

DPC News

Dagenham Parish Church

October '11



Dear Friends,

Who do we blame when things go wrong?

For example, when we look back to those summer riots in London, why did they happen?

Clearly individuals broke the law and are accountable for their own actions. But there are always contributory factors too.

Insightful articles spoke of society's belief that materialism brings joy. Advertising everywhere pumps out that message. So is it a surprise if people grab at material things when they have the chance?

And is there a moral difference between 'fat cat' company directors who help themselves to huge salaries (at the expense of ordinary investors) and those who helped themselves to TV sets on the High Street?!!!

Others have said that a lack of parental controls also played a part.

There's been a lot of research recently suggesting that British kids are given toys to play with, but are starved of the close relationships at home which they crave. No surprise then when it results in a rudderless life!

But I blame Christians.... at least in part. We're meant to be salt and light. Don't we share some responsibility when there are signs of rottenness and darkness in our society?

It's not so much that we aren't praying. It's that we just aren't there.

How many of us have meaningful contact with non Christians when we don't have to be with them (e.g. at work)? But where will they get an alternate view of life from if we aren't mixing with them? It isn't just talking specifically about Jesus; conversations about a number of different things will reveal how different and attractive our world view is, whilst our friends resort to other things for their kicks.

We might feel daunted that we don't know our Bibles well enough to convince skeptics. But generally we live well enough for others to say 'I wish I have what you've got'.... People don't notice perfection; just difference. And there's a difference between a life built on a lie - that there is no God, and one that's built on truth - that Jesus is! Mike Reith

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THE CHRISTIAN INSTITUTE

'Bacon but no Bible' - Christian cafe told!

Police in Lancashire told the owner of a Christian café to stop displaying Bible texts on a video screen, because its 'insulting' material breached public order laws.



Jamie Murray owns the Salt & Light Coffee House in Blackpool, which has close links to a local church and makes Christian leaflets available for customers.

Mr Murray plays a DVD in his cafe which cycles through each verse of The New Testament. He was told by the police to switch off the DVD but was not informed which words had caused offence. In fact they didn't even look at the DVD themselves. Without any investigation at all, they informed Mr Murray that he was breaking the law!

The Christian Institute supported Mr Murray, and after seeking legal advice he was able to challenge the decision and is now free to screen the Bible texts in his cafe. The police have only issued a partial apology, so there may be further legal action taken against them.

Sam Webster, from the Christian Institute, says: "It ought to go without saying that reading the Bible out loud in a public place, or displaying Bible texts in a Christian café, is not of itself a criminal offence. I am alarmed that I even have to point that out."

DPC supports the work of The Christian Institute, which upholds the truth of the Bible and supports Christians who face opposition due to their faith.

It's well worth taking a look at the Christian Institute's website, which features weekly video news bulletins and regularly updated news stories on issues affecting Christians in the UK.

You can also download publications and audio recordings which help explain the Christian response to current ethical issues. To find out more or sign up for one of their regular newsletters, visit www.christian.org.uk or call 0191 281 5664.

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DPC PEOPLE



Rosemary Rogers...

I came to Dagenham as a baby and attended Sunday School at DPC so I've been involved with the church for a long time!

When I was at college I grew in my faith.

During the holidays my neighbour Mrs Wood encouraged me to come to DPC and encouraged me to join the choir. When the choirmaster found out I played the piano he taught me how to play the church organ. I'm still learning!

Some Saturdays the church would have 7 wedding services and I'd play at them all. My back used to ache! I still play the organ at DPC but I'm still nervous whenever I play. When I play 'Great is thy faithfulness' I am always touched when I hear "strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow."

I served as the PCC secretary for 17 years and edited the church magazine for 10 years. We had a team working together to produce, collate, staple and deliver it across the parish.

I absolutely loved helping with Youthwork at DPC. The youth camps were in a field in Sussex and we'd be preparing meals for 45 people on 2 gas rings and a fire. It was hard work but so much fun.

Local history is important to me and I used to include it in teaching at William Ford School. William Ford, a local farmer, was so determined that children should learn to read and write for free, that he left money to set up a school. He was one of the few educated people in Dagenham at the time. I wonder whether he looked around the church at DPC and wanted something more for the next generation.

Over the years, DPC has always had Bible believing teachers and I pray that the church will stay faithful to God's word, and that it will remain at the heart of the church.

If I had to pick one Bible verse it'd be Psalm 32:8 which says "I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go, I will counsel you with my loving eye on you."

CDEA

Chelmsford
Diocesan
Evangelical
Association



The Anglican Covenant and the Future of the Anglican Communion

Chelmsford, CM2 7LJ.

Queries 01245 492741

Saturday 26 November: 10.00 to 1.00

Coffee from 9.30.

Our speaker will be the Rev Dr Andrew Godard. Andrew is a Fellow of the Anglican Communion Institute. He was a tutor in Christian Ethics at Trinity College, Bristol and taught at Wycliffe Hall, Oxford.

THANKS NICK

Eight years at Dagenham Parish Church... what did I do to deserve this?! Even as I woke up on my second morning in Dagenham, I remember vividly that coming to Dagenham had been a mistake. I don't know anyone, I didn't know the area and I sometimes even doubted I was a Christian. I'll stay one year, and then I'm off!...or so I thought!

Fortunately for me I not only stayed that year, but also a further seven. I count myself as incredibly privileged to have been part of the DPC family. During this time, I have been shown what it looks like to have your life centred on the gospel of Jesus. I have been shown what it means to serve rather than be served.

I have been shown what it means to love others in church simply because we have the same heavenly Father, and have been purchased by the blood his Son, and therefore are incredibly valuable.

Now I am off to Wycliffe Hall (Oxford - pictured below) for three years to study the bible as part of further training to equip me for church leadership. Please do pray that as I study, learning more about Jesus will humble me, delight me, and mould my character into the likeness of Jesus. There's no point studying just to make me clever...I'd just become proud and therefore useless for God's kingdom.

If you would like to receive a termly newsletter please let me know by email (arthuralgeo@gmail.com) or phone (07739 344 625).



I will continue to pray for DPC, that week by week the church (by that I mean the people!) will increasingly reflect God's character.

Hope to see you soon...
Christmas? Keep in touch!

Nick

ALIENS ON THE STREETS



In the Bible Christians are described as 'strangers and aliens'. Peter makes the point there is something different about us! He wanted us to be different morally.

But we're also friendly!

And once a month (usually on the third Sunday) a small team of us head into one or two roads in our parish to make friends.

Before we arrive we post a letter through the letter box to 'warn' people we're coming. We don't want to be a nuisance, so we provide our contact details so that people can either email or phone if they'd rather not be disturbed.

Then on the Sunday we go out, the team normally has lunch together at the Vicarage and we thoroughly enjoy the humour and joy of others in the team.... usually led by little Isaac Bush who climbs up to his full height to bash Duggan, the Vicarage labrador, on the head!

At 3:00pm we prepare to go out by dividing ourselves into pairs (someone experienced with someone new), reminding ourselves what we're hoping to achieve and why... And then we pray.

We hit the streets about 3:30 pm hoping people have finished their lunch by then.

We normally get to know people by asking how long they've lived in the area, whether they have family & friends nearby... We usually ask if they've had much contact with a church in the past, and we say something about ours if we're asked. We'd love to talk about Jesus given half a chance, but we are very sensitive to whether or not people want us to.

We always ask if there is anything we might do to help in any way. Unlike every other door-to-door visitor, we want to give rather than take.

Many are out when we call, a few tell us they'd rather not talk (usually politely!). Some invite us in because they are waiting for us having received the letter. We normally come back encouraged.

If you'd like to join us you'd be welcome. Green face paint is optional!

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BUILDING PROJECT

And we're off! After years of planning and saving the work is underway.



On Monday 5th September the pews were taken out of church and shortly after that a trench was dug to get the water and gas needed for our new heating system into the church.

Then other work began. The metal screen next to the pulpit was much heavier than we thought. It took 6 men to lower it down.

It is far too big and heavy to relocate it, so it'll be sold and the money will go the building fund.

The great challenge in this project is for different experts doing different things to 'dovetail' their work, so it all progresses at the right time.

The experts are the best at their work. The Audio Visual company (based in Nuneaton) have designed a new system. The Lighting experts (based in Salisbury) have come up with an imaginative and flexible lighting plan.

Both these experts then send their cables and equipment for our electrician to install. And the electrician has some very tricky work to do, particularly in putting the new lighting into the side chapel. And while all the old lighting and wiring is removed around the church, the builders are working on various parts of the building, the heating team do their bit, each keeping out of the others way!

The builders have been working hard repairing cracks in the church that are worse than we thought, as they got closer to them using scaffolding.

But they've made great progress putting down the new floor and they are heading to keep to the completion date even though we have given them a few extra jobs to do.

These means we're on track to having a celebration Sunday on 27th November at 6:30 pm.

Please keep praying that it'll all come together in time, and that the money keeps coming in too!



the South East Gospel Partnership presents..

7:00-9:30pm, Saturday 19 November 2011

PIE, MASH & LIVE BAND

COCKNEY RUBBLE



*Sing along with all your favourite cockney tunes,
then hear the band singing the same tunes
with words that explain their Christian faith.*

at Robert Clack School, Gosfield Rd, Dagenham, RM8 1JU.

Pie 'n' Mash dinner & soft drinks provided.

STOP PRESS... if you'd like to buy a chair for the 'new church' in memory of someone, it will cost £115 to include a plaque with their name on. See Shirley.

CONTACT US...

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