

EASTMOOR CHURCH PLANT

Wakefield, Jamie Mason



An amazing opportunity in a needy area



Wakefield is a traditionally working-class city where church attendance is remarkably low. Grace Church Wakefield (our planting church) has 35 members and is the only reformed evangelical church in a city of 109,000 (accounting for 0.03%).

Our plant is in the heart of Eastmoor, a council estate (public housing development) in East Wakefield. The estate houses ≈8,000 residents. Most are white working class but the area is home to people from various ethnicities and cultures. It's also home to Wakefield's largest mosque.

The government has long considered Eastmoor a very deprived area but it's also growing fast. A new housing development stretches along the perimeter of Eastmoor and will add 2,500 new homes to the area.

About Jamie and Megan

Jamie and Megan have lived in Wakefield for almost eight years and grew up in nearby towns. While Jamie was raised in a Christian household and saved as a child (in a church also planted by Dewsbury Evangelical Church over 35 years ago!), Megan grew up on various council estates and was the first member of her family to be saved at 16.

Jamie has been trained by GCW over several years and has studied with *Crosslands* and the *Urban Ministry Training Programme*. He's currently part of an *FIEC Planters Cohort*, and is due to start the *City to City's Incubator* programme in April 2026. In November, he moved from part-time to full-time employment with GCW in order to lead the Eastmoor church plant. Megan works part-time for *Gallagher* as a communications consultant and serves in various areas of ministry alongside Jamie. They also enjoy the blessing of raising their two young children, Rhoda (three) and Jediah (almost one).

The story so far...

Almost eleven years ago, a small team from Dewsbury Evangelical Church planted Grace Church Wakefield (GCW) who meet in Lupset (a council estate to the West of the city). Fast forward a number of years, challenges and blessings later, Grace Church Wakefield were entrusted with a building by the former Wakefield Evangelical Free Church. Their numbers had dwindled over the years and they could no longer carry on but wanted their building to be kept for God's work. Six years later, this building is now being used to begin our Eastmoor church plant.

We began meeting on Sunday afternoons in January 2025 and have already seen numerous encouragements. God has been good.

Our 'core team' is led by Jamie and made up of eleven members. We've already seen a number of people attend as a result of door-to-door introductions and, since our launch event in April, we have had local people join us regularly every Sunday. Jamie is also doing one-to-one Bible studies with a regular visitor who now also attends our Wednesday prayer and study groups.



Expanding our mission field

As well as the city, **Wakefield includes a wider metropolitan borough of 350,000 people.** This region, formerly dominated by coal-mining industry, is virtually untouched by biblical Christianity.

The need for many more church plants in this part of West Yorkshire is pressing. As such, we're in the early days of an initiative with the three other reformed evangelical churches in the wider borough. We pray this will lead to future church plants and revitalisations.

Our vision is that the Eastmoor church plant will be the first of many new church plants in this part of the country. Prayerful partnerships will be vital for this work to be successful.

In many ways, church planting, is a daunting task. But we know **the Lord desires to save many to the glory of his Son** (1 Timothy 2:4), and the work is ultimately His. And so, as faithful servants, we can be strong and courageous (Joshua 1:9).



Finances and partnership

We are looking for funding to cover Jamie's full-time salary - in full for the first year (£36,800) and then in decreasing portions for following years. The FIEC have given money to partly fund Jamie's salary which we would use from years two to five. This would pair with increased member giving to offset the reduction in UK partnership funding. Grace Church Wakefield will also contribute a reserve supply in future years which can be used towards salary payments if no alternative funding is secured.

We have made a conservative estimate that member giving will increase by 18% per year. Any 'carry forward' will be from member giving and used in future years as funding is reduced. We hope that member giving will increase to the point that we are able to contribute 10% of any carry forward/surplus to other church planting initiatives in the area or give to other Christian organisations in need.

God working through the generosity of his servants to provide prayer, people, practical and financial support will be essential for establishing and growing the Eastmoor church plant and future plants.

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
Income					
Member giving	£9,200	£10,856	£12,810	£15,116	£17,837
GCW reserve supply	£0	£0	£0	£18,400	£9,476
FIEC grant	£0	£6,250	£6,250	£6,250	£6,250
UK partnership	£36,800	£30,000	£25,000	£15,000	£10,000
Carry forward	£0	£2,000	£4,632	£2,332	£9,176
Expenditure					
General & building	£6,200	£6,570	£6,950	£7,330	£7,700
Planter's salary	£36,800	£37,904	£39,410	£40,592	£41,810
Difference	£2,000	£4,632	£2,332	£9,176	£3,229

Bringing the truth of Jesus to the community: showing care, sharing hope, because of faith...

- We will preach the **gospel** at every opportunity because it is the power of God to save and change lives.
- We will be a **community** of love that demonstrates the gospel before a watching world.
- We will prioritise **mission** by focusing on what best enables the gospel to go out to the lost.