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Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts
for the year period
6th April 2025 to 5th April 2026

Galashiels and Area Foodbank (GAF)
SC050850

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Galashiels and Area Foodbank (GAF)
Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation
Registered Scottish Charity No: SC050850

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for the period 6th April 2025 to 5th April 2026

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Galashiels and Area Foodbank (GAF)
Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation
Registered Scottish Charity No: SC050850

Reference and Administrative Details for the period 6th April 2025 to 5th April 2026

The trustees present their report and the financial statements for the charity for period 6th April 2025 to 5th April 2026.

Trustees	Richard Aird Grace Murray Elizabeth Williams - Chair David Blackledge - Treasurer Scott Prophet Katherine Richards Dawn Hedderly Ella Wiseman Fiona Nisbet
Address	St Peters Church Parsonage Road Galashiels TD1 3HS
Charity Number	SC050850

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Objectives and activities

Galashiels and Area Foodbank was created by the members of local churches in the Scottish Borders and operated for a number of years as a voluntary organisation. It was incorporated as a charity in March 2021.

The organisation's purposes are to relieve poverty, suffering and distress of persons in the Scottish Borders by providing food and other items free or at subsidised cost.

On a weekly and emergency basis we supply food and other necessities to individuals and families throughout the Galashiels and wider area. We are grateful to receive both financial and food donations from a wide range of businesses and individuals. Our wonderful volunteers collect donations, shop, prepare food packages and distribute them to our clients.

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Structure, governance and management

Type of governing document

Galashiels and Area Foodbank is governed by its constitution which is managed by the Charity Trustees in their capacity as Members of the organisation.

The charity operates as a single tier SCIO.

Trustee recruitment and appointment

5 Trustees were appointed during the period with no resignations

No external organisations are allowed to appoint charity trustees.

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Achievements and performance

The charity continued to support our clients throughout the past year, providing weekly and emergency food parcels. We continued to see a large number of families and individuals affected by the cost of living crisis and increasing bills. Our Christmas period was very busy once again with a distribution of food, clothing and donated presents to over 150 families and individuals.

We continued to operate a pick up and storage point at the Focus centre although this will cease in the future due to scheduling conflicts. The charity will seek other methods to replace this capability.

Our ‘open table’ approach at St Peters Church which allows our clients to select the items they need continued to be a great success both for providing more appropriate items and assisting with our stock management.

In 2026 we are now regularly assisting between 80 to 100 families and individuals each week and we are grateful to all our donors, volunteers and supporters for their help in meeting that continuing demand.



We regularly receive financial donations and collections of food from a wide variety of organisations and individuals in the area for which we are very grateful.

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Our wonderful volunteers give up a great deal of their time and skill to keep our charity operating. We are extremely grateful to them for their hard work, compassion and commitment. From collecting food donations, fund raising, shopping, preparing food parcels, driving, delivering and more, they do it all tirelessly week in and week out with a cheery smile. Together they donate both their time and resources and once again this year we estimate they provided well over 10,000 hours of time and give over £100,000 worth of assistance freely to the charity.

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Financial review

The charity's financial position remained sound during the period. The charity started the year with funds of £95,660 due to additional grant and National Lottery funding which the trustees actively sought. During the period combined donations and grant income of £46,991 was received reflecting the timing of some of the grant income arriving in the prior period. We saw a slightly higher level of demand for assistance than the prior year and expenditure was £64,781 in total of which £56,855 was spent on food and vouchers for our clients. The remaining expenses were items such as rent of premises, maintenance, insurance etc and the charity saw increases in costs reflecting the broader UK inflation picture. The charity ended the period with a bank balance of £77,870.

Alasdair Johnston resigned as our Independent Examiner after assisting for many years and the trustees extend their thanks to him. The Trustees agreed to appoint EQ Accountants as Independent Examiners and advisors for the financial period.

Statement of the charity's policy on reserves

The requirement for a Reserves Policy is to allow the continuing operation of GAF by ensuring that sufficient funding is on hand to cope with both expected and unexpected changes in client demand or donor income. It allows the Trustees a period of time to take sufficient action to ensure the long term continuation of the organisation.

In setting the Reserves Policy the trustees take note of the regular running costs of the organisation, the frequency of additional or unexpected expenditure from a historical perspective, views on future needs and support and the time required to raise additional funds or take measures to address issues.

With this in mind the Trustees have reviewed the current size and operation of the foodbank and concluded that raising the reserve to £15,000 is prudent for GAF. The view taken is that this represents approximately 3-4 months of normal expenditure and is proportionate to the size of the largest one off expense the Trust has had. This

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reserve sum could therefore cover a period of additional demand, reduced donations or unexpected expenditure allowing suitable actions to be taken to address both.

This policy and Reserve sum has been in place from 17/03/2021 and the increase was agreed post the October 2025 trustee meeting. It will continue to be reviewed bi-annually and adjusted if any of the underlying factors considered in setting the reserve sum change.

At the end of the period the trustees noted that the reserves policy requirement was covered by the cash asset held by the Charity.

Details of any deficit

The charity did not operate with any deficit during the period

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Donated facilities and services

The charity is extremely grateful for the wide and varied support that we receive both regularly and through one off events.

Food Donations

We are fortunate to be supported by businesses and individuals in the area who regularly collect or donate food on our behalf:

- Asda Galashiels
- Booker Galashiels
- Borders General Hospital Melrose Ambulance Station
- Farmfoods Galashiels
- Macdonalds Galashiels
- Marks and Spencer Galashiels
- Poundland Galashiels
- Tesco Galashiels
- The Co-op Melrose
- Warburton Bakers

Additionally our local churches and congregations supply a regular collection. We are also very grateful to our local schools, clubs and associations for the drives and collections they organise

- Balmoral Primary School
- Gala Fairydean Rovers Football Club
- Clovenfords Primary School
- Glendinning Primary School
- Melrose Primary School
- St Margarets School
- St Marys School Melrose
- St Peters School Galashiels
- Bowden and Melrose Church of Scotland
- Caddonfoot Parish
- Galashiels Baptist Church
- Holy Trinity Church Melrose
- Old and St Pauls Church

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- St Peters Church Galashiels
- Stow and Heriot Parish

Financial Donations

We are fortunate to receive financial donations from individuals, businesses and other charities. Our regular monthly donations are the backbone of our fundraising and we would like to put on record our gratitude to all those who have made this commitment both directly and through our JustGiving page. While we cannot name them all here we would like them to know it makes a real difference.

We have also been publicly supported by a number of institutions throughout the year and we are very happy to acknowledge their assistance.

- Foundation Scotland
- Scottish Borders Council (Financial Inclusion Fund, Community Welfare Trust and other trust grants managed by SBC)
- Unison Scottish Borders Branch
- Rotary Club Gala
- Rotary Club Melrose
- Robertson Trust
- Weir Trust
- National Lottery
- Stow Community Trust

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Future plans

During the next period the charity will continue its main purpose of relieving poverty and suffering for people in the area via the provision of food.

The Food Bank continues to be a member of the Eildon Community Hub Meeting and continues to engage with a variety of government and charitable institutions involved in the alleviation of hunger and poverty.

We will continue to monitor the local communities cost of living challenges and seek to help where we can.

We are fortunate to have secured multi year funding from a variety of sources which give us certainty on planning and delivering our services. The trustees will continue to examine the best mix of locations for allowing access to food for those with additional travel or time restrictions.

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Declaration

Signed on behalf of the charity trustees: 

Print name:

Scott Prophet

Designation:

Trustee

Date 29-08-2026 | 11:29 BST

DD YY 2026

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Galashiels and Area Foodbank (GAF)
Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation
Registered Scottish Charity No: SC050850

Receipts and Payments Accounts
for the year ended 05 April 2026

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2026 £	Total 2025 £
Receipts				
Donations	£ 40,306	£ -	£ 40,306	£ 60,620
Grants	£ -	£ 6,500	£ 6,500	£ 48,200
Miscellaneous	£ 186	£ -	£ 186	£ -
Total Income	**£ 40,492**	**£ 6,500**	**£ 46,992**	**£ 108,820**
Payments				
Food	£ 49,555	£ -	£ 49,555	£ 50,490
Rent	£ 4,800	£ -	£ 4,800	£ 4,750
Phone	£ 181	£ -	£ 181	£ 163
Misc (inc bags)	£ 1,401	£ -	£ 1,401	£ 514
Insurance	£ 982	£ -	£ 982	£ 679
Vouchers for client distribution	£ 800	£ 1,200	£ 2,000	£ 100
Weir Trust	£ -	£ 5,300	£ 5,300	£ -
Just giving subs	£ 562	£ -	£ 562	£ 515
IT equipment	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ 170
Total payments	**£ 58,281**	**£ 6,500**	**£ 64,781**	**£ 57,381**
Funds Transfers	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -
Surplus/(Deficit) for year	**-£ 17,790**	**£ -**	**-£ 17,790**	**£ 51,438**

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Galashiels and Area Foodbank (GAF)
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Statement of Balances
for the year ended 05 April 2026

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2026 £	Total 2025 £
Funds reconciliation				
Opening cash at bank and in hand	£ 95,660	£ -	£ 95,660	£ 44,222
Surplus/(deficit) for year	-£ 17,790	£ -	-£ 17,790	£ 51,438
Closing cash at bank and in hand	**£ 77,871**	**£ -**	**£ 77,871**	**£ 95,660**
Bank and cash in hand				
Bank balance at end of period	£ 77,871	£ -	£ 77,871	£ 95,660
Total Bank/Cash	**£ 77,871**	**£ -**	**£ 77,871**	**£ 95,660**

Assets		
Laptop	£ 50	£ 100
Fridge at St Peters	£ 50	£ 100
Fridge at Focus	£ 50	£ 200
Phone	£ 10	£ 50
Printer	£ 50	£ 100
Vouchers for client distribution	£ 270	£ -
Owed by Liz	£ 82	£ -
	£ 562	£ 550
Liabilities		
Independent Examination fee	£ 750	£ -
Sundry creditors	£ -	£ 1,099
	£ 750	**£ 1,099**

31-08-2026 | 16:28 BST
Approved by the Trustees on ..... and signed on their behalf

Signed by:
David Blackledge
A820DA1CFDBC483...

D Blackledge
Treasurer

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Galashiels and Area Foodbank (GAF)
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Notes to the Accounts
for the year ended 05 April 2026

1. Basis of accounting

These accounts have been prepared on the Receipts and Payments basis in accordance with the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended).

2. Nature and purpose of funds

Unrestricted funds are of a general nature and have no conditions attached. Unrestricted funds and may be used at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the objects of the charity.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions

3 Related party transactions

There were no trustee's renumeration of other benefits for the year ended 05 April 2026 (2025: Nil)

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Galashiels and Area Foodbank (GAF)
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Independent Examiner's Report
for the year ended 05 April 2026

I report on the accounts of the charity for the period 6th April 2025 to 5th April 2026.

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) 2005 Act and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. The charity trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 10(1) (d) of the Accounts Regulations does not apply. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts as required under section 44(1) (c) of the 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 Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. 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
In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention other than disclosed below

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
   - to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 44 (1) (a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations, and
   - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 9 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations 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 by:
Sheryl Macaulay
53AFB740A08E49F...

Sheryl Macaulay FCCA
EQ Chartered Accountants
Chartered Accountants
47-49 The Square
Kelso
Roxburghshire
TD5 7HW

Dated: 02-09-2026 | 16:53 BST