



Annual General Meeting Report 2025

(16th July 2025)

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1 Chairman's Remarks

First of all, I would 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 three years old. However, it has been a year where we have engaged closely with the residents of Dagenham and the Council.

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 up to January 2025 and the Wellbeing Centre, which supports, on average 100 guests a week. DCT has a team of three contractors: two lead contractors Rachel Dashi (Dagenham Food Club) and Jocey N'Guessan, (The Wellbeing Centre); and Deonne George-Charles (Support Assistant). It has been a year of united prayer meetings and carol singing outside Dagenham Library. I thank God for the partnership of churches in Barking & Dagenham and Barking Churches Unite to work and pray together. Due to Government and Council cuts funding from the Council has not taken place from January 2025 and therefore the Food Club project has been severely curtailed. It has only been through God's grace and the provision of two churches that this ministry has continued.

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 the 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 and every day. 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 Dagenham Methodist Church)
Trustee	Rev Martin Court (St Chads Church)
Trustee	Rev Martin Smith (Dagenham Riverside Church)
Trustee	Rev Chris Kapnisis (Kingsley Hall)
Trustee	Rev Anthony Egbunike (Wood Lane Baptist)

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, 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 the challenge of 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. Due to Government and Council cuts funding from the Council has not taken place from January 2025 and therefore the Food Club project has been severely curtailed. It has only been through God's grace and the provision of two churches that this ministry has continued.

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 – Providing a food club to families in need

Wellbeing Groups – Supporting residents who benefit from positive mental wellbeing. These could include those who are lonely and with mental health issues.

We also offer help, support, a listening ear, prayer, 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, Art and Craft Workshops, Listening Ear sessions, Basic Cookery sessions, Self-Care & Mindfulness, money management, and Baj 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 third anniversary recently. The Dagenham Food Club opened in June 2023 and supported one family on its first day. In 2024 it was supported by the Barking & Dagenham Council and supported up to 90 families. Due to Council cuts no funding is now funded to the Food Club. It now supports 20 families a week.

The Church Elm Hub has a team of three contractors: two lead contractors Realda Dashi (Dagenham Food Club) and Jocey N'Guessan, (The Wellbeing Centre); and Deonne George-Charles (Support Assistants).

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 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 Church Elm Hub 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 Asda, 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.

Due to Government and Council cuts funding from the Council has not taken place from January 2025 and therefore the Food Club project has been severely curtailed. It has only been through God's grace and the provision of two churches that this ministry has continued.

The below tables indicate the scope and capacity of our work and the increasing need in Borough over the past 3 and half years.

Year	Date	Food Club Families Support	Food Club Residents Support	Wellbeing Centre Listening Ear	Wellbeing Centre Groups Attendance	Total Visits
2022	January	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
	February	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
	March	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
	April	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
	May	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
	June	22	64	NA	NA	64
	July	75	218	NA	NA	218
	August	146	457	NA	NA	457
	September	187	607	NA	NA	607
	October	224	807	NA	NA	807
	November	214	763	17	NA	780
	December	282	983	13	31	1,027
Total		1,150	3,899	30	31	3,960

Year	Date	Food Club Families Support	Food Club Residents Support	Wellbeing Centre Listening Ear	Wellbeing Centre Groups Attendance	Total Visits
2023	January	311	1,244	31	28	1,303
	February	213	852	57	92	1,001
	March	340	1,360	62	88	1,510
	April	326	1,304	40	35	1,379
	May	406	1,624	60	63	1,747
	June	359	1,436	59	108	1,603
	July	387	1,548	36	60	1,644
	August	453	1,812	57	104	1,973
	September	405	1,620	67	130	1,817
	October	497	1,988	81	203	2,272
	November	478	1,912	50	175	2,137
	December	225	900	30	46	976
Total		4,400	17,600	630	1,132	19,362

Year	Month	Food Club Families Support	Food Club Residents Support	Wellbeing Centre Listening Ear/ Warm space	Wellbeing Centre Groups Attendance	Total Visits
2024	January	373	1,492	50	203	1,745
	February	261	1,044	59	255	1,358
	March	301	1,204	60	229	1,493
	April	168	672	51	255	978
	May	232	928	65	185	1,178
	June	234	944	61	256	1,261
	July	277	1,108	65	255	1,428
	August	332	1,328	70	120	1,518
	September	279	1,116	60	160	1,336
	October	286	1,114	49	168	1,331
	November	273	1,092	42	253	1,387
	December	165	660	49	130	839
Total		3,181	12,702	681	2,469	15,852

Year	Month	Food Club Families Support	Food Club Residents Support	Wellbeing Centre Listening Ear/ Warm space	Wellbeing Centre Groups Attendance	Total Visits
2025	January	48	196	60	143	399
	February	48	196	75	259	530
	March	57	221	82	296	599
	April	80	320			320
	May					
	June					
	July					
Total		233	932	217	698	1,848

Impact of Project

Over the past year we have seen people overcome extreme adversity and circumstance to go onto achieve incredible personal success. We refuse to give up on anybody and believe that they 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 project 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 Barking & Dagenham Council is facing major cuts and as a result are unable to provide further financial support to DCT
- Without the support & engagement of churches, the future of DCT & Church Elm Hub will be seriously hampered
- The future plans of DCT is dependent on the Move of God and future funding to sustain its mission and the Church Elm Hub

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
- Reduce contractor costs

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 & in DIN (Dagenham Intercessors Network).

-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
- £75** Provides some food for a family for a week
- £150** 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

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
- 12 For funding

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 12th 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):



Dagenham Christians Together

(CHARITY NO: 1198926)

**FINANCIAL STATEMENT
FROM 2nd May 2024 to 1st May 2025**

DAGENHAM CHRISTIANS TOGETHER

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 1ST MAY 2025

CURRENT ASSETS

Cash at Bank	6,931
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TOTAL ASSETS	<u>£6,931</u>
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CAPITAL AND RESERVES

Balance B/f	8,551
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Deficit for the year	1,620
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TOTAL RESERVES	<u>£6,931</u>
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DAGENHAM CHRISTIANS TOGETHER

ACCOUNTS YEAR TO 1ST MAY 2025

INCOME

Grants	33,315	
Church Donations	6,341	
Personal Donations	220	
Misc	200	
Other Interest	16	
	<hr/>	40,092

EXPENDITURE

Food	15,225	
Phone	225	
Contractors	25,087	
Bank Charges	60	
Misc	1,115	
	<hr/>	41,712

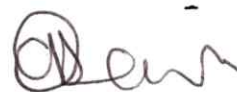
DEFICIT FOR THE YEAR

£1,620

The above accounts were approved by Dagenham Christians Together Board on
10th July 2025



Michael Mednick
Chair



Cecilia Dewu
Treasurer

DAGENHAM CHRISTIANS TOGETHER

(CHARITY NO: 1198926)

ACCOUNTS AND INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

YEAR ENDED 1ST MAY 2025

**DAGENHAM CHRISTIANS TOGETHER
INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS'S REPORT
YEAR ENDED 1ST MAY 2025**

I report on the Receipts and Payments accounts of the Charity for the Year ended 1st May 2025

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustee concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently I do not express an audit opinion 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 section 41 of the Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the Act

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.

Name:.....Christopher Sykes.....

Signed:.....C. Sykes..... Date:.....7th July 2025.....