



# Annual General Meeting Report 2024

(7<sup>th</sup> November 2024)

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# 1 Chairman's Remarks

This section reflects my personal remarks about the year. Again this has been an amazing year for Barking Churches Unite(BCU) and again another challenging year for Barking, the UK and world. A year concerning the continued wars in the Ukraine and Middle East, cost of living crisis, energy, mortgage, food increases and change of Government & MP's. However, it has been a year where we have engaged even more closely with the Council and the community and this has been demonstrated through the services we have provided and those whom we have journeyed with in Christ. It has been a year we have seen a big increase in guest visits and the development of The Source Warehouse, Baby Bank, and the Centre of Warmth project. In everything we give thanks to God for His favour and His leading in the work of BCU and The Source.

At the Barking Learning Centre (BLC) we have continued to be responsible for the Barking's Food Club supporting up to 150 families a week and Pit Stop which supports up to 150 guests each day. In December 2023 we started sit down meals we are calling Pit Stop Diner. We have now started a Baby Bank supporting up to 30 Barking families. We now have monthly Communion sessions and Discipleship sessions every week at the BLC. The shop unit (known as The Source Wellbeing Centre) tenancy at Vicarage Field Shopping Centre has been extended to 2027, under the same rent-free conditions. The focus on Well-being Centre is wellbeing groups, key working guests, providing a warm space and a listening ear to guests. A mail box of around 80 guests use this facility at the centre. A youth café on a Saturday is to take place in the near future. The warehouse ministry has grown extensively and is providing the collection of food to the BLC as well as the delivery and collection of furniture and white goods to residents. In April we started a Centre of Warmth Project supported by Cadent Gas. This project provides helpful hints to reduce utility costs, gas safety and checks and CO2 alarms. Part of the project is to provide workshops on low cost cooking and the provision of slow cookers. Due to a reduction in funding to BCU, more reliance has been placed on volunteers across the three locations.

A new project is to start in November called 'Shower Box'. This project will be equally shared with The Shower Box charity, LBBD and lead churches. Shower Box is a container containing two separate showers and will be located in the BLC, to the rear loading bay area. The project will provide showers to the homeless and will operate initially on a Friday morning (November), then extended to a Saturday morning (December & January); and then to a Tuesday morning (February 2025). Funding is urgently required for this valuable project alongside a volunteers team.

United Prayer gatherings have continued alongside street praying, intercessory prayer and leaders' prayer meetings.

Barking Churches Unite has also had its logo and branding reviewed and now has a new corporate logo, linking more clearly to The Source activities. Its new website will become live by the end of the year.

I reaffirm my comments of previous AGM remarks, in that I believe that God is saying that it is through the United Church in society we can love the community back to life for God and bring about restoration and redemption. The pandemic and current crises have caused the church to review its biblical responsibility and call to 'Go' and love the community and to resemble the intention of the Lord's Prayer "On earth as in heaven".

I believe the dream of God over our life is that we come alive in His presence within an intimate relationship with Him and through the Holy Spirit we are able to bring life back to every environment, bringing restoration and redemption, spilling contagious hope into a broken and hurting world. To live in our true identity in God as people who are Christlike and live in His footprints and live supernatural lives in God. The next move of God I believe is not a revival or movement in the church but a movement of the Christians in our towns and communities; God's kingdom being established in all the spaces that we travel such as our work space and street and establishing them to be Kingdom spaces. The call is to 'Go'. The call to churches and BCU is to release unstoppable, impassioned Spirit-filled Christians into our communities and outside spaces and to be Kingdom people.

Compassion and mission are inseparable. The spirit of mission is a spirit of mercy. Kingdom People go around doing good, releasing compassion and healing, because God is in them moving them. Kingdom People release blessing, love and peace in their town. Kingdom People become Fathers, Mothers and Shepherds to their town. Kingdom People partner with their town. Every environment & space alive in His presence.

The future of Barking Churches Unite is to facilitate Christians to pray and work together to be Kingdom People in all spaces of our community and helping them to be Kingdom and Prayer Spaces for God. To be culture changers. We are called to 'Go', Be witnesses, and make disciples. To 'Go' into the world and our community and fulfil the Great Commission. Let us love our community back to God. My prayer is that we make every space in Barking and the UK be a Kingdom Space, filled with the presence of God and the Holy Spirit through being Kingdom People. I end with the words of Jesus in Matthew 25:31-40 and the lyrics of a song sung by Tim Hughes.

God of Justice, Saviour to all. Came to rescue the weak and the poor. Came to serve and not to be served. Jesus you have called us. Freely we've received now freely we will go. We must go. Live to feed the hungry. Stand beside the broken, we must go. Stepping forward keep us from just singing. Move us into ACTION, we must GO. Fill us up and send us out. To act justly every day. Loving mercy in every way. Walking humbly before You God. You have shown us what you require. Freely we've received now freely we must go

Mick Mednick – Chair of Barking Churches Unite

## 2 Barking Churches Unite (BCU)

Barking Churches Unite is a charitable group of Christians from churches in Barking who are committed to working with churches, Christians and volunteers, praying together for the transformation of our community. BCU was established in 2010 and became a registered charity on 7th June 2017. Our charity number is 1173315. We are a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO).

The Board of trustees includes the following:

Chair	Mick Mednick (Kings Church)
Co-Chair	Antoinette Williamson (Barking Baptist)
	Barking Learning Centre Lead
	United Prayer
Treasurer	Theresa Ibrahim (St Erkenwald Church)

Secretary	Liz Mednick (Kings Church)
Warehouse / Food	Bill Dear (St Erkenwald Church)
Wellbeing Centre	Audrey Sutherland (New Testament Assembly)
Grants/Food	Anne Dear (St Erkenwald Church)
Outreach	Michael Taylor (St Erkenwald Church)
Pastoral	Rev Unesu Chindabata (Christ Church)
Finance & Policies	Sandy Tomlinson
HR	

## **Mission Statement**

Barking Churches Unite is a registered charity working to bring about change in Barking through prayer, the relief of poverty and other initiatives that serve the community and express God's love. We are a group of Christians attending churches across Barking. Barking Churches Unite facilitates contact with the council and other agencies, connecting like-minded Christians in our local area.

## **Basis of faith**

We believe in one God, working as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We believe in the Lordship of Jesus Christ, His death and resurrection and uphold the Evangelical Alliance Statement of Faith ([www.eauk.org](http://www.eauk.org)) Jesus prayed for unity (John 17:21), Paul commanded we make an effort to maintain it (Ephesians 4:3) and God the Father promises to bless it (Psalm 133) and bring healing to the community through it. (2 Chronicles 7:14).

## **Organization**

Barking Churches Unite is facilitated by a diverse group of Christian Trustees drawn from different church denominations, who include church leaders and Christians, seeking God's face for Barking. The trustees uphold the five-fold ministry and are led by a co-ordinator and chair of trustees. We facilitate communication between churches and among other agencies. Recently, and as a result of our work in the town the council and external bodies have communicated with us as a point of contact to engage with Christians who want to work in the community. We understand that unity is not uniformity and as such we are churches that have different expressions of our faith, believing that we are here to complement rather than compete with one another, and that together as the Body of Christ in Barking we can fulfill God's purpose for our lives in our town.

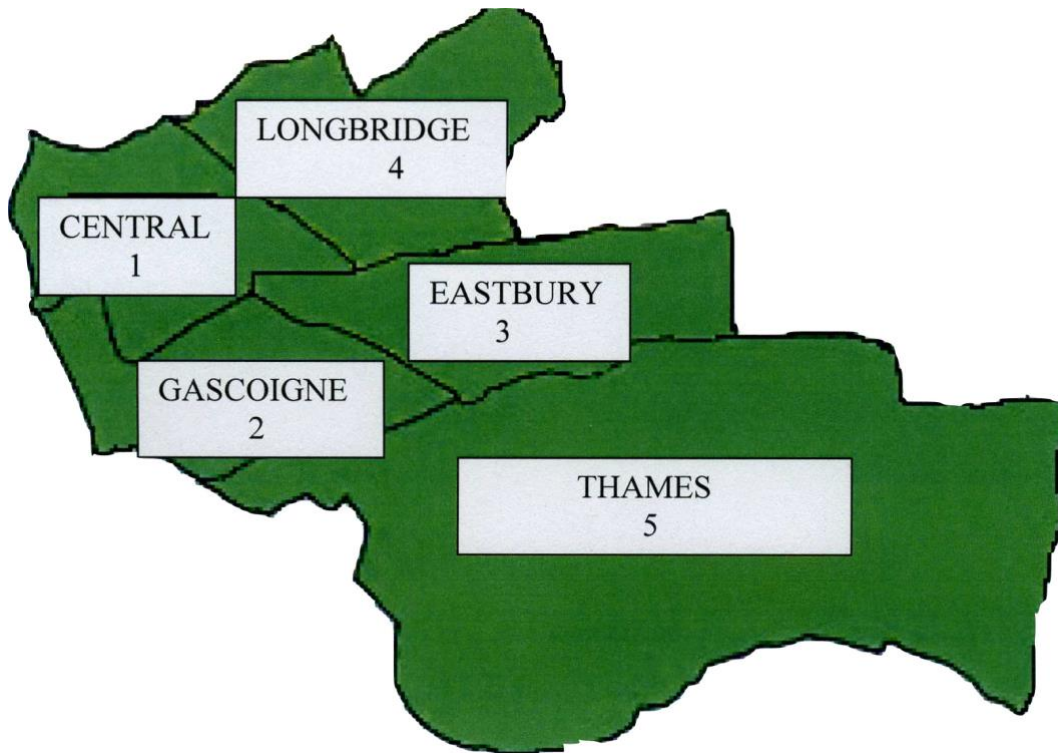
We see a church that will stand together in prayer to see social and spiritual transformation in our community. We see a church that will pray for one another and support one another practically as the need arises and resources allow. We see a church that will rejoice in what one another is doing and where possible promote that. We see a Church that will help facilitate and support the dreams of one another in order to advance God's Kingdom in Barking. We see a church that reaches out and meets the needs of the poor and the community, through joint ministries, initiatives and events.

Any Christian or/of Barking Church(s) that affirms the preceding statements can join us.

## Strategy

### 1.Prayer

The individual churches are grouped into five zones, loosely based on the council wards. We cover Barking in prayer, through different forms of prayer meetings; church leader meetings, regular prayer walks and corporate prayer meetings in each zone, an intercessors group comprised of people from different churches, and open to all Christians from across the borough.



### Mission and relief of poverty

Through an outpouring of God's love, The Source (Barking Learning Centre, Vicarage Field Shopping Centre & Riverside Industrial Estate) has been set up in Barking to support those in poverty, who are homeless and helpless to bring about hope, help and restoration in the community.

Through God's leading we have been involved in setting up and we continue to partner with other initiatives; the Food Bank and Kidz Klub.

We serve a big God and therefore have a big VISION of transformation to Barking. As we encourage and facilitate Christians to be released within their calling through the power of the Holy Spirit, we will see God move in a mighty way

### Finance

Finance comes from grants, Barking & Dagenham Council, businesses, personal and church-based donations and through fund raising. We do not apply for lottery or gambling-related funding.

## Governance

BCU has a constitutional document and a number of policies that are statutory and of good practice in its operation. These include Child Protection & Safeguarding, Health and Safety, GDPR, Food & Hygiene rating certificate, (Level 4 at BLC), Complaints procedures and Service Level agreements.

## 3 The story in the last 12 months

It has been a busy and challenging year for Barking Churches Unite. It has been another year where the charity has developed and grown by God's grace and favour. Throughout this period the Source has been open for weekdays and has been there to love our town with food, support and comfort. Its been a year of rebranding BCU & The Source and now has a new logo.

The Source continues to operate out of three sites:

- Vicarage Field Shopping Centre – The Source Wellbeing Centre
- The Barking Learning Centre (a Council building that hosts all the Council services and local library) – Pit Stop, Baby Bank & The Barking Food Club
- Riverside Industrial Estate, Thames View (a warehouse given to us by the Council) – The Source Warehouse

All the sites are provided rent free and the project receives 100% business rate relief from the Council.

Vicarage Field Shopping Centre site is hosting a Wellbeing Centre for community projects and key working activities and the Barking Learning Centre is responsible for food related projects. We have developed an even closer relationship and partnership with the Council. We are responsible for the Barking Community Food Club, which is the largest Food Club in the Borough at the BLC. The Warehouse is now fulfilling a mighty ministry, providing free furniture and white goods being delivered free of charge to those who are in need. We are now contracting 3 contractors to fulfil the work. We are hoping to extend this work to a Saturday.

We are hoping in 2025 to extend our infrastructure to two Co-Chair Trustees (one already appointed), additional trustees and an Operations Manager (if funding allows). A youth Café at the Wellbeing Centre on a Saturday is being established at the moment to start later this year or in January.

We have also continued our prayer strategy of prayer gatherings through 3 meetings (Christ Church, New Testament Assembly & Kings Church) and street praying. Zoom prayer intercession (BIN) meeting with Dagenham representatives have also regularly taken place.

The contractors of the Source are as follows:

	<b>Lead</b>	<b>Support</b>
Warehouse	Allglory	Emmanuel
Wellbeing Centre	Kay	Suzanne
Pit Stop	Lorraine	Shally
Food Club	Becky	Elyse
Baby Bank	Becky	Elyse
Centre of Warmth	Elyse	

## 4 The Source

The Source is located in three places. A shop unit in Vicarage Field Shopping Centre (VFSC) is now a Wellbeing Centre, the Barking Learning Centre (BLC) is the location of Pit Stop & together with the Barking Food Club and the Warehouse is located in Thames Road. It is a ministry which is part of Barking Churches Unite (BCU) that works across the London Borough of Barking & Dagenham to supports hundreds of people out of hopelessness, homelessness, disadvantage and isolation. The various locations are line-managed by a trustee - Audrey Sutherland (Wellbeing Centre, (VFSC) Bill Dear (Warehouse) and Antoinette Williamson (Pit Stop, Barking Food Club, Baby Bank (BLC). All staff are contracted. Kay Thompson is our Lead Contractor for the Wellbeing Centre, and Suzanne Playle (Support Assistant); Lorraine Allen is the Pitstop Lead Contractor, and Shally Mol Jose (Support Assistant); Rebecca Hutchon is Lead Contractor for The Source Barking Food Club and Elyse Ali (Support Assistant); Allglory Deo-Gratis Amah is the Lead Contractor for the Source Warehouse and Emmanuel Ato Arthur (Warehouse Assistant). Shally Mol Jose is our finance Assistant contractor.

We refuse to give up on anybody and believe that every person can have a bright future. We provide outreach, support and opportunity to help people out of poverty. We have a track record of seeing our visitors move away from life controlling unemployment, homelessness, mental illness, disability, marriage breakdowns, addictions, and therefore breaking the poverty-cycle and reliance on the benefits system. Over the past year many of our visitors moved out of hopelessness and into hopefulness. We have also seen many of our guests move into accommodation and employment following our support.

Over this past year we have seen an increase in opportunities to share our faith and pray with guests. We have seen several guests so grateful of the help they have had come back to offer their services. Recently one of the staff members had the opportunity of leading one guest into a relationship with Jesus. We now have a Communion service every month and a weekly discipleship group at the BLC.

### **Overview of our services at The Source in the past year**

#### **BLC**

- Pit Stop – a take away lunch and refreshments for those people who are homeless or in need, running weekdays (up to 150 people a day)
- Food Club (up to 150 families a week)
- GP checks (eg hepatitis B / flu / covid jabs)
- Referral centre to services and organisations
- Giving prayer support
- Clothes bank to guests
- Emergency food parcels
- Baby Bank
- Centre of Warmth Project

#### **Wellbeing Centre (Vicarage Field Shopping Centre)**

- Community groups including arts and crafts, sewing, computer café, Job club, chair Zumba, cookery classes
- Well-being support for those overcoming bereavement, mental illness, and loneliness
- Barking Business Chaplaincy – a ministry to provide support to managers and employees of local shops
- Referral centre to services and organisations
- Provide vouchers to the local Food Banks
- Information centre for events and local services



- Providing a mail box for those without permanent accommodation (around 100 people)
- Completing forms for those whose primary language is not English, or who struggle with literacy
- Providing telephone advocacy
- Telephone Help Lines – Rediscover (bereavement & grief), Reconnect (65+ and loneliness/isolation) & Reset (Mental ill health, depression & anxiety) 0300 302 3160
- Providing a listening ear over free refreshments
- Giving prayer support
- Office to Barking Churches Unite
- Key working guests
- A warm space
- Centre of Warmth Project

### **Warehouse (Riverside Industrial Park, 27, Thames Road)**

- Providing free furniture, white goods, cutlery, crockery
- Collecting furniture, white goods, cutlery, crockery free of charge
- Providing a listening ear
- Food collection & delivery
- Giving prayer support
- Centre of Warmth Project

### **Future ministries at the Source**

- Youth Café on a Saturday at the Wellbeing Centre
- Shower Box

Many of the guests visiting The Source have mental health conditions including depression, anxiety, post traumatic stress disorder or personality disorders; others have learning disabilities. Many suffer physical health issues particularly mobility difficulties or visual impairment, deafness, cancer, amputated limbs, brain tumor, heart conditions, epilepsy, HIV, diabetes; and many are unemployed, homeless, refugees and elderly.

We believe that every visitor deserves the chance to see their dreams realized, and that it is not enough to provide a hot meal as important as that is, but to get people out of poverty, feeling empowered in their circumstances and off the streets for good, we need to offer something that's relevant and sustainable.

To this end, we believe the solution is a service that supports those in poverty or in need and to restore broken lives and bring hope to the helpless, employment to the unemployed, homes to the homeless. We aim to provide a service that will provide activities to help those in desperate need and assistance to develop the activities, skills and resources for guests to realize their aspirations and become active and integrated members of their local community.

In other words; each of our services lead to guests being offered the opportunity to change their lives, attend courses, receive a free meal, find help to fill in forms, learning English, support into paid employment, - and that is what will change lives and get those in poverty back into employment, accommodation, and self belief and off the streets for good.

Over the past five years we have been working with those in poverty and need in Barking & Dagenham and in the centre of Barking. We are in an exceptional position to assist those who are in poverty and deprivation and we have a track record of seeing our visitors move away

from life controlling addictions/offending and into lives they are able to control and feel proud of. We believe there is no such thing as a hopeless case, and that all deserve the chance to turn their lives around and come off the streets for good. What we have to offer is unique, carries excellent success rates, and is meeting a critical need in Barking.

In the past 12 months we have developed much closer links and regular contacts with the Council and other agencies, in order to work together for the positive outcomes of the guests.

## 5 Outcomes

BCU provided a healthy and vital linking of local churches to ensure compliance of legal restrictions. BCU has had 3 united prayer meetings at Christ Church, Kings Church and New Testament Assembly in churches and street praying sessions in this past year. The Barking Intercessors Network (BIN) has met around 6 times on Zoom. The pattern of regular leader's fellowship meetings has been erratic and this is now being further supported by Rev Urbain Yombe (St Erkenwald Church) and Antionette.

The Source keeps a visit register from which we measure our success in how many people we were able to feed, refer on to other support agencies and move on into other sustainable options. We currently refer people for Food Bank, council departments, as well as providing free daily lunchtime meals and other activities. Success is just about being there and knowing that we have restored hope to many lives, and enabled them to find a way out of the situation they are in.

For our **guests**, success in soft outcomes is measured by their personal development, restoring self-esteem and self-belief and basic skills and the hard outcomes are measured through attendance, those gaining employment and accommodation. Our **monitoring** is supported through a wide range of different measures which include; activity registers, face-to-face repeat conversations and meetings.

Visitors to The Source include those of different nationality and ethnic origin, low incomes, unemployed, homeless, mental health issues, elderly, disabled, single parents, bereaved and those with complex issues. From The Source they receive emotional and practical support and have a location in the marketplace that is sympathetic to those in need and works to resolve their issues. Referrals to agencies are made and people receive support that others are unable to provide.

The Source is often seen as a place of refuge and sanctuary providing hope to the hopeless, demonstrating God's love and compassion. Within the community The Source is seen as a first stop and last resort and people in need are referred to The Source by the Police, Social Services, Housing Office, Citizens Advice Bureau, Teen Challenge to name a few.

The Source is connected to a number of food agencies providing free food. These include Costco, KFC, Greggs, Lidl, Aldi, Asda, Tesco, Neighbourly and Felix (Fareshare). We have excellent relationships with Vicarage Field Shopping Centre and the BLC and as a result of the work we provide, we receive free rent and business rates.

The table below shows that our visits of 2023 and the data to September 2024.



Annual Totals 2023	Pitstop	Food parcels	Food Vouchers	Community Food Club	Well Being Groups	Enquiries & Key Working	Post	Warehouse Food Collections	Warehouse Furniture Collections	Warehouse Food deliveries	Warehouse Furniture deliveries	Warehouse Full house deliveries	2023 Monthly: Total Visits	2022 Monthly: Total Visits	Diff	% Diff
January	2446	31	17	543	40	52	80	42	13	17	30	5	3257	2463	794	32.24
February	2305	21	16	403	58	38	80	33	42	25	26	5	2994	2401	593	24.70
March	2185	21	26	428	80	59	53	30	56	29	28	9	2945	2713	232	8.55
April	1366	15	41	559	55	58	53	33	38	28	26	10	2221	2175	46	2.11
May	2874	17	38	541	66	70	53	40	28	31	23	4	3714	1981	1733	87.48
June	2464	11	32	499	56	66	53	28	30	15	24	4	3239	2597	642	24.72
July	2851	15	43	565	67	77	0	33	2	24	6	0	3626	2367	1259	53.19
August	3557	9	46	593	70	134	106	42	26	37	19	1	4561	2542	2019	79.43
September	2602	11	47	501	59	113	55	46	23	34	29	1	3441	2351	1090	46.36
October	3398	10	52	662	56	122	42	54	54	30	29	3	4428	2553	1875	73.44
November	3244	5	53	412	67	83	74	40	25	31	38	4	4005	2472	1533	62.01
December	1349	0	43	0	73	74	0	34	25	29	29	2	1595	2530	-935	-36.96
Year to Date Running Total	30541	166	454	5706	747	946	649	455	362	330	307	48	40026	29145	10881	37.3

#### Annual Statistics : - No. People served / Impacted

Community Food Club (No. People directly impacted)	22824	** Based on average Family size = 4 persons	Total number of people directly impacted by all services >>>>	57144
Total No. of Visits : All Services combined	40026	Pitstop, Food parcels, Food vouchers, CFC, Well being groups, Keyworking, Enquiries, Post, Warehouse Furniture collection & Deliveries		



Annual Totals 2024	Pitstop	Food parcels	Food Vouchers	Community Food Club	Well Being Groups	Enquiries & Key Working	Post	Baby Bank - Registered	Baby Bank - Emergency parcel	Warehouse Food Collections	Warehouse Furniture Collections	Warehouse Food deliveries	Warehouse Furniture deliveries	Warehouse Full house deliveries	2024 Monthly: Total Visits	2023 Monthly: Total Visits	Diff	% Diff
January	2807	26	45	603	28	140	158	0	0	46	42	38	37	4	3890	3257	633	19.44
February	2545	16	44	330	65	101	84	0	0	38	38	47	17	6	3246	2994	252	8.42
March	2205	23	55	338	67	94	0	4	0	46	35	41	25	2	2844	2945	-101	-3.43
April	2253	13	40	421	69	90	86	19	1	39	14	31	29	5	3020	2221	799	35.97
May	2861	13	58	457	103	110	185	79	6	44	30	43	34	7	3858	3714	144	3.88
June	2522	19	42	763	55	95	0	72	2	37	22	27	26	2	3546	3239	307	9.48
July	2279	13	50	458	59	84	94	89	1	32	24	24	28	2	3091	3626	-535	-14.75
August	2650	8	33	512	60	128	202	129	0	42	33	31	28	3	3657	4561	-904	-19.82
September	0	0	25	0	43	109	0	0	0	37	21	25	28	2	228	3441	-3213	-93.37
October	0	0	22	0	37	72	103	0	0	34	12	26	23	3	272	4428	-4156	-93.86
November	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2808	-2808	-100.00
December	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	88	-88	-100.00
Year to Date Running Total	20122	131	414	3882	586	1023	912	392	10	395	271	333	275	36	27652	37322	-9670	-25.9

#### Annual Statistics : - No. People served / Impacted

Community Food Club (No. People directly impacted)	15528	** Based on average Family size = 4 persons	Total number of people directly impacted by all services >>>>	39308
Total No. of Visits : All Services combined	27662	Pitstop, Food parcels, Food vouchers, CFC, Well being groups, Keyworking, Enquiries, Post, Baby Bank, Warehouse Furniture collection & Deliveries		

The Source hosts at Easter and Christmas an outside prayer station for visitors to the shopping centre to write their prayer requests and receive prayer. Also, we had a carol service in Vicarage Field Shopping Centre.

### **Impact**

Over the past year the Source has seen people overcome extreme adversity and circumstances to go on to achieve incredible personal success. We refuse to give up on anybody and believe that every visitor / rough sleeper can have a bright future. We have seen guests become champions of the community. We believe in building people into a community where they feel safe and are resourced to contribute. We believe that we all have a role to play and that together we can end homelessness - The impact of our services is lives changed; more people who are without hope to regain their hope, lives that are broken to be restored, more homeless people off the streets, and into employment, which in turn ends the cycle of poverty and homelessness and has a positive effect on the community!

## **6 Future Thoughts**

### **Forthcoming plans**

- The borough of Barking & Dagenham is facing over £65 million of cuts (before Covid19) in the next four years and looking to offload many of its services to the voluntary sector. The leader of the council has publicly stated that homelessness is one of its biggest concerns and acknowledged the significant contribution already made by BCU in addressing it.
- Discussions are underway to explore by the council the data for homelessness and rough sleepers
- To work with the Council and support our community through the energy and food crisis.
- Working with Dagenham Christians Together

### **BCU proposed developments and activities**

- Further the Kingdom of God in Barking
- Maintain and extend the ministry of the Source Wellbeing Centre
- Engage more closely with the Council
- Engage and partner with local businesses
- Work more closely to increase church unity & adoption of churches in BCU
- Develop discipleship spaces at BLC locations
- Support Dagenham Christian Together in developing The Church Elm Hub at Dagenham Library

# 7 How can YOU help Barking Churches Unite?

## 1 Praying

- Attending the united prayer & street praying events
- Using the Prayer Diary daily at home
- Praying for the Source and community ministries
- Praying for church unity and each church
- Joining the BIN (Barking Intercessors Network)
- Joining different BCU prayer networks
- Encouraging your Church to pray for BCU and support its ministries
- Church leaders to join Leaders Network
- More workers and volunteers
- Funding

## 2 Volunteering

- Helping at the Source for a 1-4 hour session a week
- Picking up food from retail shops / supermarkets
- Attending the Christmas Tree and Easter Garden witnesses
- Attending the BCU at events
- Joining the BCU WhatsApp Information group
- Offering your talent to create or contribute to a community well-being group

## 3 Join

- Join the Well-Being groups at The Source Wellbeing Centre, Vicarage Field Shopping Centre
- Join us in united prayer & street praying
- Joining the BCU WhatsApp Information group

## 4 Donating

Supporting the Source by

**£15** provides additional refreshments for a week

**£20** Provides tea, coffee and milk for a week

**£100** Provides heating costs for a month

**£100** Provides a 8 hours part-time worker costs

- Non-Perishable food
- Toiletries
- Individual donations to sustain the work on a regular basis
- Church collections (ie Harvest festival, Christmas donation)
- Organising fund raising events
- Ask your employers to sponsor BCU
- Clothes
- Furniture & White Goods

## 8 Prayer Requests

- 1 For God to pour out His Holy Spirit on staff, guests and volunteers of those involved at the Source
- 2 For guidance and wisdom for the trustees in the leading of BCU
- 3 Volunteers to support the Source & The Source Warehouse
- 4 Christians to join the well-being groups
- 5 Safety of the team and guests.
- 6 For God's love, compassion and presence to be evident in all that BCU does
- 7 To use the activities of BCU to bring people to salvation and a deeper walk with God
- 8 For greater unity amongst the church in praying and working together
- 9 For greater links between agencies and the Council
- 10 For more support from the churches and individual Christians in Barking
- 11 For our broken community of Barking & Dagenham
- 12 Funding for the ministry

## 9 Financial Report

## BCU Accounts Summary Jan 2019 to Dec 2023 and Budget for Jan 2024 – Dec 2024

Expenditure	Actual Jan - Dec 2019	Actual Jan - Dec 2020	Actual Jan - Dec 2021	Actual Jan - Dec 2022	Actual Jan - Dec 2023	Estimate Jan-Dec 2024
Service Providers	31,143	47,410	62,478	78,455	140,726	160,000
Key Worker	1,620	0	0	0	0	0
School Uniforms	0	0	0	1,366	2,548	1,500
Telephone	780	1,054	974	706	638	700
Heating & Light	1,860	656	520	939	2,253	2,500
Catering & Hospitality	2,409	3,851	3,717	16,204	31,022	30,000
Cleaning	1,021	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Repairs and Maintenance	2,504	1,476	1,469	1,473	1,054	2,500
Insurance	500	522	704	915	856	1,000
Legal	100	100	100	125	1,021	1,500
ICT & Computer Expenses	98	1,336	350	209	1,257	2,000
H4BD & Turning & DCT Donations/Hardship	446	300	0	470	0	625
Misc –Postage, Travel, Training, Printing & Stationery	370	288	144	26	606	1,000
Gift Cards & Rewards	400	2,618	1,521	840	438	248
Mental Health includes Cookery		240	358	572	4,394	2,700
Clothing & Toiletries		217	2,378	4,758	9,020	7,000
Projects (Pitstop Diner/Wellbeing Events/Vaccination Project/Baby Milk/MSL)			1,190	35	4,232	26,100
Warehouse			826	34,542	20,320	9,000
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>43,250</b>	<b>60,070</b>	<b>76,730</b>	<b>141,465</b>	<b>220,385</b>	<b>248,373</b>
<b>Income</b>						
Donations Food Club, Hygiene Bank	0	0	0	0	454	1,000
Gift Aid	0	0	0	0	2,951	1,500
Grants	22,049	97,067	61,075	124,950	233,704	300,000
Donations – Personal	17,120	14,111	13,987	13,586	9,242	4,125
Donations – Church	5,282	6,457	6,966	4,945	3,980	6,200
Donations – Business/Uniforms/Homeless H	183			4,450	4,500	2,300
Other - MSL + Telephone + Warehouse	40	400	7,260	8,867	1,208	5
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>44,674</b>	<b>118,036</b>	<b>89,288</b>	<b>156,798</b>	<b>256,039</b>	<b>315,130</b>

Expenditure over Income	2,454	1,424	57,966	12,557	35,654	66,757
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## Independent Examiner

BCU appointed Leila Satar as the Independent Examiner (IE) of BCU accounts from 2019. She is a great supporter of the work of Barking Churches Unite, particularly we are grateful to her for all her work reviewing the accounts resulting in a successful 2023 IE report.

## In 2023, Grants were gratefully received from

Grant Body	Award Name	Amount
ALDI	Neighbourly Grant - ALDI WINTER FUND	£1,000
Barking & Dagenham Council	The Source - Pitstop and Wellbeing Centre - Yr 2 of 3	£35,000
Barking & Dagenham Council	The Source - Pitstop and Wellbeing Centre - Yr 3 of 3	£35,000
Barking & Dagenham Council	Homes and Money Hub - Food Club Food Support	£30,000
Barking & Dagenham Council	Furniture Warehouse Project - Yr 2 of 3	£25,000
Barking & Dagenham Council	Furniture Warehouse Project - Yr 3 of 3	£25,000
Barking & Dagenham Council	For the continued Support of Food Provision	£20,000
Barking & Dagenham Council	NCIL	£10,000
Barking & Dagenham Council	Grow - Cook - Eat Project at Source Wellbeing Centre	£3,000
Barking & Dagenham Council	BD Community Wellbeing Family Event 21/12/23	£2,200
Barking & Dagenham Council	Vaccination pop in clinic to support with activity on 10th Feb 23 at BLC	£2,000
Barking & Dagenham Council	Professional services to fund The Source Wellbeing Day at BLC	£1,000
Barking & Dagenham Council	Warm Spaces	£1,000
Barking & Dagenham Council	Signage - Pitstop, Diner, Warehouse, Van, Wellbeing Centre, Food Club	£605
Barking & Dagenham Council	For co-production of the Asylum Welcome Pack costs at The Source	£500
Barking & Dagenham Council	Warm Spaces	£500
Barking & Dagenham Council	Warm Spaces	£500
DCT	Source support	£12,500
Easy	Lidl "Easy Fundraising".	£24
HAPAG LLOYD	Food Club – Food and Hygiene	£1,000
Homeless Heroes	Homeless Heroes Aid	£1,500
Kingsley Hall	Wellbeing Centre	£3,500
Kingsley Hall	BD Community Wellbeing Project £5K for each of 2 years - Year 2	£2,500
MERCERS	MERCERS Unrestricted - Year 2 of 2	£20,000
NEIGHBOURLY	Lidl "Easy Fundraising"	£500
NEIGHBOURLY	Lidl "Easy Fundraising"	£250
Project Delivery Ultimate C.I.C.	For co-production of the Asylum Welcome Pack costs at The Source	£500
The Faith Leaders Network	Hardship Fund	£625
	<b>Total</b>	<b>£235,204</b>

In addition to grants, many individual donors contributed to the work of Barking Churches Unite and gift aid was claimed on taxpayer donations. Many churches have set up standing orders or subscriptions all of which are gratefully received.

The Toye Foundation provided £3k for School Uniforms which supported families in poverty.

We are extremely grateful to all the grant making bodies and donors above for their favour towards Barking Churches Unite, its guests, Service Providers, Volunteers, the community of Barking and its environs and recognise God's hand in keeping us abundantly ready for more work in this area.



# 10 Donation Form & Gift Aid Form



## Barking Churches Unite

The SOURCE. 37A, Vicarage Field Shopping Centre. Barking, Essex, IG118DH

Telephone: 020 8594 2404

Email: michael.mednick@barkingchurchesunite.org

Charity No: 1173315

### STANDING ORDER MANDATE FORM

Please return this form to your Bank and inform BCU / SOURCE of your decision

#### Please debit the account of:

Name:		
Bank:		
Branch:		
Full address:		
Account Name:		
Account Number:		Sort code:

#### Please credit the account of:

Bank:	CAF	
Account Name:	Barking Churches Unite	
Account Number:	00035231	Sort code: 40-52-40

<b>The Sum of</b>	£	
	Amount in words	
<b>Commencing date</b>	From	
	To	
<b>Last Payment</b>	£	
	Amount in words	
<b>Frequency</b>	Weekly	
	Monthly	

Signature:	Date:
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# 11 Procedures for Questions

If after reading the report, you have any questions, please complete the slip below & email them back to the Source with AGM in the subject box by 1<sup>st</sup> November ([Michael.mednick@barkingchurchesunite.org](mailto:Michael.mednick@barkingchurchesunite.org)) This will give time for a reply. You can provide a general comment if you wish. Questions not submitted before the meeting will be answered after the Annual General Meeting by email.

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**RESPONSE SLIP**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Church \_\_\_\_\_

**Question**



**Barking Churches Unite**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2023**

Barking Churches Unite

Balance Sheet as at 31st December 2023

	2023 £	2022 £
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Cash in Hand and at Bank	135,717	102,139
Debtors	170	
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>135,887</b>	<b>102,139</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
<b>Due within one year</b>		
Creditors	94	2,000
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>2,000</b>
<b>Net Assets (Assets less Liabilities)</b>	<b>135,793</b>	<b>100,139</b>
<b>Capital and Reserves</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Reserves brought forward	100,139	84,807
Surplus/(Deficit)	35,654	15,332
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>135,793</b>	<b>100,139</b>

The comparable figures for 2022 are for information only and do not form part of these accounts

The above accounts were approved by Barking Churches Unite Board on 26/10/2024

JA Ibrahim

Theresa Ibrahim  
Treasurer

  
Antoinette Williamson  
Co-Chair

# Barking Churches Unite

## Income and Expenditure Statement for the year ended 31st December 2023

	<u>2023</u>		<u>2022</u>	
	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
<b><u>Income</u></b>		256,040		156,798
<b><u>Less: Expenses</u></b>				
Service Providers	140,726		78,445	
Light and Heat	2,253		939	
Catering & Hospitality	31,022		16,204	
Projects (incls Pitstop Diner/Wellbeing Event	4,232		35	
Telephone	639		706	
Repairs and Maintenance	1,054		1,473	
ICT incls Signage	1,257		209	
Insurance	856		780	
Legal and Professional	1,021		135	
Postage, Printing, Stationery, Training, Travel	606		26	
Gift Cards & Rewards	438		840	
Donations DCT & Night Shelter	-		470	
Mental Health & Uniforms	6,942		1,903	
Warehouse	20,321		34,542	
Clothing, Shoes & Toiletries	9,020		4,758	
		(220,385)		(141,465)
Surplus/(Deficit)		<u>35,654</u>		<u>15,332</u>

Independent Examiner's Report to Barking Churches Unite

This report on the financial statements of Barking Churches Unite (BCU) for the year ended 31 December 2023 which are set out on pages 1 and 2, is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ('the Regulations') and s.43 of the Charities Act 1993 ('the Act').

Respective responsibilities of the Board of Barking Churches Unite and the Examiner

As members of Barking Churches Unite, you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements; you consider that the audit requirement of the Regulations and s.43 (2) of the Act does not apply. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those financial statements in accordance with the terms of the Regulations.

Basis of this report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under s.43(b) of the Act and to be found in the Church guidance 2006 edition. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by BCU and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently, I do not express on the view given by the accounts.

Independent Examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements to keep accounting records in accordance with s.41 of the Act; and to prepare financial statements in accordance with accounting records and comply with the requirements of the Act and Regulations have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



L Satar, FCCA



**Barking Churches Unite**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2023**

Barking Churches Unite

Balance Sheet as at 31st December 2023

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<b>Capital and Reserves</b>		
	£	£
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JA Ibrahim

Theresa Ibrahim  
Treasurer

  
Antoinette Williamson  
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# Barking Churches Unite

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L Satar, FCCA