



Helping the homeless and vulnerable to find their  
next meal

**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**For year ending 5 April 2024.**

Charity Name : Next Meal

Registration Number : 1183114

Address : Muswell Hill Baptist Church, Dukes Avenue,  
Muswell Hill, London N10

Trustees : Alexander Michael

Benjamin Woodhead

Catherine Jane Barrett (secretary)

Jonathan Charles Ashley-Norman KC

Olalekan Oyewale Omiteru (treasurer)

Bankers : Metro Bank

## *Next Meal : An Introduction.*

Next Meal grew out of Muswell Hill Soup Kitchen in North London. Volunteers at the soup kitchen realised that just as smart phone technology can help users find their way to a cinema or a restaurant, so it might be adapted to direct the user to the nearest centre providing help and a hot meal. Out of this simple idea, Next Meal was born. A database was created into a website containing the locations of soup kitchens all around the UK and increasingly in cities outside the UK too. A simple card was produced signposting the website. The intention was to encourage a different conversation between a street homeless person, and the person who might otherwise be a passer-by. Using the website and a smart phone, directions to a place where help and food might be provided, alongside or instead of a coffee or a sandwich. Next Meal might also help the conversation between the street homeless and professionals whose work brings them into contact with them, for example the police, or council employees, medical professionals or people who run traffic infrastructure or other places where the street homeless might be encountered.

The database and the website were already well advanced when charitable status was achieved on 29 April 2019. During the first year the board of Trustees was established, and a funding partnership was achieved through Next Meal's major funders, city stockbrokers, Peel Hunt. The charity sought to establish its vision and long term plans, including seeking and finding support amongst concerned politicians.

A launch was planned to take place in the Houses of Parliament, but was delayed by the December 2019 General Election. A fresh date was fixed and a fantastic launch took place in February 2020, just before the UK onset of the Covid 19 pandemic.

As the pandemic took hold, the UK government arranged for most street homeless people to be evacuated from the streets and into temporary accommodation. There were far fewer people on the street, both homeless and pedestrians. Many soup kitchens closed. Next Meal has had to adapt to meet these challenges, has been refining its plans, enhancing its website, and focusing on how it might further its charitable objects in the aftermath of the pandemic. Members of the

Executive have focused also on direct assistance to the homeless extended by Muswell Hill Soup Kitchen.

During the year to April 2024, Martin Stone in his Next Meal capacity, but also in co-operation with the Muswell Hill Soup Kitchen deepened the earlier connections with various charitable provision in Burnley, delivering principally food but also other necessities to Burnley.

This work, and developing connections in the Burnley area, enabled Martin to identify and explore the possibility of using geo-thermal heating technology to provide heating via the extensive network of disused mines under Burnley. Next Meal resolved to permit Martin to continue geo-thermal community exploratory work in Burnley on behalf of Next Meal, recognising that though on the fringes of its constitutional charitable objects, the activity was within the general scope of the public benefit and the relief of poverty of the financially disadvantaged. The work in this field commenced in the year to 2022 continued during the early part of the year to 2024, and has included meetings involving Burnley based charities, politicians and industries looking to come together in ways that might enable the project to advance. Contact was also established with various schools in the area, and visits were undertaken looking to build interest in the project.

By the later part of the year ending April 2024 Martin had succeeded in bringing together various stake holders who might be interested in progressing the project. Meetings were held. Stakeholders in Burnley continue to pursue green solutions and geothermal extraction is still part of the Burnley Council Climate Change Strategy. Through Martin's initiative, Next Meal is pleased to have played a part in encouraging this scrutiny of the options.

During the year ending April 2024, Next Meal looked again at its intended initial offering, and looked to establish connections with Transport for London and Network Rail with a view to encouraging staff of each to use the Next Meal facility as a way to signpost homeless persons on the rail infrastructure away from stations and towards provision where assistance might be obtained.

These strengthening connections are enabling Next Meal to refocus on its initial role, and by the time of writing this report, have enabled Martin to establish a strong working relationship with relevant staff at Paddington Station.

### **Charity Structure :**

The charity functions are divided between the Trustees and the Executive. As at 5 April 2024, the Trustees are the above named and their functions included the oversight and support of the functions of the Executive. The Executive comprise Martin Stone (Chief Executive), Ralph Hinton and Oli Roxburgh. During the year ending April 2024 Pearl Walker was assisting Next Meal in its social media presence. The role of the Executive is to execute the charity activities decided upon by the Trustees in consultation with the Executive. Occasional meetings were held to this end during the year to April 2024.

Martin Stone is in day to day charge of the operations of Next Meal, and is supported in that by the other members of the Executive. Oli Roxburgh, the originator of the website, has a particular role in the provision of on-line support, and Ralph Hinton with the maintenance of and communications with the soup kitchens represented on the database.

Through the populating of the website database, it came to be appreciated that many people running soup kitchens all round the country appreciated becoming a part of the Next Meal network. A regular newsletter and blog were established for the purposes of supporting soup kitchens, and spreading experience and learning. Connections with various soup kitchens around the country have been established and nurtured, Next Meal considering the support of soup kitchens a way in which it might further its charitable purposes. During the year ending April 2024 Martin commenced a blog intended to link soup kitchens across the country. In July 2023 Next Meal held its first Annual Conference in Stafford. Some 40 people attended from across the country, a testament to Martin's powers of motivation. Best practice was shared via a number of speakers, and those present encouraged and

inspired each other in their work in the challenging world of street homelessness. Such was the success of the event that there was an enthusiastic call for a further conference in 2024 (which duly took place).

Connections have also been developed with soup kitchens around the world, and through the pandemic this developed into a regular International Zoom meeting with attendees from all around the world sharing experience and encouragement.

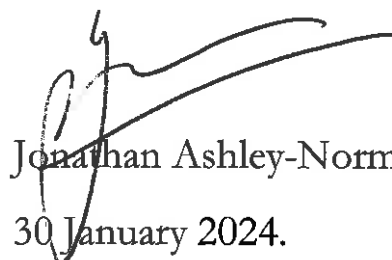
### **Financial Review :**

Next Meal has filed a Form CC16a recording the receipts and payments accounts for the year ending 5 April 2024. These reflected receipts in the total sum of £14,464.27, comprising principally gifts. Expenditure continues to be modest. Next Meal remains unable to offer members of its Executive a salary or other form of regular remuneration. However, in light of the greater expenditure of time on the part of Martin Stone, the Trustees considered it appropriate that he ought receive some remuneration for his time incurred. In 2024, Next Meal made payments to Martin by way of the refund of expenses incurred. The total payments in the year to 5 April 2024, including in respect of Martin's time and expenses, and a gratuity in recognition of Ralph's tireless efforts was £12,764.78.

At the end of the year the cash funds held were £9,517.49.

No funds were held as a custodian trustee.

For and on behalf of the Board of Trustees



Jonathan Ashley-Norman KC  
30 January 2024.

Charity name		Trust name		CC16a
<b>Receipts and payments accounts</b>				
For the period from	06/04/2023	To	05/04/2024	

## Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
<b>A1 Receipts</b>					
	14,464	-	-	14,464	4,114
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total (Gross income for AR)</b>	14,464	-	-	14,464	1,155
<b>A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total receipts</b>	14,464	-	-	14,464	1,155
<b>A3 Payments</b>					
Wages/salaries/gratuities	11,080	-	-	11,080	-
Expenses - travel etc	1,064	-	-	1,064	-
Media	620	-	-	620	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	12,764	-	-	12,764	-
<b>A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total payments</b>	12,764	-	-	12,764	-
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	1,700	-	-	1,700	9,236
<b>A5 Transfers between funds</b>	-	-	-	-	-
<b>A6 Cash funds last year end</b>	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	9,517	-	-	-	10,795

## 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 £
<b>B1 Cash funds</b>		9,517	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	<b>Total cash funds</b>	9,517	-	-

(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))

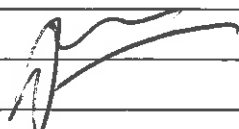
	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
<b>B2 Other monetary assets</b>		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
<b>B3 Investment assets</b>			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
<b>B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use</b>			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
<b>B5 Liabilities</b>			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	Jonathan Ashley-Norman	30/1/25