The Saffires Project

Reports & Accounts

Financial Year Ending 31/03/2026

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Legal & Administrative Details

Charity Name:	The Saffires Project
Charity Number:	1193407
Charity Address:	c/o Central Baptist Church, Charles Street, Leicester, LE1 1LA
Trustees:	Rebecca Panting
	Deborah Bryan
	Andrew Elton
	Claire Greaves
	Susan Bamber
Independent Examiner:	Flexbooks UK Ltd/ Nicola Yates 2 Stones Manor Lane Hartford CW8 1NU

Trustees Report

Objects of the charity

The purposes of the CIO are, for the benefit of the public:

- To advance the Christian faith in accordance with the Statement of Faith;
- To relieve the charitable physical, emotional and spiritual needs of people who are involved in the sex industry in particular, but not exclusively, by: (a) providing outreach and support services directed to such needs; and (b) raising awareness and educating the general public about the condition and needs of sex industry workers; To relieve and prevent poverty among people who are involved in the sex industry in particular, but not exclusively, by operating a hardship fund to provide financial assistance to such persons who are in or at risk or poverty

In each case in the city of Leicester and in such other parts of the United Kingdom or the world as the charity trustees may from time to time think fit. We, as trustees, recognise that it is our legal obligation to ensure that the charity’s activities are in line with our objectives and activities and we are satisfied that this is the case for the period in question. The trustees also confirm that they have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

Summary of the charity's main activities and achievements

To further the above objects and vision, the charity's main activities and achievements were as follows:

Outreach

Street and Parlour Outreach activities continued during this period, and formed the bulk of our activity with beneficiaries. During this period 44 street outreach sessions took place, during which 44 women were engaged with 289 times. These interactions involved sharing information about dangerous customers, providing drinks and snacks, condoms, warm gloves, gifts at particular times of year, as well as a friendly face to talk to. Where appropriate, prayer was offered to women. Parlour outreach visits took place 95 times, visiting 7 parlours where we engaged with 55 women 218 times. In this period we piloted expansion into the county by including identified county-based parlours in our programme, however an additional 3 parlours declined visits from our team. During parlour outreach visits, gifts were delivered, safety information shared, and relationships invested in as the teams spent time getting to know each woman. We also offered bespoke support to 17 women across 107 sessions during this period. Support needs varied across individual women and the length of time support was offered was determined by each individual - some have accessed ongoing support on a regular basis, others for a short period or for specific needs.

At the end of the last financial year we launched our new bespoke outreach vehicle for delivering street outreach and this year we saw the impact as we were able to develop deeper relationships with women during outreach sessions, which led to several accessing follow up support including home visits. One woman visiting the van said "I've never been on a van like this or felt so welcomed".

We have also seen a continued increase in women accessing one to one support, which has ranged from meeting for coffee and a chat, to supporting with benefits applications, court appearances or relocating to supported accommodation. One woman sent a message to a team member to say "Thank you so much for today, it means so much to me that you were willing to come all that way, and I am so grateful for all the support you provide. I think without you, and Saffires, I would be left hopeless."

Safeguarding

All new staff and volunteers received contextualised safeguarding training in this financial year. Additionally, our staff team completed training in suicide awareness and prevention and creating safety plans. Our Designated Safeguarding Lead completed training as a Mental Health First Aider allowing us to be registered as a Mental Health Friendly Place. She also completed updated DSL training.

Our additional database feature has allowed us to more accurately raise safeguarding concerns and track management of cases. In this financial year, 10 cases were opened, with referrals made to the police as appropriate.

Recruitment

Staff levels have remained largely unchanged during this period. Most notable variations include our Fundraiser returning from maternity leave at the end of 2025 and then resigning at the end of the financial year. We were also able to recruit a Parlour Outreach Manager in May 2025 which has enabled our Parlour Outreach programme to be led more effectively and more opportunities for ongoing support provided to women. Our volunteer team for street outreach has remained sufficient to regularly deliver outreach on Friday evenings, although we would like to recruit additional volunteers in order to expand our outreach provision. With a strong staff team for parlour outreach visits, we have not felt it necessary to recruit additional volunteers, and with a small turnover of volunteers, we remain with one volunteer on the team.

Training & Awareness

We have continued to deliver training and awareness raising sessions to other professionals and local interest groups, most notably Women’s Institute groups around the county. We have delivered 16 sessions, to approximately 368 people, and through some of these sessions have received donations of approximately £600.

In planning the activities, the trustees have applied the guidance on public benefit issued by the Charity Commission.

Financial Review

Income decreased by £45,500 to £84,100 and expenditure decreased by £29,900 to £83,600; both of these variances were in the main caused by the fundraising and expenditure for the van that occurred in the prior year. Cash held increased by £500 to £46,400, of which £39,600 is unrestricted.

Finances are reviewed regularly by two trustees and at each trustee meeting.

Reserves Policy

The trustees' policy is to hold unrestricted cash reserves equivalent to three months of core expenditure, defined as salaries, employer pension contributions and employment taxes, utility costs and rental costs. This is in addition to any fixed assets held and used for the

charity's aims and purposes. Holding reserves at this level ensures that the charity is not required at any point in the year to borrow funds on overdraft from its bankers, and gives the trustees time to respond should income fall away or costs rise unexpectedly. Reserves held above this level are generated with a view to funding longer-term projects.

For the year in question, three months of core expenditure is approximately £16,500. At the year end the charity held unrestricted cash of £39,608, which is above the level set by this policy. Restricted funds reduced from £30,188 to £6,824 during the year, and unrestricted reserves therefore carry a greater share of the charity's ongoing activity than in prior years. The trustees keep the reserves position under review and will apply funds to project activity, or revise the policy, as appropriate.

The level of unrestricted cash reserves is reported to the trustees at each trustee meeting and at the end of the financial year.

Signature

This report was approved by the trustees, and is signed on their behalf by:

Name	Rebecca Panting
Signature	
Date	10th September 2026

Independent Examiners Report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of The Saffires Project ('the charity') for the year ended 31/03/2026.

Responsibilities and Basis of Report

As the trustees of the charity you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 (‘the 2011 Act’).

I report in respect of my examination of the charity’s accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 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 accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with the accounting records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Independent Examiner’s Details

Name:	Flexbooks UK Ltd/ Nicola Yates
Address:	2 Stones Manor Lane Hartford CW8 1NU

Name Nicola Yates

Signature 

Date 4th September 2026

Receipts & Payments Statement

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Prior Year
Receipts				
Donations & Legacies				
Donations	47,088	21,123	68,212	128,992
Gift Aid	5,759	308	6,068	24
Grants	0	0	0	0
Charitable Activities				
Event Income	0	0	0	0
Investments				
Bank Interest	881	0	881	465
Trading Activities				
Rental Income	0	0	0	0
Sales	0	0	0	0
Other				
Loans Received	0	0	0	0
Other Income	-138	9,106	8,968	104
Sale of Fixed Assets	0	0	0	0
Sale of Investments	0	0	0	0
Total receipts	53,591	30,538	84,129	129,586
Payments				
Charitable Activities				
Activities	2,942	909	3,851	4,090
Admin	0	0	0	482
Advertising	0	0	0	0
Bank Charges	60	0	60	60
Event Costs	0	0	0	0
Gifts Given	0	1,097	1,097	528
Other Expenditure	5,832	7,857	13,689	30,958
Premises	2,033	0	2,033	2,033
Staff Costs	19,938	42,937	62,876	53,790
Governance Costs				
Governance Costs	0	0	0	0
Other				
Fixed Asset Purchases	0	0	0	21,594
Loans Repaid	0	0	0	0
Money Invested	0	0	0	0
Total payments	30,806	52,800	83,605	113,535
Net Receipts / Payments (before transfers)	22,785	-22,262	523	16,051
Fund Transfers In	1,270	5,877	7,147	9,376
Fund Transfers Out	168	6,980	7,147	9,376
Net Movement of Cash Funds	23,888	-23,364	523	16,051
Total Cash Funds Brought Forward	15,730	30,188	45,918	29,867
Total Cash Funds Carried Forward	39,618	6,824	46,441	45,918
Represented By				
General (Unrestricted)	39,618	0	39,618	15,730
Street (Restricted)	0	6,320	6,320	7,101
Parlour (Restricted)	0	312	312	9,536
Parlour - Inspire bags (Restricted)	0	191	191	191
General - Fundraiser (Restricted)	0	0	0	1,635
General - Admin Assistant (Restricted)	0	0	0	3,016
Outreach Van (Restricted)	0	0	0	7,755
Wellbeing Packs (Restricted)	0	0	0	801
Christmas (Restricted)	0	0	0	154

Asset & Liability Statement

Cash Assets

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Prior Year
General (Unrestricted)	39,618	0	39,618	15,730
Street (Restricted)	0	6,320	6,320	7,101
Parlour (Restricted)	0	312	312	9,536
Parlour - Inspire bags (Restricted)	0	191	191	191
General - Fundraiser (Restricted)	0	0	0	1,635
General - Admin Assistant (Restricted)	0	0	0	3,016
Outreach Van (Restricted)	0	0	0	7,755
Wellbeing Packs (Restricted)	0	0	0	801
Christmas (Restricted)	0	0	0	154
Cash Assets Total	39,618	6,824	46,441	45,918

Other Monetary Assets

	Notes	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Prior Year
Gift Aid		270	0	270	2,840
Stock		0	0	0	0
Other		0	0	0	6,909

10th September 2026

Investment Assets

	Notes	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Prior Year
Property		0	0	0	0
Investment Accounts		0	0	0	0
Other		0	0	0	0

Fixed Assets

	Notes	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Prior Year
Land & Buildings		0	0	0	0
Music & PA Equipment		0	0	0	0
Computers & IT		529	0	529	9,171
Furniture		0	0	0	0
Motor Vehicles		0	21,594	21,594	21,594

Liabilities

	Notes	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Prior Year
Loans Outstanding		0	0	0	0
Pension Payment Owed		0	0	0	259
HMRC Payments Owed		0	0	0	270
Independent Examination Fee Due		432	0	432	1,080
Other		0	0	0	0

Signature

These accounts have been approved by the trustees, and are signed on their behalf by:

Name Rebecca Panting

Signature 

Date 10th September 2026

Notes to the Accounts

Accounting Policies

The accounts have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis and comprise a statement that shows the charity's receipts and payments, a statement that summarises the charity's assets and liabilities and related notes. The accountancy profession have determined that only accounts prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards present a 'true and fair' view and, as these receipts and payments accounts have not (and cannot) be prepared in accordance with accounting standards, these accounts do not present (and are not intended to present) a 'true and fair' view of the charity's financial activities and state of affairs.

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity. Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the trustees for particular purposes. Restricted funds are donations which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors; they include donations received from appeals for specific activities or projects.

Transactions to Related Parties

Rebecca Panting, a trustee, served as Charity Director, managing the charity's operations, and was paid £21,787.68 (2025: £20,544) for serving in that capacity, not for serving as a trustee; these payments are permitted by the charity's governing document, and include employer pension contributions. No payments were made to any other trustees or persons related to them, except for reimbursement of expenses paid out on behalf of the charity.

Movement of Funds

Fund Name	Opening Balance	Income	Expenditure	Fund Transfers	Closing Balance
Unrestricted					
General (Unrestricted)	15,730	53,591	30,806	+1,102	39,618
TOTAL	15,730	53,591	30,806	+1,102	39,618
Unrestricted Total	15,730	53,591	30,806	+1,102	39,618
Restricted					
Street (Restricted)	7,101	977	7,079	+5,322	6,320
Parlour (Restricted)	9,536	12,126	20,962	-388	312
Parlour - Inspire bags (Restricted)	191	0	0	0	191
General - Fundraiser (Restricted)	1,635	10,412	10,930	-1,116	0
General - Admin Assistant (Restricted)	3,016	1,601	4,784	+168	0
Outreach Van (Restricted)	7,755	5,423	7,857	-5,322	0
Wellbeing Packs (Restricted)	801	0	1,188	+388	0
Christmas (Restricted)	154	0	0	-154	0
TOTAL	30,188	30,538	52,800	-1,102	6,824
Restricted Total	30,188	30,538	52,800	-1,102	6,824
TOTAL	45,918	84,129	83,605	+0	46,441

Other

Motor vehicle - Fixed assets are stated at cost. The motor vehicle was purchased in January 2025 at a total cost of £21,594, including refitting for the charity's outreach purposes. A recent valuation indicated a market value for the vehicle of approximately £14,220, which reflects the vehicle alone and attributes no value to the refit. The vehicle was funded from restricted donations given to support the charity's street outreach work and is held for that purpose.

Equipment comparative - The comparative figure for equipment at 31 March 2025 was stated at insurance value, as disclosed in the accounts for that year, and has not been restated.

Fund transfer - During the year the balance of the Outreach Van fund (£5,322) was transferred to the Street fund. The van was funded by donations given to support the charity's street outreach work and is used solely for that purpose. The trustees are satisfied that the transfer does not alter the purposes for which the funds were given, and that both the vehicle and the transferred balance continue to be applied in accordance with donors' wishes.

Other Income - Other Income includes the net effect of an HMRC settlement received on 29 July 2025, comprising Employment Allowance, recovery of Statutory Maternity Pay and related income tax adjustments, allocated across funds according to the payroll costs to which they relate. The net effect on unrestricted funds was a reduction of £148.