



# A helping hand out of homelessness



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# 1. Introduction To Our Year

# Welcome

**Robes is a local charity that addresses the issues of homelessness, by providing comfortable, caring winter night shelters in the heart of London, and by offering good quality, relevant support and advice for those who want to get out of the cycle of homelessness.**

This past year we have learnt a lot from the amazing guests who have been in our winter shelters and from our incredible volunteers who enable Robes to do what it does.

**Some of the lessons we have learnt and continue to learn are in:**

- Planning more long-term: 3–5 years into the future, operationally, strategically, and with regards to our fundraising strategies;
- Giving more local ownership to our partners that want it;
- Training more of our amazing committed volunteers; and
- Working more with other agencies and partners.

We have learnt so much from the different homeless guests we have had the honour to host in our winter shelters, this past year the atmosphere in the shelters has been so welcoming and sociable. There have been many outstanding comments by everyone about this, which we attribute mainly to how open the guests have been. We have seen such care shown by different guests to each other which has been lovely.

Robes volunteers have demonstrated loyalty, commitment and patience as well as a myriad of other positive attributes. Robes is so blessed to have volunteers who have been with the programme for the past 12 years. Volunteers have mentioned how they look forward to the shelters opening and to spending time with the guests; how the experience refreshes them and brings communities together.

The project has tireless, well-trained staff, who care. They genuinely want to help and support vulnerable local people who in many cases have been dealt a bad hand. We have seen so many progressive results and steps towards better lives for our guests.



**Robes is so blessed to have volunteers who have been with the programme for the past 12 years.”**

Permanent housing is one of these outcomes, but we must remember that volunteer training, the securing of our guests' bank accounts and identification documents, as well as the networking with other agencies, all feed into the result.

*Nick*

**Nick Faraday**  
Charity Manager

# About Robes

**Since 2007, Robes has operated across Southwark and Lambeth to provide shelter for people who find themselves homeless in the heart of London.**

Robes offers support to vulnerable adults, with vital welfare advice enabling them to access services and accommodation. It has the support of over 33 church venues and over 1,000 volunteers.

Our mission is to enable those who find themselves homeless to access the best means of support and to accompany our guests on their journey to rebuild their lives.

## **We aim to:**

- Offer life-saving provision of shelter, food and a safe space, to those who find themselves homeless during the coldest winter months;
- Fight the degrading aspects of homelessness, and ensure that our guests are treated with dignity and respect;
- Support our guests on their journey out of homelessness, and reduce the return to homelessness in the future; and
- Foster the drive, enthusiasm and skills of our volunteers with the support of local churches.

We strive to achieve our aims and objectives through the following activities, detailed throughout this report:

- Winter night shelters run in partnership with local churches;
- Advice and welfare support services;
- Weekly drop-in 'Wednesday Club'; and
- Longer-term Housing Project 'HMO'.

## **How it all works**

Robes has grown from a small emergency response to homelessness in the local area 12 years ago, to one of the larger providers of winter night shelters in the area. Partnership is essential for Robes, key partners for Robes are the local churches in Southwark and Lambeth, local day centres and other agencies.

The winter shelters are central to the support that we offer, they provide the platform for us to be able to meet the important daily need of those affected by homelessness. Additional services

have been developed to complement the work done in the shelters, such as Advice and Welfare Support, the weekly Wednesday Club, and support with finding accommodation through the HMO Project.

Over this past winter, 33 churches have opened their doors to our guests, with the support of close to 1,000 volunteers. This past winter season we have offered 101 places within the shelters, with 101 guests taking up this offer. We are pleased to say that of those 101, 42 guests have moved into accommodation or supported facilities.





# Chairman's Statement

## The number of people sleeping rough on London streets has increased by almost a third, the latest figures reveal.

A total of 3,217 people were spotted between January and March 2019, which was 31% up on the year before. Without Robes those statistics would be even higher and they illustrate how important our charity is in offering a helping hand out of homelessness.

Last Winter's Night Shelter was the most successful ever and it was humbling that 18 guests were working whilst using our shelter. This enabled them to save finance and helped them move into accommodation. We were able to house over 42 of our guests and in total we hosted 101 guests whilst the winter night shelter was running. We had a great mix of guests from many countries and the whole season had a great spirit at the 33 venues which were hosting.

Our 2018 sponsored SleepOut at Southwark Cathedral raised the amazing total of £88,734. This was our 8th annual sponsored SleepOut and during that period, it has raised the astonishing amount of £787,896.



Our Chairman: George Martin

We are extremely grateful to the Dean of Southwark Cathedral and his team for hosting this major fundraising event. A warm thank you to the dedicated small committee who work tirelessly to make sure the event is successful and the many volunteers who help on the evening. The SleepOut has been the financial lifeline for our charity.

Special thanks to the many churches, organisations, livery companies and trusts that financially support our vital work, as we get no funding from central or local government.

We are blessed with having over 1,000 volunteers who offer their time and talents to welcome our guests and provide delicious food, making sure our guests feel at home at all the various venues. Thank you so much, without you we simply could not operate.

Thank you to my fellow trustees, who help me steer the charity in a positive direction to the benefit of our guests.

Robes will continue to be a beacon of hope in Southwark and Lambeth, by giving our guests first-class support, hospitality, and the real possibility of being helped out of homelessness. I know that I can rely on you to continue supporting Robes.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "George Martin". The script is fluid and cursive.

**George Martin**  
Chairman of Robes



**Robes will continue to be a beacon of hope in Southwark and Lambeth."**

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**£88,734**

Total amount raised at the 2018 SleepOut

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**3,217**

People spotted between January and March 2019

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**1,000+**

Volunteers who offer their time to Robes

## 2. How To Get Involved

### Our Initiatives

**We simply could not operate without our immense team of volunteers running our shelters and our Wednesday Club.**

Our dedicated volunteers' sort and deliver, beds and bedding; cook, clean, welcome, chat and sleep at our night shelters; organise, cook, chat and play games with our guests at Wednesday Club.

A BIG THANK YOU to everyone involved in helping us to deliver our project.

**Here are some of the ways you can get involved:**

- Cook and interact with guests at our weekly Wednesday Club.
- Stay overnight at our shelters.
- Help to sort and deliver beds and bedding to our 33 shelter venues.
- Deliver workshops to our guests using your own skills.

Visit [robes.org.uk](https://robes.org.uk) to find out how or contact 020 7407 5623 and ask to speak to our Shelter Coordinator.



# Robes Annual SleepOut

**Nine years ago, the first Robes SleepOut was held. Since then it has gone from strength to strength and is now our major annual fundraising event. Hosted by Southwark Cathedral, the SleepOut is a lifeline to Robes and generates the bulk of our annual income.**

The SleepOut is an opportunity for our donors and supporters to experience what it feels like to sleep rough for one night of the year. Many people from the local communities of Southwark and Lambeth come together to make a difference, by doing something to address and alleviate local homelessness.

The SleepOut has a fun, jam-packed, evening programme, that usually includes well-known local celebrities, and an auction, which has incredible prizes due to our incredible 2018 Charity Partners and volunteers.



Robes SleepOut participants, Edward and Kit Perry

## A Father and Son Adventure

The Robes SleepOut is a safe and entertaining way of supporting a great cause and raising money to help Robes. Robes does incredible work with the homeless in South London – an issue that seems to be getting worse, not better – in a city where homelessness should not be an issue in the first place.

Edward and Kit Parry joined the Robes SleepOut in 2018 and are encouraging others to join them for this year's SleepOut which takes place on 29 November 2019.

Edward said: "Southwark Cathedral is a special place for our family – my wife and I were married there in November 2004 and my children have both been christened in the Cathedral – it's a great place to spend an evening, feeling a little bit what it is like not to have a roof over your head, even if only for one night. It's important to me that my children understand that they are lucky with what they have and that, fundamentally, the people that we meet on the street are just 'normal' human beings that have had an unlucky turn somewhere in life. I've done the SleepOut for many years now (at least once on our actual wedding anniversary) and Kit has been joining me since he was 12. In 2017, Kit's first year, we raised around £10,000; last year we decided to avoid 'donor fatigue' with our regular supporters and slept out, but without asking for sponsorship.



**It's important to me that my children understand that they are lucky with what they have."**

My daughter Hero, who is turning 12, will be joining us for the first time this year, and so we'll be back with a vengeance on the fundraising front – get your cheque-books ready!"

Kit said: "I love doing the SleepOut because it really shows us how lucky we are to have shelter. It really gives a perspective on how difficult it is being homeless. I never realised, before doing the SleepOut, how cold and noisy it is outside at night. Robes is an excellent charity and I am very grateful for all the people trying to help beat homelessness."

Over 155 people registered to take part. We raised a staggering £88,734. Thank you, Southwark Cathedral!

# Robes Winter Shelter

## Robes has been running a church based winter night shelter for the homeless for the past 12 years.

The shelters are spread across Southwark and Lambeth boroughs in the heart of London. Robes provides a whole array of services but core to what Robes does are the shelters.

The shelters are warmly hosted by 33 churches and community centres. They are open 7 nights a week for 35 guests. Our loyal and active volunteers run the shelters with emergency on call support available from staff. Our shelter works on a referral basis.



**My time here has been more than I had anticipated. The team at Robes, as well as the staff at all the places I stayed, and also the other residents, have been fantastic.”**

We open our referral system in October to allow professional organisations to link us with their clients who are most in need of a space in the shelter. Once a referral comes through, our dedicated advice workers interview each guest to make sure that they will benefit from the shelter or if there are other more appropriate shelters or services that could better support them.

### Our referrals come from the amazing teams at:

- Ace of Clubs
- Crisis
- Crisis at Croydon
- Manna Day Centre
- Shelter
- Spires
- St. Mungo's
- The Big Issue
- The Southwark Day Centre for Asylum Seekers
- Webber Street

### Email from a Guest

Just to say a big thank you for recommending me to Robes. My time here has been more than I had anticipated. The team at Robes, as well as the staff at all the places I stayed, and also the other residents, have been fantastic.

My caseworker has now made an offer for me to begin looking at private 1-bed flats and I am seeing one of your advice workers in the morning to discuss the logistics.

I did tell some people today how you all help me to get back on track. Once again a big thank you for supporting me. And keep up the good work.

From a Guest (28 February 2019)





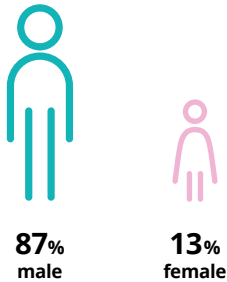
# Robes Winter Shelter



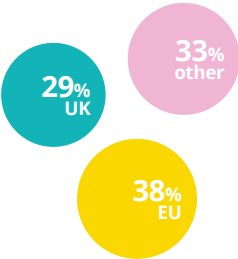
## Our Guests

Through our referral process we welcome guests, regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, ability, sexuality or religion. Many guests will already have a clear plan, which we use as a starting point to put together a tailor-made support package, enabling them to move quickly through the shelter to their next goal. Action points can include: obtaining ID documents, opening a bank account, applying for benefits or accessing employment or education.

## Gender



## Nationality

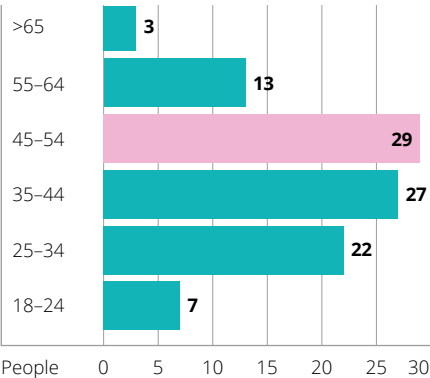


## Achievements & Performance

During the winter of 2018/19 we provided for 101 guests (compared to 89 guests in 2017/18). Our guests come from all walks of life with a diversity of backgrounds and needs. Each season the demographics change, since all our guests are different and unique. We aim to provide a tailor-made, person-led service for each of them.

42 guests have moved into their own accommodation or supported facilities and 5 guests have not returned to rough sleeping, so half these guests are no longer sleeping on the streets. Additionally, there have been many other positive outcomes which have taken people one more step on in their journey. We continue to support our guests throughout the summer season, find out more in 'advice working section'.

## Age



# A Local Charity Helping Local Homeless People

Robes has operated across Southwark and Lambeth to provide winter night shelters for local people who find themselves homeless in the heart of London.

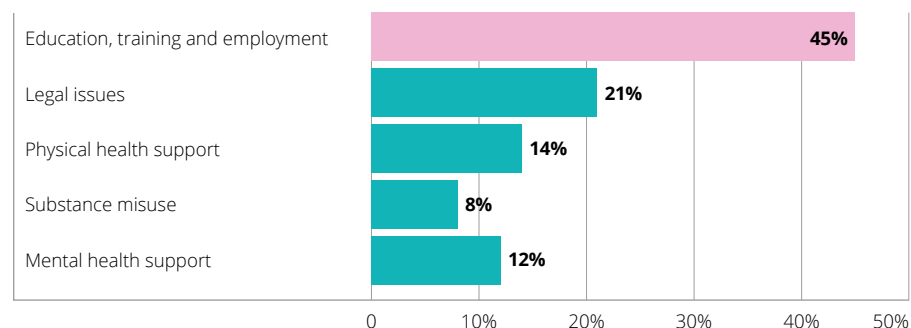
# Robes Winter Shelter

## – Our Outcomes

Each guest in our shelters is unique and often we are just part of their journey to achieve their goals. We help our guests set realistic achievable targets which will enable them to take the next steps on the path out of homelessness.

We then work alongside them to achieve those targets, both during and after their stay in our shelter. The reasons our guests find themselves at our shelter are many and varied, as are the struggles that must be overcome. We work with a range of partner agencies to provide tailor-made support for each of them.

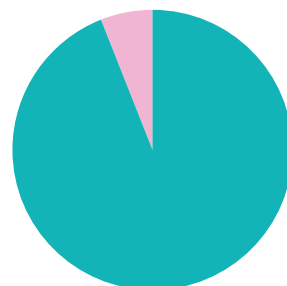
### What our guests needed support with



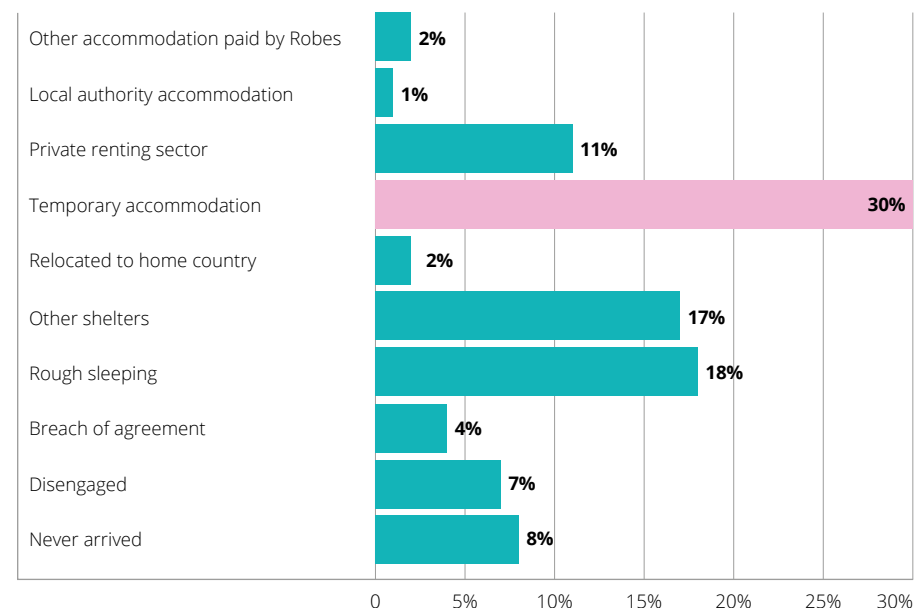
### Shelter season 2018/19

Total bed spaces available: 4,763

- Filled bed spaces – 94%
- Missed nights – 6%



### End of shelter outcomes



# Robes Winter Shelter – Volunteer Report

**About 10 years ago I heard that Robes was running a Winter Shelter in our local church. That is when I first volunteered, and I have done so every season since.**

We are very lucky at St. Michael's, Stockwell, because the church is a centre for our strong local community. This has led to ever-increasing numbers of people keen to volunteer for Robes from all sectors of the community.

I have been a Team Leader for a few years, and every year I learn something new about how strong the human spirit can be. I am constantly humbled and inspired by the dignity and pride of the guests, and by their ability to respect one another's privacy through all the trials and tribulations that life throws at them.

I notice guests helping each other, and sometimes the volunteers, (I still haven't mastered the beds, try as I might, and a guest always comes to my rescue!). It is almost embarrassing how grateful guests are for the very little we do for them by choice, when their current situation is one in which they have so few choices.



Caroline Hirst has been volunteering with Robes for the past 10 years.

This season the 'family' spirit of the group has felt stronger than usual, even with all the changes in the group. This family spirit meant that the guest group members were able to cope with people leaving the circuit and others joining, without losing mutual respect for each other. On leaving, one guest pointed out how important this respect for each person as an individual, from the group and volunteers, had been to him and his fellow guests.

There have been some memorable moments and fun. There was the evening one guest demonstrated how to move on the catwalk and other guests tried to copy him. Everyone was crying with good-humoured laughter at each other's less than elegant way of moving!



**For myself, although it can be hard work and emotionally draining at times, I feel privileged to be a Team Leader for such a worthwhile charity."**

Another highlight was when I walked into the hall and a guest who had previously been uncommunicative with everyone, waved at me with a broad smile and said "Hello Caroline". I hadn't realised she had even registered my name! At supper she was transformed into a person chatting easily with volunteers and other guests for the first time since we knew her. This small incident alone would have made volunteering for Robes worthwhile, but of course it is everything else as well.

This includes seeing new volunteers grow in confidence and enjoyment at Robes, as they become more comfortable with guests and their circumstances.

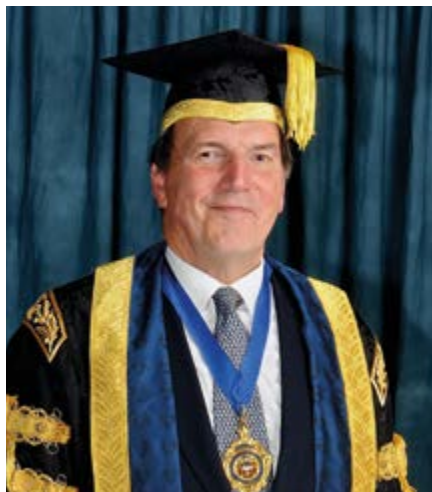
For myself, although it can be hard work and emotionally draining at times, I feel privileged to be a Team Leader for such a worthwhile charity. I just hope that as guests move on, they can put this difficult patch behind them forever. I also hope that having surmounted the physical, mental and emotional issues around homelessness, each guest is able to see their own strengths and self-worth.

Lastly, thanks to everyone: Robes staff for their constant presence, hard work and guidance, the guests for teaching us all so much, by opening our minds to matters outside our own experience or comfort zones, and of course, the great group of volunteers, bringing their own experiences and abilities to create a welcome and much-appreciated environment for the guests.

**Caroline Hirst**  
Robes Volunteer

## A Word From Our Patron

**Robes does great and important work – coming to the aid of some very needy people in Lambeth and Southwark, our two inner boroughs in the capital of the world's fifth largest economy.**



I have seen every year the growth in the work, the reach, the number of people supported and volunteering for Robes and the effectiveness of Robes. All the year round, Robes now supports more people than ever, and helps to move more people from homelessness and bad housing.

I have two requests to all who read this report. First, please consider how you can use your votes best and your influence more – so that all borough, London and national elected representatives act much more urgently to deliver the thousands more truly affordable homes which London needs. Second, please decide how you can help Robes more in the year ahead.

Thank you very much.

**Rt Hon Sir Simon Hughes**  
Patron of Robes

## 3. What We Do



# Wednesday Club

**The Wednesday Club has always tried to offer a relaxed and non-intrusive environment, where past and present guests can come to be entirely who they want to be, or to seek advice on how to move their lives forward.**

According to a recent study carried out by Crisis, 61% of people who are homeless classify as 'lonely' and 53% find that this makes them less able to seek future support. 'Boredom' or 'loneliness' is often cited as the leading reason for excessive drug or alcohol use. In response to this, we have created a community that is inclusive and supportive. We have focussed on activities that are non-verbal (to include all nationalities) and that encourage healthy competition or cooperation as opposed to working alone. Table tennis, paper aeroplane competitions and remote-control car races for example, have created infectious atmospheres that develop social cohesion within the group, and build social confidence for the future.

This year we have worked to improve the Wednesday Club space: we set up computers so that everyone can access the internet, ran a small free-shop where guests can address their material needs without judgement, and encouraged guests to take on responsibility for cooking. Over the winter season 10 different guests have shown their culinary skills and cooked for the whole group, covering a range of cuisines from Palestinian to Jamaican, Italian to Ethiopian. Each was met with enthusiasm and encouragement from other Club guests, building confidence and community.

We provided free flu shots for all guests who wanted them, ensuring that they stayed healthy through the winter season and invited recruitment specialists to help our guests into occupations.

- Since summer 2018, attendees at the Wednesday Club have nearly doubled from less than 10 to an average of 17 per week.
- Currently, we have 6 volunteers, who generously give their time to set up, cook and socialise with guests, these include 2 ex-guests who have decided to dedicate their spare time to helping others.
- There is a very high retention rate, 85% of guests who came along to Wednesday Club returned to the Club the following week.

## The Future

As winter ends, and our shelters close, we will look to take advantage of the warm weather and expand our outings programme. We have a group of guests that know each other well, and as such we will have the freedom to be more outgoing and expansive in our ideas. We have recruited more volunteers for this and are looking to recruit ex-guests to mentor those still undertaking their journey.



**We provided free flu shots for all guests who wanted them, ensuring that they stayed healthy through the winter season.”**

**17**

Average attendees since summer 2018

**85%**

Retention rate of Wednesday Club guests the following week

**6**

Volunteers who offer their time to the Wednesday Club

# Wednesday Club – Volunteering

**Well where do I start?  
I start by saying my first  
encounter with Robes was  
on a cold February day in  
2019. I was homeless and  
fell off life's bandwagon.**

I met a man called Crispin, he opened his hands and made me feel worthy. He offered from somewhere a warm, safe and secure place. My first night was what really touched my soul. I met some great people and yep, put on tons of weight!

I moved into my own space and place in March 2019 and the team at Robes as well as the night shelters were very helpful and supportive.

In April, Crispin asked me to become a volunteer and I felt honoured. I now attend the Wednesday Club and it would be fair to say I try to help newly arrived homeless people as well as other service users.

There is so much to say, but I want to end by thanking all the united churches, volunteers, friends, groups that help by giving us grants, and the people of Oasis, for giving us wonderful clothes every week and helping us to give clothes to others.

**Kenneth Thomas**  
Robes Volunteer





# Wednesday Club

## – Ask a Romanian

**Trying to understand how to apply for a passport from the Romanian Consulate using Google Translate is like trying to understand poor instructions on how to set the latest computerised alarm clock which has just arrived from China!**

The help of another guest who knows his way around the officialdom of his consulate was enlisted, and he managed to set up an appointment by personally visiting the consulate near Holland Park, with the applicant in tow, and speaking personally with a contact he knew upstairs. As a result, an appointment was fixed for a few days' time and it was left to me to return early one evening with the hopeful guest and make the application.

When we presented ourselves at reception, we were told the appointment was not until 23 July and I was reminded of today's date in the month of March. My riposte was that I was fully aware of today's date in March, but that I had a piece of paper in my pocket with a man's name clearly on it and that I had been told to insist on speaking with the man upstairs.



She took the paper, told us to stand “over there”, and turned on her heel to disappear upstairs. Five minutes later she returned and beckoned towards us, indicating that we could go up. We emerged onto a landing, which was also a waiting room where children were scrambling about while some supervising adults looked on. Moving through into the room next door, there was a busy scene of people being fingerprinted and photographed. My non-English speaking guest was immediately approached, with a nod towards me, “Who is he?” to which he simply said “Robes.”

In short, his application was completed and paid for, and he was issued with a receipt saying that his new passport would be ready in two weeks. The guest was elated and feels more secure about prospects for continuing in the UK, which he hopes to achieve as soon as he passes his CSIS training for construction. In simple words his goals are: Passport, Job, Money, Room.

# Advice Working

## **Advice working for Robes covers a multitude of roles, starting with assessing incoming referrals and registering guests for the shelters, then working directly with individuals closely while they are with us.**

Outcomes are varied and evolve from personalised support plans that can be realistically achieved in the here and now.

Securing stable accommodation for someone is a big achievement. Sadly, access to housing is not possible for everyone. There are a significant number of people who have limited pathways into accommodation, due to statutory and legislative barriers. For many, we need to look at other options. Often our work is about less measurable outcomes, such as helping someone make changes within. For instance, a man who has spent months or even years of habitually sleeping out and drifting without clear purpose, takes a big step when he starts to engage with a plan on how he can effect changes for his future life. It is possible for this to happen when someone becomes a guest in the Robes shelters, and we see numbers of people

who left the shelters during past winter seasons, who are continuing a recovery that was initiated from their time with Robes.

### **Advice Work Overview 2018/19**

Last year, guest shelter registration started mid-October, weeks ahead of the first shelter circuit opening. Advisors met referrals to register them as guests as soon as they were referred. Both Circuit One and Circuit Two cohorts opened with full guest lists and a high demand for shelter places that was to continue throughout the season.

Our response to so-called 'no-shows' was more robust compared to previous years. Consequently, we saw a decrease in the numbers of unused beds in the shelters. Our statistics show a record number of individuals registered as guests for the shelters although some of them never materialised or remained for more than a week after arrival.

We had a significant number of people from the EU not claiming benefits, who were working intermittently, often on zero-hour contracts. Some succeeded in getting employment contracts while in Robes and moved on after saving money for rent deposits. Some of the others whose incomes were not enough to afford to rent privately, went on to pay for temporary stays in backpacker hostels.

To help people prepare for sustainable employment, Robes approached PECAN, a local Employment Service for the community in South London. They agreed to take 'homeless' referrals from Robes and have proved to be immensely proactive in helping many of our guests.

We also saw small but significant numbers of UK nationals who were on sickness or disability-related benefits and accompanied them to local authorities for housing assessments under the Homeless Reduction Act. We succeeded with some who were accepted as eligible for temporary accommodation. For those under the age of 35, there is a big scarcity of decent shared accommodation, and we referred to Alone in London, who work with younger people, as well as a YMCA.



**With the shelter season over, we continue to see and assist significant numbers of guests coming to our weekly Wednesday Club.”**

With the shelter season over, we continue to see and assist significant numbers of guests coming to our weekly Wednesday Club. We have some loyal volunteers who make the Wednesday Club possible and they were recently joined by a former guest, and a young student on placement who wanted to help out. After the shelters close, apart from our work with the Wednesday Club and ongoing casework, we review and plan areas for development and adopt new initiatives for advice working in the future. It is also the time for us to take annual leave breaks before the winter comes again, when we have to be prepared, as they say at sea, for the call: “All hands-on deck!”



# Advice Working – Case Study

Simon was referred to us by a local day centre in February, Robes was at full capacity with a reserve list in place. We were too busy to meet him straight away. When we were able to follow up on his referral, he had apparently disappeared. We found him one day when we dropped into the day centre and discovered he was in attendance. We told him we could not offer him a place immediately, but we could put him on the reserve list. He said he was so used to roughing it that a few more nights would not make any difference to him.

He told us “The most important thing for me personally is to get back in regular contact with my children. I am not in a good place mentally and would like to get my life together so that I can have a relationship with them. I need to find somewhere to live on a permanent basis, this will help my mental health and help me look at getting back into work.”

As a 44-year old migrant worker, he had come to the UK in 2005 and had a history of working at a variety of jobs. When his last live-in job in Essex ended, he came to London in the hope of finding work. He admitted to drinking, to deal with despondency and anxiety about unemployment and the breakdown of relations with his former partner and their children.

On the streets he had been robbed of his personal belongings, including his documents and papers. Without these, his application for a welfare benefit had been rejected. One of our first steps was to help ask the DWP for a reconsideration of their decision not to award benefit, while we helped him get records of his tax payments for all the years he had worked. Meanwhile the shelters gave him a platform from which he could start to recover his confidence and plan with hope for the future. Marc helped to register him with a reputable employment agency and after the shelters closed, we funded temporary stays in backpacker hostels, being bravely optimistic of either a benefit award or of securing work. While in his third week in the hostel, not only did Simon receive a backdated benefit payment, but at the same time he left for an offer of a live-in job outside London. Soon afterwards he sent us a message: “Great news, I have met my children for a couple of days, made an agreement with my ex and am now working”.



# Achievements & Performance

**Robes is developing to recognise that each step a guest makes while in contact with Robes is a step closer to a better quality of life. Here are some of those steps:**

**Robes advisors also help our guests to:**

- Process universal credit applications.
- Apply for small grant applications, things like furniture for a new home.
- Set up professional legal consultations.
- Buy clothes to be able to work and attend interviews.
- Support with CV set up.
- Support to get identification documents, birth certificate, National Insurance number, passport.

These are just some of the things we can help our guests with.

**101**

Guests at the Winter Shelter

**42**

Guests were rehoused

**18**

Guests gained employment and 2 were supported into apprenticeships

# Fundraising Events

**Robes is always looking for new fundraising opportunities and partners to ensure we can continue to provide support to our guests.**

Robes has a 3–5 year fundraising strategy to diversify its funding and to plan earlier for the annual fundraising SleepOut event.

## Monday 23 September 2019

AGM, Volunteer Thank you and Shelter Launch Event @ London Calling Sweden

## November 2019

Online Auction

## Friday 29 November 2019

SleepOut 2019 @ Southwark Cathedral  
Registration NOW OPEN

## Wednesday 18 December 2019

Carol Singing @ London Bridge with  
Shalom Choral

## April 2020

Robes has once again entered the ballot – hoping for a place in 2020 London Marathon

## The London Marathon

Last summer, my husband showed me an email from Robes saying that they were looking for a volunteer to run the London Marathon.

My first reaction was “No way!” I had run a half-marathon before and at the end of it had felt horrified at the idea of running that distance twice. But another part of me couldn’t stop thinking about it. I grew up on the London Marathon route and had always enjoyed watching the runners go by, so the idea of running for Robes, a charity my husband and I had been volunteering with for about ten years, was also very appealing.

So that is how, almost six months later, I ended up on the start line at Greenwich together with about 40,000 other runners. I had trained diligently and with barely an interruption – no injuries or flu. Then, nine days before the run, I bruised a muscle in my ribcage. I’m still not totally sure how it happened, but it was extremely painful, and just two days before the race I wasn’t sure I would make it. However, in the end it eased enough for me to get round in 3:56:47. The support on the course was phenomenal. This year’s London Marathon motto was #ThanksABillion, because the total funds raised for charity in every marathon since 1981 surpassed £1 billion. I am pleased to say that £2,430 of that was raised for Robes this year, and I’m grateful to everyone who sponsored me.





# Future Plans

## Winter Night Shelter Ownership

As a result of extensive monitoring and evaluation, we can clearly see that the shelters we have with the capacity and a keen commitment to Robes, are able to store beds and bedding. This helps to devolve Robes central control of resources and releases staff to give more of their time and expertise to supporting our guests. It also reduces expenses.

## Volunteer Training

Robes staff, together with various partners (both other agencies and our volunteers), are developing and launching a pilot training programme for volunteers who want to be better equipped to help homeless people locally. We are also hoping to prepare several volunteers to give our guests key moral support for important appointments.

## SleepOut

This will continue to be our major fundraising event of the year, taking place the last Friday evening of November. We have set it up and enabled people to register and fundraise earlier.

## Social Media Expansion

We have a social media yearly plan set up and automated. This is to celebrate the outstanding achievements and outcomes our guests are seeing and to offer different ways for local businesses and individuals to donate to Robes. This is also vital to thanking and showing appreciation to the amazing local communities and volunteers who make this project possible.

## Housing In Multiple Occupancy

This is a pilot scheme and Robes is taking a 2-year lease on a 7 bedroom house in Camberwell that will sleep 9 people. 7 guests will have recourse to public funds and 2 guests will have no recourse to public funds. The guests with recourse to public funds in essence will pay for the running costs, which include the rent that has to be paid to the landlord. The 2 guests with no recourse to public funds will be responsible for the cleanliness of the house. The guests will be on short lets as a stepping stone to more permanent accommodation and we will motivate them to develop skills.



# 4. Financial Information

## Operational Information

**The Trustees are pleased to present their Annual Report together with the financial statements of the Charity for the year ended 30 April 2019.**

### **Structure, Governance And Management**

#### **Governing document**

Robes was initially set up as an unincorporated charity by a constitution adopted 1 October 2008, amended by special resolution on 20 July 2009. It was registered as a charity on 10 November 2009 and is governed by a Committee of Trustees elected at the Annual General Meeting. The area of benefit are the London Boroughs of Lambeth and Southwark.

On 1 August 2017 the Charity set up a separate Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) called 'Robes'. The Charity and the CIO were merged on 18 January 2019. An asset transfer order was signed on 18 January 2019. The assets have now been transferred to the CIO and the old un-incorporated charity closed.

The number of Trustees shall not be less than 5, and until otherwise determined by a general meeting, no more than 9.



# Operational Information

## Objectives

The objects of the CIO are the relief of poverty among people who are homeless in the London boroughs of Southwark and Lambeth by the provision of winter night shelters, food and advice, support and re-settlement services so as to help them re-build their lives.

## Public benefit statement

The Trustees consider that the work of Robes is to provide relief to poor and disadvantaged people in the London Boroughs of Southwark and Lambeth by the provision of winter shelter, food and support helping to make these boroughs a safer, more humane place for everyone. All Trustees give their time voluntarily and no Trustee receives any private benefit from the Charity.

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in section 4 of the Charities Act 2006 to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission in determining the activities undertaken by the Charity.

## Governance and management

The Charity is run by its Trustees who meet bi-monthly to determine the strategy of the Charity, to discuss operational matters and to formulate policy. The Charity Manager attends all Trustee meetings. Sub-committees dealing with specific functions support the Board of Trustees and certain items of executive responsibility are delegated to individual Trustees to facilitate decision-making and to support staff efforts. All delegated matters are closely reported upon to the Trustee Board.

The Trustees delegate responsibility for delivering day to day services to our guests primarily to the Charity Manager, staff and volunteer teams.

The Charity Manager is responsible for individual supervision of the staff team and also ensuring that the team continue to develop their skills and working practices in line with good practice.

## Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

The Committee seek to recruit Trustees from among the churches participating in the Project who have relevant skills and experience to assist in running the Project. New Trustees are given an induction pack.

## Risk Management

The Trustees recognise that there are risks to which the Charity is exposed. Systems have been established to mitigate known risks, including financial controls, employment procedures, agreements with participating churches and volunteer training. The Trustees keep proper accounting records and take reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities. Health and safety, equal opportunities and quality standards are prioritised. Records and archives are securely stored and electronic data carefully protected.

A significant risk the Charity faces is its over reliance on the SleepOut as a fundraising event. It looks to mitigate against this risk by diversifying its funding sources. Another significant risk is a serious safeguarding issue causing the Charity to lose confidence of guests and referring partners. The Charity mitigates against this by thorough training for staff and volunteers.

## Financial review

Our strategy for 2018/19 was to provide a winter night shelter for our homeless guests from November 2018 through to April 2019 using a network of churches in the London boroughs of Lambeth and Southwark.

Total expenditure for the year ended 30 April 2019 was £221,512. This reflects a year of consolidation after recent years of growth in the project. During the year, income decreased by £65,738, a decrease of 24% on the previous year, partly due to an increase in donations in the prior year which was our 10th anniversary year.

The annual SleepOut in the grounds of Southwark Cathedral raised £88,734, which was a significant decrease on our previous year's total of £140,294. As our shelters and volunteers are provided at no cost to the Charity, our main costs (60%) were in relation to our small team of salaried staff who provide the backbone of our Charity.

At 30 April 2019, the total reserves stand at £299,616. Of these reserves, £28,925 is restricted for our HMO (previously named 'Inn from the Cold') and other projects. Another £80,000 of unrestricted reserves is designated to support 'Inn from the Cold' moving forward.

# Operational Information

## Reserves Policy

As part of the annual review of the reserves policy, the Trustees of Robes assess the financial risks surrounding the Charity's ability to provide the services we offer to the homeless in Lambeth and Southwark. In so doing the Trustees aim to hold a minimum free reserves level of £80,000–£150,000. The current free reserves of £190,691 are safely above this limit.

## Statement of Board of Trustees' Responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Charity law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law they are required to prepare the financial statements in accordance with UK Accounting Standards and applicable law (UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland.

Under charity law the Trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a 'true and fair' view of the state of affairs of the Charity and of the excess of income over expenditure for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity will continue its activities.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the Charity's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011. They have general responsibility for taking such steps as are reasonably open to them to safeguard the assets of the Charity and to prevent and detect fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the Charity's website. Legislation in the UK governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

In addition, the Trustees confirm that they are happy that the content of the annual review in pages 2 to 41 of this document as well as the legal and administrative information on page 56, meet the requirements of the Trustees' Annual Report under charity law.

They also confirm that the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in the notes to the accounts and comply with the Charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS 102, The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland published on 16 July 2014.

This report was approved and authorised for issue by the Board of Trustees on 5 September 2019 and signed on its behalf by:



**George Martin**  
Chairman of Robes

# Independent Examiner's Report

## Independent examiner's report to the Board of Trustees of Robes Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Robes (charity number 1174060) for the year ended 30 April 2019 set out on pages 44 to 55.

### Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The CIO's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act). The CIO's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act;
- Follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act; and
- State whether particular matters have come to my attention.

This report, including my statement, has been prepared for and only for the CIO's trustees as a body. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the CIO's trustees those matters I am required to state to them in an independent examiner's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the CIO and the CIO's trustees as a body for my examination work, for this report, or for the statements I have made.

### Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with general directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the CIO 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 the trustees concerning any such matters.

The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

### 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:

- Accounting records were not kept in respect of the CIO as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- The accounts do not accord with those records; or
- 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.



### Andrew Philip Nash ACA

Member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales – 2461833

Dated: 11 September 2019

Andy Nash Accounting & Consultancy Ltd  
The Maltings  
East Tyndall Street  
Cardiff  
CF24 5EA

## Statement of Financial Activities

For the year ended 30 April 2019

	Notes	Unrestricted funds year ended 30 April 2019 £	Restricted funds year ended 30 April 2019 £	Total funds year ended 30 April 2019 £	Total funds year ended 30 April 2018 £
<b>Income from:</b>					
Donations	3	189,747	22,495	212,242	278,484
Investments	4	1,273	–	1,273	769
<b>Total income</b>		<b>191,020</b>	<b>22,495</b>	<b>213,515</b>	279,253
<b>Expenditure on:</b>					
Raising funds	5	10,064	–	10,064	22,147
Charitable activity	5 & 6	193,542	17,906	211,448	205,467
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<b>203,606</b>	<b>17,906</b>	<b>221,512</b>	227,614
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b>(12,586)</b>	<b>4,589</b>	<b>(7,997)</b>	51,639
<b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>					
Total funds brought forward	11 & 12	283,277	24,336	307,613	255,974
Total funds carried forward	11 & 12	270,691	28,925	299,616	307,613

The notes on pages 46 to 55 form part of the financial statements.

## Balance Sheet

As at 30 April 2019

	Notes	£	Total funds 2019 £	Total funds 2018 £
<b>Current assets</b>				
Debtors and prepayments	9	472		2,323
Cash at bank and in hand		305,839		316,896
		<b>306,311</b>		319,219
<b>Creditors:</b> amounts falling due within one year	10	<b>(6,695)</b>		(11,606)
<b>Net current assets</b>			<b>299,616</b>	307,613
<b>Net assets</b>			<b>299,616</b>	307,613
<b>Funds of the charity</b>				
Restricted funds	11 & 12		<b>28,925</b>	24,336
Unrestricted funds:				
Designated funds	11 & 12	<b>80,000</b>		80,000
General funds	11 & 12	<b>190,691</b>		203,277
			<b>270,691</b>	283,277
			<b>299,616</b>	307,613

The notes on pages 46 to 55 form part of the financial statements.

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Board of Trustees on 5 September 2019 and signed on their behalf by:

Luke Whiteman

Trustee





## Notes to the Financial Statements

### 1. Accounting policies

#### Basis of preparation of the financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with '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 2015)', the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

The effect of any event relating to the year ended 30 April 2019, which occurred before the date of approval of the financial statements by the Board of Trustees has been included in the financial statements to the extent required to show a true and fair view of the state of affairs at 30 April 2019 and the results for the year ended on that date.

Under the exemption available to smaller charities the Board of Trustees has chosen not to include a Statement of Cash Flows within the financial statements.

The functional currency of the Charity is sterling and amounts in the financial statements are rounded to the nearest pound.

#### Going concern

The financial statements have been prepared on the going concern basis as the Board of Trustees is confident that future reserves and future income is more than sufficient to meet current commitments. There are no material uncertainties that impact this assessment.

#### Legal status

Robes is a charitable incorporated organisation registered in England & Wales and meets the definition of a public benefit entity. In the event of the Charity being wound up, the liability is limited to £1 per member of the Charity. The registered office is 256 Bermondsey Street, London SE1 3UJ.

#### Fund accounting

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 and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds comprise of unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the Trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund are set out in note 11 of the financial statements.

Restricted funds are funds that are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or that have been raised by the Charity for particular purposes. The cost of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in note 11 of the financial statements.

#### Income

Income is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance indicators attached to the item(s) of income have been met, it is probable that the income will be received, and the amount can be measured reliably.

Donations and income from fundraising events are recognised in full in the Statement of Financial Activities when entitled, receipt is probable and when the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. Gift aid receivable is included when claimable.

Grant income is credited to the Statement of Financial Activities when received or receivable whichever is earlier, unless the grant relates to a future year, in which case it is deferred.

## Notes to the Financial Statements

#### Expenditure and irrecoverable VAT

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been included under expense categories that aggregate all costs for allocation to activities.

Indirect costs, including governance costs, which cannot be directly attributed to activities, are allocated proportionate to direct staff costs allocated to each project area, as outlined in note 5 of the financial statements.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged against the category of expenditure for which it was incurred.

#### Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

All assets costing more than £1,000 are capitalised. Currently there are no assets over this limit.

#### Operating leases

Rentals payable under operating leases are taken to the statement of financial activities on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

#### Pensions

Robes operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Pension contributions are charged to the statement of financial activities when due and payable. These contributions are invested separately from the charity's assets.

#### Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash in hand, deposits with banks and funds that are readily convertible into cash at, or close to, their carrying values, but are not held for investment purposes.

#### Debtors and prepayments

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount after any trade discount is applied. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

#### Creditors

Creditors are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party, and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably.

#### Critical estimates and judgements

In preparing financial statements it is necessary to make certain judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts recognised in the financial statements.

In the view of the Trustees in applying the accounting policies adopted, no judgements were required that have a significant effect on the amounts recognised in the financial statements nor do any estimates or assumptions made carry a significant risk of material adjustment in the next financial year.

#### Financial instruments

Basic financial instruments are measured at amortised cost other than investments which are measured at fair value.

### 2. Change in legal status

During the financial year ended 30 April 2018 the Trustees decided to convert the existing charitable trust to a charitable incorporated organisation and set up a new charitable incorporated organisation (registered number 1174060) on 1 August 2018, with the intention to link the old charity to the new charitable incorporated organisation, which happened during the financial year ended 30 April 2019, with the old charitable trust changing its number to 1174060-1 (previously 1132622).

During the intervening year the two charities effectively operated as one, with a common board and had the same registered office address as outlined in the legal and administrative information. Following professional advice during the financial year ended 30 April 2019 the Trustees chose to fully close and merge the old charitable trust into the new charitable incorporated organisation, with this process finishing on 18 January 2019.

## Notes to the Financial Statements

### 2. Change in legal status continued

The split of income and expenditure for the two entities over the two reporting periods is as follows:

	Charitable trust year ended 30 April 2019 £	CIO year ended 30 April 2019 £	Total funds year ended 30 April 2019 £
<b>Income from:</b>			
Donations and legacies	16,110	196,132	212,242
Investments	–	1,273	1,273
<b>Total income</b>	<b>16,110</b>	<b>197,405</b>	<b>213,515</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>			
Raising funds	617	9,447	10,064
Charitable activities	30,978	180,470	211,448
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>31,595</b>	<b>189,917</b>	<b>221,512</b>
Transfer between entities	(331,521)	331,521	–
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	<b>(347,006)</b>	<b>339,009</b>	<b>(7,997)</b>

	Charitable trust year ended 30 April 2018 £	CIO year ended 30 April 2018 £	Total funds year ended 30 April 2018 £
<b>Income from:</b>			
Donations and legacies	273,431	5,053	278,484
Investments	769	–	769
<b>Total income</b>	<b>274,200</b>	<b>5,053</b>	<b>279,253</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>			
Raising funds	22,147	–	22,147
Charitable activities	188,101	17,366	205,467
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>210,248</b>	<b>17,366</b>	<b>227,614</b>
Transfer between entities	(20,000)	20,000	–
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	<b>43,952</b>	<b>7,687</b>	<b>51,639</b>

## Notes to the Financial Statements

### 2. Change in legal status continued

At 30 April 2018 the net assets were split between the two entities as follows, with all funds held within the CIO unrestricted as to use.

By 30 April 2019 the old charitable trust had fully closed and so all assets were held within the CIO.

	Charitable trust year ended 30 April 2018 £	CIO year ended 30 April 2018 £	Total funds year ended 30 April 2018 £
Current assets	311,532	7,687	319,219
Current liabilities	(11,606)	–	(11,606)
<b>Total income</b>	<b>299,926</b>	<b>7,687</b>	<b>307,613</b>

### 3. Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds year ended 30 April 2019 £	Restricted funds year ended 30 April 2019 £	Total funds year ended 30 April 2019 £
General donations – churches	9,533	–	9,533
General donations – individuals and other	87,650	2,495	90,145
SleepOut	88,734	–	88,734
Other fundraising events	3,830	–	3,830
Trusts and foundations	–	20,000	20,000
	<b>189,747</b>	<b>22,495</b>	<b>212,242</b>

	Unrestricted funds year ended 30 April 2018 £	Restricted funds year ended 30 April 2018 £	Total funds year ended 30 April 2018 £
General donations – churches	4,903	–	4,903
General donations – individuals and other	89,287	26,520	115,807
SleepOut	140,294	–	140,294
Other fundraising events	5,480	–	5,480
Trusts and foundations	12,000	–	12,000
	<b>251,964</b>	<b>26,520</b>	<b>278,484</b>

## Notes to the Financial Statements

### 4. Income from investments

	Unrestricted funds year ended 30 April 2019 £	Restricted funds year ended 30 April 2019 £	Total funds year ended 30 April 2019 £
Bank interest	1,273	–	1,273
	1,273	–	1,273

	Unrestricted funds year ended 30 April 2018 £	Restricted funds year ended 30 April 2018 £	Total funds year ended 30 April 2018 £
Bank interest	719	50	769
	719	50	769

### 5. Total expenditure

	Staff costs year ended 30 April 2019 £	Other direct costs year ended 30 April 2019 £	Indirect costs year ended 30 April 2019 £	Total costs year ended 30 April 2019 £
Raising funds	–	8,709	1,355	10,064
Charitable activities	133,604	49,384	28,460	211,448
	133,604	58,093	29,815	221,512

	Staff costs year ended 30 April 2018 £	Other direct costs year ended 30 April 2018 £	Indirect costs year ended 30 April 2018 £	Total costs year ended 30 April 2018 £
Raising funds	–	19,586	2,561	22,147
Charitable activities	126,236	55,476	23,755	205,467
	126,236	75,062	26,316	227,614

Indirect costs, including governance costs, which cannot be directly attributed to activities, were allocated between cost centres proportionate to the direct costs allocated to those activities.

All expenditure on raising funds was unrestricted in nature in both the current and previous financial years.

## Notes to the Financial Statements

### 5. Total expenditure continued

An analysis of charitable activities split between restricted and unrestricted funds can be found in note 6.

An analysis of staff costs can be found in note 7.

	Total costs year ended 30 April 2019 £	Total costs year ended 30 April 2018 £
<b>Indirect costs include the following costs:</b>		
Office rent	14,604	11,804
IT and communications	5,720	7,830
Administrative costs	2,830	3,043
Insurance	1,210	1,108
Independent examination fees	1,350	1,350
Other professional fees	4,101	1,181
	29,815	26,316

### 6. Expenditure on charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds year ended 30 April 2019 £	Restricted funds year ended 30 April 2019 £	Total funds year ended 30 April 2019 £
Staff costs	120,618	12,986	133,604
Other direct costs	44,612	4,772	49,384
Indirect costs	28,312	148	28,460
	193,542	17,906	211,448

	Unrestricted funds year ended 30 April 2018 £	Restricted funds year ended 30 April 2018 £	Total funds year ended 30 April 2018 £
Staff costs	116,730	9,506	126,236
Other direct costs	53,416	2,060	55,476
Indirect costs	23,648	107	23,755
	193,794	11,673	205,467

## Notes to the Financial Statements

### 7. Staff numbers and costs

	Total costs year ended 30 April 2019 £	Total costs year ended 30 April 2018 £
Gross salaries	122,870	117,667
Employer's national insurance	8,082	6,246
Employer's pension	2,652	2,323
	133,604	126,236

The average headcount during the year was 5 persons (2018: 6 persons).

The average full-time equivalent (FTE) during the period was 3.5 (2018: 3.5).

No employee received employee benefits of more than £60,000 (2018: NIL).

The total remuneration paid to key management personnel during the year was £36,662 (2018: £31,929).

### 8. Pension costs

The charitable company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The assets of the schemes are held separately from those of the charity in independently administered funds. Contributions payable by the charity amounted to £2,652 (2018: £2,323).

£227 of employer contributions were outstanding at year end (2018: £218).

Pension costs are allocated between activities and funds on the same basis as relevant salary costs.

### 9. Debtors and prepayments

	Total year ended 30 April 2019 £	Total year ended 30 April 2018 £
Loans and deposits provided as part of the Inn from the Cold Project	-	2,323
Other debtors	472	-
	472	2,323

## Notes to the Financial Statements

### 10. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	Total year ended 30 April 2019 £	Total year ended 30 April 2018 £
Accruals	3,922	9,258
HMRC control account	2,319	1,956
Pension control account	454	392
	6,695	11,606

### 11. Analysis of charity funds

	Balance brought forward year ended 30 April 2019 £	Income for the year ended 30 April 2019 £	Expenditure in the year ended 30 April 2019 £	Transfers between funds year ended 30 April 2019 £	Balance carried forward year ended 30 April 2019 £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>					
Designated funds					
Inn from the Cold	80,000	-	-	-	80,000
	80,000	-	-	-	80,000
General funds	203,277	191,020	(203,606)	-	190,691
	283,277	191,020	(203,606)	-	270,691
<b>Restricted funds</b>					
Inn from the Cold	23,958	20,000	(15,577)	-	28,381
ACTS 4:35	208	1,175	(1,179)	-	204
Glasspool	170	1,320	(1,150)	-	340
	24,336	22,495	(17,906)	-	28,925
	307,613	213,515	(221,512)	-	299,616

The **Inn from the Cold** designated fund has been earmarked for growing this project over the next few years.

The **Inn from the Cold** restricted fund consists of donations and grants to support guests access the private rented sector by providing help with the up-front costs of housing, direct access to landlords and ongoing support once in accommodation.

The **ACTS 4:35** fund consists of funds given to directly support guests with specific needs/requirements.

The **Glasspool** fund consists of funds given to directly support guests with specific needs/requirements.



## Notes to the Financial Statements

### 11. Analysis of charity funds continued

	Balance brought forward year ended 30 April 2018 £	Income for the year ended 30 April 2018 £	Expenditure in the year ended 30 April 2018 £	Transfers between funds year ended 30 April 2018 £	Balance carried forward year ended 30 April 2018 £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>					
Designated funds					
Expansion fund	40,525	–	(40,525)	–	–
Inn from the Cold	80,000	–	–	–	80,000
Operational reserve	70,000	–	–	(70,000)	–
	190,525	–	(40,525)	(70,000)	80,000
General funds	56,010	252,683	(175,416)	70,000	203,277
	246,535	252,683	(215,941)	–	283,277
<b>Restricted funds</b>					
Inn from the Cold	9,319	25,050	(10,411)	–	23,958
ACTS 4:35	120	1,020	(932)	–	208
Glasspool	–	500	(330)	–	170
	9,439	26,570	(11,673)	–	24,336
	255,974	279,253	(227,614)	–	307,613

The **expansion fund** was set aside in 2015/16 to fund a doubling of night shelter places over the subsequent two years. This fund has now come to end as this target has been achieved.

The **operational reserve** was set aside by the trustees in prior years to protect the reserves required under the reserve policy. With the changes in recognition of designated funds in the SORP, the trustees have transferred this back to general funds.

## Notes to the Financial Statements

### 12. Analysis of net assets

	General funds year ended 30 April 2019 £	Designated funds year ended 30 April 2019 £	Restricted funds year ended 30 April 2019 £	Total funds year ended 30 April 2019 £
Current assets	197,386	80,000	28,925	306,311
Current liabilities	(6,695)	–	–	(6,695)
	190,691	80,000	28,925	299,616

	General funds year ended 30 April 2018 £	Designated funds year ended 30 April 2018 £	Restricted funds year ended 30 April 2018 £	Total funds year ended 30 April 2018 £
Current assets	214,883	80,000	24,336	319,219
Current liabilities	(11,606)	–	–	(11,606)
	203,277	80,000	24,336	307,613

### 13. Trustee remuneration

During the year, no trustee received any remuneration (2018: £NIL). No members of the Board of Trustees received reimbursement of travel and subsistence expenses (2018: £NIL).

### 14. Related party transactions

During the year there were no transactions carried out with related parties (2018: £NIL).

### 15. Other financial commitments

At 30 April 2019, the Charity had future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases (all relating to land and buildings) as set out below:

	Total year ended 30 April 2019 £	Total year ended 30 April 2018 £
Operating leases due: within one year	10,953	10,953
	10,953	10,953

### 16. Guarantees and secured charges

As at 30 April 2019, the Charity did not have any outstanding guarantees to third parties nor any debts secured against assets of the Charity (2018: £NIL).

# Legal & Admin

Legal and Administrative Information  
for the year ended 30 April 2019.

## Trustees

George Martin  
Wendy Thompson  
Luke Whiteman  
Jeremy Metson  
Theophilia Shaw  
Neil Tryner

## Treasurer

Luke Whiteman

## Principal Bankers

The Co-operative Bank  
PO Box 250  
Skelmersdale  
WN8 6WT

## Independent Examiner

Andy Nash Accounting & Consultancy Ltd  
The Maltings  
East Tyndall Street  
Cardiff  
CF24 5EA

## Charity Registration Number

1174060

## Registered Address

Bermondsey Central Hall  
256 Bermondsey Street  
London  
SE1 3UJ

Photography by Robes volunteer, Eve Milner

## Contact us

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The  
co-operative  
bank

an Andy Nash  
Accounting &  
Consultancy



# In Memoriam



## Marion Marples 1950–2019 Teacher, Pilgrim, and Southwark Pastoral Auxiliary

Marion Marples, teacher, pilgrim and community worker died suddenly on the 30 April 2019. Her death has deprived Robes of one of their greatest supporters.

In the late 1990s with her husband Leigh she joined the congregation at Southwark Cathedral and she soon became drawn into the life of the community.

In 2005 Marion was commissioned at Southwark Cathedral as a Southwark Pastoral Auxiliary. As part of her pastoral work with the Cathedral she helped set up the early meetings between local churches, which led to the founding of the Robes Winter Night Shelter for rough sleepers, which opened in January 2007.

Marion was responsible for putting together a Constitution for Robes when it applied for Charity status, and this had to be amended several times before it was approved by the Charity Commission. When others took up the task of making the night shelter happen, she remained a committed supporter. Marion felt strongly that Robes showed the human, caring face of the church as 'Faith in Action' and was delighted there were now over 30 church venues hosting in Lambeth and Southwark, backed up by over 1,000 volunteers. Marion recognised that Robes was the most successful ecumenical project in the Southwark diocese.

Robes is indebted to Marion for all her hard work in persuading churches in 2005/06 to host Robes, with many reluctant to do so at that time.

**George Martin**  
Chairman of Robes

