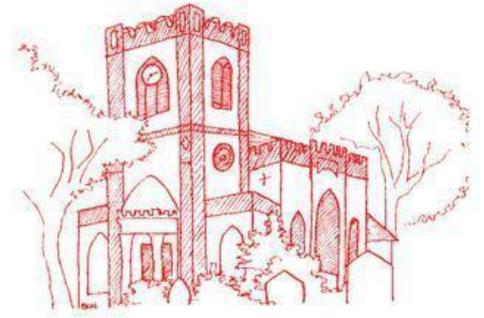


DPC News

Dagenham Parish Church

September 2014



Dear Friends,

Where is God? Many people are asking that question today. God's name isn't mentioned much in our society. And even when He is, it's often in insulting ways. Instead we see natural disasters, wars, Christians and others being treated awfully around the world. We see Ebola killing many people, personal tragedies and suffering. It's tempting to ask: where is God? What is He doing, if anything?

Many Christians ask that question too. We too can suffer, or fall into sin. Or, sometimes, prayers can go unanswered (or seem to go unanswered). It can feel like we've been praying for something in particular for many months (like for God to reveal the right man to lead DPC). And it can seem like God isn't listening. Where is God?

And at the same time our society - with its agenda to ignore God - seems to dominate everything we can see. It looks so inescapable and powerful. With all that in mind; it's tempting to conform and join in with society, or to despair and give up on God.

If you ever find yourself thinking like this then the book of Esther (which we're going to look at this term) is particularly important. Its historical events take place at the heart of an inescapable and powerful empire. And God isn't even mentioned in the book!

But, despite outward appearances, the book of Esther clearly shows God working powerfully behind the scenes to overrule and arrange circumstances so that His people are rescued. And because God never changes, we can be confident that despite appearances He's working powerfully behind the scenes today to rescue and provide for His people throughout the world, including in Dagenham.

In His mercy God has been enabling DPC to thrive in many ways during our interregnum. Many people are increasingly equipped for works of service and to speak truth in love to one another. And we can be confident that, despite how it may appear sometimes, He is working powerfully behind the scenes to provide the right man to lead DPC.

So let's keep trusting our great God and confidently praying knowing that He is always working to rescue His people.

Kieran Bush

What we did this summer...

Seven from DPC went to **Sedbergh** this year – four as leaders and helpers (Adrian, Pippa, Kylie and Susan), three as members (Lindsay, Jake and Connor). Everyone had a great time despite the weather being much colder than London!

There were lots of fun activities, including slippery football, inflatable bungee runs, water sports, scavenger hunts, singing at the dinner table for extra food, and even an alternative version of the Olympics!

The theme for this year was ancient Rome. Each morning we enjoyed a visit from 'Gluteus Maximus' and 'Brutus Tarus', a Roman Centurion and his bumbling sidekick!



Ancient Rome was the theme because we were studying the book of **Romans**. Lots of time was spent digging into God's word and discovering the stark reality of God's wrath, but the amazing truth of his grace and love.

The members were greatly encouraged and many showed clear signs of growing in faith. One member became a Christian – exciting! Memory verses from the week sum up what we learned:

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile.

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God – this is your true and proper worship.

(Romans 1:16, 12:1)





Three members and eight leaders set off from DPC for Paradise Island aka **Woolhampton 2** at the beginning of August.

Everyone had a great time learning from the Bible together; enjoying good food, good fun, good friendships and all focusing together on our great God.

We went Chessington and bumped into the Beechwood team - a Ventures camp planted three years ago from Woolhampton 2! There was even the odd chore to do which each dorm takes in turn - see the cool specs on Ifemide.....



It was a week of looking forward to a real paradise destination far beyond the earthly 'Paradise Island' we'd made at camp!

Summer camp is a great way for 11 to 14's to study the bible

together and to have the opportunity to ask questions and think through topics at the meeting and seminars. We hope to take more young people from DPC in 2015.

Interregnum update

Many thanks for your prayers at this time. We are moving forward!

Please continue to pray:

For helpful communications with our Diocese and for continued good communication between our PCC and our patrons the Church Society.

For good relations with our local partners in mission at St Georges and St Elisabeths

That we will keep our focus on our great God and that we will trust Him for a good outcome and trust that He will help us find the right man for the job.

For our reps – Steve and Kathy – that they will have wisdom and discernment and clarity on what DPC needs. Let's not forget that God is sovereign!

Meet the Howles family!

What is life like for missionaries in Uganda? Please join us on **12 October** to find out!



Chris Howles and his family are coming to DPC. Chris will be preaching at our service and we're having a **Church Lunch** at Exeter Road Hall.

During the lunch there will be an opportunity to ask Chris and Ros questions, and they will show us photos and share their experiences of mission work in Uganda.

Our website:

www.dagenhamparishchurch.org

Please visit our website to listen to the latest sermons, catch up on the weekly notices, download the latest copy of DPC News, or just find out more about our church family

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