

Charity number: 1173838

Chiltern Samaritans

Report of the Trustees and Unaudited Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 March 2025

Chiltern Samaritans
Contents Page
For the year ended 31 March 2025

Report of the Trustees	1 to 5
Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees	6
Statement of Financial Activities	7
Statement of Financial Position	8
Notes to the Financial Statements	9 to 14

**Chiltern Samaritans
Report of the Trustees
For the year ended 31 March 2025**

The Trustees have pleasure in presenting their report and the financial statements for the charity for the year ended 31 March 2025. The Trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Chiltern Samaritans is an affiliate of Samaritans (Charity Number 219432) and an independent charity registered with the Charity Commission. Chiltern Samaritans was founded in 1967. The branch was registered as the Samaritans of the Chilterns in April 1969 and was registered as CIO-Association under the current name in July 2017.

Objectives and aims

The charitable objectives are to enable persons in Amersham, High Wycombe and the surrounding areas as well as elsewhere who are experiencing feelings of distress or despair, including those who may be at risk of suicide, to receive confidential emotional support at any time of day or night in order to improve their emotional health and to reduce the incidence of suicide; to promote a better understanding in society of suicide, suicidal behaviour and the value of expressing feelings which may otherwise lead to suicide or impaired emotional health; and to collaborate with and support Samaritans Central Charity and its affiliated branches on fulfilling these objects.

These are currently delivered by 123 Listening Volunteers and 12 Support Volunteers who provide emotional support by telephone, by e-mail, and by online chat, from premises in Amersham. The volunteers also provide emotional support outside the branch including to local schools and at railway stations in the area.

The Trustees have agreed a vision and set of actions for Chiltern Samaritans: To achieve Samaritans' vision of fewer people dying by suicide we will support our callers on all channels, grow sustainably, engage with our local community and nurture a strong branch culture. Complete the branch move to new, larger premises. Plan and implement a strategy for increasing volunteer numbers covering: recruitment, rota shape, volunteer retention, training and day leader resourcing. Develop an outreach strategy which delivers the best impact possible for the resources we have and engages with the local community. Plan for using legacies to deliver outcomes for Samaritans centrally and the branch. Conduct a feasibility study into setting up a satellite branch in Aylesbury or High Wycombe.

Statement on public benefit

The trustees have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, including the guidance 'public benefit: running a charity (PB2)'.

Chiltern Samaritans exists to achieve Samaritans' vision of fewer people dying by suicide. We do this by providing emotional support to anyone in distress, struggling to cope, or at risk of suicide. Our services are available to people of all backgrounds, ages, and walks of life.

Through our telephone helpline, e-mail support, online chat, we aim to reduce feelings of isolation and despair. By offering a non-judgmental listening ear, we aim to help people to explore their feelings and, if appropriate, seek solutions in their own time. In 2024/2025 our Listening Volunteers spent 6,809 hours providing emotional support to callers.

We also work to increase public awareness about mental health and suicide prevention by engaging with local schools, workplaces, and community groups. This includes secondary schools, railway stations - including providing post-vention support where there has been a suicide - local groups who support those who may be struggling with their mental health, and participating in the Buckinghamshire Multi-Agency Suicide Prevention Group. We also provide training and support to the Samaritans Listener scheme at HMP Aylesbury.

Chiltern Samaritans provides support to children and adults with safeguarding procedures in place for children (under 18) and vulnerable adults. Our Listening Volunteers are provided with extensive training to deliver our services and this is reinforced with ongoing mentoring and continuous development. Our system of shift leaders ensures that our Listening Volunteers are always supported in their duties and have a space to download their experiences from their duties.

Chiltern Samaritans
Report of the Trustees Continued
For the year ended 31 March 2025

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Significant activities

Outreach: We have been able to make significant advances in our Outreach team and activities:-

- Developed an Outreach strategy which has been approved by the Branch Leadership team
- Increased the number of school talks from 2 to 6, reaching almost 1,000 6th form pupils
- Increased the number of trained school presenters from 3 to 7
- Increased the number of Outreach trained volunteers from 25 to 36
- Run workshops at a wide range of establishments, including for teachers at a SEN school, staff at Druglink, the Dove Café, the MOD and Re-engage who support old and lonely people
- Run stands at mental health awareness events
- Helped set up and run a workshop to help professionals to learn from the experiences of people bereaved by suicide who had not always had the support they needed.

We visited Aylesbury, Beaconsfield, Great Missenden and High Wycombe stations on Brew Monday in January, with two members of the public taking the trouble to contact Samaritans Head Office with very positive and complimentary remarks about the impact it had had on them. We were also at Tesco Amersham and Helen 1364 had a stand at her MOD workplace. We had a stand at Tesco on World Suicide Prevention Day, and visited Berkhamsted and High Wycombe stations in support of the Small Talk Saves Lives campaign.

Prisons: Our local prison in Aylesbury has now become a Category C training prison. Aprisonult of this change, we receive Listeners trained in other prisons, e.g. Belmarsh, Gartree, Long Lartin, who have bolstered our Listener numbers as our own men have progressed to Category D prisons e.g. Springhill and Ford. This has enabled us to keep a good supply of trained Listeners able to support those in need.

Our Regional Prison Support Officer, who looks after ten prisons in Samaritan's southern region, has been on hand to support all the branch prison teams by email and telephone and has visited all the prisons during the last 12 months, including those on the Isle of Wight and the Channel Islands.

Fundraising: The 2025 Cycling Sportive welcomed over 400 riders and it was, as usual, thoroughly enjoyed by all the participants. We raised more than £19,000. Some riders raised sponsorship money, including one small group whose efforts were generously match funded by The Economist.

The 100 Club continues to make a healthy contribution to funds. We are grateful to Judy 1121 who organises regular fundraising activities including quizzes and seasonal raffles. These are always well supported by our volunteers.

In future, we need to look for other ways to fund our running costs and hopefully a gig planned for late September 2025 will generate some new ideas.

We'd like to express our thanks to all those who have contributed to Chiltern Samaritans during the past 12 months.

Businesses/Organisations: The Entertainer, SHJ Medical Gas Specialists, O'Shea Builders, The Economist, Lock 67.

In addition, we give our special thanks to the numerous individual donors, and those who have given a donation.

Reserves

Reserves Policy: Total reserves at the year end were £2,153,237, all of which were unrestricted. The reserves policy of Chiltern Samaritans aims to ensure the charity remains financially stable and can continue to achieve its objectives even in times of uncertainty or unexpected financial pressures. Reserves are maintained to: Provide a financial cushion to protect against unforeseen costs or losses of income. Ensure the charity can meet its commitments and continue operations in the short term if income fluctuates. Support planned future activities, projects, or investment needs. Reserves are that part of the charity's unrestricted funds that are freely available for its general purposes. This excludes: Restricted funds: Funds received for specific purposes, which must be spent in accordance with donor intentions. Designated funds are funds set aside by the Trustees for a specific purpose. Fixed assets: Tangible or intangible assets are used for operational purposes.

Financial Contribution to Samaritans Central Charity. As an Affiliate Branch of Samaritans Central Charity, Chiltern Samaritans is required to pay an annual contribution to support the provision of Samaritans services. This year the accounts include provision to be paid to the Central Charity in the sum of £244,551.

Going concern

No material uncertainties exist about the ability of the Charity to continue as a going concern for the foreseeable future. Our cashflow forecasts and budgets do not suggest that there is any reason for concern. The trustees have no areas of concern.

Chiltern Samaritans
Report of the Trustees Continued
For the year ended 31 March 2025

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

Chiltern Samaritans is an affiliate of Samaritans (Charity Number 219432) and an independent charity registered with the Charity Commission. Chiltern Samaritans was founded in 1967. The branch was registered as the Samaritans of the Chilterns in April 1969 and was registered as CIO-Association under the current name in July 2017.

The Trustees are all unpaid. Our values guide the Charity's decision-making and place the well-being of our volunteers and our callers first. The Trustees operate in line with the Branch Constitution and the Operating Agreement with Samaritans Central Charity (SCC).

Trustee Induction and Training: Once a trustee is elected by the branch membership, they are required to complete a comprehensive induction process. This is overseen by the Branch Governance Officer, and follows the guidance provided by Samaritans Central Charity (SCC). 1. Completion of a Declaration of Interests form which is added to the Chiltern Samaritans Trustees' Register of Interests. 2. Provision of their personal details to the Governance Officer who updates the Branch entry on the Charity Commission website. 3. They complete the Trustee online training provided by SCC. 4. They are provided with several essential documents which they must confirm they have read. 5. Trustee role description which outlines their duties. 6. The Essential Trustee (from the Charity Commission). 7. Chiltern Branch Code of Conduct for Trustees. 8. Chiltern Branch Conflict of Interest Policy. 9. Financial Controls. 10. Most recent Annual Report and Accounts. 11. Branch Constitution. 12. Branch Operating Agreement. 13. Branch Risk Register. 14. Data Protection Policy.

They must ensure they are up to date in the online safeguarding training provided by SCC. (This is especially important if a trustee is not a listening volunteer. Trustees who are Listening Volunteers will have already completed this as it is mandatory for them.)

They are also encouraged to read minutes of the most recent Trustees' meetings, and access the Governance section of our database on 3Rings which contains all relevant branch governance policies.

They are provided with links to the relevant web pages of the Charity Commission.

The Board of Trustees: The Board administers the Charity and fulfils the Trustees' legal duty by ensuring that funds are spent in accordance with the objects of the Charity. The board meets at least four times a year and is responsible for approving strategic plans, the annual budget and the Trustees' report. The annual accounts are approved at the Annual General Meeting.

At each meeting the Trustees receive reports on financial results and activity levels, and the progress made against the annual budget to ensure that they can exercise their fiduciary responsibilities. The Trustees are encouraged to attend relevant training courses where appropriate.

Leadership Structure: The operational activities of Chiltern Samaritans are managed by a volunteer leadership team led by the Branch Director who is also Chair of the Trustees. The leadership team comprises the following roles: recruitment of new Samaritans, training of new Samaritans, management of a team of shift leaders who support the volunteers on duty, service delivery and management of the volunteering rota, volunteer care, fundraising and outreach. The Treasurer is also a member of the leadership team.

Branch Directors are appointed for a three-year term. Amanda Weaver has been the Branch Director since December 2023.

Objectives and Activities: In line with our objectives, Chiltern Samaritans provides emotional support by telephone, e-mail, online chat to callers experiencing distress and despair. The branch is open 7 days a week from 07.00 am - 03.30 am. There are also occasional shifts to cover the hours between 03.30 and 07.00. There are a minimum of two volunteers per shift with occasional duties having three or four volunteers.

Strategic Update: During 2024/25 Chiltern Samaritans sold its premises at 149 Station Road, Amersham and, following period in temporary rented accommodation, moved to 152 Station Road, Amersham in March 2025. This has been made possible by several generous legacies. The new premises are larger and the Branch is looking to grow its volunteering base and will deliver three training course a year of up to 12 trainees on each course. The move to new premises will also be used to strengthen the Branch's interaction with the local community.

The Branch supports Outreach in the community including schools and railway stations. It also supports a Listener programme in HMP Aylesbury.

The essential role of the volunteers: The activities of Chiltern Samaritans are totally delivered by volunteers. Our Listening Volunteers commit to spending 2-2.75 hours a week on shift supporting our callers. Many volunteers, Listening and Support, also contribute considerable additional time to roles including branch leadership, governance, and technical and

Chiltern Samaritans
Report of the Trustees Continued
For the year ended 31 March 2025

maintenance support.

The charity does not employ the services of a professional fundraiser and is, therefore, not registered with the Fundraising Regulator. No complaints have been raised during the year.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Name of Charity	Chiltern Samaritans
Charity registration number	1173838
Principal address	152 Station Road Amersham Bucks HP6 5DW

Trustees

The trustees and officers serving during the year and since the year end were as follows:

A L Weaver
(Appointed: 26 June 2021)
S R Weir
(Appointed: 28 September 2024)
A Middlebrook
(Appointed: 28 September 2024)
W K Bradford
(Appointed: 17 July 2020)
R C Davis
(Appointed: 17 July 2020)
L D E Rawlinson
(Appointed: 10 October 2019)
P A Cooper
(Appointed: 10 July 2018)

Secretary	M Roach
------------------	---------

Independent examiner	Fergal Davern FCA Hardy House Northbridge House Berkhamsted Herts HP4 1EF
-----------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Bankers	CAF Bank Online 25 Kings Hill Avenue West Malling Kent ME19 4TA
----------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------

Solicitors	Taylor Walton 28-44 Alma Street Luton LU1 2PL
-------------------	--------------------------------------------------------

Chiltern Samaritans
Report of the Trustees Continued
For the year ended 31 March 2025

Approved by the Board of Trustees and signed on its behalf by

27 September 2025

A.L. Weaver.....

Chiltern Samaritans
Independent Examiners Report to the Trustees
For the year ended 31 March 2025

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act').

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 examiners statement

Since the Charity's gross income exceeded £250,000, your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination by virtue of my membership of Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, which is one of the listed bodies.

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as required by section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do 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.



Fergal Davern FCA

Hardy House
Northbridge House
Berkhamsted
Herts
HP4 1EF

27 September 2025

Chiltern Samaritans
Statement of Financial Activities
For the year ended 31 March 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	2024 £
Income and endowments from:			
Donations and legacies	2	645,758	1,073,437
Total		645,758	1,073,437
Expenditure on:			
Raising funds	3	(6,965)	(7,605)
Charitable activities		(343,374)	(264,534)
Total		(350,339)	(272,139)
Net gains/(losses) on investments		660	-
Other recognised gains/losses			
Net movement in funds		296,079	801,298
Reconciliation of funds			
Total funds brought forward		1,018,081	216,783
Transfer from revaluation reserve		839,077	-
Total funds carried forward		2,153,237	1,018,081

Chiltern Samaritans
Statement of Financial Position
As at 31 March 2025

	Notes	2025 £	2024 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	10	1,398,864	850,000
Investments	11/12	61,347	60,687
		1,460,211	910,687
Current assets			
Debtors	13	5,366	1,950
Cash at bank and in hand		935,456	1,036,015
		940,822	1,037,965
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	14	(247,796)	(91,494)
Net current assets		693,026	946,471
Total assets less current liabilities		2,153,237	1,857,158
Net assets		2,153,237	1,857,158
The funds of the charity			
Unrestricted income funds		2,153,237	1,018,081
Revaluation reserve		-	839,077
Total funds		2,153,237	1,857,158

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Board and signed on its behalf by:

.....
A L Weaver
Trustee

27 September 2025

Chiltern Samaritans
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 31 March 2025

1. Accounting Policies

Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, except for investments which are included at market value and the revaluation of certain fixed assets and in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019), Financial Reporting Standard 102 the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), and the Charities Act 2011.

Chiltern Samaritans meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

Going concern

No material uncertainties exist about the ability of the Charity to continue as a going concern for the foreseeable future. Our cashflow forecasts and budgets do not suggest that there is any reason for concern. The trustees have no areas of concern.

Statement of cash flows

The Trustees have taken advantage of the exemption in SORP FRS 102 from including a cash flow statement in the financial statements on the grounds that the charity is small.

Funds

General funds are unrestricted fund which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the Charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds would comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the Trustees for particular purposes.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the Charity for particular purpose.

Incoming resources

Whilst all income is recognised once the company has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received, and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

For legacies, entitlement is taken as the earlier of the date on which either; the company is aware that probate has been granted, the estate has been finalised and notification has been made by the executor(s) to the Charity that distribution will be made, or when a distribution is received from the estate. Receipt of a legacy, in whole or in part, is only considered probable when the amount can be measured reliably and the Charity has been notified of the executor's intention to make a distribution. Where legacies have been notified to the Charity, or the Charity is aware of the granting of probate, and the criteria for income recognition have not been met, then the legacy is treated as a contingent asset and disclosed if material.

Resources expended

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measure reliably.

Taxation

The Charity is not liable to corporation tax on its charitable income or capital gains by virtue of its charitable status.

Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets, other than freehold land, are stated at cost or valuation less depreciation and any provision for impairment. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost or valuation of fixed assets, less their estimated residual value, over their expected useful lives on the following basis:

Land and Buildings	2% (on buildings) Straight line
Plant and Machinery	20% Straight line
Improvement to Property	10% Straight line

Chiltern Samaritans
Notes to the Financial Statements Continued
For the year ended 31 March 2025

Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount after any trad discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

Liabilities and Provisions

Liabilities are recognised when there is an obligation at the Balance Sheet date as a result of past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably. Liabilities are recognised at the amount that the company anticipates it will pay to settle the debt or the amount it has received as advanced payments for goods or services it must provide. Provisions are measured at the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation.

2. Income from donations and legacies

	2025	2024
	£	£
Unrestricted funds		
Donations received	71,997	65,638
Legacies received	573,761	1,007,799
	<u>645,758</u>	<u>1,073,437</u>

3. Expenditure on generating donations and legacies

	2025	2024
	£	£
Unrestricted funds		
Donations	6,965	7,605
	<u>6,965</u>	<u>7,605</u>

4. Transfers between funds

During the year £839,077 was transferred from the revaluation reserve to the unrestricted income fund as it represents the realised profit on the disposal of 149 Station Road, Amersham, HP6 5DJ on 30 September 2024.

5. Analysis of support costs

	2025	2024
	£	£
Governance costs	8,101	1,800

Chiltern Samaritans
Notes to the Financial Statements Continued
For the year ended 31 March 2025

6. Net income/(expenditure) for the year

This is stated after charging/(crediting):

	2025	2024
	£	£
Depreciation of owned fixed assets	46,599	-
Accountancy fees	1,850	1,800

7. Staff costs and emoluments

The Charity does not employ staff and relies on the goodwill of volunteers.

	2025	2024
Number of Trustees in the year	7	7
	<u>7</u>	<u>7</u>

8. Trustee remuneration and related party transactions

During the year no trustee received remuneration nor entered in to related party transactions with the Charity.

9. Comparative for the Statement of Financial Activities

The comparative year values on the Statement of Financial Activities are for unrestricted funds.

Chiltern Samaritans
Notes to the Financial Statements Continued
For the year ended 31 March 2025

10. Tangible fixed assets

Cost or valuation	Land and Buildings	Plant and Machinery	Improvement to Property	Total
	£	£	£	£
At 01 April 2024	860,563	-	-	860,563
Additions	1,108,106	17,001	320,355	1,445,462
Disposals	(860,563)	-	-	(860,563)
At 31 March 2025	1,108,106	17,001	320,355	1,445,462
Depreciation				
At 01 April 2024	10,563	-	-	10,563
Disposals	(10,563)	-	-	(10,563)
Charge for year	11,162	3,400	32,036	46,598
At 31 March 2025	11,162	3,400	32,036	46,598
Net book values				
At 31 March 2025	1,096,944	13,601	288,319	1,398,864
At 31 March 2024	850,000	-	-	850,000

The cost of the land is assumed to be £550,000 of the total cost of £1,108,106.

Investments

11. Analysis of movement of commercial investments

	Listed investments
	£
Market value at 01 April 2024	60,687
Net gain/(loss) on revaluation	660
Market value at 31 March 2025	61,347

12. Analysis of investments between funds as at year ended 31 March 2025

	2025	2024
	£	£
Unrestricted funds		
Listed investments	61,347	60,687
	61,347	60,687

Chiltern Samaritans
Notes to the Financial Statements Continued
For the year ended 31 March 2025

13. Debtors

	2025	2024
	£	£
Amounts due within one year:		
Prepayments and accrued income	4,466	1,950
Other debtors	900	-
	<u>5,366</u>	<u>1,950</u>

14. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025	2024
	£	£
Other creditors	245,946	86,779
Accruals and deferred income	1,850	4,715
	<u>247,796</u>	<u>91,494</u>

15. Movement in funds

Purpose of unrestricted Funds

General

The purpose of the fund is to fulfill the objects of the Charity.

General funds are unrestricted fund which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the Charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

16. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Tangible fixed assets	Investments	Net current assets / (liabilities)	Net Assets
	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds				
General				
General	1,398,864	61,347	693,026	2,153,237
	<u>1,398,864</u>	<u>61,347</u>	<u>693,026</u>	<u>2,153,237</u>

Chiltern Samaritans
Notes to the Financial Statements Continued
For the year ended 31 March 2025

Previous year

	Tangible fixed assets	Investments	Net current assets / (liabilities)	Net Assets
	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds				
<i>General</i>				
General	850,000	60,687	946,471	1,857,158
	850,000	60,687	946,471	1,857,158