

KBC Ministry Reports 2025



Introduction by David Scott on behalf of the Church Deacons:

At last year's AGM, Tim and Claudia announced that God had called them to move south to take up posts at Capernwray Bible School.

As we said farewell to the family on 8th February we were facing a time of uncertainty but were thanking God for His faithfulness to us in the past, and trusting Him for the future.

A year on, and we are now looking forward to welcoming our new Minister Rev Lewis Campbell together with his wife Rosie and their family, Talitha, Josiah and Daniel. Lewis accepted a call from the church earlier in November, and is expecting their move to Orkney to be in February next year.



Last year, Tim prayed that our church would be like a tree:

Standing tall year after year - staying strong though the winds blow; a sign of life for everyone to see.

Deeply rooted - rooted in the Word, rooted in the Spirit, rooted in prayer.

Constantly missional - seeking to grow and stretch outwards, seeing more people come to faith in Jesus; outward-looking rather than inward-focused.

Although an ongoing desire for the church, Tim's prayer has surely been answered over the course of the last year.

The church leadership has been much heartened by the way that members have responded in unity: to each other, and above all to God, in sharing in our ministry needs during the time of vacancy. Among the many tasks and challenges, the church has been blessed with a strong preaching team, working together in bringing the truth of God's Word to his people; for the vacancy committee in its prayerful consideration and decisions relating to candidates; to the prayer teams, Sunday School teachers and helpers; Worship leaders; and practical help to keep services and events running.

We are especially thankful for Fraser, our full-time worker, for his dedication to the youth work, camps, events, and evangelism.

We are also thankful for everyone involved in ministries within the church and in the community, for which we give an account in this document.

We give God all the glory as it is Him we serve.

"I pray that your love will overflow more and more, and that you will keep on growing in knowledge and understanding. For I want you to understand what really matters, so that you may live pure and blameless lives until the day of Christ's return. May you always be filled with the fruit of your salvation—the righteous character produced in your life by Jesus Christ—for this will bring much glory and praise to God."

(Philippians 1:9-11 NLT)

Alan, Rognvald, David, Donald, Fraser, Mark, & Daniel.

Crèche / Pre-School Sunday School report by Jane Scott:



This year the Sunday School has been busy as usual, although our busier areas this year have been in the creche with the under fives and our bible class, with both groups often filling their rooms and slightly smaller groups in the primary school age range. When counting up those who have attended regularly over the course of a year we had 54 in total.

We have been using the Biggest Story curriculum materials with the children, and Bible Class do their own adaptation on the same scripture passages.

Huge thanks to our 12 fantastic teachers and 24 helpers who give up their time to serve in this ministry, and thanks especially to Emma who sends us weekly rota reminders and Carol who has taken over copying the teaching notes, it really lightens the load for me!

We are so grateful to God for the blessing of having so many children and young folk come along, and ask for your continued prayers that they grow in their understanding of who God is, and that this develops into a personal relationship with Jesus.

Thanks for all your support, and God bless you big eens too!

Youth Work And Spring Camp Report by Fraser Scott:



It's been yet another exciting year for youth ministry at Kirkwall Baptist Church.

We've been holding our weekly meetings "Upper Room" which has enjoyed a new crowd of youth coming with the start of the new academic as well as youth inviting their friends along.

Over the last year we've done an overview of the Gospels, run a Youth Alpha Course using the newly updated materials, and are currently using the NUA material created by Scripture Union Ireland. We've also had guests visiting us to speak such as Ali Laing from the Baptist Union as well as a Q&A with Tim and Claudia before they left.

Attendance fluctuates depending on the week but we regularly see between 15 and 25 young folk coming along.

We continue to do worship each week and we've also invited guest worship leaders along, including Dave and Hannah Rendall from Life Church and our own Kate Brown.

After the summer, we also started a "Youth Band" which meets for an hour each week before Upper Room and has proven popular!

We've had a few extra activities such as Christmas Parties, a "Light Party" at Halloween, Outdoor Games and bonfires.

Additional Activities:

I am continuing with my Studies. This year I have completed a module on the subject of "Christian Communication in Contemporary Scotland" and am currently studying Hebrew.

We joined with several other churches in Orkney to run a 24/7 Prayer week in September.

I am now currently meeting with a Mentor, Paul Beautyman of Youth Work Journeys.

We've also run a few fundraisers with the youth including a ceilidh at the start of summer and a Soup Lunch for Magnitude.

Youth Camps Report by Fraser Scott



In March 2025 we took a small group of 3 leaders and 6 of our older youth to an event called The Send at Braehead Arena in Glasgow. A day of worship, teaching and prayer with 3,000 people. We also were able to visit our friends at Perth Baptist Church while we were south. In April 2025 we had our annual Spring Camp. It was a smaller camp this year with around 12 kids camping and a few more joining us during the day. We were blessed to have Ali Laing join us who taught on the subject of being Ambassadors for Christ. We are currently in talks to have a group from Shetland join us for the camp in 2026. In July 2025, 27 of us travelled to Lendrick Muir in Fife for Magnitude. A 5-day Christian Youth Festival. It was an exciting and powerful time with many of the youth encountering God in a personal way. We also had the privilege of travelling with a group from Lerwick Baptist who were going to Magnitude for the first time.

Most recently, we just had our annual trip to Westray with around 30 in attendance including leaders. We stayed

in Westray Baptist Church and used teaching materials created by Shine Films on the subject of Hope. We also helped with their service on Sunday leading the sung worship, teaching, prayers and children's address

Plans are underway for next year's camps, teaching at Upper Room and I am also planning a trip to Aviemore for a youth leaders retreat held by Christ In Youth.

I am also hoping to go to the National Youth Ministry Weekend in Birmingham in November 2026.

Asha Report by Mike & Rosey Whittles



Sponsorship

In our work in Asha we continue to support some 60 sponsored students in Bangladesh, including 12 girls in College and 6 in University. This work is overseen by Selina, an ex-Asha pupil, who also now works at Grace International Christian School as a Classroom Assistant and is herself in her second year of a part-time English degree course. Selina has also just had her 3rd baby- but she thrives on a busy lifestyle!



Selina and her 3 daughters

We try to give extra financial help to students and their families when they need it, but particularly to the older students with their extra admission and exam costs and any necessary health care - which their families are quite unable to provide. Our oldest girls also get monthly payments from us for visiting and checking our younger students and some of them take on extra paid tuitions in their spare time.

Our older students are particularly dedicated to their studies and, with our help, most are continuing really well. We are particularly pleased with the progress of Murium who is now training in the Dhaka Eye Hospital and studying part-time towards her degree in Ophthalmology - as well as caring for parents who have many health problems and two younger siblings.



Murium

Mim is another special student, just beginning her first year in university yet totally dedicated to her work for us among the younger students.



Mim

Hardly a week goes by without her alerting me to problems - and possible

solutions! - amongst the sponsored group she watches over, and she loves to help whenever she can. Both of these girls come from extremely poor homes.

Health and epidemics

This last year mosquito-borne Dengue fever and Chikungunya virus have been rife in Dhaka where all our students live, and so many students and families have had these serious illnesses to deal with. We are familiar with Dengue and there is always a rise in infections during the monsoon season. This year however, has been much worse than usual and accompanied by a surge in Chikungunya - which we had never actually heard of before. This latter disease produces distressing and painful symptoms of swollen faces and feet, plus severe joint pains. Some sufferers found that they could not walk for many days, even after the disease seemed to have passed. Older people in particular have had acute and long-lasting symptoms. We had to help many families to manage medical care and expenses during this difficult period.



Sokina with Chikungunya

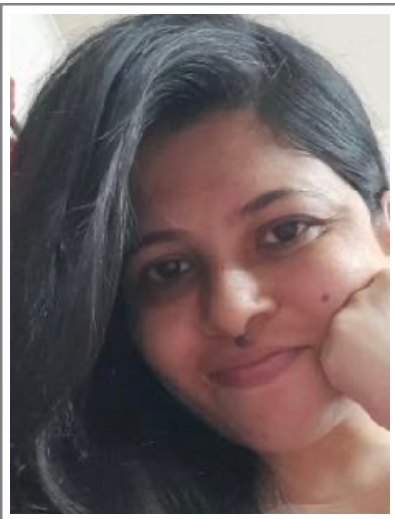
Hoglakhandi village school

We now have no school in Dhaka city and instead concentrate on sponsoring students into different local schools. But we do have a small school in Hoglakhandi village to the west of the city.



Hoglakhandi school girls

This school for local village children is organised by another ex-Asha pupil, Shahana, who gained a Master's degree in Business Studies at the American University.



Shahana

She has always had a desire to help children in her home village and now runs her own small school of 24 pupils (mostly girls) beside her parent's home in the village.

The children are taught daily and fed regularly - and they love coming to school!

We are also helping Shahana to build her own small house beside her parents, incorporating a schoolroom. Bangladesh village life is not easy for an educated - and unmarried - young woman and this will give her somewhere secure and independent to live.

Help and guidance to ex-Asha girls and staff

We have never been typical, distant providers but very much hands-on - Papa and Mum - whether in Bangladesh or here in the UK!

We still spend much time helping and advising ex-pupils. It never seems possible to leave them behind! And since life in Bangladesh doesn't get easier - yet modern communications do - we have regular contact with many of them. Sometimes, especially for the many who have lost parents early, it is for love, advice and encouragement. At times it is for practical help through emergencies or illness.

Handwork



We continue to request occasional handwork from our older working group girls, most of whom have now found other jobs, but who welcome the extra income. This helps them and enables us to have sales to raise money. Just now we are receiving parcels of new work that will be on sale at our Christmas Bazaar on the 22nd of November.

Specific ongoing needs

Martha and Dolly, two of our first teachers and organisers of Rosey Foundation craft group, both now have severe health problems. We have given much help to them and to their wider family in their recent times of need.



Dolly, Martha & brother Babul

Ex-pupil Maksuda still helps us to care for Abu Bokor who was born with cerebral palsy to Ruma one of our early Asha girls. Maks takes him for weekly physio sessions. He will never walk but his life is so much better than it could ever have been without us. Maksuda herself had a major ear operation when we were last in Bangladesh and may need a second operation on our next visit.

We have helped our old cook and Asha worker, Rangit and his family through the year with his hospital bills and living expenses after leg amputation due to diabetes. Assistance to him will be ongoing for some time as he is now having a prosthetic limb fitted. Roton, his son keeps us up to date. He himself is suffering as a Hindu with increased discrimination - gone down to half-salary in his accountancy job. Since last Summer both Hindu and Christian groups have been more persecuted. Only last week three churches and a Christian school were attacked with petrol bombs. In this time of political turmoil Islamism is on the rise.

Return to Bangladesh

The rampant viral infections in Bangladesh just now, plus rising civil unrest due to the approaching elections in February, are causing us to hold fire on any decision to visit the country again in the New Year.

We will see how things go and hope to go out again as soon as possible.



We both give our heartfelt thanks to all supporters and especially to our KBC church which has so often offered us extra assistance to bring help to specific situations of need in Bangladesh.

We could not do this work without you!
Michael and Rosey Whittles

"Bothers and sisters, we do not consider ourselves yet to have taken hold of that for which God took hold of us, but one thing we do, forgetting what is behind and straining towards what is ahead, we press on towards the goal, to win the prize for which God has called us heavenward in Christ Jesus."

(Philippians 3: 12-14)

Gogo Olive Ministry Report by Julie Johnstone



As we look back over the past year, we are once again humbled and encouraged by God's faithfulness and provision for Gogo Olive. Time and again, He has met our needs, opened new opportunities, and surrounded us with the support and encouragement we need to keep moving forward. We are so grateful for the continued generosity—both financial and prayerful—that we receive from Kirkwall Baptist Church and others who faithfully stand with us.



This summer, we had two great fundraising opportunities here in Orkney. During the Island Games week, our coffee van was set up at Picky, and it was such a brilliant week—not only in terms of coffee and baking sales but also through conversations and opportunities to share about the heart behind Gogo Olive. We also had a good day out at the County Show, another opportunity to be a part of the community here in Orkney, something that really strengthens us.

In August and September, I spent six weeks in Zimbabwe, and it was a very positive and inspiring trip. The workshop was busy with orders and teaching new designs to our knitters and the sense of community between the ladies felt stronger than ever.



The highlight of this trip was taking the team away for two nights on their very first safari. It was a time filled with game drives, laughter, learning, and team building—I felt so privileged watching the ladies see the incredible animals of their

homeland for the first time. One of the ladies said afterwards that it was the best experience of her life. Moments like these are real reminders of God's goodness and how He delights in giving His children joy.

The Place of Safety is now fully up and running, and we have already seen the difference it can make. Tafadzwa, one of our knitters, stayed there for three months after completing a rehabilitation programme. It has been a long and often difficult journey with her, but we are so thankful to see how well she is doing now—she has her own place and is thriving. We praise God for His faithfulness in her life and for providing this safe, nurturing space for women in times of transition or crisis.



Another new initiative this year has been our Cabin Project, which helps some of our ladies to build their own small cabins to live in. It's a practical way to offer stability and dignity, and we are excited to see how this project will develop in the coming year.

As we look ahead to 2026, we do so with hearts full of gratitude and hope. We continue to see God's hand at work in Gogo Olive—in the woman's stories, in the orders we receive, and in all the ways we are supported that reminds us we are not alone in this work. Thank you, Kirkwall Baptist Church, for journeying with us so faithfully.



We are very thankful for the support of Kirkwall Baptist church over the last year. We have continued to work alongside our long-term partners ECHO in Tanzania to expand the production and distribution of our bean bag cookers. We have done this through women entrepreneurs, providing them with support, training and small start-up grants to get started. By working with women saving-and-loan groups, we have so far trained up 15 women across 4 districts. These women are now making and selling the bean bag cookers as micro-enterprises, giving other families in their communities the benefits of smokeless cooking. It has been a joy to watch this project grow and bear fruit in different communities across Tanzania.

Case study to illustrate the benefit of the Bean Bag Cookers to families

Neema Samson (47)



Neema Samson stands in front of her house, appreciating the Bean Bag Cooker (BBC). To her left, on the bench, is the Beanbag cooker she received from ECHO for use and feedback. In her hands, she holds a handmade basket she purchased from the market—an inspiration for her own initiative to start producing and selling similar products within her community.

Photo by Herry Charles, 09/04/2025.

"We used to fetch firewood from the

nearby forest, but then the forest management introduced new regulations. We were only allowed to collect dried and fallen branches—taking wood from standing trees, even if they were already dry, was strictly prohibited. This made gathering firewood much more time-consuming. To cope, several neighbours and I formed a group to collect firewood together. Going as a group was important—not just for efficiency, but also for safety. Even then, the bundle I brought home would only last about one week. If I were to sell that amount of firewood, I could earn around TZS 5,500 (~£2). Sometimes I couldn't join the group because of other responsibilities. On those days, I had to buy firewood or charcoal instead. A bag of charcoal costs around TZS 30,000 (~£10) and lasts about three weeks. Compared to my income, these fuel costs were overwhelming.

Another challenge was the quality of the fuel. Often, the firewood was still wet, making it hard to light, producing too much smoke, and slowing down the cooking process. I remember praying for a better solution—and GOD answered. That's when the ECHO team visited our group. They introduced us to new cooking technologies like the Beanbag Cooker and rocket stoves. At first, we laughed—we doubted the Beanbag Cooker could really cook food without fire. But once we gave it a try, everything changed.

The day after ECHO's visit, I invited my two neighbours, Agnes and Joseph, to test it out. We cooked rice using the BBC. After placing the pot inside, we went on with our chores. When we returned three hours later, the rice was perfectly cooked and ready to eat. We tried it again with slightly undercooked rice, and after three hours, it came out just right. Now we've seen the difference. A bundle of firewood that used to last only a week now lasts two weeks or more. We're saving time, money, and energy—and cooking has become much less of a burden. Neema's story represents similar feedback from other participants."

CREATIVenergie is continuing its biogas work in Southern Africa with a project in

eSwatini, where we are developing a missional business that brings clean energy, dignified work, and practical hope to communities. So far we have installed 40 household biodigesters in eSwatini, with plans to complete 60 more this year through our local partner STREEC, a faith-inspired organisation that now employs 15 young technicians who are being equipped to carry this work forward. Prior to this project around 5 digesters had been installed in eSwatini so we have been working to bring more access.

We are also supported by Kainos, a group of Christian engineers in Cape Town who share our vision for using technical skills to serve communities in Christ's name. Together we are working to establish a long-term biogas business, building on the CREATIVEnergie training manuals and turning it to a digital online resource. By the end of the project we are looking to spin the business out into neighbouring countries so more families can access clean, affordable energy. We are deeply grateful for your support and partnership in this work.

We met for our family day in London in October, where we brought together all of the CREATIVEnergie family to reflect on the year past and pray and listen to God together about the year ahead.

Over the next year:

- We hope to continue to grow the bean bag cooker work. We have been so encouraged by this locally lead approach and would love to see this flourish in other communities in Tanzania and beyond. We also want to explore how we can use a similar approach for other projects as we build some new partnerships with other faith-based organisations.
- We aim to finish digitalising our biogas training resources (making a series of videos and online resources) laying foundations so that we can make our training more accessible in regions where we do not have a presence.

- We are hoping to kick start a new biogas initiative in Sri Lanka with a church group.
- God willing, we will launch and disseminate a film on creation care, which we have been working on over the last couple of years.

Please pray for the right partnerships and opportunities as we seek to grow the work and follow God's leading. Thank you so much for your support in this work, we are very grateful!

creativenergie.co.uk

Orkney Bible Festival Report by Mervyn Sandison:



The two events this year were OBF reunion with John McKinnon in March and OBF in August with Paul Mallard. Attendances at the meetings were good and the teaching received was challenging and upbuilding. A special treat this year was the visit of the Nelson family from Edinburgh as our musicians.

After Claudia Proudlove moved away we were delighted to welcome Hannah Casey and Christine Rendall on to the organising committee.

Once again all our bills were paid and we want to pass on grateful thanks to all individuals and supporting churches. Looking forward to 2026 God Willing, we have a reunion in the diary for the weekend of 22nd March with Rev Jerry Taylor of Thurso Free Church. Accompanying him to share testimony will be one of his elders Ben Nicolson whose father comes from Rendall in Orkney.

During the last week of August Rev Jim Turrent of Central Baptist Church Dundee will be our speaker for the main conference.

Grateful thanks to KBC for all support towards OBF.

Postal Bible School Report by Eileen Sandison:

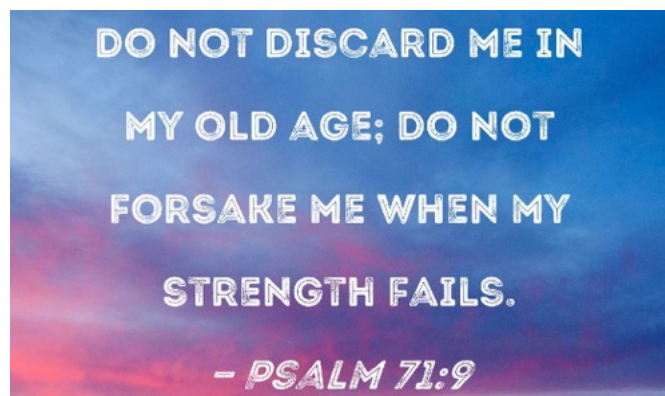


This year the format changed. We now send out Bible Lessons for six months at a time, January - June, July - December, except adult lessons are still given out monthly.

Numbers of folks doing the lessons are small, but feedback is encouraging, that the lessons are helpful. Please continue to pray that those doing the lessons continue trusting and following the Lord Jesus.

We are grateful to KBC for covering the costs of the lessons. Thank you.

Services at St Rognvald House and Sunnybrae Centre. Reports by David Scott and Daniel Sandison.



St Rognvald House:

A weekly service takes place at St Rognvald House in Sunday afternoons at 2:30pm lasting around half an hour.

Various churches lead the service each week and KBC is responsible for the fourth Sunday of each month.

The service includes hymn singing, prayer, a Bible reading and a short talk. We are grateful for the KBC members who have supported the service over the years, for those preparing the talks, (David, Rob and now Fred), and especially for Pat whose past connections with St Rognvald's allows her to encourage both residents and staff to attend. It's a privilege to minister to all those attending, including residents' family members and to bring the gospel message to folks in their latter years.

We look forward to the opening of the new Kirkjuvagr House care home next year as we continue to minister to the elderly.

Sunnybrae Centre:

On the 1st Sunday of the month, a group of us from KBC take a service at Sunnybrae Centre at Eunson Kloss. We aim to have a 30 minute service for the residents there starting at 2:30pm. The service tends to be mostly hymn singing with some space for a few favourites which the residents seem to appreciate, along with prayer and a short message. I'd like to thank Rob Proudlove, Fred Howard and Billy Gunn for their leading of it as well. I'd also like to thank all the others who come along to join in and spend time with the residents there too.

It's been very encouraging to see how much they appreciate our coming to share in the short service with them. It's also a great chance to share with some of the carers as usually one or two will stay in for the whole thing, so It's been a great chance to share the gospel with others.

Prayer points; We can give thanks for the great opportunity we have to go there, sing praises and teach Gods word. Going forward, it would be good to pray for the residents and the carers there. That those who don't know Jesus for themselves would come to know him. Also for the team, that we would be able to continue this work going into the future. And also that God would bless the time we spend there.

And more helpers are always appreciated.

Young at Heart Memory Café Report by Lorna Reid:



The Lord continues to bless, grow and support the cafe and those who attend, including the wonderful team that are involved in many ways to open our doors. Also those who hold us up and remember us in prayer our sincere thanks for your faithfulness and love.

We celebrated 10 amazing years this June. Years that have welcomed many through our doors, which we are very

thankful for. And indeed many changes mostly from an administrative and regulatory aspect... charity status, PVG checks, first aid, food hygiene certificates etc.

We have had two major fundraising events this year which were both very successful. We had 4 days in the blue door during the island games week, raising £1700. A huge thank you to all those who made this possible especially Lynn and the wonderful staff that run and co ordinate the blue door. Then we had a prize bingo night at the Royal British Legion raising £1600. Another massive thank you to all for supporting in so many ways especially Myra at the Legion, Paula from Tesco and the enthusiastic cafe team.

We would gratefully appreciate your prayers as we plan to trial a new service for the cafe this coming year. As always we hope that the café continues to offer an informal, relaxed, safe and happy haven to all those who attend.

Street Pastors Report by Mark Berry:



The Orkney Street Pastors team is made up of members from a number of churches around the county. There are currently nine male and nine female fully-trained Street Pastors available for the rota. All are volunteers and active members of their congregations. There are three new volunteers signed up for online Street Pastor training, and we hope to have at least a couple more so that in-person training can take place from December onwards. Barry Cockerham is the co-ordinator.

We meet on Saturdays at 10.30pm to pray before heading out onto the streets at 11pm. This is an hour later than was previously the case, due mainly to licensing at the new nightclub. Teams are a minimum of three and must be a mix of male and female. Finishing time can be around 2.30am but is most often later, depending on when the crowd disperses. The three main purposes of the team are to care for, listen to and help people who are out and about at that time of night.

In the first 10 months of this year, the Orkney Street Pastors have provided assistance to over 200 people. This includes:

- calming 21 situations that could have got out of hand
- supporting 38 vulnerable people
- assisting 14 people into taxis
- praying for or with 21 people at their request
- having meaningful spiritual conversations with 58 people
- In addition, the teams have:
- picked up or swept up nearly 800 bottles and glasses
- handed out over 2,300 lollipops
- brought 3 incidents to the attention of the Police
- called out an ambulance on 2 occasions.

The presence of the Orkney Street Pastors is generally appreciated by the revellers and many of them approach the team to offer spontaneous thanks.

Thank you for your continued prayers and encouragement. We are always keen to hear from people who want to know more about what being a Street Pastor entails, and especially from those who are considering volunteering. Members are welcome to come out on an observation basis, even for part of the night.

Please speak to Mark Berry, Sue Clewett, Alex Green, Andrew More, Val More, Pat Rowe or Cameron Stout if you would like to know more.



Evangelism Report by Fraser Scott:



We ran an Alpha course from January with a group of about 8 people meeting. We also had a fantastic day away, hosted by the Life Centre. Thanks to all the volunteers who helped each week and anyone who provided a pudding. It is the plan to once again begin an Alpha Course in 2026 but perhaps later in the year as January is often not ideal for everyone or with weather.



Over the summer months, I had in the past made it a regular occurrence to have the front doors open through the week

whenever I am working at the church. This has led to some great discussions with visitors and locals with many people interested in the building and our church. I wasn't able to do that as much this year due to the Salvation army using the building but I was able to when the building was free.

We also had an excellent Christmas season in December last year. Plans are now underway for this year's events.

"Good News for Everyone" Report by Rob Proudlove:



formerly known as **GideonsUK**

With reports of increased interest in the U.K. in the reading of the Bible, it has been a privilege, as the small Orkney contingent of GNFE, to present a number of Bibles, New Testaments, and Hope magazines this year. A highlight was Mervin's arranging for 120 New Testaments to be given to members of the Fire Service (there are still a few copies available if anyone knows of a retired firefighter).

Our local branch, Shetland and Orkney, have been involved at shows and with school presentations.

The national organisation has distributed scriptures both within the UK and abroad, including helping fund the printing of Mark's gospel in Ukrainian. Ukrainian chaplains have already distributed over 5000 copies to forces personnel.

Please support us by prayer, and if anyone would like to get involved please speak to Mervyn, Tony, or myself,

Vital Talk Report by Margaret Rendall:



Vital Talk continues to provide counselling to clients living in Orkney at no cost to themselves. We continue to be funded by Mind On, KBC and this year The Blue Door. At the present time we are looking for someone to take over the management role and an extra locally based counsellor to join the team. We are very glad to have had Jamie Firth working with us for his probationary year and to have him continue with us as a fully qualified counsellor soon.

We were joined last year by four Christian counsellors who live in Fife. Their service had closed, and they kindly chose to join us, offering on-line counselling, either in client's homes or at The Life Centre. We are grateful to now have three receptionists who open the building and set things up for clients who use The Life Centre. We set up this service to offer counselling to Christians by counsellors who understand the evangelical Christian world view. At present, only 20-30% of our clientele want Christian counselling and many more come as referrals from the medical professions or other charities.

We give thanks for:

- Volunteer counsellors
- Volunteer receptionists
- Funding to match our needs

Items for prayer:

- A new manager for the service
- Increased funding to allow counsellors to be paid a sessional rate
- A new locally based counsellor

Women's Bible Study Group Report by Carolyn Allen



A small group of women are meeting at Carolyn Allan's house every Thursday at 2pm to study the bible together. At present they are working their way through Luke's gospel slowly. It has taken a year so far because they talk about how God's word applies to their lives and share together their journey of faith, their experience of God's wonderful grace and His help in life's difficulties.

A commentary called 'Enduring Word' helps to explain some difficult parts and gives historical context.

Blythswood Shoebox Appeal Report by Iona McFarlane



The shoe box appeal was another great success this year with more people coming to help on the boxing day, which is always welcome. Christmas and worship music, cake, coffee, and prayer was ever present, as He kept at the front of our mind the people we wanted to help.

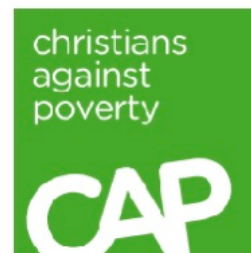
Unfortunately donations needed to be bought on the day, due to Blythswood's requesting hat, gloves and scarfs in every box. Previously, it was hat and gloves or scarf, so this lowered our numbers from 64 last year to 34 this year. We packed mainly kids' boxes, some women and men's boxes.

It was a successful day; being together doing God's work alongside each in fellowship.

Many thanks to everyone who helped.



Christians Against Poverty Report by Kate Brown



Christians Against Poverty money coaching in Orkney.

In 2024 a team of 7 volunteers from 3 churches in Kirkwall (3 from Kirkwall Baptist Church) underwent online training with CAP to become Money Coaches. This was funded by Kirkwall Council of Churches (KCC).

Initially we ran a 5-session course for family and volunteers from churches, each taking a turn at leading different modules.

In June 2025 we ran 2 courses, an afternoon one and an evening one. Initially both were advertised to the public but Orkney Blide Trust approached us about running a closed course for a group of their clients, so this became the afternoon course of 7 participants and the evening was a public course with just 3 participants. These took place at East Kirk and The Life Centre, over 5 weeks.

Our prayer is that the sessions equipped each person with more knowledge and skills to manage their money wisely.

We hope to run more courses in the future, perhaps targeted at specific groups similar to the Blide model.

Orkney Foodbank (working with Trussell Trust) Report by Alan Scott:



Here are some key points from the last 12 months:

- We were saddened by the death of one of our stalwarts, Karen Williams, in September this year. Our thoughts and prayers go to Peter and her family. The family asked that the collection from the funeral be divided between us and vital talk, another charity she was involved with, and our thanks go to them.
- We continue to be very busy, averaging around 70 parcels per month, and with these numbers, we also need to keep purchasing a large amount of food. This is working out at about 50% of the food we distribute. I am hoping to have 5 staff plus Linda and Kate on during November and December
- The Tesco collection takes place at the end of this month. A sign-up sheet for volunteers is now in the foodbank. I have spoken to Paula in Tesco confirming that we will be represented in the store on the days involved. The pre-filled bag scheme will be in place again.
- Christmas bag filling will take place on a couple of evenings in November and

again in December as required. Dates to be confirmed.

- Ray has been distributing posters to our collection points and trifolds to a number of organisations and stores.
- KGS pupils continue to do the Tuesday collection from Tesco and we have another pupil from Stromness helping with tasks on Tuesdays between 10 and 11am.
- We have reviewed the Christmas pick lists and identified one or possibly more changes for 2026.
- I have started a review of the normal pick lists and revised ones will be in use in the new year
- We have started to use electronic Tesco vouchers which have some limitations on what can be purchased. There is no premium on these and I would expect us to move more generally to this method. We would keep a much smaller number of Gift Cards for clients who can't access the SMS ones.
- We continue to participate in the YPI events at KGS and Stromness Academy
- I would hope to have a couple of lunchtime events for referrers in February as there have been many staff changes since we did this in 2024.
- Although our expenditure exceeds our income, we are financially secure due to grants we have been receiving. Thanks to Rhoda Walker for pursuing these.

Finally, a big thanks to a great team for their enthusiasm and support and thanks to God for his provision over the years.

Starter Packs Orkney: report by Noreen Wright:



Starter Packs has been going for about 20 years now and has benefitted from financial aid from the church on many occasions. This year starter packs is in a

good financial position as opposed to the last few years. The number of packs given out in the last year is 46. This number has reduced in the last couple of years probably because the number of new houses available has been low and there have not been so many houses built by OHAL.

We have had a number of excellent donations of household goods in the last year - these include 50 single duvets and a 100 pillows, pillow covers and sheets from the Island Games. Tesco also donated several boxes of fleecy double and king size duvet covers along with 3 boxes of teddy cushions. So we are set for a cold winter ahead. We are thankful for donations received and would remind donors that we require goods in good condition.

As well as the donations we purchase new household goods which includes electrical items such as kettles, toasters and sandwich makers.

Referrals come mostly from Orkney Islands Council staff, OHAL, Womens Aid, Blide Trust, Right There and the Food Bank. We work closely with the Foodbank and they hold a key for our premises should anyone present to them with an urgent need. Homelessness is still very much an issue in Orkney although we rarely see people sleeping on the street and in tents.

We were very grateful to the Salvation Army who gave us the closing donation from the Songs of Praise event and an uplift to funds from OIC Homelessness budget. Giving to Starter Packs over the last couple of years has been excellent to the extent that we feel that we have adequate funds for the near future. We will let you know when further funds are required!!

I think something on our to do list for next year is to do some publication around starter packs and what we do as many people still haven't heard of us. Lots of the organisations who refer to us have seen changes in staff and this

means a dilution of knowledge. Stephen Hagan (our treasurer) did say he would be happy to do a slot on Radio Orkney.

I am grateful for the support of Stephen as for many years I was the only one from the Baptist Church involved and it's good to have a colleague. Stephen takes care of the finances and does the shopping alongside Alex Bruce from the Salvation Army who really is the backbone of the organisation as he does the giving out of goods.

Christmas Events Team Report by Fraser Scott



We were so grateful to everyone who helped make our Christmas season such a success last year! Both the Christmas Nativity Service and Carols by Candlelight Service were well attended and in particular, a lot of visitors came along to the Carol service. As always the Pyjama Christmas attracted kids from the church and across our community. Thanks to all who were involved in the various events and services, we could not do it without you all taking part!

This year, we are thankful again for our great planning team. We have Hannah Casey, Caroline Christian, Fraser Scott and Ruth Green all helping out with various parts of our Christmas events. The Carol Service and Nativity Service are on the 21st December and we would greatly encourage you to invite friends, family and neighbours along. Pyjama

Christmas as usual on the 24th and the celebrations will be rounded off with a Ceilidh on Hogmanay.



Please join us in prayer that God will work among us this Christmas and that folk would meet with Jesus Christ as they come and visit our services.

Thank you everyone, for your faithful service in all these ministries and more. Please continue to pray!



Phil. 1:3-5 "I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now..."