

Akwaaba Sanctuary Trust

Charity number 119326

The Trustees present their report relating to the financial year ending 31st July 2025 and confirm that they comply with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

Reference and Administrative Information:

The principal address of the charity

c/o Trust Secretary, 8 Hotham Close, Swanley, Kent BR8 7UX

The charity trustees

Martin Smyth	Chair
Rev Douglas Bull	Treasurer
Colette Selwood	
Peter Gower	

All were trustees throughout 2024/2025 and on the date the report was approved.

The Charity bank

Cooperative Bank plc
P.O. Box 101
1 Balloon Street
Manchester
M60 4EP

The Independent Examiner

Not required in 2024/5 as income during the year was under £25,000

Structure Governance and Management

The Charity was formed in 2020 and registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation with the Charity Commission on 26th January 2021.

The charity is governed by a trustee committee of four trustees. Where the number of trustees is reduced to three or less, an appointment shall be made as soon as it is practicable to do so.

The charity does not have any employees but retains the services of a Trust Secretary (for which a stipend is paid) to oversee day to management and engages volunteers or contracted agents to oversee the delivery of retreats, quiet days and spiritual direction and to ensure that the charity operates in accordance with recommended practice.

Objectives and Activities:

The Charitable purposes of charity are to advance the Christian faith for the benefit of the public in accordance with the tradition of Christian Spirituality.

Our Vision: Is that all may sense the loving presence of God in their lives.

Our Mission: Is to facilitate space, for all who desire, to deepen their relationship with God; to explore Gods desire for them and to experience Gods consolation in their lives.

This is achieved by:

- Providing "Sanctuary", space for individuals or groups to come and experience quiet time with God
- Supporting the ministry of those involved in spiritual direction, including through supervision, training and professional development
- Offering spiritual direction and accompaniment to support people in their spiritual growth
- Provision of formal times of prayer, reflection, meditation and retreats
- Providing pastoral support and a 'listening ear' to those in need
- Being open to all people, those whose faith journey is outside the Christian church as well as those within

Report on Activities:

Having been founded in 2020, the charity is still relatively young and operates on a small scale.

In the year 2024 – 2025 in order to further the work of the charity, in accordance with its objects and for public benefit, we carried out the following activities:

- ongoing facilitation of weekly 'lectio divina' group enabling people to engage and grow their spiritual life through reflection on scripture
- delivery of seven in person 'reflection days' in August, October, December 2024 and April, May, June and July 2025 and planning for a series later in 2025/6
- access to an outdoor prayer space and 'Open Garden events' [part of the Quiet Garden movement] providing a place for people to come and enjoy peace away from the demands of their normal everyday activity.
- a series of lenten reflections in the garden and prayer cabin
- a retreat space for individual use
- facilitation of 'days of refection' for others involved in spirituality work
- one to one spiritual direction

Additionally our Trust Secretary undertook the full Spiritual Exercises of St Ignatius of Loyola in the Spirituality Centre in Loyola, Spain during July 2025.

Performance and Achievements:

This was the fifth year of operation of the charity and a key focus was the development of the regular activities and more in person events, together with promoting the space for others to use for their own retreats.

The charity delivered a number of activities as outlined above and was able to support a significant number of people directly and indirectly.

Based on active participation:

5 people engaged in regular **spiritual direction** throughout the year

Up to 16 people (with a weekly core attendance of about 8) have participated in the weekly scripture '**lectio divina**' on line group during 2024/5

There have been 7 **Days of Reflection** with facilitated input and reflection.

- 24th August 24 – “Bread of Heaven” – 9 participants
- 5th October 2024 “Love Changes Everything” – 15 participants
- 7th December 2024 “Waiting for God” – 13 participants
- 5th April 2025 “Beyond the cross” – 8 participants
- 24th May 2025 “Rise Up” – 6 participants
- 14th June 2025 “Filled with the Spirit” – 6 participants
- 26th July 2025 “Growing into Fruitfulness” 7 participants

In all a total of 64 attendees have participated in days of reflection at Sanctuary during the year.

The '**First Friday - Open Garden**' was introduced in 2024. The idea was that people could 'drop in' at any point in the day for space and reflection and there would always be someone on call to listen to then, guide them if required. Numbers varied, and the trustees also felt there was a degree of health/safety risk about not knowing who might come, therefore a booking system was introduced. This has resulted in 5 open garden sessions during the year with 1 or 2 people taking the time 'to get away' and pray.

In 2025 a weekly series of **lunchtime lent prayer and reflection** sessions were delivered in the prayer cabin/garden at Sanctuary, on Tuesday lunchtimes, attracting up to 7 people each time.

The Trust Secretary/ Spiritual Director has also hosted and facilitated **day retreats** at the request of other groups engaged in spirituality work.

- On 10th August 2024 10 'Street Pastors' from Bexleyheath took part in a Day of Reflection.
- On 14th September 2024, 11 members of Bexleyheath Christian Women's Group participated in a day of quiet guided prayer activities.
- And on March 29th 2025 she facilitated a day for Portsmouth Diocesan Spirituality Committee at Douai Abbey.

In addition to the formal delivery of retreats and spiritual direction, on occasion people have requested use of the garden/prayer cabin at Sanctuary for their own personal prayer space/ retreat. 4 individuals have used the space in this way, booking 6 days in total at Sanctuary and the Archdiocese of Southwark had a day for 8 members in July 2025.

The work has attracted a range of people from different Christian backgrounds who are seeking to deepen their prayer life and connection with God. Some of those who have benefitted from the activities have experienced personal loss, bereavement or additional isolation due to personal ill health or disability.

Participants have expressed gratitude for the opportunity to be engaged in such activity with such feedback as:

"Thank you so much for such another rewarding Quiet Day in your beautiful Sanctuary Garden last Saturday. I really look forward to these days as I know I will find the peace, space and prayerfulness that is missing in my every day rush and hurry. I come away so uplifted and joyful. Please don't change anything!"

"Thank you for the retreat time a real time of blessing and meeting with God, a wonderfully peacefully place with good resources and well lead as always. Thank you once again for the opportunity to take time out from the world and meet with God."

*Thanks for a wonderful day, peaceful and thought provoking.
I would love to get dates for next year. Thanks for all your hard work and kindness.*

Peace for my soul = a true sense of the presence of God -- forever thankful.

Two years on from a bereavement I was surprised how low in mood I have felt. But I did feel a sense of serenity after the session.

I found it very inspiring and useful. I think there was just the right amount of input and quiet time.

"Loved the printed handouts – though provoking, the right amount of material to help the reflection and to take away!"

The Trustees are grateful that the charity has been able to continue to support the local community. Clearly, we have made a difference to the lives of those who have participated in prayers and retreats and we trust that in doing so there have also been wider benefits to society as a whole, because people have grown in their own faith journeys and been in a position to work for the 'common good' within their families, friendship groups and communities.

Public benefit:

The trustees have read the Commission's Public Benefit requirement statutory guidance, and have had regard to this when running the charity.

The charities events and activities are open to all people regardless of gender, age, ability, sexuality, ethnicity, personal background or belief.

There is no charge for engaging with any of the services provided. Donations are requested on the basis of an individual's ability to pay.

A review of the charity's financial position at the end of the year:

During the year up to July 31st 2025 many of the charity's activities continued to be delivered at little or no cost to the charity because of volunteer assistance and pro-bono support from spiritual advisors, facilitators and IT provision. The trustees cannot quantify this contribution in

financial terms but wish to acknowledge their grateful thanks to all who have given of their time and expertise.

Donations received from those who have participated in spiritual activities during the year amounted to £2744. Further donations of £3000 were received from St. John Fisher Church during the year 2024/5 in order to develop prayer activities and resources.

The total income of the charity during the year was £5744

The total expenditure of the charity to end of July 2025 was £9278 which included a significant investment of £ 2,300 in supporting the Trust Secretary to complete the full Spiritual Exercises of St Ignatius of Loyola and thus develop the potential of the charity to make the exercises more accessible to all.

Funds carried forward at the start of the year 2024/5 amounted to £37,864

Funds brought forward to 2025/6 amounted to £34,330

The purpose of these funds is to continue to grow the work of the charity in order that significantly more activity can be delivered, including use and development of the outdoor prayer space, development of prayer resources and increased in person activity. It will not be possible to achieve this through voluntary support alone.

Signature:



Martin Smyth
Chair and Trustee



Douglas Bull
Treasurer and Trustee

Date: 8.11.2025

	2024 Total £	2025 Total £
INCOME :		
<i>Donations:</i>		
Donated income	10,632	5,744
Investment income	0	0
Total Income	10,632	5,744
EXPENDITURE:		
Expenditure on Charitable Activities	£6975	£9,278
Total Expenditure	£6,975	£9,278

RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS:

Total funds brought forward	£37,864
Total funds carried forward at 31 July	£34,330

£ 2025 £

CURRENT ASSETS

Cash at bank and in hand £34,330
Other Assets 0

CREDITORS: Amounts due
within one year 0

NET CURRENT ASSETS

LIABILITIES

0
£34,330

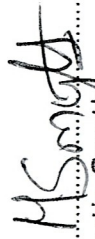
NET ASSETS

FUNDS :

Unrestricted funds £25,913
Designated Funds £ 9,137

TOTAL FUNDS £ 34,330

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees on November 8th 2025 and were signed below on its behalf by:


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Martin Smyth
Chair and Trustee


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Fr Douglas Bull
Treasurer and Trustee

November 8th 2025

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of the financial statements are as follows:

a) Basis of Accounting

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with 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) - (Charities SORP (FRS102)), the financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

Akwaaba Sanctuary Trust meets the definition of a public entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes.

b) Going concern

The Board of Trustees is of the opinion that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future and there are no material uncertainties regarding the Trust's ability to do so.

c) Tangible fixed Assets

No fixed assets are held.

d) Taxation

Akwaaba Sanctuary Trust is a registered charity and accordingly is not liable to United Kingdom taxation.

The charity is registered with HMRC for Gift Aid - Gift Aided donations have been made to the charity, however no Gift Aid has yet been claimed up to July 2025.

e) Income

Income comprises of gifts, donations, and investment income. The income is recognised when it is probable to be received can be measured reliably and charity is entitled to it.

f) Expenditure

Charitable expenditure consists of all expenditure relating to the objects of the Charity. All costs are directly attributable to the activities under which they have been analysed.

Governance costs include expenditure on the governance of the charity and its assets and are primarily associated with constitutional and statutory requirements.

Irrecoverable VAT is included with the category of expense to which it relates.

g) Funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use by the charity in accordance with its objects. Designated funds are held and applied for the purposes agreed.

h) Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents includes cash held in a bank current account and/or deposit account.

i) Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

j) Estimates and Judgements

Estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. Although these estimates are based on the trustee's best knowledge of the amount, events or actions, actual results ultimately differ from these estimates. The trustees do not consider there to be any estimates and judgements.

k) Financial Instruments

The charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments, including trade and other debtors and creditors are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

Akwaaba Sanctuary Trust

Trustee Annual Report and Accounts 2024-5

Registered Charity number 119326