

ANNUAL REPORT

2025



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

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01

INTRODUCTION

Message from Pastor Harold

Grace and Peace be multiplied to you all who actively share in this calling and have sacrificially given of your time, your treasure and your talents to the work of God here at City Gates.

We reflect on the 12 months for the period we are reporting on with thanksgiving to the Lord for all He has done and continues to do among us.

Looking back to the 24th of November 2024 when I started in this role as Senior Minister of City Gates Church, it was a giant step of faith for us as a family and for the congregation as a whole. We are grateful to Pastor Steve and Julia who served so well and left the church in a healthy state.



Listening, learning and loving were my key areas of focus in order to be able to give the leadership required for the new season we had all entered into.

Developing and strengthening a healthy team culture where everyone is growing in their discipleship and feels valued was another key area of focus for me, which has begun to yield much fruit.

It has and continues to be a huge honour to lead the team and the church. The Lord has been kind to us in many ways, of which we do not take any of it for granted.

As shown in our Impact Report, the last twelve months have been a time of growth and development on a number of fronts.

There has been a minimum of 5% growth across many aspects of the church with Sunday attendance seeing the most significant growth as shown in the impact document.

Although the impact of the flood in December 2024 was very extensive and expensive, we are grateful to God for the wisdom and leadership He gave us to get things resolved. It has been very time consuming with some major inconveniences, but overall we are grateful that we had insurance cover and the overall impact on the ministry of the church has not been too major.

During the period being reported, we focused much on raising the temperature of prayer and evangelism and we are beginning to see some fruit.

We have also seen a significant increase in the number of people becoming partners and getting baptised.

Three new people were added to our staff team to help us strengthen our evangelism, social media engagement, prayer and pastoral ministry.

One of the major highlights of the reporting period was our visit to the Philippines to strengthen our existing partnership with City Gates Academy. We continue to maintain key relationships with other Kingdom partners such as The Message Trust (Community Grocery) and Teen Challenge London, and are grateful for the impact this is making for the Kingdom.

City Gates continues to be a significant Elim Church which serves the wider movement with our building and also releasing different individuals to contribute beyond the local church.

Here in Redbridge, we have continued to be intentional in building our strategic relationships with the Council and Ilford Bid to bless our community. In 2024 and 2025, we received A Special Mention Award for the grocery shop and a Legacy Award for the Church respectively.

In conclusion, none of this would have been possible without the generous giving of many who call City Gates home and the many servant-hearted volunteers who serve in several areas of the life of the Church. I would also like to place on record my gratitude to the Eldership who tirelessly help steward the resources the Lord has blessed us with and to the staff team who work with diligence all year round so that the mission of the church is advanced.

Finally, I would like to thank my family who have all given themselves fully to the work here and have supported and released me to serve in my role.

May the God who is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, abound in every good work.

In His Service,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Harold Afflu', written in a cursive style.

Pastor Harold Afflu



02

**CHURCH
GOVERNANCE**

City Gates Church as Part of Elim

City Gates is part of the Elim Pentecostal Movement which is made up of about 450-500 local churches in different cities, towns across the UK and the Republic of Ireland. Globally, we have missionaries and International Mission Partners. We are all part of one charity and are governed by a board of Trustees also known as the National Leadership Team.

Regionally, we are part of the Metropolitan East Region which is sub-grouped into Hubs. We are overseen by a Regional Leader (now called the Hub Overseer). The published accounts of City Gates have been audited and approved by the external auditors of the charity.

To understand more of the National Charity, our beliefs, departments and its history, please go to the Elim website which is: https://www.elim.org.uk/Groups/243050/About_Elim.aspx

Locally, the Eldership serves as the governing body which is made up of 3 ordained ministers and 5 Elders.

Elders

As an Eldership, we give thanks to God for His faithfulness throughout this significant season in the life of City Gates Church.

Approximately three years before Pastor Steve's retirement, the Eldership began meeting together to pray and seek God's direction for the future leadership of the church. Through ongoing prayer, discussion and discernment, and working closely with David Campbell, Regional Leader for the Elim Metropolitan Region, we carefully explored who God might be calling to lead City Gates into its next season. At the same time, the Elim National Leadership Team was also praying and seeking the Lord's guidance. After much prayer, careful consideration and seeking the Lord's guidance, the Eldership invited Pastor Harold Afflu to become the next Senior Minister of City Gates Church.

On 17 November 2024, we gave thanks for the faithful ministry of Pastor Steve and Julia as they retired after 32 years of dedicated service. We once again place on record our heartfelt appreciation for their faithful leadership and the lasting legacy they have left within City Gates.

The following week, on 23 November 2024, we had the privilege of welcoming Pastor Harold, together with his wife Florence and their children, Deborah, Esther and Samuel, into the City Gates family.

Looking back over this transition, we are deeply thankful to the Lord for His grace and faithfulness. We are grateful for the way the church has embraced Pastor Harold and his family, and equally for the way they have embraced the life of City Gates and become an active and valued part of our church community. Pastor Harold's leadership has brought stability, wisdom, vision and a genuine pastoral heart as we continue to pursue God's purposes together.

This Annual Report reflects much of what the Lord has done during the past year. We thank Him for lives transformed, ministries strengthened and the continued growth of the church. We are also grateful to you, our church family, for your prayers, encouragement and unwavering commitment to Christ and His Church throughout this season.

As an Eldership, we remain committed to serving the Lord and serving you with humility, unity and faithfulness. We look forward with confidence to all that God has in store for City Gates in the years ahead.

May the Lord continue to bless you.

The Elders of City Gates Church



03

**SUNDAY
MINISTRIES**

Host Team

The Host Team creates a warm and welcoming environment for all who come through our doors. Our mission is to be the vessels Christ uses to welcome people into His house, reflecting His love through our welcome, smiles, and body language, so that every person feels valued and seen.

Safety Team

The Safety Team creates an atmosphere of safety, welcome, and security for every person that enters the church building. Through vigilance and preparedness, they enable everyone to worship and fellowship with peace of mind and a genuine sense of belonging.

Ushering Ministry

The Ushering Ministry is instrumental in welcoming and assisting people as they arrive and ensuring an organised, safe, and hospitable environment throughout the service. Serving with warmth, attentiveness, and excellence, the ushers help people settle and focus on worship, and experiencing the love of Christ from the moment they walk through the door.

Next Steps

The Next Steps desk helps connect people to the wider life of the church. Located at the big purple banner on the ground floor, the team provides information about Connect Groups, volunteering opportunities, and courses, ensuring that no one leaves without a clear path forward.

Newcomers Team

The Newcomers team greets newcomers after each Sunday service with teas, coffees and pastries, introducing them to the church and making them feel welcome. In the last year we have seen over 100 people join the church, all different ages who have found the church in different ways.

Hospitality Team

After each service, the Hospitality Team serves teas and coffees to church members and visiting guests, extending the warmth of the gathering beyond the auditorium. In these moments of conversation and refreshment, people feel seen and valued, reflecting the heart of Christ in simple but meaningful ways.

Catering Team

A combination of spiritual and physical nourishment is important to every Christian's well-being. The catering team provides refreshments at church-organised events and prepares meals for those receiving pastoral care.

Grounded Coffee Shop

The Grounded Coffee Shop ministry offers a welcoming, inclusive space that strengthens community bonds and fosters ongoing fellowship throughout the week, extending the church's reach beyond Sunday and into everyday life.

Media & Photography

Social media, media, and photography help share the church's message, events, and activities with both members and the wider community. They create engaging content that strengthens communication, encourages participation, and helps people stay connected with church life. For City Gates Church, these tools have increased community awareness, supported outreach efforts, and showcased the positive impact the church has on individuals and families.

Worship & Production Teams

Over the past year, the City Gates Worship Team and Production Team have experienced significant growth and expanded capacity. The Worship Team welcomed nine new members, notably doubling our pool of worship leaders to provide consistent, Spirit-led experiences across all services. The Production Team added seven new volunteers and invested in camera equipment that substantially improved our livestream quality and online reach.

These combined developments - additional volunteers, strengthened leadership, and upgraded technology - reflect our congregation's commitment to serve. Together, they have enabled us to reach a broader audience while investing in member growth and training. We are grateful for this season of expansion and look forward to the continued blessing these developments will bring to our congregation.

Housekeeping Team

Underpinning the entire Sunday experience is the Housekeeping Team, who serve with a humble and graceful heart. Their faithful work ensures the building remains a clean, well-maintained, and inviting space — a quiet but essential contribution to the atmosphere we seek to create.

Across every one of these ministries runs a common thread: the conviction that how we welcome people matters. From the safety of the entrance to the warmth of a cup of coffee, each act of service is an expression of Christ's love and an invitation to belong. We are grateful for every volunteer who gives their time and heart to this work, and we look forward to continuing to grow and develop these teams in the year ahead.



04

**GENERATIONAL
MINISTRIES**

City Gates Kids (CGK)

CGK is a thriving kids ministry where children can build a strong relationship with Jesus in a safe environment. We believe that discipleship starts at home, and our mission is to partner alongside parents to make Jesus known to children. We have a seamless structure for children aged 2–11, and classes are staffed by committed Christian volunteers who are all DBS checked.

We have SEND provisions for children with additional needs that provide 1-1 and small group sessions, including visual aids and multi-sensory resources to facilitate learning.

From 2024–2025, we hosted 2 large-scale Holiday Clubs during summer, Easter Outreach, Movie Days, Christmas Sessions with guest speakers, and fundraising opportunities to encourage the children to be generous and give towards those in need (Open Doors). These opportunities meant several young people made commitments to follow Jesus!

We look forward to walking alongside the children on their discipleship journey.

City Gates Youth (CGY)

City Gates Youth exists to empower young people aged 11–18 to live up to their God-given potential by helping them discover and exercise their faith, family, and gifts, found in Christ. CGY runs weekly throughout the year with sessions on Fridays and Sundays that focus on building community and discipleship by creating space for young people to grow through meaningful conversation, game playing, worship, and Bible study.

We organised two camps this year. The first was 'Enlisted' in Spring, which reminded young people that we have been called to partner with God in His mission and battle to save the world. In Summer, we attended Limitless Festival where the theme was 'Counterculture' and young people left with a charge to live radically different lives for Jesus.

God has been faithful and gracious this year by stirring up the young people to live lives that are holy and glorify Him.

City Gates Young Adults

The Young Adults ministry is for those aged 18–35 and aims to see young adults CONNECT with God and with one another; GROW in their discipleship and in knowing Jesus; and GO into the world, released to share the gospel and represent Jesus wherever they find themselves.

Meeting twice a month, we have gathered young adults to encounter God through worship and prayer; to grow in their knowledge of Him through teaching and Bible study; and to build meaningful friendships through socials.

We have seen God move powerfully in the Young Adults ministry, with many new young adults joining the church; many deciding to get baptised; our February weekend away reaching its highest attendance since the last AGM report; and more young adults forming intentional discipleship groups (Rhythm groups).

Prime Time

Prime Time meets regularly every two months. Those attending regularly enjoy the fellowship with Pastors, Elders, and guest speakers. Attendance has increased since the last AGM report.

Some highlights were two events held in February and March 2026 which focused on maintaining health and understanding Dementia & Alzheimer's disease. Understanding these topics empowered members to seek medical intervention and access support for both themselves, loved ones, and caregivers.

Summer and Christmas lunches were also organised, which were well attended by both retired and semi-retired members. Spiritual, emotional, and physical support are also offered pastorally as and when necessary.



05

**OUTREACH &
COMMUNITY**

Parent & Toddler Group

We meet on a Tuesday afternoon from 1:30pm to 3:00pm during school term time only, for children aged 0–4 years old. Over the last year we have averaged over 20 parents, grandparents or carers, and about 25 children each week.

Over the year we have had over 80 families register with us from different faiths and backgrounds from our local community, including some from our church. We have celebrated events like Easter, Mother's Day and Father's Day, Harvest (including donating to Redbridge Foodbank), Firework Night, Remembrance Day, and Christmas with a party and entertainer.

We have hosted talks on potty training, tooth brushing, and school readiness. We have also been able to connect, pray, and help parents — signposting some to referral agencies — and many of our families have joined the Community Grocery. We are listed on the Borough website and NetMums and maintain regular contact with local Children's Centres in the area.

A big thank you to our team of dedicated volunteers who help with setting up and running the group.

Community Grocery Store

The Community Grocery Store has grown into one of City Gates' most impactful outreach tools, now serving 3,807 registered members across East London — 80% of whom are based in Redbridge. Run by 24 volunteers giving a collective 96 hours of service every week, the store has become a genuine bridge between the church and the wider community: one in four volunteers has no prior connection to City Gates, reflecting how the work is drawing new people in and creating natural pathways into church life.

Beyond food provision, the store is a place of transformation. This year's Christmas celebration drew over 300 members and the Leader of Redbridge Council, and resulted in 7 salvations — a powerful reminder that what begins as a simple act of service can become a doorway to life change.

Community Story: Jennifer

Jennifer's journey is one of the clearest pictures of what the Grocery Store can be — not just a food resource, but a doorway to transformation.

After facing major life challenges, Jennifer's mental health deteriorated significantly. Consumed by depression, anxiety, and self-sabotage, she reached what she describes as rock bottom — and in that moment, she called out to God. She fully surrendered her life to Him, and He began to work.

She found her way to City Gates one Sunday, and from that day her life was fast-tracked into the life of the church. After completing a Mental Wellbeing course, she was introduced to the Manager of

the Community Grocery Store and began volunteering.

After approximately 10 months of volunteering, Jennifer was awarded the Urban Hero Award for Volunteer of the Year, presented by The Message Trust. She has since been appointed Assistant Manager of the Grocery Store, where she now has the privilege of sharing with others just how good God is.

Alpha

Alpha is a ministry designed for those who are exploring the Christian Faith or for those who just have questions and like to discuss them with others in an informal setting around food.

Here at City Gates we ran 3 sessions during the year with an average attendance of 30 each time. We have about 15 volunteers who help run the sessions. The impact was mixed as it seemed that the same people booked every time and didn't always seem to be there for the actual course but maybe more for the food, the fellowship and sometimes the warm shelter.

A real stand out testimony is someone who attended a few Alpha's and has completely been transformed from living a life of chaos and alcoholism has since been baptised completed rehab and is alcohol free.

CAP Life Skills & Job Club

Life Skills Course

The CAP Life Skills course was launched at City Gates in April 2024 as part of the wrap-around service for Grocery members. It is an eight-week interactive course covering practical topics such as dealing with pressures, making money go further, and cooking on a budget. The group meets once a week and is run by a CAP Life Skills manager, trained coaches, and dedicated volunteers, in a friendly and inclusive environment that provides members with a taste of church family.

The course has three components: the Course itself (8 weeks of practical money-saving, organisational, mental wellbeing, and relationship-building skills); Community (a relaxed space for members to meet, support, and encourage one another); and Coaching (one-to-one informal coaching to help members set goals and tackle challenges).

Community Projects

Art & Crafts / Watercolour Painting runs on alternate Thursdays. The aim is to demonstrate faith through acts of love and to foster relationships in a Christ-like, non-judgemental way. Numbers are increasing, with one member now attending church. Toasty Friday is a drop-in service on the ground floor every Friday. Diverse groups meet in this session in a safe, welcoming space where all feel at home.



06

**LIFESTAGE
MINISTRIES**

Relationship & Marriage Ministry

During 2025, the Relationship & Marriage Ministry continued to provide pastoral, discipleship, and community-based support across a range of relationship and life stages, creating opportunities for connection, encouragement, and personal growth for those who are single, dating, engaged, and married. Through gatherings, teaching, support spaces, and social connection, the ministry sought to strengthen healthy relationships and create environments where people feel seen, supported, and equipped for the season they are in.

Real to Real

The Real to Real expression continued to serve unmarried adults aged 40+ through regular social engagement and community-building activities, helping to foster meaningful friendships, reduce isolation, and strengthen a sense of belonging within church life.

Restored Lives

The Restored Lives team provided structured support and a safe environment for individuals recovering from separation or divorce, creating space for reflection, healing, and practical encouragement as participants navigated a significant life transition.

Alabaster

The Alabaster expression met regularly and continued to support women navigating bereavement following the loss of their husbands, through connection, encouragement, shared experiences, and ongoing community. During the year, we saw increased engagement from women within the wider community attending these sessions, with some beginning a journey of faith and finding Christ through the relationships and support offered.

Collectively, these ministries remain focused on strengthening wellbeing, fostering belonging, and providing practical and spiritual support across our church community and beyond.



07

**PASTORAL CARE
& DISCIPLESHIP**

Pastoral Care

Pastoral Activities

Pastoral activities include home, hospital, and residential visits; face-to-face and telephone prayer sessions; encouragement; bereavement support; house clearance, painting, and decluttering; allotment tidying; assisting with relocations; and delivering frozen cooked meals to elderly, vulnerable, and housebound members.

Prime Time Support

Aimed at all those who are retired, 5 sessions were held in total, with the final session being a Christmas Lunch. This was well attended with 69 members present. Members can contact Pastoral Care for support and their needs are attended to accordingly.

Bereavement Support

In addition to members being prayed for during church services, 1-1 prayer sessions are held, condolence cards are posted out in a timely manner, and members are referred to the Alabaster team for continued support.

CEX & DEX

The Christianity Explored & Discipleship Explored courses provide a structured pathway for spiritual growth through a 10-week interactive course. Held on Sunday mornings, each session is hosted by a dedicated team, a mixture of teaching and small-group discussions where participants are encouraged to ask questions and explore their faith in a welcoming environment. A key feature of the course is the Away Day, providing dedicated time for worship, reflection, fellowship, and spiritual renewal.

Through the course, participants have made commitments to Christ, shared the Gospel through their personal testimonies, and taken significant next steps of faith through water baptism and baptism in the Holy Spirit. We thank all facilitators, table leaders, and volunteers for their faithful service.

New Believers

In 2025 we piloted a group for the discipleship of new believers, those who have been Christians less than 6 months. Many who attended reported that the group helped them to grow in their faith, with some attendees going on to become group facilitators, and others integrating into the church in other ways.

Connect Groups

Our Connect Groups continued to grow over the past year. Between October 2024 and September 2025 we released eight new leaders to open new groups, bringing the total number of active Connect Groups to 32, with an average weekly attendance of 195 people across all groups. We're grateful to the three leaders who stepped down during this period for their faithful service, and we celebrate the healthy growth in leadership overall. Interest in Connect Groups remained strong, with 69 people enquiring about joining a group and 39 placed into groups during the year. The continued demand — reflected in a growing waiting list — is an encouraging sign, and it spurs us on to keep raising up new leaders so that everyone who wants a place can find one.

Men's Ministry

2025 was a year of growth, discipleship and connection for the Men's Ministry. Pastor Howard encouraged men to recognise and use their God-given gifts to build God's Kingdom and impact those around them.

A key highlight was the Men's Weekend Away, where men were strengthened through teaching, fellowship and a renewed focus on discipleship. Attendance at events continued to grow, while monthly prayer and fasting gatherings helped foster greater unity, spiritual hunger and connection. Our fortnightly Men's Connect also saw significant growth, creating opportunities for fellowship, accountability and encouragement.

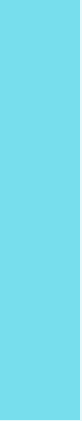
Throughout the year, we remained committed to equipping men to serve, lead and grow in faith. We look forward to building on these foundations in 2026 through the theme, No Man Left Behind.

When Women Gather

During 2025, When Women Gather continued to provide opportunities for women of all ages and backgrounds to connect, grow in faith, and build meaningful relationships within the life of the church. Through regular gatherings, special events, discipleship opportunities, and pastoral support, the ministry sought to create welcoming environments where women could encounter God, develop authentic community, and be equipped for everyday life and ministry.

A significant milestone during the year was the launch of our first Women's Weekend Retreat, which welcomed 106 women for a weekend of worship, teaching, reflection, fellowship, and personal renewal. The ministry also hosted five core events throughout the year, alongside supplementary gatherings including When Wives Gather — providing wisdom, encouragement, and support — and Walk and Talk events, which created informal opportunities for friendship and relationship-building.

The ministry remains committed to supporting the vision of the church by creating spaces where women are empowered, encouraged, and equipped to flourish in their relationship with Christ and in their influence within their families, workplaces, communities, and the church.



08

**PRAYER
MINISTRY**

City Gates is called to be a House of Prayer for All Nations. As a result we have raised the temperature of prayer.

This has reflected in the increased rhythm of corporate prayer which has encompassed Times of 24 hr prayer; 6-7am online prayer times; monthly Encounter Gatherings.

Building on the established prayer and fasting rhythms that were in place already, there have been extra times that we have fasted and prayed with many learning how to fast for the first time.

Attendance has more than doubled at most of the corporate times of prayer represented across all the generations with a particularly high participation among youth and young adults.

Over the year a number of people have experienced answers to prayer whilst others have received freedom from demonic oppression and bondage.

There are also a number of prayer teams that continue to keep the spiritual fervour such as the Sunday Intercession Team, the Tuesday Intercession Group.

We are also grateful for our strong partnership with The Watchtower Ministry and The National Day of Prayer & Worship and EME, where we lift the needs of the Nation and cry out for Revival across the British Isles and for troubled spots and the Persecuted Church.



09

OPERATIONS

Conference Centre

City Gates Conference Centre exists to maximise the use of our facilities by welcoming businesses, charities, community groups, educational institutions and Christian organisations into our building, extending the reach and impact of City Gates Church far beyond its regular congregation.

It generates income to support the ongoing ministry of City Gates Church while creating opportunities for thousands of people to step into a church environment, be exposed to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, even if indirectly, and experience the love, excellence and hospitality that reflect our faith while building meaningful relationships with the communities we serve.

Grounded Coffee Shop

Located on the ground floor of the church, Grounded Coffee Shop is an affordable, welcoming space that serves both the congregation and the wider local community. With reasonable prices, a generous seating area, and a warm, calm atmosphere, Grounded has become a popular gathering place for church members, local groups, and residents throughout the week.

On average, around 55 coffees are served each day, alongside an affordable food menu including croissants, jacket potatoes, and light lunches. On Sundays, the coffee shop plays a vital role in church life — providing refreshments, encouraging fellowship, and creating natural spaces for connection after services.

Beyond its commercial function, Grounded is a missional space. It extends the church's presence into everyday community life, offering a point of welcome for those who may not yet be ready to step through the doors of a Sunday service, and strengthening the relationships that underpin our wider outreach.

Facilities

The focus of 2025 has largely been the continued recovery process following the flood that occurred in December 2024. Significant work has been undertaken to restore the building, enabling the church to reopen and resume normal operations. We have then moved into the next phase of recovery, with remedial works planned across the third floor, auditorium, and ground floor areas.

This process has been detailed and often complex, involving ongoing assessments, quotations, and extensive dialogue with insurers to agree the scope of works and secure the necessary approvals. While these discussions were progressing, the leadership team took the opportunity to review other areas of the building that could be enhanced to better support the church's mission and community engagement.

Due to the lifecycle of the building and the components that go into the day-to-day function, this year we have had a number of major replacements required of heavy-duty machinery that involve our central AC systems and boiler function. We have taken steps to improve the efficiency of the building and had an overhaul of 80% of the lighting, switching over the LED lighting, as a way of significantly reducing our monthly bills long term. Other measures have involved adjusting how general maintenance is approached which has led to significant savings on our annual budget and future works.

Alongside these larger projects, the ongoing maintenance and management of the building have continued throughout the year. Numerous works have been carried out to ensure the effective operation of key systems, including air conditioning, heating, and other essential services, supporting the functioning of a church building of our size and complexity.

People Management

The staff team grew from 21 to 25 in 2025, a 22% increase, with new posts created to strengthen capacity in evangelism, pastoral care, social media, and prayer. Staff turnover for the year was 0%, reflecting a culture where people feel valued and purposeful.

The HR function maintains compliance with UK employment legislation, including up-to-date contracts, working time regulations, and the code of conduct. Our practice is guided by the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development (CIPD); the professional body for HR; ensuring our people management standards reflect current best practice. We also work in close collaboration with Elim HR at Head Office, drawing on the movement's wider expertise for guidance and consistency across the network.

Staff wellbeing is treated as a genuine priority. We are mindful of the particular pressures of church-based work, where professional and personal life can blur and the emotional demands of ministry are real and actively encourage healthy boundaries, full use of annual leave, and open communication. Investment in team culture through shared prayer, gatherings, and celebration ensures the staff community is not just functional, but life-giving. A highlight of the year was a team building day that brought all staff together for a variety of activities, from games to sharing a meal together. Strengthening team culture is one of our main priorities, and creating these shared experiences is central to that commitment.

Safeguarding

Our commitment to safeguarding underpins the ways we aim to serve and minister as a church. Throughout the year we ran safeguarding training for ministry leaders and volunteers to ensure that our practices are aligned with the most up-to-date safeguarding guidelines. As part of our commitment to safer recruitment, we continue to DBS check all volunteers that serve with children and vulnerable adults. For us, safeguarding goes beyond legal compliance; it is a core component of our discipleship to Jesus.



10

**KINGDOM
PARTNERSHIP
& MISSIONS**

Good News for Everyone (GNFE / Gideons)

City Gates Church maintains a valued partnership with the local branch of Good News for Everyone (GNFE, formerly Gideons UK), providing regular financial support for the distribution of Scripture in the community.

In 2025, this funding enabled the branch to distribute around 1,300 New Testaments, including 900 at Easter and Christmas outreach events in Ilford and Barking, and 400 in three local secondary schools. Looking ahead, the branch plans an East London outreach to 900 hotels, care homes, and funeral directors, and will replenish Bible supplies at King George Hospital. Branch Chairman Geoffrey Amoateng expressed gratitude, highlighting City Gates' vital role in supporting gospel outreach.

City Gates Academy (Philippines)

City Gates Academy in the Philippines continues to flourish as a Kingdom partnership. In the 2024–2025 school year, the Academy supported 142 students, served over 9,000 meals, and reached into the wider community through Christmas outreach (800 children), Summer School (350 children), and relief support for 206 families affected by fire. Beyond education, the partnership is bearing fruit in faith — 9 parents began attending church, and 3 cohabiting couples were married. The visit to the Philippines this year strengthened this relationship, and we remain deeply grateful for the impact being made in His name.

Teen Challenge London

City Gates Church is grateful for our strong and meaningful partnership with Teen Challenge London. Without the ongoing support of churches like ours, they would not be able to help transform the lives of men who come into contact with the ministry.

Key highlights for the period October 2024 – October 2025:

- 8 men graduated the Teen Challenge programme
- Bed capacity for men with addictions increased from 20 to 28 at Drayton Hall, Norwich
- Purchase of a new vehicle and replacement of the old boiler system at Drayton Hall
- Residents completed 132 City & Guilds courses (March 2024 – March 2025)
- 5 bedrooms refurbished at Wilkerson House, Ilford

Christian Education Project (CEP)

City Gates has been a Member of the Christian Education Project since it began in 1991, and we thank God for your faithful financial and prayer support which enables them to continue offering Bible-based lessons, assemblies, and activities — free of charge — to thousands of children and their teachers.

In the past year, their inter-church team has been Serving Schools, Inspiring Minds, and Exploring Faith in over 60 schools in Redbridge and nearby: truly something to praise the Lord for!

The Message Trust

City Gates Church is proud to partner with The Message Trust to bring the Community Grocery to Ilford. Together, we provide local families with access to quality food at affordable prices — but our vision goes far beyond food. The grocery sits at the heart of a wraparound model of care, offering members access to employment support, financial guidance, and mental wellbeing courses, all within a welcoming environment that reflects our values as a church. This partnership is a powerful expression of our mission: to serve our community with the love of Christ and create genuine pathways for people to encounter Him

Watoto

In January 2025, 34 church members travelled to Uganda with Watoto, where they helped renovate two family homes and two classrooms, bringing practical hope and encouragement to children and families. The team also made a wider impact through their generosity, including funding a much-needed cement mixer for Watoto's Bbira village and supporting the ministry in many other meaningful ways.



FINANCE

Financial Report for the year ended 30 September 2025

The Financial Report has been prepared in accordance with standard accounting practice, using the categories recommended by Elim Headquarters. This summary covers the period from 1 October 2024 to 30 September 2025, aligning with the financial year used by all local Elim Churches.

The figures in this report reflect the two years ended 30 September 2025. We will be focusing on the year ended 30 September 2025.

In producing the accounts and extracting the summary, we have consistently applied the Local Church Accounting Scheme (LCAS), which is the system wherein Elim Headquarters supervise our accounts under the supervision of an Elim Local Accounts Manager. They oversee all local church accounts. As part of the larger Elim Charity, we also have to provide a full audit trail for all of our income and expenditure.

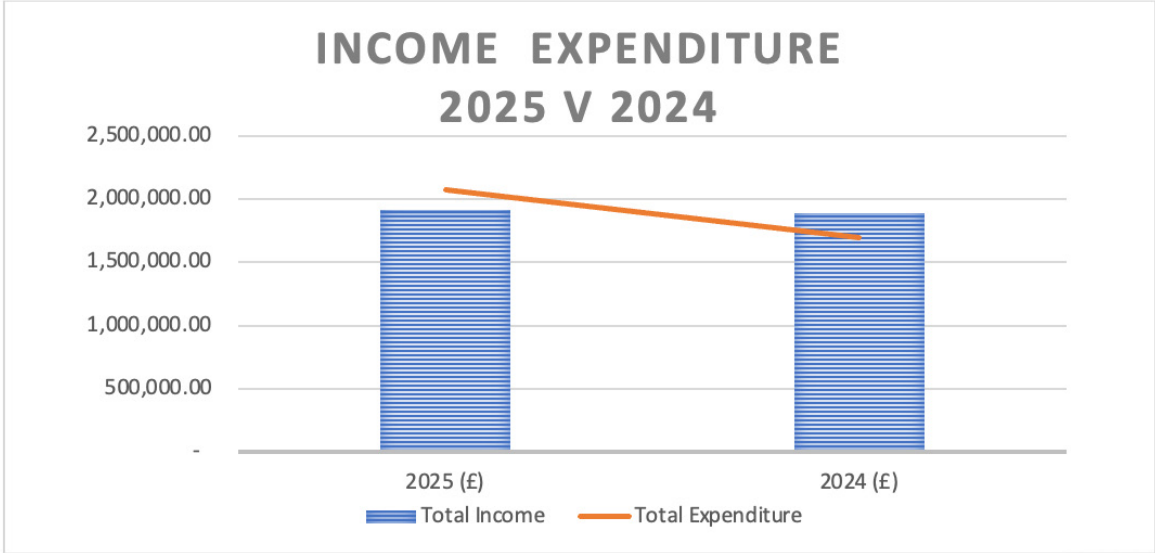
The church's accounts, together with all the church's financial practices and procedure, comply with charity law and accounting standards. City Gates Church is part of the Elim Foursquare Gospel Alliance, a registered charity (registration number 251549). For full details, please visit www.elim.org.uk.

The Consolidated Accounts for Elim Foursquare Gospel Alliance for the year ended 30 September 2025, incorporating the City Gates Church accounts, will be submitted to the Charity Commission this month.

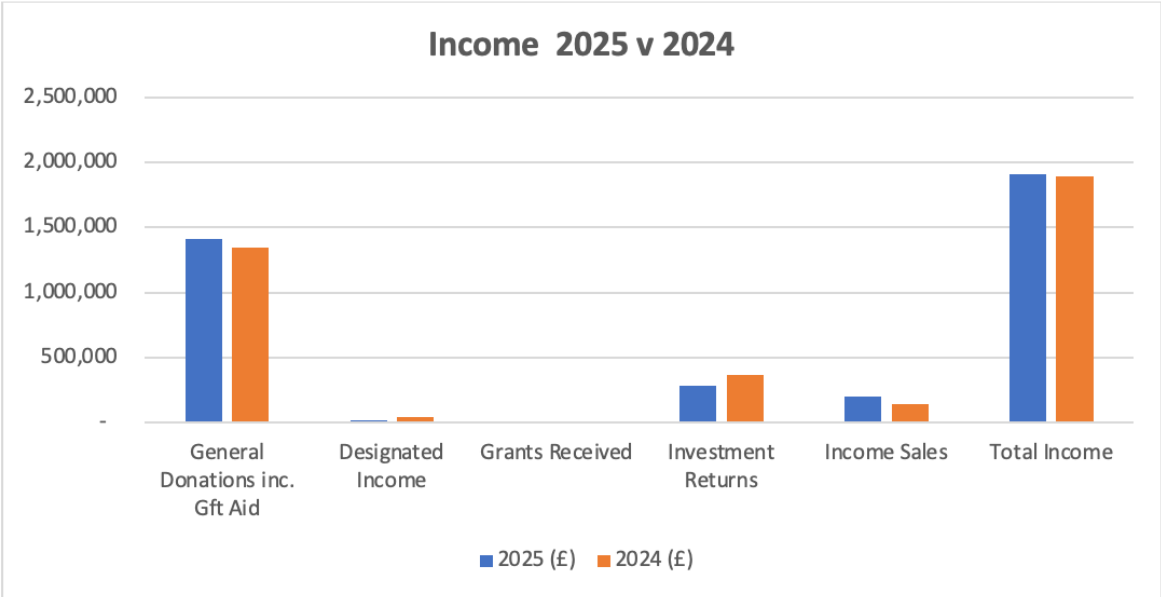
CITY GATES CHURCH

Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 30 September 2025

Income and Expenditure



Income



General Donations, including Gift Aid

The General Offerings for the year ended 30 September 2025 were £1,407,943, which is a 5% increase on the previous year (£1,345,777 – 30 September 2024). Despite the ongoing cost-of-living crisis and various other issues people have faced over the past year, members have remained faithful with their giving. This is a blessing, as we know that many members are going through very challenging situations and have continued to give despite their personal circumstances.

The amount received under Gift Aid in the year ended 30 September 2025 was £77,893, compared with £163,955 in 2024. It is difficult to compare the Gift Aid year on year because it varies based on when the Gift Aid claims are made. Also, once the claims are submitted there are sometimes processing delays by the HMRC before the funds are received. As of 30 September 2025 there were still a number of quarters pending so next year's accounts ending 30 September 2026 will show a significant increase in the Gift Aid received.

From these figures, it is clear that Gift Aid has a significant impact on the church finances. There is still scope to increase the Gift Aid income, as some newer members may not be fully aware of the benefits that Gift Aid provides to the Church and to eligible taxpayers. To ensure that everyone can make an informed decision, we will continue to provide Gift Aid presentations and information sessions throughout the year.

If you would like to join the Gift Aid scheme, please contact the Church Office to obtain a Gift Aid declaration form.

Designated Income

This represents income that has been donated for a specific purpose. The amount shown is for the Building Fund and is used for the maintenance and enhancement of the building.

Investment Returns

This represents income from the Hire of the Premises of £196,749 (£288,523 – 2024) and interest received on the funds in the savings account of £84,729 (£75,657 – 2024).

The Conference Centre continues to be an important source of income to support the running of the building. It also continues to be an important facility used by the wider local community and other Christian organisations.

There was a reduction in the income from the Conference Centre, partly as a result of a change in the services offered. The Centre no longer provides catering services, so this is accounted for separately.

The interest income increased by nearly 12% as a result of the increased interest rates on the deposit funds held on our behalf by the Head Office.

Income from Sales

This represents income from the Grounded Café of £91,083 (£94,419 -2024) and all other paid events in the church amounting to £114,677 (£47,413 – 2024), The Grounded Café continues to be an important community hub and there is always activity there during the week. This, in turn, has helped the café sales.

It is an important means of outreach to the community. It has also become much busier since the Community Grocery was opened. As the Community Grocery carries on more activities like Life Skills, the Job Club and various other meetings, this increases activity in the café.

Expenditure

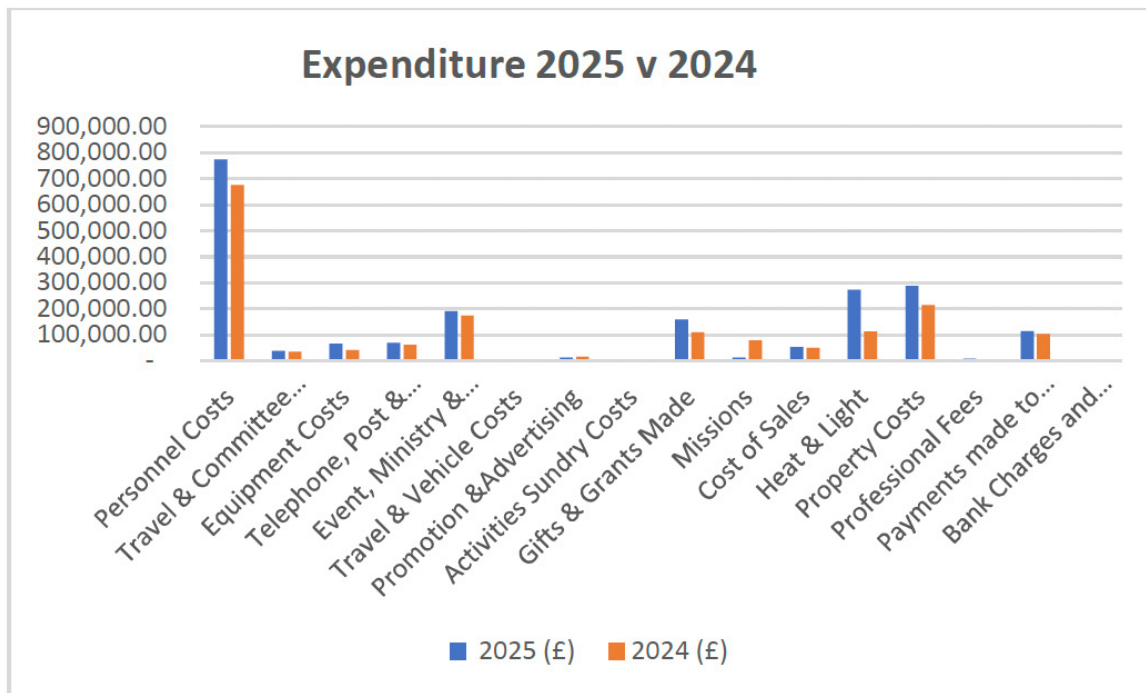


Fig 1

Personnel Costs

Staff costs increased by about 15% this year from £674,738 (2024) to £773,231 (2025). This increase is partly due to an increase in staff numbers during the year, as well as an increase in pay rates. Also, like all other organisations, the increase in Employers National Insurance increased the Personnel costs.

There are currently 25 members of staff (21 in 2024) working for the church on a full-time and part-time basis. This includes those who are on payroll and those who work on a freelance basis.

Equipment Costs

These costs increased by about 57% this year. A lot of the equipment we are using had to be replaced following the flood damage in December 2024. In addition to this, a lot of the equipment was getting obsolete as we had had it since we moved to the building. Also, as we continue to build our online presence, additional equipment was required to enhance the online experience.

Telephone, Post and Stationery

These costs increased by about 11% this year. This was largely due to inflationary costs.

Event & Ministry Costs

The cost of events and ministry costs increased by 11% to £191,854 (£173,564 – 2024). This is a reflection of the increased activity both within the church and in reaching out to community. A large part of this cost is covered by the sales income mentioned above.

Gifts and Grants made

Ministry & Individual Gifts

Grants increased significantly during the year, largely due to lump sums awarded to Teen Challenge London, Watoto and an Elim church, in support of their respective building projects. This reflects our commitment to investing in Kingdom partnerships and supporting the wider work of the Church beyond our own walls.

Ministries supported by City Gates on a regular basis include Teen Challenge, Tough Talk, Christian Education Project, Christians Against Poverty, Good News for Everyone (Gideons), CARE and The Message Trust. Other ministries are also supported from time to time.

We also continue to provide Welfare Support Grants to individuals facing tough and challenging circumstances, ensuring that practical care for people in need remains a core part of how we express the love of Christ in our community.

The total Grants increased in the year ended 30 September 2025 to £159,713 from £110,914 in the previous year.

Missions

Uganda Mission (January 2025)

In January 2025, City Gates undertook its first-ever mission to Uganda. As part of this initiative, a grant of £6,300 was awarded towards the renovation of two family homes and two classrooms. This provided improved living conditions and educational facilities for the local community.

City Gates Academy, Philippines

In September 2024 the Academy were provided a lump sum of £50,000 to cover a two-year period in order to fund the repair of the academy's main hall, as well as to contribute towards its ongoing running costs, including the salaries of teaching staff. This support helps ensure the Academy can continue to provide quality education to the children and families it serves. Quarterly transfers to the Academy will resume in 2026.

Heat & Light

As a result of the general increase in utility costs, the overall cost increased by nearly 139% (from £114,350 in 2024 to £272,867 in 2025). This increase was mainly related to an increase in the electricity bills from £91,206 in 2024 to £248,851 in 2025.

Although electricity prices have increased, the bulk of this increase was as a result of a large back bill of approximately £100,000 from our electricity provider, SSE. There was a problem with the direct debits for a number of ELIM churches including ours. This has now been resolved but resulted in a large back payment relating to earlier years, which was paid in this financial year.

Property Costs

The property costs increased by 35% from £214,927 in 2024 to £289,272 in 2025. The costs of running the building are generally quite high as a result of the general maintenance required to maintain the building at a high standard.

These costs also reflect the repairs carried out after the flood and the refurbishments in the Coffee shop and the ground-floor reception. We also needed to carry out repairs to the newly acquired Church Manse.

Some of the repairs in relation to the flood will be covered by an insurance claim of approximately £170,000 which will be reflected in next year's accounts.

An additional expense incurred during the year related to the upgrade of the Church's lighting to LED technology. Although this represented a significant capital outlay, the investment is expected to generate cost savings through reduced energy consumption and lower maintenance costs. The full financial benefits will be realised over the coming years.

Professional Costs

The Professional costs represent Audit and Accountancy fees, Legal fees, DBS checks etc. These costs were double the previous year as a result of the increased compliance costs for DBS checks, which are a legal requirement for all those working with children and vulnerable adults.

Balance Sheet			
		2025 (£)	2024 (£)
Fixed Assets:			
Church Property		8,927,539	8,927,539
House Property		855,112	
Equipment		40,229	
Furniture & Lighting		24,442	
Fixtures & Fittings		10,793	
Total Fixed Assets		9,858,115	8,927,539
Current Assests			
HQ Deposits		2,320,318	3,166,178
Bank Balances		357,027	605,445
Total Current Assests		2,677,345	3,771,623
Current Liabilities			
Loans from Individuals		-	-
Total Liabilities		-	-
Net Assets		12,535,460	12,699,162
Reserves			
Reserves brought forward		8,963,299	8,764,750
Reserves Management		3,735,864	3,735,864
Surplus / Deficit for year		- 163,704	198,547
Total Reserves		12,535,459	12,699,161

Fig 2

Balance Sheet

The Balance Sheet as at 30 September 2025 (Fig 2) shows the assets (things that the church owns) and liabilities (things that the church owes) as at that date.

Property

Under Fixed Assets, the value of the church building remains unchanged at £8,927,539. In addition, the church purchased a Manse for £855,112 as the Pastor's residence.

Also included under Fixed Assets are Equipment (£40,229), Furniture & Lighting (£24,442) and Fixtures & Fittings (£10,793). These items have been shown on the balance sheet and represent those items that are likely to last for a number of years, like some of the equipment and furniture. These items are classed as assets, rather than being deducted as expenses.

HQ Deposits

This represents funds held in a deposit account on our behalf by Head Office, Funds are transferred to our local church account as and when they are required for various projects. This fund reduced by £845,860, as a result of the purchase of the Church Manse.

Bank Balances

This represents the funds held in our various church accounts to meet the ongoing church running expenses.

Reserves

This represents the cumulative net value of the church's assets. These reserves have reduced by £163,702 as a result of all the additional expenditure this year.

This is largely because we had to carry out the flood damage repairs prior to receiving the insurance funds. The funds have now been received to restore the balance and these will be reflected in next year's accounts.

Moving forward...

We want to take this opportunity to thank everyone that has given to the church over the past year, both financially and in other ways. Your giving has made a considerable difference to the running of the church, and your generosity has enabled various missions and different areas of ministry to grow within the church.

The church has maintained a very strong position financially, and we trust God to continue to keep the church strong so that we can continue to serve the community and those in need.

We look forward to another exciting year ahead with new challenges and new opportunities to reach the lost for Christ.

Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 30 September 2025					
Income		2025 (£)	2024 (£)		
General Donations inc. Gift Aid		1,407,943.00	1,345,777.00		
Designated Income		17,143.00	42,093.00		
Grants Received			-		
Investment Returns		281,478.00	364,180.00		
Income Sales		205,760.00	141,447.00		
Total Income		1,912,324.00	1,893,497.00		
Expenditure		2025 (£)	2024 (£)		
Personnel Costs		773,231.00	674,738.00		
Travel & Committee Costs		38,489.00	36,661.00		
Equipment Costs		66,445.00	42,371.00		
Telephone, Post & Stationery		69,266.00	62,413.00		
Event, Ministry & Worship Costs		191,854.00	173,564.00		
Travel & Vehicle Costs			840.00		
Promotion & Advertising		14,008.00	16,620.00		
Activities Sundry Costs					
Gifts & Grants Made		159,713.00	110,914.00		
Missions		14,000.00	80,214.00		
Cost of Sales		55,346.00	51,164.00		
Heat & Light		272,867.00	114,350.00		
Property Costs		289,272.00	214,927.00		
Professional Fees		9,874.00	4,969.00		
Payments made to Elim HQ		114,926.00	104,977.00		
Bank Charges and Interest		6,737.00	6,228.00		
Total Expenditure		2,076,028.00	1,694,950.00		
SURPLUS / DEFICIT FOR THE YEAR		- 163,704.00	198,547.00		



Elim Charity 251549