

VISION MEETING

24th February 2026

Annual Reports 2025

Gatehouse Church

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PASTOR'S REPORT

(Neville Walker)

It has been another busy year, and there is much evidence of God at work in the life of Gatehouse Church! So much has happened that I have had to look back at my notes and calendar to remind me of everything.

One of the most visible blessings has been the completion of Phase 1 of our *Building Fit for Purpose* project, the making good of the internal damage to the church walls and the renovation of the youth room. Every time I go past the building, I am grateful for what God has done through His people, and there is more mention about this in the Buildings Report.



Once more, we were blessed with a wide range of external speakers at our Sunday services. These further enriched the life of our church and included; Marty Davison (International Missions Director), Mark Greenwood (National Reach Evangelist), James Glass (Regional Leader), Steve Moss (Praise as Celebration Series), Mark Ryan (Church Growth Lead), Michelle Nunn (Principal of Regents Bible College), Evangelist Vincent Onoke, and local pastors Adam Lee and David Walsh. Our own speakers have been excellent too! In the autumn, we had a wonderful series on the subject of Restoration, which led into the Keys to Freedom course, attended by approximately 25 people.

Through our participation in the church growth programme, we have worked hard at developing a linked-up process for people at all stages of their walk with the Lord and their engagement with the Gatehouse. This has included: contacting new attenders quickly, holding welcome lunches, running easy invitation events and Alpha Courses, going through a Freedom Course, promoting involvement in connect groups and introducing a larger Working Team with some training in their meetings. I am encouraged to see how this is contributing to a healthier and growing Family on Mission at the Gatehouse. We will continue this by making volunteering opportunities easier to access and introducing a more developed discipleship programme and a leadership track.

Having mentioned lots of things *we* have done, I am acutely aware that what really counts is what *God* is doing. It has been a real joy to see a number of people experience radical conversions to Jesus. Others have seen new breakthroughs in their lives and reinvigoration in their walk with the Lord. In all of this, ongoing prayer is as vital as ever. We have added to this with our monthly Sunday night Prayer with Praise nights which have been excellent and well-attended, with more time to pray, worship and receive prophetic words. Let's press in to God!

Moving forward this year, there are a number of areas I feel we need to focus on:-

1. Buildings – reduce our building loan and also open up the entrance/lounge area of church.
2. Continue the Big Yes, Little Yes and Healthy Maybe programme (see Evangelism Events report).
3. Equipping – helping Christians to identify and grow in the spiritual gifts they have been given, and grow in leadership.

4. Add to our leadership team – particularly so that the children's and youth ministries can continue and grow in a healthy manner.

In conclusion, I really want to see God continue to move and grow His church at the Gatehouse. I am also all too aware of the hard work that so many people put in at a cost to themselves, as they seek to serve God faithfully. Thank you all. It is hard to mention everyone (hopefully I have at some point expressed this to you personally), but I would particularly like to mention our leaders who take on their responsibilities with a servant's heart, great wisdom, and without grumbling. They are a real strength in the Gatehouse Church. Their individual giftings complement each other's and my own and make my job so much easier. Thank you!

Build Your Church, Lord!

BUILDINGS TEAM

(Patrick Fleming)

Building projects

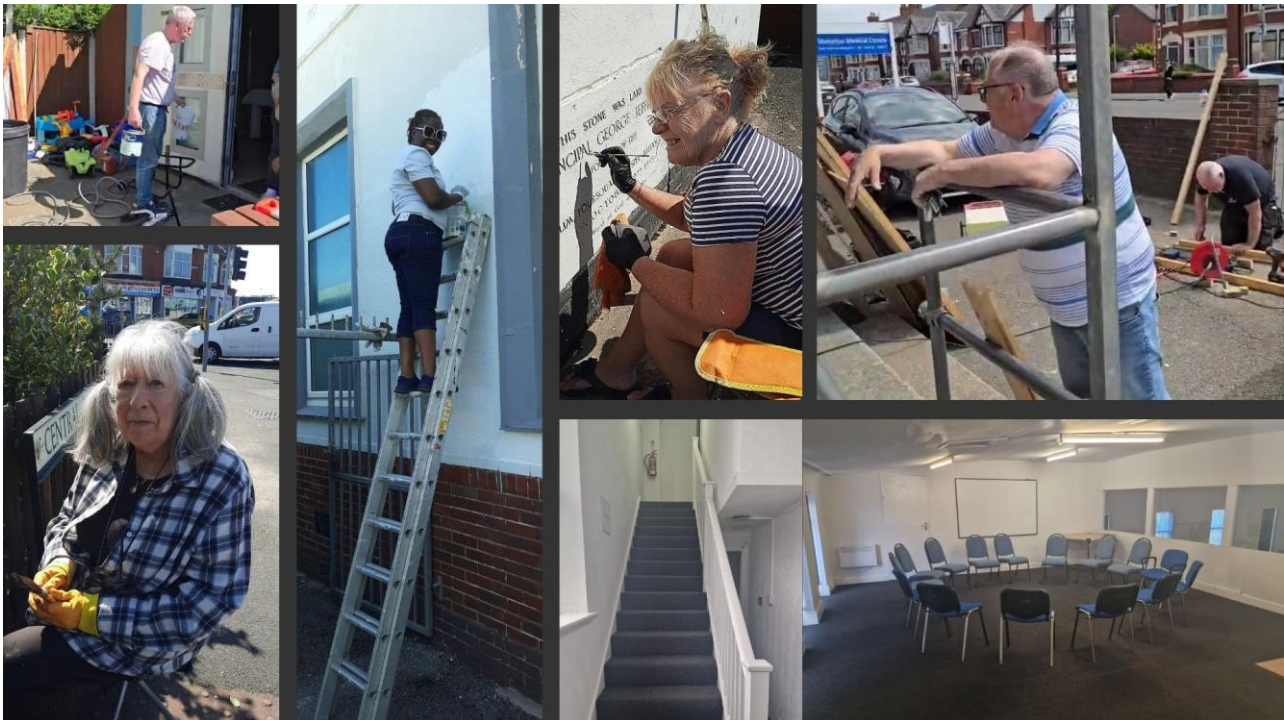
There is much good news with regard to building projects: the roof replacement and asbestos removal, solar panels and insulation work is now complete. The additional loan funding from Elim was approved allowing us to complete the work.

We have also, as part of the refurbishment, installed an electric heater in the Youth Room, and have refurbished it, which included decoration, repairs to window lintels and replacing carpet and blinds. Thanks to many hands making light work decorating stairs and room.

A main building project this year will be to open out the entrance of the church into the coffee lounge.

Maintenance of Buildings

Along with the main building works, plenty of ongoing maintenance and upkeep has been happening along with a well-attended workday in May.



The picket fence has been repaired and painted; the outsides of the community centre have been cleared and the fence re-painted. On the west side of the main building one of the windows needed repair and the wall repointed. The old signage board was removed from the front of the building and it was repainted.

Inside the main building, repairs were made to water-damaged lintels, sides of the windows, and ceiling tiles replaced – in the main hall, stairs to youth room and in the kitchen. The toilets have been painted (thanks to Ross).

The baptismal pool has had work done with regard to painting and also with regards to a damaged drainpipe.

This coming year, we plan to extend drop curb into the carpark (funds allowing), repair potholes, make an emergency exit from the church out through the centre garden, replace the toilets in the church and repair the floor in the men's toilet.

Big thank you to everyone who helped us do so much this year.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

(Kay Walker)



Limitless Kids Sunday

On Sunday mornings there is an excellent work of caring for our children, teaching them Christian truths, helping them to apply them in their lives and giving children of all ages a really positive experience of church in a safe environment. Currently there are two age groups

(toddlers to age 5 and ages 6 to 11) with secondary school aged children attending the youth (see youth report).

This autumn 2025 Joan De Vega stepped up as Kay's deputy to help lead the work and has been excellent in all that she has done. In January this year, she has stepped in as Kay has taken a 6-week break after 11 years of outstanding hard work. There has been a slightly adapted programme during this time.

This vital ministry, as part of the Gatehouse Church family, is dependent on excellent leaders and a team of helpers (you'll recognize them from their yellow t-shirts) who take their turn on a rota. Thank you.

Moving forward, it is vital that the team grows in their confidence and commitment but also that new people come on board to help and lead. We cannot emphasize how vital this ministry is to the life of the church, and also how rewarding it can be. Please show your interest in getting involved.

Toddlers & Co.

Over this past year, a thriving toddler's group has been running on Wednesday mornings during term time, led by Kay and a small team. Most weeks there have been 15-25 babies and toddlers and their parents, grandparents, carers or child-minders. There has been different creative play each week and extremely good relationships built up with the parents and carers, most of whom are not part of the Gatehouse Church.

Unfortunately, because of insufficient team, we have had to pause the group until after the Easter holidays and then reassess. Just one or two more leaders would make a massive difference.

On one hand this is disappointing, particularly as we want to be a church with activities for all ages throughout the week, but on the other hand, we are trusting God to see what He is doing in it all.

Please pray for God's hand on this work and contact us if you feel you have something to offer in this area.

REFRESHMENT & HOSPITALITY TEAM

(Ross Strachan)

As a church, we aim to be a 'Family on Mission' and I believe it is essential that we get to know each other on a more personal level to live up to this calling. Sharing a hot drink, a biscuit, and often a piece of cake is an amazing opportunity for us to build stronger relationships.

We started this ministry following the Sunday service in 2025 and each week I am encouraged to see that so many of you take the time to relax and enjoy spending time in conversation and prayer.

We currently have 8 team members, and we are always in need of more volunteers. We are at the stage where it would be better to have two people serving each week to avoid long queues, and this will only be possible if the team grows. The space available in the coffee lounge is limited, and as we move forward in 2026, we would like to create more space and provide more seating.

As part of phase 2 of our Building Fit for Purpose project, the plan is the remodelling of the entrance and front area of the church. Until we move forward with this work, we will use the current space to create a more comfortable and inviting area. We have recently added a new notice-board where we will have a verse of the week and provide updates on upcoming events.

COURSES & CHURCH IN THE CAFÉ

(Neville Walker)

Alpha

Alpha is a brilliant course for those who wish to explore the Christian faith or feel like they want to revisit some of the foundational aspects of Christianity. It is excellent for those who are on a journey in faith.

In May 2025 we started a small Alpha with 3 core attenders (Denise, Scott and Jo) and a couple of other people who attended a handful of sessions. Initially we advertised it as a 4-week course but by request it was extended to cover most of the 14 sessions. The group gelled really well, and Jo in particular, came to a point where she had a revelation of God, gave her heart to the Lord and had a powerful encounter with the Holy Spirit.

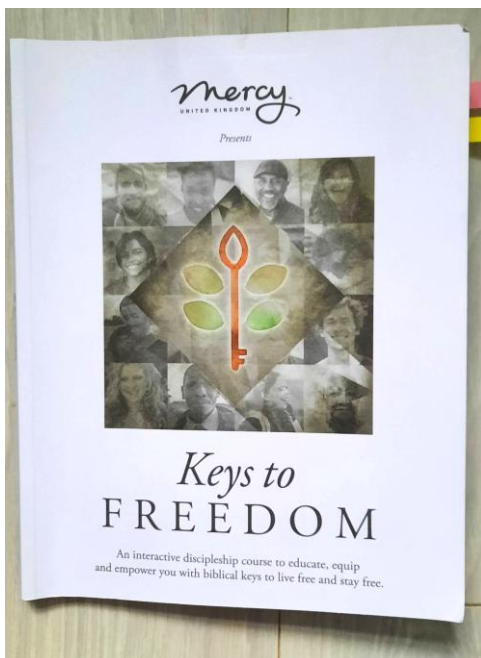
The next Alpha course was advertised at our autumn 'Healthy Maybe' event and started in January 2026. Denise, Scott and Jo are being really excellent helpers on this course and our 11 guests seem to be really enjoying it and the conversations are gaining in trust and depth. The majority of the group have decided to carry on beyond the initial 4-week point.

We intend to keep on linking up the Alpha with our 'Healthy Maybe' easy invite events moving forward in the year.

We have set up a WhatsApp group for people to pray for the course and would ask you to pray that each person who takes part in our Alpha courses has a real encounter with God.

Keys to Freedom Course

We wish to promote a pathway for growth in discipleship at the Gatehouse. Sometimes, however, Christians have things that seem to hold them up and stop them from progressing and so we have decided to include the Keys to Freedom course as part of our programme.



In September we included a 4-part preaching series on Christian freedom in our Sunday morning services and then gave people the opportunity to sign up for the Keys to Freedom Course (by Mercy UK) in the Autumn. The course involves participants being guided through exercises in a comprehensive workbook throughout the week and then meeting up one evening a week for 8 weeks. A few people have done work

independently supported by a mentor from our leaders. The course covers the following topics:- Recognising the Voice of God, Committing and Connecting Fully to Christ, Renewing Your Mind, Choosing to Forgive, Healing Life's Hurts, Breaking Generational Patterns, Using Your Authority in Christ and Maintaining Lifelong Freedom.

Overwhelmingly, the 25 or so participants gained an awful lot from the course and it has proven to be an excellent discipleship tool, which we will be including as part of our programme in the church.

Church in the Café

We are into our fourth year meeting in the PitStop Café on Waterloo Road on Wednesday afternoons and then speaking with people in the community and offering prayer. Most weeks we have something encouraging happening and occasional testimonies of answered prayer with salvation or healing. Someone doing our current Alpha course was first contacted by our team on a Wednesday afternoon. One really encouraging thing we have noticed this year is that the area really seems to be looking better, with new shops opening up and businesses starting to work together. Also, money is being invested into the area from government and administered by organisations working with the local council. This can only be a good thing for the improvement of this needy area.



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Through our ongoing witness in the area, the Gatehouse was invited to provide carol singers for the Christmas Light switch-on in Waterloo Road. We were able to provide a good crowd to declare the Christmas story through carol-singing in the pouring rain. It was a delight to see how the local community wanted to join in with us.

At the point of writing, there has been a devastating fire which has destroyed one of the businesses two doors up from the café but has massively impacted the surrounding businesses. We need to pray for the people, businesses and homes affected by this disaster and see how we can be an influence for good in the area.

We would love a few more people to join us, so please speak to Neville if you would like to see what we do.

CONNECT GROUPS

(Patrick Fleming, Heath Hope, Peter Aduku)

Monday Group (Heath Hope)



The group has been going for just over nine months now, where an average of ten to twelve of us meet each fortnight.

A beautiful atmosphere of fellowship still prevails. Relationships have developed and the growth in one-anothering is evident - there is a genuine sense of looking out for each other as Christian family should. The love of God and His

presence among us will keep growing with time and devotion to one another.

All the Biblical foundations have been laid for the group to be an ongoing Christian family of believers as part of the church. Consistent maintenance is needed, but it is also now down to each brother & sister to give themselves on a consistent basis to maintaining the family that has been built.

Going forward – I would love to see more people experiencing this aspect of Christian family in new connect groups.

The Lord's will be done, and may Jesus be glorified in what we are doing.

Friday Group (Patrick Fleming)

This still continues as a men's group, although it is still open to all. The depth of ministry comes from all who want to share, with much being obviously from Holy Spirit.

We hold the meeting in different homes each week and have seen a core of 6-8 people each week. Ministry includes sharing life stories, laying on hands, prayer and support. Growth is very evident in all, in a very Spirit filled, relaxed and gentle environment.

Please let me know if you'd like to get involved.

Sunday Evening Group (Peter Aduku)

Bi-weekly, Peter has been pioneering a new group with a focus on prayer and evangelism. Each time they meet they have between two and six people (including children) attending. Please keep praying for

Peter and Blessing that they will see the growth and impact they are confidently expecting.

DOOR TEAM

(Liz Hall)

I am full of praise for the Door Steward Team; they really have become a very reliable team. I love watching how they take this ministry seriously, but also enjoy what they do. Most of the team are much better than I am at this role; each person may do things a little differently and that is great and it gets done. I am thankful for those who plan absences with one another, another issue I do not have to deal with. They care for and help one another, and they have been very supportive towards me; I appreciate that. Maybe, as I have said before we are not perfect and don't always get it right, but I really do appreciate the Door Team who make my role easy and fun.

The role of a Door Steward is:

- To arrive early, and do safety checks, fire exits etc.
- To welcome and greet and seat everyone on arrival.
- To serve the communion emblems, as prompted from platform.
- To guard the meeting, deal with disruptions or help with needs.
- Safeguarding and reporting.
- Distribute or guide/assist people needing information.



If anyone would like to be involved in the Door Team, there is a basic guidelines leaflet, but we would try to put you alongside someone who has done it before and if not sure, please ask.

We also have team gatherings at least twice in a year where any ongoing or refreshment of training will be given. It is also a time for the team to connect and have fun. Our fun event in 2025 was a tropical themed party, with food and games; although the weather was not so tropical, it was a great day. I believe God wants us to enjoy life and serving Him while serving others. All part of being a family on mission, together.

Being a Door Steward is a great way to serve God and the Church, especially for those with less weekday availability. It is also a great way to get to know people in the Church, putting names to faces you see often but do not know. We do have a few new faces on the team this year, but there is always room for more and that means less frequency for all the team. Another advantage of having a larger team

is that most weeks other team members will be in the congregation and if an issue should arise there is back up.

EVANGELISM EVENTS

Scott & Jo Clarkson

The Evangelism Events Team was created in 2025 and started with a Curry, Comedy & Christianity Night with Mark Greenwood. Modelled on the 'Big Yes, Little Yes, Healthy Maybe' format - the heart for this ministry is to offer events that are easy to invite people to, are fun and enjoyable and include Christian content to give people the opportunity to explore the Christian faith further. Hosting fun and exciting events that anyone can come to, allows us to get those who don't yet know Christ, in the door to hear the gospel in a relaxed and enjoyable atmosphere. We want people to come along, have a good night but also have that seed planted in their hearts.



Following on from our last event in November (An evening of Illusion and Inspiration), we had 5 or 6 people show interest in learning more about the Lord and they then signed up for the Alpha course.

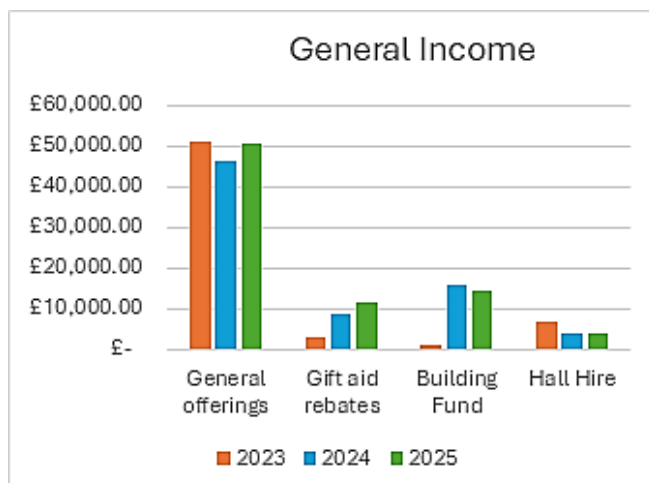
We're looking forward to the year ahead with an upcoming event in March and an end of year event already pencilled in with the return of Mark Greenwood. We're also hoping to expand our team and we pray for anyone with a heart for outreach to join us!

FINANCIAL REPORT

(Liz Hall)

Income Summary 2023/2025

	General offerings	Gift aid rebates	Building Fund	Hall Hire	Total
2023	£ 51,078.35	£ 2,896.02	£ 1,071.00	£ 6,575.00	£ 61,620.37
2024	£ 46,357.32	£ 8,803.23	£ 15,640.00	£ 3,720.00	£ 74,520.55
2025	£ 50,720.36	£ 11,534.40	£ 14,462.00	£ 4,040.00	£ 80,756.76



I have been the Finance Officer for a few years now, and can thankfully say it has become easier, not because there is less to do or I have become more competent. Because of the generous hearts of so many of

our fellowship, I know God blesses us when we put Him first and that includes our finances. In turn, your generosity blesses us all physically and spiritually because we are holding nothing back from Him. A big heartfelt thankyou to all who have been so generous over the years, so the stress of making ends meet is very minimal now.

Above are some year-end figures showing the General income for the last three years for comparison. (These figures are from October to September to comply with Elim end of year accountancy). The general tithes and offerings have not really changed very much and have actually gone down. However, more taxpayers have now elected to Gift Aid their tithe, allowing us to claim the rebate adding 25p to every £1 given. This has increased our income. If anyone needs more information on Gift Aid or an application form, please ask. Hiring out our community centre also brings in a small income and makes for a good connection with the community.

The last figures I have shown are the building fund income which has been amazing and allowed us to invest in a building "Fit for Purpose." Because we were able to get the roof done, it has also been a small saving in maintenance and heating cost. Unfortunately, as building fund income increased the general funds slightly decreased, I am hoping this will turn around. General funds cover running costs, heating, water, office equipment, media equipment and staff salaries which have all increased with the cost of living.

Even though the roof is on, that was phase one of the work we would all like to see completed. Your generosity has enabled us to complete more refurb and maintenance jobs. We cannot complete any major work now until we have paid off the loan we needed for Phase 1 of our Building Fit for Purpose. For our first year of payments, we have been

paying interest-only, again a generous donor has contributed to this monthly and covered most of that cost. We also had some gifts specifically for that purpose and were able to pay a chunk off the actual loan. This year we start to pay the actual cost, so please pray for this financially that we will be able to meet the costs or perhaps consider a monthly extra towards this. The outstanding balance on the loan currently is £29,095.08.

If anyone has questions about the Church Finances, or needs more information please come and speak to me.

On a practical level, it would be really helpful to have more volunteers to count and record the cash income on a Sunday at the end of the meeting. It does not take any bookkeeping skills, the paperwork is very simple, just count the monies and write it in the appropriate column and prepare for the banking. If you feel you cannot normally volunteer because of your work or time commitments etc this is an opportunity for you an extra 15 minutes after Church, on a rota basis. I am so thankful to those who already serve in this ministry, they are a blessing in so many ways.

On a personal note, I am aware I have asked this many times, but as I am getting older there needs to be another younger person in place to take the responsibility of Finance Officer in the future. Initially I would like a person or persons who likes spreadsheets and can work with numbers, just to train up and second myself. I am in no urgent need of stepping down but would gladly do so when there is a replacement, so it is ideal to learn for a while rather than wait.

Prayer points

- For more Sunday volunteers to count and record cash income.
- For God's provision in every area.
- Trainee finance officer.
- A person who could run the mission box ministry.
- A new or trainee Finance Officer.

HEALTH & SAFETY

(Paul Douglas)

Health and Safety is vital in a public building to keep everyone safe and fulfil legislation. We keep on top of this and try and make improvements on an ongoing basis.

Working with Jay Jay and Julie, we have rewired and put several new sockets around the stage so extension cables are not needed. Also, the layout of the stage equipment has been rearranged to allow for easy access on and off the stage.

We now have 5 external and 2 internal CCTV cameras covering both the main building and the center next door. The fire alarm has been checked and reset.

A full re-assessment of the H&S and Fire Safety is being done later this month.

In the coming months we are looking to set up a team to train in the use of the fire extinguishers and also a fire chief. Also, we are putting together an escape plan and will have a practice evacuation.

Prayer point

- Volunteers to join the team.

OPEN DOORS

(Liz Hall)

Open Doors started in April 2019, with a vision to just Open the Church Doors to people in the local community, to engage with Christians. It is not heavy evangelism, but it is evangelistic and has borne fruit. We do not have a plan or method, preferring to be reliant on God's Holy Spirit to direct us. We are very free in sharing the gospel but not pushing, we offer prayer both in house and on the street when we have an outdoor team. No one is told which role they will have, but every volunteer fits where they are happy and using their God-given giftings.

2025 has been a different year for us, in that we have not had many new faces, but more Christians call in regularly which brings a completely different dynamic. Part of the reason for this is because our team has shrunk and usually there aren't enough people to be outside meeting and inviting new people in. We do have a number of attenders who pop in on a very regular basis, and who we have become good friends with. Some of the regulars have also attended Church events, which helps them get over the "going to Church first time alone."



Through the year we try to do something as a team; this helps us get to know each other better and just enjoy time together with no agenda. Families have fun together on mission. This is usually a meal out or get together, although we slipped in a trip to the ice show last year. We got together with the door team in the summer and had a tropical party, and after sing-along carols we had lunch and a few games and a fun time together. I am hoping we can get a meal together in April to celebrate our 7 years.

Overall, it has been a quieter year, and caused us to ask questions such as, “has the season ended for this ministry?” Or “What do we need to do that we are not doing?” Obviously, we are asking God the questions in prayer. I believe we all have the understanding that if we felt God was directing us to close the door, we would do that, He always has better plans.

We closed for two weeks over Christmas, which is the only time we do close; we operate 50 weeks in a year, but that gave me thinking and praying time.

This is the Directive I believe I received from God.

Open Doors is to continue

Definitely to be evangelistic.

Definitely to be a listening ear, (and a loving heart).

Not to become an in-house (Christian event) or a connect group. At the same time a meeting place and a place to talk and be listened to.

Prayer points

- Team members will receive a fresh touch from God renewing, restoring and encouraging them to greater things in Open Doors.
- We will have new workers, people who have a heart and vision for lost people and for those who are weary in their walk.
- People will be drawn to come into Open Doors, and that they would meet with Jesus, pray for salvation and healing for many. That Gatehouse will be a light in the darkness, a place of refuge in the community.

PRAYER GROUP

(Betty Malpas)

Our team is small but all who attend are committed to praying earnestly. We have recently been joined by two more people, both assets to the group.

Each Friday we start by covering the building in prayer, church finances, structural works to be carried out, and different groups

involved in ministry. We pray for our church family asking the Holy Spirit to be free to move amongst us and to minister to all involved in our church.

We also welcome prayer requests, pray as the Spirit leads and pray for more people to recognise their calling and to become involved in different ministries.

We look forward to a future of answered prayers, freer worship, unity within the church family, and God's presence with us, hearing Him telling us the way forward.

If you would like to join our group, you would be most welcome; we meet each Friday morning at 10.30 am.

TECHNICAL PRODUCTION TEAM

(Mary-Ann Fairhurst)

The Team

During November last year, we welcomed a new member, Ayomide to the team and carried out training to help them settle into the desk.

In December, I was able to take some time away on holiday. During this time, Jay Jay and Ayomide stepped in and did a great job. I am very grateful for the hard work, commitment, and responsibility they showed while I was away.

Usual Activities

Throughout the year, the team continued to support Sunday services by displaying song lyrics, Bible verses, videos, and announcement

slides. Sunday services were broadcast live, allowing those who are ill, housebound, or connecting from around the world to remain part of our church family.

We also extended the life and reach of Sunday teaching by making audio available as podcasts, along with selected video or image content used to promote church activities. Graphics were created for social media and flyers using the Canva app, and the website was kept up to date with new information, events, sermon podcasts and news. Manuals and sound system diagrams were created or updated to show layout of equipment (thanks to Jay Jay).

Jay Jay also assisted on the tech desk during a wedding and funerals, as well as supporting events and occasions where other churches have used our space for their own services and baptisms, helping ensure these events ran smoothly.



Improvements Made & New Equipment

Several improvements were made throughout the year to our sound, stage and technical systems.

The livestream audio is now mixed through a DAW program before being sent to broadcast, which has improved overall sound quality on YouTube. To support this, the sound desk is now equipped with a dedicated laptop that runs the DAW, allowing for a more stable setup.

As the worship team has expanded, additional cables and equipment were needed to support new singers and musicians. Working with the Buildings Team, who arranged for the rewiring and several new sockets around the stage so extension cables are not needed, the stage has been re-arranged and cabling is now much neater and hidden, improving safety, reliability, usage and ease of setup.

During February 2026 we completed the process of replacing the old Windows 10 computer with a much more powerful system. This upgrade should improve overall system reliability and performance and for any future expansion.

During the church roof renovation, a member of the tech team (Jay Jay) installed and now maintains the CCTV system on behalf of the church. This system has already helped support safety and has provided benefits to the wider community.

Tap and Scan To Give - We assisted the Finance officer in setting up two card payment systems, a CardNet terminal and QR code that links to a custom-branded payment page. This code is used on stickers for the backs of chairs in the church and on the website. The card reader is set up at the back of the church every Sunday. These extra methods of

giving have proved to be useful to members and visitors wanting to donate by card.

Future Improvement Ideas

- In-house aesthetics, including a possible increase in stage size?
- Stage backdrop design / painting of back feature wall.
- Addition of downlighters and stage ceiling lighting.
- A larger stage box to accommodate further inputs and relocation to the back of the stage.
- Additional sets of in-ear monitors.
- A proposal to upgrade the church and community centre network, including improved Wi-Fi reliability and security, has been put forward to the leaders.

We are always happy to train anyone who would like to join our team.

We are a mixed-age team, and all ages are welcome!

Prayer points

- Finances for the improvements listed above.
- New volunteers to join the team.
- For the youth who have shown interest in the tech desk, that they continue to mature, take their role seriously and to serve with focus and commitment.

WORSHIP TEAM

(Julie Green & Jeremy Roy)

Well, after years of praying we are seeing answers. We have had a number of people come join us on team, and seen people like Zed step up and take a more responsible role on piano and leading etc. We are blessed to have Jeremy on team for this year, to help us grow as a team and move forward. And we are seeing results happening slowly as we grow and trust each other. God has also been helping the team to get to know each other musically and synergise more.



We had a successful trip to Birmingham to go to the Elim Worship Conference and we are hoping to do the same again this year.

As a team we also are greatly encouraged as we see the Gatehouse family really getting involved and letting go, and being braver in their worship in the meetings, experiencing and expressing greater freedom in the Lord. We thank you all for your love, prayers and support over the year; we are so grateful and we appreciate you all.

It is indeed an honour to worship God in Spirit and truth and lead this team!

Prayer points

- For more musicians and singers to grow the team and allow for team members to have Sundays off to just be in the service and take in.
- For the unity to be maintained at all times.
- To keep developing in our giftings and in our spiritual walk together and individually.
- To see exuberant, heartfelt, Spirit-led worship to arise in the church that will usher in the presence of God.

YOUTH REPORT

(Neville Walker)

Thursday Evenings – Limitless Blackpool Youth Club

This group was pioneered around 5 years ago and has been an excellent ministry to unchurched young people in the area. Over the years a good number have responded to the gospel and three of them have become part of the Gatehouse Church, with a couple more that attend Sunday youth from time to time.

The lack of a youth leader has been a difficulty for us over the last couple of years and we have had to reduce how often it is run. This autumn term, the team (led by Kay) managed to run it every other Thursday and they were seeing up to 20 young people attending although sometimes that number was around 12. Although the number

of teenagers has reduced from previous years, the relationships with the young people were excellent and there were real opportunities to have meaningful chats and support them. Each time there would be a testimony or Christian talk which were excellent.



The small team has been incredibly faithful and willing, but it has become necessary to pause this ministry until we can strengthen the team with more volunteers and a younger youth leader. The church is actively putting out feelers for this and is committing to pay a half-time salary for a suitable youth worker or assistant pastor.

Sunday Youth

Three out of four Sundays, secondary school age children have their own programme, and this last year a syllabus covering Christian Foundations and Christian Character has been followed. Over the spring term they will be moving on to look at Christian apologetics – exploring how to answer some of the difficult questions they might face about their Christian faith.

There is an excellent team with 3 main teachers and then a couple more helpers and the aim is that they don't need to be on rota more than once a month. I can't express how grateful I am for the work they do investing in these young people.



In August last year, Neville and JayJay took three of the young people down for the Limitless Festival in Stafford. This annual event has had a big impact on some of our young people.

Prayer points

- Pray for ministry amongst this generation.
- As we move on into 2026, we would really like a couple more volunteers to help or teach, but we still pray for a youth leader to take a lead on this part of the work. Also, the youth is expected to increase after Easter as there are a few Limitless Sunday Kids who have reached the age to move up into youth.

End of report