Accounts and Annual Report

For the period ended 31st March 2026

Registered charity Number: 1185334

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For the period 1st April 2025 to 31st March 2026

1. THE CHARITY

- Beginning Again (BA) was registered on 16th September 2019 by the Charity Commission as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), registered number 1185334.
- Administration has been carried out by one of the Trustees (Sharon Woollard from her home address, which has been registered with the Charity Commission as the Charity's base.

2. THE OBJECTS OF THE CHARITY

The charitable objectives of Beginning Again are:

To promote the resettlement and rehabilitation of offenders, ex-offenders and those at risk of offending in order to reduce rates of re-offending and to contribute to the creation of safer communities through, but not exclusively, the provision of mentoring, advice and opportunities for work experience.

The Trustees believe that the activities of the Charity during the report period have supported these objectives.

3. THE TRUSTEES

During the report period, the Trustees of Beginning Again were:

- Ian William Lewis Parker
- Hilary James Clarke (Reappointed from April 2024)
- Patricia Anne Rogers
- Sharon Elizabeth Woollard

The Charity's governing document provides that new Trustees are appointed by the existing Trustees. To promote continuity, it has been agreed that each Trustee would serve for a limited period of time prior to seeking re-appointment. No Trustee may serve for a period exceeding 3 years without re-appointment. A Trustee who has served for three consecutive terms may not be re-appointed for a fourth consecutive term but may be re-appointed after an interval of at least one year.

Efforts to increase the number of trustees, and in particular to recruit new trustees with finance, human resources and business skills, are ongoing.

The Trustees have met, mainly via video conferencing, on 10 occasions during the reporting year to discuss progress and make decisions. Three meetings have been face to face at the Keswick Quaker Meeting House. The trustees follow and review a business plan and Risk Register to provide strategic direction, ensure financial sustainability, effectively measure impact and guide staff and trustees to achieve the goals of the charity.

4. THE CHARITY'S ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

4.1 The Background

On 25 March 2019, a group of people met to consider the setting up of a new charity aimed at providing support for offenders and ex-offenders in Cumbria. From knowledge of the County, it had been identified that there was a gap in the provision of community help towards rehabilitation for those within the target group.
It was decided to form a new charity and Beginning Again was subsequently registered with the Charity Commission as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. Those present at that first meeting agreed to be the first Trustees.

4.2 Underpinning Beliefs

It was agreed that the charity would be underpinned by the following statement of Beliefs:

" Inspired by the Christian values of social concern, our beliefs are:

- Every individual is of value,
- Change in attitudes and values can be brought about,
- Local community involvement has the potential to make a positive contribution to resettlement and rehabilitative processes,
- Social diversity is a positive."

4.3 Service Focus

The focus for the Charity is to give service users the opportunity to prepare for work and for reintegration into their community, with support provided by mentoring and certificated work experience. A project maintaining a local churchyard remained as a legacy of a defunct charity and it was agreed that taking over this project, with the agreement and enthusiastic support of the Church authorities, would be a good starting point for the new charity's operations. That project remains the cornerstone of the Charity's activities and the agreement was renewed for a further 12 months. This year the charity has negotiated more paid groundwork in one local rural church yards and church carpark with a garden.

4.4 Activities

The year under review, 2025-2026, has been the sixth full year of planned operation. Recognising the fragility of existence in the Third Sector, with the need to develop contacts, establish a firm base and the inevitable reliance on the generosity of donors and other voluntary funders, the Trustees continue to adopt a "softly softly" approach with an emphasis on personal contact and networking.
Thanks to both financial and moral support from Torpenhow and Uldale Parochial Church Councils and the Team Rector, we were able to continue to employ a part-time Operations Manager to oversee the regular maintenance of two large churchyards. By common consent, the service users – ex-offenders – who have carried out the work have done so enthusiastically and to a high standard. Paid

groundwork has also been negotiated at a Methodist Church in Keswick which had become overgrown. More equipment has been purchased to meet the increase in variety of groundwork.

The underlying purpose of the project included the provision of appropriate training for service users, with the aim of improving their employment prospects. Under guidance of the Operations Manager service users who demonstrate capability in the use of and maintenance of horticultural equipment, health and safety at work, will have their achievements recorded in certificates which can support their search for employment. Service users' motivation, reliability and commitment to the project are also key factors for accreditation. Their individual success was again celebrated in a gathering of parents, relatives, church wardens and trustees in January'26 when certificates of achievements were awarded. The successful social event was well received and appreciated by all, and it has been agreed to be an annual event.

However, helping attendees reach competence in the use of machinery is only part of the role of the Operations Manager who, with active support from Trustees, takes a personal interest in each participant, offering advice and support for them as they deal with the everyday issues that can arise in life. He is also responsible for liaison with the Probation Service to recruit appropriate service users, but this has been met difficulty due to difficulties accessing the Probation Service.
In the last year, the project has benefitted 4 service users. One has secured interviews and an offer of part-time employment with a supportive employer. This service user has gained confidence in their own ability; there communication skills have blossomed, and they are advancing their skills in the hospitality trade. Another service user has been receiving support for their Mental Health which will be beneficial in later life and when they secure employment. Unfortunately, one service user has been given a custodial sentence.
The progress of each individual's behaviour is monitored. They have ongoing training in the safe use of horticultural equipment with an understanding of the potential hazards. e.g. Ride on mower, pedestrian mowers and strimmers.
The service users also complete maintenance and the servicing of equipment.
This year the operations manager has received training in First Aid in the Workplace, Foundation Training in Safeguarding and successfully completed a DBS check.

Close liaison with the Probation Service continues to be crucial to Beginning Again and those referred to the project. That liaison had been carried out at management level by two trustees, the operations manager. Liaison has been carried out but unfortunately it has not been able to arrange further meetings

The Trustees have maintained the website, containing contact details, and have also made available higher quality printed fliers to introduce the Charity to funders and to the wider public and to record its progress. Letters have been written to churches of different denominations to recruit volunteers.

Having considered the Charity Commission guidance, the Trustees believe that their activities are contributing to the public benefit and that they have complied with that guidance.

5. THE CHARITY'S FINANCES AND RESERVES

The agreements with St. Michael & All Angels Torpenhow Parochial Church Council and St James Parochial Church Council for the upkeep of the churchyards has secured a regular income, enabling the employment of a member of staff to supervise service users. The Trustees are grateful to all of our funders for their generous support and continue to seek other funding streams to further strengthen the Charity.
In August 2025 the trustees prepared an application to the Ashram Community for a grant to employ an Executive Officer. In December 2025 a grant of £30,000 was received and identified as restricted funds. With the addition £3,000 already restricted this made a total of £33,000 of designated funds to recruit an Executive Officer in 2026. This process of recruitment is ongoing.

In view of the fact that the Charity is still very small, the Trustees have decided that it currently has sufficient funds to cover unavoidable costs if necessary but that it is too early to have a more formal Reserves Policy. However this matter will be kept under regular review.

Signed on behalf of Beginning Again

Trustee

Trustee

Date: 15th September 2026.

Independent Examiner's Report to

The Trustees of Beginning Again

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025, which are set out below.

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and the Independent Examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts and 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.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act
- 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 or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as 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 accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

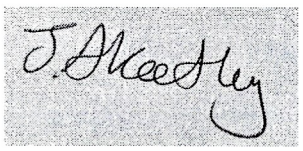
In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(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 and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act

have 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.

Signed: 

Name in Full: Mrs Joyce Keetley

Address: Stonehaven, Tower Court, Warcop, Appleby CA16 6NL

Date: 9th September 2026

BEGINNING AGAIN RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS – CAF Bank Ltd

Period 1st April 2025 to 31st March 2026

RECEIPTS	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £
Bank Errors*	57.00		57.00
Ground Works	400.00		400.00
Contract:Torpenhow Church Grass	6153.31		6153.31
Contract:Uldale Church Grass	2400.00		2400.00
Donated Funds	1.00		1.00
Grant Restricted		30,000.00	30,000.00
Interest Received	18.96		18.96
Total Income	**9,030.27**	**30,000.00**	**39,030.27**
PAYMENTS			
Activities: IT & Website	99.00		99.00
Cheque Fees	1.00		1.00
Transfer to CAF Bank Gold Deposit		33,000.00	33,000.00
Overheads	1809.31		1809.31
Staff Costs – Ops Officer Salary	6610.54		6610.54
Staff Costs – Related Costs	207.60		207.60
Staff Expenses – Ops Officer	1410.46		1410.46
Staff Expenses – Service Users	367.65		367.65
Staff Expenses – Trustees	614.59		614.59
Total Expenditure	**11,120.15**	**33,000.00**	**44,120.15**

BEGINNING AGAIN RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS – CAF Bank Ltd Gold Deposit Acct

Period 1st April 2025 to 31st March 2026

RECEIPTS	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £
Transferred from CAF Bank Ltd		33,000.00	33,000.00
Interest Paid		117.90	117.90
Total Income		**33,117.90**	**33,117.90**
NET RECEIPTS (PAYMENTS)			
Cash funds brought forward	7,018.34	3,000.00	10,018.34
Cash Funds at 31st March 2026	**4,928.46**	**33,117.90**	**38,046.36**

STATEMENTS OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

Cash in Bank	£38,046.36
Cash at 31st March 2026	£38,046.36

*Bank errors: Misplaced credits received and bank notified. Issue not fully resolved and £57 is still outstanding and likely to be repaid next year.

Approved by the Trustees on 15 Sept 2026 and signed on their behalf by:

Ian Parker, Chairman.....Sharon Woollard, Bookkeeper.....