

Samaritans of Macclesfield and District

Annual Report and Accounts for 12 months ended 31st March 2025

Board of Trustees

Director:	Zoe Smith	(from 1 st April 2022)
Chair, Trustee and Secretary:	Dorothy Hulley	(from 2 nd July 2017)
Treasurer:	Keith Anderson	(from 26 th June 2020 to 22 nd January 2025)
Treasurer:	Graham Hyde	(from 22 nd January 2025)
Trustee:	Jean Cope	(from 16 th September 2019 to 22 nd January 2025)
Trustee:	Tessa Hammersley	(from 1 st December 2020 to 22 nd January 2025)
Trustee:	Frances Gathercole	(from 8 th July 2021)
Trustee:	LeElla Wagg	(from 24 th January 2024)
Trustee:	Katrina Hyde	(from 24 th January 2024)
Trustee:	Robert Hammersley	(from 24 th January 2024)
Trustee:	Emma Lord	(from 22 nd January 2025)
Trustee:	Nicholas Wood	(from 22 nd January 2025)

Independent Examiner: Melissa Bowers,
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9, King Edward Street,
Macclesfield,
Cheshire, SK10 1AQ
Telephone: 01625 426000
Email: macclesfield@samaritans.org
Registered Charity Number: 1170130

Samaritans of Macclesfield and District (SMD)

SMD is a charitable incorporated organization affiliated to the national charity Samaritans, a charitable company limited by guarantee. SMD is one of 201 branches who work with the Central Charity in a federated way, governed by Branch Agreements and operating within criteria set down in an Operating Agreement.

Samaritans vision is that fewer people die by suicide. We aim to achieve that by alleviating emotional distress and reduce the incidence of suicidal feelings and suicidal behaviour. In doing this we volunteer using our values which are:

Listening – We explore feelings distress and despair and help callers to reach better understanding of their situation and the options open to them.

Confidentiality – If callers feel safe, they are more likely to be open about their feelings.

Self-determination – We believe that callers have the right to make their own decisions wherever possible

Being non-judgmental – We want callers to talk to us without fear of prejudice or rejection

Human contact – Giving callers time, undivided attention and empathy meets a fundamental emotional need and reduces distress and despair.

Director's Report for 2024-2025

It was another eventful and busy year at Macclesfield and District Samaritans. After finalising the purchase of our shop, work has been going on to refurbish and modernise the premises to make it fit for the future and suitable for shop volunteers and customers alike. We want to make sure that we make the right decisions so that our shop can continue to fund Macclesfield branch for many years to come. We've had several versions of architect drawings to look at over the last few months- making sure that all the shop volunteers and the branch leadership team were in agreement with what we needed. Towards the end of 2024, the final version was decided on and Trustees are getting quotes from builders etc so that we can start the improvements- which will include a lift (to save the legs of our more 'senior' shop volunteers), better spaces and facilities for sorting and displaying the donated items etc. Trustees will ensure that any financial decisions are made judiciously.

Once we get this major project started, we may well be tapping into the good will and expertise of our volunteers and supporters to help with things like moving stock, decorating, putting up shelving etc- in other words anything that can keep the costs down!

In October we were visited by Julie Bentley- the CEO of Samaritans. Several volunteers (including shop volunteers) met with her and were able to tell her all the amazing things about Macclesfield branch and ask her questions. She found time to go down to the shop afterwards. I'm sure she was impressed by all she saw and heard. We were pleased that she clearly listened to our questions and concerns, because shortly afterwards she responded to them via email.

Social activities were organised and enjoyed. Our Christmas party was a great night out, entertained by the amazing Ukulele band. If you missed it, make sure you get to our next big get together. Other social events have included pub lunches, country walks (to a pub!!), ten pin bowling, pottery painting...to name but a few. Any other ideas- please let us know, we're always up for a good time and for newer volunteers to get involved.

Within the branch we have seen a lot of new Samaritans graduate, and I want to say a big Thankyou to Wendy and her training team and to all the mentors who have guided these new Sams through their journey towards their number. A 'Macclesfield' version of On-going mentoring (OGM) was trialled- led by Wendy and a large group of mentors. Every listening volunteer was involved and it proved to be very informative and identified where we would benefit from additional training. As a result, Wendy (who now has the Regional Lead for Training) presented this scheme at the North West Regional conference. At the time of writing this report, we have now almost completed the second cycle of OGM.

I was really pleased that so many of our branch took part in the Voice survey- we had a very high engagement rate- better than many other local branches. And we took note of any issues raised.

Our technical skills were tested this last year. We all had to re-do our DBS checks, and thanks are given to Tessa 20 and Dave 39 for their patience and hard work getting us all through this hurdle. Then towards the end of the year we switched over to the new Listening Centre, moving away from Link. Getting used to the new headphones and making sure we didn't press the MUTE button has been a challenge, but we did it!

Our Outreach work has, as always, been very busy. We've done sessions with pupils from Congleton High, Fallibroome, Poynton High School and Kings School. We are always looking for more people to join our school's team- this is really rewarding work. We've also been a presence at the local train stations, in the local shopping centre for the White Ribbon events linked to Domestic Violence and for the two Pride events in the summer.

Our very own Poetry book "100 poems of Hope" was published and is available on Amazon. We've already had our first monies through from this- so huge thanks to all involved- especially Steve 111 and Kath 46.

Just after I started as Director, we had a 'visit' which assesses the branch against the Quality Framework. After this we had to write a detailed Action Plan to show how we could improve further. After two and a half years we were very pleased to hear that we've now had this action plan signed off as fully completed.

The year to the end of March 2025 was, as always, full of challenges but we are proud of the manner in which we have overcome obstacles that might have impeded our ability to provide the best possible support for our callers. The biggest change for the coming year will be the move to a new Branch Director- the process of which is in its final stages. I look forward to the next part of the challenge in the knowledge that Samaritans of Macclesfield and District are a strong and robust team.

Zoe Smith
Branch Director.

Draft Treasurer's Report for 2024/25

It is sufficient under Charity Commission rules (because we are only a small charity) to produce Receipts and Payments Accounts and these are attached.

Total revenue for the twelve-month period ending 31st March 2025 amounted to £71,883 (2024: £70,556). Significant revenue is received from our charity shop and eBay sales, totalling £58,101 (2024: £50,197). Donations totalled £10,148 (2024: 13,012).

Total running costs were £46,934 (2024: £40,273). The total running costs for 2024 were broadly in line with previous years though did reflect increases in utility expenses. Other than that, expenses were well controlled and similar to the previous year.

The net Receipts for the year were £21,574 (2024: Net Receipts £30,283)

Cash reserves at 31st March 2024 totalled £66,333 (2024 £44,759). The Trustee's aim was to rebuild cash reserves after the purchase of the shop in 2023. This was started in 2024 and has continued over the year ending 31st March 2025. The Trustees now feel confident to invest in the fabric of the shop to improve volunteer efficiency, to improve the shop environment for both volunteers and customers and to maintain a necessary income stream.

Graham Hyde
6th May 2025

The Samaritans of Macclesfield and District					CC16a
Receipts and payments accounts					
For the period from	Period start date	To	Period end date		
	1st April 2024		31st March 2025		

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Last year
	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Donations	10,148	-	-	10,148	13,012
Ebay Sales	17,751	-	-	17,751	14,608
Fundraising	-	-	-	-	1,876
Gift Aid	931	-	-	931	823
Investment Income	664	-	-	664	418
Prison Grant	2,039	-	-	2,039	4,229
Shop income	40,349	-	-	40,349	35,589
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	71,883	-	-	71,883	70,556
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
Sale of premises	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	71,883	-	-	71,883	70,556
A3 Payments					
Heat, Light and Water	6,127	-	-	6,127	4,015
Repairs and renewals	278	-	-	278	-
Cleaning & Housekeeping	1,793	-	-	1,793	1,644
Telephone, IT and office costs	6,728	-	-	6,728	5,157
Insurance	1,883	-	-	1,883	1,812
Office Rent	11,000	-	-	11,000	11,000
Volunteer training & support	17	-	-	17	179
Volunteer Recognition	209	-	-	209	88
Travel expenses	3,822	-	-	3,822	192
Donation to Barrow branch	-	-	-	-	6,026
Listener	2,561	-	-	2,561	-
Prison costs	429	-	-	429	1,045
Fundraising expenses	110	-	-	110	1,492
Shop Rent	-	-	-	-	332
Shop heat light and water	2,994	-	-	2,994	- 1,750
Other shop expenses	3,607	-	-	3,607	2,668
Storage	-	-	-	-	1,759
Independent Examiner	630	-	-	630	6
Branch Contribution	2,532	-	-	2,532	600
Staff party	-	-	-	-	1,530
Outreach expenses	1,922	-	-	1,922	2,360
Volunteer Party	290	-	-	290	117
Sub total	46,934	-	-	46,934	40,273
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
Equipment, Fixtures and Fittings	3,375	-	-	3,375	-
Land and Buildings	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	3,375	-	-	3,375	-
Total payments	50,309	-	-	50,309	40,273
Net of receipts/(payments)	21,574	-	-	21,574	30,283
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	44,759	-	-	44,759	14,476
Cash funds this period end	66,333	-	-	66,333	44,759

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

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Investment Fund	62,074	-	-
	Co-op Bank Account	4,259	-	-
	Total cash funds (agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	66,333	-	-
		OK	OK	OK
		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds
	Details	to nearest £	to nearest £	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	Land and Buildings		200,960	-
	Fixtures, Fittings & Equipment		12,539	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval	



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

Charity Name

Samaritans of Macclesfield and District

On accounts for the year
ended

31st March 2025

Charity no
(if any)

1170130

Set out on pages

5 & 6

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity 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; or
- 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 order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:

MRC Bowers

Date:

19/8/2025.

Name:

Melissa Bowers

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

FCCA

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