

**Annual Report for Blakelaw
Community Church presented at
the Annual General Meeting held
on 13th April 2025 - Charity
registration number 1203668**

**Address:
Blakelaw Community Church
Cragston Way
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE5 3SW**

Blakelaw Community Church AGM - 13th April 2025

Secretary's Report

The leadership team meets on Zoom regularly for fellowship and to conduct church business. We have held a retreat morning at the Shepherds Dene centre.

The final documentation for Blakelaw Community Church to become a CIO (Charitable Incorporated Organisation) was completed in October 2024.

Leadership Team

Elders:

Bolaji Ismail	Trustee
Mark Sharman	Trustee
Ken McKenzie	Trustee & Church Secretary

Deacons:

Theodora Ismail	Trustee
Jonathan Komba-Kpakoi	Trustee & Safeguarding Officer
Harry Lisgo	Trustee
Norma Lisgo	
Sandra Sharman	Trustee & Treasurer

In January 2025 we appointed Norma Lisgo as a Deacon.

Pastoral

Elderly or unwell members are visited. Although we do not have house groups each member of the leadership team maintains contact with a group of members.

We ensure that those who need it, have transport to and from church.

On the second and fourth Friday mornings of each month we have 'Warm Space' where anyone may come for refreshments and chat; this concludes with a short Bible study and prayer.

Worship and Preaching

Blakelaw Community Church continues to meet for Bible centred worship every Sunday at 11.00 am. Attendance varies between 20-30 adults and children. Bible teaching is planned and delivered by the Elders, with Deacons doing some preaching. Members of the leadership team and others assist in the leading of services.

During the past year we have welcomed guest preachers including Glenn Wanless a former pastor of Blakelaw Community Church, David and Wilma Lyttle - Mizpah Trust missionaries in Greece, Michael Bushby and Paul Gask from Christian Vision for Men.

We have had three baptisms in September 2024 and regularly welcome visitors.

In the future the Elders will continue prayerfully to prepare the content of teaching as they guide the spiritual direction of the church fellowship.

Music for services is led by a small team of musicians and singers. We use traditional hymns and contemporary songs, some composed specially for the church.

Holy Communion is held monthly, ministered by an Elder.

Children's Work

We are really blessed by the children in our church family. Numbers may be small, but we have a few teenagers and a Sunday school for mainly under-teens. They are a blessing to us in many services, singing songs and reading poems as well as sometimes helping to take the offering.

Prayer

Blakelaw Community Church continues to have a focus on prayer. Meetings are held midweek taking the form of a Bible study or prayer meeting.

There are also regular monthly evening prayer meetings on Zoom.

Evangelism

Blakelaw Community Church took part in the Explore project, which aimed to put a copy of the Gospel of Luke into the hands of every householder in Newcastle. A small team of members delivered a copy of "Explore" to most of the houses in our district. Some doorstep conversations were enjoyed and because of the scheme, people from the community have visited the church.

Very few households rejected the booklets.

Every Tuesday a dedicated team preaches and sings in Newcastle City centre frequently having meaningful conversations with members of the public. "Explore" booklets are handed out.

Other events over the past year

In December 2024 we held a Family Christmas Service followed by lunch and a traditional Carols by Candlelight Service followed by refreshments, which were both well attended.

Men's breakfast - In the Spring of 2025 we held a Men's breakfast with the guest speaker being Pastor John Webster of Vision Christian Fellowship based in Gateshead. It was a nice informal gathering.

Ladies lunch - A nice informal gathering was held in a member's home. We plan to continue this in the future.

Film night – This was for the children and young people in the church.

Future objectives

We continue to be passionate about evangelism and prayer. We want to increase the congregation and engage with the community. We hope to begin some work with children and teenagers. One of our deacons is working to begin a Saturday children's activity.

We will invite more guest preachers.

We will continue to develop our Sunday worship and the city centre evangelism.

Finance report

The following notes were used to explain the accounts.

Future expenses -	We will need to repair the roof which will be expensive. Children's work will require funding.
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NOTES ON UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS FOR BLAKELAW COMMUNITY CHURCH (CHARITY NUMBER 1203668)

1ST JANUARY 2024 – 31ST DECEMBER 2024

1. Accounts were prepared using a receipts and payments system.

2. During the year we opened two new bank accounts for Blakelaw Community Church CIO, – one of which is a savings account - transferring funds from any account associated with Blakelaw Community Church CUO or Blakelaw Evangelical Church to these new accounts.
3. **Income** received (excluding transfers) increased from £11,599.27 to £13,252.97 (14%). The biggest increase shown in FPI and cheque income. Gift Aid was also claimed, amounting to £512.51. Bank interest received was £198.92
4. **Expenditure** overall was £18,342.66, (excluding bank transfers) compared to £23,560.52 in 2023 (23% decrease)
5. Overseas expenditure
 - a. **Missionary giving** decreased because we stopped supporting Pioneers from July and are yet to appoint a new Mission to support.
 - b. The **Christmas 2024 offering** was shared equally between Operation Mobilisation, YWAM and TearFund.
6. Other expenditure
 - a. **Publicity** funded our participation in delivering Explore Books in the Blakelaw area and printing the banner and cards advertising Christmas 2024 services.
 - b. £1,935.96 was paid in **legal fees** as we continued the process of becoming a CIO. In 2023 we paid £2,927.98.
 - c. The **footpath** was extended (£3,960), **chairs** were refurbished (£630) and **ethernet cable** (£510) was installed.
 - d. **Electricity** payments were still high due to paying for electricity used in 2023 but they decreased by 33%.
7. Total of our **bank assets** on 31st December 2024 was £17,985.71 compared to £22,366.07 on 31st December 2023.

BLAKELAW COMMUNITY CHURCH 2024 ACCOUNTS – CHARITY NO. 1203668

BCC Bank Balance b/fwd 31/12/23	£1,674.84		BEC Bank Balance b/fwd 31/12/23	£562.50		BEC Bus bank Instant b/fwd/31/12/23	£20,128.7 3	
	2024	2023		2024	2023		2024	2023
INCOME:			INCOME:			INCOME:		
Cash Collections	6,469.12	6,440.94	Transfer from BEC Bus	10,000.00	0.00	Bank Interest	177.14	200.03
Cheques	3,054.85	1,622.30	Transfer from BEC Bus	1,040.87				
Standing Orders	1,200.00	1,200.00	HMRC Gift Aid	512.51				
FPI	1,223.60	657.15	Transfer from BEC Bus	3,197.90				
Rent	925.00	1,270.00						
Special Appeals	227.70	274.88						
Other	152.70	134.00						
Transfers into a/c	2,903.37	0.00						
TOTAL INCOME:	16,156.34	11,599.27	TOTAL INCOME:	14,751.28	0.00	TOTAL INCOME:	177.14	200.03
EXPENDITURE:	2024	2023	EXPENDITURE:	2024	2023	EXPENDITURE:	2024	2023
Missionary Giving	1,920.00	2,220.00	Transfer to BCC CIO a/c	562.50		Church: Improvements	3,960.00	2,640.00
FIEC	420.00	420.00	Transfer to BCC Savings a/c	10,000.00		Church: Publicity	0.00	240.00
Church: Insurance	1,007.57	989.02	Transfer to BCC CIO a/c	1,040.87		Church: PA	510.00	2,986.91
Church: Telephone	848.02	934.77	Transfer of Gift Aid	512.51		Legal Fees	895.09	0.00
Church: Electricity	4,440.92	6,669.00	Transfer to BCC Savings a/c	3,197.90		Transfer to BCC a/c electric	700.00	0.00
Church: Water	369.00	295.06	Legal Fees	0.00	450.00	Transfer to BEC a/c	10,000.00	0.00
Church: Housekeeping	600.00	680.00	Licences	0.00	169.00	Transfer to BEC a/c	4,238.77	0.00
Church: PA	0.00	0.00						
Church: Photocopier	0.00	0.00						
Church: Repairs	630.00	730.00	TOTAL EXPENDITURE:	15,313.78	619.00	TOTAL EXPENDITURE:	20,303.86	5,866.91
Fire Extinguisher	237.07	212.95						
Legal Fees (CIO)	1,040.87	2,477.98	BEC Balance at 31/10/24	0.00		BEC BBI Balance 11/11/24	2.01	
Licences	181.00	0.00						
Miscellaneous	156.74	431.41						
Pastoral Gift	40.00	0.00						
Postage	2.80	0.00						
Preaching Fees	220.00	0.00	INCOME:			EXPENDITURE:		
Publicity	223.97	175.00	Transfers from BEC a/c	10,000.00		Transfer to BCC CIO a/c	600.00	
Safeguarding	150.00	381.50	Transfers from BEC a/c	3,197.90				
Shepherds Dene	10.00	0.00	Gift Aid	512.51				
			Bank Interest	21.78				

SAVINGS ACCOUNT – BLAKELAW COMMUNITY CHURCH CIO

BLAKELAW COMMUNITY CHURCH 2024 ACCOUNTS – CHARITY NO. 1203668

Special Appeals	150.00	235.00						
Training	60.00	0.00						
Website	74.23	50.24						
Zoom	195.47	172.68						
TOTAL EXPENDITURE:	12,977.66	17,074.61	TOTAL INCOME:	13,732.19		TOTAL EXPENDITURE:	600.00	
BCC Bank Balance at 31/12/24	4,853.52		Savings – BCC Balance at 31/12/24	13,132.19				
TOTAL ASSETS 31/12/24	17,985.71							