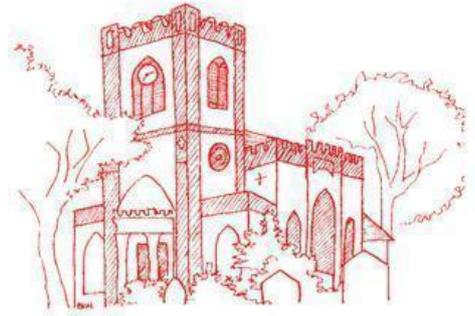


DPC News

May 2015



Dear Friends,

In May, the UK and Northern Ireland should have a new government. If you're a citizen, you have a duty to take part in choosing the government – you have a vote. How should a Christian think about this?

Government is important. It affects our lives and the lives of those around us. We want the best government we can get. But what is that? How do we decide what is 'best'? A Christian has a very different way of deciding. We don't ask 'what is best for me? We think of our neighbour - loving others - and ask, 'what is best for them?'

Why will we vote like this? We do this because we are followers of the Lord Jesus. He gave his life for us, dying for our guilt so we might become God's children and be with him forever (1 Peter 3:18). If we have all we need from him, we have less appetite for running after the things of this world that will not last. We also start to become like Jesus - thinking of others, not just ourselves.

It's not easy. There is no one politician, no one party, no one policy that we will all choose. God does not make choices for us (Psalm 32:8,9)- but he wants us to learn how to choose well. It is natural to us to be selfish, to use our vote for ourselves. When a person comes to know Jesus, they start to be more like Him.

As we talk with friends and others about how we will vote, we may be able to explain how Christians think about their vote. Maybe we can explain why think this way; then some will hear about Jesus.

Governments are important, but not that important. No government can put this world right. Politicians promise many things. But they often cannot keep those promises - situations arise which they did not expect and which they cannot control. They may have some power, but they do not control all things. So Christians do not expect our governments to mend this world. We depend on the Lord Jesus who does have power over all. We are waiting for Jesus' return when He will put all things right. Whilst we wait, we should be doing everything, even voting, with Him in mind.

Joel Edwards

Annual Church Meeting



It's been an exciting year at DPC! We had a chance to reflect at our Annual Church Meeting on 26 April.

We thanked God for providing us with a new vicar, Joel Edwards!

We appointed Steve Fenn and Mark Mensah-Twumasi to serve as our Churchwardens. (see overleaf)

We appointed Heather Myers and re-appointed Rob Simpson and David McFaul to serve as members of our PCC. (see overleaf)

We received information regarding our accounts. In 2014, our income was £142,027 and we spent £130,728. Over half of our income is from collections and donations. It is encouraging that our income has not fallen after some members left to start Becontree Church; but as we'd love more staff members to support Joel we will need to increase our income in future.

Special thanks were given to Mark Anderson, who is our treasurer. We also thanked Adrian and Pippa Hodder for their service to our church family, and gave thanks to Kieran Bush for leading DPC during our interregnum.

Paul Thomas and Stephen Byrne (Bug) were appointed to serve as sidesmen, and thanks was given to Alan Howard for many years of service.

We have much to thank God for - and much to pray for. Please pray:

- ◆ For Joel and his family as they settle into life in a new home, new neighbourhood and new church.
- ◆ That God will help us to appoint the right people to support Joel. It was pointed out there are a number of current vacancies on the staff team.
- ◆ That we will remain thankful to God for his grace, and united in his gospel.

Who are our Churchwardens?

Steve Fenn and Mark Mensah-Twumasi

What do Churchwardens do?

In a nutshell - they help with the day-to-day running of the church. This can involve making sure the church buildings are in good order, supporting church services, ensuring people are welcomed, leading the PCC during an interregnum (when a church doesn't have a priest), and helping to appoint a new priest for the church.



Who are our PCC members?

Wendy Garton, Shirley Jones, David McFaul, Heather Myers, Pauline Pappoe, David and Kathy Playle, Rob Simpson, Serena Snoad, Jay Taylor, Pete Turner.

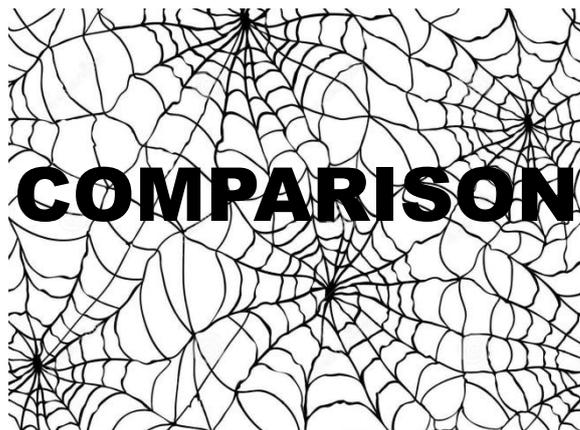
What is a PCC?

A Parochial Church Council (PCC) is responsible for the financial affairs of the church, maintaining the church and promoting the mission of the church. They're trustees of the church.

What happens at PCC meetings?

Firstly, we start with a time of prayer. We then discuss how the church is running, make decisions about spending or giving money, hear updates about the work of the church and make any other decisions. Our aim is to work together to help the church family to grow in God's love and grace, and reach out to others.

The Spider's web of ...



Have you ever worried about how you compare to others?

Are the comparisons you make harming you - or your friends?

Does it even matter that we make comparisons?

Are we all guilty at some time of looking sideways instead of upwards?

Kathy will help us to think about the comparisons we make about ourselves and others at our next **Chrunch** meeting on **Saturday 16 May, from 10-12.**

Chrunch meetings are for women in our church family. Please do come along for brunch and to hear from God's word. A creche is available if you have children. There is a suggested donation of £2 to cover the cost of our food.

Key contacts

Steve Fenn (Church warden) 01708 767954

Mark Mensah-Twumasi (Church warden) 07931 847863

Pippa Hodder (Youth Worker) 07828 683853

Adrian Hodder (Apprentice) 07913 161108

Kathy Playle (Children's Worker) 01708 442211

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.