

Blairgowrie Evangelical Church (Charity Number SC000136) operating as Hope Evangelical Church.

Report for the year ended 31 December 2025.

Approval to transfer to a SCIO received approval from OSCR on 31 October 2024. Since the charity was established for use by the congregation of an existing church fellowship, all members of the UA (SC000136) automatically became members of the SCIO on that date.

Ownership of all moveable property, (sound system, lectern, projector, stand and such like) was formally handed over to the SCIO. While approval has been given by OSCR to wind up the UA the SCIO has had difficulty opening a bank account in its own name. Several applications to Bank of Scotland who hold the current UA account were each for a different stated reason. It has been necessary therefore to use the existing bank account, which receives and disburses funds and to maintain the UA until such time as the account can be transferred to a new bank. In the very recent past the SCIO has been able to establish banking facilities of its own and we anticipate that we will be able to transfer the monetary assets from the UA to the SCIO very shortly.

In the period covered by this report we have continued to meet every Sunday for Christian worship. The congregation has been fortunate to meet at the premises of Rattray Bowling Club except for those few occasions where the Club hosts a Sunday Tournament. The premises are well maintained and suited to our current numbers. We appreciate the open and friendly nature of contacts between us.

Besides Sunday worship we also have midweek activities covering most age groups. During this time we have seen a steady, if not spectacular growth in numbers. In October 2024 the Pastor was serving the congregation on a voluntary basis while in full time secular employment. During the year the congregation was able to employ him two days per week; his secular employer was happy to accede to the congregation's request.

In addition to our normal weekly activities we run a monthly, men's social group and a ladies' social group. We also ran several events including our annual Ladies Gingerbread House Building and a concert with the artist Stephanie Staples. In our Christmas Carol Evening Service a collection was taken with proceeds going to local Dundee homeless charity 'The Eagles Wings Trust'. And a substantial donation of food given to the Perth based Food Bank (the Trussell Trust) at our annual Harvest Thanksgiving service.

We also participated in several local events including running stalls at the annual 'Braemar Day' festivities and fairground and also 'The Christmas Lights Switch On' in which cakes and biscuits were decorated for free. We also participated in the annual 'Town Event'.

In addition to our own weekly youth work we also began working with other churches in the area to support Scripture Union groups in local schools and working towards beginning a monthly SU Connect group for teenagers (which has been fulfilled as from March 2026).

The AGM was held on 28 May 2025 with thirteen in attendance, eight provides a quorum. The Treasurer's report is attached / will be submitted separately. (Adjust as required). During the year a new website was also constructed (www.hopeblair.com) and a new logo for the church was designed and selected by the congregation.

Alan McArthur
26 June 2026
Secretary and Trustee.