

DPC News

Dagenham Parish Church

February '12



Dear Friends,

Should telling people about Jesus be a hobby?

Surely it's too important for that! Jesus wanted his disciples to tell every single person in the world about him; this is a matter of heaven and hell! Which is why we should turn it into a hobby!

Hobbies are the things we love doing, which we do in our free time, not because we have to. Hobbies get people talking for ages. You ask people to tell you about their hobby only when you don't want to do any talking yourself! Their enthusiasm is contagious. You can tell the hobbies my friends have by looking at the Apps I now have on my iPhone! No one wants to talk about work. Most partners don't know what exactly their other halves do each day. Yes, their occupation is a plumber... but where they went plumbing, or who they met, doesn't get a mention. But what happened in the last episode of Downton, or what happened when West Ham played Millwall... now that IS worth talking about! Hobbies are what people get pleasure from, spend their spare time and money on, and get cold turkey about when they can't do it. Shouldn't telling people about Jesus be at least a bit like that?

Giving evangelism 'hobby status' is helpful in lots of ways.

It doesn't mean you have to be any good at it - take most people whose hobby is golf! They do it in the hope they'll get better.

It means you get to love people. I found myself playing squash with two friends, REALLY longing that they'd be in heaven with me one day.

Looking at them with those eyes added a depth of affection... and cost me a point because I took my eyes off the ball!

That tells you I've got other hobbies apart from evangelism.

As well as losing at squash, I also fall off horses - another hobby of mine.

But I want evangelism to be my hobby-of-hobbies; to do all other hobbies with the hope of being able to do THIS one and bring people into an eternal future filled with everlasting life. I want no one in my hobby worlds to go to hell! Instead I'd love my hobby to become theirs.

Mike Reith

CORNHILL MISSION

Isn't it wonderful when different churches work together to put on events with the intention of telling friends about Jesus. Here are some of the events that have been put on for our 'Cornhill Students' to speak at.



The Africa Nations Football Tournament - 4th provides an excuse for a happy mix of church teams that each take on the name of an African country and play each other. This even is organised by Charles Adocco - from South Park Chapel - a church that hasn't run a partnership event before.

Men's Breakfast - 11th @ 9 am

A wonderful gathering of men from all our partnership churches for a great feast of food, friendship and an opportunity to think about how men can worship sport - never a great thing to live for something when you can live for someone! This event is organised at St.Elisabeth's.



The Ultimate Quiz - 11th @ 6:30 pm

There is nothing like a quiz to draw a crowd of know-alls and know-nothings! St.George's will provide the questions in a DPC school setting.

In addition to this there'll be a lunchtime meeting for Chinese people at St.George's from 12 to 3 pm on Wednesday 8th. A Christian Chinese dentist, Bernard Chang will say interesting things about teeth... and Jesus! Please make the most of these events, not just in inviting friends, but in prayer (Prayer meeting at St.George's on 5th @ 4 pm for an hour). There'll also be a celebration service @ Upney Baptist Church on 12th @ 6:30 pm.

www.dagenhamparishchurch.org

DENOMINATION NEWS

There are great joys in belonging to the Church of England; but there are great challenges too.

On the joy side, a thousand people from our Diocese (covering Essex and East London) got together because our Bishop is leading us to tell more people about Jesus. We look forward to following the Bishop's lead!



On the challenging side, from 6th Feb onwards, the 'parliament' of the CofE (called 'General Synod') meets to talk about things that will make it harder to teach the Bible - which is a shame!

Led more by political correctness than Bible obedience, there is a drive to make women bishops. That means those who are persuaded the Bible wants male leaders will be at odds with our denomination.

Young men, who would make great leaders, will feel hesitant about going forward to ordination if there is no safeguard for their point of view.

We need a law that requires any future woman bishop to put a male bishop in charge of them.

There is already a great 'feminisation' of the church. Very many of those who have been ordained recently are older women who understandably don't have much in common with say-it-like-it-is non Christian blokes!

[The women who lead churches in neighbouring parishes to us are in their mid fifties; and they are both relatively new in ministry.]

Hardly surprising then that many churches are filling up with women (with whom they have got things in common).

Another item under discussion is the training of future vicars.

There are different training colleges. Some teach the Bible; some don't.

A one-size-fits-all approach will water down the ones that do, instead of raising the bar for those who don't!

But in all of this God's hand brings hope. We are linked to an organisation called 'REFORM'. 70% of all male ordinands under 30 come from churches like ours. And REFORM is working hard to move our denomination nearer towards what the Bible teaches. Our own Kathy Playle is a member of General Synod who works hard to fight for the Bible to be taught. It IS church politics on one hand. But without it people will not be taught the Jesus of the Bible, and be saved from hell as they put their trust in him.

CHURCH HOUSE PARTY



How about heading for a country house for a weekend this September!

High Leigh, in Hoddesdon, Hertfordshire, opened as a Conference Centre in 1921. With 40 acres of lawns, parkland and woodland, the tranquil surroundings aid both concentration and relaxation for those who stay there.

It's pretty modern too. There's free wireless internet provided across the entire Centre. There's a modern indoor games room with table tennis, air hockey and table football.

There's a lounge area with two computer terminals and a large flat screen digital television

There are outdoor tennis courts, football pitch, putting green and a fitness trail set within the grounds.

And that isn't the best bit...

A place isn't complete without people - however good it is.

So imagine a church of people you know joining you, encouraging you... with you having the same effect on them. Imagine relationships deepening so we experience something of the future in the kindness of Christ's kingdom.

Imagine great meals getting to know a different group of people around each one. Imagine having conversations that are stimulating and having a good laugh because everyone's in holiday mode together.

www.dagenhamparishchurch.org

And that still isn't the best bit.

We have now had confirmation that Jim and Lesley Ramsey are able to come. Jim was the Director of Evangelism in the Diocese of Sydney. Lesley still work in that department, but also oversees the women's work in the diocese, and is a great speaker at women's conventions. They bring great humour and a real gift to teach the Bible clearly, and to make it 'livable' in real life.



You'd think that prices will always be the worst bit, but that's not actually the case when you think of full board and what would be the going rate for a weekend in a hotel.

There is a mixture of twin, single and double rooms with en-suite and some standard rooms with no en-suite. The prices are for the weekend £132.60 and £108 respectively. 0-5yrs are free. 6-13yrs come in at half price. And where help is needed we'll consider further subsidies so that anyone who wants to come will be able to get there.

To help ease the cost of the weekend it is possible to pay for it in advance in installments. So if you see Mark Anderson our treasurer and arrange to put aside a certain amount each month, he'll put it into our church bank account and that may mean you'll have nothing to pay come September.

B O S C O



Exciting news from Sri Lanka. Bosco, our man in Manna, has been working with Hindu families devastated by the recent war. DPC paid for water pumps to help them with irrigation, and Bosco has also been explaining the good news that Jesus brings. The end result was that 6 people were baptised in January. In Sri Lanka you don't need baptism pools - the sea is never far away!

www.dagenhamparishchurch.org

NEW ARRIVALS



To Chris & Ros Howles... a second son; Daniel Thomas - born on 1st February. It was a worrying time because the family have only recently moved to Uganda, and they realised they missed the security they had with Joshua - with English hospitals being able to offer so much more if emergency help was needed.

There was an additional worry as well. Recently Ros fractured a rib (they actually heard a snapping noise when she coughed in the middle of a meal!). Having a baby with that additional complication was not going to be easy.

But God was amazing. When the time came they drove to the hospital in central Kampala during the rush hour, and they didn't get held up in even a minute of traffic.

They got to hospital and went into the lift - only for that to break down! It wouldn't go up, and the doors wouldn't open. However they eventually opened the doors and got to the room, and then Daniel was born 5 minutes later - which meant less strain on Ros' rib. It was like God reassuring them that whatever concerns they had, he could be trusted to meet their needs - a great lesson for missionaries to learn in the opening days of their work.

To Claude and Beatrice Boateng... a second daughter; Emmanuella. Emmanuella was born in November, but stayed in hospital until 29th Jan, which created the opportunity to take a picture of her at home with her proud parents.

Their first daughter Chanelle, who is 3, will return to them from Ghana on 18th Feb... when at last the family will be complete!



SCUDS WEEKEND AWAY

The SCUDS invaded Lambourne End once again this year for a great weekend of games, fun, friendship building and most importantly learning about Jesus with a fun Reality TV twist!



James Tidman, from Upney Baptist, taught us about the Idols of money, image and relationships. He explained how ultimately they leave us disappointed and unsatisfied and showed us that we can only gain true satisfaction in Jesus. This teaching was reinforced in small group times where we talked about what we had learnt and how it should affect our lives.

As always the SCUDS enjoyed activities, such as a climbing wall and a ropes course as well as free time when they enjoyed playing with the Wii, although most of the boys were distracted by Fifa '12! Saturday evening had a "Come Dine with Me" theme, with everyone dressed up smartly and enjoying a great meal together!

Throughout the weekend the SCUDS were split into two teams, Sharks and Tigers. As part of this we had a game of pegging which was meant to last all weekend, however most people had been "pegged" before the first meeting on Saturday morning!

The Night Attack game also contributed to the competition as they completed tasks to earn points including collecting pictures of reality TV stars while avoiding being squirted with water guns.



The Sharks led for most of the weekend, winning the night attack game and games on the field, but on Sunday morning the Tigers pulled out all the stops and edged ahead, leaving the Sharks to face the forfeit, involving whipped cream and their faces!!

We all had a great time but were very grateful for our beds when we got back as we were all exhausted. Thank you to all of the people that made this weekend a success.

Jess Welsby



HELP IN TOUGH TIMES

What would you say to someone who's
told you they have just had a
miscarriage?

Chrunch

10am-12pm in Minor Hall
Saturday 25th February
Brunch provided (£2 donation)

A morning equipping women to
have a Jesus-centred response to
miscarriage

CONTACT US...

**VICAR
MIKE REITH
020 8215 2962
07595 303023**

MIKEREITH@ME.COM

www.dagenhamparishchurch.org