

Nifty News

Dagenham Parish Church

September

Dear Friends,



15 mins in a mind gym!

It doesn't matter how old you are for a workout. The new sports centre in Dagenham takes in all ages. It's expensive in time and money to join a gym, travel there, change, and exercise. My big encouragement is to spend 15 minutes in a Christian book. Here's why.

Just as the body goes flabby, so does the mind. We can live on auto-pilot. Like computers programmed to go through various tasks in life, we can function without really having to think much. But books generate thoughts and ideas that stimulate us to live life in new ways and further relationships, not least as we chat about what we're thinking with others. It's not a middle class hobby. Everyone reads newspapers; why not books!

Books are easier to get to than a gym. The one I'm presently reading is on my phone - I read it on the tube without taking anything extra! Kindles and iPads are also easy to carry. Actually, so are books! We can be put off thinking it'll be hard. A friend of mine who reads lots helped me when he said he only reads for 15 minutes a day! It mounts up. And if he can't make 15, he'll still read just one page! That encourages me think that even a non-reader like me can do that too.

Knowing what to read can also be hard. But as a gym instructor gives us a programme of exercise, 'reading Christians' can do the same. Why not start on 'Total Church' (£4) by Tim Chester and Steve Timmis? Another great book is 'The Reason for God' by Tim Keller (£5!). We might suggest others in future Nifty News. If you can grab a Christian friend in church and read the same book, you can meet up and chat about what you've learnt. The Bible is the best read. But Christian books are God's gifts as well. They'll grow our minds, strengthen our relationships and enrich our lives. Mike Reith



SANOFI AVENTIS

In 2013, a pharmaceutical company, Sanofi-Aventis, will be leaving Dagenham after 76 yrs of making drugs in our area.

It once was Dagenham's second largest employer next to Fords, employing more than 3,500 in the late '80s.

Now there are 450 workers.

And further changes in market demand have necessitated this decision. But it isn't walking away. It wants to turn its 108 acre site into a vibrant business and commerce centre (with facilities to benefit the local community) before it leaves.



It has therefore appointed a regeneration specialist (SOG Ltd) with a proven track record of finding imaginative ways of using vacant sites. It is also consulting widely to find out what political leaders, community groups, and local residents think. They have met with the Dagenham Village Partnership Group. The next public consultation is on 6.10.11. It has also appointed one of the world's leading environmental experts, ARCADIS, to conduct a clean-up operation to ensure the land is fit for future use.

The site could be used for offices, a laboratory or research facility, manufacturing work, warehousing, retail, and health & leisure facilities. Part of it could add to the country park.

There has been a lot of local interest in turning it into a 'healthcare park' which would include specialist research and development provision as well as a medical centre.

In the meantime the company is not going to break stride in the work it's always done well. It'll be developing and making new products right until the time they close.

In the past, they've developed over 250 different types of drugs that have benefited people in over 100 countries.

These have included the major drugs used in the treatment of cancer and a variety of other diseases. It made the drug that saved Churchill's life and thousands of others. They are determined their leaving will not tarnish the good name they have worked hard to earn. We wish them well.

C A B C



On Saturday 1st October we have a chance to hear Dr John Lennox in Chelmsford. The question he'll look at is whether science makes a mockery of a Christian understanding of the universe.

John has taken on the best skeptical brains in debate (e.g. Richard Dawkins, Christopher Hitchens and Stephen Hawking).

Yet his great strength is that he loves showing ordinary people how the Bible makes sense. But he'll do more more than explain why top flight scientists can be Christians. He'll show us how Genesis helps in our understanding of who we are, and what the meaning of life is.

Clever he is, but he has a great sense of humour and is in demand as a speaker all over the world. It is a great scoop to have him at this year's Chelmsford Anglican Bible Conference, so please create a space in the diary from 9:30 am to 4 pm, and we'll meet up with Christians all across the county to delight in the way God's word can be trusted.

If we book before 15th September, the cost of each ticket is £12 if we group-book. After that it goes up by £2. Please sign the sheet at the back of church & pay on the day. We can provide a lift if you need one.

RENEE ARMSTRONG

It is with great sadness that we heard about the death of Renee Armstrong, the wife of our Bell Captain, Dr John Armstrong.

Renee started ringing our bells at DPC in the 1940s and has been a faithful member of the group ever since.

Renee was a warm, wise and gentle person who always had a twinkle in her eye and a joyful sense of humour.

She had not been well, but her death was completely unexpected, and the bell ringers will miss her intensely because they are a close group of friends. Of course her husband John has had her by his side all the time, and I have written to express the deep love and sympathy of our church family towards him.

A memorial peal in her honour is planned for on 5.11,11 from 9:30 am.

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BUILDING PROJECT

At last! After years of planning and saving we're finally able to look after our cold, hard-seated, poorly decorated home!

'Clear out Sunday' is 4th Sept. We'll need teams of people to help detach the pews, clear out the sound room, creche and the old vestry (now a store room). We also need a team in the Exeter Road, creating space for the things we'll need on Sundays. In other words, lots of pairs of hands... and lots of organisation needed. We'd like to finish work in 4 hours, but would be happy if people were able to work for less if necessary (or to go home and come back later).



So please will you...

- a) sign-up on the list at the back of church so we can put people into teams before the day. And tell us how long you can stay.
- b) bring a picnic lunch to church, and then we'll work together as a church to do everything that needs to be done.

If you'd like to buy a pew, please see Shirley Jones. But you will need to take it away with you that Sunday!

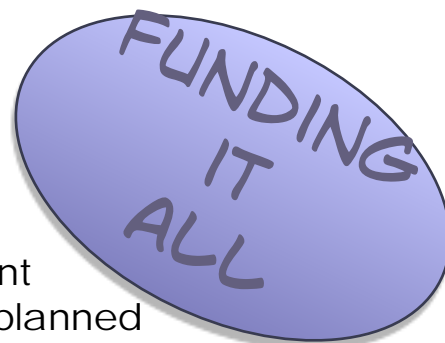
The next day the builders move in! They'll dig a trench alongside the path to the church and by the end of September plan to have water and gas supplies coming into the church. The whole project should last about 12 weeks (to 25th November).

The heating company will take 6 weeks to put the new heating in. The lighting company will rewire the church and put new lights in that will be more attractive.

The project will end with major redecoration and we'll be buying new chairs that will be comfortable and can be seamlessly joined together to create a 'pew effect' if we need to seat lots of people.

In the meantime services will be held in the Exeter Road Hall, and Growth Groups will help set out the hall for church each week.

The project will cost about £175,000 in total.



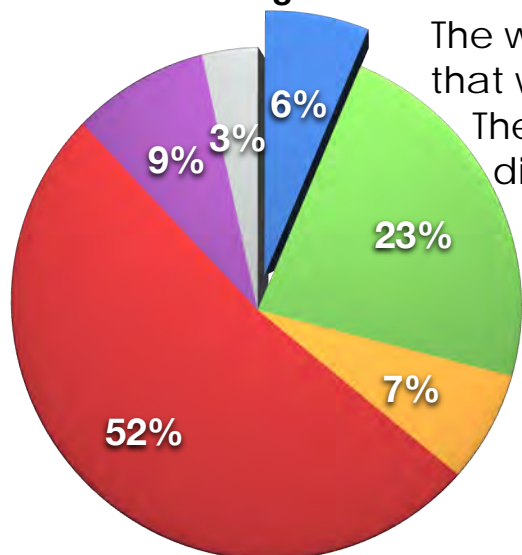
Because we want this to be a 'whole family' event from the beginning, the way to get there will be planned with everyone in mind. There are various events that involve the church family having fun together. Many thanks to those in our little fund-raising committee for coming up with some good ideas.

The first of these is our church Bazaar planned from 2:30 to 5pm on 24th September. It's a great way to meet people in our community who love to come events like these. They are boring if held all the time. But we haven't had one for ages, and already there's an air of excitement. The amount we need is far greater than can be raised in a church bazaar, so on the same day we have our Gift Day. Please really give very generously and put everything you can into helping us get our £50k shortfall.

We will also be applying for grants. This is hard work and it takes hours finding out where applications might be made and presenting our case as attractively as we can. Please pray for generous responses.

There are other ways to help us serve our church family now and in the future. For example, the chairs we have chosen are of very high quality; and good quality doesn't come cheap (each costs £100-ish). Why not buy a chair for yourself (or in memory of someone you love)! Simply put a cheque in an envelope with a message inside it, and we'll make sure that's where the money goes.

Where it goes....



The wonderful thing about this project so far is that we've had so many answered prayers. There've been all sorts of obstacles raised to discourage us. For example, we were told we should only get wooden chairs. But we prayed and we wrote, and we got a very encouraging letter from the diocese not only giving us the 'go ahead', but congratulating us on raising so much money!

- Architect
- Lighting
- Chairs
- Heating
- Builders
- AV & Sundry

WELCOME

Phil Hammersley

Phil is joining us as our new 'apprentice', replacing Nick who has served as one for the last 2 years.

He joins David as 'Cornhill Student' for 2.5 days a week. Phil comes to us from Cambridge Uni from where he has just graduated with a degree in History.

He has also worked hard to serve the gospel as President of the CU (in Cambridge that's called the CICCU).

He knows following the Lord Jesus is the very best thing to do, and it maybe that in the future he'll go into full time Christian work, perhaps as a vicar, to encourage others to make that discovery themselves.

He'll be in the thick of things at DPC as he helps with SCUDS, a Growth Group, doing 1-2-1 work, and we may even get him into a local school to build up his relationships with young people using his qualification in History as a way in.

He'll be living in the flat that Jaz has lived in - 47 Exeter Road, and I'm sure he'll be happy to see you there.

Phil's family live in Harpenden, and it was good to see his Mum, Dad and one of his two sisters in church in August.

He plans to move in to Dagenham around 10th September.

Phil's phone number is 07856 126424 - invite him round for a meal!



Jess Welsby

Jess is also going to be breaking new ground in DPC. She's been a SCUDS leader whilst attending St. Elisabeth's. But she'd like to spend a gap year serving in a local church before she goes to university.

She'll therefore be studying the Moore College Course with Debbie, learning ministry skills from Emma, playing a larger role with SCUDS, and taking on some Infant School assemblies.

Jess will continue living at home with her Mum and Dad. She will do some work experience locally to help her decide what course to study next year. Please invite her to meals and help her to feel at home @ DPC

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Woolhampton 2

SUMMER CAMPS



Camp was fantastic this year - bigger than ever - we had 71 members split in 8 different dorms.

We enjoyed activities like the Woolie washout (a big game where there are loads of water-based challenges).

There was also the Wide Game (4 teams battle to capture points from each others bases), the Big Day Out (Archery, Rock Climbing, Assault Course, Ice-Skating & Toboggan Run) and much more!

But we also heard loads about the people in the bible who dared to trust in King Jesus, despite things being tough for them. We heard about people like Elijah and Daniel and Rahab and Peter.

We also looked at Jesus' life and saw that people opposed him but he loved us so much that he still went to the cross for us.

We had 8 SCUDS at Woolie 2 and they all seemed to enjoy everything that camp had to offer - The games, the friendships and the teaching.

All of us (leaders and members) came back exhausted but praising God for the ways that he had blessed us.



David Reith

Sedbergh

We always have two big aims: fun and Jesus. We had fun with a medieval theme - we built a massive cardboard castle (with working portcullis!), ate wonderful banquets and played medieval games such as space hopper jousting, hunt ye ancient leader and gonnis (a strange mix between golf and tennis wearing remarkable costumes). We also did things like dorm tournaments, wide games, paint-balling, go-ape, mountain boarding, caving and so much more...

We also learnt loads about God's glory. People call lots of things 'glorious' (like glory, glory Man United, food glorious food etc.). But we also found out that although creation literally shouts about God's glory, our lives always fall short of God's glory. We discovered that Jesus is the best place to look for God's glory (most of all when he died on the cross so we can be right with God). But amazingly, if we're Christians, God is transforming us so we become more and more glorious - when Christians humbly serve and love others it's truly glorious! ... but that's nothing compared to seeing God's glory in heaven when Jesus returns.

Sedbergh 2011 was glorious! Why not join us in 2012?!

Kieran Bush

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WOMEN'S EVENTS



Chrunch

The next meeting for Chrunch will be on Saturday 17th September '11 (from 10 am - 12 pm)

Aly Bush is going to speak about Anxiety & Worry - on how not to!
The cost of it will be £2

Please let Becky Reith know if you'd like to come so that there'll be enough food for everyone! Either see her or phone landline (below).

Women's Convention

This is planned for Saturday 15th October (either at 9:30 am or 3:15 pm).

Cost - £27 Venue: Central Hall Westminster

The theme is finding a true identity in Christ and the main speakers will be Graham Beynon (author of Mirror, Mirror) and Andrea Trevenna.

Please see Shirley Jones if you'd like to go... and whether you'd like to go to the morning conference, or the afternoon one.

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

CONTACT US...

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