



Feeding those in need since 2015
**TRUSTEES' ANNUAL
REPORT 2023**

Who are we?



Salaam Shalom Kitchen Nottingham

A joint Muslim / Jewish charity project

We are a joint Muslim/Jewish project founded on the belief that working together across communities and perceived boundaries helps build community cohesion and break down barriers.

Our Ethos

To bring together volunteers from many communities, to make friends and work together for social change.

The Need

Prior to the covid pandemic the charity used to provide 60-80 meals each week; however, since 2020 the need has increased hugely and are now providing 140-160 meals each week, with many more people affected by food poverty.

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A MESSAGE FROM OUR CO-CHAIRS

Dear Supporters,

We are thrilled to present this annual report for Salaam Shalom Kitchen charity for the year 2022-23. With your wonderful support and dedication, we have been able to continue our mission of serving delicious meals and fostering community connections in a welcoming environment.

It is nearly 8 years since a small group of Muslims and Jews came together in Nottingham to demonstrate their shared values through social action - To build bridges and offer hope.

Throughout this past year, we have been able to make a meaningful impact on our community, providing hot meals and groceries to those in need regardless of their background, race, or religion. Over the year, Salaam Shalom Kitchen served over 8,000 meals to individuals experiencing food insecurity, an increase from the previous year. We have reached out and connected to marginalised communities, including homeless individuals, low-income families, and refugees.

Our commitment to promoting diversity and inclusivity has been a driving force in our efforts. We have continued to create a safe and inclusive space where people from all walks of life can come together, share a meal, collect a bag of food and build meaningful connections. In 2022, we organized cultural events that brought people of different faiths and backgrounds together to celebrate their diversity and foster understanding and acceptance. These events have helped break down barriers and build bridges of friendship and mutual respect within our community.

None of these achievements would have been possible without the unwavering support of our dedicated team of staff, volunteers, donors, and partners. We are incredibly grateful for your generosity and commitment to our cause. | 04
Your donations have enabled us to purchase necessary equipment, maintain our kitchen facilities, and cover operational costs, ensuring that we can continue to serve meals to those in need.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CO-CHAIRS

As we move forward, we remain committed to our mission of promoting peace, harmony, and inclusivity through the power of food. We will continue to explore new ways to expand our reach, engage with our community, and make a positive impact on the lives of those facing poverty and food insecurity. We also look forward to forging new partnerships and collaborations to amplify our efforts and create a better, more inclusive world for all.

Once again, we extend our heartfelt thanks to each and every one of our supporters for your fantastic commitment to Salaam Shalom Kitchen. Together, we will continue to make a tangible difference in the lives of those in need and work towards a more compassionate and inclusive society.

With gratitude,

Sajid Mohammed and Karen Worth Co -Chairs, Salaam Shalom Kitchen Charity



Karen Worth
CO-CHAIR



Sajid Mohammed
CO-CHAIR



“Really friendly atmosphere. It’s nice to help people out and feel like you’re making a difference”
Volunteer: Sam, Aged 17

Our Objectives

Our main objective is to help to relieve food poverty in Nottingham.

To help break down isolation and loneliness for service users, by providing a warm and friendly environment every week for people to attend for a hot meal and to build connections and friendships.

We work to build cohesion and understanding primarily between the Muslim and Jewish Community in Nottingham but also building links with other faith and non-faith groups.



Our Activities

Each week people work together preparing and cooking food, and creating a friendly welcoming environment for our guests. Working together cooperatively in this way allows us to understand each other better and build cohesion between individuals and groups. It allows many groups and individuals who would not otherwise mix or get to know each other to build better understanding and friendships. Students are enabled to integrate and be involved in the community in which they are living and to give back to that community.

This year the demand has continued at high levels and we are providing between 140-160 hot meals each week. We have many regulars who attend every week and who have developed friendships/connections with others who attend the project. We continue to have a wide range of people accessing the services we offer including many more families and people from different communities.



Every Wednesday between 5-6.30 pm we provide a hot meal to people from the local community, who are in need. Anyone is welcome to attend. No one is turned away or has to provide evidence of need. People have diverse range of needs and issues, including: mental health problems, substance misuse issues, food poverty, asylum seekers and refugees, recent immigrants from Eastern Europe especially Polish/Lithuanian, and Roma community, many of whom speak little English. Elderly and isolated individuals also attend. Mostly adults attend but an increasing number of families with children are making use of our service, as the cost of living crisis hits more people. People are signposted from other organisations such as Nottingham refugee forum (NNRF), Prostitute Outreach workers (POW), Framework, local GPs and community groups, or word of mouth.



The Effect of the Rising Cost of Living



Many people are now in food poverty due to cuts in benefits and services and spiralling food and fuel costs. More people who are in paid work are needing assistance due to low pay and rising prices.

This year the demand has remained extremely high, and we provide 140-170 hot meals each week.

We are now using almost entirely surplus supermarket waste food to cook with and give out bags of groceries every week.

The project serves from The Bridge Centre, Gregory Boulevard, Nottingham NG7 5JA.

Achievements and Performance

Over the past year SaSh Kitchen has continued to operate every week from The Bridge Centre.

Throughout 2022-2023 we cooked and gave out 140-170 meals each week. We have also given out 60- 80 bags of groceries each week.

We are very pleased to have returned to our pre-pandemic café-style environment, where people sit in and eat a hot meal, chat to friends or make new connections. We also give out hot meal takeaways.

Many people come each week and enjoy staying in a warm, friendly environment to eat together.

We have served a hot meal every week throughout the year.

We provided in excess of 8,000 meals during the period between April 2022-March 20 23.

YOUR GIFTS IN ACTION

Your compassion and generosity provided help to those in need in our city with...



140-170

TAKEAWAY
MEALS PER DAY



8,000

MEALS BETWEEN
APR 22- MAR 23



80

BAGS OF GROCERIES
GIVEN OUT EACH
WEEK

Our Amazing Volunteers

We have an amazing number of people who volunteer and have developed different teams of volunteers. We have a large pool of people who volunteer to help each week.

This includes teams to help prepare and cook food under the guidance of our chef; a group who sort and give out the donated groceries; a team to serve the food and hot drinks at The Bridge Centre, which is in the United Reformed Church. We also have a team of drivers to collect donated food from supermarkets and Fareshare.

We are entirely dependent on the excellent work done by our volunteers and we couldn't run the project without volunteers.

Each week there are between 15-25 people involved in helping provide the service. Over the period this report covers we have had more than 100 different individuals volunteer. Many are regular but some are ad hoc.

Volunteering goes both ways as it is extremely enjoyable and rewarding to work at SaSh, and people who continue to come back to help do so as they get a lot out of it.



Quotes from SaSh 2023

“Helping here is very selfish.
It makes you feel good!”
New volunteer Rosie

“It’s a cracking place. You get to
meet all your friends. You can
have a coffee or a hot meal”
James, regular guest

“The thing is it isn’t all one way. We get
back far more than we give. It’s a lovely
atmosphere”. Volunteer Kate

“I recently retired from my job as a hospital doctor and
was looking for a project. I started working for SaSh this
year and was delighted to be invited onto the Steering
Group. I cannot imagine anything more rewarding than
this. A proper community-based charity, bringing together
two faith groups in a common purpose, and providing
practical, necessary, respectful and well-targeted support
for disadvantaged local people. Long live SaSh!”
David, new steering group member

“The food is such high quality. It’s always delicious. It’s
like restaurant quality. All the people / staff here are
very kind. It is safe and well run - people aren’t
allowed to mess around or cause trouble. I think it’s
absolutely wonderful. I feel safe here and I feel cared
about. It’s always really clean. They’re about
developing community spirit ”.
Adele, regular guest

“We have a great time while we wash up. The
people are very diverse and it’s great to be in
such a lively, lovely community”
Volunteer Rachel

Using Supermarket Surplus Food and Saving on Waste:

Most of the delicious food we cook each week is from supermarket surplus which would otherwise have been thrown away, so we manage to create 150 meals from waste!

We also have a table of fresh fruit and vegetables and other grocery items as available, which people are able to choose from to take home. These groceries are extremely popular and increasingly needed by people as the cost of living spirals higher.

SaSh obtains fresh food from a number of sources under Neighbourly which partners us with a number of branches of Aldi, Lidl and Sainsburys (6 in total).

We also work with Fareshare, from whom we purchase 80 kilos of produce a week at a favourable rate. We also intermittently receive surplus food from Foodprint . There is no charge for the food from supermarkets or Foodprint. The produce we are gifted are items on or near their best before date or surplus to requirement . The produce is used where possible in the hot meal which we provide or given to guests to take away . As with all our services, there is no charge for the groceries.



Unfortunately increasingly Fareshare have been experiencing a lack of fresh produce and so are passing on less food to us. Supermarkets also have less to give away, so some weeks we have struggled to provide adequate groceries to our guests. Some weeks we have needed to buy fresh vegetables to use in our cooked meals as little has been available from the above sources.

We had planned to increase our regular food collections from Fareshare; however they are unable to accommodate this due to their decreased food supply.

We are entirely reliant on the support and generosity of a small number of volunteers who collect the donations from the supermarkets or Fareshare and then deliver it to the Bridge . This generally involves two journeys (supermarket collection is in the morning) and sometimes means keeping the produce overnight . All volunteers pay for fuel costs themselves. Some volunteers have developed very positive relationships with supermarket managers which has on occasions meant produce is better matched to our needs.

We also aim to only use recyclable/ reusable packaging and takeaway products as much as possible to reduce our impact on the environment.



Musical Entertainment.

We have been fortunate to have several musicians play at SaSh, which always helps improve the atmosphere and makes the evening go well.

Thanks to Howard Coleman, for his marvellous regular sessions of guitar playing, Chris Woodward and Max Worth, for singing/ guitar and keyboard at the winter party, and to members of Niami who have played also.



Grants, Donations and your Support

In January 2023 we were fortunate to have been successful in a National Lottery bid and received a grant from them to use over the next 12 months to continue our important project. We also undertook a very successful Crowdfund campaign, which was match funded by Co-Op Warm Spaces and we managed to raise £5,350.

We have also continued to receive financial donations from individuals and organisations throughout the year. We have continued to keep our costs as low as possible by using donations from as many people/ agencies as possible. Food costs are kept extremely low by using surplus supermarket food donations.

The project continues to develop its links with other organisations and has continued to build its high standing and profile, within the community and the city of Nottingham.

We continue to need regular and one-off donations. If you'd like to donate please follow this <https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/18557>
Or click here to go to our website where there is donate button:
www.salaamshalomkitchen.co.uk



Celebrations

Our dedication to advancing diversity and inclusiveness has been a catalyst for our endeavours. We persist in establishing a secure environment where individuals from diverse backgrounds can come together, partake in a meal, learn more about each other and establish ongoing relationships.

We have events to celebrate various cultural occasions that bring people together of varying faiths and origins to understand their differences and promote sharing. These activities have aided in breaking down barriers and constructing connections of companionship and mutual esteem in our community.

In June 2022 we celebrated Salaam shalom kitchen's 7th anniversary. We held a gathering and invited our volunteers to attend. The event was made all the more special as we were finally back in the Bridge Centre.



Celebrations

This year we held a party on 21st Dec which combined celebrating Chanukah (Jewish winter festival) Christmas, and Winter Solstice. It was a wonderful evening with delicious festive food, decorations and musical entertainment. We also were delighted to welcome Rabbi Gili Zidkiahu, from Nottingham Liberal Synagogue, who lit Chanukah candles and explained a little about the festival.

We were also delighted to be able to give out more than 100 present bags filled with gifts and special treats for our guests. Each bag contained toiletries (some donated by local school parents), chocolates, warm socks and gloves. The bags themselves were reusable calico shopping bags that were donated and would be useful. In addition, children received age-appropriate wrapped presents of books, games or toys. All the gifts were hugely well received with several delighted guests thanking and hugging the SaSh team.

It was an enjoyable evening loved by all!



Governance

Our steering group is robust and functioning well. This year we said goodbye to Dr Ahmed Miliabary from the steering group, and we thank him for his input over the previous 2 years. David Bogod has now joined the steering group and is proving himself to be a valued and useful member of the group.

We have eight committed members of the steering group who have met regularly on zoom and F2F throughout the past year to manage the running of the project.

Two steering group members attend the session each week to ensure smooth functioning of the session.

We have seven Trustees.

Our contracted staff are:

Worker name	Office (if any)
Tali Scott	Chef
Nickala Barber	Operations manager
Chris Woodward	Operations assistant

Trustees and Steering Group

name	Office (if any)
Karen Worth	Co-Chair and treasurer.Trustee and steering group
Sajid Mohammed	Co-Chair. Trustee and steering group
Eve Cina	Trustee and steering group
Mumtaz Baig	Trustee and steering group
Andrea Chipman	Trustee and steering group
Ferzana Shan	Trustee and steering group
Bilal Hussain	Steering Group
David Bogod	Steering Group
Rabbi Tanya Sakhnovich	Trustee

Financial Review

Our overall costs for the year 2022-2023 were £15218, a 50% increase on the previous year.

The charity's reserve policy is to aim for at least 4 months running costs in reserve. This equates to £5,072.

As anticipated, our costs in the past year have markedly increased as we started paying rent again, and also due to the increase in food costs and wages.

We receive regular small individual donations and occasional more sizeable donations from groups/ trusts or businesses. We have received a grant from the National Lottery and undertook a crowdfund campaign.


We have used Charities Aid Foundation (CAF) for donations and receive regular and one-off donations from both individuals and groups via this. Gift Aid is therefore automatically collected.

If you would like to donate either by a one-off or regular donation please go to:

<https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/18557#!/DonationDetails>

Our costs have increased by 50% this year compared to last year, as costs continue to spiral and our project increases in size.

We continue to employ a worker who, as a trained chef, organises the cooking at the project each week involving and directing the many volunteers. This year we have also taken on two part-time workers to help with day to day operations. Everyone else at the project is a volunteer.

A photograph showing two individuals in a kitchen or food preparation area. The person on the left is wearing a blue hairnet, glasses, and a white face mask. The person on the right is wearing a black face mask and a dark apron over a light-colored shirt. They appear to be focused on a task. The background is slightly blurred, showing a blue wall and some wooden elements.

Thank you for your support of The SaSh Kitchen!
Together we are providing help and hope to
people who are in need!

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Boulevard, Hyson Green, Nottingham NG7 5JA

www.salaamshalomkitchen.co.uk

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