

The Church of St Peter and St Paul, Dagenham (Dagenham Parish Church)



June 2014

Parish Profile

"For what we preach is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake."

2 Corinthians 4v5

OUR VISION at Dagenham Parish Church is to grow in the knowledge of the grace of the Lord Jesus and to proclaim His love, mercy and grace to our wider community.

We want to

- reach out to our neighbours with the good news of Jesus
- nurture our church family in their walk with Jesus
- equip believers to serve God wholeheartedly

ABOUT US



Dagenham Parish Church is a registered charity (no. 1134803) within the Deanery of Barking & Dagenham, Archdeaconry of Barking and Diocese of Chelmsford.

We describe ourselves as conservative evangelicals, with a strong preaching ministry, rooted in the expository teaching of Scripture. Our Patron is The Church Society. www.churchsociety.org

All ages and a variety of ethnic backgrounds are represented in our church family: the UK, Nigeria, Kenya, Ghana and the West Indies to name a few. We are united by our desire to know and love Jesus more. Whilst we seek to tell others in our community about the Lord Jesus; we are also committed to supporting missions in the UK and around the world by giving at least 10% of our income.

We have 16 people on our PCC:

- 9 Elected members
- 2 Clergy (now 1)
- 3 Deanery synod members (2 of these are Diocesan Synod members and 1 is a lay member of General Synod)
- 2 Churchwardens

The PCC aims to focus on vision and strategy topics as well as practical and financial matters. The PCC meets 9 times a year (monthly except in April, August and December). Its members are encouraged to attend the annual South East Gospel Partnership conference. www.segp.org.uk

The PCC passed Resolutions A, B & C - The Priests (Ordination of Women) Measure provision for opponents and the Episcopal Ministry Act of Synod establishing 'Flying Bishops'. We continue in our support of these resolutions.

At their meeting on 24th February 2014, the PCC also passed a resolution in respect of the Pilling report drafted by Reform group. (See appendix 1)

The staff team comprises the vicar, curate, a youth worker, an apprentice and a children's worker (currently part time) and they meet at least once a week in addition to staff prayers. Our curate has been in place since 2011.

The team is supported by a paid cleaner employed to clean the church and halls 16 hours a week. Additionally, someone is paid for 3 hours a week largely to support the vicar in administrative tasks. We have previously had a part-time secretary/administrative worker and would seek to engage someone again at the appropriate time. Where possible and suitable, we aim to employ people from within the church family.

OUR TIME TOGETHER



Sunday

Our church family meet on Sunday mornings at 10.30am. Each month we have one All Age Service where everyone stays in the main church building. Otherwise, we have services where the young people (up to 14 years) depart for classes. Holy Communion takes place twice a month. A supervised crèche for children up to 3 years old is now run each Sunday.

Faithful Bible teaching is the focus of our services. The teaching is structured and based on the study of one book per term. Sunday's sermon content and passage are also used as the focus for the mid-week growth group discussions.

Our services are informal in style and members of the church family are encouraged to participate in several areas. The music is mostly contemporary and led by a small group of musicians and singers augmented by use of a pipe organ for traditional hymns.

Our average Sunday attendance is around 140 people, including 35 children. Our electoral roll as it stood at our last ACM in April 2013 was 113.

Weekly

Growth Groups: These meet each week on differing days and times to encourage as many of our church family as possible to attend. Groups look at Sunday's passage in more depth, allowing time for questions, discussions and prayer. This is a key way that our church family are encouraged to grow in faith.

'Next Steps': On Monday mornings, a group meets where volunteers look after the babies/toddlers so that women can have a time of Bible study together. Other women also attend because they are unable to get to a growth group at another time during the week.

'BIC' (Boys in Christ): A small group of teenage lads who meet to be led in Bible study and discussion.

'G3' (Girls, Giggles & God): A small group of teenage girls who meet to be led in Bible study and discussion.

Monthly

Central Prayer Meeting: Once a month, generally on the Wednesday evening following our All Age Sunday Service, we have a central prayer meeting in the church. All members of the church family are encouraged to attend.

Men's Breakfast: These are held on a Saturday morning. The format is largely informal and the focus is on Christian living.



'Chrunch' Women's Meeting: These are held on a Saturday and alternate between an informal morning session with brunch, a talk and discussion on Christian living (normally led by women from the church family) and social events at a time to suit.

Annual

Youth Weekend Away: A time away in spring for 11-14 year olds at a venue in Lambourne End. Young people take part in activities including archery and rock-climbing, hear talks and join in with discussions. The aim is to build relationships and encourage young people to read and study God's Word and find its relevance to their lives.

The Ranch: This is a weekend away over Whitsun for children in years 4-5 to help build relationships and encourage spiritual growth.

Children's Holiday Bible Club: We organise a club for 5-11 year olds over 3 or 4 mornings during one of the school holidays. We hope to continue this work.



Occasional

Church Weekend Away: Following a very successful Church Weekend Away in 2012, we hope to do something similar again.

Other events attended

Youth

'Sorted': This is an annual youth event held in central London for teenagers and youth groups covering the 14-18s age range. It features a day of Bible teaching that aims to be faithful to God's Word and relevant to young people living in 21st century Britain. www.sortedevent.org.uk

CPAS 'Venture' Camps: Some of our young people (11-18 years old) attend camps each summer at Woolhampton and Sedburgh. A number of our adult church family also attend as leaders, helpers and cooks at Sedburgh, whilst others have previously done so at Sparkford, Quantock and Colwyn Bay. www.cpas.org.uk

Adult

CABC – Chelmsford Anglican Bible Conference www.cabc.org.uk

Biblical Counselling UK - Changing Hearts Conference www.biblicalcounselling.org.uk

London Women's Convention www.christianconventions.org.uk

London Men's Convention www.christianconventions.org.uk

Word Alive www.wordaliveevent.org

OUR TIME WITH OUR COMMUNITY

Evangelism

Friendship Team: A number of our church family meet for lunch together one Sunday a month before going out to a pre-leafleted section of the parish to befriend and engage with local residents.

Alexander Court: One Sunday a month a small group from the church family meet for lunch then visit this local care home to take a short service for them.

Schools involvement: We are involved in taking assemblies in several local schools (William Ford Church of England Junior, Village Infant & Beam Primary School) and in running a Bible Explorers course for year 6 pupils at William Ford. Village Infant and Beam schools visit the church for Christmas services, and a Harvest service is led at Beam school. A number of local schools visit the church, churchyard and Dagenham Old National School, for a range of activities for local history lessons as part of their curriculum. William Ford Church of England Junior School has strong governance from within the church family, which we seek to maintain.

Remembrance Sunday: Each year the church family moves over to our hall in Exeter Road for our Sunday service. This allows the Dagenham British Legion branch members, local organizations and dignitaries to attend a Remembrance Day service in the church building.



'Operation Gabriel': On several occasions during December, a crowd from our church family takes a float depicting a nativity scene around different estates in the parish. They call at each house to hand deliver a Christmas leaflet with an invitation to our Christmas services, whilst loudspeakers on the float play Christmas carols.

'First Steps': On a Thursday morning, we hold an adult and toddler group called First Steps in our Exeter Road Hall. The group has a good mix of church and non-church people from the local community. The session begins with circle time where everyone comes together to listen to and interact with a Bible story. The morning also includes craft, messy play and free play time for the toddlers. During this time the team seeks to befriend non-Christian parents/carers.

Other weekly meetings



'Fridays @ DPC': Our club for children in school years reception-6 meets on a Friday evening in our two halls. The evening comprises a Bible talk with small group discussion time plus games, activities and crafts.

'SCUDS': Our club for school years 7-9 also meets on a Friday evening (after **Fridays@DPC**) in the Exeter Road Hall. This club involves games, crafts, cooking and other activities and has a Bible talk and discussion as a central part of the evening. There is also a tuck shop, pool table and table tennis.

'SOUND': Our club for school years 10-13 meets on a Monday night and is run jointly with St George's Church, Rogers Road where it takes place. A Bible talk is the central focus of the evening but there are also games and other activities including a tuck shop, Nintendo Wii, pool table and table tennis.

Occasional meetings

20 - 30s Group: The 20-30s Group is largely social and set up to encourage Christians to invite non-Christian friends along, to see the difference that a life with Christ can make.

OUR FUTURE?

Our desire is to explore new ways of reaching our neighbours with the good news of Jesus. We hope to continue with our current activities whilst seeking to develop our ministries so that they have a more outward-looking emphasis. We would like to consider ways to offer our support to a social action project where people's spiritual needs are addressed as well as their practical needs.

We want to ensure we don't just offer resources to explain the gospel but, following on from any commitment people make, also provide resources to nurture a fledgling Christian in their new walk of faith.

We have been thinking about and working toward greater racial unity within our church family. We want to consider ways to build on this work.

A fair number of our church family are involved in various ministries and we want to make these servants more effective by equipping them with good resources and by identifying and providing suitable training.

Recently some of our members, with the blessing of the whole church family, set up a new church outside of the parish under the leadership of our previous vicar. Our Sunday attendance still nearly fills the church building; so we need to explore issues surrounding this with the view to a potential future church plant.

We care about the varied needs that abound in our church. Some of these needs can be met through the vicar/curate and growth groups. However, we see a need for an expanded pastoral care team. Much work is already done behind the scenes and it might be better served by developing a firmer structure for this work and those who do it.

OUR BUILDINGS

The Church of St Peter and St Paul - Dagenham Parish Church

The church is located in the heart of Dagenham Village, in the London Borough of Barking & Dagenham (Greater London East). The church stands on the corner of Crown Street and Church Lane at the northern end of the 10,000m² closed churchyard, which is maintained by the local council.

The church building is Grade II* listed and dates from the late 12th/early 13th centuries. For further information see:

www.lbbd.gov.uk/MuseumsAndHeritage/LocalHistoryResources/Pages/DagenhamVillage.aspx



Over the past several years, we have had a series of phased works. Recently the inside of the building was fully refurbished by replacing wooden pews with comfortable chairs, installing a new heating system, new lighting and new audio visual equipment. The next phase, for which funding needs to be sought, is to build a small lobby and toilet block on the rear (North East) of the building, which will also provide disabled access, and add catering facilities.

We are currently seeking considerable funding to accomplish repair works highlighted in our last quinquennial report published in 2012. These mostly revolve around works to the tower and belfry and upper parts of roof surrounds. Whilst not structurally serious, the works involve extra cost due to above ground working.

The bell tower is frequented by a small group of bell-ringers who practise on a Wednesday evening and regularly ring the bells on a Sunday morning.

Exeter Road Hall (Parish Hall)



The Exeter Road Hall is approximately 100m from the church building. It is used on Sunday mornings by two of our classes for children. A Nigerian church also meets there later on a Sunday. It is used throughout the week by a pre-school club and before/after-school clubs on a daily basis. It is also used once a week by a church run adult and toddler group. Additionally it is booked in the evenings for Cubs and Scouts in addition to our own two youth clubs. The hall is also booked by the council as a polling station for elections.

Dagenham Old National School (DONS) – known locally as ‘The Minor Hall’



Next door to the church building is the original village school which became known as Dagenham Old National School but is better known locally as ‘The Minor Hall’. This is managed by the DONS Trust, an Independent Registered Charity no.271228 (The trustees are from our church family). The ‘DONS’ also own ‘Church Cottage’, the old headmaster’s house, which is next door to the hall.

This hall is hired by the church for PCC and women’s group meetings on a monthly basis. Each Sunday it is used for crèche and after-service refreshments and later in the day by a Kenyan church. It is booked on a weekly basis for Beavers. It is also used bi-monthly for local community/council partnership meetings.

Following refurbishment as a result of a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund, this hall is also used by schools in Dagenham for local history lessons as part of their curriculum.

The Vicarage



The Vicarage, built in the mid-1980s, is in Church Lane very close to the church and backing onto the churchyard. It has a large living room, dining room, large kitchen, utility room, study and WC on the ground floor, with 4 bedrooms and bathroom on the first floor and plenty of storage. There is a garage plus off street parking and a large garden to the rear and side of the house which is mainly laid to lawn.

The Curatage

This 3 bedroomed end of terrace house is owned by the 'London Over the Border' Council and is available to the church rent free while a curate is living there. The house is opposite the Vicarage.

For more information on 'London over the Border' see:

www.churchofengland.org/media/1284036/citychurchfund%20-%20final%20report.pdf

St Luke's Centre

The St Luke's Centre is about a mile away from the church, located at the northern end of the parish. The building is let on a 6½ year lease from summer 2013 to CRI (Crime Reduction Initiative), the current lead in Barking and Dagenham Substance Misuse Recovery and Community Alcohol Service. www.cri.org.uk

Other properties

The church owns a 3 bedroomed end of terrace local house, currently rented out on a 3-year lease from October 2012. The house has benefitted from a number of refurbishments prior to lease.

We also currently rent a first floor 1 bedroomed flat from the local authority, which is used as accommodation for a church worker.

The buildings under and within our care are maintained by a buildings committee who act under charge to the PCC but with certain freedoms and authority to make decisions and act in order to not burden church staff unnecessarily.

OUR COMMUNITY

Our borough

The London Borough of Barking & Dagenham is an Outer London borough in East London which borders with and includes postcodes for Essex. It has good arterial road links with the A12 & A13 running through the borough and links to London, M11, M25 and the Dartford Crossing.

It also has good public transport links via

- London Underground - Hammersmith & City line (Barking) & District line (Barking, Upney, Becontree, Dagenham Heathway & Dagenham East stations)
- C2C - mainline service to London Fenchurch Street Station (Dagenham Dock & Barking)
- Numerous bus services (including all night) that interconnect with other transport hubs

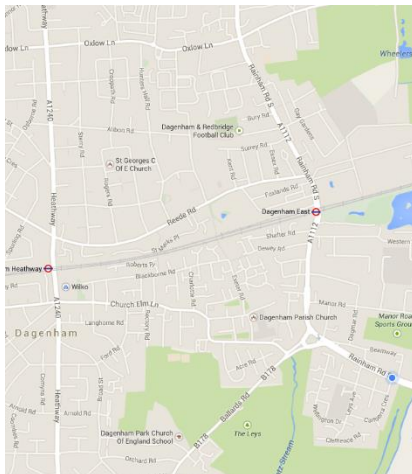
Our town

Dagenham is on the eastern side of the borough and is probably best known for the Ford Motor Company factory, which is situated at the south-eastern end, where they now produce the vast majority of engines for their various models. Ford are almost certainly one of the largest employers locally.

At one time, Dagenham had the largest council housing estate in Europe and is designated an urban priority area.

There is a major redevelopment underway on the old 'May & Baker' site opposite Dagenham East station where there will be a large supermarket (Sainsbury's) and other retail and commercial properties.

Our parish



Our parish sits between Dagenham Heathway and Chequers Lane (western fringe), the River Thames (southern), the Beam River and Eastbrook End Country Park (eastern) and a meandering northern boundary of the underground lines/mainline railway, Reede Road, Frizlands Lane, Bull Lane and Central Park.

There are approximately 30,000 people living in the parish of whom around 3,500 are primary school age and 1,800 secondary school age. There is 1 infant school (Village Infant), 1 junior school (William Ford Church of England Junior), 4 primary schools (Marsh Green, Beam County, Leys & John Perry), and 2 secondary schools

(Dagenham Park Voluntary Controlled Church of England School, Eastbrook Comprehensive) within the parish.

The land is divided between housing, light and heavy industrial land with some retail and leisure facilities including park areas, and common land.



We have our own football club, Dagenham & Redbridge (currently in League Two) who play at home in the London Borough of Barking & Dagenham Stadium, Victoria Road. Our current curate is chaplain to the club and has been able to meet 1-2-1 with a couple of the players and go through 'Uncover' (the Gospel of Luke) with them. www.daggers.co.uk www.uncover.org.uk

OUR COMMUNITY'S MAKE-UP, ISSUES AND NEEDS

The links below provide wider information on our borough and local area detailing

- census results
- demographics
- key facts
- health
- poverty indicators
- deprivation
- employment statistics
- domestic violence
- children and young people needs analysis
- crime

[NHS Barking and Dagenham census information](#)

[London's Poverty Profile indicators for Barking and Dagenham](#)

[Crime and Safety statistics from gov.uk](#)

[Labour market profile for Barking and Dagenham](#)

[Domestic abuse and violence in Barking and Dagenham](#)

[Children and young people needs analysis \(from the borough council website\)](#)

www.police.uk/metropolitan/00ABGN

OUR NATION & OUR WORLD

Our partners in mission

SEGP – South East Gospel Partnership: This partnership receives financial support from us as part of our church giving. www.segp.org.uk

East London Partnership (SEGP branch): We have strong links locally with St George's Dagenham, St Elisabeth's Dagenham, Dagenham Congregational Church and Ley Street Centre.

Prior to each Christmas and Easter, we join in serving with Ley Street Centre as they present the Christian message of each celebration to their community (mainly Muslim) over two evening meals.

In February 2014 we joined with churches of the **East London Gospel Partnership (Barking & Dagenham)** and other churches to host 'Real Lives'. This was a week of evening meetings (part of the national Passion for Life mission) where a number of local folk and famous people gave testimony to the transforming power of Jesus in their lives. www.elgp.org.uk <http://reallives.elgp.org.uk/>

We look forward to continuing in ministry with our local partners, collectively finding ways to engage with our community in evangelism and perhaps supporting a social action project.

Mission partner in Sri Lanka: We currently have a good link with a Sri Lankan pastor whom we support financially.

Mission partner in Kenya: Fidel Nyongesa (a former Cornhill student) is our mission partner in Kenya, working with iServeAfrica. We currently give some financial support to Fidel. www.iserveafrica.org

Crosslinks: We have pledged giving to support our mission partners Chris and Ros Howles working at the Uganda Martyrs' Seminary in Kampala. www.crosslinks.org/mission-partners/chris-and-ros-howles

Other organisations we currently support financially

Church Society www.churchsociety.org

Christian Institute www.christian.org.uk

Jews for Jesus www.jewsforjesus.org.uk

Open Doors www.opendoorsuk.org

Anglican International Development <http://interanglicanaid.org/>

Christians Against Poverty www.capuk.org

Links within our diocese

CDEA – Chelmsford Diocesan Evangelical Association

www.chelmsford.anglican.org/directory/societies/c

CABC – Chelmsford Anglican Bible Conference www.cabc.org.uk

Links within the Church of England

Anglican Mainstream www.anglican-mainstream.net

Reform www.reform.org.uk

WE ARE TRUSTING GOD FOR

The man

- whose love for and devotion to the Lord is evident to all, in both his life and ministry
- believes that prayer is central; regularly meeting with God in thankfulness, repentance and seeking God's guidance
- is a man of truth and integrity for whom the Bible is the supreme authority in matters of faith and conduct; adhering to & teaching biblical standards of sexual behaviour (see appendix 1)
- knows himself to be a sinner, saved by grace
- believes that Jesus Christ was abandoned by God in death and took on himself our rightful punishment; and through his resurrection, reconciles us to God and gives us eternal life
- is rooted in scripture and delights in God's word, whether it encourages or rebukes

The task

- is committed to the clear expository teaching of the Bible, bringing a clear conservative evangelical ministry of preaching and teaching rooted and centred in the Bible
- has a heart for evangelism and is looking to take the gospel message to those around us; and who has a willingness and desire to challenge and take us further in our journey as God's ambassadors
- will lead and encourage; being committed to developing the prayer life, discipleship and pastoral care of the whole church family
- will commit to equip, resource and train, or see trained, God's people at DPC in order to encourage and empower them to use their gifts

- will encourage and assist all members of the church family to lead more effective Christian lives within their communities
- will develop a vision of how future growth might be managed

Ideally

- who manages a healthy balance between work and family
- who is personable and approachable and is able to build and maintain relationships within the church and outside of it
- and has the experience to oversee the organisation, staff and administration of a church family of our size

APPENDIX 1

Resolution in respect of the Pilling Report

The PCC of St Peter and St Paul Church Dagenham:

- is committed to welcoming, showing genuine love to, and giving pastoral care to all people, including those who experience same sex attraction.
- repents of ways in which we have failed to show this welcome, love and care, and have through unbiblical and sub-Christian attitudes silenced, hurt and damaged those experiencing same-sex attraction
- reaffirms its commitment to the biblical and Anglican understanding of marriage and sexual activity that 'Marriage is in its nature a union permanent and lifelong... of one man and one woman, to the exclusion of all others on either side' (Canon B30) and that 'Sexual relationships outside marriage, whether heterosexual or between people of the same sex, are regarded as falling short of God's purposes for human beings' (Marriage: a teaching document of the House of Bishops)
- desires to engage in dialogue with people experiencing same sex attraction, with a view to mutual understanding, love and pastoral support, but not with a view to changing the biblical or Anglican teaching on marriage and sexual practice, its liturgical practice or its discipline
- affirms those Christians experiencing same sex attraction who, in obedience to Scripture, stay true to this teaching and seeks actively to support them in their determination, often with difficulty, to live a godly and holy life
- seeks to help all who have not in practice followed this teaching, whether in opposite sex or same sex behaviour or relationships, to find forgiveness, and help in their struggle with temptation, in Jesus Christ our Lord
- would regard the permitting of any public or private service to mark the formation or continuation of a sexually active same sex relationship not as a 'pastoral accommodation' but as a direct denial of biblical and Anglican teaching and a deeply divisive change in Anglican practice which would have very serious consequences for the unity of the Church of England and the Anglican Communion
- calls on our Bishops, General Synod and Diocesan Synod members to affirm those parts of the Pilling Report which uphold biblical and Anglican teaching on marriage and sexual activity, and specifically to reject any recommendation that is, or could easily be understood to be, contrary to this biblical and Anglican teaching
- endorses the conclusions of the Dissenting Statement produced by the Bishop of Birkenhead.

APPENDIX 2

2013 Annual Report and Accounts

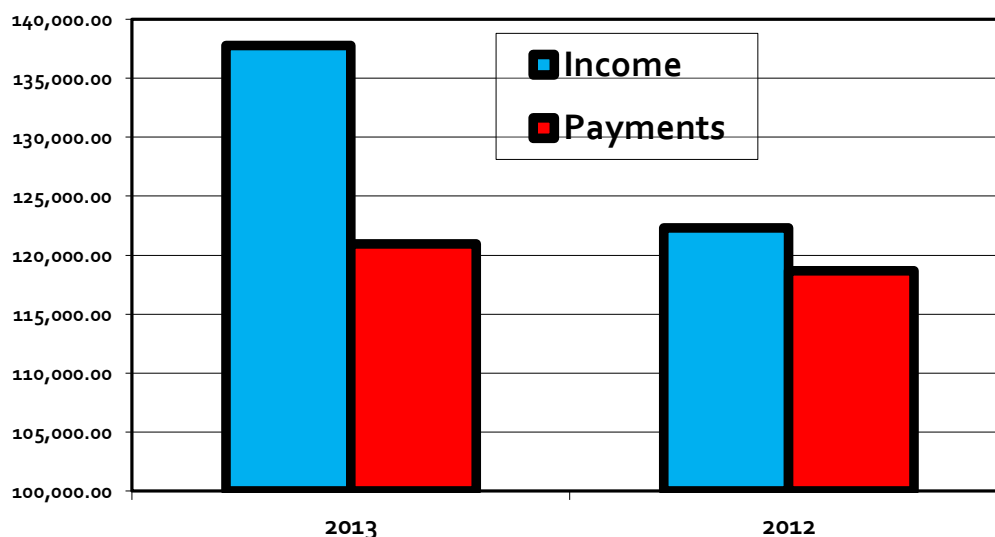
2013 has been another challenging and exciting year for DPC.

- St Luke's Centre has entered an agreement with Crime Reduction Initiatives (CRI) and the centre is now let to them
- Change of staff
- Gift Aid increased by 12%

The following tables provide summary of our financial position in 2013

Table 1: Summary of receipts and payments in 2013 and 2012

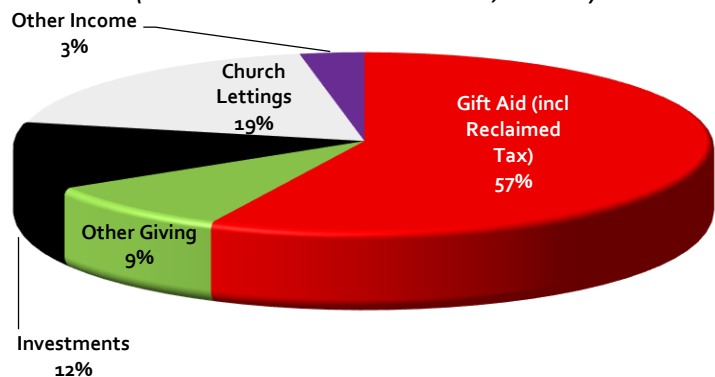
2013 Gift Day was £3,624.80 plus reclaimed tax on the donations that were Gift Aided



Payments includes transfer to Youth Work and Refurbishment Funds

Table 2: Breakdown of Receipts and Payments in 2013

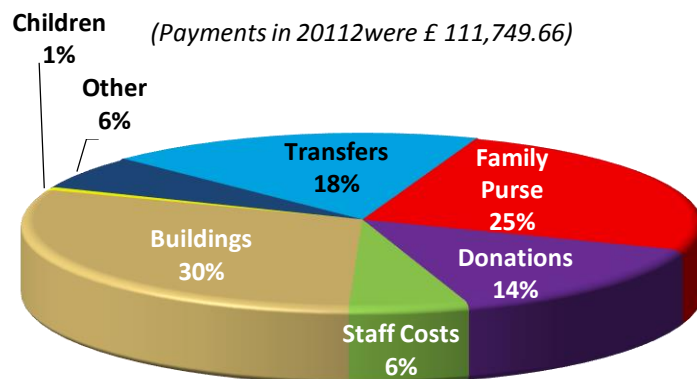
Income in 2013 was £137,783.60
(Income in 2012 were £ 122,282.89)



Investment income too small to register a percentage of income

Payments in 2013 was £120,956.35

(Payments in 20112were £ 111,749.66)

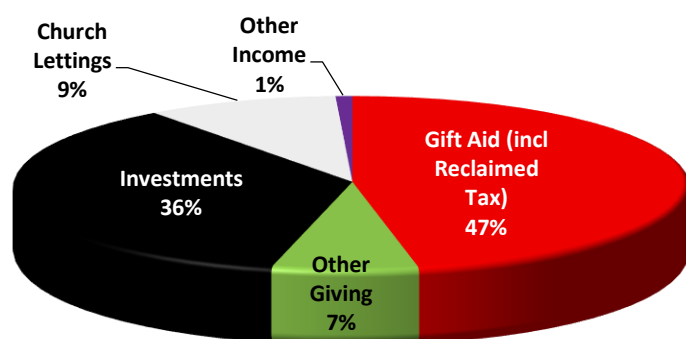


Total includes transfer to Youth Work and Refurbishment Funds

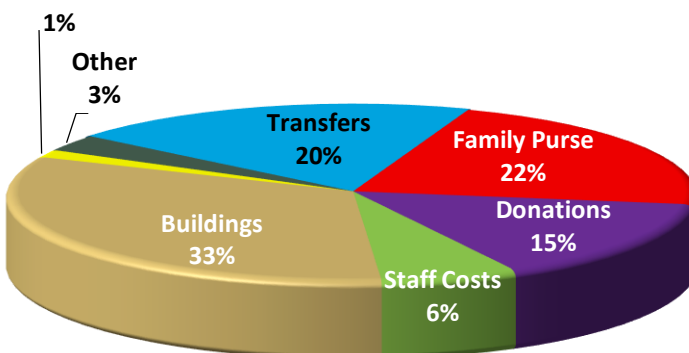
- 70% of our income is through collections and donations
- Upkeep and maintenance of our buildings accounts for a third of our expenditure
- List of donations made is shown at Table 4

Table 3: Breakdown of 2014 Budget for Receipts and Payments

2014 Budget Income (£134,869)



2014 Budget Payments (£141,241)



Total includes transfer to Youth Work and Refurbishment Funds

Table 4: Organisations which DPC has supported in 2013

Overseas	Home
Anglican International Development	Christians Institute
Barnabas Fund	Christians Against Poverty
Crosslinks (Howles)	Church Society
Jews for Jesus	South East Gospel Partnership
Fidel Nyw	Church by the Bay, Morecambe
Open Doors	
Sri Lanka	
Uganda Martyrs' Seminary	