

Trustees' Report & Financial Statements 2025



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A message from our Patron

Everybody who comes to Laurence's Larder is in need, and none of them, in a just society, would have found themselves where they are. We also, thank God, live in a neighbourhood full of people committed to change at the local level. And that's the other thing Laurence's Larder has given me – hope.

It's truly inspiring to see what people power can achieve. I wouldn't even call it charity – I'd call it activism. Take the way our chef, Jas, cooks, for example. He plates his delicious food like he's working at the Ivy, because he believes everyone in the room deserves to eat like a dignified human being. That's a radical idea. That's activism. And everybody at Laurence's Larder who sacrifices their time and energy is demonstrating, in action, a radical principle, namely, that people in a community owe each other time and energy.

Zadie Smith

About Laurence's Larder

Objectives and activities

Laurence's Larder provides food aid, clothing, and other services to prevent or relieve poverty in the London Borough of Brent. We operate from Christ Church, Brondesbury, but are an independent secular charity. We welcome people of all faiths and none.

Our charity focuses on reducing social isolation and helping those who struggle to make ends meet. We take great care to maintain the dignity of our beneficiaries ('guests'). Almost uniquely amongst food aid charities, Laurence's Larder requires no referrals from other agencies to enable guests to access our services, most of whom live within Brent — specifically Kilburn, Willesden and Cricklewood.

Our origins

Laurence's Larder, established by Stephen Chamberlain, has been operating for more than twelve years. Following a start-up donation from the church, Laurence's Larder was registered as an independent charity on 24 October 2019, and a board of trustees now governs it.

Structure, governance and management

This financial year has seen the consolidation of the charity's operations following a period of significant change. The board has stabilised with new trustees and the appointment of Toby York, who joined as Treasurer in June 2024.

The terms of several trustees are due for review in November 2025 and preparations are underway to ensure a smooth transition, whether through reappointment or recruitment. We continue to strive to ensure that the board is as diverse as the communities we serve but acknowledge there is more to accomplish.

During the year, the board streamlined its meeting structure, moving from bi-monthly to quarterly board meetings to reduce administrative burden, while maintaining effective oversight. The Finance & Risk sub-committee continues to operate, while the responsibilities of other sub-committees have been incorporated into the main board meetings.

Legal and administrative information

Charity constitution	Charitable Incorporated Organisation (“CIO”)
Company number	CE019316
Charity number	1185983
Governing document	CIO Constitution
Appointment of trustees	Current trustees vote on the election of trustees to the charity, following an open recruitment process.

Significant risks and risk register

We maintain a robust risk register that is regularly reviewed. Significant risks that have been identified and monitored throughout the year include:

- **The future of Christ Church Brondesbury:** The Parochial Church Council of Christ Church (the PCC) may be dissolved, significantly impacting Laurence’s Larder. The trustees have been proactively addressing this risk, establishing a joint working group with the PCC to develop a shared vision for the church site, regardless of the outcome of ongoing Church of England processes.
- **Health, safety, and safeguarding:** We have updated our safeguarding policies and created a comprehensive Volunteer Handbook that sets out clear procedures for all aspects of our operations, including health and safety, food hygiene, and safeguarding.
- **Service capacity:** With demand continuing to grow across our services, we monitor our capacity closely. We have expanded our staffing by increasing our Operations Manager’s hours, and we continue to review our financial resources to ensure service levels can be maintained.

People

Patron

Zadie Smith

Trustees

Mark Wakefield, **Chair**

Sally Burrell, **Vice chair**

Karen Barke (until 16 June 2024)

Victoria Bentley

Chloe Court

Michael Krzyzanowski

Louise Pudney

Anne Taylor

Saul Venit, **Chair of Finance and Risk**

Toby York, **Treasurer** (from 17 June 2024)

In attendance at trustee meetings (not a trustee)

Sara Jade-Hussein, **Operations Director**

Tamsin Grant, **Operations Manager** (from 16 September 2024)

Independent examiner

Keith Stephenson MA, FCMA, MBA, DipHE

Supporters

Our thanks go to the many supporters of Laurence's Larder who have contributed, whether through financial donations, equipment, food, clothing, services or simply their time.

We especially acknowledge:

Alexandra Shulman	Mary Pritchard
Annie Edmonds and F45 Kensal Rise	Matilda Goad
B3	The Mayhew Animal Home National Lottery
Brent Council	Community Fund
Brent Talking Therapies	The NHS Roving Team
Cadent Gas	ParkLife Singers
City Harvest	The PCC of Christ Church with St. Laurence,
Cllr Ryan Hack, Deputy Mayor of Brent	Brondesbury
Diocese of London (Willesden area)	Quality Chophouse / Quality Wines
Eliza Halling	Queens Park Books
Felix Project	Queens Park Residents Association (QPARA)
Georgia Gould, MP	Queens Park Singers
GIFT	Quinine
Giles Deards	Sainsbury's Kilburn High Road
Hampstead Garden Suburb Fellowship	Sainsbury's Willesden Green
Ida	Scarlet & Violet
Jess Dunford Wood and The Parlour	Sufra
John Morrison	Supra
Kingsbury Charity	Synergy Vision
Lawstop	Walmer Castle
The Lexi Cinema	Wenzel's Bakery
Lusa Nsemba-Ngoy, Bishop of Willesden	Willesden Consolidated Charities
Maida Vale School	Zadie Smith
Mapesbury Residents Association	
(MapRA)	

We sincerely apologise for any inadvertent omissions of individuals or organisations.

Report of the trustees

Strategy



Throughout the year, we continued to implement and develop our strategy. Our focus on addressing both food insecurity and social isolation has been evident in our expanded services and partnerships.

A significant development was increased collaboration with the Parochial Church Council (PCC). Following the appointment of a joint working group in September 2024, we have successfully developed a shared vision for the future of the Christ Church site. This vision encompasses creating a welcoming, nurturing, vibrant, inclusive, creative, and safe place that reflects values of respect, compassion, generosity, and service to others.

In March 2025, the working group held a productive workshop to transform this vision into actionable plans. While the Church of England's decision on the future of Christ Church as a place of worship is still pending, our proactive approach ensures we are well-positioned to adapt to any outcome.

Fundraising activities

Although total income from fundraising declined this year, we have significantly expanded our fundraising activities:

- Our first “Friends of Laurence’s Larder Supper Club” took place in February 2025, raising approximately £8,656 including a silent auction. This successful format is being replicated, with additional events planned for April, September, and November 2025.
- We established our own donation platform integrated with our website, reducing fees and improving the user experience.
- We appointed a volunteer Donor Liaison Officer to develop relationships with regular donors and implement effective donor communication strategies.

Community and corporate support:

- Our partnership with local businesses continues to flourish, with Supra organising a Christmas raffle that raised £1,140, featuring a star prize donated by Matilda Goad.
- Simonetta from Ida Restaurant held fundraising events, including a book launch that raised £1,500 and a collaborative event with Wren Pubs raising approximately £300.
- We collaborated with Sovereign Housing Association to prepare gift hampers, receiving £500 for the work plus a £500 donation

We have benefitted too from support in kind:

- Supra continues to second their chef, Jasvinder Singh, one day per week.
- Studio Tollgard contributed a team-building day to decorate the church for Christmas.
- Hampstead Kitchen and Brooks Butchers donated food for our Christmas lunch.
- The Felix Project organised supplier visits and special deliveries.
- Matilda Goad company has established quarterly volunteering sessions.
- Local artist Mary Pritchard hosted an open studio, donating proceeds of £425 from selected works.

We thank everyone for their support, in whatever form, and sincerely apologise if we have missed anyone. We are deeply grateful to you all.

Once again, we express our particular thanks to our host, Christ Church with St. Laurence. The PCC and congregation are loyal supporters, providing us with the space to deliver our services at minimal cost.

Grants, donations & in-kind support

The financial year has been positive, with continued support from established funders and new relationships formed. Major grants received include:

	Unrestricted	Restricted
Kingsbury Charity		£50,000
National Lottery Community Fund		£20,000
The Talent Fund		£10,000
Brent Health Matters		£9,400
Hampstead Garden Suburb Fellowship	£8,000	
Brent Community Grant		£7,000
Pilkington Trust	£2,000	
Queens Park Area Residents Association		£1,000
Watling Gardens Estate Group		£850
Willesden Consolidated Charities	£650	
	£10,650	£98,250

Staffing and volunteers

Paid staff

Our team evolved this year with Jono Ayling's departure and Tansy Grant's appointment as Operations Manager in September 2024. Following a successful period as a part-time staff member, we expanded Tansy's role to four days per week in April 2025, enabling us to develop additional services and improve our operational capacity.



Volunteers

Our volunteer base continues to grow, with approximately 70 active volunteers contributing their time and skills across our services. We have successfully integrated volunteers from corporate partnerships, including Natwest, Rekki, Quinine, and Matilda Goad, alongside our regular volunteers. Student volunteers from Maida Vale School and other local institutions have added valuable energy and fresh perspectives to our team.

Staff development

With the development of Laurence's Larder has come the need to ensure

that our operation is as safe and effective as possible. We have made significant investment in training and development, with staff and volunteers trained in areas such as conflict resolution and de-escalation, first aid, safeguarding and food safety and hygiene.

All staff and volunteers undertake full Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks and we plan to provide safeguarding training for staff and volunteers.

Delivery of services

Our services continue to evolve in response to the diverse needs of our community. Here's a summary of our core activities:

Food Bank (Wednesdays)

Our weekly food bank provides vital nutrition to those facing food insecurity. Each Wednesday, we distribute food parcels containing a balanced mix of non-perishable staples, fresh fruit, vegetables, and bakery items from our generous donors. Numbers reached a record high of 154 food bags in November

Nearly
6000
meals and
5500
food parcels
over the year

2024, with an average of 120-130 guests per week. We continue to operate without a referral system, making our service accessible to anyone in need.

Our volunteers carefully assemble food parcels, paying particular attention to nutritional content and dietary requirements. For the Christmas and Easter breaks, we provide enhanced food parcels that include special items like cheese, butter, and festive treats.

Community Lunch (Thursdays)

Our Thursday community lunch offers more than just a hot meal – it provides a warm, welcoming space where guests can socialise and connect. Each week, our volunteer team, led by chef Jasvinder Singh (seconded from Sufra), prepares a nutritious two-course meal served restaurant-style at tables. Attendance has ranged from 80 to 111 guests per week.

Special events such as our Christmas lunch are particularly significant, with up to 150 guests attending. This year's Christmas lunch benefited from generous donations from Hampstead Kitchen and Brooks Butchers. Our commitment to quality was validated when we retained our 5-star food hygiene rating following a surprise inspection in January 2025.

Clothes Bank (Mondays and Thursdays)

The clothes bank provides essential clothing to those in need, with approximately 90 visitors per week and up to 100 items distributed. We've implemented a sign-in process to create a more orderly and dignified experience for our guests. Our partnership with Care4Calais enables refugees to access the clothes bank by appointment, allowing them to take more time and receive additional assistance.

Community Art Cafe (Mondays)

Launched in 2024, our Community Art Cafe addresses social isolation by offering a creative and social space. Guests enjoy refreshments, light lunches, and participate in arts and crafts activities led by our volunteers. The cafe has grown steadily to around 45 guests per week. We've enhanced the experience with "guest lecturers" in crafts such as gelli printing and ceramics, and with funding from QPARA, we now provide newspapers for guests to enjoy.

Advice and guidance services

We have expanded our range of partnership services to address the underlying causes of food insecurity and social isolation:

- **B3** – peer support and advocacy to drug and alcohol users in Brent
- **Brent Mental Health Outreach for Rough Sleepers** – Support for rough sleepers
- **Brent Talking Therapies** – Free, confidential advice and referrals for depression and anxiety disorders
- **Cadent Gas** – Energy advice sessions
- **KOVE** (Kilburn Older Voices Exchange) – Community engagement
- **Lawstop** – pro-bono legal advice
- **Mayhew** – pet welfare and assistance
- **The NHS Roving team** – monthly health checks and vaccinations

- **Sufra** – signposting service for advice and guidance
- **Synergy** – launched in February 2025, providing welfare and benefits advice
- **Via** – support for people with issues surrounding drug and alcohol use.

New initiatives

Our strategic focus on addressing both immediate needs and underlying causes of poverty and social isolation has led to the development of several new initiatives:

- **Healthy Living Programme for the Elderly:** This initiative directly addresses a key aspect of our strategy to improve overall wellbeing beyond just providing food. This 8-week programme was developed in response to the challenges exacerbated by isolation and poor nutrition faced by many of our older guests. The programme, funded by Brent Health Matters with a grant of £9,400, features nutritionist workshops, exercise sessions, and healthy lunches with ingredients to take home. The first cohort gave excellent feedback.
- **Digital Skills:** Our guests increasingly face barriers in accessing essential services that have moved online. With funding from BT and delivery by AbilityNet planned for June 2025, these workshops aim to bridge the digital divide that many of our guests experience. The initiative aligns with our strategic goal of addressing the underlying causes of disadvantage.
- **Family Services:** The number of family guests accessing the food bank continues to grow. We are exploring partnerships with established family service providers in the area to provide targeted support to families who often have complex needs

beyond food insecurity. We hope to incorporate English lessons and playgroups alongside expert advice services, to help foster a sense of community for our family guests who rarely have time to socialise during regular services. Expanding our Operations Manager's hours to four days per week from May 2025 will support the development of these family-focused services.



Future plans

Looking ahead to 2025/26, our key objectives include:

- **Secure our operational base:** Continue to work with the PCC and Diocese of London to secure our future at Christ Church, developing practical plans based on our shared vision.
- **Expand our services:** Implement planned new services, including digital skills training, enhanced family support, and financial advice.
- **Diversify funding streams:** Build on our successful fundraising events and develop a more structured approach to regular giving through our Donor Liaison Officer.
- **Strengthen partnerships:** Deepen existing partnerships and develop new relationships to enhance the support we can offer our guests.
- **Enhance monitoring and evaluation:** Develop more robust systems to measure impact and effectiveness, including guest feedback, which is essential to ensure services are shaped by their needs and experiences.
- **Board development:** Manage the transition as several trustee terms come up for review in November 2025.
- **Community engagement:** Increase awareness of our services within the local community through targeted outreach and communications.



Financial Summary

Total income

£160,652 ↓ 9%

(2024: £177,161)

Total expenses

£126,694 ← 0%

(2024: £126,834)

Major grants received

£98,250 ↓ 13%

(2024: £112,974)

Income from donations

£44,957 ↑ 22%

(2024: £36,829)

Income from fundraising events

£15,341 ↓ 43%

(2024: £26,776)

Spending on charitable activities

£123,930 ← 0%

(2024: £124,264)

Net surplus for the year

£33,958 ↓ 33%

(2024: £50,327)

Funds available at the year end

£149,328 ↑ 29%

(2024: £115,370)

Financial Review

Funds brought forward at the beginning of the year were £115,370, and at the end were £149,328. The surplus for the year of £50,327 compared to a deficit in 2024 of £21,612.

This is a summary of funds for the year. The notes to the financial statements provide a more detailed analysis.

	Unrestricted	Restricted	31 March 2025
Funds brought forward	81,115	34,255	115,370
Surplus for the year	936	33,022	33,958
Total funds on 31 March 2025	£82,051	£67,277	£149,328

Income

Total income for the year to 31 March 2025 was £160,652 (2024: £177,161). Two grants exceeding £10,000 were awarded during the year: £50,000 from Kingsbury Charity and £20,000 from the National Lottery Community Fund (NLCF). The NLCF grant is treated as a government grant.

Expenditure

The year's expenditure was £126,694 (2024: £126,834). Expenses related to raising funds were £2,764 (2024: £2,570), and the costs of charitable activities were £123,930 (2024: £124,264). This is analysed in more detail in Note 4 to the accounts on page 18.

Reserves policy

The charity's income is uncertain and sporadic, so the trustees aim to reserve the equivalent of six months' running costs in unrestricted funds. Unrestricted funds on 31 March 2025 were £82,051. This represents just under six months of the planned expenditure to 31 March 2026.

Included in the reserve is £28,260 Facilities Development Fund, a designated fund created in the year ending 31 March 2024 for costs relating to the continued use of the premises. See **Significant risks and risk register** on page 3.

Declaration

This report was approved by the trustees on 22 July 2025 and signed on its behalf by:



Mark Wakefield
Chair



Toby York
Treasurer

Independent examiner's report to the trustees

I report to the trustees of Laurence's Larder on my examination of the accounts of the CIO for the year to 31 March 2025 set out on pages 15 to 20.

As the CIO's trustees, you are, 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 all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

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

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did 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 this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Keith Stephenson

Keith Stephenson MA FCMA MBA DipHE

25B Montpelier Road

London

W5 2QT

22 July 2025



Financial Statements
For the year ended
31 March 2025

Statement of Financial Activities

For the year ended 31 March 2025

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2025 £	2024 £
Income from:					
Donations and legacies		44,957	–	44,957	36,829
Charitable activities	3	15,342	98,250	113,592	139,750
Interest received		2,103	–	2,103	582
		62,402	98,250	160,652	177,161
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds		2,764	–	2,764	2,570
Charitable activities	4	58,702	65,228	123,930	124,264
		61,466	65,228	126,694	126,834
Net income / movement in funds		936	33,022	33,958	50,237
Balances at 1 April 2024		81,115	34,255	115,370	65,043
As at 31 March 2025		82,051	67,277	149,328	115,370

Balance sheet

As at 31 March 2025

	Note	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2025 £	2024 £
Current assets					
Debtors		914	–	914	170
Cash at bank		82,589	67,589	150,178	119,246
		83,503	67,589	151,092	119,416
Liabilities: amounts falling due within one year					
		(1,452)	(312)	(1,764)	(4,046)
Net assets					
		82,051	67,277	149,328	115,370
Funds					
Unrestricted funds	6	82,051	–	82,051	81,115
Restricted funds	6	–	67,277	67,277	34,255
		82,051	67,277	149,328	115,370

Approved by the trustees on 22 July 2025 and signed on its behalf by:

Mark Wakefield

Mark Wakefield
Chair

TSYork

Toby York
Treasurer

Notes to the accounts

For the year ended 31 March 2025

1 Basis of accounts

These accounts have been prepared on the accruals basis and under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value. The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice:

Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 and with the Charities Act 2011.

2 Accounting policies

Recognition of income

Income, including that from grants and donations, is included in the Statement of Income and Expenditure only when the charity becomes entitled to the resources, the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability and it is more likely than not that the trustees will receive the resource.

Liabilities

Liabilities are recognised when it is more likely than not that there's a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out resources and the amount of the obligation can be measured with reasonable certainty.

Tangible fixed assets

There were no fixed assets brought forward or acquired during the year.

Notes to the accounts

For the year ended 31 March 2025

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2025 £	2024 £
3 Income from charitable activities				
Fundraising events	15,342	–	15,342	26,776
Performance-related grants	–	98,250	98,250	112,974
	15,342	98,250	113,952	139,750

Performance-related grants comprise ten grants and more details are provided in the Report of the Trustees on page 7.

4 Expenditure on charitable activities

Delivery of services	27,846	9,427	37,273	31,710
Salaries and pension costs	14,469	52,697	67,166	38,327
Volunteer and staff development	1,914	2,109	4,023	6,132
Occupation of premises	9,300	600	9,900	7,050
Repairs and improvements	1,740	195	1,935	30,506
Other operating expenses	3,433	200	3,633	10,539
	58,702	65,228	123,930	124,264

5 Trustee expenses

During the year, one trustee was paid £55 for travelling to meetings.

Notes to the accounts

For the year ended 31 March 2025

6 Analysis of funds

Current period – 31 March 2025

	As at 1 April 2024 £	Income £	Expenditure £	As at 31 March 2025 £
Restricted funds				
Kingsbury Charity	34,255	50,000	(46,428)	37,827
Brent NCIL	–	7,000	(7,000)	–
Brent Health Matters	–	9,400	(9,400)	–
National Lottery	–	20,000	(1,787)	18,213
Watling Gardens	–	850	(598)	252
The Talent Fund	–	10,000	–	10,000
Queens Park Residents Assoc.	–	1,000	(15)	985
	34,255	98,250	(65,228)	67,277
Unrestricted funds				
General funds	51,115	62,402	(59,726)	53,791
Facilities development fund	30,000	–	(1,740)	28,260
	81,115	62,402	(61,466)	82,051
All funds	115,370	160,652	(126,694)	149,328

The facilities development fund is designated for anticipated costs relating to the continued use of the premises. See **Significant risks and risk register** on page 3.

Notes to the accounts

For the year ended 31 March 2025

6 Analysis of funds (continued)

Prior period — 31 March 2024

	As at 1 April 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	As at 31 March 2024 £
Restricted funds					
Kingsbury Charity	7,598	45,000	(18,343)	—	34,255
Brent Food Aid	4,893	—	(4,893)	—	—
National Lottery – COLC	—	67,974	(67,974)	—	—
	12,491	112,974	(91,210)	—	34,255
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	52,552	64,187	(35,624)	(30,000)	51,115
Facilities development fund	—	—	—	30,000	30,000
	52,552	64,187	(35,624)	—	81,115
All funds	65,043	177,161	(126,834)	—	115,370

Notes to the accounts

For the year ended 31 March 2025

7 Statement of Financial Activities for the prior period

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2024 £	2023 £
Income from:					
Donations and legacies		36,829	–	36,829	13,949
Charitable activities	3	26,776	112,974	139,750	16,550
Interest received		582	–	582	88
		64,187	112,974	177,161	30,587
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds		2,570	–	2,570	334
Charitable activities	4	33,054	91,210	124,264	56,864
		35,624	91,210	126,834	57,198
Net income / movement in funds		28,563	21,764	50,327	(26,611)
Balances at 1 April 2023		52,552	12,491	65,043	91,654
As at 31 March 2024		81,115	34,255	115,370	65,043



Registered charity **1185983**

Registered address: 233 Fordwych Road, London NW2 3LY

info@laurenceslarder.org.uk laurenceslarder.org.uk