

The Saffires Project

Report and Accounts

Year ended 31 March 2025

Stewardship 
Active generosity

1 Lamb's Passage, London EC1Y 8AB
www.stewardship.org.uk

THE SAFFIRES PROJECT
LEGAL & ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

ADDRESS FOR CORRESPONDENCE	c/o Central Baptist Church Charles Street Leicester LE1 1LA
GOVERNING DOCUMENT	CIO Foundation registered February 2021 as amended April 2021
CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER	1193407
TRUSTEES RESPONSIBLE FOR MANAGING THE CHARITY	Susan Bamber Deborah Bryan (appointed September 2024) Andrew Elton Claire Greaves Rebecca Panting
BANKERS	CAF Bank Ltd
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER	Jaimée Young Stewardship 1 Lamb's Passage LONDON EC1Y 8AB

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THE SAFFIRES PROJECT
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Objects of the charity

The charity is governed by a constitution and is constituted as a charitable incorporated organisation. The charity's principal objects, as set out in its governing document, are:

- To advance the Christian faith in accordance with the Statement of Faith;
- To relieve the charitable physical, emotional and spiritual needs of people who are involved in the sex industry in particular, but not exclusively, by:
 - (a) providing outreach and support services directed to such needs; and
 - (b) raising awareness and educating the general public about the condition and needs of sex industry workers;
- To relieve and prevent poverty among people who are involved in the sex industry in particular, but not exclusively, by operating a hardship fund to provide financial assistance to such persons who are in or at risk of poverty

In each case in the city of Leicester and in such other parts of the United Kingdom or the world as the charity trustees may from time to time think fit.

We, as trustees, recognise that it is our legal obligation to ensure that the charity's activities are in line with our objectives and activities and we are satisfied that this is the case for the period in question. We also confirm that we have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

Governance

The management of the charity is the responsibility of the trustees who are elected and co-opted under the terms of the Constitution. New trustees are advised of their obligations under charity and company law, the content of the Constitution as well as the structure and decision making process of the charity. Trustees who are also members generally meet quarterly but will also meet more frequently if the need arises. Meetings are minuted.

The trustees determine the day to day operations of the charity or appoint appropriate officers to whom this responsibility is delegated.

Achievements and Performance

Outreach

Street and Parlour Outreach activities continued during this period, and formed the bulk of our activity with beneficiaries. During this period 40 street outreach sessions took place, during which 36 women were engaged with 111 times. These interactions involved sharing information about dangerous customers, providing drinks and snacks, condoms, warm gloves, gifts at particular times of year, as well as a friendly face to talk to. Where appropriate, prayer was offered to women. Parlour outreach visits took place 77 times, visiting 5 parlours where we engaged with 38 women 178 times. During these visits, gifts were delivered, safety information shared, and relationships invested in as the teams spent time getting to know each woman. We also offered bespoke support to 8 women across 83 sessions during this period. Support needs varied across individual women and the length of time support was offered was determined by each individual - some have accessed ongoing support on a regular basis, others for a short period or for specific needs.

A key encouragement during this period has been the increase in women reaching out to us independently for support. One woman in particular reached out to us as she was looking for faith-based support. With our support she was able to reconnect with church, exit selling sex, volunteer at a local business, and escape an abusive relationship.

Safeguarding

All staff and volunteers received contextualised safeguarding training in this financial year. This was delivered internally but in partnership with a similar charity based in Coventry and Birmingham, allowing for opportunities for networking and peer-learning amongst volunteers. The implementation of the safeguarding module on our database greatly improved our recording, management and reporting of safeguarding concerns and disclosures.

Recruitment

Staff levels have remained largely unchanged during this period. Most notable variations include our Fundraiser starting maternity leave at the end of 2024, for which we have struggled to recruit suitable cover and have engaged the services of a consultant fundraiser in her absence. With the return of our Outreach Support Worker from maternity leave at the very end of the financial year, we were able to retain her cover in a new position as Admin Assistant thanks to a large donation specifically for the role, which will hopefully increase the capacity of the team. With the launch of our outreach van at the end of the financial year, we were able to recruit a number of additional volunteers to drive the van, as well as another outreach volunteer. We have struggled to recruit additional volunteers for our parlour outreach team so still remain at only one volunteer alongside the staff team.

Training & Awareness

At the end of 2024 we produced a training session for other professionals to increase their understanding of the issues women who sell sex may be facing, as well as supporting them to facilitate and respond to disclosures that women may make. This was trialled at a partner agency staff training day and after receiving highly positive feedback we have been able to roll this out to other organisations, as well as continuing to share our awareness sessions with county-wide groups such as Women's Institute meetings, church groups and other local interest groups.

Financial review

During the year income increased by £83,800, to £129,600, and expenditure increased by £71,800, to £113,500. As a result the cash held by the charity increased by £16,000, to £45,900, of which £15,700 is unrestricted and can be used for any charitable purpose.

Finances are reviewed each month by two trustees and at each trustee meeting.

Reserves policy

The reserves policy is to aim to hold unrestricted cash reserves equivalent to 3 months of core expenditure (approximately £13,000); comprised of the total of salaries/pensions/tax, utility costs, and rental costs. This is in addition to any fixed assets held and used for the charity's aims and purposes. This level of reserves should ensure that at any time of the year the charity is not required to borrow funds on overdraft from its bankers. Any additional reserves are generated with a view to fund longer-term projects.

Financial updates, including the level of unrestricted cash reserves, are produced for the Trustees for each Trustee meeting, or monthly in times of high inflation, and at the end of the financial year.

At the year end, the charity held unrestricted cash of £15,700 and the charity is complying with its reserves policy.

Responsibilities of trustees

Charity law requires us as Trustees to prepare financial statements for each accounting year which record the receipts and payments of the charity for the year.

We are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable us to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011.

We also have a responsibility to safeguard the assets of the charity and to take reasonable steps to prevent fraud or any other irregularities.

Approval

This report was approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf by:

RPanting

RPanting (Nov 28, 2025 14:04:27 GMT)

Rebecca Panting

Date: Nov 28, 2025

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
TO THE TRUSTEES OF
THE SAFFIRES PROJECT

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of The Saffires Project ('the charity') for the year ended 31 March 2025 on pages 6 to 9 following.

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 2011 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 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material 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 accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with the accounting records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

J. Young
J. Young (Dec 4, 2025 11:43:47 GMT)

Jaimée Young
Stewardship
1 Lamb's Passage
LONDON
EC1Y 8AB

Date: Dec 4, 2025

THE SAFFIRES PROJECT
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds	2025	2024
		General Funds	Designated Funds			
		£	£	£	£	£
Income receipts						
Donations and grants	4	24,518	-	104,498	129,016	45,383
Gift aid receipts		-	-	-	-	-
Interest		465	-	-	465	271
Other		97	-	-	97	93
Total receipts		<u>25,080</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>104,498</u>	<u>129,579</u>	<u>45,746</u>
Payments						
Payments in relation to charitable activities undertaken directly	2	29,868	-	62,092	91,961	41,744
		<u>29,868</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>62,092</u>	<u>91,961</u>	<u>41,744</u>
Purchase of fixed assets [van]	4	-	-	21,594	21,594	-
		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>21,594</u>	<u>21,594</u>	<u>-</u>
Total payments		<u>29,868</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>83,686</u>	<u>113,555</u>	<u>41,744</u>
Net of receipts / (payments) before		(4,788)	-	20,812	16,024	4,002
Transfers between funds	4	-	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		<u>(4,788)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>20,812</u>	<u>16,024</u>	<u>4,002</u>
Cash funds as at last year end		20,517	-	9,377	29,894	25,892
Cash funds at this year end	A	<u>15,729</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>30,189</u>	<u>45,918</u>	<u>29,894</u>

The notes on pages 8 - 9 form part of these accounts.

THE SAFFIRES PROJECT
STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES
AS AT THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

	Notes	<u>Unrestricted Funds</u>		Restricted funds	2025	2024
		General funds	Designated funds			
		£	£	£	£	£
A Cash funds						
Cash at bank with immediate access		15,719	-	30,189	45,908	29,867
Petty cash		10	-	-	10	27
		<u>15,729</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>30,189</u>	<u>45,918</u>	<u>29,894</u>
B Other monetary assets						
Gift aid due to charity		2,840	-	-	2,840	1,210
Other debtors		6,909	-	-	6,909	-
		<u>9,750</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>9,750</u>	<u>1,210</u>
C Liabilities						
Falling due within one year						
Taxes due		-	-	-	-	270
Pension due		259	-	-	259	-
Fee for Independent Examination		1,080	-	-	1,080	840
		<u>1,339</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,339</u>	<u>1,110</u>

D Assets retained for charity's own use

	Purchase cost	Value
	£	2025
	£	£
Equipment		9,171
Motor vehicles (van) - purchased January 2025	21,594	
	<u>21,594</u>	<u>9,171</u>

The purchase cost has been shown for the van.

The trustees have used insurance values for equipment - insurance values may differ materially from current values.

E Guarantees and secured debts

The charity has not given any guarantees and has not provided its assets as security for any liabilities.

The accounts were approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf by:

RPanting
 RPanting (Nov 28, 2025 14:04:27 GMT)

Rebecca Panting

Date: Nov 28, 2025

The notes on pages 8 - 9 form part of these accounts.

THE SAFFIRES PROJECT
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

1 Accounting policies

The accounts have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis and comprise a statement that shows the charity's receipts and payments, a statement that summarises the charity's assets and liabilities and related notes. The accountancy profession have determined that only accounts prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards present a 'true and fair' view and, as these receipts and payments accounts have not (and cannot) be prepared in accordance with accounting standards, these accounts do not present (and are not intended to present) a 'true and fair' view of the charity's financial activities and state of affairs.

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity. Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the trustees for particular purposes. Restricted funds are donations which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors; they include donations received from appeals for specific activities or projects.

		<u>Unrestricted Funds</u>		Restricted Funds	2025	2024
		General funds	Designated funds			
		£	£	£	£	£
2 Payments in relation to charitable activities undertaken directly						
Employment costs	Note 3	21,074	-	32,209	53,283	34,346
Vehicle expenses		-	-	27,919	27,919	-
Outreach, activity costs and training		2,340	-	1,964	4,304	2,515
Rent		2,033	-	-	2,033	2,071
Administration, support and equipment		2,927	-	-	2,927	2,307
Insurance		654	-	-	654	505
Independent examination		840	-	-	840	-
		<u>29,868</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>62,092</u>	<u>91,961</u>	<u>41,744</u>

3 Transactions with related parties

Rebecca Panting served as a manager and was paid £20,544 [2024: £18,591] for serving in that capacity, not for serving as a trustee; these payments are permitted by the charity's governing document, and include employer pension contributions.

No payments were made to any other trustees or persons related to them, except for reimbursement of expenses paid out on behalf of the charity.

THE SAFFIRES PROJECT
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

4 Movement of funds

	Opening balance £	Receipts £	Payments £	Transfers £	Closing balance £
General funds	20,517	25,080	(29,868)	-	15,729
Restricted funds					
Fundraiser	-	7,200	(5,565)	-	1,635
Street	7,308	10,000	(10,207)	-	7,101
Christmas	-	515	(361)	-	154
Outreach van	-	57,268	(49,513)	-	7,755
Admin assistant	-	3,016	-	-	3,016
Parlour	40	26,500	(17,004)	-	9,536
Parlour - Inspire bags	191	-	-	-	191
Wellbeing packs	1,837	-	(1,036)	-	801
	<u>9,377</u>	<u>104,498</u>	<u>(83,686)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>30,189</u>
Total funds	<u>29,894</u>	<u>129,579</u>	<u>(113,555)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>45,918</u>

Fundraiser - relates to a grant provided to support the costs of employing a fundraiser.

Street relates to funds raised to support our street outreach programme

Christmas - relates to donations for purchasing Christmas gifts to be distributed on outreach to clients accessing bespoke support services.

Outreach van - funds were raised for a van which was purchased during the year, and the remaining funds will be spent on associated vehicle expenses.

Admin assistant - relates to funds raised to employ an Admin assistant.

Parlour - Inspire bags are bags we took to each parlour 4 times a year. These included a range of creative activities and resources to give women opportunities to try something new, exercise creative skill and hopefully build connections with others as they worked together on a creative project. Activities included making Christmas cards, making their own grounding kit, stone painting, and some reading material/puzzle books.

Wellbeing packs are packs that contain a variety of items to improve women's wellbeing. Items include safety information, signposting leaflets, personal alarm, sexual health items for physical wellbeing, a notebook, pen, candle, sweet treat, fidget toy, wellbeing booklet, colouring activity and pencils for mental and emotional wellbeing. These are primarily being offered through online outreach but will be used across the project as appropriate.