound and

Approved by the Board of Trustees on 28/5/25 MA/ptf and signed on their behalf.

Elaine Jefferson (Chair of Trustees) ME/eff
(Original signed and held by Trustees in accordance with Charity Commission guidelines)

PRESTON AND SOUTH RIBBLE (NORTH) STREET PASTORS

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ACCOUNTS FOR THE 12 MONTHS TO 31 MARCH 2025

	31/03/2025 Unrestricted Funds	31/03/2024 Unrestricted Funds
<u>RECEIPTS - UNRESTRICTED INCOME</u>		
Volunteer and Volunteer Church Gifts	8,871	6,853
Other Gifts & On Street Giving	2,090	1,283
Other SP Training Contributions	61	340
Grants, Interest and Other Income	14,000	20,000
HMRC Gift Aid	1,079	0
Total Income	26,100	28,476
<u>PAYMENTS</u>		
Uniforms and materials	847	300
Ascension Trust Management Fees	1,765	4,272
Training Costs/Room Hire	923	314
Coordinator	14,842	14,340
Travel	746	377
Materials	534	392
Secretarial, Publicity, Printing & Stationery,	1,878	1,103
Total Expenditure	21,535	21,098
<u>NET RECEIPTS OVER PAYMENTS</u>	4,565	7,378
<u>BALANCE SHEET</u>		
Funds brought forward	34,280	26,902
Plus net Receipts over Payments for the year	4,565	7,378
Funds Carried Forward	38,845	34,280
<u>Represented by: -</u>		
Balance at Bank	38,845	34,280
Current Deposit		0

NOTES TO ACCOUNTS

Ascension Trust are the national supervisors of Street Pastor projects. We pay them 15% of all our income (all sources), and they in turn provide insurance cover, administrative and legal guidance, training framework, and sell uniforms and other items.

DECLARATION

I declare that at a meeting of the Board of Trustees held on 28/5/25 the above financial report was duly approved, and I have been so authorised to certify on their behalf.

(Original signed and held by Trustees in accordance with Charity Commission guidelines)

Elaine Jefferson, Chair of Trustees

ME Jefferson

PRESTON AND SOUTH RIBBLE (NORTH) STREET PASTORS.

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Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Preston and South Ribble (North) Street Pastors

I report on the accounts for the 12 month period to 31 March 2025 which are set out on page 4

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The Charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The Charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required this year under requirement of S144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (The 2011 Act) and that an Independent Examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to a) examine the Accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act

b) to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by Charity Commissioners under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act:

c) 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 Commissioners. 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 for 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 the statement below.

Independent Examiner's Report

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

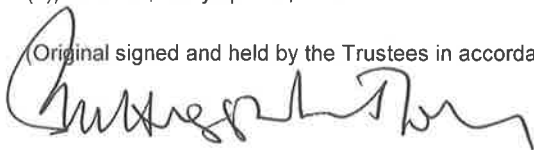
(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respects the requirements

* To keep proper accounting records in accordance with Section 130 of the 2011 Act; and

* To prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to 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 to be reached.

(Original signed and held by the Trustees in accordance with Charity Commission guidelines)



Ian Higginbotham FCIB

Date 26.5.25

