

VISION MEETING 2025

25th February 2025

Annual Reports

Gatehouse Church

Waterloo Road, Blackpool, FY4 3AD, Lancashire, UK

www.elimblackpool.org.uk



TABLE OF CONTENTS

PASTOR'S REPORT	5
Highlights	5
A building fit for purpose	5
Encouraging news	6
Moving forward - 2025	6
Thanks	7
BUILDINGS TEAM	7
Building fit for purpose	7
Maintenance of buildings	8
The year ahead	9
CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES	9
Toddlers & Co.	9
Limitless Kids Sunday	10
CHURCH IN THE CAFÉ	11
The team	11
CONNECT GROUPS	11
Thursday group (Julie Green)	12
Wednesday online Bible study (Patrick Fleming)	12
Friday group (Paul Douglas)	13
DOOR STEWARDS	13
FOOD MINISTRY	14
FINANCIAL REPORT	15
Missions giving	15
Gift Aid	16

Fun Day _____	16
Building fund _____	17
Opportunities to serve _____	17
Income and expenditure _____	18
Prayer points _____	18
OPEN DOORS _____	19
Five-year anniversary _____	20
Prayer points _____	20
PRAYER GROUP _____	21
SAFEGUARDING REPORT _____	22
Review of activities _____	22
Future plans _____	22
Prayer point _____	22
SCRIBES WRITING WORKSHOP _____	22
SOUND, VISION & MEDIA _____	24
The team _____	24
Our vision _____	25
Media creation – videos, flyers, social media _____	25
Website & App _____	25
Social media _____	26
Livestreaming _____	26
Future improvements _____	26
Prayer points _____	27
WORSHIP TEAM _____	27
Prayer points _____	28

YOUTH REPORT	29
Prayer point	31
ADDENDUM – FINANCIAL STATEMENTS	32

PASTOR'S REPORT

Highlights

A major highlight of this last year has been the appointment of a new national leader, Mark Pugh, who has led the churches of Elim in a season of consecration. This has involved individuals in church following a 21-day devotional of personal consecration, a teaching series on consecration, departments within the church having special times of consecration, a regional and national consecration event and a special family consecration service. Many of us have been drawn closer to the Lord and have a greater desire to pray and hand our lives over to Him. There has been a change in the spiritual atmosphere at church as we have been going through this journey together. May that continue!

A building fit for purpose



Another highlight has been 'A Building Fit for Purpose' project to replace the church roof, remove asbestos from the loft space, fit solar panels and remodel the entrance to the church. Using a process of examining the need, then our own

finances and what we can give, and then asking God what we should give, meant that whatever we gave was going to be a success. But as it turned out, the people of Gatehouse gave more than has ever been given before at this church in Blackpool and it has given us a platform to move forward with Phase 1 (see more details in the [Buildings and Finance](#) reports). Following God's ways with faith and obedience has enabled us to achieve way more than we ever thought. Let's learn from that and keep moving forward in faith and obedience, giving glory to God all the way.

Encouraging news

Other encouragements include the teaching on and increased use of the Gifts of the Spirit in our services, a new fellowship group being started and a good number of new people in church, some of whom have given their lives to Jesus.

Moving forward - 2025

Moving on into this coming year especially, we would like to see a development in our corporate prayer, worship and meaningful fellowship. We will look to help new members being able to get settled into church fellowship, with more newcomers' lunches, more fellowship groups and developing clearer pathways for new Christians to be nurtured and discipled and go on to develop as leaders. We will continue to really keep focussed on 'Mission' but want to pay good attention to 'Family'.

Another area of family that we will be encouraging, is the working together of churches within the area, particularly with regard to prayer and worship. There will be a few prayer and worship events with the other three Elim churches on the Fylde and also, we will be on board with a good number of other churches across the Fylde for the 10 Days of prayer leading up to Pentecost. Also, there will be some within the church who will be linking up with the *Prayer Storm Conference* in August.

Overall, there is a sense that we can expect good things from God in these coming months. Can I encourage each one of you to take forward your heart's desire to go deeper with God in prayer, worship and service. You will not be disappointed or labour in vain.

Thanks

I am very grateful to God for what he has done this year, but also, I particularly want to thank the leadership of the church; Kay, Liz, Ihechi and Patrick, who have worked incredibly hard, given great spiritual leadership and have been a massive support to me. I also want to thank the rest of the Working Team who have worked hard and led so diligently (and written the following reports!) and everyone else who has volunteered so cheerfully (usually!) and often sacrificially. Thank you! We have all been anointed to serve fruitfully.

BUILDINGS TEAM

(Patrick Fleming)

Building fit for purpose



Good news on building projects: Roof replacement and asbestos removal costing and quotes now in place. The scope of the work has been re-evaluated in more detail as we liaise with contractors due to input received from architects and professional project managers. This has helped us to tighten up on what was required for compliance to building regulations and safety concerns. It will also facilitate our resourcing of funds through grants.

Our recent drive for 'Fit for purpose' results amazed us in volume raised with currently almost £30,000 received with more pledged. A loan of £25,000 has been agreed from Elim headquarters which means that we have enough to begin with the removal of asbestos and replacement of the roof when the weather improves.

We have decided to call in a heating consultant to evaluate our heating requirements, and look at options; this includes the solar power option.

Maintenance of buildings

This year has had some challenges due to roof problems creating issues of ingress of water. Temporary repairs have helped but 2 floor areas had to be replaced. The front entrance floor was replaced (we used a professional joiner as floor supports had to be changed) and then the Sunday youth group room floor was removed and new boards fitted. We were able to do this in-house, with the help of Luigi, our new 'trainee'.

The centre was treated to a good painting inside and out, with big help from Ross and Steve. Lights were fitted to outside for extra security. The Tech desk got a much-needed upgrade to electrical sockets, and PAT checks were completed by JayJay, throughout both buildings. The window in the kitchen of the community centre was replaced. Many other jobs were tackled with plumbing and electrics.

So it has been a busy year!

The year ahead

Some maintenance works for this year include (but are not limited to) the following:

- Entrance to car park, extend drop kerb on west end.
- Picket fence, to repair and paint.
- Clean outsides of community centre.
- To rear of community centre, repaint fence, clear area and make emergency exit into through community centre garden to carpark.
- Outside of main building: West face; repair window above emergency exit and four of the windows need repairs to upright supports, and wall needs some re-pointing.
- Front of church: remove signage board, repair small window openers and repaint front of building.
- Inside the building requires attention throughout, to brighten and repair.

All this will require work parties to assist, to achieve 'Fit for Purpose' aims. If you are able to help out at all, please make yourself known to Paul and Patrick and keep an ear open for when there are work days planned.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

(Kay Walker)

Toddlers & Co.

Toddlers & Co. seems to be flourishing at the moment. In September we changed to just one day a week as we did not have enough volunteers to run two days a week. This has coincided with various other groups starting up in Blackpool

meaning that there is less need for ours to run 2 days; God is gracious with His timing. We have up to 20 children and their carers coming each week. This year we have developed a programme where we have a different sensory play item (Jelly, flour, empty boxes, coloured rice), a different craft, different construction and songs/games activities each week. The children particularly enjoy the new sensory play activities. We have really good relations with most of the parent/carers who come and often have meaningful conversations with them. They appreciate us praying for them, being interested and supportive.

We have recently started hosting a “Being a Parent” group. This is an excellent parenting course run by “Multiply” a local community training group. Parents have come from our church, Toddlers and the wider community. So far, the feedback is very positive from it.

Limitless Kids Sunday

Limitless Kids Sundays continues to be full of life and joy. Over the past year we have seen our crèche (under 5’s) numbers grow to a steady average of 5 children. It has been really encouraging to see some of the younger children settle into crèche and enjoy it, allowing them to develop socially and parents to receive in the service.

The older group (age 5-11) has around 8-10 children, mostly from church families. As well as having fun and teaching bible stories and truths, I feel that we are going deeper in the application and challenge bit of the lesson. Our heart is that the children grow in their own individual walks with Jesus.

We have a wonderful team of volunteers who regularly give up their time in church to be able to look after our children, they work hard and are a real blessing to us all.

We finished the Kids Club in July and haven’t re-started it. Numbers were dwindling, particularly among non-church children in the community and with the loss of volunteers, we are no longer able to run it.

CHURCH IN THE CAFÉ

(Neville Walker)

On Wednesday afternoons, a very small team meets at the Pitstop Café in Waterloo Road, has a cup of tea, a chat, a short time of prayer and then some go out into the street and shops to speak to people. During the course of the year the team has prayed with between 100 and 200 people, and there have been a handful of people saying that they have been healed, or their condition is much better, or that a prayer has been answered specifically. Also, one or two have prayed the sinner's prayer and one or two others have come along to Open Doors, one of whom has started attending our church services.

We are confident that this simple ministry has changed a whole number of lives in different ways, including healing and salvation.

The team

The team is very small and would welcome other people to join it – in fact, for the ministry to consistently continue, we need new people on team. You can come and sit in the café with one of the team (and you'll be surprised at all the conversations we have) or you can be paired up with one of the experienced members and learn how many people want to talk and are open to listen to the Gospel and receive prayer. Speak to Neville to find out more.

CONNECT GROUPS

(Julie Green, Patrick Fleming, Paul Douglas)

Thursday group (Julie Green)

We have had a challenging year this year, due to illness and people leaving, so the dynamics of the group have kept changing as numbers attending have kept changing.

We have done a number of short bible studies over the year and many times of prayer worship and times of just sharing with each other. Over the year we have had a number of people just come in as a one off where we have just put things to one side and prayed and shared and shown Gods love to them. We have also had a couple of trips out together.

During the summer we carried on meeting this year, which was different to other years and we had some children and youth join us, so these were days of fun and laughter, games, parties and a Christian movie. Just being family together.

Currently we have a small core with 8 people in or connected to the group who come when they can.

Wednesday online Bible study (Patrick Fleming)

We have had good year on our Wednesday evening zoom Bible Study, looking at Jesus, His ministry, and reasons for what He did. Our basis was Acts 10:38 which says that God anointed Him, and He went about doing good and healing all, and later on we studied the subject of consecration. It was all good stuff to build our lives and discipleship on again. Whilst we retain a core group of 5-6, others come and go as they are able. A number of technical difficulties with connections have hindered but not prevented our sessions. I most enjoy the open discussions that result, showing that all are listening and have a sincere desire to grow.

Contact Patrick to get the login details.

Friday group (Paul Douglas)

We started a Friday meeting in various homes, on request from some who wanted to go deeper in their walk with God. From day one it has been very well received by all who have attended, and whilst initially was for all, it has settled as a men's group.

The depth of ministry comes from all who want to share, with much being obviously from Holy Spirit. Sharing in different homes each week, we have seen a core of 6-8 every week, including two recent converts. Ministry includes life encounters, laying on hands, prayer and support.

Growth is very evident in all, in a very Spirit filled, relaxed and gentle environment.

Please see Paul, Patrick or Eric if you would like to get involved.

DOOR STEWARDS

(Liz Hall)

I feel that the door steward team have really upped their game this year, and are approaching duties with enthusiasm and a good heart. I am thankful for each and every one of them. We may not be perfect and slip up occasionally and miss something we should have dealt with but serve God with enthusiasm. It is noticeable the improved attention to detail, checking fire extinguishers and exits prior to meeting etc. On the whole, reliability has improved and I am usually informed if a person is unable to make their turn. Hats off to all those who happily step in at the last minute when needed, I really appreciate this.

This team, in their turn, serve 52 weeks in a year and we have a rota so each person knows when they have their turn. The team size has slightly increased since last year. A couple of people signed up on "Volunteer Sunday" and others have since volunteered or been invited. This, in turn, has made it easier on everybody else but

there is still room for more volunteers. For anyone who wants to volunteer in Church but has not much time in the week, this is a great place to start. It is also a good way to meet people, with a friendly greeting or learning names of people you do not know well and perhaps a genuine enquiry to how they are. After a conversation, however short, that person is no longer just someone at Church.

We do have informal training sessions, where we discuss fire safety, and safeguarding issues and any necessary information. These are usually after Church, with lunch involved. This also serves to unite the team, who otherwise only work with one other person. We recently had a team get together which we coupled with consecration, looking at the Biblical importance of “gatekeepers,” and how they serve as priests before God, in their duties. We then moved into praying for one another which was a very special and encouraging time. I hope we can have at least two more get-togethers through the year, for training, team building and fellowship.

Psalm 84:10 “I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of wickedness.”.

FOOD MINISTRY

(Kay Walker)

We continued with the fortnightly provision of food bags until the end of September. The parameters for receiving the grant from Blackpool Council had changed in the next round of funding meaning that we were unable to receive any monies this time. We did, however, manage to provide 32 Christmas Hampers - 20 to Armfield School, 5 to Gateway School, and 7 to community families from donations received in church. (This included the provision of gifts for two families).

We have also been able to donate some food provision to Armfield School and community families in January. Currently we have a little stock which can be used

for emergency provision, but we would appreciate more donations. I had hoped to be able to pass on this project to someone by now and with my increased involvement in Youth, I feel that if another food provision/Christmas hampers project is undertaken it will need to be organized by someone else. Please contact Kay to find out more of what it would involve.

FINANCIAL REPORT

(Liz Hall)

Over the financial year from October to September, the general income was an average of £6,959.49 per month, compared with previous year £6,341.40 per month which is an increase of £618.00 per month. The average expense for that period is £6,335.94, which means we have a balance.

Praise God for His wonderful provision, that once again I can report we have had enough money each month to pay the outgoings without wondering are we going to go in the red. I am so thankful firstly to God, then also for all the lovely faithful givers who walk in obedience in both tithes and offerings. I am not just thankful for cash, but also that God has put me in a body of believers who trust God with their finances and walk in joyful obedience giving generously and knowing the blessing of God.

Missions giving

Thanks again to such generosity, we have been able to continue supporting Be Free in Cambodia, and the Robinsons (Wycliffe Bible translators,) on a regular monthly basis.

Gift Aid

The number of people who have signed up to Gift Aid has increased again this year, we were able to claim an extra £8,803.23 from Inland Revenue, compared to last year £2,896.02.

Because Elim is a registered charity, we can claim 25% refund on gifts given to us by taxpayers; this is at no extra cost to the donors. If you are a taxpayer, please consider signing up to the Gift Aid scheme, see Liz Hall for more information or a sign-up form.

Fun Day



We held the second Fun Day in June last year where one of the objectives was to help raise finances to take a number of our young people to Limitless Festival. The main objective is to connect with the local community, and I do believe there was some ground broken in that direction. We were blessed with donations from businesses large and small and it was nice that they were happy to help a Church project. The day raised about £500.00 which was a good help towards the costs. Apart from the financial side, the day brought together many willing volunteers and there was great fellowship and fun.

Building fund

We have known for a few years now that the roof of the Church building was in need of being replaced, and a problem with some asbestos lagging in the loft space needed to be addressed. The huge costs have always been a factor and we have had many repairs done over the years to help defer what seemed impossible. This last year we knew God was stirring us to start moving on this, in line with Neville's vision of the Church he would like to see. Following that, two main decisions were made, firstly that we would invest £50.00 per month as a seed of faith into the building fund and secondly that we would have a giving time in September. We are rejoicing at the response, with the first target for the roof almost reached and already up to date the building Fund now stands at £29,790.02. I am confident by the end of February we will be over £30,000.00. We rejoice in God for His wonderful provision and so blessed that so many have caught the vision and responded accordingly. Jesus said to the blind men "according to your faith let it be to you." Matthew 9:29

I would encourage you let God increase your faith and believe with me, not only for the whole cost of the roof, but all the other structural works that are needed. We are blessed to be a blessing.

Opportunities to serve

1. Although I initially was to take the role of finance officer provisionally, I have grown into the work and am happy to continue in the role for a while. However, I also know that having only one person trained and able is not the healthiest situation for future proofing smooth running. So, we are still looking for one or two people who like working with numbers and would like to train up to be finance officers. I will give training and work alongside those people for as long as necessary, so no one would be thrown in the deep end.

2. We also need a small team to count the offerings given on a Sunday. Having a larger team would mean a little less obligation on those already serving. An ability to count and complete a simple form and banking slip plus a little extra time at the end of a meeting is all it takes. Again, you will be trained alongside one of the current volunteers. It is an opportunity to volunteer for those who do not have much time in the week.
3. Lastly, we need a volunteer to run the missionary box collection. This involves keeping a record of who has the box, then collecting them in about once a quarter and preparing for banking.

Income and expenditure

See copy of [Income and Expenditure](#) 2023-2024 attached.

Prayer points

- Volunteers for the role of Finance Officer, counters on a Sunday and missionary box collection as per above.

OPEN DOORS

(Liz Hall)



The most noticeable feature of Open Doors this past year has been regular attenders, people who come on a regular basis (not church members), although there has been more interest this year from people in the church. While this is wonderful, and establishing strong relationships in the local community, it could become limiting.

Sadly, we have lost two of these dear people this year, and unfortunately their friends and relatives struggle now to attend regularly. Another gentleman is suffering bad health and is currently in a care situation. We had developed relationships with all these people and feel their loss.

When new people do arrive, some like to sit around a large table with lots of conversation going on, while others will prefer to sit away where a team member can have a quiet chat. No pressure on anyone to join in as it could be very intimidating. Unfortunately, the team has shrunk greatly this last year or so and sometimes there is not enough of us to engage with everybody, it would be sad for a person to feel unnoticed or ignored.

Five-year anniversary

On April 30th 2024, we celebrated 5 years since we first opened the doors. Praise God for all He has done in that time. As the team work hard 50 weeks in the year, we decided not to do an event for guests involving extra work and went out for a team meal.

We have done events for guests such as Pancake Tuesday and Sing-a-long Christmas Carols and if we hear of a birthday, we have cake and a card. Our guests are treated as part of the family. In May we were able to join with churches across the Fylde offering prayer request cards to both our guests and people passing on the street, we did get a number of responses, which is encouraging.

We do always start early with a devotional message and praying together so that God is first before anything is done or said in the day. I truthfully believe this is a big key in succeeding and going forward with this work, to reach out to the community who maybe otherwise would never step in the door of a “church.”

In 2024 we did not have many team training/bonding get togethers but that will increase this year. We held a Consecration and lunch together on 4th February, which was a very special time.

Prayer points

- Increased numbers to know Jesus and become part of the Church family.
- New team members, people with a heart to just love people where they are at and be the listening ear or a welcoming hand when needed.
- New team members who love to go outside and meet and greet those who would otherwise just pass by.
- A bigger impact on the community. Particularly that every person who walks in the door would feel the presence of God although they may not realise it and that they would be welcomed, accepted, and valued.

PRAYER GROUP

(Betty Malpas)

We start our prayer meeting with one accord for the church, the congregation, the building, all ministries, finances and any other concerns for the Gatehouse.

In previous weeks most of our group felt the need to go deeper in our intercession; it was becoming apparent that as a church we should fast and pray and recommit our lives to God. We were about to talk to Neville about this when Elim Head Office issued a brochure on consecration which was made available. The timing was perfect, and it was good to have our thoughts confirmed.

God is prompting us to intercede for Blackpool and the Fylde Coast. We need more people who are prepared to fast and pray for our town, especially our schools and colleges.

It has been reported many times that Blackpool has one of the worst records for many of the markers of deprivation, so we would love more people to join us (or pray at other times) in praying for a turn-around in Blackpool. We pray the Gatehouse Church will be a lighthouse in a dark area.

We have a mighty God who is able, but I believe He is asking, “How serious are you in praying and interceding for your town?”. We have been given the authority to use the Name of Jesus, so let us pray with confidence that there is power in that Name.

If you feel God is talking to you about praying for Blackpool, or any other subject, why not join us if you are available each Friday morning 10.30 to 12 noon or speak to me or Neville about setting up other prayer groups at different times.

SAFEGUARDING REPORT

(Ihechiluru Anozie)

Review of activities

Active participation of 10 members of the Church at the regional safeguarding training at Bootle – February 2024

Online safeguarding training for 2 other volunteers and Bespoke face-to-face training for 2 others in July 2024

Compliance with National Guidelines in handling safeguarding concerns.

Future plans

Ensure up-to-date safeguarding training for all volunteers in the church.

Updating the local church DBS database for all volunteers.

Prayer point

- Grace to ensure that all members of the church are adequately safeguarded.

SCRIBES WRITING WORKSHOP

(Neil Bromage)

We began the Creative Writing group early in 2024 and it ran through to the Autumn with a diverse group of about a dozen people. Some were from our church family; some were from another church and some appeared not to have any church connection and didn't seem to mind the Christian message being put out to them in the form of writings from other Christians and my testimony.

Scribes met on Saturday mornings and at the first gathering we opened with this word of warning (a quote used by Adrian Plass),

“Writing is really quite simple; all you have to do is sit down at your typewriter and open a vein”

The group ranged from 8-80 (ish!) with different backgrounds and interests and that brought a few interesting challenges in preparing each session.

We began each week with a challenge: “Someone give us a Word” and the group then wrote for 5 minutes on that word. We looked at: What is Creative Writing? The Essentials of Every Good Story, Viewpoint, Opening Lines, including writing 5 opening storylines but perhaps the most helpful exercise was in “Show, don’t Tell”, where the group looked at showing in action rather than simply telling the reader what happened.

The real highlight of the morning is the Coffee & biscuits before setting HOMEWORK for the week.

It has been encouraging to see how everyone has responded to some tough challenges and produced work they probably didn’t think they were capable of and we hope to run another group at some point later this year.

SOUND, VISION & MEDIA

(Mary-Ann Fairhurst)

The team



During May last year we had a fourth member join us and we did training with them on a couple of occasions but due to a change of circumstances they were not able to continue.

During 2024 we also had a new member, Kyran join the team. Kyran also serves on the worship team so when it is their turn on the rota, they are able to come and help out with the media slides and scriptures during the service. I am extremely grateful to Jayjay and Kyran for their continued efforts in keeping us going on Sunday mornings and also for their input and ideas on how we can do things.

During September/October I was able to take some time off for a holiday. My team stepped in and did a great job. However, we do need more volunteers on both the sound desk and media desk so that we can spread out the Sunday morning duties.

Our vision

Our team's vision is to continue improve our skills and utilise the tools that are available to us. We want to create excellent content and media for the purposes of promoting the church activities, sharing the gospel of Jesus to our community and also, hopefully the wider world (via livestreaming and social media).

We also have a very strong bond with the Worship team and our Sunday morning prayer get-together before the service has really cemented our friendships and care for one another. We also meet on Saturday mornings for worship practice with them. We recently had a combined consecration and fellowship get-together with the worship team and found it very helpful in getting to know each other a bit more.

Media creation – videos, flyers, social media

There have been various activities around the church during the year and our team have been able to create artwork, flyers and presentations for the Fun day in June, a gift mug design for Celebration Sunday and a Project Application for the Building Fit for Purpose Fundraising in October. Artwork was also created during the year for advertising events, flyers and posts on social media.

A member of our team, Jayjay photo journals events on Thursday evenings at the Limitless youth group and we use some of these images to promote the youth team on social media and for use on the website.

Website & App

The website continues to be kept up to date with new information, sermons and news. There is a new area set up on the admin Hubb for each leader to record attendance for their groups. This can be done an hour before the event.

The church membership and database has now also been updated with the latest information about new members, visitors and connections.

Unique visitors for 2024: 630,000+

Countries + page requests: 76 countries and 680,000+ visits

Social media

Social media accounts are updated regularly with news and upcoming events. We have started to create sermon snippets or 'shorts' as they are called, which are only a couple of minutes long and these are getting more views than the full-length sermons. The shorts are uploaded to YouTube, Facebook and Instagram. We pray that any video that we upload will have an impact on someone's life and bring them closer to God.

Livestreaming

We continue to stream each Sunday morning to YouTube for people who are ill or physically not able to attend the in-house service. There are also a number of people from outside the church who tune in, which is great as we want to reach as many people as possible.

Future improvements

We are always looking to improve where we can! Improvements we would like to look at are: Inhouse aesthetics, stage size, backdrop design; streaming to more platforms and thereby have a larger audience; lighting; photography; move the stage box to make the stage look neater with less cables and mix the livestream audio in a DAW.

I'm always happy to train anyone who would like to join our team. We are a mixed age team so all ages welcome! Come along on a Sunday, sit with us and observe.

Prayer points

- Finances for improvements as above.
- Expert advice for lighting ideas and finances for purchasing stage lighting and backdrops.

WORSHIP TEAM

(Julie Green)



We currently have four worship team members who are extremely committed to the ministry of worship in the church services. Amalgamating old and young has gone really well and there is a strong bond between us and also with the tech team. We work very closely with the tech team and we are very grateful to them. I am extremely proud of and grateful to the worship team, who serve so sacrificially.

Please pray for a continued unity and that the friendship that we have, is maintained and that we stay close to God, continually consecrated to Him and flowing and moving in God's Holy spirit. We wish to see the transforming power of Jesus present as we worship and that His gifts will flow abundantly.

Pray also that God develops our free worship. We are going to plan a time in the near future to look at developing the song of the Lord coming forth as we worship freely from the heart. We have started to try this out in practice but would love to see this develop this coming year.

We absolutely need more singers and musicians who will be willing to be involved. If you are interested in helping out, please speak to Julie.

Prayer points

- Continued unity and closeness to God.
- Developing free worship in the Holy Spirit.

YOUTH REPORT

(Neville Walker)



In many respects, this has been a year of two halves, but we see the youth work progressing.

From February until August, the hot chocolate ministry kept contact with between 150 and 200 youth each week, the youth club continued to flourish as before and there was quite often around 8-10 of the young people at church on a Sunday and in the youth ministry. We also took 12 young people to the Limitless Festival in the summer. It is so good also to see some of these young people serving in church.

Thank you so much to Mandie for her hard work and dedication over the year.

Thanks should also go to all her team and in particular to Becci and Peter who were a major support to the youth work.

In September, the restart of the youth in September was delayed by a couple of weeks as we needed to put a new youth leadership in place which would be able to continue with the excellent work and also move forward with discipleship of the young people.



Neville, Kay and Ihechi took up the leadership of the youth ministry as a temporary measure until we can find a new youth leader. Hot chocolate no longer runs, but Thursday nights continue during term time but have been changed. Every other week there is the normal youth club, which Kay is leading, and the in-between weeks are personal development sessions which address relevant issues from a Christian perspective and input the whole area of Christian discipleship (Neville and Ihechi have been taking a lead on these, although this term it has been more Neville and Kay). On Sundays, we are currently trialling running a youth Bible study two out of three weeks, with the youth being in the service (with activity pack if needed) on the other week (Neville is overseeing this programme).

We have had to learn as we go along, but the youth club continues with around 20 young people and the personal growth sessions have 8-10 young people attending normally. There are currently 4 or 5 teenage lads that are engaging really well with the Sunday programme. Numbers may be down, but we see definite signs of an increasing level of discipleship amongst the ones who have decided to follow Jesus. That encourages us so much.

By the time of the Vision evening, we will have taken around 12 young people to *Limitless One* (a Saturday youth night event) and we have now also made

arrangements to join up with the Formby Elim Church for the *Limitless Festival*, which will make it possible for us to take some of the youth to this really impactful camp in August.

Thank you to Kay, Ihechi and the ten or so other volunteers, who have stepped in to faithfully serve in this ministry. Through the faith and hard work of Christians, who haven't necessarily felt a calling to youth work, but who see the necessity of helping to disciple these young people, the work is developing, and we see, in particular, young men growing in Christ.

Prayer point

- A dedicated youth worker who will be able to take the work and alleviate some of the extra pressure that we are carrying.

ADDENDUM – FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Elim Blackpool CC Income and Expenditure

	Notes	2023-2024	2022-2023
INCOME			
General Donations incl Gift Aid.....		63,740.51	58,020.57
Designated Income.....		16,170.00	1,321.00
Grants Received.....		1,898.00	6,662.00
Miscellaneous Income.....		111.03	3,485.16
Investment Returns.....		3,725.41	10,714.89
Income Sales.....		3,519.14	10,132.62
TOTAL INCOME		89,164.09	90,336.24
EXPENDITURE			
Personnel Costs.....		42,597.54	42,241.23
Travel & Committee Costs.....		196.05	591.90
Equipment Costs.....		1,002.32	2,903.58
Telephone, Post & Stationery etc.....		948.78	904.00
Event & Ministry / Worship Costs.....		5,213.38	5,617.54
Promotion and Advertising.....		2,661.63	3,258.52
Activities Sundry Costs.....		0.00	535.50
Missions		1,200.00	1,636.72
Cost of Sales.....		7,211.15	4,233.30
Heat & Light.....		3,151.73	8,592.80
Property Costs.....		5,725.03	5,408.73
Professional Costs.....		738.98	786.80
Payments made to Elim HQ.....		5,255.27	4,597.27
Bank Charges & Interest.....		369.57	376.67
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		76,271.43	81,684.56
SURPLUS / (DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR.....		12,892.66	8,651.68

Elim Blackpool CC Balance Sheet Movements

	Notes	2023-2024	2022-2023
FIXED ASSETS			
Church Property.....		150,000.00	150,000.00
Fixed Assets		150,000.00	150,000.00
CURRENT ASSETS			
SUNDRY DEPOSITS & LOANS MADE			
HQ Deposit Account		1,237.36	232.14
Transactions.....		1,237.36	232.14
Sundry Deposits & Loans Made			
BANK BALANCES			
EFGA Blackpool CC Current Ac		22,480.37	10,592.93
#18537995..... Bank Balances		22,480.37	10,592.93
NET ASSETS (LIABILITIES).....		173,717.73	160,825.07
RESERVES			
Reserves Brought Forward.....		159,625.07	150,973.39
Reserves Management.....		1,200.00	1,200.00
Surplus / (deficit) for the year.....		12,892.66	8,651.68
Reserves Carried Forward		173,717.73	160,825.07

Elim Blackpool CC Notes to Accounts

	2023-2024	2022-2023
GENERAL DONATIONS incl GIFT AID		
Gift Aid / Covenant Donations.....	25,780.98	19,165.14
Gift Aid Small Donations.....	7,402.61	5,190.85
General Gifts.....	2,156.10	7,879.00
Gift Tax Rebate.....	0.00	1,574.00
Offerings	19,597.59	21,315.56
Tax Rebates.....	8,803.23	2,896.02
Total General Donations incl Gift Aid	63,740.51	58,020.57
DESIGNATED INCOME		
Building Fund/Project.....	5,390.00	1,071.00
Elim Relief Appeals.....	0.00	50.00
Building Fund / Project - Gift Aid Donat.....	10,250.00	0.00
General Restricted Income.....	530.00	200.00
Total Designated Income	16,170.00	1,321.00
GRANTS RECEIVED		
Grants from Elim Church Department & Act.....	0.00 (2,000.00)
Grants from Other Sources.....	1,898.00	8,662.00
Total Grants Received	1,898.00	6,662.00
MISCELLANEOUS INCOME		
Mission Boxes.....	111.03	134.36
Other General Church Income.....	0.00	3,350.80
Total Miscellaneous Income	111.03	3,485.16
INVESTMENT RETURNS		
Hire of Premises/Rent.....	3,720.00	6,575.00
Interest Received/Dividends.....	5.41	0.00
Insurance Loss of Income Claim.....	3,725.41	4,137.61
Total Investment Returns		10,714.89
INCOME SALES		
Cash Sales.....	2,835.99	4,978.56
Events	683.15	5,154.06
Total Income Sales	3,519.14	10,132.62
PERSONNEL COSTS		
Salaries	36,207.54	36,337.23
Elim Pension Contributions.....	6,390.00	5,904.00
Total Personnel Costs	42,597.54	42,241.23
TRAVEL & COMMITTEE COSTS		
Ministry Expenses including Travel.....	196.05	591.90
Total Travel & Committee Costs	196.05	591.90
EQUIPMENT COSTS		
Equip - Purchase.....	515.71	2,381.88
Equip Leasing Cost.....	0.00	0.00
Computer Equipment and Digital Services.....	178.61	199.64
I.T. Software costs including ZOOM & MS3.....	308.00	213.46
Website Expenses.....	1,002.32	61.80
Total Equipment Costs		2,903.58

Elim Blackpool CC Notes to Accounts

	2023-2024	2022-2023
TELEPHONE, POST & STATIONERY		
Broadband/Internet	553.10	459.08
Telephone	0.00	44.45
Stationery/Photocopying	375.68	400.47
Miscellaneous expenses.....	20.00	0.00
Total Telephone, Post & Stationery	948.78	904.00
EVENT & MINISTRY / WORSHIP COSTS		
Catering / Refreshments.....	712.25	207.91
Activity/Event costs.....	1,967.18	2,587.84
Visiting Ministry Costs.....	670.00	1,890.00
Worship/music ministry Costs.....	472.82	469.99
Local Interchurch Activity Costs.....	483.06	81.80
Training Costs.....	908.07	380.00
Total Event & Ministry / Worship Costs	5,213.38	5,617.54
PROMOTION AND ADVERTISING		
Literature/Materials Costs.....	2,661.63	3,258.52
Total Promotion and Advertising	2,661.63	3,258.52
ACTIVITIES SUNDRY COSTS		
Other Sundry Costs.....	0.00	535.50
Total Activities Sundry Costs	0.00	535.50
MISSIONS		
Elim Relief Association.....	0.00	100.00
Elim International Missions - HQ.....	1,200.00	1,536.72
Total Missions	1,200.00	1,636.72
COST OF SALES		
Direction Magazine.....	282.60	259.05
Other Purchases.....	6,928.55	3,974.25
Total Cost of Sales	7,211.15	4,233.30
HEAT & LIGHT		
H & L - Electric.....	840.00	1,048.78
H & L - Heating.....	2,311.73	7,544.02
Total Heat & Light	3,151.73	8,592.80
PROPERTY COSTS		
Property - Cleaning Costs.....	142.61	325.24
Property - Rent, Rates, Water, Insurance.....	2,371.54	2,279.69
Property - Repairs and Maintenance.....	2,745.20	3,230.79
Property - Water.....	465.68	(426.99)
Total Property Costs	5,725.03	5,408.73
PROFESSIONAL COSTS		
Audit and Accountancy.....	0.00	625.00
Professional Fees (Other).....	593.98	161.80
Legal Fees.....	145.00	0.00
Total Professional Costs	738.98	786.80
PAYMENTS MADE TO ELIM HQ		
10% Payment.....	5,135.27	4,487.27
Regionalisation dues.....	120.00	110.00
Total Payments made to Elim HQ	5,255.27	4,597.27

Elim Blackpool CC Notes to Accounts

	2023-2024	2022-2023
BANK CHARGES & INTEREST		
Bank Charges.....	369.57	376.67
Total Bank Charges & Interest	369.57	376.67