

DPC News

July 2015

Dear Friends,

Christians want to offer our bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God. We know that this is what God accepts as spiritual worship (Romans 12:1). What does that mean for taking **holidays**?

Many people assume the Old Testament is a depressing book and that Israel's religion was a glum thing. In fact, God gave the people instructions for many festivals or holy-days in which they would **remember God's goodness** (see Deuteronomy 16). 'Holy-day' is where we get our word 'holiday' from, but in our society we take rest from work for other reasons than remembering God. How do we make our holidays part of our spiritual worship of God?

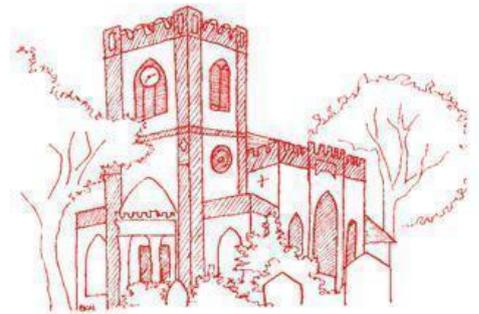
Paul tells us to 'trust in God who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment' (1 Timothy 6:18). Trusting in him means we will enjoy those things and thank him for them. Enjoyment is not wrong. What is wrong is enjoying gifts without thanking the giver – God. So **enjoy your holidays**, thanking God for them.

Making our holidays **part of our worship** for God will protect us from making them a holiday from God. This is damaging for us and for others. Holidays should be a break from normal routines, but hopefully not from basic things such as brushing your teeth and praying to our Father. Perhaps you could use some of the extra time you have to read a Christian book you've had lying around.

If you are away for a Sunday, ask me if I know of a good church you can visit in the area you are going to. It is often a good lesson to meet with other Christians and remember how refreshing that is, even if they are not our regular church.

If you are going away, have a great time, thanking God, enjoying a break and we look forward to hearing about it when you return. If you are already thinking of 2016, why not consider joining the group from Dagenham Parish Church going to **Word Alive** – you can find out more from David Playle.

Joel Edwards



News from Namagongo

Update from our friends at Uganda Martyrs Seminary



Extracts from Chris and Ros Howles latest news letter and some prayer requests ...

Chris sends this picture of three little people who, he says, hang around their house – mainly to demand regular food!

Chris and Ros ask us to give thanks with them for the extension to their house (almost finished) and, *unusually*, an almost continual supply of hot running water!

Chris's prayer requests:

We're very excited to have a *Crosslinks short-term volunteer*, Rachel, staying with us for 6 weeks: She's kindly offering to help out with the children, general life, and college activities, and is getting a good sense of how life is here. Please pray that her stay would be encouraging and enjoyable for everyone.

New term has started - please pray that the students would return promptly and ready to learn and serve. This usually depends on whether they've been able to find at least some money to pay to college when they get back, often just to pay off debts from last term. Please pray for the Lord to provide what they need!

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I've picked out just two things to pray for, but if you would like more information and things to pray for our Gospel partners in Uganda, please let me know.

Kathy Playle



DAGFEST

Saturday 11 July 1-6 pm

at Dagenham Village



A new fun outdoor festival for all ages
Arts, Crafts, Games, Acrobats,
Circus Workshops, Meet a Gorilla and
much more ALL FREE

PLUS Food, drinks, and Craft stalls
Face painting

Our church building is in the centre of the festival! We're hoping that lots of people will want to come in and see what we have planned.

Rosemary will be doing 'Talks and Walks' about the history of the church and giving fascinating facts about those buried in the churchyard. There will be a display of work by children at our church school William Ford, about the lives of some of the Dagenham soldiers who lost their lives in the First World War.



There will be loads of sheep in church, some LOST and some FOUND. Some made from biscuits and cardboard, and marshmallows, and cotton wool andother things!!

Children will make simple crafts to take away with them - and we'll share a story from God's word.

HELP PLEASE !! Could you give just 45 minutes of your time on the day? 15 mins to see how things are created then 30 mins being creative. It doesn't matter if you're not artistic, please volunteer

Sign up in church or contact Emma 07855 809136
Steve 07963 349695 Wendy 02085172740



A feast of courses for August

WEDNESDAYS 4TH, 11TH, 18TH, 25TH

**Friendship Team Visiting
Growth Group Leaders
Back to basics**

Venues and course leaders to be announced

**Courses are designed to equip us, to develop
skills, and learn more about Jesus.**

Do try and come to as many as you can.

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.

Key contacts

Joel Edwards (vicar) 0208 215 2962 email: joel.dagenham@gmail.com

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