

Nifty News

Dagenham Parish Church

June '11

Dear Friends,



Apologising well!

In her recent visit to Ireland, the Queen spoke about past tensions between the two countries. "We can all see things which we would wish had been done differently or not at all."

Was that an apology?

I'd like to suggest a 'good apology' for a Christian has 3 strands.

First, an honest conversation with God that recognises our actions have offended him. When relationships are unsettled by wrong, our relationship with him is the first casualty. King David was aware of that in Psalm 51:4. After committing adultery and murder he says to God 'Against you only have I sinned'. It's the right place to start.

Second, being specific about what we've done wrong to the person concerned. The prodigal son is a good model. He told his father 'I have sinned against heaven and in your sight.' (Luke 15:21)

It's hard enough for most of us to get that. But those who really mean it express their regret in a third way - they try to 'undo' what they've done wrong; if they can. Little Zacchaeus teaches us a big lesson in the way he did this. 'Half of my goods I give to the poor, and if I have defrauded anyone or anything, I restore it fourfold.'

Interestingly apologies are good for the person saying 'sorry'. They don't actually make any difference to the person who has been wronged! A Christian will forgive someone before they apologise. Jesus has forgiven us, so we wouldn't withhold our forgiveness whilst waiting for an apology. However it does benefit the wrong-doer to humble himself/herself in these 3 ways. Humility heals us more than others.

Mike Reith

LONDON MEN'S CONVENTION



Four thousand men gathered in the Royal Albert Hall to learn how to be faithful in four areas.... at work, in the home, at church and in mission.

The conference started with a great encouragement... let's be stirred by Jesus' faithfulness in saving us. Our motivation to be faithful comes from knowing that he was first faithful to us.

Work was the first area of consideration. We were created to serve in our work. Because of sin, work became hard. However because Christ has redeemed us, we are now saved to serve in our work. Working is entirely in line with God's purposes for us and it ought to be an expression of our worship of Him. So we work as "FOR THE LORD". Therefore whether we are bus drivers or barristers, road sweepers or reverends, we work in obedience and in wholeheartedness to Jesus.

Talking about faithfulness in the home we learnt that families should operate under the "covenantal" headship of Jesus. Relationships within the family all sit under Jesus' headship as part of his body. Husbands should therefore exercise authority AS JESUS DOES - with love, grace and gentleness. We should be our wives' greatest friends and our children should delight in the time we spend with them. We should think of male headship as being responsible for the outcomes of our family - just as Jesus "became" responsible for our sins (i.e. he took our punishment and now makes us clean).

This is the mark of the husband that leads his family like Jesus.

The above briefly touches on two out of the four sessions of the day. Why not grab me or any of the men that attended the convention to get a full rundown of the day.

Mark Mensah-Tsumasi

BUILDING PROJECT

The great vision we're working towards is to have a warm & comfortable building which is flexible and could be used for different purposes by our local community right throughout the week.



For this to happen, we will

- a) put in a new heating system
- b) put in a new lighting system
- c) replace the pews with comfortable chairs,
- d) remove the wrought iron screen, and
- e) raise the floor so there is no 'step up' to get to the communion rail

We drew up plans and invited 3 companies to tender for the work.

2 dropped out at the last minute. The tender we have received from the third says it'll cost more than the £108,000 we've saved up.

We can't give you the exact price they quoted because we have decided to invite 2 other companies to tell us how much it'll cost if we ask them to do the work. We are waiting to find out their answer.



We also need the diocese to approve of our plans. One of the groups it listens to has recently said it recommends we have wooden chairs, because ours is an old church. The chairs we may buy are comfortable, can be put next to each other to create a row like a pew if necessary, and in our view are entirely in keeping with the character of our church.

It is a frustration to us when bodies that do not use our building, who do not contribute financially in any way, and who rely on us to pay for the upkeep of the church, cannot trust us to make wise decisions on what we should sit on! The chairs we have in mind are of very good quality.

Because we have not yet chosen a builder, nor have diocesan permission to go ahead, we expect work to begin at the start of September, and we will need to raise lots of extra money for it to be done. A fund-raising group is about to form.

Please see Debbie if you'd like to be in it.

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WOMEN'S CHURCH



After a lovely brunch of cereal, yoghurt, smoked salmon and cream cheese bagels, Karen Fenn introduced Denise, a good friend of hers.

Denise is the wife of a pastor of a church in Bow.

Both Denise and her husband are also involved in working with people in Pakistan. We were shown photos of the poor run down areas in Pakistan compared with beautiful exotic beaches.

This then led onto the heart of what Denise had come to talk to us about, "Contentment." The morning was split into three sections:

Finding contentment in a material world.

We were given a scenario; Jenny and her husband needed a car and prayed for one. Amazingly they were given one by a church member which was 8 years old. They were thrilled and thanked God until.....

The next day Jenny was picked up by her friend in a brand new car. All of a sudden Jenny was discontent with the car she had been given.

This shows how changeable we are. Denise pointed out that the one thing we should be discontented with is "our spiritual life" because we know we don't live as we should, not material things.

We read Matthew 6:25-34, Do not worry. This passage tells us that God will provide for all our needs. v33 "But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all things will be given to you as well."

Finding contentment in difficult circumstances.

We read Philippians 4:10-13. Denise challenged me when she asked the question, "How does Paul's attitude to his situation challenge your own?" Paul is unchanging whatever his situation, unlike me who still has a panic from time to time. It highlighted how I need to be more trusting.

How to cultivate contentment.

We read 1Timothy 6:6-10. Denise asked us to think about v8 "But if we have food and clothing we will be content with that." On asking us if we would put ourselves among the "we," we had to list 5 top tips on how to be content.

Among the answers I had were: to be more thankful, v7 "we brought nothing into the world, and we take nothing out." To be discontent is dangerous as this shows our lack of trust in God and live life with "our future" in mind.

I found this session to be challenging as I would have described myself to be quite a content person, or so I thought!
Denise Suttle



TOWN SHOW

16TH & 17TH JULY

This year's Town Show is going to be different. The churches of Dagenham are planning to say something about Jesus in the procession and in the park.

Churches in the South East Gospel Partnership (SEGP) that put on evangelistic events from time to time will be playing their part to once again let Dagenham know why following Jesus is great... in their usual happy and interesting way.

Steve Price (pictured) is an illusionist... he'll turn you into a rabbit if you call him a magician... will be putting on shows on both Saturday and Sunday. We'll be even buying our own tent so that he may be given a good amount of space of his shows.

The intention is to produce lots of mini-shows, and members of our churches will go around the park distributing flyers and inviting people to come and hear Steve.

Steve has a great way of doing 'tricks' and using them to explain the gospel. Children are mesmerised. Parents are thoughtful.

Please would you cancel all holidays and be willing to come to the park on both days if you can. We need lots of people in the park to be involved in this.

Given the numbers that come to the park and the lack of anything particularly inspirational in the Town Show in recent years, this will get people talking as never before.

We won't be publicising our own separate churches, just Jesus.

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REPLANTED BUSHES

KIERAN, ALY, & ISAAC ARRIVE ON 10TH JUNE

“We are all very excited to be moving to Dagenham. We both have really happy memories of DPC from when I was a placement student here in 2007-8. I loved being part of a church family that clearly loved Jesus, and because of that worked hard to love each other. (I also remember people cooking loads of great meals for me!)



Just after leaving DPC, Aly and I got married. Since then we've been living in Cockfosters and going to church at Christ Church Little Heath while I finished studying at Oak Hill College. Last November Isaac was born.

Here's a bit more about us:

I grew up in a Christian family, but looking back I thought 'God was lucky to have me' because there weren't many teenagers at the church we went to. But on a trip to Israel, God made it clear to me that I could never be good enough for Him.

Since then I have become more and more amazed that Jesus was willing to come and give up his life to save someone like me.

As well as wanting to tell people about Jesus and serve his people, I enjoy playing hockey, watching almost any sport, especially Liverpool FC, and playing board games.

My favourite week of the year is usually spent on Sedbergh Christian summer camp. Aly and I met on that camp back in 2002.

Aly is an only child who grew up in a loving family but didn't hear about Jesus at home. Praise God her first boss was a Christian and she heard the gospel and became a Christian when she was 22. As a science teacher she was particularly struck that because God created the world, life has meaning and purpose and isn't random.

Looking back she would now say that she felt 'a God-shaped hole' until she became a Christian.

Aly enjoys walking in the countryside, reading, watching films and seeing friends especially if it involves chocolate or cake or preferably both! Since being married she now says she appreciates sports she had never previously watched or heard of. At the moment we are avidly watching the Apprentice!



Isaac is still pretty small, but we hope and pray that he will grow up to know and love Jesus.

He has a 'funny-shaped head' so he's wearing a helmet to help correct that. We're all really glad that it makes him look like a cool skater dude! At the moment his favourite thing is bouncing in his door bouncer.

We are really looking forward to getting to know everyone better and serving you over the next 3-4 years.

Kieran Bush

CHARLES CLAYDON

Charles has been rubbing shoulders with the great and famous. Snooker ace, Ronnie O'Sullivan dropped into St. Francis Hospice and got to meet Charles when he was there. Now Charles is to be a celeb in his own right. A team of fans will be walking to raise money for his hospice at midnight on 2nd July. The walking team are behind him in this picture, and include his 2 daughters Kim and Tina.



GRANNY WENDY

Many will know that Wendy has been our churchwarden for 30 yrs. So we'd like to give her a 'thank you' present. Why not give a £1 for every year you've been at DPC while Wendy's been warden... put the total in an envelope and give it to Shirley Jones one Sunday in June.

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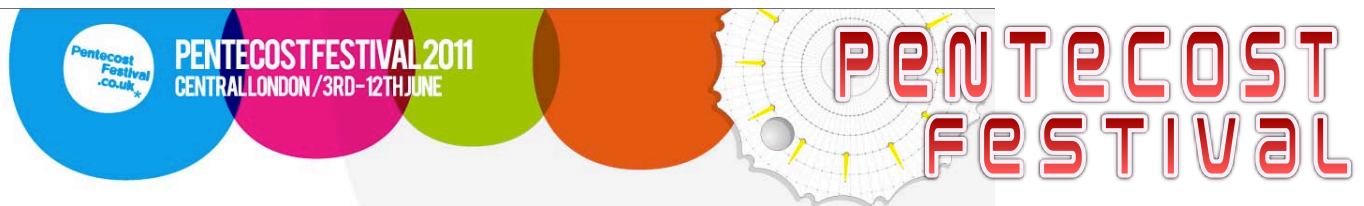


SUPPORTING SOMEONE WITH MEMORY LOSS



SHIELD
Support at Home:
Interventions to Enhance
Life in Dementia

If you are (or know someone who is), the NHS is wanting to find out more about the experiences of Family Carers who support relatives with memory problems at home. Please contact Nadia Crellin, Research Assistant, Freepost RRLE-EKUZ-YRXZ, NELFT R&D, 1st Floor, Maggie Lilley Suite, Goodmayes Hospital, Barley Lane, Goodmayes, IG3 8XJ. Mike has some leaflets about this, so please ask him for one.



From 3rd to 12th June there are various events being staged in central London that are cheap and cheerful, with a low-key Christian flavour. Non Christian friends can be invited to a happy night out, and be brought to think about Jesus a bit more in a non church setting. Mike has leaflets that explain more or visit www.pentecostfestival.co.uk

If you'd like to contribute an article to 'Nifty News' Mike would love to hear from you...

CONTACT US...

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