

THE HAZEL PROJECT

England & Wales · Charity number 1203665

Details

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2023-06-21

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address 3 Cerne Close
North Baddesley
Southampton
SO52 9GX

Phone 07467041039

Email thehazelpro@gmail.com

Website <https://www.thehazelproject.org/>

Activities

Objects: TO ADVANCE THE CHRISTIAN RELIGION FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PUBLIC THROUGH THE HOLDING OF PRAYER MEETINGS, LECTURES, PUBLIC CELEBRATION OF RELIGIOUS FESTIVALS PRODUCING AND/OR DISTRIBUTING LITERATURE TO ENLIGHTEN OTHERS ABOUT THE CHRISTIAN RELIGION AND CARRYING OUT PASTORAL AND OUTREACH WORK IN THE COMMUNITY.

Activities: The Hazel Project is a Christian ministry, started in 2015, to reach out to the vulnerable street homeless community in Southampton, especially those who are struggling with addiction, mental health, homelessness and/or poverty We offer friendship and support with any of their struggles in life and aim to gently introduce the love of God and Jesus into their lives.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body, Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty, Religious Activities
- **Who:** Other Defined Groups

Geography

- Southampton City

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-12-31	£20,463	£28,712	-	-
2024-12-31	£8,676	£5,805	-	-
2023-12-31	£7,265	£4,475	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Alan Bridges	Chair	2023-05-08
Deborah Anne Niblett		2023-05-08
Linda Elizabeth Bridges		2023-05-08

THE HAZEL PROJECT

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Accounts

The Hazel Project (THP) Trustees 2025 Yearly Report

Financially, THP has had another successful year. Of note is that our spending has increased massively (by almost 500%), although so has our income. God has continued to be so generous and gracious to us through you, our supporters, who support us both in financially and in prayer. Our enormous thanks go out to you all. We cannot operate without your generosity.

As mentioned in last year's report, free rehab places, especially at Yeldall Manor have become very hard to come by, due to financial cuts in all areas of social support and government charity funding. We feel it has become our calling to start funding select rehab places for the most appropriate clients who are, of course, in desperate need, but also showing signs of a real desire to change in their lives. At the start of 2025, God had allowed us to build a bank balance amazingly allowing us to do this for two individuals during the year, despite these rehab places being mightily expensive. Our spending on rehab in 2025 was nearly £22K, but incredibly generous donors have meant that our yearly income has almost matched this.

Because of this new strand of expense and need for long term increased funding, we have appointed a Fundraising Co-ordinator, who will present our purposes and needs as a charity to churches and businesses in the Southampton area. We aim to produce a polished presentation and video. This will not be a "hard sell" but we do want to give organisations a chance to know who we are, what we do, and give God an opportunity to inspire them to give. With God's grace, we know He will ultimately provide the funds for what we need to do and the work He has for us.

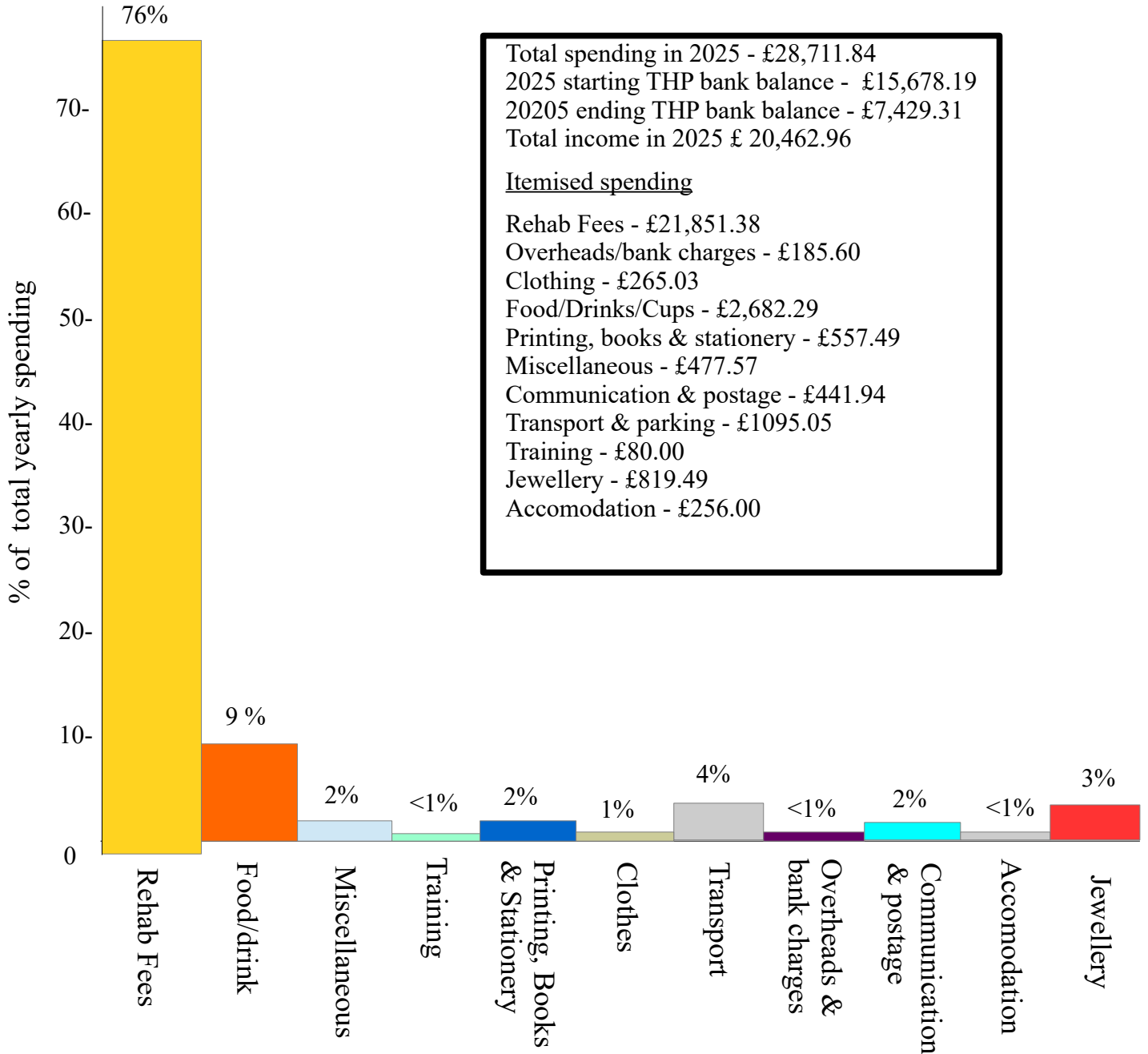
Another new direction this year has been the start of what we are calling "Outreach Plus". We have been finding that take-up of our mentorship scheme has been poor of late, and we also feel that very few of our clients actually have lives organised enough to benefit from such a longer-term and organised arrangement. Even the more organised of our folk lead such chaotic lives that regular engagement with one volunteer on a regular basis over six months is just something that they cannot keep up. Hence we have started Outreach Plus, which has many similar traits to the mentorship, in that it is mainly one volunteer teaming up with one client, but this is to cover a fixed period of need. This might be a hospital admission, preparation for rehab or even the filling out of forms/financial advice etc. This seems to usually be for a shorter period of time and the clients seem to be able to engage in a more positive way to this type of connection. It is something we are feeling our way into currently but it seems like it is proving to be a more effective use of volunteers time and energies.

Despite the huge spend on rehab fees skewing the "% of total yearly spending" statistics (in the figure on page 2) compared to last year's figures the actual spending on most of our "bread & butter" items this year has been at or around very similar levels to last year. A notable exception has been the minimal spending on training this year, which is probably mainly due to the large training input we gave to our volunteers during 2024. Another exception was spending on transport, which was significantly increased compared to 2024. This is largely down to spending on taxis for Linda, our Team Leader, who is dependent on a wheelchair out of the house, and who is such a critical part of most of what THP does. She has had far less availability of lifts this year and most of this year's transport spending was on taxis for her. This was decided by the trustees to be appropriate, within reasonable limits, as she is a constant and vital part of our activities and so many things simply would not happen if she could not make certain journeys for which she is unable to get a lift for. If at all possible, she gets a lift or takes the bus (if her energy and time allows).

As always, food and drink is a key way that we initially connect with the street community and spending continues to reflect this, being very similar to last year. There also continues to be a strong appetite for crucifix and other Christian jewellery within the street community and our spending continues to be strong on these items, even a little bit higher than last year. These jewellery items frequently become treasured possessions for folk who have very very little. Offering these items also seems an excellent way to initiate conversations about faith. Our new THP silicone wristbands with the THP motto words "TRUST HOPE RESPECT" and our contact number have also been very popular on the streets of Southampton !

Volunteer numbers have stayed fairly stable, although we are always on the lookout for mature Christian people who feel a calling to love these Street folk, and have some time

The Hazel Project Itemised Spending 2025



THE HAZEL PROJECT

England & Wales - Charity number 1203665

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The Hazel Project (THP) Trustees 2024 Yearly Report

Financially, THP has had a successful year. Despite increased spending of around 30%, our end of year balance has increased by 22%. God has been so generous and gracious to us through you, our supporters, who support us both in financially and in prayer. Our enormous thanks go out to you all.

A healthy reserve of funds is especially precious as we now need to partially fund rehab places at previously funded rehab institutions. This may require a few thousand pounds in each instance and individuals in receipt of these THP-funded places will be extremely carefully chosen by all trustees. We have currently ringfenced £10K as our “Rehab fund” for this purpose. The whole rehab landscape is constantly changing and accessing it becomes harder and harder so this money may be lifesaving for some.

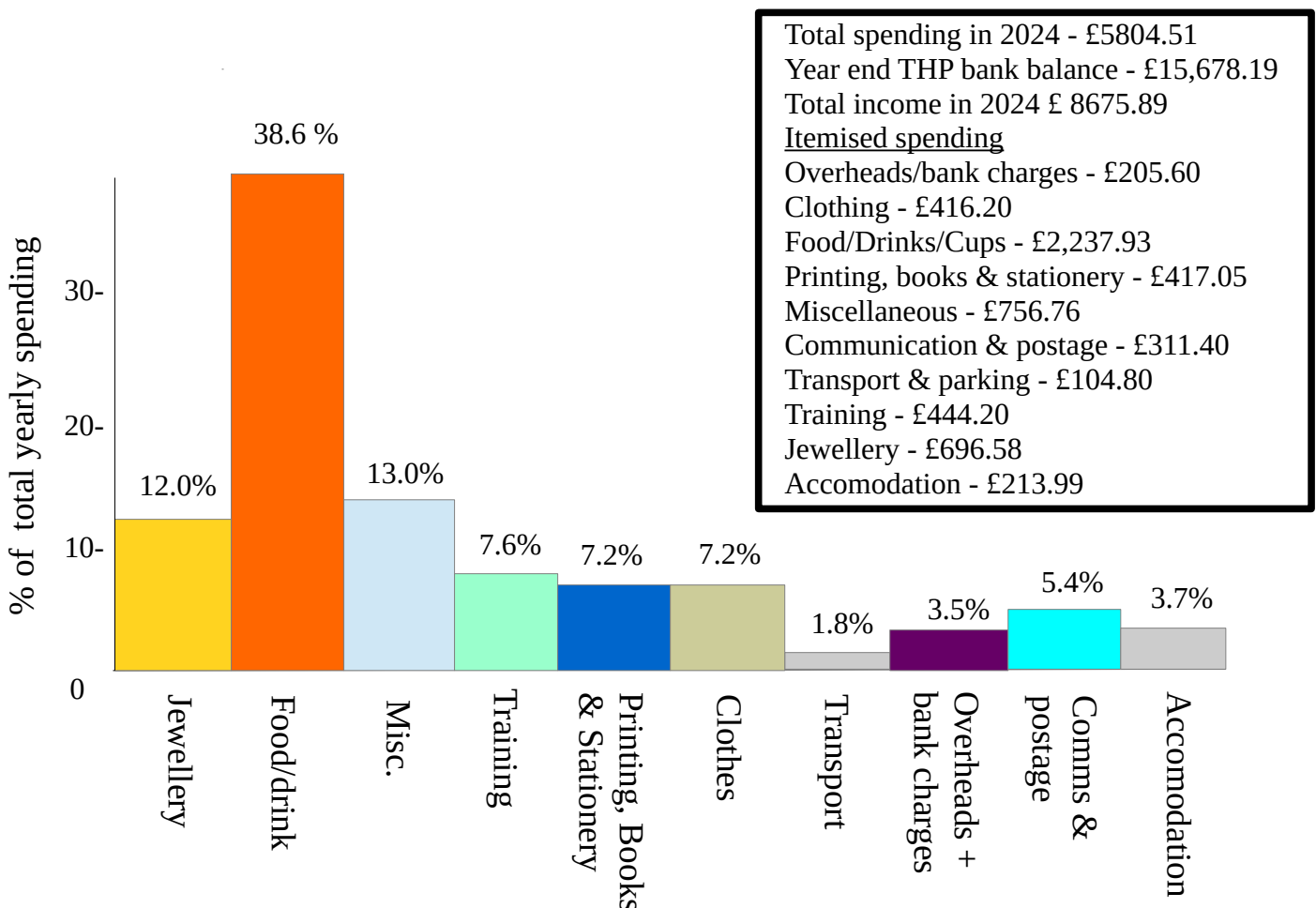
Spending on our “bread & butter” items this year has been at or around expected levels. Food and drink is always our number one way of initially connecting with the street community and spending reflects this. Interestingly there continues to be a strong appetite for crucifix or other Christian jewellery within this community and spending on this has increased to 12% of our annual spend. It is another simple way to make connections with this community, and at times can also be a low pressure way to initiate conversations about faith.

Spending on training was slightly less than last year, although is still at healthy levels and is invaluable for developing all our volunteers. This year saw training in mentorship skills, conflict management, addiction and mental health.

The “Sunday morning breakfasts” started in 2023 have, unfortunately, had to finish due to conflict and arguments within the client group attending, which was unacceptable for a Coffee Shop setting. This is an unfortunate risk when larger groups from the street community are gathered together. Linda now uses this pre-church sunday morning time for individual meetings and support.

A new joint THP/Southampton Lighthouse Church initiative has been a weekly bible study/street collective group entitled “Foundations”. This provides bible study & basic discipleship for those in the Street Community who have progressed to this point in their walk with faith. Now into its second “term” it is going well.

During the year THP has also developed closer ties with CGL, the main government-funded drug and alcohol support service within the city. Most of our clientele also attend CGL and THP has successfully developed links to communicate directly with CGL key workers for clients when necessary. When attempting to organise rehab placements for people this can be particularly useful.



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The Hazel Project (THP) Trustees 2023 Charity Commission Yearly Report

Our funds are looking healthy, still at more than 2 times our current average yearly spend. It is good to have this money in reserve as we aim to occasionally fund short-term niche rehab places for particularly complex individuals whose needs cannot be met by the normal (and free to us) rehab institutions we refer to. This would require a few thousand pounds for each instance. Giving to us has been unexpectedly generous over the year, mainly from churches, but also some individuals and couples. Our thanks go out to you all. Due to this our funds have risen from £10,017 to £12,806 at years end. A healthy situation.

Total income this year - £7,265 (all via church or individual donation – Gift Aid still to be applied to individual donations)

Total spending this year - £4,475

THP total assets value - £12, 807

Spending on our “bread & butter” items this year has been at around expected levels. Slightly more than last year, but less than 2021. Spending on food continues to be our biggest expense as it still is our main tool for initiating contact with the street folks. There seems to have been a slow but steady increase in the number of street folks and homeless in Southampton, and the number of folks wanting our services has seen a constant slow rise. Referrals from other organisations seem to have been more noticeable this year in bringing people to our attention. Our main activity of meeting folks out on Southampton City Centre streets with food and drink, to build relationships & trust and to bless these folks with friendship, guidance and love continues and the volunteers are all incredible people.

There is always a steady need for bibles, christian books and crucifix-based jewellery by the street community and we see continued spending on these themes. We also continue to fund cheap mobile phone communication for selected clients we come to work closer with. Phone contact with us can be a hugely important support medium for them.

The boost in spending on overheads this year is almost entirely down to the payment of our 3 yearly website fees, which although significant every 3 years, seems to be the economical way to do it. Spending on training has gone up this year, and we feel this is a positive sign for a charity. Our service basically is our volunteers and without their skills and insight we cannot do what we do. These things come mainly via experience and training.

The main structural change for THP this year has been that we have registered with the Charity Commission, with the associated charity number (which can be found on our website). The criteria required for achieving registered status potentially gives us some slight extra level of credibility and trustworthiness with those who may interact with us in any capacity. It also allows us to register with HMRC to be able to reclaim gift aid on appropriate donations, which is always a nice bonus. We have also finally set up a genuine THP charity business bank account with appropriate access for 2 of the trustees.

Our registration with the Charity Commission has meant that we now have an official board of trustees (who meet officially 3 x yearly) and the Charity structure is this

Trustees – Alan Bridges (chairman), Debs Niblett & Linda Bridges

Overall Team lead- Linda Bridges

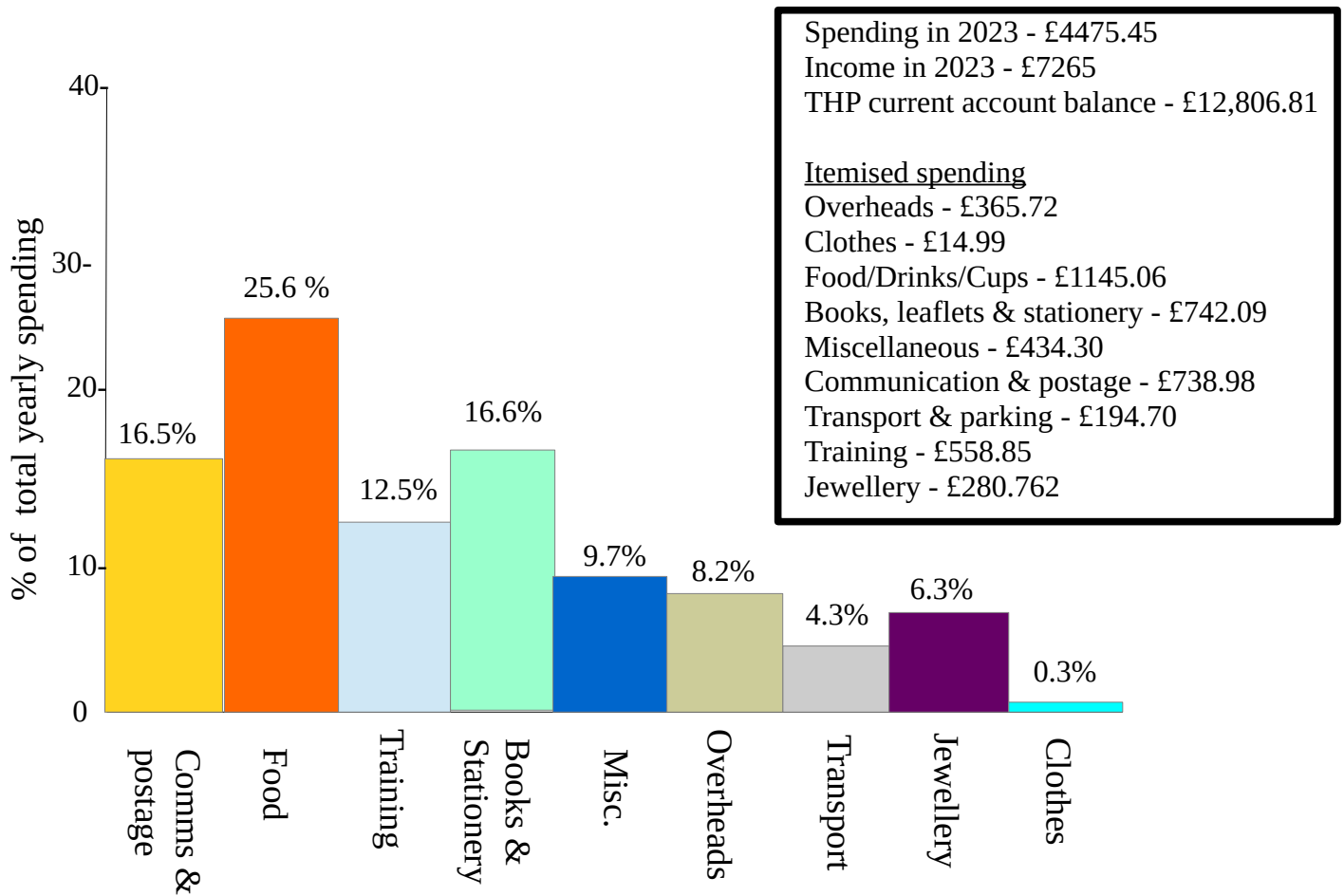
Mentorship lead – Debs Niblett

Treasurer – Alan Bridges

In terms of our services, the mentorship arm of THP continues to function under Deb's helm very effectively, in parallel to the street outreach. A recently started endeavour is a Sunday morning (pre-church) “drinks & porridge” meet up for the street community at a coffee shop in the city centre. Linda leads this with occasional extra volunteer help. Attendance has been fairly small at these events although they have certainly been constructive. It's a much less threatening way to access a small piece of church without the intimidating perception that many of our clients feel about going into a church building.

Several new volunteers have joined the fold – a large % of these from Southampton Lighthouse Church, which is now of course much more aware of THP's activities, as this is Linda & Alan's home church. So we

have enough volunteers to keep our services running, although there is always a need for more, as there is always more we could do with more people. However, in this challenging work especially, it is very much the “right” people who are needed.





CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name - The Hazel Project

No 1203665

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period from	Period start date 01/01/23	To	Period end date 31/12/23
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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 £
A1 Receipts					
Donations – churches	5,050	-	-	5,050	5,169
Donations individuals	2,215	-	-	2,215	490
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	7,265	-	-	7,265	5,659
(see table). none	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	7,265	-	-	7,265	5,659
A3 Payments					
Clothes	15	-	-	15	203
Food, drinks & cups	1,145	-	-	1,145	1,025
Books, leaflets & stationery	742	-	-	742	624
Overheads	365	-	-	365	-
Miscellaneous	434	-	-	434	651
Communication & postage	739	-	-	739	439
Transport & parking	195	-	-	195	134
Training	559	-	-	559	487
Jewellery	281	-	-	281	109
Sub total	4,475	-	-	4,475	3,672
A4 Asset and investment					
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	4,475	-	-	4,475	3,672
Net of receipts/(payments)	2,790	-	-	2,790	1,987
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	10,017	-	-	10,017	8,030
Cash funds this year end	12,807	-	-	12,807	10,017

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 £
B1 Cash funds	Bank Account	12,807	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	12,807	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets	none	-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets	none		-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	none		-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities	none		-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	Alan Bridges	Alan Bridges	09/01/24