

**Bags of Blessings**  
(Registered charity, number 1182290)  
**Financial statements**  
**for the year ended 31 March 2025**

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# **Bags of Blessings Trustees' annual report for the year ended 31 March 2025**

**Full name** Bags of Blessings

**Organisation type** Charitable incorporated organisation

**Registered charity number** 1182290

**Principal address** c/o 137 Standhill Road, Carlton, Nottingham, NG4 1JT

## **Trustees**

Christine Shuter, Chair  
Catherine Stones, Treasurer  
Michelle Heckford,

Michael Shuter, from 24/02/25  
Debbie Jackson, until 26/4/25

## **Independent examiner**

John O'Brien, employee of Community Accounting Plus, Units 1 & 2 North West, 41 Talbot Street, Nottingham, NG1 5GL

## **Governance and management**

The charity is operated under the rules of its constitution adopted 4 March 2019.

We advertise specific roles and volunteers who are interested and capable are invited to apply to become a trustee. At the first trustees meeting after an application we discuss the merits of the applicant and then take a vote.

## **Objectives and activities**

The prevention or relief of poverty in Nottinghamshire by providing items to charities or other organisations working to prevent or relieve poverty.

We provide bags of gifts to young people, from birth to 18 years of age at Christmas, plus activity bags to children from 4 to 11 years at Easter and during school Summer holidays. We work with a homeless charity to provide clothing, equipment and toys for children from birth to 4 years and items of equipment not suitable for our bags are donated to the same homeless charity. We collect clothing for a clothing bank and have the means and contacts to equip families who are experiencing extreme difficulties. We also provide hygiene items to food banks.

All of this is done through public appeal, with collection boxes being placed in the community at Christmas and donors approaching us through our social media.

## **Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit**

By providing items for disadvantaged families, we are able to relieve them of the stress of having to buy these items. Good mental health is always an issue and our activities, as well as helping with meagre budgets, bring reassurance that the items donated through the kindness of strangers gives beneficiaries the knowledge that they are seen and cared about.



## **Bags of Blessings Trustees' annual report for the year ended 31 March 2025**

### **Public benefit statement**

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit, 'Charities and Public Benefit'.

### **Summary of the main achievements during the period**

During the period we provided 860 Easter packs, 620 summer play packs and 316 back to school stationery packs to underprivileged children through our beneficiary agencies. We also gave Christmas gifts to 2,020 individuals with gift bags and family packs. Family packs are given to families referred by our partner agencies and each family member is provided with gifts.

We have devised a system of taking regular hygiene deliveries to four food banks and helping other agencies as required.

We were approached by Nova Education Trust and, together with their Youth Outreach Coordinator, have provided items which are used to reward good attendance in two schools with very poor attendance figures. We also helped them to develop a social space to encourage teenagers back into school through an informal setting. We gave games, decorations and activities for this space and were thrilled to receive photographs of children in the space who had not attended formal education for a considerable time.

Being made aware of a school in a very deprived area, with an 80% pupil premium, we have developed a relationship with the Head Teacher and his staff and have supplied Christmas gifts, books for their library and also for the children to take home and various other items which benefit their wellbeing and education.

### **The charity's policy on reserves**

Restricted funds are those which have been donated for a specific project/purpose. All other funds are classed as unrestricted with the following serving as the charity's reserves for core funding of the Charity's activities;

- Rent on the Charity's packing and distribution unit.
- Annual insurance costs.
- Annual inspection/test costs for PAT and fire extinguishers.

If the Charity's reserve value drops below a minimum of six months' rent plus insurance and inspection/testing costs, this will initiate a winding down of the charity, unless appropriate funding is received.

At every meeting of the Trustees, the Treasurer will report on the bank balance at the date of the meeting and will also calculate the balance, minus the stated reserve amount, which will be available for the charity's ongoing projects.



## **Bags of Blessings Trustees' annual report for the year ended 31 March 2025**

Contingency reserves have not been assigned as there is seen to be a low risk of unexpected uninsured expenditure.

Voluntary donations will be utilised where possible to support ongoing campaigns/projects, with the Charity providing funds to the campaigns/projects where possible.

### **Financial review**

We started the year with a balance of £27,594, with a reduced income of £15,950 and expenditure of £19,380, leaving a balance at the year-end of £24,164. Our only substantial fixed overhead is rent at £10,000, plus insurance and equipment testing, so £24,164 is a healthy balance to start a new year, taking into account typical expenditure on our three main campaigns and our Hygiene Hub. We will, however, be applying for grants over the coming months so that we can continue our upward trajectory.

We now have over 50 drop-off points for donations at Christmas, ranging from local businesses, churches and schools to Nottingham College (4 campuses), Rampton Hospital and Carlton Academy. The range of donations from all these points is vast, but everything given is good quality and will benefit a child.

We enjoy the patronage of some local businesses who give both time and cash donations, for which we are extremely grateful. A N Wallis and John Lewis Partnership have given us unsolicited grants and one local book shop, The Bookcase, has pledged a whole year of fundraising events for our benefit. We enjoy the patronage of Sherwood Sunrisers Rotary, with a cash and physical donations and the Cadburys trust surprised us with a grant of £3,000. We also receive one-off donations of cash from well-wishers in our community. We have enjoyed lively packing and wrapping sessions at our unit with volunteers from Turner and Townsend, LSEG, BJSS, Hayes Travel, John Lewis Distribution Centre, NHS Supply Chain and Marriotts Estate Agents. Without this corporate support we would not have been able to achieve such success.

We continue to enjoy the involvement of 2 guide groups and 5 units of police cadets from Notts Constabulary. Contact with these 7 groups of young people, plus the 500 youths at the FSY Annual Youth Conference, is especially welcome as the teenagers involved become aware of the challenges faced by their peers in the community who are facing deprivation. As well as wrapping the gifts that go in the Christmas bags, they collect for us, sign the Christmas cards to go in the bags and make up stationery and hygiene packs for us. They also give us little notes of affirmation or friendship bracelets to put into the bags. Everything they do for us is done with care, humor and empathy for those less fortunate and it's always a pleasure to work with them.

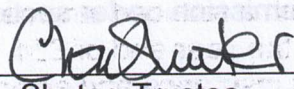
As always, we have to acknowledge the work of our volunteers, without whom we would not be able to continue. Some just come for one campaign and others are



# **Bags of Blessings** **Trustees' annual report** **for the year ended 31 March 2025**

with us every week, but everyone has their place at the heart of the charity and their hard work and commitment cannot be underestimated. The Board cannot stress how grateful we are for their support, encouragement and hard work for both the charity and our service users.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:

Signed   
Christine Shuter, Trustee

Date 11/08/25

**Independent examiner's report to the trustees of  
Bags of Blessings  
for the year ended 31 March 2025**

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

**Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the trustees of the charity 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 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 examiner's statement**

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 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

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.

Signed  Date 14/08/2025  
John O'Brien MSc, FAIA, FCIE  
Employee of Community Accounting Plus



**Bags of Blessings**  
**Receipts & payments account**  
**for the year ended 31 March 2025**

2023			2024
Total		Unrestricted	Restricted
Funds		Funds	Funds
£	Note	£	£
	<b>Receipts</b>		
1426	Fundraising	2353	-
29589	Grants and donations	13449	-
1915	Rent repayments	-	-
32	Sundry receipts	98	-
<b>32962</b>	<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>15900</b>	<b>-</b>
	<b>Payments</b>		
7657	Charitable activities	5129	1030
452	Equipment, repairs & renewals	855	-
218	Fundraising costs	300	-
368	Insurance	398	-
241	Phone, postage and internet	178	-
12	Premises, repairs & maintenance	-	-
111	Printing, stationery & computer	499	-
10197	Rent & services	6973	3333
559	Legal & professional	480	-
268	Sundry payments	156	-
<b>20083</b>	<b>Total payments</b>	<b>14968</b>	<b>4363</b>
12879	<b>Net receipts/(payments)</b>	932	(4363)
14715	Cash funds at start of this period	23232	4363
<b>27594</b>	<b>Cash funds at end of this period</b>	<b>24164</b>	<b>-</b>

# Bags of Blessings Statement of assets and liabilities at 31 March 2025

2024			2025
£		Note	£
<b>Cash assets</b>			
27540	Bank accounts		24113
54	Cash in hand		51
<u>27594</u>			<u>24164</u>
<b>Other monetary assets</b>			
371	Prepayments	4	377
<u>371</u>			<u>377</u>
<b>Liabilities</b>			
(480)	Creditors - Legal and professional		(498)
<u>(480)</u>			<u>(498)</u>

These financial statements are accepted on behalf of the charity by:

Signed

Catherine Stones, Trustee

*Catherine Stones*

Date

12/8/25



# Bags of Blessings

## Notes to the accounts

### for the year ended 31 March 2025

#### 1. Receipts & payments accounts

Receipts and payments accounts contain a summary of money received and money spent during the period and a list of assets and liabilities at the end of the period. Usually, cash received and cash spent will include transactions through bank accounts and cash in hand.

#### 2. Grants & donations

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total £
A N Wallis Ltd	3100	-	3100
Cadbury Charitable Trust	3000	-	3000
John Lewis PLC	2000	-	2000
PCC St Martins	1250	-	1250
Nottingham Gordon Memorial Trust	500	-	500
Sundry grants & donations	3599	-	3599
	<b>13449</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>13449</b>

#### 3. Funds analysis

	Opening balance £	Receipts (Payments) £      £		Closing balance £
<b>Restricted funds</b>				
Hygiene Hub	1030	-	(1030)	-
National Lottery Community	3333	-	(3333)	-
	<b>4363</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(4363)</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>				
General	23232	15900	(14968)	24164
	<b>23232</b>	<b>15900</b>	<b>(14968)</b>	<b>24164</b>

#### 4. Prepayments

	£
Insurance	298
Phone, Postage & internet	79
	<b>377</b>

#### 5. Trustees' remuneration

Trustees received no expenses, remuneration or benefits in this period.

#### 6. Related party transactions

There were no related party transactions during the period.



## Bags of Blessings

### 7. Glossary of terms

**Creditors:** These are amounts owed by the charity, but not paid during the accounting period.

**Debtors:** These are amounts owed to the charity, but not received in the accounting period.

**Prepayments:** These are services that the charity has paid for in advance, but not used during the accounting period.

**Restricted funds:** These are funds given to the charity, subject to specific restrictions set by the donor, but still within the general objects of the charity.