

# **Mikveh Project UK**

Charity accounts

For the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020

Charity Number: 1183111

The Mikveh Project UK (Charity number: 1183111)

For the year ended 31 March 2020

Reference and administrative information

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<b>Charity number</b>	1183111
<b>Country of registration</b>	England & Wales
<b>Registered office</b>	13 Woodberry Way, London, N12 OHE

#### **Trustees**

Founding trustees who were all appointed on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2019, and who served during the year and up to the date of this report were as follows:

Rabbi Miriam Berger Ms Lynette Chazen Mrs Sam Clifford (Chair) Mr Jonathan Synett	Appointed as chair 15 <sup>th</sup> November 2019
Ms Rachel Silveira	Appointed as founding Chair, resigned 12 <sup>th</sup> September 2019

<b>Consultant</b>	Ms Rachel Heilbron Silveira from 15 <sup>th</sup> November 2019
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<b>Bankers</b>	CAF Bank 25 Kings Hill Ave, Kings Hill, West Malling ME19 4JQ
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The charity has not yet appointed solicitors and is not required to have financial review or audit.

The trustees present their report and the audited financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2020.

## Objectives and activities

Our aim is to create a new centre for wellbeing. At its heart is a mikveh, a Jewish pool for immersion in natural water. The Mikveh waters have long been associated with renewal, transition and healing. At this Jewish centre for wellbeing we will be reimagining mikveh for the 21st century.

To accompany the mikveh, we will provide therapeutic spaces and educational programming to support people through periods of poor mental health, challenging life cycle events and marking moments of transition. This additional provision will be run as part of the Mikveh Project UK Community Interest Company.

The centre will be a welcoming, inclusive and non-judgmental space for people of all genders from all faiths (of all denominations) and people of non-religious beliefs. It will actively promote resilience building, taking a preventative as well as a therapeutic approach to good mental health allowing Jewish rituals such as immersion to be part of wellbeing and recovery.

In this first year of operations, the charity began to create an organisational structure for the development phase. This included:

1. Registering and establishing formally as a charity
2. Recruiting volunteers and creating a volunteer strategy
3. Building relationships with Jewish communal organisations and Synagogues
4. Curating a social media presence and following on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter
5. Creating an indicative plan for the building and site brief
6. Creating educational materials and delivering educational workshops

We joined the Rising Tide Network, the internal movement of community Mikveh builders and sent two delegates to their conference in Atlanta, US. The network allows us to learn from other international *Mikvaot* (plural of *mikveh*) who are further in their journey to us, helping us critique and refine our plans as well as giving us access to resources and support. We ran one event for Jewish community professionals attended by more than 60 people, six educational sessions at the Limmud festival (reaching approx. 100 people) as well as online sessions for JW3, Laviot, the Movement for Reform Judaism, the Board of Deputies of British Jews and the Rising Tide Network (reaching many hundred people via their websites and using zoom).

The objects of the CIO are:

- To advance the Jewish religion by providing and maintaining a mikveh (ritual bath) and associated services.
- To advance the Jewish faith in accordance with the Statement of Belief appearing in the Schedule and to fulfil such other purposes which are exclusively charitable according to the law of England and Wales and are connected with the charitable work of the charity

## Structure, governance and management

The charity is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) governed by a Constitution (registered on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2019). This is the charity's first year of operation.

Apart from the founding trustees, every trustee must be appointed for a term of three years by a resolution passed at a properly convened meeting of the charity trustees. In selecting individuals for appointment as charity trustees, the charity trustees must have regard to the skills, knowledge and experience needed for the effective administration of the CIO.

The charity does not yet have paid staff; it uses the services of a consultant.

The Mikveh Project is governed by a Board of Trustees, with a minimum membership of three. At the end of March 2019 there were four trustees. All trustees give their time voluntarily and receive no benefits from the charity. No trustees reclaimed expenses from the charity.

One trustee resigned – Rachel Silveira, who stepped down from being the chair and was appointed as consultant to the project.

Any person who is willing to act as a trustee, and who would not be disqualified from acting as one, may be appointed to be a trustee by a decision of the Board of Trustees.

In the year to 31st March 2019, the Board met four times. In addition, trustees provided significant ongoing support to the organisation throughout the year.

## Public benefit

The trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the public benefit guidance, published by the Commission, in determining the activities undertaken by the charity. The trustees are satisfied that the aims and objectives of the charity, and the activities reported on above to achieve the aims, meet these principles.

## Fundraising

The Mikveh Project's fundraising was led by the trustees with limited support from a consultant. There was no material expenditure incurred to raise income.

We have ensured we are in line with the GDPR data protection regulations and all other relevant codes of conduct. We do not pressure supporters to make gifts and respect decisions to stop giving. We received no complaints about our fundraising practices.

## Risk Management

Key risks in this development stage include maintaining focus on the agreed mission, securing income and maintaining adequate cashflow. The Coronavirus pandemic affected the availability of volunteers, which has delayed some activities and caused a setback in fundraising. However, as operating costs were low and no capital projects have been committed to, the effects of our ongoing work have been minimal.

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For the year ended 31 March 2020

Notes to the Financial Statements

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## Financial review

In this development stage, the Mikveh Project's reserves policy states that it will aim to ensure that it has between three- and six-months' worth of working capital to cover its operational expenses. This policy will be reviewed annually.

In the period to 31st March 2020, The Mikveh Project UK received £16,853 (all unrestricted). Total spending amounted to £5,243. The charity reports a surplus of £11,610.

Breakdown of expenditure is shown in on page 5.

## Declaration

The trustees would like to thank the volunteers who generously gave their time during the year, and all the people who have supported the Project.

The trustees' annual report has been approved by the trustees on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2020 and signed on their behalf by

Ms Sam Clifford

Chair of the Board of Trustees

The Mikveh Project UK (Charity number: 1183111)

For the year ended 31 March 2020

Notes to the Financial Statements

Receipts and payments accounts for the period 1/4/2019 to 31/3/2020				CC16a
Section A: Receipts and payments				
	Unrestricted funds (£)		Restricted funds (£)	Total funds (£)
<b>Receipts</b>				
Voluntary Donations	16,853		-	16,853
Total receipts	<b>16,853</b>		-	<b>16,853</b>
<b>Payments</b>				
Professional services	4,536		-	4,536
Fundraising support	500		-	500
Misc costs	207		-	207
Total payments	<b>5,243</b>		-	<b>5,243</b>
Net of receipts/(payments)	<b>11,610</b>		-	<b>11,610</b>
Section B: Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period				
	Unrestricted funds (£)		Restricted funds (£)	
B1: Cash funds	11,610		-	
Total cash funds	<b>11,610</b>		-	

The financial statement was approved and authorised for issues by the Board of Trustees on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2020.

And signed on its behalf by:

Ms Sam Clifford

Chair of the Board of Trustees

Rabbi Miriam Berger

Founding Trustee