

Report of the Trustees and
Unaudited Financial Statements
for the Year Ended 30 September 2025
for
Compass Braille

A J Bennewith
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Contents of the Financial Statements
for the Year Ended 30 September 2025

	Page
Report of the Trustees	1 to 4
Independent Examiner's Report	5
Statement of Financial Activities	6
Balance Sheet	7
Notes to the Financial Statements	8 to 14

Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 30 September 2025

The trustee, being The Board of the Torch Trust for the Blind (Torch), presents their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 30 September 2025. The trustee has adopted the provisions of 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) (effective 1 January 2019).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The objects of the charity are to support the work of overseas Christian partner groups and individuals, who work amongst people with visual disabilities with an emphasis on underdeveloped countries and with the object of upholding the Gospel by providing braille resources, primarily Bibles.

Summary of main activities:

The principal activities of the charity are:

1. The production of Braille, including development and preparation of computer software and the transcription of various languages into the Braille format.
2. Mini-braille library projects supported by our Special Bible Fund provide rural house churches in India with Braille. Each mini library consists of 10 Braille Bible portions chosen by the group for use in Bible Studies. When and where appropriate additional portions are added.
3. The transcription of Bibles into Giant Print in various languages in digital format only.

Policy on grant making and programme related investment:

Compass Braille is not in a position to make grants. They continue to send their Braille free of charge to the end user.

Contribution made by volunteers:

The charity gratefully acknowledges the contribution made by its volunteers in the preparation of the Braille portions: cutting, binding, labelling and packaging of books and Bible portions. It is estimated that they give 25-27 hours/week to this. Their valued help enables Compass Braille to produce large quantities of Braille each year. Outside volunteers (usually overseas) proofread sample Braille to check for errors.

Trustees/Staff/Volunteers:

The sole trustee of Compass Braille is the Board of The Torch Trust for the Blind (Torch) which, on 30th September 2025, had a chair and seven directors. Compass Braille has one staff member who handles transcription remotely. Production is outsourced to Torch and a team of six committed volunteers.

Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 30 September 2025

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Production of braille Bibles and books:

In 2024-25, Compass Braille had a steady stream of orders for braille Bibles and booklets. Over twelve months, they produced 7,091 braille volumes of which 6,233 were Bible volumes and 858 were booklets containing Scriptures on themes.

So far, they have transcribed the Bible and other books into braille in more than 60 languages for use in various parts of the world. During this financial year they completed transcribing the Bible into braille into 3 new languages: Ndebele for Zimbabwe, Lusoga for Uganda and Asante Twi for Ghana. For each new language a launch event was held in the recipient country, organised by the national Bible Society there. Each event included visually impaired people reading from the new braille Bibles and giving testimonies of the beneficial impact of the Bible in braille. These were occasions of much rejoicing and thanksgiving to God, with church leaders and national press in attendance.

Compass Braille employee, Jake Kyle, was invited to attend the launch of the Lusoga Braille Bible in Uganda in January 2025. This coincided with a summit organised by the Bible Society of Uganda whose aim was to increase Scripture engagement for visually impaired people. Also present were representatives from 12 African nations. It was a useful time of learning from one another and building relationships.

Transcription was also completed for two Spanish braille Bible projects: the Reina Valera version which is being produced by Christian Library for the Blind in the Netherlands and the deuterocanonical books of the more modern "Dios Habla Hoy" (God Speaks Today) version which is being produced in Brazil. Work continued on transcribing the Urdu Bible into braille.

Transcription was completed on the giant print versions of the Good News Bible in 24 pt font and the King James Version in 25 pt and 30 pt.

Compass Braille have continued to develop their Braille transcription program which has improved efficiency and accuracy and reduced overall transcription costs. Developing templates for Giant Print transcription was part of this.

Compass Braille are a licensed member of the Digital Bible Library, as part of their partnership with the United Bible Societies, and this involves ongoing transcription work. They continue to update their transcription software to handle the new languages and layouts.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Policy statement on Reserves:

The Torch reserves policy is three months' average expenditure, and Compass Braille's balance sheet shows more than that at the 30th September 2025 year end.

Principal sources of funds:

Compass Braille's funds come mainly from United Bible Societies (UBS) who part-fund and facilitate the braille projects of local Bible societies in poorer countries. Compass Braille also receives UK donations from individual supporters, church groups, grant-making bodies and legacies. They do not run fundraising campaigns, nor do they use any funds to engage professional fundraisers or commercial participants. They do have a website, and they produce a quarterly newsletter to raise awareness of their needs. They occasionally approach grant-making bodies for support of new projects or new equipment. Income from legacies bequeathed by supporters improves their financial position. They occasionally receive financial gifts when staff/volunteers give talks about the charity in churches or at social groups, but this is less common now.

They also have their own projects, such as Mini Braille Libraries and Braille for individuals or small groups who have no Bible Society support in their area, to which people can/have donate(d).

Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 30 September 2025

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Type of governing document: Trust deed

How the charity is constituted: Declaration of Trust

Trustee selection methods: Appointed by existing trustees

Organisational structure:

The trustee, being The Board of The Torch Trust for the Blind, has delegated management of Compass Braille to Torch staff, in particular the Ceo, the Head of Technical Services and the Head of Finance and Operations. They report to the Board on progress. The Board meets four times per year. Compass Braille has only one employee, their full-time Transcription Specialist.

Partnerships/Relationship with related parties:

Compass Braille works in partnership with the United Bible Society(UBS) Helpdesk for People with Visual Disability based in Germany. UBS collaborate with many Bible Societies around the world and facilitate Braille provision. These Bible Societies then distribute Braille portions on behalf of Compass Braille. Compass Braille also partners with other overseas Mission Groups who run projects in their countries, particularly those working in Outreach, Education, Vocational Training, Community Healthcare and Healthcare Awareness.

Consideration of major risks:

The charity recognises that, having one main partner and only a few smaller partner groups, their ability to function is dependent on these groups so they continue to seek new partnerships and add new languages. The website and quarterly newsletters have helped to increase the number of enquiries which can lead to the production of Braille for new countries or new language areas. One of Compass Braille's unique strengths is that they are the only group in the UK (and worldwide) who transcribe and produce the Braille Bible, with its complex layout, in so many languages. Their press is fully computerised, allowing them to produce Braille in small or large quantities in any language.

Prior to the move to Torch House in 2023, the need to dissolve the charity due to greatly increased lease costs was a serious risk. The charity still does not own any property of its own. However, being housed in facilities owned by Torch offers considerable security.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Charity number

292625

Principal address

Torch House
Torch Way
Market Harborough
Leicestershire
LE16 9HL

Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 30 September 2025

Trustees

Trustee: The Board of The Torch Trust for the Blind.

The Board had five members on 1st October 2024. Three new ones were added in the course of the year. The eight members of the Board as at 30th September 2025 are as follows:

Anthony (Tony) Brown (Chair of Trustees)

Marilyn Baker

Ife Akintunde

Sheila Armstrong

Brian Anderson

Edith Townsend

Philip Rice

Trevor Stammers

Chief Executive/Oversight

Compass Braille's oversight is delegated to staff at Torch: CEO Sarah Dawkins, Head of Technical Services, Paul Wood, and Head of Finance and Operations, Linda Prickett.

Independent Examiner

A J Bennewith

FCA, FCPA, FFA, FFTA, FIPA, DChA, FRSA

Upper Ground Floor

18 Farnham Road

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Surrey

GU1 4XA

Bankers

Lloyds Bank PLC

Fore Street

Okehampton

EX20 1HJ

Approved by order of the board of The Torch Trust for the Blind on 19 March 2026 and signed on its behalf by:

Anthony (Tony) Brown-Chair of Trustees

**Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of
Compass Braille**

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Compass Braille

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of Compass Braille (the Trust) for the year ended 30 September 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust 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 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under Section 145(5)(b) of the 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 respect of the Trust as required by Section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do 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.

A J Bennewith
FCA, FCPA, FFA, FFTA, FIPA, DChA, FRSA
Upper Ground Floor
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Date: 14 April 2026

Statement of Financial Activities
for the Year Ended 30 September 2025

				Year Ended 30.9.25 Total funds £	Period 1.4.23 to 30.9.24 Total funds £
	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £		
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and legacies		24,113	-	24,113	41,046
Charitable activities					
Braille production		84,783	-	84,783	105,496
Investment income	2	<u>96</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>96</u>	<u>756</u>
Total		<u>108,992</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>108,992</u>	<u>147,298</u>
EXPENDITURE ON					
Raising funds		275	-	275	-
Charitable activities					
Braille production		79,465	-	79,465	171,920
Support costs		<u>7,470</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>7,470</u>	<u>4,124</u>
Total		<u>87,210</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>87,210</u>	<u>176,044</u>
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		21,782	-	21,782	(28,746)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		45,590	-	45,590	74,336
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		<u>67,372</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>67,372</u>	<u>45,590</u>

CONTINUING OPERATIONS

All income and expenditure has arisen from continuing activities.

The notes form part of these financial statements

Compass Braille**Balance Sheet**
30 September 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	30.9.25 Total funds £	30.9.24 Total funds £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	7	9,423	-	9,423	12,564
CURRENT ASSETS					
Stocks	8	11,370	-	11,370	10,300
Debtors	9	7,014	-	7,014	502
Cash at bank		<u>46,479</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>46,479</u>	<u>47,335</u>
		64,863	-	64,863	58,137
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	10	(6,914)	-	(6,914)	(25,111)
		<u>57,949</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>57,949</u>	<u>33,026</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS					
		67,372	-	67,372	45,590
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES					
		<u>67,372</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>67,372</u>	<u>45,590</u>
NET ASSETS					
		<u>67,372</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>67,372</u>	<u>45,590</u>
FUNDS	11				
Unrestricted funds				<u>67,372</u>	<u>45,590</u>
TOTAL FUNDS				<u>67,372</u>	<u>45,590</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees of the Torch Trust for the Blind and authorised for issue on 1 April 2026 and were signed on its behalf by:

Anthony (Tony) Brown- Chair of Trustees

The notes form part of these financial statements

Notes to the Financial Statements
for the Year Ended 30 September 2025

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of the charity, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) '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) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Charities Act 2011. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Income

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Equipment - 25% on reducing balance

Individual fixed assets costing £1,000 or more are capitalised at cost.

Stocks

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value, after making due allowance for obsolete and slow moving items.

Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on its charitable activities.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

Pension costs and other post-retirement benefits

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions payable to the charity's pension scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 30 September 2025

2. INVESTMENT INCOME

	Year Ended 30.9.25	Period 1.4.23 to 30.9.24
	£	£
Interest	<u>96</u>	<u>756</u>

3. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

No trustees' remuneration was paid during the year as the trustee is a charity.

In the period ended 30 September 2024, remuneration was paid to a trustee, G A Dowling (£8,145), and family members related to G A Dowling as follows:

C P Dowling, also a member of key management personnel, received remuneration of £14,915.

N A Dowling received remuneration totalling £14,706.

R J Dowling received remuneration totalling £18,320.

Trustees' expenses

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 30 September 2025 nor for the period ended 30 September 2024.

4. STAFF COSTS

Staff costs incurred by the charity were as follows:

	Year ended 30.9.25	Period 1.4.23 to 30.9.24
	£	£
Gross Wages	30,031	97,370
Employer's National Insurance	-	-
Pension costs	<u>897</u>	<u>1,309</u>
Total	<u>£30,928</u>	<u>£98,679</u>

The average number of full and part-time staff employed by the charity was as follows:

	Year ended 30.9.25	Period 1.4.23 to 30.9.24
Charitable activities	1	3

There were no employees whose remuneration exceeded £60,000 (2024: none).

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 30 September 2025

5. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM			
Donations and legacies	41,046	-	41,046
Charitable activities			
Braille production	105,496	-	105,496
Investment income	<u>756</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>756</u>
Total	<u>147,298</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>147,298</u>
EXPENDITURE ON			
Charitable activities			
Braille production	171,920	-	171,920
Support costs	<u>4,124</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,124</u>
Total	<u>176,044</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>176,044</u>
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)	(28,746)	-	(28,746)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward	<u>74,336</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>74,336</u>
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	<u>45,590</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>45,590</u>

6. INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REMUNERATION

	Year ended 30.9.25 £	Period 1.4.23 to 30.9.24 £
Independent Examiner's remuneration	<u>£1,700</u>	<u>£1,700</u>

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 30 September 2025

7. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Equipment £
COST	
At 1 October 2024 and 30 September 2025	<u>57,821</u>
DEPRECIATION	
At 1 October 2024	45,257
Charge for year	<u>3,141</u>
At 30 September 2025	<u>48,398</u>
NET BOOK VALUE	
At 30 September 2025	<u>9,423</u>
At 30 September 2024	<u>12,564</u>

8. STOCKS

	30.9.25	30.9.24
	£	£
Stock of paper and packaging	<u>11,370</u>	<u>10,300</u>

9. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	30.9.25	30.9.24
	£	£
Trade debtors	5,286	-
Tax recoverable	1,083	317
VAT	<u>645</u>	<u>185</u>
	<u>7,014</u>	<u>502</u>

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 30 September 2025

10. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	30.9.25	30.9.24
	£	£
Trade creditors	468	-
Taxation and social security	396	363
Other creditors	<u>6,050</u>	<u>24,748</u>
	<u><u>6,914</u></u>	<u><u>25,111</u></u>

11. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.10.24 £	Net movement in funds £	At 30.9.25 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	36,434	21,820	58,254
Special Bible Fund	6,575	(38)	6,537
Special Booklet Fund	<u>2,581</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,581</u>
	<u>45,590</u>	<u>21,782</u>	<u>67,372</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u><u>45,590</u></u>	<u><u>21,782</u></u>	<u><u>67,372</u></u>

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	108,492	(86,672)	21,820
Special Bible Fund	<u>500</u>	<u>(538)</u>	<u>(38)</u>
	<u>108,992</u>	<u>(87,210)</u>	<u>21,782</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u><u>108,992</u></u>	<u><u>(87,210)</u></u>	<u><u>21,782</u></u>

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 30 September 2025

11. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1.4.23 £	Net movement in funds £	At 30.9.24 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	65,180	(28,746)	36,434
Special Bible Fund	6,575	-	6,575
Special Booklet Fund	<u>2,581</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,581</u>
	<u>74,336</u>	<u>(28,746)</u>	<u>45,590</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u><u>74,336</u></u>	<u><u>(28,746)</u></u>	<u><u>45,590</u></u>

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	147,298	(176,044)	(28,746)
	<u>147,298</u>	<u>(176,044)</u>	<u>(28,746)</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u><u>147,298</u></u>	<u><u>(176,044)</u></u>	<u><u>(28,746)</u></u>

General fund

This represents the general funds of the charity, to be used to further its charitable objectives.

Special Bible Fund

Gifts which donors make specifically to the Special Bible Fund are used for our own projects. Unlike our other projects that are supported through our partnership with the United Bible Societies, these projects are either urgent or fall outside of the normal remit. The purpose is to help smaller overseas groups who only use small amounts of Braille.

Special Booklet Fund

This fund supports the production of Braille Booklets. These consist of 'lifestyle' books, children's story books, health awareness books, etc.

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 30 September 2025

12. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

During the year, £29,000 in respect of production costs and a contribution to overheads was recharged by the Torch Trust for the Blind, a trustee, to Compass Braille. Expenditure of £2,317 was also paid by the Torch Trust for the Blind on behalf of Compass Braille and reimbursed to them.

At the year end, the outstanding balance due to the Torch Trust for the Blind was £4,173.