



Becontree Avenue Baptist Church Timeline of major events though the years:



All families are influenced and moulded by experiences and significant ‘external events’ (often historic) of their ancestors- such as the World War’s and the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic. Our Church family is no different. It too has been moulded by God through the experiences and significant events of our predecessors. Below is a simple chronological record of significant people and events through the years all of which to a greater or lesser degree have shaped our ministry over the years up to the present.

If this whets your appetite, more details are available to Church Members in the church records.

When	What happened
Pre 1929	Two local men- William Bowler & William Andrews felt that God was calling them to establish a Baptist Church in Becontree Avenue. A group of Christians started by meeting in the home of Mr. Norman Andrews and above a fish shop (then known as “The upper room”) at the junction of Becontree Avenue & Valence Avenue. In faith, land in Becontree Avenue was bought to establish a church in Becontree Avenue- then part of the rapidly expanding Becontree Estate built after the 1 st World War.
1928 - 29	The Becontree Avenue Baptist Church building was constructed and dedicated at Easter at a cost of almost £3,800.
1930 - 1940	The Reverend Wilfred Driskell was called to be our Churches first Minister.
1930	The Church started The Life Boys youth organisation
1931	Both The Boys Brigade (was The Life Boys) and The Girls Life Brigade started
1932	A Church hut was erected behind Church building (now hall)
1939 - 1945	The start and duration of the 2 nd World War during which the church sustained bomb- blast damage.
1940 - 1947	Mr George Mager (Church Secretary), was appointed as Moderator (interregnum).
1947- 1951	The Reverend John Cooper was called to be our Minister.
1951 - 1954	The Reverend Douglas Allingham was called to be our Minister.
1956 - 1959	The Reverend Edwin Collinson was called to be our Minister.
1959 - 1961	Mr. Norman Andrews was appointed our Church moderator (interregnum).



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1961	The “Dagenham Scheme” was formed. This saw the formal ‘partnership’ of the four Baptist Churches serving in Dagenham (Becontree Avenue, Chaplain Road, Oxlow Lane & Wood Lane). Each church had its own Diaconate and Deacons from each church also served on a ‘Joint Diaconate’.
1961 - 1969	The Reverend JJ (John Jellico) Brown was called to be both our Minister and the Senior Minister of the “Dagenham Scheme”.
1962	Land owned behind the Church was sold to the council (flats built). This helped to finance the construction of the new Church building.
1963 - 64	Our “new” Church building was constructed and dedicated in October at a cost of over £19,000. So many people attended, that the service was also transmitted to the hall via closed circuit TV.
1964	The Girls’ Life Brigade becomes The Girls’ Brigade following the merger of similar organisations in England, Ireland & Scotland.
1969 - 1980	The Reverend James Buckley was called to be our Minister and in 1977 became Senior Minister of the “Dagenham Scheme”.
1976	The year of a severe nationwide drought saw wide ranging restrictions of water (including for Baptisms). This resulted in the Baptism Service of several new believers across the churches at the Dagenham Swimming Pool (Becontree Heath).
1980 - 1989	Mr. Tony Knowles was appointed our Church moderator (interregnum).
1986	The “Dagenham Scheme” formal partnership ended. Although each of the four Churches became fully independent, supportive links (particularly between the Ministers) was retained.
1986	The Girls’ Brigade closed due to lack of leadership.
1989 - 1998	The Reverend Philip Wickenden was called to be our Minister.
1993 ??	The Boys’ Brigade closed.
1993	The Church started a “Church based” Crusaders group (a Nationwide youth groups for boys & girls).



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When	What happened
1995	The refurbishment/ remodelling of the hall (inc. Toilets/ Kitchen/ lounge rewiring, side room reconfiguration & new floor laid in main Hall)
1995	The Church entered a formal Partnership with Spurgeons' Childcare to provide a Family Centre and After School Club.
1998 - 2002	Mr. David Murray was appointed our Church moderator (interregnum).
1999	The Partnership with Spurgeons' Childcare came to an end and both the Family Centre and After School Club closed.
2002 - 2009	The Reverend Roger Davies was called to be our Minister.
2007	Bridge- building Young at Heart began (a weekday day time community group for older people)
2008	Crusaders closed due to both a lack of leadership & Crusaders "rebranding" and becoming Urban Saints- a name that the leadership felt inappropriate as our outreach was mainly with "non-believing" children.
2009 - 2011	The Reverend Brenda Toft was appointed our Church moderator (interregnum).
2010	Bridge- building Art & Crafts began (a weekday day time community group for all ages)
2011 - present	The Reverend Sue Millar was called to be our Minister.
20??*	Bridge- building Kids Klub began (an weekday evening youth group)
2020 - 2021	The Worldwide Covid 19 Pandemic saw world governments impose national quarantine restrictions to suppress the virus. The restrictions lasted over a year and meant there were periods when Church activities including Church Services were suspended. As a result, services were recorded as videos & 'broadcast' temporarily online.
20??*	Kids Klub started soon after the arrival of Christine & Kevin to the Church- any more details would be great!!!

