

Asha: A Community of Hope

Annual Report and Accounts

01 January 2025
to 31 December 2025

Charity Registration Number
1200292

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the charity, its Trustees, and advisers

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Trustees

Robert Alistair Scott
Scott Paul Burdsall
Akik Miah
Dr. Scarlett Louise Gard
Abigail Virgo
Emily Tanquary

Registered office

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Telephone

07710144308

Website

<https://ashatowerhamlets.org>

Charity registration number

1200292

Bankers

Lloyds Bank plc
25 Gresham Street
London
EC2V 7HN

Trustees' Report 31 December 2025

The Trustees present their report with the accounts of the charitable company for the year from 1st January 2025 to 31st December 2025.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out on page 8 of the attached accounts and comply with the charity's constitution, applicable laws, and the requirements of Statement of Recommended Practice on "Accounting and Reporting by Charities".

Introduction

Asha: A Community of Hope, also known as ASHA, (Charity Number 1200292 Registered in England and Wales) is established as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation.

Asha was registered as a charity on 6th September 2022 and the governing document for the charity is its Constitution dated 26th August 2022.

Objectives

The Objects for which the charity is established are:

1. The advancement of the Christian faith in accordance with the Basis of Faith and Doctrinal Foundations, primarily, but not exclusively, within Tower Hamlets and the surrounding neighbourhood; and
2. Such other charitable purposes as shall, in the opinion of the charity trustees, put into practice the Christian faith in accordance with the Basis of Faith and Doctrinal Foundations, including but not limited to: the prevention and relief of need, hardship and sickness; the advancement of education; and the provision of facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation or other leisure time occupation of individuals who have need of such facilities by reason of their youth, age, infirmity or disability, financial hardship or social circumstances with the object of improving their conditions of life.

GOVERNANCE, STRUCTURE AND MANAGEMENT

Trustees

The following Trustees were in office in the period to 31st December 2025.

Robert Alistair Scott*	Chairman	Appointed 6 th May 2022
Scott Paul Burdsall	Trustee	Appointed 6 th May 2022
Akik Miah	Trustee	Appointed 6 th May 2022
Dr. Scarlett Louise Gard	Trustee	Appointed 6 th May 2022
Abigail Virgo**	Trustee	Appointed 6 th May 2022
Emily Tanquary	Trustee	Appointed 17 th January 2024

*This Trustee became a member of staff on 1st July after a TUPE process, and as agreed in the Trustee Meetings of January and April 2024

** This Trustee is also a member of staff. Authorisation for their employment while being a Trustee was given during a Trustee meeting on 6th May 2022. This was in line with the provisions of our constitution (Paragraph 6.6) which were fully adhered to by Asha in deciding and making the appointment.

Trustee Induction and Training

New Trustees are provided with information on their responsibilities as Trustees and the activities of the charity.

Risk Assessment

The Trustees have conducted a review of the potential risks of the Charity and believe that there are satisfactory systems in place to identify and mitigate any material exposure. The risk exposure is viewed by the Trustees as being very low.

Trustees' Report 31 December 2025

Uses of funds

The Trustees hereby certify that no grant funds have been used to support terrorism; or

To cause any private inurement or improper private benefit to occur, or to take any other action inconsistent with Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code; or

To make any substantial attempt to influence legislation in any nation or other political unit; or

To influence in any nation or other political unit the outcome of any election for or against any candidate for public office; or

To violate any United States of America law including but not limited to laws prohibiting the support of terrorism.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financial position and reserves policy

For the Period ended 31 December 2025 donations of £218,157 (2024: £186,497) were received from supporting churches, individuals and trusts, ASHA spent £163,100 (2024: £96,651) to further the objectives of the charity in the same period, and the funds at the period end were £177,367 (2024: £117,382), of which funds £2,949 are restricted (2024: £4,890).

The charity is mainly dependent on voluntary donations from individuals, churches, and trusts with a small amount of income from charitable activities and investment income. The level of income can fluctuate throughout the year. Therefore, the Trustees consider that it is appropriate for the charity to hold reserves of approximately three months adjusted budgeted expenditure.

The total unrestricted reserves at the period end were £174,418 (2024: £112,492) which represents more than three months of adjusted budgeted expenditure for 2026 (£54,000).

The Trustees review the reserve policy on an annual basis.

Trustees' responsibilities statement

The charity's Trustees are responsible for preparing the Annual Report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Standards.

Charity law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial period which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company during the period and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the net income and expenditure, of the charitable company for the financial period. In preparing financial statements giving a true and fair view, the Trustees should follow best practice and are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently.
- Observe the methods and principles of the Charities SORP.
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- Follow applicable accounting standards, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements.
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy the financial position of the charity, and which enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the charity's constitution. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Trustees' Report 31 December 2025

Review of Activities and Highlights for 2025

"Asha" means hope in Sylheti, and we want to be a community of hope, for English-speakers, for Sylheti-speakers, for all – through Jesus the Messiah. The Trustees, having considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion have carried out the following activities in the pursuit of its aim; Sunday meetings, Tuesday evening bible studies, ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) classes, home visits, Bible studies for the community, door-to-door outreach, a bookshop and several other activities to engage with our communities and build relationships including: an arts & crafts drop-in; book tables at local markets, film evenings, videos on Facebook, sharing Podcasts and teaching for local school children.

Our Sunday Afternoon meeting gathers men, women and children from the community. We listen to God's word from the front and discuss it in groups, sing songs in English and Sylheti and organize children's groups. We have become more established over 2025, averaging 30 people in attendance by the end of the year. Of these people, usually a quarter to a third are Sylheti-speakers. For special events like Christmas, we have had 70-80 people join us. One highlight during the year was a day out to Chalkwell together: we had Bible teaching in the morning and fun times on the beach in the afternoon. Our Sunday teaching this year has been from Matthew's Gospel, Acts, John's Gospel and Genesis. It has helped us to see more of who Jesus the Messiah is and how to live for him in this world.

On Tuesday Evenings we meet to study the bible and pray together. This is key to equip and encourage one another for life and ministry. We have looked at the Bible books of Exodus, Psalms and Ephesians, as well as engaging in discussing how best to translate Bible passages into Sylheti. Due to a few more people joining us, we now meet in 2 homes.

We run weekly women's ESOL classes at a beginner and intermediate level on Wednesdays. Women have the opportunity to increase their English confidence, build new friendships, understand more about UK culture, and to hear a Bible story. We work hard to create a welcoming, peaceful, and distinctly Christian environment where women feel safe and loved. Around 30 women continue to come regularly each week. The arts & crafts drop-in is to provide further conversational help for some ladies, as well as to be a space for ladies who are on a waiting list. A men's ESOL class has also been established this year. Before the summer, around 6-8 men were coming each week, but numbers reduced in the autumn as some men found work and were unable to attend.

We have small groups of individuals visit our Shantir Boi book shop and library each day. Some people more than once, and we have interactive faith conversations with them. We host members of the Tower Project (a charity supporting adults with disabilities) twice a week, providing a safe space for them to read and relax, as well as occasional teaching from the Bible. Much free literature has been taken from our outdoor cases, as well as supplying local churches for their outreach.

Trustees' Report 31 December 2025

Large amounts of tracts, booklets, gospels and complete Bibles in a variety of languages have also been given away at a weekly book table in a local market. At times we have teamed up with London City Mission and other churches to make this happen. Often interesting and engaging inter-faith discussions have also taken place, as well as more robust conversations answering common objections to the Christian faith.

We produce, edit, and send out videos targeted Sylheti people's Facebook feeds. Over the year this has included posts linked to the seasons and religious festivals, stories from local believers and how they came to faith, as well as clips from the gospel accounts of Jesus' life. There have been over 300,000 separate views of our posts.

We also provide training to UK-based Christians and organise several other activities with visitors from overseas to engage with our community and build relationships. In 2025 we hosted 200 people and were involved in training similar numbers elsewhere.

We were delighted in the autumn to be able to employ an intern. The intern receives training externally as well as in-house and engages in a wide variety of our outreaches. We were also joined by a student on placement from Oak Hill Theological College, who has helped particularly with our teaching on Sundays and Tuesdays.

We are mainly supported by and work in partnership with St Helen's Church Bishopsgate, Serge (a US based, non-denominational mission agency) and London City Mission. We receive donations to fund our activities from individuals, trusts, and other churches both in the United Kingdom and the United States of America, and we are an entirely charitable organisation.

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:

Robert Alistair Scott, Chairman of the board of Trustees

R A Scott

Approved on:

26/4/26

Asha: A Community of Hope
Charity registration number 1200292

Statement of Financial Activities

For the year between 1st January 2025 and 31st December 2025

		Un restricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Year from 1 Jan - 31 Dec 2025 £	Year from 1 Jan - 31 Dec 2024 £
Income and Expenditure	Note				
Income					
Incoming resources from generated funds:					
Voluntary Income	2	205,257	12,900	218,157	186,497
Income from charitable activities	3	855	-	855	3,857
Investment income	4	4,073	-	4,073	1,278
Total income		210,185	12,900	223,085	191,632
Expenditure					
Cost of generating funds	5	896	-	896	2198
Charitable activities	5	137,577	14,841	152,418	87,563
Governance and administration	6	9,786	-	9,786	6,890
Total resources expended		148,259	14,841	163,100	96,651
Net income for the period		61,926	-1,941	59,985	94,981
Transfers between funds	11	-	-	-	-
Net Movement in Funds		61,926	-1,941	59,985	94,981
Fund balances brought forward		112,492	4,890	117,382	22,401
Total funds carried forward		174,418	2,949	177,367	117,382

The charity has no recognised gains and losses on investment assets; therefore, no separate statement of total recognised gains and losses has been prepared.

The notes on pages 8 to 12 form part of these accounts.

Balance sheet

As at 31st December 2025

		31st December 2025	31st December 2024
	Notes	£	£
Current assets			
Debtors	8	4,490	7,478
Cash at bank and in hand	9	177,054	115,661
		<u>181,544</u>	<u>123,139</u>
Creditors:			
Amounts falling due within one year	10	4,177	5,757
Net current assets		<u>177,367</u>	<u>117,382</u>
Total net assets		<u>177,367</u>	<u>117,382</u>
Represented by:			
Funds and reserves	11		
Unrestricted funds		174,418	112,492
Restricted funds		2,949	4,890
Total charitable funds		<u>177,367</u>	<u>117,382</u>

The notes on pages 8 to 12 form part of these accounts.

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

For the financial period ended 31st December 2025 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and an independent examination is needed.

The Trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for ensuring that the charity keeps accounting records which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity as at the end of the reporting period and of the net movement in funds.

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:
Robert Alistair Scott - Chairman of the Board of Trustees

R A Scott

Approved on:

26/4/26

Asha: A Community of Hope
Charity registration number 1200292

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31st December 2025

1 Accounting Policies

i. Basis of accounting

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention, and in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011. Applicable accounting standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and the Statement of Recommended Practice "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" (SORP 2005) have been followed in these accounts.

ii. Income

Income is recognised in the period in which the charity is entitled to receipt, when the charity has unconditional entitlement to the income and the amount can be measured with reasonable certainty.

iii. Expenses and the basis of apportioning costs

Expenditure is included in the statement of financial activities when incurred and includes VAT which cannot be recovered.

Expenses comprise the following:

- a. The costs of charitable activities comprise expenditure on the charity's primary charitable purposes as described in the Trustees' report.
- b. Governance and Administration costs represent indirect charitable expenditure. To carry out the activities of the charity it is necessary to provide support in the form of personnel development, financial procedures, provision of office services and equipment and a suitable working environment.

iv. Funds structure

The funds of the charity comprise unrestricted funds, which can be expended at the discretion of the trustees in line with the governing document of the charity and restricted funds which have been given a specific designation by the donor.

v. Taxation

ASHA is a registered charity and therefore is not liable to income tax or corporation tax on income derived from its charitable activities, as it falls within the various exemptions available to registered charities.

The charity is not registered for Value Added Tax and therefore expenditure is recorded inclusive of VAT.

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31st December 2025

2 Voluntary Income

	Un restricted	Restricted	Year from 1 Jan - 31 Dec 2025	Year from 1 Jan - 31 Dec 2024
	£	£	£	£
Donations and gifts				
Individuals - church giving	22,275		22,275	31,623
Individuals - other partners	55,751		55,751	57,775
Churches	105,862	5,400	111,262	76,160
Other Charities and trusts	7,372	7,500	14,872	9,457
Gift aid income tax recoverable	9,438		9,438	7,301
Other income	4,559		4,559	4,181
	<u>205,257</u>	<u>12,900</u>	<u>218,157</u>	<u>186,497</u>

3 Income from Charitable activities

	Un restricted	Restricted	Year from 1 Jan - 31 Dec 2025	Year from 1 Jan - 31 Dec 2024
	£	£	£	£
Weekends Away	314	-	314	2,907
Bookshop income	541		541	950
Catering				
	<u>855</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>855</u>	<u>3,857</u>

4 Investment income

	Un restricted	Restricted	Year from 1 Jan - 31 Dec 2025	Year from 1 Jan - 31 Dec 2024
	£	£	£	£
Bank interest	4,073	-	4,073	1,278
Total	<u>4,073</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>4,073</u>	<u>1,278</u>

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31st December 2025

5 Charitable activities

	Un restricted	Restricted	Yearfrom 1 Jan - 31 Dec 2025	Yearfrom 1 Jan - 31 Dec 2024
	£	£	£	£
Staff Costs	122,059	12,900	134,959	75,608
Training	4,634	-	4,634	1,223
Weekends Away	1,245	-	1,245	4,978
Digital media costs	-	1,941	1,941	792
Outreach Activities	2,172	-	2,172	1,672
Catering expenses	1,160	-	1,160	1,033
Compassionate Giving	5,510	-	5,510	1,725
ESOL	797	-	797	532
Bookshop costs*	896	-	896	2,198
Total	138,473	14,841	153,314	89,761

*Cost of generating funds

6 Governance and Administration Costs

	Un restricted	Restricted	Yearfrom 1 Jan - 31 Dec 2025	Yearfrom 1 Jan - 31 Dec 2024
	£	£	£	£
Professional services	695	-	695	1,700
Licences/Membership costs	303	-	303	579
Safeguarding costs	1,106	-	1,106	413
Other costs	190	-	190	325
Insurance costs	292	-	292	273
Premises costs	7,200	-	7,200	3,600
Total	9,786	-	9,786	6,890

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31st December 2025

7 Staff Costs

	Un restricted	Restricted	Year from 1 Jan - 31 Dec 2025	Year from 1 Jan - 31 Dec 2024
	£	£	£	£
Salaries and Wages	103,342	12,900	116,242	58,226
Taxation and social security costs	3,320		3,320	9,389
Pension Costs	15,397	-	15,397	7,993
Total	122,059	12,900	134,959	75,608

During the period, four (two part-time and two full time) members of staff were employed by the charity. One part time member of staff was employed effective from 21st September 2025.

No employees received remuneration exceeding £60,000.

None of the Trustees received any remuneration for their services as Trustees during the period. None of the Trustees were reimbursed any expenses incurred in the performance of their duties as Trustees.

8 Debtors

	31st December 2025	31st December 2024
	£	£
Gift aid income tax recoverable	335	158
Prepayments	4,155	7,320
Total	4,490	7,478

9 Cash and cash equivalents

	31st December 2025	31st December 2024
	£	£
Cash in hand	3,191	9,318
Notice deposits (less than 3 months)	56,278	50,543
Notice deposits (less than 6 months)	117,585	55,800
Total	177,054	115,661

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31st December 2025

10 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	31st December 2025	31st December 2024
	£	£
Taxation and social security costs	2,540	5,757
Pension Costs	1,637	0
Accruals	0	0
Total	4,177	5,757

11 Funds

	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	Balances at 31st December 2025	Balances at 31st December 2024
	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted				
General fund	210,185	(148,259)	174,418	112,492
Restricted				
Staffing fund	12,900	(12,900)	-	-
Digital media fund	0	(1,941)	2,949	4,890
Total	223,085	(163,100)	177,367	117,382

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the objectives of the charity.

The Staffing fund has been established to cover the cost of one of the part time workers. The income in this fund was not sufficient to fund the total cost to employ this staff member, the remaining costs are funded out of the general Fund.

The Digital media fund has been established to cover the cost of digital ministry costs of the charity.

12 Lease commitments

As at 31st December 2025 the charity had no written legal lease commitments; the charity has taken over payments under a predecessor lease for the Husk venue from St Helens Bishopsgate. At the time of preparing these accounts the new Lease with the charity has not yet been signed. The below table represents the lease payments the charity has committed to for the year 2026 that will be reflected in the new Lease Agreement.

	31st December 2025	31st December 2024
	£	£
Expiring in less than one year	7,200	7,200
Expiring between one and five years	28,800	

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Asha: A Community of Hope

I report on the unaudited accounts of the charity for the period from 1st January 2025 to 31st December 2025 which are set out on pages 6 to 12.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act
- To follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- To state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items of disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether these accounts present a "true and fair view" and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act ; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities

have not been met; or

(2) to which in my opinion, attention should be drawn to in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Name: Mr. Simon Giblin

Signature:



Relevant Professional qualification or body: ACA (ICAEW)

Address: 22 Hillcrest, London, N21 1AT

Date: 26/4/26

