

The Paristamen Charity

Standing beside charities with small grants to make a big difference

A Scottish charitable incorporated organisation – Registered charity number SC050822

Small Grant-Making Charity Seeks New Trustee

A great opportunity for someone with experience as a fundraiser and knowledge of the voluntary sector to learn what it's like from the other side as a grant-maker

Profile

The Paristamen Charity is a small grant-making charity. The name *Paristamen* means "We stand beside". It comes from the Bible (Romans 16:2 - Greek) where St Paul asks the readers of his letter to *stand beside* deacon Phoebe and (by implication) to provide her with financial support. Our vision is *to stand beside charities with small grants to make a big difference*. We have been operating since 1985: originally in England, but since 2016 we have been in Dunbar, East Lothian, Scotland. In 2021 we were re-established as a SCIO.

The charity does not have a permanent endowment, but makes grants from donations received (some regular, some one-off). In a typical year we provide grants totalling £50,000 - £60,000 to a wide range of charitable organisations: the majority being local charities in Scotland. Most grants are relatively small (typically up to £1,000) but in recent years we have also made one "blue sky" grant up to £25,000 each year.

The charitable objects of Paristamen are:

- The advancement of the Christian faith
- Any other charitable purpose not inconsistent with the above.

This means in practice we can support a very wide range of charitable work, addressing social disadvantage, medical issues and much more. For more information see www.paristamen.org.uk. (Copies of past Trustees Reports and Accounts are also on our website.)

The trustees

We currently operate with four trustees: Gareth and Sharon Morgan (the founders) and two independent trustees. However, one of the independent trustees is stepping down in 2024 so there will soon be a vacancy for a trustee to serve for the period 2024-27.

We currently have three trustees meetings per year. In addition to attending meetings, each trustee spends some time prior to meetings reviewing applications received and there is some liaison by e-mail between meetings.

Gareth Morgan is Chair and Sharon Morgan acts as Admin Trustee on a voluntary basis, dealing with all the correspondence and grant applications. Only applications which appear to meet Paristamen's grant-making criteria are presented for consideration by the trustees as a whole.

The new trustee role

We are seeking someone who:

- Is sympathetic to the objects of the charity
- Is willing to commit to the duties of being a trustee – to consider applications carefully and share in all other decision making for the charity (including three meetings per year that normally take place in person – either in Dunbar or in Edinburgh).
- Has sufficient breadth of voluntary sector experience (including some experience of the Christian sector if possible) to be able to make useful comments about overall strategy and where to prioritise between applications.

As a trustee, the role is unpaid, but travel expenses can be reimbursed (though given the modest resources available we suggest it would work best if you live or work within the area of Edinburgh and the Lothians).

As a trustee you would not be able to apply to Paristamen for any organisation where you are directly involved (but our grants are relatively small in any case and hopefully it would be a worthwhile learning experience if you have other roles in the sector).

Although we are only a small grant-making charity, we are active members of Scottish Grantmakers and of the Association of Charitable Foundations. We seek to work to the same standards of professionalism as many larger trusts. We also take part in other voluntary sector activities and networks.

How to apply

If you feel this could be of interest, please make contact as soon as possible. Gareth Morgan will be happy to have an informal discussion in the first instance by phone, Zoom or email. It would then help if you could send an outline c.v. and some comments on why you are interested in becoming a trustee of The Paristamen Charity. If we feel there is a potential fit, we will invite you for an informal meeting with the other trustees. If this was positive, we would then progress the process of appointing you as a trustee.

For an initial discussion, please contact:

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