

The Sherriff Centre

Annual Report 2025





A huge thank you to all our Trustee's, Funders
and Partners this years.

Trustee's

Father Robert Thompson

Marilyn Brooks

Tom Nielsen

Tom Rainbow

Tushi Banerjee

Nela Banovic

Heather Wood

Funders

London Borough of Camden

Brent Council

Post Office Charities Trust

Community Fridge Investment Fund

Asda Foundation

Nexus

Partners

Crisis

Camden Council

Brent Hubs

Latin American House

Sufra Food Bank Kitchen

Advice for Renters.

Aims & Objectives



We became a registered charity in February 2014
Charity number 1155848

We support

Individuals
Families
Vulnerable people
Lone parents
Elderly people
Homeless people

We provide

Free debt advice
Food parcels + surplus food
Additional needs play
sessions
Place of safety
Place of welcome

Our aim is to create a space in West Hampstead where we are able to support those who are marginalised because of debt or other social and economic factors

Structure & Governance



The Sanctuary Café NW6 employ and pay staff, meet the running costs of the building and all associated fees, including licences, insurances, business rates and utilities.

Any profits are then gift aided to The Sheriff Centre Charity.

A management team oversees the work of both the charity and the social enterprise. The board of trustees govern and manage the direction of the charity.

The charity employs one debt advice worker, Paul Scannell.

How we operate as a social enterprise

The Sheriff Centre Ltd,
Registered Charity.

Debt Advice
The Food Share Project
Allotment Project
Suspended Coffee
Additional Needs Play

The Sanctuary Cafe NW6 Ltd,
Trading Subsidiary.

The Sanctuary Cafe
Post Office
Hullabaloo Soft Play
Rentals and Parties
Live Music and Events Space



2025

2025 has been another year of growth, adaptation and resilience for The Sherriff Centre as we continue to support our local community through a combination of social enterprise, practical support services and community engagement. Based within St James' Church in West Hampstead, our aim remains to create a welcoming and inclusive space where people experiencing hardship, isolation or crisis can access support with dignity. Building on the momentum of our 10-year anniversary in 2024, this year we have continued to strengthen both our charitable services and our role as a vibrant community hub.

Debt Advice

Demand for our FCA-regulated Debt Advice Service has remained consistently high throughout 2025 as increasing numbers of local residents continue to struggle with rising housing costs, utility bills and financial insecurity. Our adviser, Paul Scannell, continues to support clients facing complex financial situations including rent and council tax arrears, utility debt, threatened eviction, benefit issues and court action. The service remains free, independent, confidential and impartial. This year we secured £21,000 from Brent Council to continue the debt advice sessions delivered through Brent Hubs, enabling us to maintain vital outreach support across the borough. Alongside direct client work, Paul continues to contribute his expertise across local networks and partnerships, helping improve collaboration and support pathways for vulnerable residents.



Food Share Project

Our Food Share Project continues to provide practical support to individuals and families experiencing food insecurity. Working with referral partners across Camden and Brent, we provide food parcels, surplus food and essential household items to those most in need. The project remains rooted in dignity and choice, enabling clients to select items suitable for their household where possible. Throughout the year we continued to strengthen links with local organisations and community projects, ensuring support reaches vulnerable residents efficiently and collaboratively. We were also pleased to receive £5,000 through Camden's Community Fridge Investment Fund, supporting the development of our new rewilding and nature trail project.



Community Activities and Inclusion

Our Additional Needs sessions within our soft play remain a valued source of support for local families with children and young people who have disabilities or additional needs. We also launched new Saturday drop-in sessions for under 5s in the Lady Chapel, helping provide an accessible and welcoming weekend activity for local families.

This year we continued to expand our programme of community events and activities. Our regular events programme, including Sanctuary Sessions and partnerships with organisations such as Offline and Sofar Sounds, has helped bring new audiences into the building and strengthen community engagement.

We were delighted to once again host our annual Summer Carnival in July, bringing together local residents for a day of family activities, entertainment and community celebration. Alongside this, our seasonal events programme continued to grow, including our much-loved Christmas Panto and Santa's Grotto, which welcomed many local families into the building during the festive period and helped create joyful, inclusive experiences for children and parents alike.

In October we were also honoured to attend a reception at the House of Commons hosted by our local MP Tulip Siddiq, recognising local community "heroes" and the contribution organisations such as The Sherriff Centre make to community life and support.

We have also begun developing a rewilding and nature trail project at the front of the church. This initiative will create a greener and more welcoming public space while also supporting activities for families and home educated children. Volunteers will help maintain the area and educational resources will be developed to encourage outdoor learning and engagement with nature.



Building Improvements and Sustainability

During August we closed for one week to undertake essential repairs to the church floor alongside improvements to the café and soft play areas. These changes have improved safety, accessibility and the overall visitor experience within the building. Earlier in the year we completed a full eco audit of the building, funded by the City Bridge Foundation. The audit has provided valuable recommendations to help us reduce energy usage and work towards becoming more environmentally sustainable in the future.

Additional improvements this year included upgraded CCTV, new digital screens, refreshed toilets and new noticeboards to improve communication and visibility across the site.



Fundraising and Community Support

Fundraising continues to play a vital role in sustaining both our charitable services and the upkeep of our historic building. During 2025 we secured a range of grants and community funding, including support from Brent Council, Camden Community Infrastructure Levy funding and Camden's Community Fridge Investment Fund.

Alongside grant fundraising, we have continued to develop new income streams and partnerships. Offline and Sofar Sounds both agreed to include a £1 charitable donation on ticket sales for events held at The Sherriff Centre, creating additional unrestricted support for our work.

This year also saw continued investment in marketing and communications, including the recruitment of a part-time marketing and content coordinator and the development of a new communications strategy to increase awareness of our services and activities.

Looking Ahead

As we move into 2026, our focus remains on strengthening the long-term sustainability of both our charitable services and our building. A key priority for the coming year will be the development of our rewilding and nature trail project at the front of the church. This space will provide opportunities for outdoor learning, community engagement and activities for families and home educated children, while also improving the appearance and biodiversity of the site.

We also plan to continue expanding our programme of innovative community events and activities. Building on the success of our existing partnerships and events programme, we are developing new initiatives including "No Signal", a teen-focused version of our popular unplugged events designed to encourage young people to disconnect from phones and social media and engage in real-world connection, creativity and community.

Alongside this, we will continue working to secure longer-term funding for our Debt Advice Service, strengthen our fundraising capacity and progress larger-scale capital fundraising plans for the future repair and sustainability of the church building. We remain incredibly grateful to our staff, volunteers, trustees, partners, funders and local community for their continued support. Together, we continue to build a welcoming, resilient and inclusive community space at The Sherriff Centre.



The Sherriff Centre is committed to providing advice and information that is:

free
independent
confidential
impartial

We offer advice on a wide range of financial issues including:

utility debt
rent arrears
council tax arrears
credit card debt
benefits overpayments

We also aim to assist clients facing emergency situations including:

eviction
repossession
disconnection
imprisonment
court hearing
no money for food
other crisis



Client had £772 court and bailiff costs remitted

‘Thank you Paul, you nailed it.

Everything was fantastic. Thank you so much for your determined and thorough work, You made things go so smoothly and you took a lot of heat off my neck. Your advice was spot on and I have now gone a step further to properly outline my outgoings and income so I can save and spend wisely. I will contact you if anything changes, for the good I hope so I can clear the debt sooner rather than later. Many thanks again’

Brent Hubs Client

‘I just want to let you that my application for the resident’s support has been approved. I received an email saying they will be paying £850 towards my living cost and £150 towards the council tax. Thank you very much for your assistance and support, this has made such a huge difference to my life, thank you Paul’

Statement of Financial Activities: Year Ended 31
December 2024



Income + Endowments

Donations + Legacies

Donations

Gift Aid

Grants

Soft Play Memberships

Investment Income

Deposit account interest

Total Income

2025

£

4,946

599

51,966

2,650

115

60,276

2024

£

80,835

345

44,936

-

70

126,186

Statement of Financial Activities: Year Ended 31 December 2024



Expenditure

Expenditure on charitable activities

Payroll + Consutancy

2025

£

28,916

Training + Membership Fees

1,082

Food Bank + Voucher Costs

2,580

Food Share Allotment Costs

-

Other Charitable Activity Costs

-

Sensory Equipment

-

2024

£

23,402

1,243

3,192

-

2,605

-

Support Costs

Insurance

861

861

Software + IT Costs

215

967

Premises+Management Costs

62,602

23,574

Defibrillator Costs

-

-

Bank Charges

60

60

Independent Examiner Fees

1080

1080

Sundries

232

58

Repairs

9,000

-

Rewilding

6,409

-

Total Resources Expended

57,042

Net Expenditure

113,037

(69,144)

A year in pictures



January,
Sound Bath



February,
Sanctuary Sessions



March,
Eco Audit

A year in pictures



April,
Sofar Sounds



May,
Allotment



June,
Food Share Project

A year in pictures



July,
Carnival



August,
Café Refurbishment



September,
Good Gym

A year in pictures



October,
Rewilding



November,
House of Commons



December,
Santa's Grotto



It is my pleasure to present this annual report for The Sherriff Centre for 2025.

This has been another year of growth, resilience and community impact. As many local people continue to face financial hardship, housing insecurity and social isolation, The Sherriff Centre has remained committed to providing practical support, creating opportunities and bringing people together.

Our mission is to be a welcoming community hub that combines enterprise with social purpose, strengthening the lives of people across West Hampstead and Kilburn.

Demand for our FCA-accredited Debt Advice Service has remained high throughout the year, reflecting the ongoing cost of living challenges faced by many households. Alongside this, our Food Share Project has continued to provide practical support with dignity and respect to local individuals and families experiencing food insecurity.

Beyond these services, The Sherriff Centre continues to thrive as a vibrant community space. Through our café, soft play, additional needs sessions, family activities, cultural events and partnerships, we have welcomed an increasingly diverse range of people into the building, helping to reduce isolation and strengthen community connections.

Our evening events programme has grown significantly during the year through initiatives such as Sanctuary Sessions, Sofar Sounds and other cultural partnerships. These events not only introduce new audiences to The Sherriff Centre but also generate income to support our charitable work and reinforce our role as a place where people from different backgrounds can come together through music, creativity and shared experiences.

We have also begun developing our rewilding and nature trail project at the front of St James's Church. This exciting initiative will improve biodiversity while creating opportunities for schools, families, volunteers and local residents to engage with nature, environmental education and outdoor learning.

The board has continued to focus on ensuring the long-term sustainability of the organisation through strengthening our finances, developing new partnerships and expanding fundraising opportunities. At the same time, we remain mindful of the challenges and responsibilities of operating from a historic church building that serves as a modern community hub.

This year has also been one of important governance development. As the organisation has grown, the board has reviewed its own effectiveness and future leadership. We have begun implementing a Co-Chair model to strengthen governance and increase leadership capacity, while also identifying the need to recruit trustees with expertise in areas including fundraising, communications, property and sustainability. These developments will help ensure The Sheriff Centre remains well governed and resilient for the future.

Our relationship with the Parish of St Mary's, Kilburn and St James's, West Hampstead continues to be an important part of our identity. While operating as an independent charity, we share a commitment to serving our local community and look forward to building even stronger collaboration in support of the parish's wider mission.

None of this would be possible without the dedication of our Director, Jane Edwards, our staff team, volunteers, trustees, partners and supporters. Their professionalism, enthusiasm and commitment make The Sherriff Centre the welcoming and inclusive place that it is.

As we look ahead, we know that demand for our services will remain high and that financial pressures will continue. However, we are confident that the strength of our partnerships, the commitment of our people and the support of our community provide a strong foundation for the future. On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I thank everyone who has contributed to The Sherriff Centre during the past year and look forward to building on these achievements in the years ahead.

Fr Robert Thompson
Chair of Trustees
The Sherriff Centre