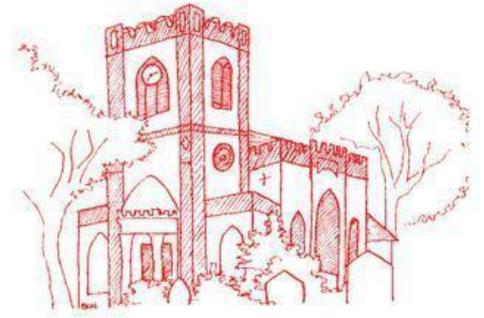


DPC News

Dagenham Parish Church

June 2014



Dear Friends,

How can Christians make Jesus attractive to the world around us?

Often Christians think we will make the good news attractive by being ‘normal and nice’ – fitting in with the world around us and not being different.

But when Christians try to fit in with the world, we quickly get caught between chasing the desires of the world and living for Jesus. We think living wholeheartedly for Jesus looks risky and difficult, so we don’t do it.

Instead we chase after things **the world** says will make us happy – money, sex, pleasure, success and so on. But niggling away in the back of our minds, we know we’re not living God’s way. So we’re left feeling miserable – unfulfilled by the world, and not pleasing God.

But followers of Jesus aren’t called to fit in. We’re called to be **salt and light**. When Christians try to fit in we try to walk a tightrope between light and darkness. But we end up being bland and grey.

And Jesus says that when Christians live distinctive lives, others will “see our good works and glorify God” (Matthew 5v13-16). Yes, people might give us grief for being different. But that’s usually that’s a sign they’ve noticed we’re different and that they’re challenged by it.

Being different shows people that there is an alternative way to live and it will prompt some people to ask us questions - about why and how we’re different.

But how can we be salt and light? We can’t do it by pulling our socks up or by feeling guilty. We need God to transform us. And the great thing is - He has! All followers of Jesus were once darkness. We were spiritually dead in our sin and facing God’s wrath. But in His mercy He’s made us, has raised us up with Jesus and made us to be light.

We don’t have to try to turn on our own little inner torch. Christ the lighthouse turns his beam on us and we shine out for all to see. As we live distinctively, shining as lights in the world, we can draw others to God. He promises to transform them so they too will become light.

Kieran Bush

News from our friends in Becontree

Dear Dear DPC,

I know we've thanked you before but if feelings of deep gratitude are ongoing, why not say it again. The cheque you gave us as we left was wonderfully generous. We've bought a mini hi-fi system after receiving it, and plan to also buy an electric fire for our sitting room, and buy some shelves to put our ornaments on. So as we relax we'll have reminders of your generosity all around us.

It's been pretty much the story of our lives since coming to Dagenham. You've said kind things about what we've given you. The reality is the debt is the other way; we should be stacking you up with presents.

We're now two weeks into the plant and the mixture of emotions remain.

Our little team has grown with the arrival of George & Catherine from Kenya, and last Sunday there were 19 of us.

We're making friends in the area, and loving being a new church together, but very conscious it's early days, and it's all foundation-laying stuff at present.

After a lifetime of church on Sunday mornings, it is strange not to wake up and rush. But we're feasting well at Sunday lunchtimes, enjoying meeting the community in the afternoon, and enjoying the encouraging hour we have at 5:30, followed by pizzas/hot dogs and chill time afterwards.

It is actually a very lovely way to spend Sundays.

To make our presence felt, we've put up a big poster of the new church for everyone who uses Becontree Station to see.

We're also involved in all that's going on in the LCM centre, and meeting people with whom Bill & Chris Deane have built up good relationships there.

On Wednesdays we enjoy more team-time on the estate (following up on Sunday's visits) and enjoy another slap-up meal and a time of mutual encouragement.

Hard work, but such good fun planting a church that you'd pay good money to be able to do it! Thanks or all your encouragement and support.

NB The date of this update was 30 April



Dates for your diary

Church BBQ



We're having a BBQ lunch after our Sunday service on 22 June.

**Everyone is welcome.
Please sign up if you'd like to come along!**

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.

Suggested donation of £2 to cover the cost of our food.

Eternity Changes Everything



Chrunch

Joy: Hope in the future.

Sat 14th June: 10am-12noon, Minor Hall

Interregnum update

Please pray for continued good communication between our PCC and our patrons, the Church Society. Please also pray for good communication with the Diocese. Please continue to pray for discernment and wisdom and that God will guide our steps. Please thank our loving Father God. He knows who our next vicar is - please pray that he will make it clear to us!

Look who we found!!!



If you go down to Thorndon woods today, you're sure of a big surprise...

You'll see a brave little mouse, a sly little fox and a...

Gruffalo!

(but there's no such thing, they said...)

Some of our little ones had great fun on the Chrunch day out and so did the grown ups. Thanks to everyone who came along and made it a lovely day.

The Gruffalo trail is a self-led trail around the woods, searching for carvings of the Gruffalo characters. Activity maps are available from the Countryside Centre, for 50p. Location: Thorndon North, the Avenue, Brentwood CM13 3RZ. Open daily, centre opens at 9.30am. Keep dogs on a lead. Wear wellies (it could be muddy!)

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

Contact us...

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