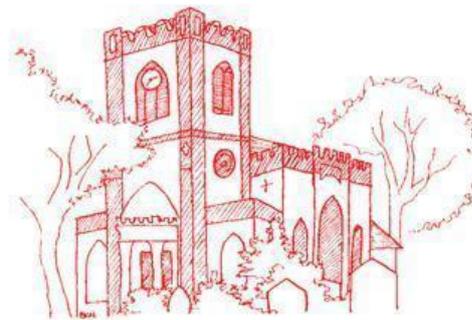


DPC News



Dagenham Parish Church

April 2014

Dear Friends,

One last letter; not so much the end of an era, but the start of a new one. What to think? There are lots of Bible encouragements not to fear. But there's another little encouragement that can be overlooked... the idea that we're in his hand. Why is that so good?

First, it means we're safe and secure. Didn't Jesus say no one can pluck us from his hand (John 10:28f)? The comfort is not that I can therefore hold on to him. It is that his hand holds us. That's big comfort because of course we get things wrong and even let go of him. But he makes sure we don't fall out! Feel the security of his grip at this time.

Second, it means he'll shape us. Like clay in the hands of a potter, so are we in God's hand (Jer 18:6). The raw material's a bit shapeless, so the potter gets to work. It's not always a straight-forward process. Sometimes the pot gets off to a bad start (v4) and a re-start is necessary. But the potter doesn't stop until he likes what he sees (which is Jesus). That's worth knowing.

It helps to see that every new situation he puts us in, new job, new plant, new interregnum, new vicar ... is all part of the potter's plan to shape us the way he wants - to make us like his Son. If we didn't plant this church, and DPC didn't have an interregnum, God's plans for all of us would be incomplete. It is because it is vital to God's project to make like us Jesus, that he takes us through these challenges. Never think of pressure, without thinking potter!

And thirdly, we're in his hand for service. When a young prophet was enabled by Elisha to retrieve his axe after it had fallen into a river, it wasn't so that he could gape at Elisha's powers. It was so he could chop wood! The axe head was being restored to useful service.

A helpful book has the title 'Instruments in the Redeemer's hands'. We live to serve - by his hand. Yes, a new era... but isn't it good we're in his hand!

All the best, with love

Mike Reith

Becontree Church

Easter Sunday, and we're off. Not an army, but small & elite! It was in 2005 that the idea of a church plant in Becontree was first discussed at our local SEGP meeting.

The need to reach out to an estate was urgent then. With DPC growing numerically it seemed right for us to plant a congregation which did the door-to-door visiting we've done here.



What you don't see behind those faces are the many other faces who are supporting this venture. One of the first lessons learnt at square 1 when following Jesus, is that we are never on our own. We love our little team. And we love those who are partners with us who support our evangelism. DPC is clearly committed to making this work. So are other local churches in our area. And so are a number of other churches and individuals all over the country. Add 'em up, and there are hundreds!



Also in active involvement with us is the London City Mission. They not only allow us to use their centre in Hedgeman's Road as a base, but also want to provide and pay for a full-time worker to join the team!

We anticipate the early days will be spent moving into the area and settling in. Mike and Debbie will move in early April and travel in to DPC for their final services.

Wonderfully, a local Christian charity we'd not heard of, approached us, and have now bought a house for us on the estate. We'll be out and about getting to know local residents on Easter Sunday, and thereafter we'll aim to visit a new road every week!

Please pray...

- For another worker (funded by LCM)
- For settling in to the estate and
- For making many new friends in the area

Mike & Debbie's new address
155 Woodward Road RM9 4SU
www.becontreechurch.com

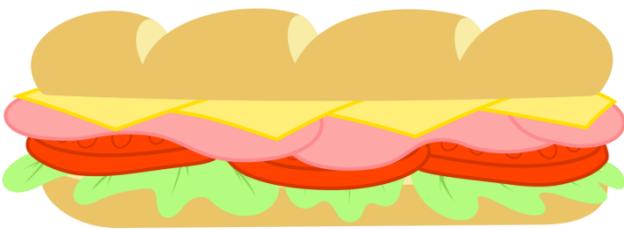
Do you want to...

- * know how DPC can thrive during the interregnum and beyond?
- * find out how you can play your part in this?
- * be clearer how our new minister will be appointed?

If so, don't miss our ...



ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING



Last year, we had a full house as some exciting plans were revealed (which we are now seeing God bring to fruition with the church plant).

Following our service on **Sunday 27 April**, please join us for our annual church meeting.

We'll have a finger food lunch and then meet to hear about our vision for the coming year and look back on what we got up to in the past year!

Other key dates for April

Mike and Debbie's leaving do will be held in Exeter Road Hall on Saturday 12 April at 6.30pm. Everyone is welcome!

Men – an exciting opportunity to meet with other men and hear some great teaching at the **London Men's Convention** (at Central Hall, Westminster) on Saturday 26 April, from 10am-3pm. The topic is '*Resurrection – and what it means for our city today*'. We have some 'early bird' tickets up for grabs so please speak to Kieran to find out more.

Also, please turn the page to find out more about our Easter services ...

Come and hear why the gospel is the best news!



**Maundy Thursday service celebrating the Lord's Supper
6.30pm on Thursday 17 April at Exeter Road Hall**

*

**Good Friday morning service to celebrate Jesus' death
at 10.30am on Friday 18 April**

**This will be followed by a farewell lunch for our church planters
at Dawson Christian Centre, Hedgemans Road**

*

**Easter Day morning service to celebrate Jesus' resurrection
at 10.30am on Sunday 20 April
(also our goodbye service for our church planters)**

*

Contact us...

**Kieran Bush
Curate**

020 8595 3485

07709 119325

kieranbush@hotmail.com



www.facebook.com/dpcfamilly

QR codes for our website and Facebook page:

