



TRUSTEES REPORTS AND ACCOUNTS

For the year ended 31st March 2025

BORDERS STREET PASTORS

Trustees' Report for the year ended 31 March 2025

Borders Street Pastors is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation
Scottish Charity Number SC046473

Contact name and address

Duncan Cameron, 18 Larkspur Court, Galashiels TD1 2LZ

Trustees

The trustees who held office during the period from the start of the year reported on to the date of approval of this report were:

Arthur Hembling	<i>Chair</i>
Duncan Cameron	<i>Secretary</i>
Angela Thorpe	<i>Treasurer</i>
Keith Scott	
Maria Sprott	
Fiona Corbett	

All of the trustees held office for the whole of that period.

A number of trustees attended online training for Safeguarding in December 2024.

Governance

Borders Street Pastors is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) that was incorporated on 13 April 2016. Our constitution specifies that trustees are elected or re-elected at the Annual General Meeting each year, and may also be co-opted.

Charitable purposes

Our charitable purposes as set out in our constitution are:

1. To advance the Christian Faith in accordance with the Licence Agreement executed with Ascension Trust (Scotland) and the Core Values and Mission Statement appearing in the Schedule hereto in the Scottish Borders and in such other parts of the United Kingdom or the world as the Trustees may from time to time to think fit, particularly but not exclusively by means of caring, listening and helping people on the streets and at various venues day and night.
2. To advance health, including the prevention and relief of sickness and human suffering, through the provision of goods or services of any kind including through the provision of counselling and support in the Scottish Borders and in such other parts of the United Kingdom or the world as the Trustees may from time to time to think fit, particularly but not exclusively by means of caring, listening and helping people, including those suffering from amongst other reasons excessive alcohol or substance use or misuse, on the streets and at various venues, day and night.
3. To relieve those in need by reason of age, ill-health, disability, financial hardship or other disadvantage by the provision of goods or services of any kind including through the provision of counselling and support in the Scottish Borders and in such other parts of the United Kingdom or the world as the Trustees may from time to time to think fit, particularly but not exclusively by means of caring, listening and helping people on the streets and at various venues, day and night.

Activities

Borders Street Pastors was launched at Scottish Borders Council HQ in March 2016. After recruiting and training we had our Commissioning Service and first patrol in Galashiels in June 2016

In January 2017, we launched a monthly patrol in Hawick, with a Commissioning Service in Trinity Church, Hawick. The patrol is based at 'The Well' in Bourtree Place which is owned by Hawick Baptist Church.

Since Covid, the nature and timings of our work has changed considerably. The night time economy continues to be quieter than pre Covid, and we have found that the need for Street Pastors is developing more into the day time and evenings.

In **Galashiels**, the Saturday night time patrols continue, although with some resources being used elsewhere in the Borders and a number of Street Pastors being ill, the patrols are now normally twice a month. There is no doubt that these patrols are quieter, but the need is still there, with many useful conversations and Street Pastors being an extra pair of eyes on the streets. With the closure of Trinity Church in Galashiels, which has been used as a Street Pastor base since 2016, Borders Street Pastors have been offered the use of Hope Central as a new base for patrols.

In **Hawick**, the monthly lunchtime patrols have continued, and we are grateful for the use of Hawick South Church as a base. We continue to have contact with Hawick High School, and early in 2025 there was a meeting with the Head Teacher, Street Pastors, Scripture Union and Hawick Churches to discuss the way forward.

The Hawick Saturday night time patrol continues once a month, supporting folks who are out in the town centre. Whilst there are fewer young people in the Howegate area, there are still considerable numbers of people around, and we hope that with the contacts that we are making during the day, more people will be aware of Street Pastors if they are out at night. With the sale of the Baptist Church in Hawick, which is moving to larger premises, it is likely that we may have to look for a new base if The Well (owned by the Baptist Church) is also sold.

We are currently trialling an exciting new development in Burnfoot housing estate in Hawick. Burnfoot is an area of social deprivation with many issues, especially with younger people. Once a month we have an evening patrol, from around 6pm – 7.30pm, making contact with people, especially around the area where the shops are located. The two Churches in Burnfoot, Elim and Burnfoot Parish Church, are both very supportive of the trial. Burnfoot Parish Church is currently being used as a base for the team.

In **Peebles**, seven new Street Pastors were commissioned by Chris Jewell (CEO Ascension Trust Scotland) in a Service held at Peebles Evangelical Church on 15 June 2024. Patrols in Peebles are in the evening, from around 6.30pm – 11pm, with the team based at Peebles Evangelical Church and are normally twice a month, either on a Friday or Saturday.

As well as the normal patrols, Borders Street Pastors were in attendance in Melrose and Earlston during the Rugby 7s. A team attended Hawick Common Riding festivities, and extra patrols were organised in Peebles and Galashiels for their Festivals.

On 12 July, Ascension Trust Scotland (ATS) conducted a Quality Assurance visit to Borders Street Pastors (BSP). These are normally done every three years, but were delayed with Covid. ATS met representatives of BSP management committee in Peebles, and they also came out on an evening patrol in the town. The resulting report painted a positive picture of our activities, with a few pointers for the future.

Training continues to be an important part of BSP activities. It was recognised that the coordinator was needing help to organise training, and Graeme and Lesley Cowe agreed to assist with this task. Topics this year have included Safeguarding, Development training, Police, Youth Culture, Knowing Your Community & Listening Skills. Jacqueline Wilson, one of our Peebles Street Pastors, has tutored the team at a number of these sessions.

Five Street Pastors from the Borders attended the Scottish conference in Stirling in September.

Our small team of Prayer Pastors continues to minister to the teams and their work is highly valued by all. This is sometimes done remotely using a mobile phone and the speaker, but is still very effective.

BSP have continued to be invited to speak at various groups and Churches, and our thanks go out to the team members who have assisted with this great way of sharing what our work involves.

PVGs: Fiona Corbett continues to organise these for us. With the system having moved on line we are very grateful to Fiona for doing this task.

Our coordinator continues to be involved with on line meetings with setting up Street Pastors in Dumfries and Galloway.

In total, Borders Street Pastors have conducted some 77 patrols over the past year.

Plans for the future

We will continue to develop contacts with Hawick High School and also to developing the day patrols in Hawick. In addition, our trial patrols in Burnfoot will be evaluated with the possibility of these becoming permanent if resources allow.

Recruitment and training continue to be a priority, and we are keen to develop strategies to enhance both.

The enthusiasm of the team amazes us all! We believe that God continues to want His love taken out onto the streets of our towns through the Street Pastor movement and we give thanks for His love and support!

Ascension Trust

The Street Pastors concept, name and logo are owned by The Ascension Trust (registered in England & Wales as charity number 1127204 and company limited by guarantee number 06751712). We use them under licence. We pay our licence fees to their Scottish charity, The Ascension Trust (Scotland) (registered in Scotland as charity number SC041912 and company limited by guarantee SC371392), and these fees include access to insurance cover and other support. We also buy some goods and services from The Ascension Trust (Scotland), and from The Ascension Trust's trading subsidiary, Ascension Commercial Ltd (registered in England & Wales as company number 07586400). These payments are disclosed in Note 3 on page 7.

Financial review

Borders Street Pastors had income this year totalling £2007 (2023/24: £1709) and expenditure totalling £1758 (2023 / 24: £1568)

Income normally comes from a variety of sources, including collecting cans at various premises and donations from various organisations and individuals.

We are extremely grateful to the individuals who have made generous donations.

Borders Street Pastors has reserves of £11365 at 31 March 2025 (2024: £11116). Although this amount appears large in relation to current expenditure levels, Borders Street Pastors is a developing charity that has not yet reached a steady level of activity that would enable it to set a policy on the level of reserves to be held. The trustees do not feel that income levels are secure. As training starts to move on line, there may be charges for Street Pastors for some of this, which is going to result in a substantial increase in training costs. As we continue to recruit in Peebles and Hawick, and potentially other areas of the Borders, there are substantial costs for uniforms and training. There could therefore be issues in the longer term. The current level of reserves ensures Border Street Pastors can carry out its commitments, and provides a cushion for the next few years. The Co-ordinator continues to be an unpaid volunteer.

Borders Street Pastors is supported by many churches in the Borders and should the need arise, financial support could be sought from them, although it is fair to say that many Churches are struggling financially at this time.

Borders Street Pastors continues to have been in receipt of practical help from Churches with the use of premises. We acknowledge the continued willingness and assistance Borders Churches give, both past and for the future. This includes: Hawick Baptist Church for the use of 'The Well' for the Hawick Patrol, Hawick South Church for the use of their premises for the day patrols and Burnfoot Parish Church for the use of their premises for the trial patrols in Burnfoot. In Galashiels we are grateful to Galashiels Parish Church for the use of their premises for the patrols and also for training and Hope Church for the use of their premises for patrols. We are also grateful to Melrose Parish Church for a base during the Melrose 7s, Earlston Parish Church for the use of the Church for the Earlston 7s and Selkirk Parish Church for the use of their premises for training and the AGM. Peebles Evangelical Church allows us to use their premises for patrols and the Commissioning Service and St. Andrews Leckie in Peebles allows us the use of premises for training.

Risk management

Borders Street Pastors has public liability insurance organised by Ascension Trust (Scotland). Street Pastors undergo safety training as part of the Roles and Responsibilities course. PVG checks are done via Ascension Trust (Scotland) for each Street Pastor. Each patrol has a minimum of three people and there should be at least one male and one female within that patrol. However, during daytime patrols, two members are allowed.

When there is an exceptional event, e.g. Common Ridings and Christmas, consideration is given to the number of Street Pastors on the patrol and, if possible, to increase the numbers.

Each patrol has a mobile phone and can contact emergency services, the coordinator and Ascension Trust (Scotland).

The trustees have appointed a number of Team Leaders. Each patrol is led by one of the Team Leaders. The Team Leader will organise the patrol according to the abilities of the team members, e.g., if there should be more breaks etc. If a member of a patrol becomes unwell, the patrol will cease (as has happened on occasion). Team Leaders have a note of emergency contact numbers for team members, and this is currently being reviewed.

A report from every patrol is submitted to the coordinator. This enables any potential issues to be highlighted and addressed.

Receipts and Payment Account

	Note	2024-25 Unrestricted Funds	2024-25 Restricted Funds	2024-25 Total	2023-24 Total
Receipts		£	£	£	£
Donations					
Individual donation via CAF					500
Donations for Peebles Street Pastors			134	134	250
Borderlands Men's Christian Conference		253		253	
Elim Church		260		260	
M Milne (Quizzes)		312		312	263
Trinity Harvest Offering		281		281	
Peebles Community Council – for uniforms			50	50	
Other donations from organisations and individuals		370		370	355
Fundraising: collecting cans		347		347	341
Total receipts		1823	184	2007	1709
Payments					
Charitable activities	3	1324	434	1758	1568
Total payments		1324	434	1758	1568
Surplus/(Deficit) for year		499	(250)	249	141

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Statement of Balances

Bank and cash balances	Note	2024-25 Unrestricted Funds	2024-25 Restricted Funds	2024-25 Total	2023-24 Total
		£	£	£	£
Balance at start of year		10866	250	11116	10975
Surplus/(Deficit) for year		499	(250)	248	141
Balance at end of year	6	11365	0	11365	11116
Assets	Note	Cost		Value	Value
				31/03/25	31/03/24
Fixed assets		£		£	£
IT equipment	2	350		0	0
Liabilities	Note			31/03/25	31/03/24
				Total	Total
				£	£
Ascension Trust licence fees	4	93		93	33

Approved by the trustees on 14th August 2025 and signed on their behalf

Duncan Cameron

Secretary Borders Street Pastors

Notes to the accounts

- Funds.** Unrestricted funds are funds that may be used at the discretion of the trustees for any of the charitable purposes of Borders Street Pastors. Restricted funds are funds that are subject to restrictions on their use imposed by donors.
- Fixed assets and equipment.** Borders Street Pastors owns donated IT equipment that is classified as fixed assets and valued using annual depreciation on a straight line basis so as to reduce the value to zero over four years. It also owns other equipment for use in its work. However none of that equipment is of sufficient size and value to be classified as fixed assets.

3. Payments for charitable activities

	Note	2024-25 Unrestricted Funds £	2024-25 Restricted Funds £	2024-25 Total £	2023-24 Total £
Ascension Trust	4				
Licence fees		800		800	800
Uniforms and other equipment		106	434	540	0
Books/postage		6		6	0
Total payments to Ascension Trust		912	434	1346	800
Other payments					
First aid equipment and supplies		16		16	13
Other equipment and supplies		145		145	283
Food and drink		130		130	8
Postage, stationery, etc.		71		71	76
Publicity					10
Travel expenses		16		16	95
Training		34		34	283
Total other payments		412		412	768
Total payments for charitable activities		1324	434	1758	1568

4. **Ascension Trust.** Payments in Note 3 under the heading Ascension Trust comprise payments to The Ascension Trust, The Ascension Trust (Scotland) and Ascension Commercial Ltd described in the Trustees' Report on page 3. Payments due but not yet made at the end of the year are shown as liabilities on page 6.
- 5 **Trustees and connected parties.** During the year, trustees were reimbursed out-of-pocket expenses totalling £765.
- 6 **Bank and cash balances.** All funds are held in bank account. There is no cash in hand.

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Borders Street Pastors

I report on the accounts of Borders Street Pastors ("the charity") for the year ended 31 March 2025 which are set out on pages 5 to 8.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 ("the 2005 Act") and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulation 2006 (as amended) ("the 2006 Regulations"). The charity's trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 10(1)(d) of the 2006 does not apply. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts under Section 44(1)(c) of the 2005 Act and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination is carried out in accordance with Regulation 11 of the 2006 Regulations. 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 or disclosures in the accounts, and seeks explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent Examiner's statement

Melrose, 07 June 2025

In the course of my examination no matter has come to my attention

- 1 which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - (a) to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 44(1)(a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Regulations, and
 - (b) to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 9 of the 2006 Regulationshave not been met, or
- 2 to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Alexander G Brown FCCA; IRRV(Hons)