Salaam Shalom Kitchen

A Jewish Muslim Partnership
Bringing people together through food

Annual Report
2024-2025

Salaam Shalom Kitchen Nottingham
A joint Muslim Jewish charity

Our Mission



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

The Need
The need continues to increase, as many more people are affected by food poverty. We are now serving more than 100 people every week and giving out 160+ meals, as well as providing much needed groceries.

Contents Page

Celebrating 10 years_____Page 3

A message from our co-chairs_____Page 6

Who we are_____Page 8

SaSh in numbers_____Page 12

News and Updates_____Page 14

Donations_____Page 16

Our Staff_____Page 18

Structure and governance_____Page 19

Celebrating our 10th Year

We are so delighted to be celebrating 10 years of Salaam Shalom kitchen, as our project continues grow and expand its reach. We continue to respond to a growing level of need in the community, as the high cost of living and contributes to high levels of food poverty and stress amongst our clientele. Our tenth anniversary has coincided with new milestones for the organisation.

A new co-chair

Sajid Mohammed, stepped down as co-chair and as a steering committee member in June 2024, following our last AGM, although he remains a trustee. We thank Sajid, who co-founded Salaam Shalom Kitchen with Rabbi Tanya Sakhnovich, for his work and commitment to SaSh and wish him well with his (numerous) other obligations and projects.

We were delighted to welcome Ferzana Shan. as co-chair. In addition to being a member of the SaSh steering committee since 2017, Ferzana is Vice Chair of Himmah and Head of Training at Avon and Somerset Police. She brings experience in leadership, learning and development and enjoys poetry and playing croquet in her spare time.

New Premises

After a number of delays, SaSh moved out of its long-time home at the Bridge Centre in Hyson Green at the end of March 2025. Our new location is the new Himmah Hub, which is located just down the street from the Bridge on Gregory Boulevard in a former community centre owned by Nottingham City Council.

Although we are still adapting to the new premises, co-locating with Himmah provides a number of advantages, and the kitchen space is larger. We thank Kathleen, Stuart and Martha from the United Reform Church, which operates the Bridge Centre, for hosting us for most of our first ten years.

A Message from our Co-Chairs

Ferzana Shan
Co-Chair

It is an honour to introduce myself as Co-Chair of Salaam Shalom Kitchen (SaSh). I'm Ferzana – a long-standing steering group member, trustee, and now co-chair. As a British Pakistani woman, giving back to the city that's given me so much is deeply important. The act of giving – of Sadaqah – whether through time, effort or kindness, is at the heart of what we do at SaSh.



Karen Worth
Co-Chair

I am so proud that we are celebrating 10 successful years of Salaam Shalom Kitchen. We started this as a small local project thinking that it might run for a year or two at most… and here we are all these years later. Tikkun Olam (helping to repair our damaged world) and gemillut chassidim (acts of loving kindness) are central teachings to me as a Jewish woman, and I am so delighted to be able to tangibly put this into practice at SaSh kitchen.



From both of us…

We have watched SaSh grow from a small community café into a vital service. Post-Covid and through the ongoing cost-of-living crisis, the need in our community has only deepened. Alongside hot meals in a warm, welcoming café environment, we now offer groceries, through Fareshare and direct supermarket collections, which has become a lifeline for many.

None of this would be possible without our incredible volunteers, who cook, shop, set up, serve, and clean. They welcome guests, pour teas, and prepare meals to eat in or take

away. They drive to collect the food from supermarkets all over Nottingham and also from Fareshare. Behind them are trustees and steering group members who work tirelessly to keep everything running, and our amazing paid staff team, who do so much on very few paid hours. It's a huge operation powered entirely by community spirit.

At the core of SaSh is something truly special: a Muslim-Jewish partnership. We cannot overstate its importance. In a world often marked by division, we come together to model something different – shared purpose, mutual respect, and unity in action.

Looking ahead, our vision is to continue this work – not just with food, but with dignity, warmth, and hope. We remain grounded in service and solidarity.

We're deeply grateful to our funders and donors who walk alongside us, who believe in our ethos, and who are as moved as we are by the growing need in this city. Their support makes this all possible.

Thank you for being part of the journey.

Our Objectives

Our main objective is to help to relieve food poverty in Nottingham and also 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 to grow and we are serving around 160+ hot meals each week, including take-out meals. We have many regulars who attend every week and who have developed friendships/connections with others who attend the project. The people attending have continued to expand over the past year and has included many more families and people from different communities.

Every Wednesday between 5-7 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 nor do they have to provide evidence of need. People have diverse range of needs and issues, including: food poverty, mental health issues, substance misuse issues, asylum seekers and refugees, recent immigrants from Eastern Europe especially Poland, Lithuania and Ukraine, and Roma community, many of whom speak little English. Elderly and isolated individuals also attend.

Although most of our guests are adults, 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.

Our Amazing Volunteers

We have volunteers from lots of different organisations and also many individuals not aligned to organisations.
Groups include but are not limited to: Catholics from St Barnabus Cathedral; Trent and Nottingham University students; Nottingham Fire and Rescue Service, Nottingham Liberal Synagogue and several different Muslim organisations including Himmah, Nottingham Muslim Women's network and Pakistan Forum. Many individuals come regularly every week to volunteer.

Our volunteers work 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 Himmah Hub. We also have a team of drivers to collect donated food from supermarkets and Fareshare.

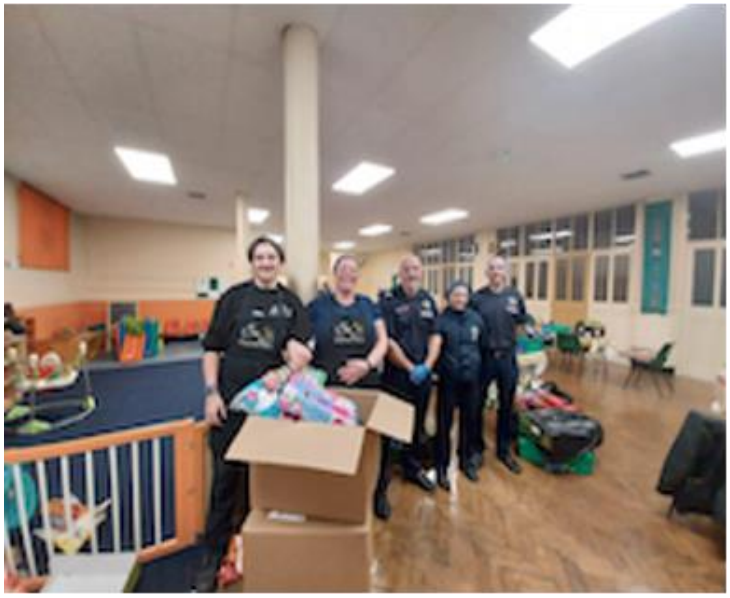
We are entirely dependent on the excellent work done by our volunteers, and we couldn't run the project without them.

Each week there are approximately 30 people involved in helping provide the service. Over the period this report covers we have had more than 60 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 continue to come back to help, as they get a lot out of it.

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.

Some of our ‘guests’ also volunteer at the project so the barrier between workers and service users is blurred and this helps with cohesion and breaking down barriers. We are working on a clear process to make this pathway more accessible and transparent.



What our volunteers and guests are saying

"Tasty cooked food which is really healthy, and a really good range. Not only can you eat inside but you can take it away and have a meal for another day. You get an awful lot here for nothing" – Nick, guest

I don't come for the food, but I need the company. This is the only time I see people all week. ---Anonymous, guest

Teamwork and the interaction with the guests is the reason I come. There is a great variety of food we get donated and it's always exciting to see what's been delivered.
--Graham, volunteer

There's so much hate in the world and it's just beautiful to be able to do something which brings communities together.
--Luke volunteer.

The food is tasty. Staff are really friendly. I feel safe here- even though I have depression and anxiety. It's the only place I come now.
I get enough food to last me. It's great that it's a hot meal and also a food bank.
--Maria. guest

It's so nice to see people smiling. You make us feel so welcome. --Anonymous, guest

Helps me feed myself as I work on zero hours contract and some weeks I get no money.
I would be living on beans on toast if it wasn't for this place. This is delicious and the healthiest meal I eat all week. It helped a lot when I was homeless.
--Julian. Guest.

This place gives me hope and makes me happy and everyone here is so lovely and non-judgemental. People just want to help each other.
--Asher, (student) volunteer.

Very nice dinner today.
--Irene guest

I enjoy volunteering at SASH because it feels like I'm making a tiny little difference in the lives of people who really need it. I've always found it really hard when I see people facing homelessness—it gives me this overwhelming feeling of hopelessness, and I wanted to do something to help.

I also like the social side of volunteering. There's something very uplifting about chopping vegetables together and having those chats where we somehow end up putting the world to rights!
---Justyna, volunteer

I like the idea behind this project. Meeting people from different religions and backgrounds. The meal is really central - getting people to sit down and eat together.
--Virginia, volunteer.

I meet friends here. Enjoy the food and lots of coffee. The staff are really nice.
--Sam, guest

Achievements and Performance

During the period between April 2024-March 22, 2025:	**8,000+ hot meals prepared**
	150 - 160 delicious meals made every Wednesday, all year round
	5,000 kg of supermarket food surplus saved from waste – cooked/given away
	90- 125 people through the doors each week
	More than 60 people have volunteered with us

Salaam Shalom Kitchen in the Community

Events with the High Sheriff

Nick Rubins who held the office of High Sheriff of Nottinghamshire in 2024-25, chose Salaam Shalom Kitchen as one of his two charities for the year.

Ferzana and Karen – Salaam Shalom Kitchen's co-chairs spoke to a packed audience at Southwell Minster at the Kings Birthday Celebration in June 2024.

There were two other High Sheriff events over the year, including a charitable donor event with Forever Notts in February 2025 and the High Sheriff's farewell tea where SaSh Kitchen was given a High Sheriff's award along with individual awards for Ferzana and Karen in March 2025

As a result of Nick spreading the message about our great project, and inviting more volunteers, we received a lot of interest, and made some new connections.

Salaam Shalom Kitchen supports sustainable development

On November 6, 2024, SaSh Co-Chairs Karen Worth and Ferzana Shan appeared on the SDG Vision podcast. As part of a wide-ranging discussion with host Pierre Jones, they spoke about the project's alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) –outlined in 2015 by the United Nations General Assembly as part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

You can view it here:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PIfveIyGg_o

Other events

In February 2025, SaSh became champions of the Warm Welcome Spaces campaign, which aims to keep people warm through the winter through a movement that connects individuals and communities across the country all year round. We have attended their online sessions.

Karen Worth gave a talk about what we do at SaSh to Nottingham University students at their parliamentors meeting in March 2025.

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.

Donations and your support

We have received small financial donations throughout the year from individuals and organisations and have maintained a healthy bank balance.

We are grateful to Sherwood Open Gardens in June 2024 for their amazing donation of £4,000, raised from people paying to visit the gardens, sale of refreshments and plants and donations made by individuals.

We are also very grateful to Nick Rubins, High Sheriff of Nottinghamshire 2024-25. We received £732 donations from his charity events.

St. Andrew's with Castle Gate United Reformed Church organised an evening of Middle Eastern food in Nov 2024 which 80 people attended and donated £375 to SaSh from the event.

In 2024-25 we also received very welcome donations from the following organisations:
Artemis Trust £4000
Termate £900
Benevity £170

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 and (purchasing) food from Fare Share.

This also helps with our goal of sustainability and to be as eco-friendly as possible.

We rely on donations and it is particularly helpful when people sign up to donate regularly. Even £5 or £10 a month would make a big difference. To set up either a one-off or regular donation please go to: https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/18557#!/DonationDetails

Our Staff

This year, we welcomed a new member of staff, Sara, who started in June 2024 as Project and Volunteer Coordinator. She has made a huge difference to the project with her boundless energy and enthusiasm. She continues to develop our volunteer support and recruitment.

Nic, our wonderful Operations Coordinator continues to be a marvel working tirelessly every Wednesday to keep the afternoon session on track, and also organises the supermarket pick-ups and deliveries.

We continue to employ our talented chef Tali, who plans delicious and nutritious meals each week made from mainly supermarket surplus, directing the many volunteers to help in preparation.

We have also added a number of temporary and guest chefs, including Sergio, Sam, Rezi and the Nottingham Muslim Women's Network, to fill in for Tali when she is unavailable.



Structure, Governance and Management

Type of governing document – Constitution
Charitable incorporated organisation
Trustee selection methods - Appointed by existing trustees.

Trustees

Karen Worth Co-chair
Ferzana Shah Co-chair
Sajid Mohammed
Tanya Sakhnovich
Eve Cina
Andrea Chipman
David Bogod
Mumtaz Baig

Steering group

Our steering group is the engine that keeps the project working. We meet monthly to consider both strategic and operational activities. There are 2 steering group members present each week at SaSh to help ensure the session runs smoothly.
The steering group is: Abdul Aziz, Andrea, David, Eve, Ferzana, Karen and Mumtaz,

We are delighted to have welcomed AbdulAziz Ahmed onto our steering group. He has been really helpful in working with us on governance and policy development.
Other specific roles held by the steering group this year are:
Treasurer- Karen Worth
Secretary- Mumtaz Baig
Other members of the group take on various other significant areas of responsibilities eg Website, fareshare liason, rota etc.
We thank the steering group for the many hours they have given to SaSh and their steadfast support and vision.

Financial Review

Our overall costs for the year 2024-2025 were £28,818. The charity's reserve policy is to aim for at least 4 months running costs in reserve. This equates to approx. £9666.
Our end of year financial position £16,608

We anticipate that our costs in the coming year will continue to increase due to the increase in food costs and wages. We receive regular small individual donations and occasional more sizeable donations from groups. We have had fewer large donations this year and not received any grants, so our reserves have depleted. We are now in process of applying for grants for the coming year.

For further information on the accounts, they are available on the charity commission website.

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