

# ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & VISION SUNDAY 30/10/2022

Looking back with thanks for the past year, Looking forward with faith for the future



We exist to love God & love people (Matt 22:35–40, Mk 12:28–34, & Lk 10:27)

Our mission is to bring the Good News of Jesus Christ to Aberystwyth, Wales and the World, helping and enabling people to follow Him (Matt 28:18-20)

**A People who**

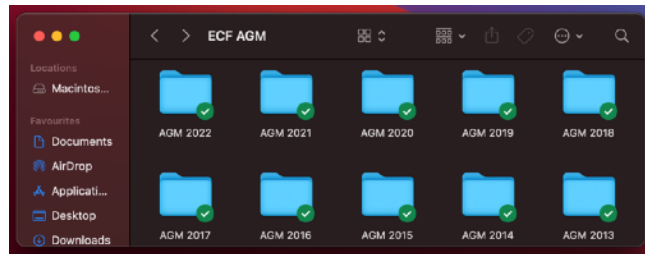
- ... are **Christ-Centred**
- ... are **Bible-shaped**
- ... are **Family**
- ... are **Vibrant**
- ... demonstrate **Integrity**
- ... extend **Grace**
- ... **Connect**

“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.” (Joshua 1:9)

## PASTOR'S REPORT (JOEL MAYLOR-PRIDMORE)

As I write this, my tenth Pastor's AGM report at Elim Aberystwyth, I am reflecting with genuine gratitude for the privilege of journeying together over the past decade. It has not all been plain sailing, as is the reality of life, but there is so much to celebrate and so much more to look forward to achieving together for the Kingdom of God. Before I move on I want to thank my family and everyone who has played any part in the life of our church during this time, with a special mention for those who have supported, loved and persevered with me all the way from 2012! Thank you from my heart, diolch o galon.

I paused whilst opening the AGM folder on my computer last week as I was met by these ten files. I thanked God for His great grace.



These small computer icons represent so much... some projects that have succeeded and some that have failed, ideas that have blossomed and some that have needed to be

revised or let go of, personal and family celebrations as well as major challenges, a global pandemic that inspired ingenuity as well as causing pain, and so much more. Loving God and loving people has been, and continues to be Elim Aberystwyth's primary purpose.

This time last year our church was emerging and recovering from a long season of Covid-19 restrictions, and having been unable to meet together in person. Now, amidst the reality of war in Ukraine, economic and political turmoil as well as a change of monarch following the death of Queen Elizabeth II, we are in a season of 'stepping up' and pressing forward with fresh initiatives and Kingdom driven urgency. In and through each of these seasons The Lord has and will never let us down; 'Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end' (Isaiah 9:7).

The Gospel of the Kingdom of God is the hope for every generation and all our activities must serve to help people hear and experience the truth of Jesus Christ. We have helped one another keep our eyes on Him through tumultuous times and now our hearts are even more determined to help those in our communities and nation to look to Him too. This is why we will keep persevering to find increasingly effective ways to reach out and build relationships through various courses, activities and 'Connect Four Community' projects.

Possibly the thing that is encouraging me most at present in our church is the evidence of an increasing prayer life. Our prayer meetings have been seeing an increase in attendance and fervour and I sense this is something that The Spirit of God is stirring. Let us determine to continue to seek The Lord individually and corporately in prayer - not to ask for His blessing on our plans but to encounter His presence and to inquire of and be led by Him.

We have recently found ourselves increasingly pressed for space within our main hall during Sunday Celebrations and, although this is a healthy sign, we are aware it presents a practical challenge we must look to solve. We also know that an increase in numbers must never supersede our desire for growth in maturity and discipleship. I urge everyone to be a part of a 'Connect Four Group' and to take every discipleship opportunity, including the courses we run and investing in each other as individuals.

We are very grateful that, despite the current economic climate, we finish this year with a modest financial surplus. Those who have been with us for several years will know that being able to say this for the third consecutive year is a true blessing and testimony of God's faithfulness. Thank you for your generosity as a church family and let us express gratitude for the godly money management of our finance team, consisting of Graison John, finance officer, and Alistair Thompson.

We know our income must continue to grow in order to facilitate growth in our existing ministries and to invest in new projects as The Lord leads us forward. He will certainly provide as we seek to obediently follow Him. We only ever ask that you give as you sense God's leading with what He has blessed you with. If you would like to know more about tithing, giving or how the use of gift aid can help, then we would be happy to answer any question you may have.

*"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." (Joshua 1:9)*

I am humbled and challenged whenever I think of the time and energy so many people are willing to invest in serving and volunteering in all areas of our church. Saying thank you here doesn't quite express enough gratitude and I hesitate to begin mentioning any individuals as I know I will fail to mention others who also deserve recognition. Where I do fail to express thanks, I would ask you to rest assured in the affirmations and honour that you can know from The Lord as you serve Him.

This time last year, Chris Stewart, who was already overseeing our children's ministry and serving in various other areas, took on the oversight of our youth ministry. There has been a significant increase and growth in both these areas and the amount of time and passion he gives to these, alongside their respective teams, is outstanding.

Once again we must honour Alistair Thompson for the hours he has given to repairing and decorating the third and final wall of the rear extension. With occasional help from others, Alistair has spent a remarkable amount of time over the past three consecutive summers replacing damaged render and giving new life to that part of our building. If we had paid for this work to be done by an outside company we simply would have continued to record significant financial deficits over the past three years.

The administration of church activities has been dramatically enhanced this year as we have adapted to the use of ChurchSuite. The successful establishment of this has been down to the time and attention given to it by Jonathan King, Chris Stewart and Barbara Penney. Alan and Barbara Penney moved to Cheltenham to be nearer their children over the summer having been a very valued and active part of our church family since joining three years previously. Barbara took responsibility for the majority of our admin and communications for a season, especially as we began in-person meetings again after the lock-down, and they led one of our Connect Four Groups. Thank you Alan and Barbara for the energy and encouragement you have been to Elim Aberystwyth. We pray you will continue to thrive in this new season for you and your family.

The Leadership and Session Teams are both vital to the functioning of our church and are also a tremendous support and encouragement to me as a pastor. I want to thank the people on these teams, each mentioned in the relevant sections below, and at this juncture make an unusual request of our church family as outlined in the following paragraph.

Our team of elders have all reached the end of the four year term for which they were appointed. This means that, under usual circumstances, they would either finish their term or be subject to a vote for reelection within the next few months. However, I am asking that we defer this vote until our AGM next year for the following reasons: i) The term we have just completed involved extreme and unforeseen disruption due to the coronavirus pandemic, ii) Our current list of members eligible to vote does not give fair representation of the body of our church and I would like to address this before such an important vote, iii) I would like some extra time to consider the addition of some new individuals who might further enhance the team.

I would like to have had these matters thoroughly thought through and addressed, but that is not the case. As you may appreciate, navigating the Covid pandemic and subsequently readjusting over the past year has taken unexpected attention and time. Our current elders and myself would appreciate the additional time requested for them to consider and discuss whether it is the God-led, correct decision for them to stand again, and for the consideration of new individuals. I take some responsibility for the membership records needing attention, partly due to some oversight in administration. Please accept my apologies and I appreciate your patience as we seek to address this! I will be asking for your support in this by considering membership if you have not already done so.

I have sought to be comprehensive in this review but will inevitably have neglected to include some things so I apologise for any oversight.

Before moving on to my additional reports I would just like to encourage all to be bold and courageous as we move ahead. Boldness does not always come as naturally as baldness does to me personally but as we step up together in God's promised presence (Joshua 1:9), sharpening each other (Proverbs 27:17) and encouraging one another (1 Thessalonians 5:11), I am full of faith and anticipation for the year ahead.

**“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.” (Joshua 1:9)**

**PRAYER**

As alluded to earlier, God is stirring us to an increased urgency and activity in prayer as a church. This has been mostly seen in increased numbers attending our prayer hour on Tuesday mornings and additional meetings. Throughout the majority of this year, this meeting has alternated each week between being in person and online, but by the end of the year had returned to being fully in person. Numbers have increased gradually and are now consistently in double figures which, for a church with our demographic, is highly encouraging for a daytime meeting. Those who have attended in smaller numbers over the years have played a role that cannot be quantified in seeking God and praying for a broad array of people and matters.

Just before the end of this year we introduced an additional weekly opportunity to pray together online. This takes place on Friday lunchtimes from 12:30pm until 1pm, with the hope that people might be able to join during lunch breaks if they are at work. Everyone is welcome to join us for these via the Zoom link on our Facebook page or via email by request. We would be pleased to introduce further meetings like this at different times if there is anyone who would like to suggest or host these.

Thank you for engaging with us in our monthly prayer focus initiative. The subjects of these through this year have been as follows;

- 'Peace & Hope'
- 'NOvember'
- 'Local churches & leaders'
- 'Lead us Holy Spirit'
- 'Faithfulness in Finance'
- 'Ukraine'
- 'A House of Prayer for all Nations'
- 'The Elim Movement'
- 'Those in Authority'
- 'Displaced People and Refugees'
- 'The Alpha Course'
- 'Ceredigion Schools and Education Services'

We also set special times aside to pray and fast each year through 'NOvember' and at the beginning of the year in January. Thank you for supporting and being a part of these.

Our children's ministry host prayer meetings through the year to pray for our children, local schools and our children's ministries. Please take the opportunity to join in with these when you see them advertised.

We have a team who discuss matters for prayer and receive and respond to prayer requests. Please email the church if there is anything you would like us to be praying about.

**CONNECT FOUR GROUPS**

Our Connect Four Groups are midweek small groups that work around a four weekly cycle each month - Family, Worship, Truth and Community. These continue to grow and develop and we thank their leaders, Edore and Vera Akpokodje, Alan and Barbara Penney, Jonathan and Sharon King and Louise and myself for the time and commitment given. They do not simply host meetings, they are committed to helping pastor and disciple our church family.



As noted above, Alan and Barbara moved over the summer with the day time group now being looked after by Seth and Rosemary Brown.

In our Connect Four Truth meetings we have continued to study the Book of Romans throughout the year, with the help of 'Romans for You' written by Timothy Keller. We have done this in response to a widespread expression of desire to study Romans in greater depth having done an overview the previous year.

We have run various outreach projects through Connect Four Community this year, including a 'Stretch & Flex' exercise class and 'Elim Football' amongst others.

These groups are vital for anyone in being part of our church and are an absolute must for anyone involved in any area of ministry within Elim Aberystwyth.

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## LEADERSHIP TEAM

The Leadership Team exists to provide prayer-fuelled spiritual oversight and vision for the church; seeking the Lord together and discussing where we feel He is leading us as a church. We meet early on Friday mornings via Zoom each week and I am extremely grateful for the accountability and support of Sharon King, David Fardouly and Jonathan King who all serve as elders and as part of this team. As noted in my initial report I am hoping, with the congregation's permission, to defer voting on elders to next year's AGM.

## SESSION TEAM

The 'Church Session' is a vital team who meet quarterly to provide practical and financial guidance and accountability to support the vision of the church.

During the past year, we were glad to welcome Barbara Penney to the team and, although her time on the team was relatively short, we were very blessed by her encouraging spirit, admin skills and her attention to detail. Thank you Barbara for serving in this way.

The team now comprises of the Leadership Team as above as well as Alistair Thompson, Edore Akpokodje, Chris Stewart, Marion Densham and Graison John (Finance Officer).

Please do pray for both the Leadership and Session Teams regularly as we seek to lead with integrity and faith.

## SUNDAY CELEBRATIONS

This has been a truly unique year for our Sunday celebrations. We have journeyed from socially distanced meetings, with limited numbers and heavy restrictions, through to the joy of seeing the room brimming with people again! Huge thank yous go to the welcome team, technical teams, musicians, speakers and other contributors to these meetings.

We have continued to livestream our services via YouTube as so many people, when unable to attend in person, have found these helpful and encouraging. Watching our service online is no match for being in the room in person but it serves a valuable purpose for people who have difficult work shifts or want to catch up with the service for any reason. I am thankful to our visual and sound technicians for their time and effort on this. Although we don't have the most high-tech resources, they show great willingness to make this happen.

As we sought to continue our response to God leading us in 2021 to grow in strength and depth, our sermon series from October until February was entitled 'Solid' and was based upon the words of Jesus in His 'Sermon on the Mount' in Matthew chapters 5 to 7. The series that followed looked through Elim's 'Foundational Truths' and enabled us to examine the fundamentals of Pentecostal doctrine that we believe. It was a joy to welcome two guest speakers from our wider Elim family during this series, namely Stephen Gibson and Maldwyn Jones. This series concluded in May and the session on 'The Great Commission' inspired the following series entitled 'The Great Go-Mission' which ran until August. In September we commenced a series entitled 'Stepping Up With Joshua' which has cemented how our sense that God is calling us to 'step up' as a church in this current season.

Audio versions of our sermons and their corresponding slides, now alongside with the video of every service are available on our website if you would like to remind yourself, or catch up with any of them. Thank you David Gregory for keeping this updated.

## COMMUNICATIONS & MEDIA

We have continued to communicate online via the website, social media, ChurchSuite and via notices during our services. Thanks again to David Gregory for your design and maintenance of our Website.

Our broadband connection in the main hall of our church premises continues to facilitate our live-streaming as well as all activities that take place in the venue.

The best way to contact us is via email at [info@elimaberystwyth.com](mailto:info@elimaberystwyth.com) and if you consider yourself to be part of our church then please register with us on ChurchSuite and use the app to keep up to date with what is happening.

## INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS

Each year we invest a proportion of our income in international, national and local individuals or projects that are seeking to share the Gospel or working for the Kingdom.

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Last year we were able to support Sarah Dorman (former student working with 'Serving in Mission' in Ethiopia), Care for the Family, Aberystwyth University Christian Union, The Elim Relief Association fund for Ukraine and Jubilee Store House (food bank for Aberystwyth).

It was amazing to see six people from Elim Aberystwyth travel 'The Gambia' as part of a team organised by Astu Dimmock alongside Frontier ministry. It was a privilege to support them practically and in prayer and to hear from them during Sunday Celebrations before and after their trip. Astu also established a 'Heart for Nations' group and ran a 'Momentum Yes' course encouraging and mobilising people to think more about overseas ministry.

#### MUSIC TEAM

It has been a real blessing to see our musicians and singers be able to contribute again more fully to the life of church after being so restricted during the lockdowns. We held a relaunch meeting for the team and have been able to reestablish our weekly music rehearsals and organised a full team rota via with the help of ChurchSuite. Our musicians have a heart for worship and dedicate time to personal practice, attending team rehearsals and arriving early for meetings in order to be ready to serve in this way.

#### WIDER MINISTRY

I am privileged to continue as a Core Leader of Elim's national worship initiative, Elim Sound and I have contributed to their events and resources this year, both in person and online. I am involved in the regional team for New Wine Cymru, hosting and attending a number of meetings and developing relationships across the network in our area. I have continued to contribute to the Elim Wales Regional Team representing Mid-Wales. I have spoken for the Aberystwyth University Christian Union and helped oversee and lead the 'Town and University Carol Service' hosted in the Great Hall at the University Arts Centre in December.

These commitments require some time away from local church ministry for events, meetings and training as well as some of my time. Thank you for releasing me to be part of these activities and ministries - I believe it is a valuable investment for us as a church.

#### CLEANING TEAM

This vital ministry has been reestablished this year ensuring that as much of our building as is reasonably possible is cleaned and prepared ready for our meetings each week. We have had a team of 4 or 5 people taking it in turns to clean the church throughout this year. We would really value more people joining this team, especially as one of the team recently having had to stop due to other commitments.

#### LOOKING AHEAD...

In the financial year commencing October 2022 we are looking to expand our ministries and step up in various ways. We are looking to launch a Sunday evening meeting for Young Adults, host student lunches once a month, Run the Bible Course, Run the Alpha Course, expand our outreach through more Connect Four Community events and projects, relaunch Sanctuary, run more regular 'Love the House' days, run additional prayer events and support more Care for the Family events. As well as this we would like to continue to expand and improve those areas of ministry that we sense God leading us to invest more in.

In order to achieve any of these things we will need the continued and increasing support of our church family in prayer, practical engagement, financial giving and encouragement. If you are able and willing to serve in any area, please speak to us, email us or go to our website and complete an 'expression of interest form' (<https://elimaberystwyth.churchsuite.com/forms/9mcb4lxz>).

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## ADDITIONAL REPORTS

**ROOTED / ECF YOUTH CLUB / YOUTH (CHRIS STEWART)**

Our youth programme is for Children and young adults of secondary school age and is currently organised into: Friday nights [Elim Aber Youth] and Sunday mornings [Rooted] - Rooted didn't run this year. There is also a new young adults ministry starting in October which Sixth-form aged youth will be able to attend.

This year Friday night youth had a number of sessions leading up to the launch of the youth alpha course including training for the young people who were designated helpers. Youth alpha ran from October to December and was a great time of fun, food, discussions, and toasties.

Our Christmas Service this year involved a retelling of the nativity service with a modern twist, including Mary travelling to Bethlehem on the back of a Quad Bike! And the ever famous ½ sandwich challenge.

Elim Aber Youth Club returned in January with a range of activities including, Pizza race, Film Night, Games Evenings, and the year culminated with Limitless festival - 5 days camping with youth from all over the UK, (and beyond) an amazing time of fellowship and worship. One of those camping with us also made the decision (along with 454 from other churches) to follow Jesus for the first time.

The leadership recently attended Limitless Oxygen - a one day event for leaders to come together and spend some time worshipping learning and networking.

Sunday Youth [Rooted] launched in September and we have begun studying the book of Daniel together on a bi-weekly basis.

**PLANTED AND SEEDLINGS CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES (CHRIS STEWART)**

Creche is for children who are in nursery or younger, Seedlings is for children who are in Reception & school years 1-3; Planted is for children in school years 4-6.

This year the Creche has not had organised events but the room has been open recently for parents with young children to use - this has been made more appealing with the introduction of the service being live-streamed into the room.

This year both seedlings and planted groups have met together and studied the following topics:

Sept - Nov Real Feels - A look into how we can connect to our feelings

Nov - Jan Armour of God

Jan - Apr Roaming through Romans

May - Aug The Fruit of the spirit

Activities on a Sunday will generally include a mix of drama, prayer, Bible study, memory verses, singing, games and crafts.

In the summer a number of our children attended a sleepover at Plas Dolau co-organised between Elim and St Mikes.

All our volunteers have a DBS check to meet with our safeguarding policy which can be found on our website or at the back of church, and we are looking to have a retraining session for all volunteers in the very near future, and for youth-aged-helpers in the very very near future. If you wish to be involved, do talk to the leaders.

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## LOVE THE HOUSE (ALISTAIR THOMPSON)

The 'Love the House' team coordinate and respond to the needs of the church building and its maintenance. If you notice any jobs that need doing around the church please let us know.

During the summer, we finished the current round of work on the outside walls at the back of the building. We repaired the rendering on the west facing side wall and painted the wall, the window frames and the side door.

We will hold a number of 'Love the House' days in the coming year as an opportunity for people to come along and help with a variety of jobs. Please come along if you are able to.

## STEWARDSHIP (MARION DENSHAM)

One year ago Covid restrictions were still limiting attendances, and stewarding practices. Since last Spring it has been really great to gradually provide a more normal service, from 1 metre distanced seating to now trying to fit everyone in (105 recently). We are aware, however of Covid, and respect those wishing or needing to wear masks, sit separately or avoid touch. Face masks and hand sanitiser are still available at the back of the room.

I'd especially like to thank Alistair, Martin and Eirian, John and Ivan for the huge help they've been, their adapting to the circumstances, and faithful reliability. Eirian has had to step back, and recently Ivan, coming to the end of his time here. Again, thank you both. We have just welcomed Lena to the team.

It is a joy and privilege to provide a welcome to our church family and to be available during our services to provide assistance where necessary. It would help to have more stewards, to ease the frequency of those serving. Please do contact us if you'd like to be involved.

## MULTIMEDIA TEAM (CHRIS STEWART)

The Elim Aberystwyth Multimedia team are responsible for the good presentation of sound and visuals on Sunday mornings and at other events. The team exists in two parts. The Audio Team and The Visuals Team.

## VISUALS TEAM (CHRIS STEWART)

The Sunday visuals team consists of a number of people who love to facilitate the church service and want to support the sung worship and other visuals during the service. We understand that poorly used technology or the wrong lyrics displayed can be a distraction to many from their worship. Our responsibility is that the correct images are shown, in the right format, the camera feed is online and framed well, the right lyrics are up, and the correct videos are played in a timely and appropriate fashion. We have a committed and well-trained team who are excited to see where the ministry will develop over the next year as we look to introducing video notices and a more streamlined way of doing things. We will continue with the livestream for the foreseeable future for students who are home, people who are away, or those who are ill tuning in it has proved invaluable - we have on average 84 people watching each week.

We have also started streaming into the Creche room so that parents with younger children can go somewhere without missing the service.

As is the nature of technology there will be a need to plan how we future proof this and our other multimedia systems even though the computers will still need investing in we wish to pray and Follow God's leading in this ministry. If you would like to know more about getting involved, or just how it all works feel free to get in contact.

## AUDIO TEAM (DAN LUXTON)

The audio team continue to look after sound equipment and make every effort to provide a high quality sound in the church and online.

Over the past year a review of the sound system took place to minimise background noise with the equipment we have. One to one training and shadowing also took place with new members of the team. However feedback is always appreciated so we can keep striving to provide the best possible support for the worship team and church.

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**SAFEGUARDING (JON. AND SHARON KING)**

If you have any safeguarding issues, please contact [safeguarding@elimaberysywth.com](mailto:safeguarding@elimaberysywth.com)

The current Safeguarding team consists of:

Sharon King - Safeguarding Coordinator

Jon. King -Deputy Safeguarding Coordinator & Lead Recruiter

Chris Stewart - Deputy Safeguarding Coordinator and Deputy Recruiter

The team exists to protect children, vulnerable adults and our workers.

We currently have 15 individuals with a valid current police check (DBS) who can work with children. There are others in the process of having this check done.

The safeguarding policy is now available online for anyone to read. It now has an additional appendix which outlines the children's online policy. It can be found here: <http://elimaberystwyth.com/media/1203/elim-aber-safeguarding-policy-2020.pdf>

We are always keen to have new people who would like to serve within our children/youth ministries. There is a specific recruitment process which we adhere to. **No one should be *regularly* working with the children or youth without having first undergone this process.**

The criteria for approval to work with children/youth are:

- being an active member of the Church for a minimum of 3 months
- the completion of an internal application form
- the acquiring of 2 separate references
- an informal interview with 2 members of the Leadership and/or Safeguarding Team
- completion of a declaration to allow a police check (DBS) to be carried out
- completion of a DBS form (on-line) and presentation of appropriate ID to the recruiters
- final decision confirmed by Leadership, once DBS cleared by the Safeguarding Team
- Everyone working with children (or vulnerable adults) to undergo training every two years.

TRAINING: Will be held shortly for the new members of team and as a recap for those who continue to work.

**GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATIONS / GDPR (JON. KING)**

For a copy of the Elim Christian Fellowship Aberystwyth Data Protection Policy, please email [info@elimaberystwyth.com](mailto:info@elimaberystwyth.com). The privacy notice is available online and can be found here: <http://elimaberystwyth.com/media/1148/dp01-ecf-privacy-notice-edn-003-pdf.pdf>

The church subscribes to ChurchSuite to process and handle church family personal details. We communicate through this software so if you have not done so already, and you consider yourself part of this church, please sign up here: <http://www.elimaberystwyth.com/churchsuite/>. There is an option for students who are members of their church back home, but who are still also very much part of Elim Aber so please sign up.

Once you have registered, you will get a confirmation email and then a little while later, you should get an email from the church inviting you to create a ChurchSuite login. This will mean you can make changes to the information we hold and how we may contact you. It will also enable you to look up contact details of other members of our church family (according to what information they have allowed to be shared)...a bit like a family address book.

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**FINANCE REPORT  
(GRAISON JOHN)**

**REVIEW OF THE YEAR (ROUNDED FIGURES)**

At the end of the year, Church recorded a net surplus of £1,803 (2021: surplus of £1,404). This is a third time in row that we have managed to finish the year in surplus after recruiting a full-time minister. Our church's improved financial position is reflecting a consistency of growth even through the periods of general economic difficulties. This couldn't be possible without the continued engagement and the support of our members. **Thank you all. And thanks to our God for his faithfulness and blessings which has enabled us to be in a better place where we are now.**

The total income for the year, including the givings towards the designated projects (Restricted funds) increased to £56,969 (2021: £51,395), an increase by 11%. *(Restricted funds are designated funds for specific projects like Mission fund, Love the house fund etc. All collections and expenses made towards these specific projects are allocated to 'Restricted funds')*.

We are so grateful that many of our supporters responded so quickly to alternate methods of making their donations. Our income has been maintained by an increased use of digital donation options namely through online transfer, GIVT, an app-based facility and Text giving. Also, with congregation coming back to church in person we have resumed the basket (offering) collection from April 2022.

For more details on different ways of giving please visit <http://elimaberystwyth.com/about-us/giving/>

Our total expenditure for the year increased to £55,166 (2021: £49,991), an increase of 10%.

On adding the bank balance brought forward at the beginning of the year, the balance carried forward on 30th September 2022, after allowing for amounts owed to and by the church is **£15,369** (2021: £13,565).

**Income Summary**

The main source of Church's income is from **voluntary** giving (tithes and offerings) by the members and friends of the church. We are extremely grateful to them whose faithful support has generated the total income for the church.

At last year's AGM we set a target to increase our income by £6,000. Our income has increased this year to £56,969 (2021: £50,395), an increase of 13%, reflecting a sincere commitment shown by the members and friends of the church. We do not take your faithfulness and generosity for granted.

Our Gift aid offering has increased by 18% to £23,031 (2021 : £19,566) and the General offering has increased by 1% to £26,698 (2021: £26,414). The amount of TAX recovered during the year was £7,240 (2021: £4,145).

**Expenditure Summary**

As the church activity has resumed normally the total expenditure for the year has increased to £55,166 (2021: £49,991), an increase of 10%.

The General church expenditure (without mission payments) increased to £50,193 (2021: £45,441).

The main increase is in the Ministry Expenditure by 11% to £38,962 (2021: £35,133) largely due to normal resumption of church activity following the Covid restrictions as well as a salary increase to return the pastor's remuneration level to be in line with the 'Elim recommended minimum salary' for ministers. The general running costs (church overhead) has decreased by 3% to £5,434 (2021: £5,624).

As part of Elim, the church pays 10% of its total offering to the Elim Movement. The total amount paid to Elim Movement for this year amounted to £4,779 (2021: £4,352).

*"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." (Joshua 1:9)*

As well as paying 10% of income to the Elim Movement, the church session has agreed to give a further 10% of its income to local, regional, national and international organisations or individuals involved in advancing the Kingdom of God (Missions Payment). A provision of £4,973 (2021: £4,550) has been made in accounts towards Mission Payment for the year ending 30th September 2022 which is to be paid in next year.

**Looking to the Future**

Considering current economic condition with rising inflation due to high cost of food and energy, in order to maintain our accounts at the current level, the church needs to increase its voluntary giving income by around **£6,000** per year. This is before considering the significant sums that may be necessary to invest in specific ministry developments and building works as we move forward. In order to achieve this target, we would especially encourage commitments to tithe, a challenge that has been taken on in earnest during the previous years.

One important area that must remain in our thinking is **Gift Aid**. This year we received over £7,240 (2021: £4,415) in returned tax. This figure proves an essential part of the income to our accounts. If there is any member who is a UK taxpayer and do not Gift Aid your tithes then we encourage you to Gift Aid your giving. ***If you are a UK taxpayer, then you can increase your giving by 25% simply by filling in a Gift Aid declaration form.*** Please contact Alistair Thompson or myself or email us at [finance@elimaberystwyth.com](mailto:finance@elimaberystwyth.com) for more details.

There is a cash balance of **£15,369** (2021: £13,566) carried forward on 30th September 2022.

Our God has been faithful in the past and surely His faithfulness will endure for ever! Let's put our hope in Him and continue to do the good work that he has entrusted us (church) to remind our communities of the hope and deliverance that the "Gospel of Jesus Christ" offers in the face of the uncertain future.

		Review of Yearly accounts 2021-22								
REVENUE SUMMARY (£)		Current Year Oct 21 - Sept 22			Previous Year Oct 20 - Sept 21			CHANGE		
		General Funds	Restricted Funds	TOTAL	General Funds	Restricted Funds	TOTAL	Including Restricted Funds		
<b>INCOME</b>										
A	CHURCH INCOME	General	26,698		26,698	26,064	350	26,414	283	1%
		Gift Aid	23,031		23,031	19,566		19,566	3,465	18%
		Rebate	7,240		7,240	4,415		4,415	2,825	64%
		Elim Grants			0	1,000		1,000	-1,000	
B	MISSIONS INCOME			0			0	0		
C	OTHER INCOME			0			0	0		
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		56,969	0	56,969	51,045	350	51,395	5,574	11%	
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>										
D	MINISTRY EXPENDITURE	38,962		38,962	35,133		35,133	-3,829	-11%	
E	MISSIONS PAYMENTS	4,973		4,973	4,550		4,550	-423	-9%	
F	YOUTH ACTIVITIES	295		295	185		185	-111	-60%	
G	CHURCH OVERHEADS	5,434		5,434	5,624		5,624	190	3%	
H	MONTHLY RETURN - HQ	4,779		4,779	4,352		4,352	-427	-10%	
I	MANAGEMENT EXPENDITURE	723		723	148		148	-575	-389%	
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>		55,166	0	55,166	49,991	0	49,991	-5,175	-10%	
J	<b>SURPLUS / (- DEFICIT)</b>	FOR THE YEAR			1,803	FOR THE YEAR			1,404	399
		Bal brought forward		Bal carried forward	Bal brought forward		Bal carried forward			
K	<b>CLOSING NET BANK BALANCES</b>	13,566		<b>15,369</b>	12,162		13,566			

“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.” (Joshua 1:9)