

DAGENHAM CHRISTIANS TOGETHER

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FROM DECEMBER 2021 TO 30 JUNE 2023

DAGENHAM CHRISTIANS TOGETHER

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30 JUNE 2023

CURRENT ASSETS

Cash in Hand and at Bank	27546.99
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LIABILITIES	0
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NET ASSETS	27546.99
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CAPITAL AND RESERVES

Surplus/ (Deficit)	27546.99
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TOTAL EQUITY	27546.99
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Cecilia Dewu
Treasurer

Michael Mednick
Chairman

DAGENHAM CHRISTIANS TOGETHER

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT FROM DECEMBER 2021 TO 30TH JU

INCOME

Grants	69,950.00
Donations -Personal	25.00
Donations - Church	410.00
BCU	400.00
Business	500.00
Interest	25.38
ICS	650.00
	71960.38

EXPENDITURE

Contractors fees	18688.84
Food Club	19071.84
Wellbeing Hub	5463.61
Bank charges	40
Computer expenses	20
Telephone	18
Flooring etc	908.64
Miscellaneous expenses	202.46
	44413.39

SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	27546.99
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JNE 2023

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JNE 2023



Annual General Meeting Report 2023

(5th July 2023)

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1 Chairman's Remarks

First of all, I would like to acknowledge my thanks to God for His favour upon Dagenham Christians Together and the amazing work God has started in Dagenham. I would like to thank my fellow trustees, the contractors, volunteers, the Council, Dagenham Library management, Dagenham churches, Barking Churches Unite and Christians from Barking and Dagenham. Your help and support is greatly appreciated.

Dagenham Christians Together (DCT) became a charity on 7th May 2022 and is now just over a year old. This has been an amazing and yet unprecedented year for Dagenham and Dagenham Christians Together and indeed the UK and world. A year concerning the aftermath of Covid, the Ukraine war, cost of living crisis, mortgage and food increases. The social mission aspect of DCT is the Church Elm Hub. However, it has been a year where we have engaged closely with the residents of Dagenham and the Council and this has been demonstrated through regular contact and financial support for the Church Elm Hub.

The social ministry aspect of DCT is the Church Elm Hub (CEH), based at the Dagenham Library. At The CEH we have two projects: The Dagenham Food Club, supporting around 90 families a week and the Wellbeing Centre, which supports, on average 70 guests a week.

DCT has a team of four contractors: two lead contractors Elyse Ali (Dagenham Food Club) and Jocey N'Guessan, (The Wellbeing Centre); Realda Dashi (Cover Support Assistant) and Rachel White (Food & Church Engagement Co-Ordinator).

It has been a year of our first united prayer meeting, held at Kingsley Hall on 28th April; carol singing outside Dagenham Library, an Easter Prayer Station inside CEH; the Turning Mission across Barking & Dagenham, where people became Christians and received prayers of blessings; intercessory prayer and leaders prayer connect meetings.

There has been a move of God towards bringing church leaders and congregations in Dagenham to come together to pray and to develop a cohesive strategy to love the community. I thank God for this move and the future partnership of churches in Barking & Dagenham and Barking Churches Unite to work and pray together.

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. 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. 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 DCT is to release unstoppable, impassioned Spirit-filled Christians into our communities and outside spaces and to be Kingdom people. We will need to embrace the love of the 95% of the people outside our church walls, who are in our town and community. When Kingdom People show up they carry His presence, hope and love. As Kingdom People we carry the culture of the Kingdom. We carry the authority of God as sons, daughters & High Priests. We carry the favour, honour and anointing of God, because the power of the Holy Spirit & presence of God is within us. I believe that God's heart is to for us to love our community and to release Christians to be shepherds to our town and community. If we are to reach our community, we must reposition ourselves. God is sending us out into the world. Our calling & mission is to carry the Kingdom beyond the church into the heart of the culture.

As Christians we are to transform the culture of the world as by introducing God's kingdom. We carry the wind of the Holy Spirit bringing release and authority where we go. Kingdom People release the kingdom everywhere, everyday. We must see our involvement and engagement in structures and institutions, work spaces as kingdom work. We must reject the idea that kingdom work mainly takes place in church buildings.

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.

Kingdom culture empowers believers to bring life to every space. We need to dream over our town for God. We need to be Kingdom People. This is our spiritual DNA. We need to Wake Up (Open our eyes and Arise), Prepare (See and Hear God's heartbeat & Get Ready) and be Mobilised for Action (Shine the Light of Love and the culture of the Kingdom). We need to pray together over our land (2 Chron 7:14). We need to change the culture and spiritual landscape of our community. We need to partner together even more closely as the united body of Christ.

The future of Dagenham Christians Together 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 & Dagenham and the UK be a Kingdom Space, filled with the presence of God and the Holy Spirit through being Kingdom People.

This section reflects my personal remarks about the year.

Mick Mednick – Chair of Dagenham Christians Together

2 Dagenham Christians Together (DCT)

DCT is a charitable group of Christians from churches in Dagenham who are committed to working with churches, Christians and volunteers, praying together for the transformation of our community. DCT was established in February 2022 and became a registered charity on 12th May 2022. Our charity number is 1198926. We are a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO).

The Board of trustees includes the following:

Chair	Mick Mednick (Kings Church)
Treasurer	Cecilia Dewu (On The Rock Church)
Trustee	Deacon Andy Packer (Old Methodist Church)
Trustee	Rev Martin Court (St Chads Church)
Trustee	Rev Martin Smith (Dagenham Riverside Church)
Pastoral	Rev Chris Kapnisis (Kingsley Hall)

Our Minute -Taker is Sue Julian-Ottie

Mission Statement

Dagenham Christians Together is a registered charity working to bring about change in Dagenham 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 & Dagenham. DCT facilitates contact with the council and other agencies, connecting like-minded Christians in our local area.

Our Object's article states the following:

- i. To advance the Christian Faith in Dagenham for the public by advancing the networking and working together of churches in Dagenham and facilitating churches in Dagenham to pray together for the community of Dagenham
- ii. The relief of poverty in the Dagenham Community by providing services to individuals in need

The relief of poverty of the organisation / charity will be supported through the Church Elm Hub, at The Dagenham Library, which will include a food club and wellbeing groups. These services will be provided free of charge.

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) 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).

Organisation

DCT 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 Dagenham. The trustees 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 Dagenham 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 Dagenham. 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 Dagenham Church that affirms the preceding statements can join us.

Strategy

Prayer

The individual churches are grouped into five zones, loosely based on the council wards. Dagenham North, Dagenham South, Dagenham West, Dagenham East, and Dagenham Central. We intend to cover Dagenham in prayer, through different forms of prayer meetings; church leader Connect meetings, prayer walks, corporate prayer meetings, an intercessors group (DIN) 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 Church Elm Hub (Dagenham Library) has been set up in Dagenham to support those in poverty and need, to bring about hope, help and restoration in the community.

We serve a big God and therefore have a big vision of transformation to Dagenham. 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

DCT 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, Complaints procedures and Service Level agreements.

Five-Fold Strategy

- 1 Prayer
- 2 Releasing Christians into their project dreams for God
- 3 Mission & Loving our Community – The Church Elm Hub
- 4 Discipleship within Community spaces
- 5 Outreach Events

3 The story in the last 12 months

It has been a busy and challenging year for Dagenham Christians Together. It has been another unprecedented year with Post-Covid19 pandemic and the Cost of Living Crisis. It has also been a year where the charity has developed and grown by God's grace and favour. Throughout this period the Church Elm Hub (CEH) has been open for weekdays at The Dagenham Library and has been there to love our town with food, support and comfort.

4 The Church Elm Hub

**We ♥ our
community!**



**We ♥ our
community!**



The Church Elm Hub is located at **The Dagenham Library. 1, Church Elm Lane, RM10 9QS**, working in partnership with **Dagenham Churches** and the London Borough of **Barking & Dagenham**. We work across Dagenham to support local people in poverty and also to help those people out of hopelessness, homelessness and isolation.

We provide the following support:

Community Food Club – In partnership with LBBD providing a social supermarket to support those needing help

Emergency Food Parcels – In conjunction with LBBD staff at Dagenham Library

Clothes Bank – To open soon.

Wellbeing Groups – Supporting loneliness and mental health

We also offer help, support, a listening ear, prayer, form-filling, and will do our best to signpost to correct services



Attending the Church Elm Hub wellbeing group will help you strengthen your practical skills and will improve your general wellbeing as well as support you in everyday life.

This includes

- Building confidence and self-esteem
- Meeting new like-minded people
- Trying something new
- Relax your mind
- Socialize
- Coping with changes
- Managing challenges and overcoming adversity
- Approaching problems affecting you and your community
- Improving communication and empathy skills

The range of Wellbeing Groups includes: Chair Zumba, Candle-Making, Art and Craft Workshops, Listening Ear sessions, Basic Cookery sessions, Soap-Making, Self-Care & Mindfulness sessions.

The Wellbeing Centre is open Monday to Wednesday from 11am -4pm for community projects and the Dagenham Food Club is open on a Thursday & Friday, responsible for food related projects. We have developed a close relationship and partnership with the Council. The Dagenham Food Club is the second largest Food Club in the Borough. The Wellbeing Centre opened on 23rd May 2022 and celebrated its opening with a major event. This was followed up with another event on the 23rd May 2023, celebrating its first anniversary. The Dagenham Food Club opened in June 2023 and supported one family on its first day. It now supports 90 families a week.

The Church Elm Hub has a team of four contractors: two lead contractors Elyse Ali (Dagenham Food Club) and Jocey N'Guessan, (The Wellbeing Centre); Realda Dashi (Cover Support Assistant) and Rachel White (Food & Church Engagement Co-Ordinator).

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 hope. We have also seen many of our guests move into accommodation and employment following our support.

Many of the guests visiting The Church Elm Hub have mental health conditions including depression, anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder or personality disorders; others have learning disabilities. Some suffer physical health issues particularly mobility difficulties or visual impairment, deafness, cancer, 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.

5 Outcomes

The Church Elm Hub 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, debt advice, 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 Church Elm Hub 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 Church Elm Hub is often seen as a place of refuge and sanctuary providing hope to the hopeless, demonstrating God's love and compassion. The CEH is connected to a number of food agencies providing free food. These include Neighbourly and Felix (Fareshare). We have excellent relationships with The Dagenham Library & Council and as a result of the work we provide, we receive free rent, utilities and business rates.

Church Elm Hub DATA

	2022	2023
Food Club	1,439 (6 months)	1,555 (5 months)
Average Families	54	90
Wellbeing Centre	41 (2 months)	413 (4 months)
Total Visits	1,500	5,000

The tables shows that our visits in 2022 were around 1,500 visits over a six month period and the forecast for 2023 is around 5,000 visits

The CEH hosted at Easter Prayer Station and Christmas Carol Singing event outside The Dagenham Library.

Impact

Over the past year the CEH has seen people overcome extreme adversity and circumstance to go onto 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 affecting DCT

- 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 DCT 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.

DCT proposed developments and activities

- Further the Kingdom of God in Dagenham
- Maintain and extend the ministry of the CEH
- Continue and extend the prayer strategy adopted
- Extend the engagement with Dagenham churches
- Engage more closely with the Council
- Engage and partner with local businesses
- Work more closely to increase church unity & adoption of churches in DCT
- Develop discipleship spaces at the CEH
- Work closely with Barking Churches Unite

7 How can YOU support Dagenham Churches Unite?

1 Praying

- Attending the united prayer & street praying events
- Using the Prayer Diary daily at home
- Praying for the Church Elm Hub and community ministries
- Praying for church unity and each church
- Joining the DIN (Dagenham Intercessors Network)
- Encouraging your Church to pray for DCT & CEH and support its ministries
- More workers and volunteers
- Funding

2 Volunteering

- Helping at the Church Elm Hub for a 3-4 hour session a week
- Picking up food from retail shops / supermarkets
- Attending DCT events
- Joining the DCT 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 Church Elm Hub
- Join us in united prayer & street praying
- Joining the DCT WhatsApp Information group

4 Donating

Supporting the CEH by

£15 provides additional refreshments for a week

£50 Provides tea, coffee and milk for a week

£100 Provides a part-time worker costs for a week

- 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 CEH
- Clothes

8 Prayer Requests

- 1 For God to pour out His Holy Spirit on staff, guests and volunteers of those involved at the CEH
- 2 For guidance and wisdom for the trustees in the leading of DCT
- 3 Volunteers to support the CEH
- 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 DCT does
- 7 To use the activities of DCT 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 Dagenham
- 11 For our broken community of Barking & Dagenham

9 Financial Report

A copy of the accounts is an additional document that accompanies this report. It is available on request.

10 Donation Form & Gift Aid Form



Dagenham Christians Together

The Church Elm Hub. 1, Church Elm Lane, RM10 9QS

Telephone: 07577067373

Email: dagenhamchristianstogether@gmail.com

Charity No: 1198926

STANDING ORDER MANDATE FORM

Please return this form to your Bank and inform DCT 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:	Dagenham Christians Together	
Account Number:	00035314	Sort code: 40-52-40

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

Signature:	Date:
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11 Procedures for Questions

If after reading the report, you have any questions related to them, please complete the slip below & email them back to me by 1st July 2023 (dagenhamchristianstogether@gmail.com). This will give time for the person who is responsible to formulate their answer. You can provide a general comment if you wish. Questions not submitted before the meeting will not be answered at the Annual General Meeting but by email.

RESPONSE SLIP

Name _____ Church _____

Question(s):