

Annual General Meeting & Vision Sunday of The Elim Christian Fellowship Aberystwyth

Sunday 3rd November 2024

TO BE READ IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE 2024 REPORT

In attendance: Edore Akpokodje, Vera Akpokodje, Rosemary Brown, Seth Brown, Colin Bryan, Marion Densham, Anna Evans, David Fardouly, Sarah Farrow, Laura George, Vanitha Graison, Elaine Jensen, Graison John, Jon. King, Sharon King, Elen Macey, Vinod Matthew, Del Matthews, Zach Matthews, Joel Maylor-Pridmore (Pastor), Louise Maylor-Pridmore, Larisa Mihai, Judith Newton, Nsa-anwan Okon, John Pizany, Huw Reynolds, Folashola Sinclair, Marvin Sinclair, Siân Smith, Chris Stewart, Martin Templeman, Joby Vinod & Naomi Zaky.

1. Opening

David Fardouly opened the meeting with prayer.

Joe explained that the AGM was a legal necessity under charity law to share the financial report with the membership but also the importance of seeing what God has done, and is doing.

2. Minutes of the Previous Annual General Meeting 2023

The minutes from the 2023 AGM to accompany the published report were displayed on screen and then agreed and adopted as an accurate record.

3. Pastor's Report (Joel Pridmore)

Pastor read the opening paragraph and closing paragraphs of his report (see 2024 AGM Report) and then everything else was documented except in regard to "Elim Young Adults" where there was supposed to be expressed thanks for Claire Healey (who had stepped down to concentrate on other things) and Dan Luxton (who has moved to Cardiff).

Joel thanked everyone who engages with church life and reiterated the call for anyone who wants to be involved in any way, to get in touch. A special mention was made of the large number of baptisms this year, and he thanked God for this.

4. Finance (Graison John)

Joel introduced Graison John (Finance Officer) and thanked him for his service and Godly stewardship of the finances.

Graison gave a summary of the finances.

- In continuing the trends over the last five years, there is a surplus at the end of the year...this year the surplus was over £20,000 (twice the surplus in 2023).
- Total income was up by 16%, whereas total expenditure was up by only 4%.
- The church now has a cash balance of £45963.00
- The main source of income is voluntary giving:
 - Gift-aid has increased by 34%
 - Gift-aid tax rebate was £10,326.
 - General giving is down by 3% (but last year there was a special offering for chairs and without that, this year would have actually seen a rise in general giving).
- As for expenditure:
 - Ministry costs are up by 6%
 - Overheads are up by 7%
 - 10% to Elim (£6631)
 - Missionary giving (including globes) was £7774
- Total attendance (adults) had increased.
- Looking forward, there is the challenge of a bigger meeting place so we need to consider how we can continue to increase the income. Gift-aid is very important in this.

Graison said that the church should always acknowledge, and be grateful to, Our God who has provided faithfully.

Joel commented that the surplus was not being taken for granted and that the Session team and Leadership were discussing how to invest/steward it.

Joel then said a prayer of thanks to God for His provision.

5. Questions from Congregation

There were no questions during the meeting and none had been sent in beforehand.

Comment: One individual in the meeting expressed thanks to the church for the love and support he received when his mum died.

6. Prayer for Pastor Joel Pridmore and his family (David Fardouly)

7. Close (by singing chorus from Waymaker)