Annual Report for Blakelaw Community Church presented at the Annual General Meeting held on 26th April 2026 – Charity registration number 1203668

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

Blakelaw Community Church
AGM – 26th April 2026

Secretary's Report

The leadership team meets on Zoom regularly for fellowship and to conduct church business.

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

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.
Anyone in hospital is visited.
Sadly, since last April we have lost David Mitchell, Walter and Ruth Brown and Peter Gooch but we rejoice that their race is run, and they are now with Christ in person.

Worship and Preaching

Blakelaw Community Church continues to meet for Bible centred worship every Sunday at 11.00 am. Attendance has dipped in recent months, and average attendance is between ten and twenty-five. 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 studied topics of discipleship including Philippians and at the time of writing we are working through Exodus.
The Indian fellowship 'Zealous for Jesus' has met on Christmas Day and Good Friday in the church.
We have had two baptisms in January 2026 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 a Sunday school meets most weeks although attendance varies. Children are encouraged to take part in all age services and special services. Our young people are a blessing to us, singing songs and reading poems as well as sometimes helping to take the offering.

A summer event with a play bus was held.
Over the Easter holidays and at various times a ‘Stay and Play’ event is run by volunteers under the guidance and direction of Jonathan Komba-Kpakoi.

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 have been some evening prayer meetings on Zoom.

Evangelism and Outreach
Blakelaw Community Church took part in the Explore project, delivering a copy of the Gospel according to Luke to most of the houses in our district. Some doorstep conversations were enjoyed and as a result 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 the city centre holding meaningful conversations with members of the public.
Harry has ‘Explore magazine’ to use in city.
We have completed our part in the delivery of Explore booklets in the Blakelaw area.

Other events over the past year
A traditional Carol Service was well attended. The worship team was enhanced by a trombone player who doubled on bass guitar.
On alternate Fridays the church holds ‘Warm Space’ which is well attended, and attendees enjoy refreshments, chat and an informal bible study and prayer time.

Plans for the future
To aim to increase Sunday attendance which has dropped off slightly in recent weeks.
To continue and expand on Children’s work.
To continue in-depth biblical teaching.
To work towards better security of the premises.
The leadership team are meeting with the leadership team of Gospel Community Church on Monday 27th April 2026. The purpose is to explore a number of possible options in working together and sharing.

Finance
We now have a new bank account. A treasurer’s report will be presented with full details including our financial support to missionaries.

Notes on Blakelaw Community Church Finances 2025

Thank you for your continuing commitment to supporting the work of Blakelaw Community Church during this last year.

Our main income is from voluntary donations received either weekly or monthly. During the year we received £11,666.31 in donations which averages at £972.19 per month. We also received a legacy of £500. £2,000 was transferred into the church's savings account to gain some interest.

Our expenditure, excluding this £2,000, was £10,565.96. Approximately 20% of our expenditure goes to supporting the C&MA(GB), FIEC, Mizpah Trust (David & Wylma Little), Bernard and Nada Mikulic in Croatia. We have not replaced our giving to Pioneers with an alternative Mission group. During the year we also gave money to Tear Fund, Reaper Ministries and Betel Ministries, as well as a gift to Mercy Ships.

Most of our expenses are incurred from paying utilities, insurance, telephone, keeping equipment safe, internet, approximately 48%.

We have spent about 8% of our expenditure on children's work, community work and evangelism. We donated £100 to Good News for the Explore booklets (Gospel of Luke), and we regularly donate for the Exploring Christianity booklets which are used in our City-Centre evangelism.

In the miscellaneous category, we bought a new lap-top in December for £682.27, which is being used for Sunday services.

Overall, we had a surplus of £2,640.85 income over expenditure, leaving £640.85 after making the bank transfer of £2,000.

Future:

If we want to support a paid worker in the future our regular donations will need to increase significantly, however, we have sufficient for the activities we are engaged in as a church at the moment.

BLAKELAW COMMUNITY CHURCH 2025 ACCOUNTS

BCC Bank Balance b/fwd 31/12/24	**4853.52**		**SAVINGS ACCOUNT - BALANCE B/FWD**	**13132.19**	
	2025	**2024**		**2025**	**2024**
INCOME:			**INCOME:**		
Cash collections	5694.31	6469.12	Bank Interest	111.48	21.78
Cheques	2920.00	3054.85	Transfer from BCC account	2000.00	
On line Standing Orders	2178.00	1200.00	Transfer from CUO accounts		13197.90
On line Bank Transfers	874.00	1223.60	Gift Aid		512.51
Rent	220.00	925.00			
Special Appeals	181.00	227.70			
Other	630.00	152.70			
Transfers into account	0.00	2903.37			
HMRC Gift Aid	509.50				
TOTAL INCOME:	**13206.81**	**16156.34**	**TOTAL INCOME:**	**2111.48**	**13732.19**
EXPENDITURE:	**2025**	**2024**		**2025**	**2024**
Missionary Giving	1720.00	1920.00	**EXPENDITURE:**		
FIEC	420.00	420.00		0.00	
BCC Childrens work	140.00		Transfer to BCC CIO account		600.00
BCC Community events	489.00				
Evangelism	210.00				
Church: Insurance	1032.28	1007.57			
Church: Telephone	704.84	848.02			
Church: Electricity	1200.00	4440.92			
Church: Water	351.64	369.00			
Church: Housekeeping	938.55	600.00			
Church:PA	31.96	0.00			
Church: Photocopier	0.00	0.00			
Church: Repairs	259.00	630.00	**TOTAL EXPENDITURE:**	**0.00**	**600.00**
Fire Extinguisher/Electrics testing	271.66	237.07			
Legal fees (CIO)	300.13	1040.87	**Savings Bank balance 31/12/2025**	**15243.67**	
Licences CCLI	189.00	181.00			

Miscellaneous	929.76	156.74
Pastoral Gift	80.00	40.00
Postage	0.00	2.80
Preaching Fee	150.00	220.00
Publicity	45.58	223.97
Safeguarding	242.50	150.00
Shepherds Dene	78.00	10.00
Special Appeals	396.20	150.00
Training	79.88	60.00
Transfer to Savings Account	2000.00	
Website	61.63	74.23
Zoom	195.48	195.47
AMAZON	48.87	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE:	**12565.96**	**12977.66**
SURPLUS	**640.85**	**3178.68**
BCC Bank Balance at 31/12/25	**5494.37**	
TOTAL ASSETS 31/12/25	**20738.04**	