

Olive Community Project
Charity Number: 1155574
(For Charitable Incorporated Organisations)

**Trustees' Annual Report
and Financial Statements
for the Period
1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025**

November 2025

Charity Name: Olive Community Project

Charity number: 1155574

Charity's operating address: Olive Branch, 2c Castle Street, Edgeley, Stockport. SK3 9AB

Names of the Charity Trustees who Manage the Charity (Add extra rows as required)

<i>Trustee Name</i>	<i>Office (if any)</i>	<i>Appointed/Retired</i>
1. Mrs Christine Cheetham	Chair	
2. Rev Stephen Hough		Appointed Treasurer
3. Ms Sarah Booth		March 24
4. Rev Ken Livingstone	Treasurer	Retired March 24
5. Mrs Margaret Jones		
6. Miss Rebecca Allen		

Names and Addresses of Advisors (Delete rows that are not relevant)

<i>Name</i>	<i>Address and Postcode</i>
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Bank The Cooperative Bank, PO Box 250, Skelmersdale, Lancs, WN8

Inspector of Accounts Mrs Jane Hollins 12 Withypool Drive, Stockport, SK2 6DT

Names of Senior Staff with Delegated Responsibilities *(Add extra rows as required)*

Name	Role
Mrs Jaine Curley	Project Manager
Mr Behnam Raifiei	Refugee and Asylum Seeker Manager

Description of the Charity's Trusts

Type of Governing Document: Foundation Model Constitution

How the Charity is Constituted: Charitable Incorporated Organisation

Trustee Selection Methods: Trustees are actively identified from among existing trustee networks for their particular skills and experience.

How New Trustees are Inducted and Trained: Prospective new trustees are invited to attend a board meeting as an observer before deciding whether to stand for election. They are inducted informally through discussion with existing trustees and the Project Manager.

Summary of the Objectives of the Charity as set out in it's Governing Document

The Objectives of the CIO are:

1. To promote for the benefit of the inhabitants of Edgeley, Stockport and the surrounding area who are on the margins of society, by reason of their age, health condition – both physical and mental, financial hardship or social and economic circumstances or for the public at large, in the interests of social welfare, and with the object of improving the condition of life for said inhabitants.
2. The relief of those in need, by reason of old age, ill-health, disability, financial hardship, poor housing/living conditions, or other disadvantages in Edgeley, Stockport, through signposting or introducing them to health, social and other services, and assisting and supporting them in accessing such services, both through traditional means and via the Internet. A substantial amount of time is spent in assisting people with form filling, due to difficulty reading/writing, or due to digital exclusion.

3. To promote social inclusion in Edgeley, Stockport 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 the Olive community, and the wider society.

For the purpose of this clause, 'socially excluded' means being excluded from society, as a result of one or 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; discrimination on the grounds of gender, race, disability, ethnic origin, belief, creed, sexual orientation or gender reassignment; poor educational or skills attainment; relationship and family breakdown; young families; poor housing (that is housing that does not meet the basic habitable standards; homelessness, crime (either as a victim of crime or as an offender rehabilitating into society)

4. To advance the Christian religion in Edgeley, Stockport for the public benefit by such means as the trustees may determine.

Specifically, during the accounting period, OCP carried out the following activities in line with its charitable purposes:

1. Provision of a drop-in centre where lonely/isolated members of the community are welcome without cost.

2. Provision of workshops for arts and crafts activities, to develop social interaction and creative abilities.

3. Provide some measure of relief for those experiencing financial hardship, for whatever reason, through an emergency foodbank, clothes bank and household equipment store. We liaise with other charities, organisations and churches to acquire essential furnishings for those who are trying to rebuild lives.

4. A monthly 'advice desk' is provided by the local council, attended by local housing associations, public health, digital inclusion organisations and representatives who help with benefits, debt, the cost of living and can help with gas/electricity. Thereby supporting the most vulnerable in society.

5. We work in conjunction with other statutory bodies and charities within Stockport, supporting the vulnerable clients that use the Olive Branch. We can signpost and are a referral agent to these organisations, providing wrap around support.

6. MIND run a weekly mental health self-health group.

7. We offer computers and free wi-fi for those needing online access for benefits, housing or employment support. We also make appointments for those lacking digital skill or have no access to a phone, and we help with form filling and letter writing.

8. We take donations from a local supermarket and sandwich shop, any surplus food that they have not sold on the previous day. This is then put out for our members of the local community to take without the embarrassment of having to ask. From these donations, packs are made up for the homeless.

9. During the winter months we offer 'warm space', which is where a basic, hot lunch is provided.

10. We celebrate birthdays with cards and a cake, especially valued by those who have no family to celebrate with. We also provide a Christmas Dinner. We mourn as a family over those of our visitors who have passed away, supporting where possible by attending funerals.

10. We offer our surplus food and clothes to other small charities who are supporting the marginalised in our community, women suffering abuse, those inadequately housed, local hostels and those who are struggling with addiction.

11. We support Occupational Therapy students, by having the Olive Branch being used as a placement. This year the students have introduced some Mindfulness sessions for our visitors.

12. While we operate our own small emergency foodbank, we are now also working in conjunction with Chelwood Foodbank Plus, a large food bank charity. They have a hub based next door to the Olive Branch, where they provide food, then send them to us to provide more wrap around support.

Support offered during the accounting period (number of people involved):

Daily drop-in 40+

Full-time paid staff 1

Part-time paid staff 1

Volunteer team 12

Activities -

Knit and Natter

Weekly craft group

Mental health self-help group

Advice Desk

Food bank/household equipment store in partnership with Chelwood Foodbank Plus

In partnership with the local council, have taken responsibility for the local planters/flowers

Warm lunches for any of our visitors, and sandwich provision for homeless visitors. Also

provide tents/sleeping bags

Gazebo Days to raise funds

Fundraising for the Olive branch by personal donations

Macmillan Fundraising

Behnam Raifiei has become part of the Olive Branch team, who provides homeless support and assists asylum seekers

Sewing Group

Introduction of Mindfulness activities

Values

Olive Community Project is motivated by the inclusive Christian faith of those at its centre. For our inspiration we look in particular at the radical Jesus whose intense humanity enabled him to transcend the social boundaries of his day, and include into his world those who were otherwise excluded.

While some of our volunteers are similarly motivated, we do not exclude people from volunteering for reasons of faith, gender, sexuality, race or age, nor do we restrict our support on any basis.

Statutory Declaration

The trustees declare that they have complied with their duty to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the commission in exercising their powers or duties.

Summary of the Main Achievements of the Charity for the Year

During the accounting period:

1. The Olive Branch, our shop window on the high street and point of contact with the local community, has held 'open days' in the form of Gazebo Days, inviting shoppers to come and see what we offer. In addition to this, we have created a display for the shop window, highlighting all the activities on offer at the Olive Branch including opening times. We also regularly decorate the front window eg at Christmas and Easter, to attract passers by. We also continue to support Macmillan by having Macmillan coffee mornings.
2. We continue with our links with Sheffield Hallam University and hosted a further two Occupational Therapy students, who were able to observe and offer us their own intervention in the form of mindfulness. They also participated in the mental health support group. In addition, MIND, public health and the homeless mental team have also brought nursing students to the Olive Branch, to get an insight into what support is available in the community.
3. Gazebo days continue, and Mix and Mingle has continued to grow. Mix and Mingle is held at the Olive Branch every last Thursday of the month, and is where local support agencies come together, including housing and the police, to offer advice to our visitors. Public health also attend and offer advice on healthy eating and do blood pressure checks. An organisation called Starting Point also attend and give out free SIM cards, phones and ipads, to alleviate digital exclusion that affects many people on the margins of society. And we have also developed strong links with our local branch of AgeUK and they inform us if they are running any sessions, such as debt management and CV writing, and invites people who attend the Olive Branch.
4. The 'Warm Space' initiative continues over the winter month, providing a warm lunch, this was re-commenced in October. And a packed lunch is provided every day for the homeless. We also continued to support people with phone calls to the Cost of Living team, get energy, supermarket vouchers, and also provide white goods for those who are living in inadequate house with poor heating/damp. Our 'clothes bank' grew, and we were provided with homeless bags, which have in them a hat, scarf, gloves, blanket, flask and hot water bottle. We also collected tents and sleeping bags.

5. We continue our links with organisations such as the Lamplighters and the Freemasons, and also local churches and schools, and have done talks to these organisations, making them aware of the work we do within the community. In return, they make financial donations towards the running of the Olive Branch, and also collect coats, Christmas gifts and Easter eggs. These were distributed to asylum seekers children as well as other families in need.

6. Due to the continuing cost of living crisis, need has increased within the community. We support people by helping them by making phone calls to the housing, in relation to repairs and inadequate housing, and support them through that process. We also assist with form filling, as a lot of people struggle with this, to enable them to claim all the benefits that they are entitled to. And a lot of time is spent writing to/liasing with the local councillors, MP, DWP and various other organisations.

7. The partnership between the Olive Branch and Chelwood Community Hub continues. Chelwood Hub operates as a foodbank, where their clients are then referred to the Olive Branch for more wrap around support. The office in the Hub continues to be used as a base for counselling, signposting and support service for our refugee and asylum seeker worker. In addition, a flat has been developed above the Hub which now houses a refugee couple, who would otherwise have been made homeless.

8. The Olive Branch has been invited to two monthly meetings, with the local councillors, police and shop keepers, regarding what happens on the high street. This includes anti-social behaviour, aggressive begging and shop lifting. We also discuss and plan events such as a Christmas tree light turn on and arts and crafts markets.

9. S is a lady who first approached the manager of the Olive Branch, with an interest in setting up a sewing group. S lost her son to alcohol addiction, and subsequently developed an addiction herself. During her recovery, she decided that she wanted to give something back, so was advised to speak to the manager by a member of staff at Cirtek House, a drug and alcohol centre, who has strong links with the Olive Branch. Sewing has been a passions of S's for a long time, and she wanted to set up a class using recycled clothes, and teach the art of hand sewing. Showing what can be achieved with just a needle and thread. The class is a mix of male and females, of various ages and backgrounds. Any problems they may have they can share, and they help and support each other to be better and happy whilst learning their craft, and enjoying each others company. S writes ' there's always a warm welcome from the volunteers in charge of teas and coffees. For me, it has improved my life enormously, given me a reason to embrace every day in the company of wonderful friends.'

Brief Statement of the Charity's Policy on Reserves

The trustees have not agreed a reserves policy, believing the current levels of income and expenditure, and the nature of the charity's activities, do not merit one at present.

Financial Review Details

During this financial year we received £46,097.63 of which £18,457.98 is unrestricted. Our balance carried forward to the next financial year is £13,379 unrestricted.

During the accounting period we received £11,785.44 share of the six month period from NCLF, in partnership with Chelwood Foodbank Plus. Foyle Foundation granted us £5165.35, deficit £4525.32, so the balance carried forward is £74.68

Nothing to Declare

Risk Management

The trustees regularly consider the risks associated with running the charity, and risk management, incident forms and safeguarding issues are discussed at every trustees meeting. Trustees have prepared a risk register which covers potential risks at all levels of the charity. In particular, given the increasingly challenging client group with which the charity works, a risk assessment of day-to-day on-site risks has been developed to ensure the safety of staff and customers. The project manager informs trustees of any incidents that occur, and the actions taken. Regular staff meetings takes account of such situations, and in-house annual training is also presented to all volunteers. Chelwood foodbank run annual safeguarding training, which staff from the Olive Branch are invited to.

Management

Mrs Jaine Curley has managed the Olive Branch, as interim manager, day to day since March 2023, after being in the role of Interim Manager. She has done so with energy, compassion and great commitment, and has earned great respect from the people of Edgeley. She supports and encourages those on the margins of society with great compassion. She has worked hard on networking with local companies, organisations and the wider Stockport council.

Since the beginning of the accounting year, Behnam Raifiei has come under the Olive Branch umbrella, as a paid employee. He provides practical support to refugees and asylum seekers, helping them to navigate the challenges of rebuilding their lives in the UK. His services include

signposting to essential resources, completing application forms for benefits, housing and visas etc, translating documents, offering general advice on rights and entitlements, and assisting with housing searches. His goal is to empower individuals with the support they need, fostering stability and hope for a brighter future.

The Trustees declare that they have approved the Trustees' Report above.

Signed on behalf of the Charity's Trustees

Signature(s):

S Hough

Full Name:

STEPHEN HOUGH

Position(s):

Trustee

Date:

1/12/23



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name: Olive Community Project

1155974

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period from	01-Apr-24	To	31/03/2025
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Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted to the nearest £	Restricted to the nearest £	Endowment to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Grants	1,460	42,696	-	44,156	36,951
Donations - Regular	1,799	-	-	1,799	1,799
Donations - one-off	2,500	1,896	-	4,396	6,292
Sundry	963	135	-	1,098	1,233
Donation - Gift Aid	2,513	-	-	2,513	2,513
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	9,236	44,727	-	53,963	48,789
A2 Asset and investment					
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	9,236	44,727	-	53,963	48,789

A3 Payments					
Utilities		3,202	-	3,202	2,208
Rent	300	5,528	-	5,828	5,322
Rates	358	96	-	262	166
Fundraising Costs	250	-	-	250	1,504
Salaries	5,188	20,099	-	25,288	7,680
Equipment	10	722	-	732	1,454
Building Upkeep	1,003	948	-	1,950	780
Cleaning	398	17	-	415	432
Employers NI and Pension	177	3,175	-	3,352	
Volunteers expenses	-	146	-	146	
Refugee Workshop	-	1,380	-	1,380	
Travel Expenses	-	750	-	750	
Admin Costs	518	642	-	1,160	
Insurance		580	-	580	539
Community	214	667	-	881	1,679
DBS	-	18	-	18	
Storage	630	630	-	1,260	
Stockport MIND	-	4,167	-	4,167	
Refreshments	1,173	1,255	-	2,428	3,683
Marketing	504	130	-	634	757
Training			-	-	-
Fees and Subs	155	202	-	357	559
Room Hire		1,767	-	1,767	10,600
Sundries/Other	756	78	-	833	3,761
Sub total	10,917	46,198	-	57,115	40,793

A4 Asset and investment					
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	10,917	46,198	-	57,115	40,793

Net of receipts/(payments)	- 1,681	- 1,471	-	- 3,153	7,996
A5 Transfers between funds	20,839	- 20,839	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	12,200	11,792	-	23,991	35,783
Cash funds this year end	31,357	- 10,519	-	20,839	43,779

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted to nearest £	Restricted to nearest £	Endowment to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Cash at Bank	31,357	- 10,519	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	31,357	- 10,519	-

(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))

	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

	Details	Fund to which	Amount due	When due
B5 Liabilities			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on

Signature	Print Name	Date of
C. M. Cheetham	CHRISTINE	22/11
	CHEETHAM	23



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/
members of**

Olive Community Project

**On accounts for the year
ended**

31 March 2025

**Charity no
(if any)**

1155574

Set out on pages

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/03/2025.

**Responsibilities and
basis of report**

As the charity trustees of the Trust, 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 the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

**Independent
examiner's statement**

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

- Accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- The accounts do not accord with the accounting records

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

Signed:

Date:

24/11/2025

Name:

Foad F Moghaddam

**Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):**

*MAAT – AATQB
Member of the Association of Accounting Technicians*

Address:

65 Chaplin Close

Salford

M6 8FW

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.