

I have been involved with Morecambe Bay Foodbank for over 13 years now, and some of you have been involved even longer, right back to the founding in one room at the back of the Gym Church. Foodbanks were set up to provide food for those who couldn't manage in the lean years after the financial crash, and intended to be a short term project. They expanded rapidly during the many years of austerity, then the shock of covid, followed by the cost of living crisis started by the effects of the war in Ukraine. Now we are about to enter yet another cost of living crisis caused by another war, this time in Iran. Remember the initial purpose of Trussell, "to end the need for foodbanks". Sadly we are further away from that than ever.

To meet these challenges we have had to adapt and grow. From that initial one room we are now on a ten year lease in this very large space. From being run solely by volunteers under the auspices of the Methodist Church we now have paid staff (but still also a magnificent set of volunteers) and an active Trustee Board. From being just a supplier of emergency food we now do huge amounts of work to provide wider support to help clients tackle the underlying causes of food poverty in their lives.

We cannot do much ourselves to change the causes of poverty in our society today, such as the pernicious effect of ever rising rents whilst the Local Housing Allowance fails to keep pace. Many families receive Universal Credit because their income is thought to be inadequate to live on. Approximately half of these families have one or even two adults in work. Universal Credit in itself is not enough to live on properly as the "essentials campaign" run by Trussell and the Joesph Rowntree Trust has shown. Despite this they are expected to find what can be hundreds of pounds a month to top up their rent because even if they are on maximum Housing Benefit this does not cover their rent. Trussell nationally however do lobby Government and we should celebrate the occasional improvement such as the recent abolition of the "two child benefit limit", and the uprating of the minimum wage.

Our primary purpose has always been to provide emergency food for those in need. Last year we distributed approximately £250,000 worth of food to almost 3000 households. Each household receives enough food to provide three meals a day for three days for everyone in that household as a minimum. Within those households we supported almost 4000 adults and almost 2500 children, including over 600 aged 0-4. We mainly rely on donations of food through our donation bins in supermarkets, organised collections at schools and churches, and collections through other events organised locally such as at Morecambe FC. These donations can vary from a shopper putting a tin in the supermarket bin to a club organising a collection and delivering a car load of food. Every tin is appreciated. The ever increasing price of food has made it difficult for our donors to keep pace with demand. Up to three years ago we rarely had to buy food in, now we spend on average £1000 a week topping up our supplies. We are very grateful to those who donate money to enable us to continue, from those who donate monthly through standing orders, those who put money in our tins when we are collecting at a supermarket or the football, and those organisations and individuals that regularly send us money. More on this in the finance report later.

Over many years now it has become clear that for many of our clients their need for emergency food is not short term but an ongoing part of their lives. To this end we have developed a model of providing wider support to clients through partnership with Citizens Advice North Lancashire to attempt to solve the underlying issues causing the need for emergency food. With the help of Trussell nationally we set up the Schools Project in April 2023. This initially involved using funding provided by Trussell through the Pathfinder programme to commission one full time CANL advisor to deal with referrals from schools and give intense support to clients, many of whom had multiple issues causing financial hardship. This project was so successful that we used our own

*Refit -CHAIR 19/05/21*

financial resources to employ another full time advisor, and then to continue the project for another year beyond the initial two year Trussell funding. The impact has been astonishing. Over the last three years we have invested £100,000 from Trussell and £135000 of our own resources in this project. The financial benefits for clients in our local community have been almost £2.5 million. This is £10 of benefit to the local community for every £1 invested. I will be circulating a full report on the three years of this project separately. I would like at this time to pay tribute to the pioneering work of Jeni Meadows on this project, and the brilliant work of Charlotte Harvey from CANL. Sadly however this project is now at an end, as we cannot continue to fund it ourselves at the level of cost indicated. I do know however that CANL have made successful bids for resources to continue a similar project themselves.

Our partnership with CANL was recognised by Trussell and National Citizens Advice in April 2025 when we were chosen to be one of only five partnerships in the country to be awarded funding for a similar project targeted at those with children aged 0-4. This project was also hugely successful, with an investment of £100,000 leading to community gains of over £800,000, £8 for every £1 spent. Sadly once again funding for this project has dried up after just one year.

We are virtually unique within the well over 400 Trussell Foodbank Network in being a delivery only service. This means that unlike before the pandemic we do not meet clients so have no opportunity to signpost them to further support. For the last three years therefore we have funded from our own resources the "Foodbank Project", where another commissioned CANL advisor contacts clients to offer advice and support to tackle their underlying problems in a similar way to the other projects. This has resulted in gains of over £300,000 in the last year for clients, a return of £6 for every £1 invested. I am pleased to say that Trustees have agreed to meet the cost of this project from our own budget and it will continue.

I have more detailed reports on each of these projects and will be circulating them at a later date.

Our final preventative project is our magnificent Uniform Project. The cost of uniform is a considerable burden on parents and there is precious little support available. Despite recent Government legislation in this area a number of our local schools continue to make unreasonable demands on parents through changes in uniform, requirements for blazers and PE kit with logos, even at Primary School. I have spoken about this on local radio more than once in recent years, and Citizens Advice North Lancashire produced an excellent report on this two years ago, but the excessive demands of a minority of schools continue to cause problems. Last year we gave out almost 1000 sets of school uniform, saving parents upwards of £200,000. Our volunteer uniform team, led by Angela, are just magnificent.

Our primary purpose is to provide emergency food to people in need. Sadly, however, this is frequently just a sticking plaster that tackles the effects rather than the causes. I am pleased therefore to say that the combined effect of all the preventative measures I have described here has been to enable financial gains in our local community in the last year of over £2 million. This has led to us being one of the very few foodbanks in the Trussell network to have reduced demand for food, although I suspect demand will start to go back up again in the next 12 months as we enter another cost of living crisis.

At this point I would like to say that none of this would have been possible without the magnificent efforts of our staff, our Trustees and especially our wonderful volunteers. Let's give everyone a well deserved round of applause.

Finally I will turn to the elephant in the room. You will notice that I have covered things in this report that would normally be in the Manager's report, and that Briony is not with us today. Despite

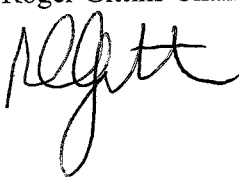
*Ngith - CHAIR - 19/05/26*

a number of personal and health issues over the last year she has kept going and done a wonderful job. Sadly however she has reached the stage where for her own personal health she has decided to go back to Ireland. I regret to inform you that Briony is currently off sick and will finish her employment with us on May8th. Most of us have known Briony for many years and cannot fail to have been impressed by her devotion to improving the lives of people in our local community. She started at Morecambe Bay Foodbank as a volunteer at Westminster Road and took over as Manager at a very difficult time in 2021. Over the last five years through her hard work and vision she has helped transform the foodbank into the success it is today.

Whilst Briony is irreplaceable as a person she would want us to make sure that the foodbank continues to thrive and support those most in need in our local community. To this end I will be working with Trustees to ensure that the post is filled by the best candidate available. This process will take time, so I will be supporting staff and volunteers by being at the foodbank myself every Tuesday and Thursday from early May. I know you will all continue the wonderful work that you are doing.

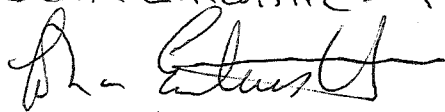

Thanks to you all, staff, trustees, donors, and especially volunteers. It is your dedication that enables us to be so supportive of our local community.

Roger Gittins Chair of Trustees Morecambe Bay Foodbank

 - CHAIR 19/05/20

**MORECAMBE BAY FOODBANK****STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES****DATE PREPARED:****06.11.25****Relating to: 01.09.24 - 31.08.25**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total Funds £	Previous Year £
<b>INCOME &amp; ENDOWMENTS</b>					
Donations/Legacies By Standing Orders	95424.13			95424.13	97866.12
Donations/Legacies GIFTS	129852.69	43809.62		173662.31	252144.91
Bank Interest	18451.65			18451.65	19994.60
Income from Activities				0.00	0.00
<b>Total Income &amp; Endowments</b>	<b>243728.47</b>	<b>43809.62</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>287538.09</b>	<b>370005.63</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>					
Raising Funds				0.00	0.00
Charitable Activities	420796.64	64725.00		485521.64	269243.06
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>420796.64</b>	<b>64725.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>485521.64</b>	<b>269243.06</b>
Net Gains/(losses) on investments				0.00	
<b>Net Income/ (Expenditure)</b>	<b>-177068.17</b>	<b>-20915.38</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>-197983.55</b>	<b>100762.57</b>
Transfers between funds				0.00	
Other recognised gains/(losses)				0.00	
Gains/(losses) on revaluation of fixed assets				0.00	
Actuarial gains/ (losses)				0.00	
Other gains/(losses)					
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	<b>-177068.17</b>	<b>-20915.38</b>		<b>-197983.55</b>	<b>100762.57</b>
Reconciliation of funds					
Total Funds brought forward	626084.45	64402.48		690486.93	589724.36
<b>Total Funds carried forward</b>	<b>449016.28</b>	<b>43487.10</b>		<b>492503.38</b>	<b>690486.93</b>

John Entwistle - TREASURER  
  
 - CHAIR  
28/4/2026

**MORECAMBE BAY FOODBANK****BALANCE SHEET**

DATE: 31st August 2025

	TOTAL FUNDS	PREVIOUS YEAR'S TOTALS
	£	£
<b>FIXED ASSETS:</b>		
Intangible Assets	0.00	0.00
Tangible Assets:		
Computers	£4787.79	
Vehicles	£227.26	
Equipment	£1593.66	
Fixtures & Fittings	£4113.44	
	<b>10,722.15</b>	<b>12,859.33</b>
Heritage Assets	0.00	0.00
Investments	0.00	0.00
<b>TOTAL FIXED ASSETS:</b>	<b>10,722.15</b>	<b>12,859.33</b>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS:</b>		
Stocks	29,253.40	66,427.86
Debtors and Prepayments	85,082.06	97,588.96
Investments	0.00	118.25
Cash at Bank and in Hand:		
Main Account	£308.67	
Community Account	£28.17	
Savings Account	£22347.71	
Flagstone	£349304.14	
Paypal	£1.00	
Cash	£188.62	
Vouchers	£229.70	
	<b>372,408.01</b>	<b>515,901.29</b>
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>486,743.47</b>	<b>680,036.36</b>
<b>LIABILITIES:</b>		
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	4,962.24	2,408.76
Net Current assets or Liabilities	481,781.23	677,627.60
Total Assets less Current Liabilities	492,503.38	690,486.93
Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year	0.00	0.00
Provision for Liabilities	0.00	0.00
Net Assets or Liabilities excluding pension assets or liabilities	492,503.38	690,486.93
Defined benefit pension scheme asset or liability		
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS OR LIABILITIES</b>	<b>492,503.38</b>	<b>690,486.93</b>
<b>THE FUNDS OF THE CHARITY:</b>		
Endowment Funds	0.00	0.00
Restricted Funds	43,487.10	64,402.48
Unrestricted Funds	449,016.28	626,084.45
Revaluation Reserve	0.00	0.00
Pension Reserve	0.00	0.00
Total Unrestricted Funds	449,016.28	626,084.45
<b>TOTAL CHARITY FUNDS</b>	<b>492,503.38</b>	<b>690,486.93</b>

John Entwistle - Treasurer  
 [Signature] - Chair  
 2014/2025

## 1) Debtors & Prepayments

The amount of £85082.06 in prepayments is made up of the following:

Prepayments	£89,145.86
Accrued Income	£4,063.80

## 2) Creditors

The amount of £3035.23 in the creditors is made up of the following:

Big Dug	dated 29.08.25	£133.55
Castle Security Services	dated 31.08.25	£14.40
Chris Dalby Fire Protection Services	dated 15.08.25	£102.00
Ford Lease	dated 30.07.25	£1,015.00
Infinity Print Solutions	dated 29.08.25	£39.11
KTD	dated 14.04.25	£1,284.60
Lancaster City Council	dated 04.08.25	-£229.50
Right Fuel Card	dated 31.08.25	£103.49
Verve Accountancy	dated 31.08.25	£72.00
Webfleet Solutions	dated 26.08.25	£500.58

Pension Contributions for August 2025 (paid in September 2025)	£751.01
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### Accruals

Accountancy Accrual	£432.00
Other accruals	£744.00

*Right - CHAR*

3)

**EXPENDITURE ANALYSIS**

Type	Amount
	£
Client Purchases	57,897.16
Outreach Work	172,523.29
Local Projects	39.34
Closing Stock	-£315.00
Wages & salaries	110,678.70
Employers National Insurance	-1422.35
Pension Contributions	6,238.37
Rent	24,999.96
Rates, Heat & Light	15,131.11
Phone & Internet	9,097.41
Equipment Hire	378.50
Insurance	7,788.31
Subscriptions	157.20
Advert	1,563.53
Printing, Postage & stationery	115.59
Cleaning & Waste Disposal	1,827.14
Motor	18,737.01
Travel	2,767.60
Office Costs	227.27
Repairs	2,197.73
Legal & Professional fees	952.70
Accountancy	708.00
Miscellaneous expenses	1,274.58
Bank Charges	1,240.45
Depreciation of Assets	3,350.52
<b>Total</b>	<b>438,154.12</b>

Sam Entwistle - Treasurer

*[Signature]*

28/4/2026

*[Signature]* - CHAR



# VERVE ACCOUNTANCY

## A Fresh Approach

**Independent examiner's report to the trustees of**  
**Morecambe Bay Foodbank**  
**Charity No 1176579**

**Report on the accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> August 2025**

We report to the trustees on our examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> August 2025.

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

We report in respect of the examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, we have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

### **Independent examiner's statement**

We 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.

Signed

  
Gillian Telford

FMAAT

Date 27<sup>th</sup> November 2025

#### **Morecambe**

39 Northgate, White Lund, Morecambe, Lancashire, LA3 3PA  
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#### **Leyland**

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# VERVE ACCOUNTANCY

## A Fresh Approach



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C. Telford

Signed

Gillian Telford

FMAAT

Date 27<sup>th</sup> November 2025

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