

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & VISION SUNDAY 18TH OCTOBER 2015

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



LOVE GOD PEOPLE

"Make your tent bigger. Open your doors wide. Don't think small! Make your tent large and strong because you will grow in all directions." (Isaiah 54:2-3)

Pastors Report (Joel Pridmore)

It has been my privilege to Pastor this fantastic church for three years now. Many of you will be aware that this past year has been extremely challenging for me on a personal level in ways that I would never have imagined when my family arrived in Aberystwyth 3 years ago. I mention this because I want to say thank you to you as a church family and to the leadership team here for the fantastic support you have been to my family and myself. Please could I ask you to continue to pray for our situation and for God's love and protection to surround us.

At the beginning of this calendar year, I felt God was challenging us to increase our intentional emphasis on prayer and worship. There has been some good response to this in increased numbers at our midweek prayer and worship events (such as Upper Room) and the adding of a prayer-oriented event, Dwell, to our weekly schedule on Mondays. We have also responded to this in our preaching, most clearly through the recent 'Armour of Christ' series. I do feel that in the remainder of this year, we should continue to press for more in this area. Please do what you can to attend our prayer/worship-oriented events and in praying and seeking God daily as individuals. During November you will be also be invited to take part in a period of prayer and fasting as a church. You will be able to make your own decision on when and how to fast but I am asking us all to consider taking part in some way during the month which will culminate in a prayer and celebration evening on the last Friday of the month, the 27th November.

Earlier this year we held a meeting at Penglais School with a view to considering if we could meet there on a regular basis. This event proved informative and encouraging – it was great to discover that we could successfully run a meeting outside of our building and to learn some of the challenges and opportunities it brings. We have not pursued meeting there regularly as the school is unable to allow us to use the facility during exam times. There are two extended exam periods each year when this would be a problem and we felt it would not be good for continuity to be changing the venue of our meetings during these times. We continue our search for an alternative venue that will give us room to grow and improved facilities and accessibility.

As a church over these past three years, we have seen God's faithfulness in so many ways as we have grown and progressed together. As we see often in scripture with God's people – It can be easy to forget where we have come from and become discontent in the frustrations and challenges we face today. It can also be easy to become settled where we are and resist change. God does not want us to do either: He intends for us to move forward, following His lead with faith and enthusiasm. This is why in AGM we thank God for the journey we are on – both looking back with thanks and looking forward with faith. Never have I been more aware of this than during this year as we celebrate 100 hundred years of the family of churches we belong to: the Elim Pentecostal Church. The lyrics below are taken from the ElimSound album, Elim100, written as a part of the centenary celebrations this year.

*Here we stand, God we are so thankful,
Looking back, we know You've been faithful,
We're expectant for the future,
We believe the best is year to come.* (Written by Ian Yates and Stephen Gibson 2015)

Elders / Pastoral Leadership Team

Brian Garrod, Jon. King and myself have, for the past two years, made up the Pastoral Leadership Team, which has involved discussing pastoral matters and ideas on an informal basis. One thing I have felt God talking to me about over the past year is to further develop and formalise this team. Therefore I am in the process of prayerfully adding to this team and over the coming months, we will begin to meet regularly to pray and to discuss vision and pastoral matters for the church.

During this year, Brian Garrod fulfilled a 5-year term as an elder, having been voted into this position in 2010. Brian has recently prayerfully decided not to continue his role on the Pastoral Leadership Team or to stand again for eldership. Brian has served in this role faithfully, volunteering his time and skills selflessly and consistently. As a church we owe our thanks to Brian and also to his wife, Alison, and their children for supporting him in his role. I personally want to express my heartfelt thanks for the support and encouragement Brian has been to me as Pastor during my first three years here and I am grateful to be able to continue to minister alongside him and the Garrod family in our fellowship.

Session Team

This team exists to provide practical support, accountability and resources to support the vision of the church. The team includes Marion Densham, Engobo Emeseh, Brian Garrod, Graison John (Finance Officer), Jon. King, Sue Jemmott and myself. We meet approximately every 6 weeks throughout the year and our meetings are consistently encouraging with a good sense of unity and purpose. There have been no changes to this team in the past 12 months.

Sunday Celebrations

Our Sunday morning services have continued to be a vibrant and exciting expression of church community. Our attendance statistics has remained consistent and in line with previous years in terms of numbers.

It has been of great value to continue our co-preaching slot with people sharing a shorter 5-minute talk or testimony prior to the main sermon. These talks have been tremendously valuable and have given an opportunity for us to hear from more people and for some to gain valuable preaching experience. Similar can be said of the fact that we usually have a co-leader for our sung worship and we are increasingly seeing the sharing of service-leading responsibilities.

We have continued to 'Preach Christ' throughout the year. Aside from seasonal subjects and individual unique topics we have been through a three sermon series: 'The 'I Am' Statements of Jesus,' 'The 'I Will' Statements of Jesus,' and 'The Armour of Christ.'

As well as messages from a good number of our own members, we have had visiting speakers including Stephen Gibson from City Temple Church Cardiff, who encouraged us with a sermon entitled 'Ready, Steady, Go.' In May we hosted our friend Alistair Taylor who preached about 'Breakthrough.' Please continue to pray for Alistair who lost his wonderful wife, Vicky, to lung cancer shortly after he was with us. Elfed Godding, who heads up the Evangelical Alliance in Wales, was with us in March, Micheal Williams from City Church Swansea preached in February and Maldwyn Jones visited in October last year. It was also great to welcome the General Superintendent of Elim, John Glass, to preach in April. This is the first time a National Leader of Elim has preached in our church and with it being Elim's centenary year and with John in his 16th and final year in his role National Leader, it was a great time to host him.

If you missed any of these then please remember our sermons are available for people to listen to on our website.

The musicians and vocalists have continued to rehearse weekly throughout this year, which has enabled us to continue our development as individuals and as a team. Although a few folks have moved on from the team, It has been great to see a few new faces getting involved also.

Communications

Many thanks to Olu Ashiru and to Deepthy Thankachan for continuing to oversee the running of our website despite not living locally over the past year. It is great to see Olu back with us for his final year at the University! This year Sharin Samuel has become involved in updating our website and our Facebook page regularly by uploading sermons, blogspots and other information. Sharin has brought tremendous efficiency and commitment to this role, for which we are very grateful.

The weekly Notice Sheet continues to be our main means of regular written communication.. Our church Facebook page (Aberystwyth Elim) proves an excellent form of communication for those who are able to and want to make use of it.

Having had some difficulty with previous Email addresses, I have recently initialized a new Email address for the church... elimaberystwyth@yahoo.com. The office telephone receives a limited amount of calls but is nonetheless available for calls or to leave messages when required.

RIVERCAMP

Having not been involved in leading worship at Rivercamp for personal reasons the previous year, it was great to be involved again this year. It reminded me how great it was to be there with a good number of our folks in the previous couple of years and how much I would like us to arrange to go as a church next year from August 24th to 29th – please put the dates in your dairy!

Home Groups

We have two Home Groups continuing to thrive... Jon and Sharon King's group and Franklyn and Engobo Emeseh's group (See reports below). My thanks as Pastor go to these two fantastic couples for their hospitality and their willingness to host these groups.

The UpperRoom

Encounter the power of God

The Upper Room is a midweek opportunity to worship, pray, and encounter God and the presence and gifts of the Holy Spirit in an informal context. This has now been running for over two years and this year has seen a very encouraging increase in the number of people regularly attending. I cannot remember one time when I have not been refreshed and encouraged by this opportunity to meet with God in these Wednesday meetings. We had a particularly special evening recently with the four founder members of ElimSound (including myself) leading together. It was tied in with hosting our Gathering53 youth event with over a hundred people attending.

Prayer Meeting

Our Tuesday morning prayer meeting had been run by Dave and Heather Read until January when they decided it was right for them as a family to return to St Michael's as their church home. I want to thank them for faithfully leading this meeting for several years. We have continued to meet weekly and there are usually between 5 and 10 people who join together to worship and pray. This time of prayer is a key element in the life of the church. I would encourage people to be there when possible – especially as we seek to respond to the call to make prayer a priority this year.

Overseas Mission

We continue to prayerfully and financially support Rebecca Ridgway in Bogota, Colombia and it was fantastic to host a Skype call with her live in our church service on Sunday 24th May. This is something we plan to do again soon.

As part of our extra giving as a church we made a contribution to the Elim BeFree initiative, which is a project run through the Elim Missions Department working against human exploitation.

Local Mission

A few of our folks are involved in social action projects in partnership with other churches: Namely NightLight (providing 'Street Pastor' style support to people out at night in town at the weekend) and The Hatch (providing a meal on Sundays for homeless folks or others in need locally). Both of these ministries are seriously needing to recruit new volunteers so please do prayerfully consider whether you might be able to offer your time and energy to serve in these great projects.

Under the guidance and efforts of Christine Harrison, we continue to support the Jubilee Storehouse hosted at St Anne's. This is a ministry similar to Foodbanks providing for those in urgent need of food and essential supplies. It was also our delight to give a significant gift to this ministry as a part of our extra giving.

Marion Densham again coordinated projects to distribute cards and chocolate to our local neighbourhood at Christmas and Easter. We took part in the 'March for Witness' through the Town Centre on Good Friday followed by a shared meal.

As part of our extra giving as a church we again decided to make a contribution to UCCF in order to support their Relay Worker, working with the Christian Union at Aberystwyth University, who this year is Clair Holden.

Aberystwyth Churches

We continue to enjoy a good relationship with the other churches in our town and I'm delighted that our young people have partnered with St Anne's and St Michael's for joint youth events and Soul Survivor this year. We also strongly involved with the Freedom in Christ course run in conjunction with St Michael's and St Anne's.

I believe unity is a priority for Jesus and that when His people are united it is a sign to the world around who Jesus is and of God's love (John 17). We must continue to pray for churches and their leaders in Aberystwyth to thrive as the gospel is preached.

It has recently been announced that after many years here in Aberystwyth, most recently at St Anne's in Penparcau, Andy and Sarah Herrick will be moving to minister in Lampeter. We have enjoyed a great partnership with Andy and we must pray for them and for St Anne's that they will know the blessing and the presence of The Lord in this new season.

Wider Ministry

Waleswide and New Wine Cymru are organisations that we continue to relate to that are working to strengthen, encourage and challenge the church across Wales.

I am privileged to continue my role as a Core Leader of Elim's national worship initiative, ElimSound. This involves some time away from local church ministry doing events, meetings and training. Thank you for releasing me as a church and supporting me in this role.



COGs stands for Community Outreach Groups and is the context of several of the activities that take place through the week. These serve as an ideal opportunity for us to engage in building relationships with those who are not part of our church. The hope is that they will prove to be effective missional communities to prove a context for people to encounter our church family. Please see the reports below for DriveTime and Created. Please do pray and consider if there may a COG that you would like to develop or be a part of developing... I would love to hear from you.

Building

We recently launched a new team to look after our premises called the Buildings Maintenance and Development (BMAD for short!!) Team. I am delighted that Chris Stewart has agreed to oversee this team with Colin Harrison working closely alongside. Please see the report below.

Café

We have not reached the stage that we had hoped to in opening the first phase of the café over the past year. This is mainly due to the need for someone to specifically drive the vision forward and manage the project. We remain very keen on this idea so please do speak to me if you think you may have the time, skills and desire to be a part of this. The idea is to serve the local community with a café being so close to the harbour and being on the local cycle path. The men who fitted the windows in the basement provided very encouraging feedback from discussions with passer's by when mentioning that we may be thinking of having a café there!

Membership

On 31st May we held a special meeting to introduce people to the concept and purpose of church membership at Elim and today we have the excitement of welcoming a number into membership of our fellowship.

I see membership as a matter of the heart not of a signature. Your attitude and actions say far more about whether you are invested in where we are going as a church than a piece of paper. That said, there is value in making a written statement of commitment and I would encourage you to consider church membership if you have not already.

On a practical level, membership becomes important when there are issues to be discussed and voted on in meetings like this. These can be constitutional, financial or relating to the leadership of the church. Members are the ones who vote on these and it is important that you can have your say in such matters.

Additional Reports



Youth (Kirsty Lumb)

This year we were sorry to say goodbye to Andy Dolloway and Emily Reagan from the team but thankfully this year has seen a number of fresh volunteers join the team. I am extremely grateful to all the team who continually serve our youth.

We are now using Urban Saints material for teaching and the youth are really enjoying the new material. We are currently using the material to explore the themes of apologetics and world issues, in an accessible way.

This year we have connected with the Elim youth movement 'Serious4God' and through this network we have been involved in a number of events including 'The Gathering' this weekend.

This summer, for the first time, we took the youth to Soul Survivor along with St Mike's. This was a great opportunity for teaching, meeting with God and building relationships with each other.

Since Soul Survivor we have been partnering with St Mike's and their youth ministry. We have been to celebrate with them and they visited us for our 100th celebration. We plan to continue to build this link.

This year please pray for:

- The team as they continue to build relationships and live life alongside the youth.
- This December some of the young people move from Planted to the youth group. Please pray for this transition.
- For vision for the year ahead and that we would be sensitive to where God is leading.



Seedlings is our ministry for our younger children of ages four and below. We started off just with just playing and singing with the children. Much as children enjoy that we now incorporate play with sessions from Energize @ Urban Saints with bible stories and activities that bring the stories to life for them. Our aim is to make crèche as fun as possible for the little ones and with the learning programmes help in laying the foundation of the joy of having and serving Christ in our lives. We are very grateful for the leaders and helpers who volunteer for this.



Our children's ministry for Primary School aged Children is being led by Alison Garrod, Sue Jemmott, Christine Harrison, Sharon King and Chris Stewart, with occasional help from other members of the congregation and youth. We have started to use the Energize curriculum, provided by Urban Saints. We currently have 21 children, aged between 4 and 11, regularly attending.

Some highlights of the year have been our play on Noah written by Gweni King, which the children performed at Christmas after a lot of craft to prepare props, and our prayer walk where we walked around the harbour and prom, praying for the area.

Our children are very keen to have more prayer, singing (currently along to DVDs) and watching Veggie Tales fitted into our sessions.

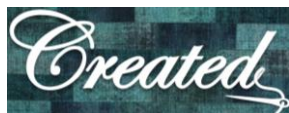
We cannot express our appreciation enough for the commitment and perseverance of this team. Our children are an integral part of the church and we seek to release children's leaders into developing their giftings, which in turn inspires the children.

Drivetime (Tony Jemmott)

DriveTime started as a COG involving golf on Friday mornings. Dave Read had been leading DriveTime but handed over responsibility to myself in January. There are a few regular folks and a few others who join us whenever they are able. We usually play the 9-hole course at Penrhos in Llanrhystud but occasionally play at Capel Bangor instead.

Over the past year it became apparent that some people couldn't make Fridays but wanted to play regularly so a group has started on Saturdays too.

Our annual DriveTime Cup Competition Day held in July and was great fun and a great success!



(Alison Garrod)

Created continues to meet on Monday evenings between 7.30 - 9.30pm. This involves a small group enjoying a chat over tea and coffee and craft of some sort. Beginners are welcome as between us all; we can give tips on starting knitting, crochet, needlework and cross-stitch. Anyone is welcome.

Building Maintenance and Development Team (Chris Stewart)

This year the Building Maintenance and Development Team (BMAD) was established so that the church would have a centralised point of contact for managing the works and developments of Elim's premises under the extended ECF tagline: Love God, Love People, Love the House.

The team's role is to:

Ensure ECF Aberystwyth is operating within current H&S guidelines.

Facilitate works which are needed for the upkeep of the premises, when appropriate, liaising with outside contractors.

Facilitate works to improve the premises.

Release and encourage volunteers in their desire to serve the wider ministry in a practical sense.

Receive comments and suggestions from the congregation in regards to the building's maintenance and development.

Pray for and over the building, its future and its people.

The main development this year was the improved windows and doors on the rear of the building increasing the aesthetic value and security of the building, we look forward to furthering conversations about the vision to turn this space into a usable space.

The team has come up with a proposed timeline for works that need doing around the South Road premises and this has been submitted to the session team for discussion.

We will be putting on 'Love the House' events in the near future where people may come and do selected jobs around the building.

We would like all members of ECF to prayerfully consider if they have abilities they can offer to the work to improve the state of our church and to offer suggestions.

Pray for God's wisdom so we would continue forward following His will, also for finance, it is no secret that our building is in need of some fairly serious work and we want to be a testimony of God's brilliant favour and provision.

Safeguarding (Jon. and Sharon King)

Current Safeguarding team:

Sharon King – Safeguarding Coordinator

Jon. King – Lead Recruiter

Kirsty Lumb – Deputy Safeguarding Coordinator, and Deputy Recruiter

We have a Safeguarding Policy here at Elim Aberystwyth (which is available on request), which not only protects our children, but also is important in protecting our volunteer workers.

It is a CCPAS (Churches' Child Protection Advisory Service) requirement that we provide regular training sessions for all our workers and that each individual worker undergoes training every 2 years. It is our intention to run a training session at the beginning of the year. The last training session was held in November 2013, and we are trying to ensure that all our workers comply with the requirements. However we do still have some workers who are yet to attend a training session and we would encourage them to make every effort to attend the next training session.

We are always keen to have new people who would like to serve within our children/youth ministries, but there is a specific recruitment process that we have to be adhering 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 (hard copy or preferably on-line) and presentation of appropriate identification to the recruiters
- final decision to be made by the Leadership once DBS has been seen by the Safeguarding Team

Existing workers have to undergo DBS checks with appropriate ID checks every 3 years and although this is frustrating and time consuming it is an Elim Safeguarding Policy requirement and cannot be avoided.

It has been very encouraging to welcome six new children/youth workers onto our team during the last year. We believe it to be a very rewarding and blessed part of Church Ministry as well as being a very important one.

Freedom in Christ (Jon. and Sharon King)

Jon. and Sharon are the Welsh reps for the Freedom in Christ Ministries UK Team, which involves supporting and teaching church leaders, in all denominations, running the Freedom in Christ Course. They have been involved in seeing the material starting to be translated in to the medium of Welsh.

In January 2015, the now annual Freedom in Christ Discipleship Course was run as a joint enterprise by three of the local churches – St Mike's, St Anne's and Elim - this year hosted at St. Mike's. The course was well attended by old and new Christians from a number of different churches. The ministry component of the course – The Steps to Freedom in Christ, was held at Elim on a Saturday where participants were able to free themselves from past issues which had previously been hampering their walk with Christ.

Several good testimonies have resulted from attending the course again this year.

The number of Elim members was disappointingly low this year and we would like to encourage anyone, irrespective of how long they have been a Christian, to consider attending the next course in January 2016 (details to follow).

The King's House-group (Jon. and Sharon King)

Again, there have been quite a few comings and goings in our small fellowship, as we would expect with a large number of students graduating and some new ones joining. We consider ourselves a group of friends who enjoy meeting for fellowship and discipleship, out of town, in a relaxed atmosphere.

September this year has seen us revisit a syllabus we first did when the group started in 2009 - John Bever's "A Heart Ablaze" and we have been encouraged by the excitement and interest this has generated with 6-7 new members to the group.

Because of our location on Elgar Farm (the home of Jon. & Sharon King), our regular drivers in the group will pick people up from town provided they know in advance (usually via Facebook) to enable students and those without cars to have an evening out of town. Collection is at 7:20 sharp, so that we typically start at 7:30 with tea and coffee for 30 mins, then we have a discipleship study for 1-1½ hours, followed by a time of prayer, and then more tea/coffee and informal chatting.

There was a temporary pause again, at the beginning of 2015 to enable Jon, Sharon and Chris Macey to lead the Freedom in Christ course (see above). The hope for this year is to continue running the house-group during this time, but we may have to move it to a different day - the logistics for this need to be attended to with prayerful consideration.

Over the summer months we looked at a personal growth course, examining some of the truth statements in the Bible. Prior to the Freedom in Christ course, we looked at another of John Bevere's syllabuses - "The Holy Spirit: An Introduction", looking at Holy Spirit the person (highly recommended).

We are always keen to welcome new members whether you are new in your faith, or been a Christian for years.

Franklyn and Engobo's House Group

It has been a really exciting time this last 12 months fellowshipping with one another with Christ as the centre. This of course is the aim of the group - an informal environment for members to have fellowship, study God's word, provide support and encouragement, and uphold one another and the church in prayer. The bonds we have built in the years continue to grow and one of the really precious things is the openness and trust with which we discuss God's word. Everyone is actively involved and together we allow the Holy Spirit reveal new insights and understanding of the scriptures. We start at 6:00pm and generally aim to finish at about 7.30pm. This is often followed by an extended session of chit-chat over tea/coffee. The home-made cakes and other pastry products that are sometimes brought in by members have all been gratefully and enthusiastically consumed! Fellowship always opens with a short prayer and ends with an extended prayer session. The testimonies we have had of prayers answered has been a real encouragement.

As in previous years, we have some families who have been members since 2010, as well as students and this mix in the group is a real bonus offering us various perspectives in our discussions. Expectedly some of our students left upon conclusion of their studies whilst we gained new student members as well. Another really interesting development is that we now have two members of the youth attending the meetings. So overall, membership is positive and continues to grow although attendance on individual Sundays varies. However, most members attend quite consistently which is very encouraging. Most members of the group attend church regularly although we have had a few visitors occasionally.

Some of the studies we have undertaken in the last year include

- "If You Want to Walk on Water you've got to get out Of the Boat"- by John Ortberg (A bible study video series)
- The Message: Elim's Core Beliefs
- Faith- Hebrews 11

We have also just started to study the book of Joel.

We have learnt so much from each of the series and been challenged in various ways as individuals and as a group. Transport is usually provided as needed.

Stewarding (Marion Densham)

This is a key role in helping people feel welcome as soon as they arrive at church and plays a vital role in helping visitors and newcomers to want to return. A friendly smile, a handshake, a hug or a 'high 5' is a simple way of showing the love of Jesus and value to each other.

As well as the welcome, the stewards on duty arrive to set up water jugs and glasses and fold notice sheets (thank you to others who help with this too) amongst other preparations. We are

also available to usher people to their seats, provide assistance when needed (helping with stairs for example), provide information, oversee the offering and take the head count. We like to keep an eye open for anyone who needs assistance – such as a drink, a tissue or a comforting arm (without being intrusive). Should emergency situations arise, we are on hand to respond and we seek to ensure at least one steward on duty is DBS checked.

I want to express my grateful thanks to all our faithful stewards over the past year(s), sometimes stepping in at short notice to provide cover. Squeezing everyone in to our main hall on Sunday morning has been a nice problem at times this year. Some of the team have moved on this year, as is often the case – especially with students reaching the end of their University studies.

Looking ahead I am really excited by the growth we are experiencing but it would be great to add a couple more to the team so that each steward only has to be on duty once a month. If you might be interested in this, please do speak to me (Marion).

Catering

Thank you very much to those who serve on the Tea and Coffee Rota providing refreshments at the end of our Sunday Services and to by Paul Dolloway for organizing the rotas.

Visual Tech Team (Franklyn Emeseh)

The visual tech team is running quite effectively and hopes to keep adapting to changes in order to keep improving. Over the course of the year, a new laptop was installed and the software for projecting the songs/messages was also upgraded. A television was installed above the main entrance door and connected to the projector to assist the worship team, speakers and service leaders. We had three dedicated members and a number of volunteers for most part of the year however, two members of the team recently left us for pastures new and we want to encourage new members to join us.

Audio Tech Team (Chris Stewart)

This year the audio technical team saw the move from recoding sermons on a temperamental CD recorder to recording them on a computer-based audio system improving reliability and ease of distribution.

We also faced a wonderful practical challenge with the church taking its service to Ysgol Penglais; the tech team came with a full PA system and provided (we hope) the same level of sound quality a normal Sunday service experiences. (The fact that whilst in the hall i realised that the in-built soundsystem was of exactly the same specifications as the one we had just installed is besides the point as we now know what we need to update to bring our "touring" PA system to appropriate specifications).

The main ongoing problem we experience is that we only have 2 regular technicians, both regularly otherwise-engaged on a Sunday morning - we would encourage anyone interested to have a chat with us about what this ministry is all about.

Prayer points:

- Thank God that He is great and we are able to join together and worship Him.
- Pray that the technical provisions never stand between someone and their worship of Him
- Please pray for the continued wisdom in how we can serve the worship team/preachers and how we can further the Gospel of Christ

Finance Report (Graison John: Finance Officer)

Review (Rounded Figures)

At the end of the year, the Church recorded a cash deficit of £1,555 (2014 : Surplus of £2,611) which includes the deficit of £3,696 in the restricted funds. Restricted funds are designated funds for particular projects like Basement project, Soul Survivor event, Sale of Elim CD & Centenary book, Additional allocated 10% tithe from previous year etc.

Total income for the year including Elim grants and the giving's towards the designated projects were £53,052 (2014 : £47,972). On excluding the Elim grants and the giving's for the designated projects, the total income were up by 5% to £40,640 (2014 : £38,774).

The total expenditure for the year totalled to £54,607 (2014 : £45,361) which includes payments towards designated projects totalling to £8,443 (2014 : £1,000). The general church expenditure increased by 4% to £46,164 (2014 : £44,361).

We must be aware that the grants we receive from the Elim Movement, which have enabled us to reduce our annual deficit, will be phased out from Oct 2015.

Income (Rounded Figures)

The main source of Church's income is from General and Gift Aid offerings. Together these accounted to 74% (2014 : 71%) of the total income.

The increase in the income by 5% to £40,640 is largely because of the increase in General and Gift Aid offerings corresponding to a growing congregation. General offerings have increased by 5% to £13,955 (2014 : £13,336) and Gift aid offerings increased by 4% to £21,635 (2014 : £20,810).

During the year, we received funds received for the (designated project) Basement project (£2,921), Soul Survivor event (£1,119), Elim CD and centenary book (£322).

The financial support received from the Elim Movement this year totalled to £7,665 (2014 : £11,198).

As the financial support from the Elim Movement will be phased out from Oct 2015, it is necessary for the church to increase the giving considerably. We would especially encourage commitments to tithe, a challenge that has been taken on in earnest during the last twelve months.

Expenditure (Rounded Figures)

The total expenditure for the year totalled to £54,607 (2014 : £45,361). This includes the payments towards the (designated projects) Basement project (£4,201), Soul Survivor event (£1,123), Mission payments (10% additional tithe) for previous year offering income (£3,000) and Other projects (£119).

The increase in general church expenditure by 4% to 46,164 (2014 : 44,361) is largely because of the ministry expenditure, the money been spent equipping the building and the ministry areas. The general running costs also increased by 3% to £5,896 (2014 : £5,701).

As well as paying 10% of its 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 and to individuals involved in advancing the Kingdom of God. £3,000 of this money allocated for year ending September 2014 was paid in this year.

Looking to the Future

As the financial support from the Elim Movement is ceasing, in order to maintain our accounts at the current level, the church needs to increase its 'giving' income by around £10,000 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.

One important area that must remain in our thinking is Gift Aid. This year we received over £4,980 in returned tax. This figure proves an essential part of the income to our accounts. If you are a UK taxpayer then you can increase your giving by 25% simply by filling in a Gift Aid declaration form. Please see Christine Harrison or myself for more details.

After allowing for amounts owed to and by the church, the available bank balance is just around £38,000. This could allow the annual increase to be phased over a number of years. The target remains a high one, but not too high with faith.

	Year Ended 30/09/2015			Year Ended 30/09/2014	Change		
	General Funds	Restricted Funds	TOTAL	TOTAL	Including Restricted Funds	Excluding Restricted Funds	%
INCOME							
General Offerings	13,955	3,567	17,522	13,336	4,186	619	5%
Gift Aided Offerings	21,635	1,180	22,815	20,810	2,005	825	4%
Gift Aided Tax Rebate	4,980		4,980	4,421	558	558	13%
Elim Grants	7,665		7,665	9,198	-1,533	-1,533	-17%
Other Income	71		71	207	-136	-136	-66%
Total Income	48,305	4,747	53,052	47,972	5,080	333	1%
Total Income Ex Elim Grants	40,640		45,387	38,774	6,613	1,866	5%
EXPENDITURE							
Ministry Expenditure	34,327	119	34,446	33,001	1,445	1,326	4%
Missions	1,200	3,000	4,200	2,200	2,000	-1,000	-45%
General Running Costs	5,896	4,201	10,097	5,701	4,396	195	3%
Elim Tithe	3,765		3,765	3,602	163	163	5%
Youth & Children's Work	603	1,123	1,726	547	1,179	56	10%
Other Costs	373		373	310	63	63	20%
Total Expenditure	46,164	8,443	54,607	45,361	9,246	803	2%
Surplus / Deficit for Year	2,141	-3,696	-1,555	2,611			
Surplus / Deficit for Year (Excluding Elim Grant)			-9,220	-6,587			
Available Cash in Bank	£37,929.90						