

A man with a friendly expression, wearing a blue t-shirt and a light-colored cap with sunglasses perched on top, stands next to a bicycle. The bicycle has a brown saddle and a black frame with 'APOLLO' and 'Highway' written on it. The background is a bright, outdoor setting with other people and bicycles, suggesting a community event or a bike repair station.

**“A small charity doing a big job
for the homeless since 2007”**

**robes
project**

**Annual Report and Accounts
2015/2016**

Charity Number 1132622

Welcome

Thank you for your interest in the Robes Project.

Led by volunteers and without any statutory or government funding, our charity steps in where mainstream support falls short. With more than 500 volunteers giving up their time in the aid of Robes every winter, we welcome those who have nowhere else to sleep, treat them as our guests and support them to find permanent housing and achieve their wider goals.

This past year has been one of many achievements, important strategic milestones and exciting new opportunities at Robes. Throughout this report you can hear about the guests we have welcomed in our shelters, read David's story about how becoming a Robes guest helped him get his life back on track and find out the extent of the amazing contribution that our volunteers, sponsors and supporters have made to the project!

Rough sleeping has been on the rise in London over the past few years, and there seem to be no easy solutions to eradicating homelessness in our city. In this context there is more need than ever for grass roots organisations like Robes to do their part, contributing to the wider fight against homelessness. Over the next year we will continue to do what we do best – change lives through friendship and professional support, reaching out to even more people in need by doubling our shelter provision and focusing on comprehensive support and rehousing.

Thank you to everyone who has helped us achieve our objectives and we hope that you will stand with us in the future too.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eszter Tarcsafalvi". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Eszter Tarcsafalvi

Project Coordinator

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David, on the front cover, has been a Robes Guest in the 2015/2016 winter shelter. You can read his story on page 10

1. About the Robes Project

‘A small charity doing a big job for the homeless since 2007’

Running a winter night shelter in partnership with churches across Southwark and Lambeth, we offer accommodation and support to 15 to 20 homeless people per night, welcoming them as our guests, offering hospitality and companionship.

Along with the lifesaving shelter provision and friendly welcome Robes also offers professional support services to current and former shelter guests, including tailored advice, signposting and case working, social activities and a number of projects aimed at creating and sustaining positive housing, employment and welfare outcomes.

Objectives and activities

Our objectives are “to relieve poor persons in the London boroughs of Southwark and Lambeth who are homeless by the provision of winter shelter, food and support”.

We achieve our objectives primarily through the running of a winter night shelter, supported by auxiliary activities, including our advice service, various social and community activities and our private rented sector access scheme called Inn from the Cold. On the following pages you will be able to find out more about each of these activities.

Contact details

Robes Project

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SE1 3UJ

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T: 0207 407 5623

Registered charity number: 1132622

2. Report from the Chair of Trustees

First of all, a huge thanks to all 500+ volunteers who are the backbone of our charity. Without them, we simply could not operate. Special thanks also to the many organisations, businesses and individuals who provided funds, and to the catering companies who supplied wonderful food.

Our trustees have worked hard as usual, attending many meetings and facing many challenges as we respond to our guest's needs. We were very sorry when Eric Hill resigned as treasurer. He has contributed so much since Robes began. Sadly, Tricia Anderson, who was our administrator, also left us in December 2015 and we are very grateful for everything she did for us. We welcome Toby Hobbs who has replaced her. Crispin Green, our Advice Worker, and Eszter Tarcsafalvi, our Project Coordinator, have contributed so much to organising the project and supporting our guests in an amazing way.

Our new initiative 'Inn from the Cold', providing private landlords for our guests, has already proved invaluable and this scheme will be strengthening in 2016/2017. We are grateful for the generous donation from Kirkland and Ellis solicitors for financing this project, from which 7 of our guests have already benefitted.

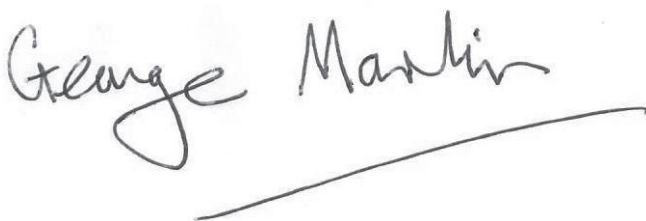
The 2015 SleepOut was the most successful yet, raising over £105,000. Special thanks to Jon Culshaw – comedian and impressionist – and Katie's Jumping Fleas for entertaining us so brilliantly in Southwark Cathedral before everybody slept out in the precincts for the night. This year's annual SleepOut will be on Friday 25th November 2016 at Southwark Cathedral and we urge you to support this.

This coming winter we are expanding our project whereby we will operate two venues simultaneously, looking after 30-40 guests per night. Our priority remains to provide hospitality as we help people rebuild their lives.

January 2017 will be a milestone for Robes as we mark our 10th anniversary. In particular, we shall be holding a Service of Thanksgiving at Southwark Cathedral on Saturday 14th January at 12 noon. We hope as many of our supporters and friends can join us for this special occasion.

Sincere thanks to all the churches who have already hosted previously and a big welcome to those new venues who will be joining us this coming winter. Robes continues to be a beacon, offering a helping hand for our homeless guests to rebuild their lives. This is our mission as we look ahead to the coming year.

THANK YOU

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "George Martin". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a long, horizontal, slightly wavy line that serves as a separator or underline.

George Martin

Chair of Trustees of the Robes Project

3. Robes Winter Night Shelter

Our yearly winter night shelter stands at the heart of everything we do here at Robes. Run by amazing teams of volunteers across 20 host venues in Southwark and Lambeth, our shelter was open 141 nights during the winter of 2015/16 and offered a place to stay, warm home cooked meals and never ending compassion and companionship to 15 to 20 guests per night.

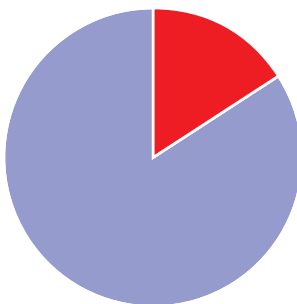


Achievements and performance

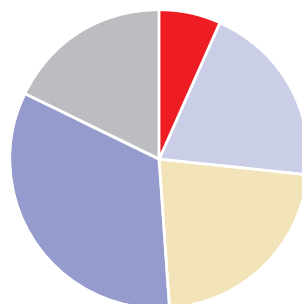
“Robes did very well at providing respite and friendship, and bringing together guests and volunteers from the community” Robes Team Leader

Our winter night shelter offered 2,420 bed spaces, served 4,640 hot meals and COUNTLESS cups of tea and coffee.

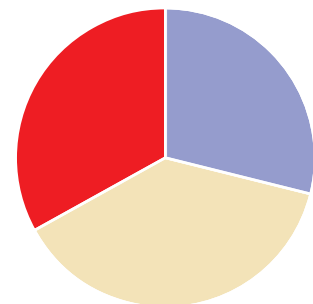
Over the course of the winter our volunteers welcomed 45 guests into the shelter, a very similar number to last season. Once again, we saw a lot of diversity among the guests



Gender
 ■ Female 16%
 ■ Male 84%



Age
 ■ 18 to 24 3
 ■ 25 to 34 9
 ■ 35 to 44 10
 ■ 45 to 54 15
 ■ 55 to 99 8



Nationality
 ■ UK 29%
 ■ Non-UK - EEA 38%
 ■ Non-UK - Other 33%

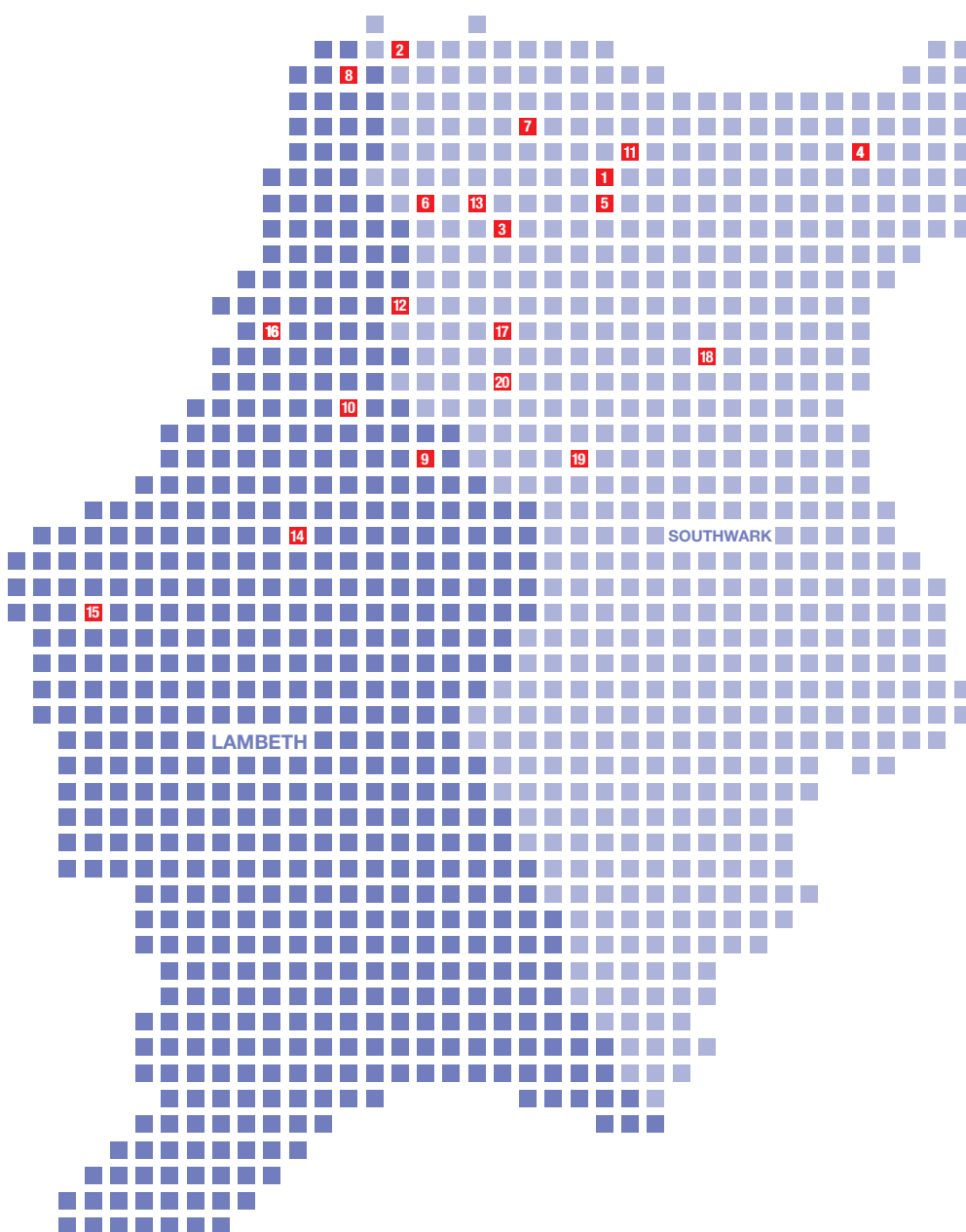
During their stay with us the guests had at the least their basic needs met, but for many, being part of the Robes community meant so much more – it helped them rebuild their lives.

“I think the main positive of my stay was having somewhere safe and warm to stay every evening” Guest, M

Our Hosts

Robes simply wouldn't exist without the ongoing support of our partner churches who give up their premises for one night a week during the winter season in order to host the Robes shelter. It is the contribution of their enthusiastic volunteer teams and tireless team leaders that turns the idea of Robes into reality.

Last winter, we worked across 20 venues around Southwark and Lambeth. We were particularly keen to welcome two new hosts – St Philip's, Camberwell and St Mary Magdalen, Bermondsey.



HOST VENUES

1. Bermondsey Central Hall
2. Christ Church, Southwark
3. Crossway URC
4. The Finnish Church
5. Haddon Hall Baptist Church
6. Southwark Salvation Army Community Church
7. St George the Martyr
8. St John's, Waterloo
9. St John the Divine
10. St Mark's Kennington
11. St Mary Magdalene, Bermondsey
12. St Mary, Newington
13. St Matthew's at-the-Elephant
14. St Michael's, Stockwell
15. St Paul's, Clapham
16. St Peter's, Vauxhall
17. St Peter's, Walworth
18. St Philip's, Camberwell
19. The Well Community Church
20. Walworth Methodist Church

This season the Robes winter night shelter was supported by more than 500 volunteers. Our volunteers contributed around 8,400 volunteer hours, worth more than £78,000!

THANK YOU!

A Team Leader's Story



Last year, I was really pleased to see St Philip's Church become part of the Robes Project. It was our first year as a host venue, but what we lacked in experience we made up for in enthusiasm and we soon had a strong team working to make everything happen. The support from Robes was great and the chance to see another venue in action really helped. Once it became known what we were doing we had offers of help from across the community including the Bermondsey Community Kitchen whose young trainee chefs prepared dinner for us one week and the South Bermondsey Big Local who paid for that week's food. Many of our volunteers were not members of the church and it was wonderful to be able to build these links and to see people who perhaps don't have much to give financially really welcome the chance to give in other ways. Those who volunteered enthused to others about the project and said how much they enjoyed working with the guests, how for some it changed their perceptions of homelessness, and how sad they were when the shelter closed in the spring. We are already looking forward to reopening our doors to the guests this winter.

Reverend David Vyvyan, St Philip's, Camberwell.

4. The Robes Advice Service

The Robes Project Advice Worker helps guests navigate their way out of homelessness from the shelters into accommodation or to set in motion a journey that leads to an improvement of future prospects.

The Advice Worker's tool kit includes assessments and setting goals, knowledge of the benefit system and other housing options, health issues, nationality status, legal affairs, and having effective networks with local services to help deal with all issues. We work closely with local day centres and support services, who refer guests to us and continue to work in partnership with them to achieve the best outcomes for the guests. Our referral partners are:

The Manna Society,

The Spires Centre,

Southwark SPOT Team,

Ace of Clubs,

Southwark Day Centre for Asylum Seekers

For some guests finding employment is the only means for securing accommodation. Robes has links with Mungo's local employment academy and is developing a partnership with a professional business consultancy firm to help with tailored advice and support. Developing these types of partnerships will remain high on the agenda for the foreseeable future.

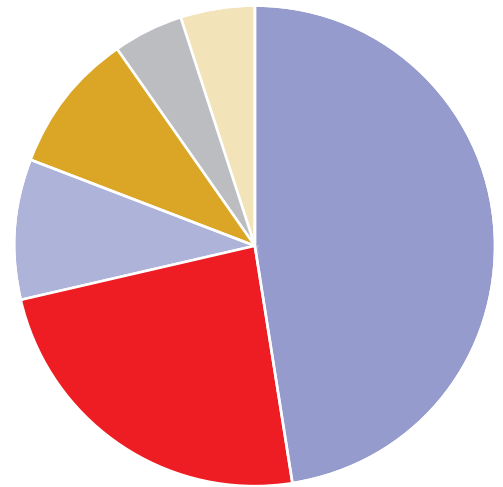
Achievements and Performance

The Robes Project Advice Worker has worked with the guests during and after their shelter stay, supporting them in the search of a more permanent home. By the end of June 2016, close to three quarters of those who engaged with the support provided by the project have achieved a positive outcome.



Those who are currently housed moved into a number of different types of accommodation. This year in particular we had a significant decrease in the availability of social and specialist housing and an increase in the number of guests moving into the private rented sector – some of which has been provided through our new initiative, Inn from the Cold.

- 10 – private rental sector
- 5 – supported housing
- 2 – temporarily housed by the council
- 2 – National Asylum Support Services
- 1 – housing association
- 1 – host scheme



David's story

If asked to sum up my experience with Robes in one word, I would say "lifesavers".



Thankfully there is a bit more space for me to explain. September last year I found myself homeless having been evicted from supported housing because I turned down two properties offered (with good reason, but that is another story). I had lost my will and any strength to cope especially while rough sleeping. I wasn't getting the help I needed through the expected services, council and outreach team, but thankfully I went to Ace of Clubs who referred me to the Robes Project. Regardless of how my days were I knew I had somewhere to sleep and eat every night at Robes and soon started to get a bit of my positive strength back. Although Robes Night Shelter ended in March, I continued to receive support, even now in June. On the 25th May I moved into a Metropolitan Housing property (amazing 1 bedroom flat) in Balham. And already it has

had a hugely positive effect on me. I am doing a bicycle maintenance city course and once completed, I will have the skills and certificate to start looking for work again and really want to do as much volunteering in the community as possible. Thanks to all the Robes volunteers that have shown me kindness – be assured I will continue to pass it on. There is a huge gap in the support offered by councils – thankfully there is Robes and Ace of Clubs helping to fill these gaps and giving people support.

5. Social and Community Activities

Alongside the winter night shelter, Robes provides other activities to give our guests further support and an opportunity to socialise and recharge.

Wednesday Club

Since the shelter has closed, we have held a weekly lunch club to give our guests the opportunity to get together for a cooked meal and social activities. These meet ups also gave them the chance to catch up with our advice worker who can help them with housing, benefits or other issues. We also organised a number of trips, including a visit to the Sky Garden.



Scargill trip

In May 2016 four of our winter night shelter guests went on a well-deserved break in the Yorkshire countryside through a project organised by Housing Justice, giving them the opportunity to socialise and recharge.

Achievements and Performance

20 of our former guests have attended the Wednesday Club this summer.

The club has been so useful for our guests that we are now planning to continue running it throughout the year.

4 guests attended the Scargill Holiday

Robes guests Ken and Jane told us:

“The Scargill Community were a nice welcoming group. We had peace and quiet without any police or ambulance sirens. The food was amazing. We had fresh air and scenic walks. The highlight was going to Mullen Cove.”

6. Inn from the Cold

The ultimate mission of the Robes Project is to assist our homeless guests to re-build their lives and to achieve independent living in a home of their own. In working towards this goal last year we began the process of concentrating our housing procurement and tenancy-support skills into a separately-branded unit within our charity – Inn from the Cold – which we operate in co-operation with our founding charity partner The Manna Society.

With traditional sources of housing provision, such as local authorities and specialist providers, drying up over the last couple of years, Inn from the Cold's remit is to support our tenancy-ready guests into the private rented sector instead. We break down the entry barriers into the sector, which include landlord reluctance to work with homeless people, high up-front cost and the low levels of support available to new tenants.

Inn from the Cold builds relationships with landlords, particularly in the private sector, offering them a ready source of tenants on a commission-free basis to keep their premises as fully let as possible and void periods to a minimum. We also offer financial support to the guests, covering shortfalls in tenancy deposits and rent advances.

Over the next few months we are looking to develop further two auxiliary functions of the project. The first is to provide guests with starter packs of essential furniture, bedding, cooking and cleaning materials to give their tenancy a good start. The second is a mentoring service whereby trained volunteers offer additional support to guests before, during and after their move out of the shelter to face the challenges of independent living.

For the wider project, Inn from the Cold's role is to provide a timely exit-route for our tenancy-ready guests from our winter shelter into independent living, freeing up more places in our shelters and enabling us to help many more homeless people during the shelter season than has been possible to date.

This year, a second generous grant from international City lawyers Kirkland and Ellis is enabling us to employ a professional Lettings Manager charged with the task of establishing Inn from the Cold as a fully-fledged private rented sector Lettings Agency.

Achievements and Performance

Inn from the Cold has enabled 9 Robes guests from the 2015/16 shelter to access private rented sector accommodation. Of the 9 guests

- 6 moved into properties identified through Inn from the Cold
- 6 received financial assistance towards deposits, rent in advance and agency fees
- 4 received a starter pack when they moved into their new accommodation

“It is a really great thing that you do, offering help with costs of the deposit and rent in advance. They make all the difference between sleeping rough or having a place to stay” Robes Guest, M, 32

7. Fundraising

The Robes Project is funded entirely by private donations from individuals, churches, community groups, trusts and companies. We receive no statutory or government funding, which allows us to stay independent, focus directly on the needs of our guests and adapt quickly and efficiently to the ever changing local environment.

We organize a number of fundraising events during the year, such as the SleepOut and our annual Carol Singing.

Thank you to all our sponsors and donors for allowing us to carry out our crucial work!

SleepOut

On 27 November 2015 we held our 5th annual SleepOut which was a great success, raising more than £105,000! 150 people joined us for this sponsored event held in the precincts of Southwark Cathedral. We were treated to entertainment from impressionist and comedian Jon Culshaw, and ukulele band Katie's Jumping Fleas, before sleeping out on this cold winter night.

We would like to thank the Dean, Canons and Chapter of Southwark Cathedral for hosting the SleepOut. Special thanks to the Friends of Southwark Cathedral, Pret A Manger, Waitrose, Marks & Spencer and Bompas & Parr for the refreshments provided on the night!

With your help as a sponsor or participant, our 2016 SleepOut can match and exceed last year's success. Join us at Southwark Cathedral on Friday 25 November.



8. Financial Review

Our strategy for 2015/16 was to provide a winter night shelter for our homeless guests from November 2015 through to April 2016 using a network of churches in the London boroughs of Lambeth and Southwark.

Total expenditure for the year ending 31 March 2016 was £121,330, an increase of 31% on the previous year. This reflects a major exercise in renewing bedding and equipment that the charity undertook this year, with support costs rising 440%.

This additional expenditure was more than covered by the successful fundraising campaign including the annual SleepOut in the grounds of Southwark Cathedral in November with over 120 volunteers sleeping rough for the night, raising a remarkable £105,000.

As our shelters and volunteers are provided at no cost to the charity, our main costs (54%) were in relation to our small team of salaried staff who provide the backbone of our charity.

In the coming season 2016/17 we plan to be doubling the number of places available in the winter night shelter from 20 to 40 homeless people by operating two shelters concurrently each night. In order to achieve this, the trustees have earmarked £90,000 to cover the inevitable additional costs including the employment of an additional advice worker and ancillary costs.

Inn from the Cold is charged with finding accommodation for those of our homeless guests who will become ready for independent living. With the in-going costs amounting to well over £2,000 per guest, hopefully including the cost of a starter pack and with a target of re-housing 40 guests over the 2016/17 season, the trustees have earmarked £80,000 to cover these costs.

At 31 March 2016, the total reserves carried forward amounted to £302,148, being £264,390 unrestricted reserves and £37,758 restricted reserves.

£1,000 of the restricted reserves represents a donation from London Catalyst for training and capacity building.

£36,758 of the restricted reserves represent the balance of donations by Kirkland & Ellis specifically given to promote and develop Inn from the Cold. These funds will be fully absorbed in payment of the Lettings Manager's salary, the provision of a website for Inn from the Cold and other development expenses.

Total unrestricted reserves:	£264,390
Less Designated Funds:	
Expansion expenses:	£ 90,000
Inn from the Cold rehousing costs:	£ 80,000
Operating reserve:	£ 70,000
General unrestricted reserves:	<u>£ 24,390</u>
	£264,390

With this strong financial foundation and our loyal and active volunteer base, the trustees are confident that we can achieve this and help even more rough sleepers off the streets and into secure accommodation.

9. Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees

For the year ended 31 March 2016

I report on the financial statements of the Charity for the year ended 31 March 2016 which are set out on pages 15-23.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The Charity's Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The Charity's Trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- i) examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- ii) follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- iii) state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently 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

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

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect, the requirements
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act;
 - which are consistent with the methods and principles of Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities 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.



David Barber

Jubilee House, 10 Moat Sole, Sandwich, Kent CT13 9AU

10. Statement of Financial Activities

For the year ended 31 March 2016

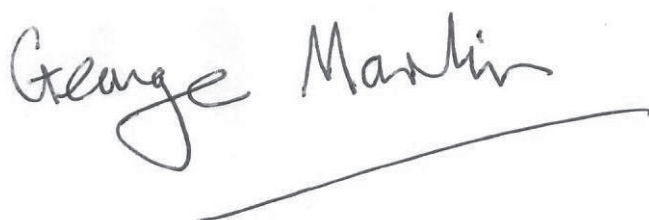
	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2016 Total Funds £	2015 Total Funds £
Income from:					
Donations	2	177,949	41,530	219,479	148,546
Investment income	3	987	62	1,049	787
Total income		<u>178,936</u>	<u>41,592</u>	<u>220,528</u>	<u>149,333</u>
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	4	7,912	538	8,450	3,763
Charitable costs	5	109,584	3,296	112,880	88,688
Total expenditure		<u>117,496</u>	<u>3,834</u>	<u>121,330</u>	<u>92,451</u>
Net income		61,440	37,758	99,198	56,882
Transfer between funds	11	12,573	(12,573)	-	-
Net movement in funds		74,013	25,185	99,198	56,882
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		190,377	12,573	202,950	146,068
Total funds carried forward	11	<u>264,390</u>	<u>37,758</u>	<u>302,148</u>	<u>202,950</u>

11. Balance Sheet

As at 31 March 2016

	Notes	2016 £	2015 £
Current assets:			
Debtors	8	-	2,450
Cash at bank and in hand	9	<u>309,227</u>	<u>202,036</u>
		309,227	204,486
Liabilities			
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	10	(7,079)	(1,536)
Net assets		<u>302,148</u>	<u>202,950</u>
The funds of the Charity			
Unrestricted funds			
Designated funds		240,000	-
General funds		<u>24,390</u>	<u>190,377</u>
		264,390	190,377
Restricted income funds		37,758	12,573
	11	<u>302,148</u>	<u>202,950</u>

The financial statements were approved and authorised by the Trustees on 21 July 2016 and signed on their behalf by:



George Martin

Chair

12. Notes to the Accounts

1 Accounting Policies

1.1 Basis of preparation.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and are in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective January 2015), and the Charities Act 2011.

The effects of any events relating to the year ended 31 March 2016 which occurred before the date of approval of the financial statements by the Board of Trustees have been included in the financial statements to the extent required to show a true and fair view of the state of affairs at 31 March 2016 and the results for the year ended on that date.

The financial statements do not include a cash flow statement because the charity prepares its accounts under the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities and is exempt from the requirements to prepare such a statement under Financial Reporting Standard 1 “Cash Flow Statements”.

1.2 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 are unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the Trustees for particular purposes.

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

1.3 Incoming Resources

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the Charity is entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy.

Grants and donations are accounted for in the Statement of Activities when receivable.

1.4 Resources Expended

Expenditure is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities on an accruals basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes VAT and is reported as part of the expenditure to which it relates.

Costs of generating funds comprise the costs associated with attracting voluntary income.

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the Charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

1.5 Fixed assets and depreciation

All expenditure of a capital nature on shelter equipment is expensed as incurred, as are items of expenditure on office furniture and equipment under £1,000.

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2016 £	Total 2015 £
2 Donations				
Churches	9,567	-	9,567	8,978
Charities, corporates and others	32,721	41,000	73,721	35,538
SleepOut (Cash)	30,382	-	30,382	20,050
SleepOut and other (Giving.com)	99,993	-	99,993	79,192
CAF	4,930	-	4,930	2,400
Concert and Carol Singing	160	-	160	1,550
Direct Grants for Beneficiaries	-	530	530	838
Sundry income	196	-	196	-
	<u>177,949</u>	<u>41,530</u>	<u>219,479</u>	<u>148,546</u>

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2016 £	Total 2015 £
3 Investment income				
Bank interest	<u>987</u>	<u>62</u>	<u>1,049</u>	<u>787</u>

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2016 £	Total 2015 £
4 Raising funds				
Fundraising event costs	692	-	692	2,179
Online fundraising charges	4,859	-	4,859	216
Annual report, publications, & printing	2,361	538	2,899	1,368
	<u>7,912</u>	<u>538</u>	<u>8,450</u>	<u>3,763</u>

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2016 £	Total 2015 £
5 Direct Charitable Costs				
Staff costs (see note 7)	61,060	-	61,060	59,390
Recruitment, training & supervision	1,501	-	1,501	700
Staff expenses	-	-	-	-
Shelter equipment	3,951	-	3,951	2,337
Storage of shelter equipment	7,729	-	7,729	5,000
Laundry & cleaning	851	-	851	3,639
Staff communications	1,407	-	1,407	135
Guest welfare	2,612	-	2,612	6,141
Guest communication & travel	3,175	-	3,175	-
Guest accommodation & hostel expenses	4,589	2,766	7,355	2,371
Beneficiaries payments	-	530	530	100
Volunteer and meetings expenses	2,236	-	2,236	3,354
Travel and transport	1,498	-	1,498	565
Minibus/SLM	-	-	-	-
Miscellaneous expenses	752	-	752	1,582
Support costs (see note 6)	18,223	0	18,223	3,374
	<u>109,584</u>	<u>3,296</u>	<u>112,880</u>	<u>88,688</u>
6 Support costs				
Rent & insurance	6,570	-	6,570	1,750
Office furniture & equipment	5,068	-	5,068	275
Communications	1,536	-	1,536	440
Postage & stationery	1,212	-	1,212	39
Legal & consultancy	1,337	-	1,337	-
Payroll costs & pension advice	1,400	-	1,400	225
Independent examiner's fee	1,100	-	1,100	645
	<u>18,223</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>18,223</u>	<u>3,374</u>

7 Staff costs	2016	2015
	£	£
Salaries	52,679	54,765
Social security costs	4,477	4,850
Contribution to pension plan	2,451	-
Secretarial support	1,453	770
	<u>61,060</u>	<u>60,385</u>

The number of full time employees was 2 and 1 part-time employee (2015: 2F/T 1P/T):

8 Debtors	2016	2015
	£	£
Other debtors	-	<u>2,450</u>

9 Bank accounts	2016	2015
	£	£
Cooperative Bank	63,734	21,777
Affirmative Bank	245,282	180,259
Cash in hand	211	-
	<u>309,227</u>	<u>202,036</u>

10 Creditors	2016	2015
	£	£
Independent examiner's fee	1,100	645
Other accruals	5,979	891
	<u>7,079</u>	<u>1,536</u>

11 Analysis of charitable funds

Analysis of movements in unrestricted funds

	Balance 01 April 2015 £	Incoming Resources £	Resources Expended £	Transfers £	Funds 31 March 2016 £
General fund	190,377	178,936	(117,496)	(227,427)	24,390
Designated expansion fund	-	-	-	90,000	90,000
Designated IFTC fund	-	-	-	80,000	80,000
Operational reserve fund	-	-	-	70,000	70,000
	<u>190,377</u>	<u>178,936</u>	<u>(117,496)</u>	<u>12,573</u>	<u>264,390</u>

Name of unrestricted fund

General fund

The free reserves after allowing for all designated funds.

Designated expansion fund

The designated expansion fund is to cover the additional costs relating to doubling the number of night shelter places in 2016-17.

Designated Inn from the Cold Fund

Funds to support the Inn from the Cold project.

Operational reserve fund

Core costs for one year.

Analysis of movements in restricted funds

	Balance 01 April 2015 £	Incoming Resources £	Resources Expended £	Transfers £	Funds 31 March 2016 £
General	12,573	-	-	(12,573)	-
Inn from the Cold	-	40,062	(3,304)	-	36,758
Training and capacity building	-	1,000	-	-	1,000
ACTS 435	-	530	(530)	-	-
Restricted funds	<u>12,573</u>	<u>41,592</u>	<u>(3,834)</u>	<u>(12,573)</u>	<u>37,758</u>

Name of restricted fund

General fund

Balance brought forward of funds incorrectly allocated as restricted

Inn from the Cold

Fund to support guests access to the private rented sector by providing help with the up-front costs of housing, direct access to landlords and ongoing support once in accommodation.

Training and capacity building

Funds for organisational development

ACTS 435

Small grants directly for guests

12 Analysis of net assets between funds

	General Fund £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £
Cash at bank and in hand	31,345	240,000	37,882	309,227
Current liabilities	(6,955)	-	(124)	(7,079)
	<u>24,390</u>	<u>240,000</u>	<u>37,758</u>	<u>302,148</u>

13. Structure, Governance & Management

Constitution

The Robes Project is an unincorporated charitable association governed by a constitution adopted on 1st October 2008, amended by special resolution on 20th July 2009. It was registered as a charity on 10 November 2009.

Appointment of new trustees

The trustees invite applications for trusteeship from members of the churches participating in the Project and others who have skills and experience relevant to the running of the Project

New trustees are provided with an induction pack with details of the constitution and history of the charity and follow a defined induction process. All trustees undergo initial training and annual refresher courses.

Governance and management

The charity is run by its trustees who meet approximately monthly to determine the strategy of the charity, to discuss operational matters and to formulate policy. Staff generally attend the greater part of 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 implementation of policy is in the hands of the charity's employed staff and volunteers.

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The Law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period.

In preparing these financial statements the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and accounting 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 charitable company will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that 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 and the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008.

They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and hence taking reasonable steps to prevent and detect fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the charity and financial information included on the charity's website.

Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

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

Reserve Policy

The trustees review their reserves policy annually, assessing the financial risks surrounding the charity's future ability to fulfil its objectives. The trustees have adopted a policy of holding at all times in cash or short-term deposits 12 months' permanent staff salaries and fixed overheads, currently £70,000. This reserve ensures the charity is sustainable year on year.

14. Public Benefit Statement

The trustees consider that the work of the Robes Project 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 helps make these boroughs a safer, more humane place for everyone.

The trustees confirm that they give due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission in determining the activities undertaken by the charity. All trustees give their time voluntarily and no trustee receives any private benefit from the charity.

15. Plans for the future

Shelter Expansion

2016/17 will be a year of significant developments for Robes. The need for our important work is massive and in the winter of 2016/17 we plan to double the capacity of our winter night shelter, running two parallel church venues every night. This will allow us to provide a warm bed, food and support for up to 35 homeless guests per night. Part of the expansion we will be purchasing new bedding stock, hiring additional storage space and most importantly, we will be taking on two additional staff members on a fixed term contract to ensure we can still provide high quality support to all of our guests during the busy winter shelter season.

Inn from the Cold

This year, a second generous grant from international City lawyers Kirkland and Ellis is enabling us to employ a professional Lettings Manager charged with the task of establishing Inn from the Cold as a fully-fledged private rented sector Lettings Agency.

Over the next few months we are looking to further develop two auxiliary functions of the project. The first is to provide guests with starter packs of essential furniture, bedding, cooking and cleaning materials to give their tenancy a good start. The second is a mentoring service whereby a trained volunteers offer additional support to guests before, during and after their move out of the shelter to face the challenges of independent living.

10th Anniversary

January 2017 will be the 10th anniversary of Robes, and we will be marking this milestone with a number of events throughout the year.

The main event will be our 10th anniversary service of Thanksgiving on Saturday 14 January at Southwark Cathedral from 12pm. We would love for as many of our supporters as possible to join us for this important occasion.



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16. Volunteers

The Robes Project can only exist with the dedication of the host churches and our tireless volunteers across Lambeth and Southwark. This season the Robes winter night shelter was supported by

20 host venues

24 churches and other groups

more than 500 volunteers

Our volunteers contributed around 8,400 volunteer hours,
worth more than £78,000

THANK YOU!

“One of the best things about Robes were the friendly volunteers at all the venues, all willing to help!” Robes Guests



Photo courtesy of Southwark Diocesan Communications

“Being a Robes volunteer gave me the opportunity to meet different people from different backgrounds and cultures. It also gave me an opportunity to give back and a sense of belonging!” Robes Volunteer

17. Staff, Trustees and Advisors

Staff

Thanks to our teams of capable and committed volunteers we are able to run our operation with a small but dedicated staff team. Eszter Tarcsafalvi is our Project Co-ordinator, Crispin Green our Advice Worker and Toby Hobbs our part-time Administration Assistant. They give their time and enthusiasm unstintingly and make a formative contribution to the non-judgemental and embracing ethos that is the enduring hallmark of the Robes Project.

Trustees

The trustees give their time voluntarily and without remuneration. They were, for the time under review:

Anna Long
Rev David Hardman
Eric Hill, Treasurer, (resigned 11 March 2016)
Geoffrey Delaye-Hand (co-opted)
George Martin (Chair)
Louise Delaye-Hand
Peter Ross, Treasurer from 19 May 2016 (co-opted)
Wendy Thompson

Particular gratitude is due to Eric Hill, trustee and treasurer whose wisdom and steadfastness have been a sure foundation for the Robes Project

Professional Advisors

Bankers

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

Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church

9 Bonhill Street
London EC2A 4PE

Independent Examiner

David Barber

Jubilee House
10 Moat Sole
Sandwich
Kent CT13 9UAS

18. Thank You

We extend our heart-felt thanks to our patrons, all the volunteers, churches, individuals, corporations, trusts and foundations whose contributions have made our work possible this past year.

Your unheralded generosity has allowed us to continue to save lives and give hope to the men and women who find themselves homeless in our part of London who have nowhere else to turn.

Here are just some of our generous partners and supporters:

The 126 brave and spirited folk who slept out under the stars on 27 November 2015

Southwark Cathedral for hosting our SleepOut and for your unstinting support and encouragement throughout the year

Our 20 host churches (see the full list on page 7) and all the other local churches and groups who supported us through volunteering and donations

Corporations:

Eden Catering

Haysmacintyre

Kirkland and Ellis

Marks & Spencer

Thank you so much – we couldn't do it without you!

Engagement

How to Donate

To make a donation text **ROBE07** £(amount) to 70070, visit **www.justgiving.com/robes** or send a cheque addressed to the “Robes Project”

How to get Involved

Please visit our website for more information on how to become a volunteer and other ways how you can support our work.

www.robess.org.uk