

Church Ablaze

England & Wales · Charity number 1051958

Details

Other names BATLEY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Status Registered

Legal form Other

Registered 1996-01-15

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address Church Ablaze
88 Wellington Street
Batley
WF17 5QL

Phone 07940 988427

Email sarahrenton57@gmail.com

Activities

Objects: THE OBJECTS OF THE CHURCH ARE FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PUBLIC:A) TO ADVANCE THE CHRISTIAN FAITH IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE STATEMENT IN SUCH WAYS AND IN SUCH PARTS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OR THE WORLD AS THE CHURCH COUNCIL FROM TIME TO TIME MAY THINK FIT;B) TO RELIEVE SICKNESS AND FINANCIAL HARDSHIP AND TO PROMOTE AND PRESERVE GOOD HEALTH BY THE PROVISION OF FUNDS, GOODS OR SERVICES OF ANY KIND INCLUDING THROUGH THE PROVISION OF COUNSELLING AND SUPPORT IN SUCH PARTS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OR THE WORLD AS THE CHURCH COUNCIL FROM TIME TO TIME THINK FIT; ANDC) TO ADVANCE EDUCATION IN SUCH WAYS AND IN SUCH PARTS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OR THE WORLD AS THE CHURCH COUNCIL FROM TIME TO TIME MAY THINK FIT.

Activities: We are a Church who gathers together to worship God, preach the word of God, and reach out into the community around us with the love of God.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Services
- **What:** Religious Activities
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** IN PRACTICE BATLEY
- Bradford City
- Calderdale
- City Of Wakefield
- Kirklees
- Leeds City

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£57,301	£27,904	-	-
2024-03-31	£34,974	£32,164	-	-
2023-03-31	£18,029	£29,314	-	-
2022-03-31	£20,396	£11,441	-	-
2021-03-31	£15,278	£16,888	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Janet Mountain		2025-02-12
Luke Crompton		2023-08-21
Sarah Jayne Renton		2023-08-13

Church Ablaze

England & Wales - Charity number 1051958

Accounts

CHURCH
ABLAZE
PENTECOSTAL CHURCH



Annual General Meeting

Annual Report & Financial Statements

1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025

Church Ablaze
88 Wellington Street, Batley, WF17 5QL
Charity Number 1051958
Pastor Sarah Renton

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Annual Reports & Financial Statements

1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025

Church Ablaze, 88 Wellington Street, Batley, WF17 5QL

Registered Charity Number 1051958

Trustees' report for the year ended 31st March 2025

Reference and Administrative Information

Charity Name: Church Ablaze

Charity Number: 1051958 Registered in England and Wales on 15th January 1996

Governance

Constitution and trust deed adopted 12th April 2007 as amended on 1st August 2023

Principal address

88 Wellington Street, Batley, WF17 5QL

Trustees

Sarah J Renton

Luke Crompton

Janet Mountain Appointed 12th February 2025

Treasurer

Nicola Baldwin

Independent examiner

E A Malko

Bank

Virgin Money
46 Market Place
Dewsbury
WF13 1DN

Church Ablaze
88 Wellington Street, Batley, WF17 5QL
Charity no. 1051958
Pastor Sarah Renton

Objectives and Activities

The objectives of the church are for the benefit of the public;

- a) To advance the Christian faith in accordance with the statement in such ways and in such parts of the United Kingdom or the world as the Church Council from time to time will see fit
- b) To relieve sickness and financial hardship and to promote and preserve good health by the provision of funds, goods and services of any kind including through the provision of counselling and support in such parts of the United Kingdom or the world as the Church Council from time to time think fit.
- c) To advance education in such ways and in such parts of the United Kingdom or the world as the Church Council from time to time may think fit.

The charity's main activities;

We are a Church who gather together to worship God, preach the word of God, and reach out into the community around us with the love of God.

Public benefit statement

In setting our objectives and planning our activities our trustees have given serious consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit.

Achievements and performance

In the year ending 31st March 2025 the church continues to be a well-used and important resource for the local community. A full weekly schedule is in place creating a vibrant and busy location providing crucial day to day support for many local people.

Financial review

The net expenditure for the year was £27,904 including net expenditure of £27,384 on unrestricted funds and net expenditure of £520 on restricted funds.

Risk Management

The board have identified the major risks and keep their mitigation policy under regular review.

Reserves policy

The charity's free reserves at the year-end were £40,683
The trustees will aim to hold free reserves of 3 to 6 months total expenditure.

Signed on behalf of the board of trustees:

Signed:



Luke Crompton - Trustee

Date: 09/01/25

Church Ablaze
88 Wellington Street, Batley, WF17 5QL
Charity no. 1051958
Pastor Sarah Renton

Church Ablaze

Independent examiner's report to the Trustees

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2025

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act. In carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 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 respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act.
- 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 to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:



Printed name: E A Malko

Dated: 2nd September 2025


Church Ablaze

Total Receipts & Payments Account for the year ended 31/03/25

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Previous year
Receipts				
Church offerings	26523	0	26523	21445
Grants	0	0	0	0
Activities	0	0	0	0
Venue Hire	9425	0	9425	8700
Donation	21300	0	21300	0
Other Income	53	0	53	4829
Total receipts	57301	0	57301	34974
Payments				
Minister	18668	0	18668	18868
Ministry Expenses	1263	0	1263	762
Utilities	4159	0	4159	5921
Premises costs	1438	0	1438	1002
Assemblies of God Subscriptions	730	0	730	555
Resources	0	0	0	696
Development	0	520	520	0
Church maintainance	0	0	0	0
Transport	0	0	0	0
Events	158	0	158	92
Catering	153	0	153	143
Bank charges	220	0	220	215
Other expenditure	375	0	375	3702
Printing Postage Stationery	74	0	74	63
Easy Worship Subscriptions	149	0	149	145
Total payments	27384	520	27904	32164
Net receipts / (payments)	29917	-520	29397	2810
Balance brought forward	10766	3634	14400	22877
Balance carried forward	40683	3114	43797	25687

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on

Signed by



Luke Crompton - Trustee

Date 09/01/25

Funding accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity.

Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the donor.

Trustee expenses

No trustee received any expenses for being a Trustee during this year or the previous year

Trustee remuneration and benefits

One trustee received a remuneration of £18,668.20 to act as Minister of the church



Pastors Annual Report for April 2024 to March 2025

The first few months into this financial year were challenging due to fellow pastor of Wakefield New Life and trustee of Church Ablaze, recovering from a serious illness. I am pleased to report that he made a full recovery, which we thank God for. In the interim (along with the help and support of others) I served as pastor for both churches. God was very gracious throughout this time and we praise God for Lukes recovery and return to ministry.

AOG Events

- **National Conference – 100 Years of AOG**

This year marked 100 years of AOG as a movement and it was the theme celebrated at the ministers national annual aog Conference. It was a time of inspiration, and impartation with international speakers Bishop Tudor Bismark and Russel Evans. Our national leader Glyn Barrett brought a dynamic word that was both encouraging yet challenging.

- **AOG - Hub Gatherings Hub, Zone & Area Days**

Throughout the year pastors from across our region in the North, West and East areas of Yorkshire gathered for fellowship, food and on occasions to pray at our Hub gatherings.

There were also Zone gatherings with teaching from leaders Ben & Gale Dowding.

Area days where pastors and their teams come together for teaching led by national leaders. It has been good for those who serve in leadership to attend these events, and for them to connect with people from across our region.

- **3D National Missions Summit**

I along with 3 church members from both Batley and Wakefield churches attended the annual missions conference in Lancashire. The theme was 'Activate' and we were invited to the table to:

'Awaken' the spirit of adventure in us, to 'Unleash' the passion for mission, to 'Ignite' an unstoppable fire to reach the lost, to 'Wrestle' through the obstacles and challenges which hinder us, to 'Grasp' the amazing opportunities in this time we live, and to 'Live' continually to fulfil the Great Commission.

It was very good. We must never forget the call 'To know Jesus, and to make Him known.'

Church Ministry

Sundays

- **Worship**

We know that worship isn't for the congregation, it is for God. However, through our times of praise and worship many people experience God's tangible presence and encounter God in personal ways. We are blessed to have an anointed worship leader in Steve Lloyd. We continue to set aside the first Sunday of the month for evenings of praise & worship in our 'Dwell' services, where we minister to God and create space for Him. Often Holy Spirit moves and gifts of the Spirit are given and released.

- **Preaching**

'**The Anointing Oil**' - Beginning in May I began a new preaching series entitled 'The Anointing Oil.' The series consisted of the following 5 sermons – 'Little Anointed Ones', 'Oil of Refreshing', 'Oil of Healing',

'Oil of Provision' and 'Fresh Oil.' They were powerful, encouraging yet challenging words that I believe God really impacted the Church through.

The Power of Unity – Following on from the above series, the scripture in Psalm 133:1-2 naturally took us into our next preaching series, speaking on the importance of unity within the body of Christ, and the power that it has.

These teaching series laid some good foundations for the year ahead.

Following the preaching of the Word we always give the opportunity for people to respond to God's Word, and for ministry and prayer. We have seen many individuals healed, set free and come to faith in Jesus' mighty name!

Guest Speakers

Over the course of the year, we were blessed in having several guest speakers come minister and speak into the life of the church. Being connected to New Life Church in Wakefield, it is always a pleasure to have Pastors Luke Crompton and Henry Drabble come to speak.

A good friend of Church Ablaze is Pastor Johnny Haigh of Elim Pentecostal Church in Sowerby Bridge. He came and brought great words of wisdom to us through his teaching.

As a pastor it is always a joy to mentor, equip and release people into works of service for the Lord. One of our church members prepared and preached her first sermon at Church Ablaze, and with her passion and enthusiasm she did a wonderful job in delivering what God had laid on her heart.

- **Revival Nights**

As a church we have a heart and passion for revival, and to see the body of Christ living in the fullness of all that Christ has given us – and to release God's Kingdom into the world around us.

I recognise the importance of creating space to invite anointed and seasoned Apostles, Prophets, Pastors, Teachers and Evangelists to speak into the life of the Church.

In June Prophet Michael Livengood from New Zealand joined us, and in November Evangelist Andrew Murray of Generation Builders Ministries was with us. These were both wonderful nights as Holy Spirit moved amongst us.

- **Evangelistic Nights**

In early November Evangelist Barry Woodward joined us. Barry shared his story of how God transformed and changed his life, setting him free from a life of drug addiction and crime.

'Bring & Share' nights were held at various times, these were evenings of sharing food, fellowship and stories of God's goodness. We also held services called '**This is my Story**' where invited people shared their story of how they came to faith in Jesus. These were evangelistic events for church members to bring their unsaved family and friends to a relaxed friendly setting.

- **Capernwray Bible Students**

It was a joy to have students from Capernwray Bible College join us in March. Two of the team shared their stories of how they came to faith. They spoke extremely well, were very open and transparent.

- **Missions Night**

Church members Carolyn & David Voice have a real heart and passion for missions and reaching the lost with the good news of Jesus Christ. They have served on various missionary trips both in the UK and abroad. When they expressed their desire to go on a short-term mission trip to Uganda, we were happy to support them in this. On returning they shared their adventures with the church.

- **'Audience of 1' youth band**

Youth band 'AO1' (Audience of 1) from fellow Church 'New Life' Wakefield joined us and led an evening of praise and worship. The congregation embraced them and we had a fabulous night.

Mid-Week Ministry

Prayer

Mid-week prayer meetings were held in the Church building, initially on Wednesday evenings. As the year progressed, we felt challenged to increase our corporate prayer gatherings to include both a morning and evening meeting. Wednesday became our day of prayer, holding prayer meetings at 7am and 7pm. For those unable to attend in person, some joined via phone.

We are delighted to say that we had to change our days of prayer to Mondays, and for all the right reasons as this made way for us to hold further midweek meetings and ministries.

Discipleship

On Wednesday the 12th of March 2025 we began our 'Discipleship Teaching Program.'

The program consists of 3 courses aimed at believers of various levels of spiritual maturity, but who have been a Christian for at least a year. The first of these courses is called 'Firm Foundations' which explores the fundamentals of the Christian faith. The aim of the course is to give believers firm foundations on which to build their Christian lives. I was encouraged at the positive response from the church, with 15 church members signing up to take part. I am looking forward to seeing how this will develop and grow.

BCOC

We have the great privilege that our building is used by 'Batley Community Outreach,' a charity primarily made up of Christian volunteers and workers, some of whom are key members of Church Ablaze. Through their hard work and commitment people of the local community can come into a safe and warm space, where they can meet with others.

On a Tuesday lunch is provided and clients take part in games.

On Friday mornings a breakfast is available, after which clients can stay and later have lunch that consists of a hot meal and a pudding. Most weeks there are groceries which they can take home. On a Friday there is a worker available to assist clients if they are in need of help and advice, be it with housing, bills etc.

On a Wednesday afternoon a lady's craft group is run. This offers a great environment where women from different backgrounds come together with the common interest of crafting.

All the workers and volunteers do an amazing job in reaching people of the local community with God's love in a very practical and hands on way.

On the 20th of December our workers and team of volunteers put on a Christmas meal for the clients. We served over 70 3 course meals over 2 settings, and gave food and gifts for clients to take home. The team do a fabulous job! It was a great success.

Events

- **Ecumenical Meetings / Churches Together**

I am pleased to say that a little momentum is beginning to build between the Christian ministers in town from across various denominations. We endeavour to meet every 6 to eight weeks to share lunch, have fellowship and to pray. Whilst this is not always possible, we have succeeded in working together on some key events in the Christian calendar.

Songs of Praise

On April the 24th several churches took part in a 'Songs of Praise' meeting held at St Thomas' church in Upper Batley.

Good Friday Service

For the second-year we held a joint Good Friday Service at Central Methodist Church. I am delighted that our worship leader was able to take part in leading one section of the praise and worship. It was a well-balanced service that incorporated the various styles of worship and forms of liturgy from across the denominations – with all ministers taking part.

- **Easter**

We had a fabulous and well attended Easter Sunday Service. Celebrating Jesus, and preaching on the 'Resurrection Power of God.'

- **Pentecost**

We had a powerful night celebrating Pentecost Sunday and hearing how God desires us to be 'Spiritual Dynamo's' for Him.

- **Christmas**

It was a busy time in the run up to December and throughout as we endeavoured to reach out to the people of our community with the true meaning of Christmas. Our theme was 'There is no CHRISTMAS without Christ.'

Christmas Light Switch On

In November a wonderful door of opportunity opened, when I received an invitation to share a 5-minute Christmas Message at the Batley Christmas light switch on event. I seized the opportunity, and with hundreds of people from the local community being present I was able to share a simple Christmas gospel message. Various members of the church were present to support, hand out flyers and also managed to chat with local residents. We believe seeds were sown.

Community Carol Singing

On the 8th of December we went out into the community carol singing. We were delighted to visit 'Linson Court Care Home.' The residents and staff really enjoyed the time we shared with them. It was a real blessing being able to chat and pray with them. Following this, carols were sang around Central Estate, a housing estate situated next to the Church. We distributed flyers with our Christmas service times, and prayed.

Contemporary Christmas

On the 15th of December we held a Contemporary Christmas service with a mix of old and new carols. We were thrilled to have people from the various outreach groups join us.

Carols by Candlelight

Over 100 candles lit up the Church Hall on the 22nd of December in our Carols by Candlelight service. Christmas Bible readings were interspersed with traditional carols. The message answered the question posed to the congregation, 'CHRIST-mas, what is it really all about?' It was a clear gospel message sharing the truth of what Christmas really is about.

Thanks & Celebration

Our last service in December was a 'Bring & Share.' Sharing a meal and sharing testimonies of God's faithfulness to us over 2024. It was good to look back and remember all that God has done, but also to look forward with hope and expectation as to what God is going to do in 2025.

Other Business

- **New Trustee**

I am pleased to say that a new trustee of the church has been appointed. Janet Mountain who is a lay preacher currently serving in the Anglican church, she has been known to me for many years.

Before retiring Janet had a successful career working in the NHS in various administrative roles, before going on to be an operations manager.

Janet has served on the boards of various charities and ministries. With her knowledge, skills, and experience across many fields, I believe she will be a real asset to both the church and board of trustees.

- **Building Works**

Prior to my appointment to the church some funding was given for the purpose of making the building both usable and accessible to those with disabilities. Previous building plans had been drawn up (before our involvement) and planning permission given, however we discovered they had expired, and were also no longer suitable for what we currently need.

We are pleased to say that new architecture plans have now been drawn up with the view of having a disabled ramp built outside, and disabled toilets and a storage room inside. We have approached a building company who are happy to do the work and we are awaiting their quotes.

- **Donations**

The Church has been extremely blessed this year in receiving two donations.

A very generous donation of £20,550 was given from the Gospel Hall Trust who have sown into the Church for many years.

A donation of £750 was given to the church in memory of Joyce Kidd, who was a beloved supporter and a regular attender of the church prior to becoming poorly. We were deeply saddened when Joyce passed away, and we remember her with great fondness. As the church is currently without a lectern we will look at using the donation to buy one, something which I know Joyce would have greatly approved of.

Summary

Overall, we had a very good year. God has blessed us and we have seen Him move in many ways. We have known His favour, His grace, His faithfulness, His power, His provision, and His glory. Ministry both in the church and in the community has expanded. Souls have been saved; people have been healed and set free – and we give God all the glory for everything He has done, and all that He will continue to do.

Church Ablaze

England & Wales - Charity number 1051958

Accounts

AGM

Annual General Meeting

Annual Report & Financial Statements

1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024

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Annual Reports & Financial Statements

Period 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024

Church Ablaze, 88 Wellington Street, Batley, WF17 5QL

Registered Charity Number - 1051958

Church Ablaze

Charity number 1051958

Annual Report and Financial Statement

For the year ended 31st March 2024

Church Ablaze

Trustees' report for the year ended 31st March 2024

Reference and administrative details of the charity, its trustees, and advisors

The trustees during the financial year and up to and including the date the report was approved were:

Name

Kevin Foster – resigned 21st August 2023
Luke Crompton – appointed 21st August 2023
Sarah Renton – appointed 13th August 2023

Charity number 1051958

Registered in England and Wales

Principal address

88 Wellington Street
Batley
WF17 5QL

Bankers

Virgin Money
46 Market Place
Dewsbury
WF13 1DN

Independent examiner: E A Malko

Registration history: registered 15th January 1996

Method of recruitment and appointment of trustees.

The trustees of the charity are appointed by the members at the AGM.

Objectives and Activities

The objects of the church are for the benefit of the public

- a) To advance the Christian faith in accordance with the statement in such ways and in such parts of the United Kingdom or the world as the Church Council from time to time will see fit
- b) To relieve sickness and financial hardship and to promote and preserve good health by the provision of funds, goods and services of any kind including through the provision of counselling and support in such parts of the United Kingdom or the world as the Church Council from time to time think fit.
- c) To advance education in such ways and in such parts of the United Kingdom or the world as the Church Council from time to time may think fit.

The charity's main activities.

We are a Church who gathers together to worship God, preach the word of God, and reach out into the community around us with the love of God.

Public benefit statement

In setting our objectives and planning our activities our trustees have given serious consideration to the charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit.

Achievements and performance

The year ending 31st March 2024 the church continues to be a well-used and important resource for the local community. A full weekly schedule is in place creating a vibrant and busy location providing crucial day to day support for many local people.

Financial review

The net expenditure for the year was £32,164 including net expenditure of £31,901 on unrestricted funds and net expenditure of £263 on restricted funds.

Risk Management

The board have identified the major risks and keep their mitigation policy under regular review.

Reserves policy

The charity's free reserves at the year-end were £10,766.

The trustees will aim to hold free reserves of 3 to 6 months total expenditure.

Signed on behalf of the board of trustees

Signature.



Printed name: Luke Crompton, Trustee

Date: 22/11/24

Church Ablaze

Independent examiner's report to the Trustees

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2024

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act. In carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 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 respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act.
- 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 to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:



Printed name: E A Malko

Dated: 4th October 2024

Total Receipts & Payments Account for the year ended 31/03/24				
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Previous year
Receipts				
Church offerings	21445	0	21445	9520
Grants	0	0	0	0
Activities	0	0	0	0
Venue Hire	8700	0	8700	7150
Donation	0	0	0	0
Other Income	4829	0	4829	1359
Total receipts	34974	0	34974	18029
Payments				
Minister	18868	0	18868	16852
Ministry Expenses	762	0	762	744
Utilities	5921	0	5921	3140
Premises costs	1002	0	1002	6528
Assemblies of God Subscriptions	555	0	555	480
Resources	636	60	696	97
Development	0	0	0	0
Church maintainance	0	0	0	0
Transport	0	0	0	0
Events	92	0	92	497
Other	143	0	143	250
Bank charges	215	0	215	173
Other expenditure	3702	0	3702	554
Printing Postage Stationery	63	0	63	0
Easy Worship Subscriptions	145	0	145	
Total payments	32104	60	32164	29314
Net receipts / (payments)	2869	-60	2809	-11285
Balance brought forward	8090	3501	11592	22877
Balance carried forward	10959	3441	14401	11592
Made up of:				
Current account	14401			
	14401			

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 22/11/2024

Signature:



Printed name: Luke Crompton, Trustee

Date: 22/11/24 2024

Funding accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity.

Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the donor.

Trustee expenses

No trustee received any expenses for being a Trustee during this year or the previous year

Trustee remuneration and benefits

One trustee received a remuneration of £18,867.68 to act as Minister of the church



Pastor's Annual Report- April 2023 to 31st of March 2024

1st Year Anniversary – What a wonderful evening it was on the 30th of April when we celebrated the 1st Year Anniversary of the Church becoming Church Ablaze. In the service various church members shared testimonies and the evening was finished off with the surprise of an awesome cake specially made for the occasion.

With the support of Pastor Kevin Foster, Pastor Luke Crompton and New Life Church in Wakefield, we were able to re-establish the AoG Church in Batley. It's been a year of spiritually rebuilding the foundations of the Church – and numerically it has grown from being a Church of just 4 members (prior to our stepping in) to having 30 people most weeks in regular attendance, although in the winter months we have seen these numbers drop due to the dark nights.

Kings Coronation- At the beginning of May it was the Coronation of King Charles, and whilst we prayed for our new King, it was also an opportunity for us to reflect and focus on the Sovereignty of God and King Jesus- Looking at the various royal objects and emblems used in the Coronation, and their biblical significance to King Jesus.

- **AOG Events**

Annual Conference 2023 – During the first week of May it was the National Assemblies of God Conference in Harrogate. There were a few changes to the National Leadership team, with new leaders and departments being established. It was a valuable time away, and the preaching and teaching seminars were excellent, and God confirmed several things for me regarding Church Ablaze, and so I look forward to seeing what God is going to do as the vision and ministry for Church Ablaze unfolds and expands.

Equipping Day - AOG held an equipping day where our National leaders endeavoured to address some of the challenging issues facing the Church today, giving guidance as to where AOG stand on these topics- which is of course in line with Biblical scripture.

Hub, Zone & Area Days – AOG hold various days throughout the year for Pastors and their Church leaders to meet relationally, and to be equipped through teaching and ministry. It has been good for those who serve in leadership to attend these events, and for them to connect with people across our region.

3D Missions Conference – In October 2023 it was the 3D Missions Conference in Birmingham. Each Church is encouraged to have its very own 3D Missions Champion, someone who has a heart and passion for mission both overseas and in the backyard of their local Church. As Church Ablaze is still relatively young, we have yet to find the right individual to take up this post, but until that time I will stand in the gap. It was an inspiring and challenging conference.

- **Church Ministry**

Sunday Services - We continue to hold our Sunday services in the evening at 5pm. We are blessed in that those from New Life Church who initially chose to support the work at Batley continue to do so, and several other people have now joined us.

We are blessed that God's tangible presence is with us in our services, many people encountering Jesus and their lives being touched. We give God all the glory for what He is doing amongst us.

Worship - We are blessed to have such a gifted and anointed worship leader Steve Lloyd who leads the congregation into some wonderful times of praise and worship.

Dwell Nights - The first Sunday of the month we dedicate the whole service to ministering to the Lord in worship. This gives the Church the opportunity to seek God and to dwell in His presence.

Steve primarily leads 'Dwell' along with myself. These are extended evenings of worship that give room for people to encounter God. Holy Spirit leads us into times of intercession, prayer and ministry.

This year Steve gave the opportunity for other musicians and singers to join him on these evenings and I am delighted to say that one of our Church members Carolyn Voice now sings alongside Steve. We are also joined by fellow musicians and singers from 'New Life' on occasions which is not only a pleasure, but a real blessing.

Preaching

The primary focus initially was preaching the gospel, and when teaching we always ensure that room is made to share the gospel when visitors have joined us. Following the preaching of God's Word, we always allow time for ministry and prayer.

Guest Speakers- We have been blessed to have various guests join us over the year from other ministries and churches; Evangelist Andrew Murray of Generation Builders, Evangelist Barry Woodward of Proclaim Trust, Pastor Johnny Haigh from Sowerby Bridge Elim Church, Jamie and Christine Tonge and of course Pastor Kevin Foster and Luke Crompton from New Life Church Wakefield – who are very much a part of the Church and regularly minister and bring God's Word.

Capernwray Team - In February we were blessed to have a team of Bible students from Capernwray join us. 4 students shared their testimonies, and it was so good to hear what God is doing in their lives. There was a great atmosphere as people from both churches gathered to support them.

Bring & Share Evenings - This year we held 'Bring & Share' evenings, informal nights of sharing food & testimonies together. These were well attended and great evenings of fellowship and encouraging one another in the Lord.

This is my Story – Are evangelistic evenings where an invited guest or member of the Church shares their story of how they came to faith in Jesus, and how Jesus changed and transformed their lives. These have been powerful evenings, and evenings where church members are encouraged to bring unsaved family and friends.

- **Midweek Ministry**

Prayer- Throughout the year we have held regular times of Prayer. For many months we held days of prayer on Wednesdays, having early morning prayer meetings at 6am and evening prayer meetings at 7pm. These have grown in attendance, and we have seen many answers to our prayers.

Discipleship – In October 2023 following on from some evangelistic events we ran 'The Start Course'. This was a 6-week course that was put on for various clients that attend 'The Batley Community Outreach' which is held in the Church building. Sadly however, we found there were challenges when it came to people's commitment to the course. We will look at other avenues

of discipleship moving forward... but with the various evangelistic events that we have held we trust that seeds were sown, and people will come to full faith.

Batley Community Outreach Groups – Tuesday, Wednesday and Fridays are days when the Batley Community Outreach Groups run from the Church building. These are led by some key members of the church- Eileen Green and Denise Fotherby, with other members volunteering to help with the workload. These groups offer activities and hot cooked meals for people in the community. Eileen and Denise do a fantastic job in serving God and the community through these groups.

- **Easter**

Good Friday Service - I was invited to take part in an Ecumenical Good Friday service held at the Methodist Church and was delighted to accept the invitation. Several people from Church Ablaze attended, with others gathering from across the various Churches in the Batley area.

It was good to meet with fellow Ministers of the Town, and I was pleased to learn that they are open to doing more services together. It was also encouraging to learn that they have heard good things about Church Ablaze.

Ecumenical Ministers Lunch – Following on from the Easter Service myself and other ministers from the Town have begun meeting once a month together for lunch, to pray and to discuss avenues in which we can work together in the community.

- **Christmas Services**

Throughout the month of December, we held Christmas services.

Community Carol Singing- On the 10th of December, rather than having our Sunday evening service we took the opportunity to go out into the community and bless people by carol singing. It was a fantastic evening- Ethan and John Pearson played guitars whilst Kay led us. We had 300 flyers printed with details of our Christmas services to hand out and post through letter boxes. We focused on the area around church which is a housing estate, as well as singing in the Town Centre. It was a great atmosphere and start to the Christmas celebrations, and we had a few conversations with local people.

Contemporary Carol Service- On the 17th of December we had a Contemporary carol service with a mix of traditional and modern carols, goody bags and activity books were ready for any children who came. It was another great evening, traditional in style with carols interspersed with bible readings and 3 short sermons – various members of the church took part. The theme of the evening was ‘The King is Coming’ – focusing not only that Jesus came that first Christmas, but that He is coming again.

Carols by Candlelight Christmas Eve Service- Christmas eve was our candlelight service. Whilst some church members were unable to attend, we had plenty of visitors join us. The building looked beautiful with 100 candles lighting up the room.

New Years Eve Thanksgiving Service - New Years eve was a night of giving thanks to God for His goodness and faithfulness to us over this last year. I was amazed at how the church responded to this opportunity of glorifying God and sharing testimonies of His goodness. There was laughter and tears – and I was overwhelmed and humbled and felt so incredibly blessed to be working in this corner of God’s vineyard with such beautiful people.

Outreach Christmas Dinner - On Friday the 22nd of December it was the Outreach Christmas dinner. We had 2 sittings serving over 60 people a 3 course Christmas dinner. It was a great atmosphere; all the clients went away with bags of groceries and Christmas gifts.

- **Other Events**

Love Batley Valentines Day - Valentines Day was a great opportunity to get out into the community and share the love of God. Roses with Bible verses attached were given out to ladies in the Town Centre, whilst chocolates were given to men. We had a fabulous time sharing the love of God, had some great conversations, and were even able to pray with people.

Faith Leader Round Table – Throughout the year Local MP Kim Leadbeater continued to gather faith leaders from across her constituency, and when I was able I attended. These meetings were with a view of discussing local needs and issues in the community – and with the hope of finding ways in which to address them.

O2 Volunteers – We were blessed in having a group of volunteers from O2 come to help do some jobs. They tidied up the outside area, front and side garden, and also began some work in the office. They have been doing this for many years and their kindness and help is greatly appreciated.

Child & Adult Safeguarding Training - Various Child and Adult safeguarding Courses were run in the building, these were for the volunteers of the Batley Community Outreach Groups– but also other workers and leaders in the community who work with vulnerable people. The sessions were well attended.

Break in – On the 26th of June I received a phone call from a local lady who said it appeared the bottom panel of the Church doors had been broken. Sadly, on arriving at Church I discovered that the Church building had been broken into. The thief had caused a great deal of damage, also stealing tithes and offerings. Since that occasion the Church no longer leaves money on the premises.

Myself and our finance officer spent a great deal of time liaising with Police, insurance companies and with joiners etc. The doors at the time were secured, but it was many weeks before the doors were replaced and the damaged caused repaired.

Name Change Charity Commission - The Church name has been changed with the Charity Commission, along with all legal documents, bank accounts etc. The large front sign will also be changed in time.

Unforeseen circumstances - Sadly, at the end of February the Senior Pastor, Luke Crompton, of New Life Church and Trustee of Church Ablaze took seriously ill. At this time and throughout Luke's recovery I took on the role of Pastor in both churches. As you would expect this did have an impact on my time and what I was able to do at church Ablaze, however, I am grateful that everyone pulled together and also for Ministers such as Kevin Foster, Henry Drabble and Johnny Haigh who helped with preaching. I am pleased to say that in time Luke made a full recovery which we are thankful to God for.

Summary – Overall it has been a good year with many positive things to rejoice in and be thankful to God for – but as we do, we also recognise there is still much to be done if we are to continue to see the Church flourish, and to see the community impacted with the love of God. We pray – 'Lord let Your Kingdom come and Your will be done' in our community of Batley, Amen.