

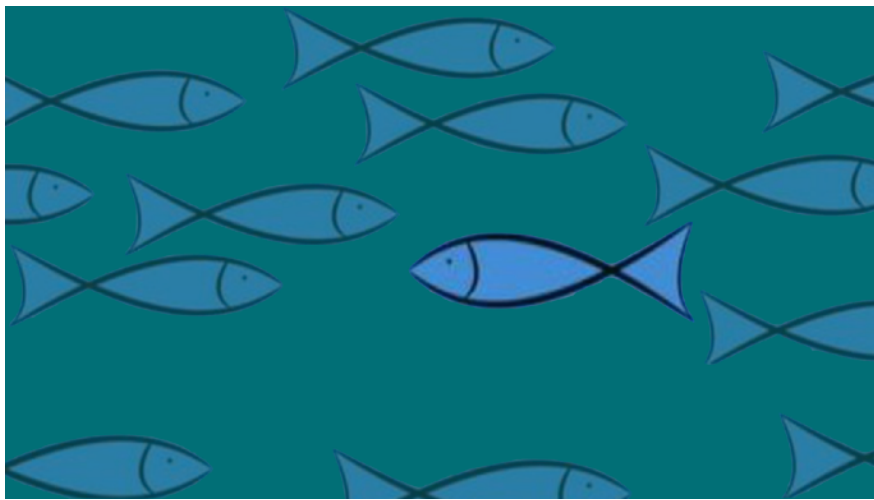
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2025

NOVEMBER 2ND // MIS TACHWEDD 2IL

(FINANCIAL YEAR TO END OF SEPTEMBER 2025)



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**

PASTOR'S REPORT (JOEL MAYLOR-PRIDMORE)

We have much to celebrate and to be thankful for as we look over all The Lord has done amongst us over this past year. We have also had to navigate some challenges and to persevere in patience and trust as we await breakthrough in some areas.

As we reflect on the current societal challenges and global conflicts it is vital for God's people to remind ourselves of the truth of Romans 12:2. Having extolled the wonders of God's mercy given to us in Christ and appealed to readers to give their lives fully to God in response, the author of Romans gives a profound instruction that echoes loudly for us nearly two millennia later:

"Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will." (Romans 12:2)

This verse was part of the inspiration for a key teaching series in our Sunday Celebrations during Autumn 2024. It has been a joy to see our church family growing in confidence in Christ and seeking to follow Christ in a transformative way. This report celebrates many aspects of this from our gatherings and activities, but it is in seeing us living this out in our every day lives that I find the most joy.

I love the privilege of leading this church family and we want all we do to honour the Lord. We do not always get things right but we seek to follow the lead of the ultimate Good Shepherd. The world around us seems increasingly unstable and our desire is to know and show that Jesus is our cornerstone, our firm foundation.

We patiently continue to believe that God is at work preparing a new space for us to host our Sunday morning meetings. We are praying He will make a way where there seems to be no way and trust that He will open the right door at the right time. There is one option we are keen to explore, but for various reasons we cannot give details at present.

In the meantime we are grateful for the building God has entrusted to us and seek to make good use of it. Our building has never been busier than it is now, with activities typically taking place six days every week. In addition to our activities, the building is used weekly by the University Christian Union for their Globe Cafe and by a new Malayalam fellowship. We have sought advice from an architect and from estate agents regarding the future of our current building, as well as having necessary ongoing discussions with the buildings department of our Elim headquarters.

This time last year we had just started holding two meetings on Sunday mornings to help ease our challenge for space with increasing numbers attending. This has proven successful and has helped the situation, whilst also creating a different time and style of meeting that has proven very valuable in a number of ways. In celebrating this, we must acknowledge the added workload this means for some of our teams. We are very grateful to those who have committed to make the 9am meeting a success.

Five years ago, in the midst of all the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic, we had an amazing testimony in terms of our finances. That year we 'broke-even' in our own right for the first time since I had been employed in 2012 as our full time-minister. This was a remarkable turn around from the previous years and, praise God, our income has continued to improve over the following years. Thank you for being a generous church, not just financially, but in so many ways. As a leadership team, we take very seriously the privilege of stewarding that which has been entrusted to us by God.

The coming year is going to be one of investment as we seek to faithfully invest in what God is calling us to do. After much discussion and prayer, myself and the leadership team feel that one wise and potentially fruitful way for us to invest some of our income would be in the area of organisational and administrative support. With this in mind, Louise and I will be attending an Elim training day this coming week for churches about employing staff, which should help us prepare to take this step.

Whilst this could be very exciting and could make a significantly positive impact for us as a church, we must also continue to protect and value a culture of volunteering and serving as a wider body. If we do employ someone in an administrative role, it will be to increase our capacity, not to replace any of the marvellous work that people are already doing.

"Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will." (Romans 12:2)

As our activities increase, and as people move on from serving in certain roles, we need to grow the numbers serving in our teams and ministries. To be honest, we currently need more people to commit to serving in many areas of church life than are doing at present. Here are a number of areas where we currently need new volunteers: Welcome Team / Stewarding, Refreshments, Visual/Audio Technicians (training provided), Children's and Youth Ministries, Crèche, Cleaning and more.

There may be areas not mentioned above or you may have a passion to explore an existing or new area of service or ministry. If so, or if you want to serve but are unsure in what area, then please don't hesitate to speak to myself or the relevant ministry leaders.

This year we can celebrate the launch of 'Elim Women's Ministry' - a new initiative to serve and encourage ladies in faith and community. They have already hosted a number of successful events since the launch event in January and you will be able to see more in their report below. This development has been overseen by Folashola Sinclair and a committee of willing volunteers organising and working to make the events happen. Many thanks to them and to all who have contributed to this.

An unexpected partnership that we have been able to facilitate this year is the introduction of a Malayalam speaking fellowship. This partnership with Prince Pastor of Tabernacle Pentecostal Church in Cardiff has enabled people who have moved from specific regions of India to the Aberystwyth area to have the opportunity to worship in their own language and style. They meet on Saturday mornings in our building and have blessed us in the way they look after our premises and serve our local Malayalam community.

We are currently working to improve in our pastoral care provision. Much of our existing pastoral support happens through our connect groups, with mutual care of group members and the oversight of group leaders. In an ideal world this, alongside our friendships and natural networks would help ensure people's needs are not overlooked. The truth is, however, that we do not live in an ideal world and if you or someone you know has had any needs overlooked then we are sorry. I have asked Elaine Jensen to help develop a pastoral visiting team and to help us improve in this area. She has already been working hard to improve our pastoral care and we are in the process of launching and training a pastoral visiting team to be available to visit and provide care for our people.

The Lord has clearly spoken to us over this past year about developing our heart for world-wide mission and ministry. A number of our young adults have been increasing in passion and engaging in overseas trips and projects. We have always had a heart to support some work in other nations but we are now being given the privilege of intentionally partnering with some missions organisations as a sending church. As of this month, Lena Sherwood has taken up a role in Africa and we are delighted to be supporting her in this.

Many of you may appreciate the visible contribution that Louise brings to the life of Elim Aberystwyth but I'd also like to thank her for the ways she champions me to seek God and encourages and challenges me to be the best leader I can be. Thank you Louise, along with all our children, for your love and support.

Many individuals give so much in so many ways to help Elim Aberystwyth pursue its mission. To all who have contributed to the life of our church and served in any of our teams this year, thank you very very much.

I have sought to be comprehensive in this review but will inevitably have neglected to include some things that I ought to have. Please accept my apologies for any oversight.

SUNDAY CELEBRATIONS

Our gatherings on Sunday mornings are a pleasure to be involved in - because of you who attend and the presence of The Lord that we share in together. A big thank you to our welcome team, technical teams, musicians, speakers, children's & youth ministry teams, refreshments team, cleaning team and all others who contribute.

It has been an absolute joy to hand out hundreds of welcome packs to visitors and to people attending a meeting at Elim Aberystwyth for the very first time. Thank you Marion Densham for preparing them and David Gregory for creating ideas and resources for these.

We have improved our monthly routine of sharing communion together this year, largely thanks to Jim Rollinson's commitment to set up and prepare it for both morning meetings on a monthly basis. Thanks to Russell Stach too for regularly providing unleavened bread for us to break together.

In the first half of October 2024 we finished our short 'Consecrated People' teaching series in response to the Elim-wide call to consecration.

From the 20th of October we embarked upon a series called 'Bible Shaped & Counter-Cultural' in which we tackled many of the subjects that churches can often find difficult to talk about. After a break for our Christmas activities, this continued into January with a few weeks of answering questions that folks had been invited to submitted on any subject. This was a very challenging series to study and prepare the talks for but proved rewarding and may be something to revisit in the future. In the meantime, those talks are still available on our website if you are interested in hearing them.

On 2nd February I gave a talk entitled 'Lean in to The Lord in 2025' - a message I feel we may need to dwell upon and respond to further individually and corporately as the end of this calendar year draws near.

We had a number of 'one-off' talks over the following weeks until we started our ongoing 'Delving into the Psalms' series on the 23rd March this year. How wonderfully rich, challenging and encouraging we have found this wisdom book of the Bible to be! Over the summer holidays, during our All Age Celebrations, we took an in-depth look at Psalm 100 and saw again just how wonderful each verse of God's Word is.

Interspersed among the teaching series' we have journeyed through, we have had a number individual talks, including those from visiting speakers, Maldwyn Jones and Siân Rees, who both also spoke in our Gwasanaeth Cymraeg (Welsh Language Service) in the afternoon.

Audio recordings of our sermons and their corresponding slides and YouTube videos of our services are available on our website. The sermons are also available on Spotify along with Apple and Android's podcast services. Thank you to David Gregory for updating these.

Thank you to Chris Stewart for organising and editing our video notices which have kept us informed and updated in an entertaining and engaging way... it is so good to see so many different people 'on the screen' reading the notices. If you would like to do this, we would like to hear from you!

We love to hear stories of what God has done in people's lives and one way we do this is through '2 Minute Testimonies' in our Sunday Celebrations. If you would like to do one of these, please let me know.

We continue to livestream our 10:45 services via YouTube with many finding this helpful if they cannot attend or in order to catch up or recap later. Thank you to our visual and sound technicians for your effort in making this happen.

The 9am meeting has a slightly different style and feel to the 10:45 but with the same talk and most of the same key content. It is not the preference for everyone but if you've never been then maybe you could consider coming along occasionally!

PRAYER

I was recently reflecting on having once heard someone suggest you can read the 'temperature' of a church by seeing the prayer meeting as its thermometer. My reflection led to the thought that it is actually more important than that and that the prayer meeting is more like the thermostat (setting the temperature) than the thermometer (reading the temperature). We cannot hope for anything we do to thrive for the Kingdom of God unless prayer is at the heart of it.

Whilst our Tuesday morning prayer hour is not at the ideal time for those who are at work during the day, it is an absolutely pivotal part of church life. This meeting was running before I arrived in 2012 and a number of people have faithfully met in this meeting week after week to pray for our church and for the Kingdom of God to be seen on earth. At times over the years there have been a small handful of people, at the moment there are typically around 10-20 people. Only God truly knows the true impact of these prayers and I am

so grateful for these people and their commitment and desire to join together in worship and prayer in this way.

Our children's ministry launched an online Thursday morning prayer meeting during this year and continue to host several prayer meetings through the year to pray specifically for our children, local schools and our children's ministries. Please take the opportunity to join in with these if and when you are able.

We take time to pray and fast together each year during 'NO-vember' and as we are look to make some significant decisions and changes at this time, we want to be very intentional about this. If you have not already done so, please ask the Lord to lead you into how to engage with this during this month.

Our monthly prayer focus subjects through this year have been as follows;

'Middle East Conflict'
 'NO-vember'
 'Christmas Events'
 'The Elim Movement Time of Consecration'
 'The Aberystwyth University Christian Union Events Week'
 'Wales, Gwasanaeth Cymraeg and Ysgol Penweddig CU'
 'Aberystwyth'
 'Elim, The NLT, Leaders Summit, and Steve Ball (Regional Leader)'
 'The Persecuted Church Worldwide'
 'The NHS and Bronglais Hospital'
 'Families'
 'New Building Breakthrough'

Please email the church if there is anything you would like us to pray for.

CONNECT GROUPS

These are midweek small groups with four key priorities - connecting with each other as family, connecting with God in worship, God connecting with us through the truth of the Bible and connecting with our local community with the Gospel.

The groups continue to grow and develop and we have launched a successful new online group led by David Fardouly. Thank you to him and to our other leaders (Edore and Vera Akpokodje, Seth and Rosemary Brown, Jonathan and Sharon King, Marvin and Folashola Sinclair, Louise and I) for your dedication and commitment.

Three years ago the leaders of our daytime group relocated unexpectedly and suddenly. I asked Seth and Rosemary Brown if they might be willing to take the lead for the group on a temporary basis. Well... here we are three years later and they have selflessly and faithfully continued to lead the group, for which we are truly grateful. In the next few months Seth and Rosemary will be relocating and I am very pleased to say that the daytime group will be continuing with Jim Rollinson having agreed to take the lead.

Please be praying for all the groups and their leaders and if you are not yet in a group then now is a good time to join! They are vital for anyone who is part of our church and an absolute must for those involved in any leadership or ministry role within Elim Aberystwyth.

LEADERSHIP TEAM

The Leadership Team exists to provide prayer-fuelled spiritual oversight and vision for the church; seeking the Lord together and discussing how we feel He is leading us forward. We meet early every Friday morning via Zoom and I am extremely grateful for the accountability and support of this team: Chris Stewart, Edore Akpokodje, Sharon King, David Fardouly and Jonathan King.

SESSION TEAM

The 'Church Session' meet quarterly to provide practical and financial guidance and accountability in supporting the Leadership Team to help fulfil our purposes as a church. The team currently comprises of myself, our elders as mentioned above and Alistair Thompson, Louise Maylor-Pridmore, 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.

"Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will." (Romans 12:2)

COMMUNICATIONS & MEDIA

We have continued to communicate online via the website, social media, ChurchSuite and via notices and video/live notices during our services.

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 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.

MISSIONS GIVING

Each year we invest a portion of our income in international, national and local Gospel-hearted initiatives. This year we were able to support the following people or projects:

- Sarah Dorman in her work for Serving in Mission
- Dan Luxton as a UCCF staff worker in Cardiff
- Lena Sherwood as she goes to serve overseas in Africa
- Care for the Family
- Christians Against Poverty
- Open Doors (serving the persecuted church worldwide)
- The Well (community project based at St Michael's Church)
- New Wine Cymru (networking and equipping churches and leaders across Wales)
- Lena, Claire and Gabrielle on their trip to Eastern Europe

MUSIC TEAM

Our musicians have a heart to worship in Spirit and in Truth and dedicate time to personal practice, attending team rehearsals and arriving early for meetings in order to be ready to serve the church in helping us express our praise and worship to God in song. If you have musical gifting and a desire to serve in this areas, please let me know.

BAPTISMS

This year we have been privileged to witness a number of water baptisms. Dan Graison, Estela Boho Riopo, Rhodri Francis, Joanna Graison and Sophia Manss have all been baptised and it has been a joy to hear their testimonies. If you are a follower of Jesus and have not yet been baptised by full immersion, please speak to me - perhaps it is your time to do so!

CLEANING TEAM

We have a small team of volunteers for this vital ministry who weekly ensure our premises are prepared for our activities. We take turns to clean key areas of the building and there is always opportunity for more people to join and share in this team.

WIDER MINISTRY

I am privileged to continue as a core leader of Elim's national worship initiative, Elim Sound, taking part in events, song writing, recording and other activities. I also continue to contribute to the Elim Wales Regional Team representing Mid-Wales and serve as a regional leader for the New Wine Cymru network in Mid-Wales alongside Jon Butler. I have spoken for the Aberystwyth University Christian Union and on a Sunday at Westbury Baptist Church in Bristol and at Machynlleth Community Church.

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

LOOKING AHEAD

The year ahead is one of faith-filled investment for us - financially and in other ways. We are looking to invest in a new meeting space, to employ someone to help our logistics, to invest in overseas mission, to improve our discipleship pathway and to continue growing in kingdom strength and depth in all that we do. Let us be ever united in prayer and purpose as we embrace what The Lord has for us as a church in this next season.

ADDITIONAL REPORTS

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES (CHRIS STEWART)

The organised provision for children in Elim Aberystwyth is split into four major age categories each with the same core value: supporting parents (the children's primary spiritual carers) to raise Kingdom kids who know Kingdom lives.

- Crèche 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;
- and Youth is for children in secondary school.

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 are regularly trained on safeguarding matters and other relevant topics. Once again it was lovely to start our academic year with training at Limitless Oxygen, one of the four events that make up the "limitless year"; Followed by our inaugural trip to Limitless Leaders [a residential training for children and youth workers], Limitless One [a national evening of worship and teaching] and finally in the summer: Limitless Festival - all of which we plan to attend again this year.

We are committed to praying for and with all our young people: This year we continued our pattern of having a prayer meeting every half term, twinning some of these with special events on Shrove Tuesday [Prayer and Pancakes] and All Saints' Eve [Light the Night]. This year we have also started a Thursday Morning Prayer meeting at 7:30am. If you would like to join us for any of these or commit to praying for our young people, we would love to enable you in this.

It was also so great to support the public declaration of our young people in their baptisms this year.

We are always looking for more volunteers and youth-helpers, if you wish to be involved, do talk to the leaders.

CRÈCHE

The Crèche meet on the first Sunday of each month with songs, stories and craft for the children and provides an opportunity for parents to return to the service if they wish.

On the other weeks of the month the Crèche room is open for parents with young children to use, complete with a live stream of the service. Parents have appreciated the space.

We have had a consistent number of children and parents attending the staffed crèche and want to praise God for His provision of new leaders.

Our vision remains to increase our provision to at least twice a month and then hopefully every week. In order to do this, we need more helpers. If you think you could be involved (even once a month) please get in contact.

A typical staffed crèche starts off with a song, then a short interactive story then a craft or hands-on activity which relates to the story..

Seedlings & Planted

Seedlings and Planted meet as one group at the beginning of their session to enjoy a game, worship song and "The Big Idea" (an illustration about the session's main theme) they then split into the two groups so they can receive age-appropriate teaching.

This year we have looked at God and us, Jesus' Parables, and it was so exciting to end the year with the Lightbringers series - the children's version of Freedom in Christ.

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

ROOTED / ELIM ABER YOUTH: MONDAY AND FRIDAY NIGHT YOUTH CLUBS (CHRIS STEWART)

Our youth programme is for children of secondary school age and is currently organised into: Rooted [Sunday mornings], Monday Night Youth [Monday Nights], and Elim Aber Youth Group [Friday Nights]

Rooted meet every other week throughout term time and have looked at the example of Jesus and how we are called to act justly.



Monday night youth continues to look through the book Incomparable by Andrew Wilson a book I would recommended to everyone who wants to know more about God in bite-sized, easily-readable sections.



Elim Aber Youth Club had a year full of activities, including, a Christmas party, making ice-cream, Games Evenings, Photo Scavenger Hunt, Making our own Cream tea (from scratch), a Chip Survey. Our term culminated in a school leavers' evening marking the beginning of the next stage of life for a number of our young people where they learned about money management, life skills and keeping our faith strong as independent people during the next stage of their lives.

As previously mentioned, we also joined our Elim Limitless family at Limitless One, an evening of entertainment and worship in Cwmbrân, and took our largest group to date to Limitless Festival, 5 days camping with youth from all over the UK, (and beyond) - an amazing time of camping, half-mashed mash, mafia, worship, laser tag, breakthrough and fellowship.

Please continue to pray for our youth as they grow that they would grow in the knowledge of, and in relationship with, their heavenly Father.

YOUNG ADULTS (YOUNG ADULTS TEAM)

The bi-weekly Sunday evening meeting for young adults have continued this year. It is for those who are in the age bracket of 6th Form to 30ish. These evenings have taken a laid back format with talks by guest speakers from the church, discussion time, testimonies and tea and toast.

The team leading and organising this is Zach and Del Matthews, Sarah Farrow and Sian Smith with support from Chris, Louise and Joel. Developing and expanding this leadership team has been greatly beneficial and a joy to see people growing in their roles.

The discussion times we had, have sparked great Christ-centred conversation, and a space for the young adults to grow and develop in faith.

We're grateful to all the speakers who come and share, teach and explore with us. Over the last year we've covered: prayer (why pray, how to pray), unity in community, God's attributes. As well as a few prayer and praise nights.

It's been great to see students willing and stepping up into roles to help facilitate these evenings; hosting, leading sung worship, praying and sharing testimonies.

We are also looking to grow and expand the team going forwards, so please pray that the LORD would light the way to the people he might call to join.

GWASANAETH CYMRAEG

Our Welsh language service takes place on the second Sunday of each month at 5pm and the meeting is largely overseen by Jon. and Sharon King, David Gregory and Chris Stewart. Guest speakers this year have included Maldwyn Jones and Siân Rees.

It is fantastic to have established this meeting over the past eighteen months and we are very grateful to all who have contributed. Our desire is that this will grow in being a strong influential blessing and gospel witness to the Welsh speaking community in our locality and beyond.

FREEDOM IN CHRIST (JON. & SHARON KING)

We were able to host a Freedom in Christ course during the autumn months of 2024 with about 30 people regularly attending. We hope to run one again when circumstances allow.

HEALING ON THE STREETS & PRAYER SPACE (EDORE AKPOKODJE)

HOTS is one of the ways we reach out to the lost and hurting on the streets of Aberystwyth. We meet every second Sunday of the month at the Owain Glyndwr Square (opposite Barclays Bank) in the town centre between 2 and 3 pm to reach out to and pray for people. We have met with people on the streets who have various concerns, ranging from a desire to know God to family problems, relationship problems, and health problems. We have offered God's wisdom and love to them by listening to them, having healthy conversations about God, Salvation, healing, and praying for them.

We have numerous testimonies of people who have been touched by God on the streets. One of the people we met on the streets gave her life to Christ, got freed from several addictions and is now a thriving member of the Church.

We recently launched Prayer Space. Here, we provide an opportunity for people in the community and our Church to be prayed for in a quiet, Spirit-filled environment. We meet every last Sunday of the month between 1 and 3 pm in the Boat room (in the Church basement facing the harbour). Everyone is welcome. We also have a Prayer Box behind the Church for people to put in their prayer requests.

We operate a rota system so that each member only needs to attend HOTS and/or Prayer Space once a month.

If you are interested in joining, please contact me or Pastor Joel.

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 building then please let me know. Also please let me know if you would like to help with some of the ad hoc jobs that need doing. Our most recent job was securing one of the toilets to the floor! We will be arranging another 'Love The House' day when we tackle a variety of painting, cleaning, fixing and weeding jobs.

STEWARDSHIP / WELCOME TEAM (MARION DENSHAM)

I'd like to thank our great team of stewards for their loyalty and commitment over this last year - Alistair, Folashola, John, Lena and Martin. They have worked so hard to provide not only a warm welcome to our growing church family and visitors, but also with other duties each Sunday at our services. They have often gone out of their way in serving, or filling in at short notice. Special thanks to Lena (now left us) who additionally served for many of the 9am services. Also to others who have recently stepped in. We welcome back Blessings this term.

It's a joy to welcome all, being mindful of our role of 'first impressions'. Seating everyone continues to be a challenge at times, many thanks to those who have willingly stood at the back. (There is always room at the 9am service.) It would help us if folk could move up to leave empty seats at the edges of rows. We are around at the back for any eventuality.

The team is somewhat stretched at present, especially with the 2 services continuing. We would really appreciate offers of help, do let us know if you are interested.

MULTIMEDIA TEAM

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 visuals team consists of a number of people who facilitate the morning celebrations, young adult services and Gwasanaethau Cymraeg by providing lyrics for the sung worship, sermon slides 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. We have a committed and well-trained team. We continue with our video notices, a more streamlined way of presenting what is happening in the church - thanks to all who have read our notices.

Our livestream continues to bless many people: students who are home, people who are away, those who are ill, or those involved in other ministries on a Sunday (children's minis-

tries especially) - we have on average 104 people watching each week, which is again an increase on last year.

[At time of writing we are looking to purchase a new computer to keep our system in line with the technical demand]

If you would like to have a go or know more about getting involved, please get in contact.

AUDIO TEAM (RICHARD JENSEN)

A big thank you to our dedicated audio team for their service this past year: Joshua, Terry, Osian, Alex, Munashe, and Jon. Providing a good sound is a vital part of our worship in church as well as for those joining us online. Thank you for your commitment and skill!

As always, it would be great to have more people join us. It isn't complicated (it's mostly switching things on or off and moving the sliders on an iPad!) but you need to have an ear for it. If you feel that you could serve in this way then please do get in touch.

We want the sound to be the best that it can be, not for our glory but to help us as a church glorify the One to whom all praise is due. "May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ." Romans 15:5,6

ELIM WOMEN'S MINISTRY (FOLASHOLA SINCLAIR)

We are deeply grateful to God as we celebrate 11 months of the Elim Women's Ministry... what began as a vision in the hearts of many women in our church became a reality in January 2025, when we officially launched with our first Afternoon Tea event.

Over the past months, we've been blessed to successfully hold a variety of events, including a Worship Night and a Fitness and Fun Day. Each event allowing us to create beautiful opportunities for fellowship, connection, and spiritual growth.

With an upcoming Spa Day, we will have an exciting opportunity to connect on a deeper, more personal level while resting and reflecting together.

As a ministry, our aim is to be spiritually strong and steadfast women of God. Growing together in unity, building one another up, and influencing others positively through our words, actions and testimonies. We plan to host three main events each year, designed to encourage and empower women in their walk with Christ.

Looking ahead, we are excited for the many opportunities to come that will continue to help cultivate closeness, connection, and community within the women's group.

The committee are deeply grateful for the generous donations made to the Elim Women's Ministry fund, which enable us to continue being a blessing to others. Thank you to everyone who has given and supported the ministry so faithfully.

Our prayer is that God will continue to use this ministry as a vessel of His love to bless others, strengthen women in faith, and draw more souls to His Kingdom.

SAFEGUARDING

If you have any safeguarding issues, please contact safeguarding@elimaberystwyth.com

The current Safeguarding team consists of:

- Sharon King - Safeguarding Coordinator
- Louise Maylor-Pridmore - Deputy Safeguarding Coordinator
- Chris Stewart - Deputy Safeguarding Coordinator and Deputy Recruiter
- Jon. King - Lead Recruiter*

The team exists to protect children, vulnerable adults and our workers. All our team members who work with children and youth or vulnerable adults are required to have a valid police check (DBS).

The Elim movement are undergoing some significant changes in the safeguarding department, including the appointment of regional safeguarding officers who will be able to give increased advice and support across our regional networks.

This year we will be making changes to our safeguarding and recruitment team. If you are passionate about these areas and would like more information about the role(s), please get in touch.

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 year

GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATIONS / GDPR (JON. KING)

The Elim Aberystwyth Data Protection Policy is available on the website or you can request a copy by emailing info@elimaberystwyth.com.

We subscribe to ChurchSuite to process and handle church family personal details. We communicate through this software so if you  ChurchSuite 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 the information they choose to be shared)...a bit like a family address book!

FINANCE REPORT (GRAISON JOHN)

REVIEW OF THE YEAR (ROUNDED FIGURES)

The net income for the year is a surplus of £17,790 (2024: £20,101 surplus). This surplus financial position is largely due to the increase in the church income which is the result of the increase in the number of members joining the church. Our church's 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! **And Thank God for He has again been FAITHFUL throughout the year!**

The total income for the year, including the giving towards the designated projects (Restricted funds) increased to £99,355 (2024: £88,824), an increase by 12%.

(Restricted funds are designated funds for specific projects like Building Fund, Women's and Men's Ministry, Mission Globes etc. All collections and expenses made towards these specific projects are allocated to 'Restricted funds').

Our income has been maintained by an increased use of digital donation options namely through on-line transfer, GIVT (an app-based facility). Also, during our Sunday services we have basket (offering) collection for anyone who wants to give by cash or by cheque.

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

During the year our total expenditure for the year increased to £81,565 (2024: £68,723), an increase of 19%. On adding the bank balance brought forward at the beginning of the year, the balance carried forward on 30th September 2025, after allowing for amounts owed to and by the church is **£63,753** (2024: £45,963).

Income Summary

The main source of the church's income is from voluntary giving (Offerings, Gifts and Gift Aid donations) by the members and friends of the church. We are extremely grateful to them whose faithful support has generated the most income for the church.

This year, our total income has increased to £99,355 (2024: £88,824), an increase of 12%, reflecting a sincere commitment shown by the members and friends of the church. We do not take your faithfulness and generosity for granted. Total income of £99,355 includes income towards restricted funds such as – Jubilee Warehouse £481; Women's Ministry £1,605; Men's Ministry £1,500, Mission Globes £392, Limitless £1,479, Elim Football £176; Building fund £600. Also, received a one-off grant of £450 from Elim HQ toward the repairs of the building done in previous years.

Our Gift aid offering has increased by 15% to £45,538 (2024: £39,609) but the General offering decreased slightly to £37,233 (2024: £37,668) mainly because more members are now opting for Gift Aid donations. The amount of TAX recovered during the year increased in line with the increase in Gift aid offering to £13,186 (2024: £10,326).

Expenditure Summary

The total expenditure for the year increased to £81,565 (2024: £68,723), an increase by 19%. This total includes the expenditure of £2,392 (2024: £1,075) on Restricted project such as Limitless £1,299; Jubilee Warehouse £481; Women's ministry £612.

The total General church expenditure (without "Missions payments" and "Restricted funds") increased by 19% to £71,206 (2024: £59,874) which includes a general provision of £5,500 made for the payment of electricity charges. We are waiting for the actual invoice as there is an issue with the electric meter. The rest of the increase is in line with the increase in inflation and the activity.

The Ministry Expenditure totalled £49,257 (2024: £46,287), an increase of 6%. In Ministry Expenditure, other than remuneration paid to our pastor, includes, the money being spent on the ministry areas.

As part of the 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 £7,673 (2024: 6,631). 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 loc-

"Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will." (Romans 12:2)

al, regional, national and international organisations or individuals involved in advancing the Kingdom of God (Missions Payment). For the year ending 30th September 2025, a provision of £7,967 (2024: £7,774) is made in the accounts which is to be paid in next year.

Looking to the Future

Considering current economic conditions with rising inflation due to high cost of food and energy, to maintain our accounts at the current level, the church needs to keep its voluntary giving income at the current level. This is before considering the significant sums that may be necessary to invest in specific ministry developments and building as we move forward. 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 £13,186 (2024: £10,326) in returned tax from HMRC. 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's. ***If you are a UK taxpayer, then you can increase your giving by 25% simply by filling a Gift Aid declaration form.*** Please contact Alistair Thompson or me for more details or you can also write to finance@elimaberystwyth.com.

There is a cash balance of **£63,753** (2024: £45,963) carried forward on 30th September 2025.

Our God has been faithful in the past. Let's put our hope in Him and continue to do the good work that he has entrusted us (church).

Year End Accounts 2024-25									
REVENUE SUMMARY (£)		Current Year			Previous Year			CHANGE	
		Oct 24 - Sept 25			Oct 23 - Sept 24				
		General Funds	Restricted Funds	TOTAL	General Funds	Restricted Funds	TOTAL	Including Restricted Funds	
INCOME									
A	CHURCH INCOME	General	34,128	3,105	37,233	37,668		37,668	-435 -1%
		Gift Aid	45,538		45,538	38,609	1,000	39,609	5,929 15%
		Rebate	13,186		13,186	10,326		10,326	2,860 28%
		Elim Grants	450		450			0	450
B	MISSIONS INCOME			392		146	146	246	168%
C	YOUTH INCOME			1,299		898	898	401	45%
D	ACTIVITIES INCOME			657		177	177	480	271%
E	OTHER INCOME - BUILDING FUND			600			0	600	
	TOTAL INCOME		93,301	6,053	99,354	86,603	2,221	88,824	10,531 12%
EXPENDITURE									
F	MINISTRY EXPENDITURE		48,645	612	49,257	46,287		46,287	-2,969 -6%
G	MISSIONS PAYMENTS		7,967		7,967	7,774		7,774	-192 -2%
H	YOUTH ACTIVITIES		1,095	1,299	2,394	626	898	1,524	-870 -57%
I	CHURCH OVERHEADS		12,839		12,839	5,289		5,289	-7,549 -143%
J	MONTHLY RETURN - HQ		7,673		7,673	6,631		6,631	-1,042 -16%
K	ACTIVITY EXPENDITURE			481	481	140	177	317	-164
L	MANAGEMENT EXPENDITURE		955		955	901		901	-55 -6%
	TOTAL EXPENDITURE		79,173	2,392	81,565	67,648	1,075	68,723	-12,842 -19%
M	SURPLUS / (- DEFICIT)		FOR THE YEAR		17,790	FOR THE YEAR		20,101	-2,311
			Bal brought forward		Bal carried forward	Bal brought forward		Bal carried forward	
N	CLOSING NET BANK BALANCES		45,963		63,752	25,862		45,963	