

Blackburn Community Church

Report and Accounts

Year ended 31 December 2024

Stewardship 
Active generosity

1 Lamb's Passage, London EC1Y 8AB
www.stewardship.org.uk

BLACKBURN COMMUNITY CHURCH
LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

WORKING NAME OF THE CHARITY	Community Church Blackburn
ADDRESS FOR CORRESPONDENCE	Wesley Hall Feilden Street Blackburn BB2 1LQ
CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER	1041251
GOVERNING DOCUMENT	Declaration of Trust dated 12 September 1994 amended by supplemental deeds in 2001.
TRUSTEES	Gina Berry - Treasurer and Acting Chair Sylvanus Bowlin Miriam Hamilton Alison Hammerton (appointed February 2024) Corlia Gent (appointed February 2024) Geoffrey Shanks (resigned February 2024) Angela Shanks (resigned February 2024)
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER	Archie McDowall BA CA Stewardship 1 Lamb's Passage LONDON EC1Y 8AB

INDEX

Legal and Administrative Details	1
Report of the Trustees	2 - 4
Independent Examiner's Report	5
Receipts and Payments Account	6
Statement of Assets and Liabilities	7
Notes to the Accounts	8

BLACKBURN COMMUNITY CHURCH
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

The Trustees have pleasure in submitting the Report and Accounts for the year.

Objects of the Charity

The primary objective of the Trust is the advancement of the Christian religion. This objective is met through the weekly services held locally at the Wesley Hall in Blackburn. The church also supports mission and relief activities in the UK and overseas.

Our Mission

Community Church Blackburn exists to see lives transformed through the love of Jesus. Our mission is simple and enduring:

Loving God, Loving People, Building God's Kingdom.

Governance

The policy and operating decisions of the charity rest with the Trustees who meet regularly to monitor the activities of the charity.

New Trustees are appointed by the existing Trustees.

Activities and achievements in 2024

Despite facing significant changes in leadership, Community Church Blackburn continued to carry out its mission through a range of worship services, ministries, and community initiatives.

Key Worship Services and Events

- Weekly Sunday worship services with Bible teaching and worship.
- Easter and Christmas outreach services open to the wider community.
- Regular prayer meetings and small group gatherings.

Attendance and Membership

Average weekly attendance remained relatively stable at around 50 people, despite the transition in leadership.

Leadership Transitions

In September 2024, Stephen Norcross (former pastor) left the church. In December 2024, we welcomed a new Pastor, Simon Gimeno, and a new Administrator, Kirsty Gimeno, to join the leadership of the church.

In planning the activities the Trustees have applied the guidance on public benefit issued by the Charity Commission.

Financial Review

A summary of our financial position for 2024 is as follows:

- Total income: £48,921 (2023: £69,707)
Primary sources: Tithes, offerings, and individual donations.
- Total expenditure: £50,085 (2023: £78,294)
Major areas: Staff salaries, building rental costs, outreach ministry expenses.
- Net deficit: £1,164 (2023: £8,587)

Reserves Policy

The Trustees aim to hold unrestricted cash of no less than £20,000 (2023:£24,000), which equates to about 4 month's usual unrestricted expenditure, so that the charity could continue to operate should income and / or expenditure vary adversely. At the year end the charity held unrestricted cash of £25,312 (2023: £28,317). The Trustees are satisfied that the financial resources of the charity are being managed prudently and in line with its objectives.

Property and Assets

Community Church Blackburn does not currently own any property. We continue to rent and meet at Wesley Hall, Fielden Street, Blackburn, BB2 1LQ, which remains suitable for our worship and community activities.

- No major renovations or asset purchases were made in 2024.

Risk Management

The Trustees actively monitor and review potential risks and take steps to mitigate them where appropriate.

Safeguarding

We maintain up-to-date safeguarding policies, and all staff and volunteers working with children and vulnerable adults are DBS-checked and appropriately trained. A designated Safeguarding Lead is in place and attends regular training.

Health & Safety

Health and safety policies are reviewed annually. Regular checks are made to ensure our venue remains compliant with safety regulations.

Insurance

Adequate insurance is in place to cover public liability, employer's liability, and relevant property-related risks.

Looking Ahead to 2025

Plans and Goals

Despite the leadership transitions in 2024, the Trustees remain committed to the vision and mission of the church. Key goals for 2025 include:

- Supporting the continued integration of new church leadership.
- Strengthening community outreach and discipleship programmes.
- Encouraging member engagement and volunteer participation.

Challenges

The resignation of the previous church leader in September 2024 brought a period of change and uncertainty. However, the leadership team, Trustees, and church community have remained unified. The appointment of new leadership has been a positive and hopeful development as we move forward.

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

Charity law requires us as Trustees to prepare financial statements for each accounting year which record the receipts and payments of the charity for the year.

We are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable us to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011.

We also have a responsibility to safeguard the assets of the charity and to take reasonable steps to prevent fraud or any other irregularities.

Approval

This report was approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf by:

Gina Berry

[Gina Berry \(Oct 29, 2025 14:17:13 GMT\)](#)

Gina Berry - Treasurer and Acting Chair

Date: Oct 29, 2025

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
TO THE TRUSTEES OF BLACKBURN COMMUNITY CHURCH**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Blackburn Community Church (the charity) for the year ended 31 December 2024 on pages 6 to 8 following.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Archie McDowall
Archie McDowall (Oct 29, 2025 16:01:31 GMT)

Archie McDowall BA CA
Stewardship
1 Lamb's Passage
LONDON
EC1Y 8AB

Date: Oct 29, 2025

BLACKBURN COMMUNITY CHURCH
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Receipts					
<i>Voluntary receipts</i>					
Gifts and offerings		36,904	50	36,954	50,673
Grants		-	-	-	474
Gift aid tax recovered		8,909	-	8,909	11,919
		<u>45,813</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>45,863</u>	<u>63,066</u>
<i>Other receipts</i>					
Income from events including NewDay		158	-	158	4,475
Refunds		573	-	573	-
Bank interest		486	1,842	2,328	2,167
Total receipts		<u>47,030</u>	<u>1,892</u>	<u>48,921</u>	<u>69,707</u>
Payments					
<i>Payments in furtherance of the church's objectives</i>					
Premises	2	10,896	-	10,896	12,450
Ministry	3	30,682	-	30,682	49,694
Grants paid	4	4,920	50	4,970	6,139
Office and other expenses	5	3,537	-	3,537	3,333
		<u>50,035</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>50,085</u>	<u>71,615</u>
Purchase of fixed assets (a marquee)	D	-	-	-	6,679
Total payments		<u>50,035</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>50,085</u>	<u>78,294</u>
Net (payments)/receipts before transfers		(3,005)	1,842	(1,164)	(8,587)
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		<u>(3,005)</u>	<u>1,842</u>	<u>(1,164)</u>	<u>(8,587)</u>
Cash funds at 1 January		28,317	105,003	133,320	141,907
Cash funds at 31 December	A	<u>25,312</u>	<u>106,845</u>	<u>132,157</u>	<u>133,320</u>

The notes on page 8 form part of these accounts.

BLACKBURN COMMUNITY CHURCH
STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2024 £	2023 £
A Cash funds				
Cash at bank	25,312	106,845	132,157	133,320
	<u>25,312</u>	<u>106,845</u>	<u>132,157</u>	<u>133,320</u>
B Other monetary assets				
Gift aid due	-	-	-	413
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>413</u>
C Liabilities				
Accounts preparation and examination fees	1,140	-	1,140	1,116
Payroll creditors	-	-	-	455
	<u>1,140</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,140</u>	<u>1,571</u>

D Assets retained for charity's own use

	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost	Current Value
Marquee tent purchased in 2023	Unrestricted	<u>6,679</u>	<u>5,250</u>

The current value of the marquee has been estimated by the trustees. The charity also owns and insures some other items of moveable equipment used in its meetings. These assets belong to unrestricted funds and the market value of these assets at the year end is not significant.

The accounts were approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf by:

Gina Berry
[Gina Berry \(Oct 29, 2025 14:17:13 GMT\)](#)
 Gina Berry - Chair

Oct 29, 2025

Date

The notes on page 8 form part of these accounts.

BLACKBURN COMMUNITY CHURCH
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

1 Accounting policies

The accounts have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis and comprise a statement that shows the charity's receipts and payments, a statement that summarises the charity's assets and liabilities and related notes. The accountancy profession have determined that only accounts prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards present a 'true and fair' view and, as these receipts and payments accounts have not (and cannot) be prepared in accordance with accounting standards, these accounts do not present (and are not intended to present) a 'true and fair' view of the charity's financial activities and state of affairs.

Unrestricted funds are funds which are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity. Restricted funds are donations which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors; they include donations received from appeals for specific activities or projects.

	General Fund £	Restricted Fund £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
2 Premises				
Rent	8,146	-	8,146	10,197
Equipment	1,988	-	1,988	1,572
Insurance	762	-	762	680
	<u>10,896</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>10,896</u>	<u>12,450</u>
3 Ministry				
Employment costs	25,914	-	25,914	29,843
Staff expenses including travel	260	-	260	632
Children's and youth work including New Day event	774	-	774	11,068
Training	95	-	95	1,875
Outreach	306	-	306	1,972
Website and internet	647	-	647	909
Worship and PA costs	844	-	844	1,130
Gifts to visiting speakers	900	-	900	435
Other meeting costs including catering	942	-	942	1,829
	<u>30,682</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>30,682</u>	<u>49,694</u>
4 Grants paid				
Grants to Kairos Housing after it became an independent charity	-	50	50	-
Other grants made to help relieve poverty	2,600	-	2,600	3,728
Gifts to support UK and overseas mission	2,320	-	2,320	2,411
	<u>4,920</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>4,970</u>	<u>6,139</u>
5 Office and other expenses				
Independent examiner's fee for preparing and examining the accounts	1,116	-	1,116	1,080
Other professional services	986	-	986	1,093
Other costs	1,435	-	1,435	1,160
	<u>3,537</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,537</u>	<u>3,333</u>
6 Restricted funds				
	At 1.1.24 £	Receipts £	Payments £	Transfers £
Building fund	105,003	1,842	-	-
Kairos housing fund	-	50	(50)	-
	<u>105,003</u>	<u>1,892</u>	<u>(50)</u>	<u>-</u>
			<u>-</u>	<u>106,845</u>

The restricted **Building fund** was created from donations given to help the charity secure suitable premises.

The restricted **Kairos housing fund** has been created from donations and grants received towards providing housing for asylum seekers and refugees.