

Annual Report 2024/25

Introduction by the trustees

WOW what a year! You will be impressed I'm sure from reading what our wonderful CEO has produced in this year's report, it is a real encouragement to everyone and testament to our God, the great provider. Each year we are challenged, unfortunately, with ever higher demands from the community we live in and support, and as you will see, praise God for the way he has answered so many prayers so timely and so generously. This is a real witness to all that we need to keep him at the centre of all that Acts4Sharing is doing.

Specifically this year we have needed additional transport, temporary warehousing, personnel, funding, support and regularly specific types of donations, and all have been provided just when we needed them - praise God.

This is always an opportunity to say a massive "Thank you" once again to everyone associated with us, no matter the size of your involvement, we need you all to continue with us in our future together.

We hope that you will find this amazing report helpful and informative and if you want to know more about us please visit our website: acts4sharing.org

Thank you

This year saw us celebrating our 10th Anniversary! We remain extremely grateful to God for continuing to lead us as we journeyed through another year of

'Sharing God's love in practical ways' across our local community and beyond.

Everything we do is founded on prayer; we continued to meet monthly for prayer until February, then we chose to meet weekly as we became more aware of the importance of lifting everything 'Acts4Sharing' to God, especially as the ministry became even busier.

As always, we have been amazed at the way in which our prayers are answered, particularly in regards to practical needs of items for clients; and for the right team members being available at the right time. For instance, at the same time that we cleared a hotel, a hostel for refugees was being closed with all of the residents being re-housed and were in need of beds.

We rely on and are immensely grateful for God's strength to enable us to do all that we do, and to reach out to all those who we help.



Of course, none of our work would be possible without our wonderful team of volunteers who work alongside our two part-time staff. They are the hands, feet, and voices of all that we do. We are very thankful for each of them and the way in which they give of their time and energy to enable Acts4Sharing to accomplish all that it does. The team collect and deliver from many homes across our area, whilst others work at Hope HQ sorting incoming, and preparing outgoing, items. We have also added a 'Christian in the cab' with some team members going out to offer prayer to both clients and donors, and offering a Bible.

By the end of the year, we had 43 signed-up volunteers on the team, with one of our longest-standing volunteers retiring part way through the year, and one becoming paid staff. Many of them

give of their time weekly, whilst others join us as and when they can.

Amongst the volunteers are our four brilliant trustees, who, along with our advisor and landlords, provide the necessary background support for the efficient and proper running of the charity.

Obviously, we continue to be indebted to those who financially support the ministry of Acts4Sharing. Several individuals and churches provide regular gifts, whilst others surprise us with their gifts. We are very grateful to all of them; every penny makes a difference in the lives of so many.

These gifts enable us to run Hope HQ, two vans, pay two part-time staff and keep the team supplied with tea, biscuits and lunches.

Occasionally funds are used to purchase additional items, such as mattress covers, and for washing machine repairs to be done ahead of deliveries.

Hope HQ and garden

During this year Hope HQ has met all of our usual needs with a constant turnaround of furniture and other household items; however, due to one very large and unexpected donation we did have to ask for help with temporary storage. More on that later.

Most days we pre-load at least one van ahead of the following day's deliveries, and sometimes use the other van as additional, temporary storage.

We have had to cut back on accepting any items of furniture that are too large as they were often just sitting in the store for a long time.



The team will be receiving 'toolbox training' in the coming months to ensure that no inappropriate items are collected.

Most days various team members join together for lunch, with the vans going out again afterwards.

Every Saturday there is the opportunity to meet at Hope HQ for prayer and praise – led by Paul, our chaplain who was appointed in November 2024. It's usually a small, intimate gathering, enabling us to stop, be still and focus on Jesus at the end of, what can often be, a busy week.

The garden has been a source of enjoyment as team took coffee and lunch breaks outside during the warmer weather.



We had a super day for our 10th

anniversary celebrations, inside and in the garden, when over 50 of us joined together across a Saturday. We started with tea, coffee and cakes along with prayer and praise; then a barbecue in the sunshine, finishing up with afternoon tea.

Once again, we had complete breaks during October half-term, Christmas, February half-term and a week in August. Hope HQ was closed during these times to enable the whole team to rest.

Several of us had a fun evening out ten-pin bowling together.



The team have continued to do in-house safeguarding training to ensure

everyone's safety whilst at Hope HQ and out in the community.

Transport

Following on from the amazing donation of over £20,000 raised by Poulner Baptist Chapel, we were able to purchase a second van in September 2024 from a local van and car dealer. This van has a slightly higher roof than the other which enables easier transportation of many items, especially fridge-freezers, wardrobes, bookshelves, and bed bases.

Having the second van has enabled us to make deliveries and collections every weekday morning whilst also using the other van to make the Foodbank run or other tasks at the same time.

As you will see from the increased workload it is proving to be a great asset and both vans have been well used.

Our original van passed its MoT. 😊

The nature of our work and some of the journeys we make can mean we need occasional repairs such as new wing mirrors and, this year, a new windscreen, and a puncture repair. We are very grateful to have Fields Autos as a neighbour, Andy is always speedy and generous when repairs need to be done.



Local work

During the year we have been joined by 10 new volunteers across the various roles. All have settled in well, with some helping regularly and others assisting on an ad-hoc basis. We now have over 40 members of the team including Sue and Paul,

trustees, volunteers and those who assist by repairing and sewing items at home.

One of the new team members does a great job at calling back to clients a week or so after their delivery to check on them, see if they need any further help, and to offer prayer.

We are doing more part-house clearances enabling us to help families as they adjust to elderly relatives downsizing, moving into care homes or following bereavement. Many more people are now able to assist by making donation viewings over video calls.

As always, there are many people who bring their own donations into Hope HQ, including furniture, so not all of our donors are accounted for. We have received donations from at least 386 homes, which is an increase of 72 (23%) compared to last year.

Some people continue to find us via an online search, but the majority come to us due to conversations with others who know about us.

One such 'word-of-mouth' connection led to us clearing Dudsbury Golf Hotel and Spa; with 25 bedrooms, a couple of apartments and a



house next door, this amounted to us collecting many, many beds along with all the smaller items that each room provided; we even took the curtains and rails, lifted carpet from each room and took the letters from signage off the walls. In addition we accepted waiting staff uniforms and tablecloths which were passed onto Ringwood School for catering, drama production and textile departments, and the electric piano made it's way to a volunteer's home – so many items saved from the tip!

We were very grateful to Events Insurance in Ringwood, as well as individuals who loaned us the additional space needed to store everything for a few

months. Within two months all of the beds had been passed onto clients.

Over 386 donors

As we made our way through the year it became obvious that the numbers of people we were being asked to help was on the increase. This was partly due to the increase in referral partners finding out about us, but it would seem that it was also due to the sad increase in the number of people needing help.

We helped 362 more people this year compared to last year, which is an almost 47% increase.

Whilst it is helpful to consider numbers, we must never forget that each number represents an individual with a story to tell, who is struggling to get the basics in life which most of us take for granted.

1135 people helped

As always, we aim to show God's love to those we meet, whether that is out in the community or at Hope HQ. We aim to show them that they are valued and do our utmost to offer them encouragement, particularly as they set up new homes, many of them after a season of being homeless. Of the 1135 people helped this year 198 cited homelessness as the reason for needing help. Over 158 were struggling due to poor health (mental or physical); and sadly over 44 homes were assisted due to fleeing domestic violence.

592 homes

We continue to work with our referral partners to provide the link between us and those who need our help. Our referral partners come from all the councils in our 25-mile radius, as well as NHS staff, schools, churches, foodbanks, and other charities.

As always, we have the privilege of hearing the stories behind the struggles as people share with us, either over the phone or in person.

We help people from all backgrounds and of all ages, including refugees and asylum seekers. This year we have helped people from the Middle East, Africa, Pakistan and Ukraine.

As expected, along with the increased number of people helped, there has also been an increase of 15 tonnes of outgoing items, with this year seeing us deliver at least 45 tonnes of furniture, white goods and other household items.

45 tonnes

This included 33 fridge-freezers, 35 washing machines, 55 microwaves, 72 dining tables and 216 chairs, 207 sofas/armchairs, 101 chests of drawers and 245 beds. The items that we have seen the biggest rise in are the additional 23 washing machines, and 82 beds compared to last year as well as the extra 76 sofas/armchairs.

We also gave away 567 bedding sets, 709 towels, 155 pairs of curtains/blinds and 277 cushions! We have seen the biggest rise in towels with an additional 312 being given out, along with an extra 238 sets of bedding.

Besides all the mentioned items there are many other smaller items which are just as important for helping those in need; in fact, especially those who are in just a room, they benefit greatly from receiving them; these included 169 dining sets, 183 cooking sets, 149 lamps, 89 kettles and 59 toasters.

Although we do not provide cookers, except table top ones, we have also given out many slow cookers, air fryers, and health grills.

We continue to offer clients extra 'niceties' from our 'blessings box', including ornaments, clocks, vases and pictures; this year we were gifted many pictures from a local artist who wanted to ensure that his artwork was given new homes before the end of his life.

Bibles and prayer

Each client is offered a Bible; we were gifted almost 2,000 a few years ago



formerly known as GideonsUK

and only a few remain. We have been gifted funding to purchase a few more from 'Good News for Everyone'.

In this year we were asked for Bibles in other languages, which we were able to provide.

We continue to ensure that there is a 'Christian in the cab' who can offer prayer to clients and donors.

The majority of our clients readily receive both the Bible and prayer.

During the follow-up calls made a couple of weeks after delivery we are also finding that several clients are accepting the offer of a DAB radio to enable them to listen to Christian radio, along with 'Word for Today' devotional books, and some are asking to be linked with a church local to their home.

One young man told us that he was sleeping with his Bible under his pillow to allay nightmares, and had been going to church.

Funding

All of the collections and deliveries are made free of charge; everything that we offer is given freely too. Along with the offer of a Bible and prayer this

continues to make us a unique organisation across the 25-mile radius we serve.

We are extremely grateful to all those who choose to give to us financially, whether that is regularly or as a one-off gift. Without the support of all of these individuals and organisations we wouldn't be able to do all that we do.

During this past year we received unexpected gifts which amounted to over £4,000. This included £1000 sponsoring new mattresses for children and £400 for additional Bibles.

We received gifts at several presentations and were also supported by Burley church Christmas tree festival. Fun was had decorating our tree with dolls house furniture and quotes from clients, giving a glimpse into our ministry.

Communication and collaboration

We continue to be supported financially and prayerfully by several local churches and have visited some of them during the year on mission Sundays. Many of our volunteers are affiliated to them, including the trustees. Local churches are also supporting team members who have been seeking out an Alpha course and somewhere to be a part of.

During this year Nightingale House at Ringwood School have been financially supporting Acts4Sharing; we have been involved in presenting two assemblies to further inform them about our work.

Other presentations have also been given at Avon Valley Men's Fellowship and Ringwood Library (Paul), Mother's Union and Trefoil Guild (Sue). After each presentation we offer to leave a picture frame containing basic information for the groups to site in their premises.

We continue to be members of Communities First Wessex who are able to offer support, resources and training as and when required.

We still liaise with Wardrobe Foundation on occasion, who happily provide our female clients with clothing and accessories when we don't have enough in stock.

If baby items are required, other than cots, we generally point referral partners to Love baby bank or The Centre in Ferndown for children's clothing.

We continue to provide transport for Ringwood Foodbank enabling their distribution centres in



Ringwood, Verwood and Fordingbridge to be topped up ready for their clients.

The charity shops: HOPE, who help older people in the forest, and Avon Valley Community Churches continue to share stock with us.

When we have been given too many of any particular item, or things that we cannot use, we choose to pass them onto those mentioned above, or send them on via Anglo Doorstep Collection who support various charities, or we pass them onto Ukraine via New Forest For Ukraine.

We frequently receive knitted items from a group in Devon which are then sent onto Ukraine, also.

We no longer use Facebook and therefore are no longer liaising with the friendship, kindness and recycling group.

Trustees and advisor

In November, Paul became a part-time paid member of staff, as our chaplain; he stepped down as a trustee. We then gladly welcomed Nev as a new

trustee. Nev brings the experience of being a hands-on volunteer as well as fundraising to the role.

Most of the trustees are involved in hands-on roles within the ministry as and when they are able.

We are all thankful to our advisor who keeps us up to date with all the legalities of running a charity.

Looking forward

At this time, there has been no further contact with Ringwood Brewery; it would seem that the property has been sold on to another company. However, we look to God for the future; we trust that he holds Acts4Sharing in his hands.

That said, we have begun to slowly consider succession planning, as we realise that Sue won't be able to fulfil the role forever!

It's quite possible that at some time in the future we may need a larger, or expanded Hope HQ, or maybe a second building elsewhere. We trust God to lead us forward in all that we do.

We have more presentations lined up in local churches. The potential of having Church Ambassadors being appointed across the local churches who will be the points of contact in each place.

As we say at the end of every year ...

We look forward to being able to continue to:

- give people the dignity of choosing their own items;
- show people God's love as we share time and skills with them;
- let people know that they are valued as we take time to listen to them.

The financial statements for the year ending 31 March 2025 are available on request from office@acts4sharing.org.



Financial Report for the Year Ending 31 March 2025

Basic Information

Acts 4 Sharing was registered with the Charity Commission as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) on 28 July 2014 (registration number 1158033).

For the period of this report, the Trustees were:

Bev Whalen
Judy Thomas
Keith Melrose
Paul Budgen (resigned October 2024)
Neville Carney (appointed February 2025)

Operating Office and Registered Office	Hope HQ, 29 Parkside, Ringwood BH24 3SG
Telephone:	07810005763
Web site:	www.acts4sharing.org
E-mail address:	office@acts4sharing.org

Statement of Financial Activities

Acts 4 Sharing					
Income and Expenditure Account for the Year Ending 31 March 2025					
2023/24 £		Notes	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total £
Income:					
11,764	Gifts from individuals	1	10,237	1,400	11,637
29,109	Gifts from churches	2	9,695	0	9,695
1,837	Gift Aid recovered	3	1,737	0	1,737
11,705	Grants etc	4	1,010	500	1,510
475	Other contributions / donations		738	0	738
54,890	Total income:		23,417	1,900	25,317
Expenditure:					
18,572	Employee costs	5	18,006	3,021	21,027
6,516	Van - running costs	6	5,081	0	5,081
	Van - purchase and related expenses	7	0	17,900	17,900
7,525	Hope HQ expenses	8	7,777	0	7,777
2,749	Admin, insurances and other costs	9	3,266	216	3,482
35,362	Total expenditure:		34,130	21,137	55,267
19,528	Surplus / (deficit)		(10,713)	(19,237)	(29,950)
45,356	Balance brought forward:		28,097	36,787	64,884
64,884	Balance in hand at end of year:	10 and 11	17,384	17,550	34,934

Acts 4 Sharing				
Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2025				
As at 31 March 2024 (£)		Notes		£
0	Assets:	Vans	12	10
64,884		Balances at Bank	13	34,924
64,884				34,934
0	Current liabilities - Creditors			0
64,884	Net Assets and Liabilities			34,934
28,097	Reserves:	Unrestricted	10	17,384
36,787		Restricted	11	17,550
64,884				34,934

The notes are on the next page.

Disclosures to the above accounts:

- 1 A number of these gifts are regular monthly donations - the remainder being one-off gifts.
- 2 The gift of £21,450 (in 2023/24) was from Poulner Baptist Chapel's Christmas 2023 offering and is earmarked for an additional van (see note 7).
- 3 Gift Aid is recovered from qualifying gifts and includes £595 under the Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme (£515 in 2023/24).
- 4 Most of these grants have been via The Charities Trust. In 2023/24, £10,000 was given from the Vernham Hall Gospel Hall Trust as part of the proceeds from the sale of its former premises.
- 5 From November 2024 there are two part time employees. The £3,021 relates to specific gifts for pay and pensions given in previous years.
- 6 Van running costs are below. They include running costs for both vans from September 2024 but not the purchase cost and "commissioning" expenses for the new van see note 7 below).

	<u>2023/24 (£)</u>	<u>2024/25 (£)</u>
Insurances	1,287	807
Road Fund Licence	323	550
Servicing / repairs / MOT etc	2,689	1,511
Fuel	2,777	3,252
Contribution from Foodbank	(1,820)	(1,039)
Depreciation (see note 12 below)	1,260	0
	<u>6,516</u>	<u>5,081</u>

- 7 The purchase cost of the additional van was £15,995. The "commissioning" expenses relate to initial insurances, signwriting, wheel clamp etc. The van was funded from Poulner Baptist Chapel's 2023 Christmas offering (see note 2 above).

8 Expenses were as follows:	<u>2023/24 (£)</u>	<u>2024/25 (£)</u>
Rent	6,000	6,000
Energy, water etc	1,380	1,666
Other costs	145	110
	<u>7,525</u>	<u>7,776</u>

- 9 Included here is the cost of liability etc insurance at £1,004 (£937 in 2023/24).
- 10 The balance on the Unrestricted element of the account can be used for anything considered appropriate by the Trustees and in keeping with the Charity's objects.
- 11 The balances on the Restricted Fund are as follows:

	<u>2023/24 (£)</u>	<u>2024/25 (£)</u>
Van (see note 12)	21,450	4,050
Pay and Pensions (see note 1)	15,337	12,316
Bibles (see Annual Report)		184
Beds (see Annual Report)		1,000
	<u>36,787</u>	<u>17,550</u>

- 12 The purchase cost of the initial van was £12,600 and, after depreciation has a nil book value at 1 April 2024. The additional van (see note 7 above) was funded entirely by donations and has therefore been "written out" in the year of purchase. For the purposes of an "asset register" they each have a nominal book value of £5.

13 This is made up of:	<u>2023/24 (£)</u>	<u>2024/25 (£)</u>
Lloyds Bank	64,884	34,924
	<u>64,884</u>	<u>34,924</u>

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

Charity Law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity as at the end of the financial year and of the surplus or deficit of the charity. In preparing those financial statements the Trustees are required to:-

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue to operate, and
- state whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements.

The Trustees are also responsible for maintaining proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and which are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with regulations made under the Charities Act. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees are also responsible for the contents of the Trustees' report, and the responsibility of the independent examiner in relation to the Trustees' Report is limited to examining the report and ensuring that, on the face of the report, there are no inconsistencies with the figures disclosed in the financial statements.



Signed on behalf of the Board
Keith Melrose, Trustee
26 August 2025

Acts 4 Sharing

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025

Accounting policies

The financial statements of the Charity have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 and Section 1A of Financial Reporting Standard 102 effective April 2008, as modified by the Statement of Recommended Practice for Accounting and Reporting issued by the Charity Commissioners for England & Wales, under the historical cost convention and the accounting policies set out in these accounts and as a going concern.

Incoming resources and outgoings are accounted for on an accruals basis.

The charity maintains a general unrestricted fund which represents funds which are expendable at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the objects of the charity. Such funds may be held in order to finance both working capital and capital investment.

There are four restricted funds. These relate to Pay and Pensions, the van, purchase of Bibles and beds (see note 11 above and the Annual Report).

If upon winding up or dissolution of the charity there remain any assets, after the satisfaction of all debts and liabilities, the assets represented by the accumulated fund shall be transferred to some other charitable body or bodies having similar objects to the charity.

Neither the Trustees nor any persons connected with them have received any remuneration, either in the current year or the prior year

The Disclosures to the Accounts on page 3 should be read alongside these accounting policies.

Reserves policy:

The Trustees believe that the Charity should hold sufficient balances on its general and other accounts to allow it to continue operating even if there was a significant reduction in the level of giving.

This is the Charity's ninth year of operation in its CIO status, and the Trustees' consider there should be a reserve sufficient to cover at least three month's operating costs on expenditure included in the unrestricted element of the accounts. On the basis of current estimates of expenditure in 2025/26, this should be in the order of £10,000 - and the balance at the beginning of the year, at £17,500, is more than adequate.

Acts 4 Sharing

Statement of Public Benefit for the year ended 31 March 2025

The Objects of A4S are as follows:

1. To advance the Christian faith for the benefit of the public in accordance with the basic tenets of historical Biblical Christianity.
2. To prevent and relieve poverty initially in Hampshire and its neighbouring counties by providing: grants, items and services to individuals in need and/or charities, or other organisations working to prevent or relieve poverty.
3. To relieve financial hardship by the recycling and provision of furniture, clothes and other household items.
4. To provide or assist in the provision of facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation or other leisure time occupation of individuals who have need of such facilities by reason of their youth, age infirmity or disability, financial hardship or social circumstances with the object of improving their conditions of life.
5. To advance education for persons of any age by providing or assisting in the development of their mental, physical and moral capabilities through leisure time activities and by supporting other charities in England, the UK or abroad.

We consider that Object [1] above passes the “public benefit test” because advancing the Christian religion in our community has a positive impact on the moral and ethical behaviour of those with whom we come in contact. Furthermore, our Christian faith and our relationship with God – as Father, Son and Holy Spirit - gives meaning to our lives and encourages us to live in such a way as to benefit the wider society by being good citizens and following the Bible’s teaching on how we should conduct ourselves in society.

Objects 2 – 5 demonstrate public benefit because A4S:

- provides the basic necessities for those in deprived circumstances who otherwise could not afford to live at the most basic level.
- recycles household goods by redistributing them to those in need thus preventing them going to landfill sites. This has worthwhile environmental benefit.
- benefits those communities by providing better housing and community facilities by the provision of skills, building materials and other resources.
- encourages other organisations with similar objects to work in their own communities so that outside intervention will eventually be reduced.

Acts 4 Sharing

Report of the Independent Examiner to the Trustees on the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31 March 2025

I report on the financial statements of the Charity for the year ended 31 March 2025, which are set out in this Financial Report.

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 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 Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act
- 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 the next statement.

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 Acthave 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.



Andrew J Clarke cpfa

The date upon which my opinion is expressed is 1 September 2025.

Acts 4 Sharing

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