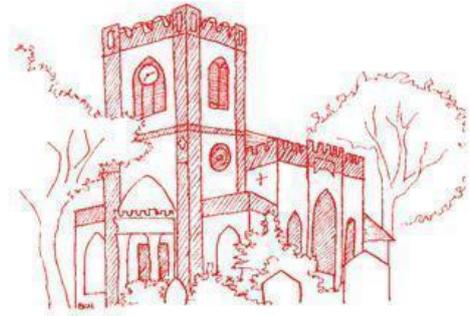


# DPC News

*Dagenham Parish Church*  
**February 2015**



Dear Friends,

A few weeks we asked the question, “What’s the time Dr Luke?”

In Luke’s gospel we saw it was time for Jesus to set out for Jerusalem on His way to heaven (Luke 9v51).

We also saw that the time we’re living in until Jesus returns is a bit like injury time in a close sports match – there’s still time for the result to change – people can still become Christians. That means it’s not the time for judgement and condemnation (Luke 9v52-56). There’s still time for salvation. There’s still time to share a message of forgiveness for all who trust in Jesus to the ends of the earth. And as we do so it’s time for radical discipleship – following Jesus whatever the cost without getting distracted (Luke 9v57-62). And we also saw it’s not the time to look back, but to look forwards to what’s ahead.

Our family is praising God for 3½ wonderful years in Dagenham. We praise God for you all – your friendship, your love and your prayers. But now we need to look forward to serving God in Walthamstow. No doubt, there will be different joys and different challenges ahead. Please pray for us as we seek to make and grow disciples and equip the brothers and sisters for works of service there.

And let me encourage you all not to keep looking back to the days of Mike and Debbie or even Kieran and Aly. Yes, please keep praying for us all - especially for Becontree Church. But, Dr Luke says it’s time to look forwards together to what’s ahead - to follow Jesus and look to Joel as God’s man to lead you under Him. We will be praying for you all.

As we look forwards in our different directions it’s definitely time to keep sharing the good news of Jesus with those we meet. Things may feel uncertain, but rest assured, Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever (Hebrews 13v8).

So dear brothers and sisters, it’s time to press on following Christ being willing to go wherever He takes us (Luke 9v57-58). Love and prayers,

**Kieran and Aly**

# News from Becontree Church



The goal of our church is to visit every home in our area, to explain the importance of the Lord Jesus, and to encourage each other to joyfully be like him. How are we doing? We're in the days of hard slog and winter visits, but here's why we're happy.

1. My mother lived with us for a short while. All her life she's carefully avoided Christians. In these last months she's loved the kindness & concern communicated through the plant team and many others. Although still unsaved, others in the family have commented on the changes they've seen in her, and she tells them why.

2. We rapid-visited 3,000 homes in the far end of the parish before Christmas with an attractive gospel teaching card. We had 11 come to the carol service; six of them Muslims!

3. Since starting God has graciously strengthened us to visit 1,308 houses, 37% of the residents were out (twice), 33% didn't want to talk to us, 30% did, and 374 thank you cards have been written. A lot of time goes into handwriting each card to fit the doorstep conversation. (Cards are then hand-delivered to those who chatted to us, the day after the visit).

Our core team is in good heart and resilient because you pray. So please trust that is true... and keep praying.

1. For another gospel worker from somewhere (Cornhill?)
2. For God to use Cornhill students 'on the doors' (Mission week in Feb)
3. That team members will do 'return visits' to top up friendships following their first doorstep conversation.
4. That we'll cope with the hard slog! Not just the rain and cold, but it's hard when people we've invested a lot in (like homeless alcoholic Gary), disappear from view without warning or reason. Pray people will stick - especially a Bulgarian family, and a medium (who is disillusioned with spiritualism).

**Mike Reith**

NB This update is from January 2015

## A pub with no beer?!

A pub with no beer, or a restaurant with no meals - it's hard to imagine anything more frustrating to the person who just wants a pint, or a meal. Of course, you could order a tap water, or chew on your napkin - but it wouldn't be the same.

Imagine if we could say the same about a church. The building looks and feels okay, the people seem nice, the music is good - but there is something missing.

It's possible for a church to run smoothly for many years, to do good things in the local community and to see lots of smiling faces in the pews - but if there's nothing for the church family to chew over, it won't be the same. Like a pub with no beer.

So, what is a church supposed to be like? What does God say?

**“God’s household ...is the church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of the truth.” 1 Timothy 3:15**

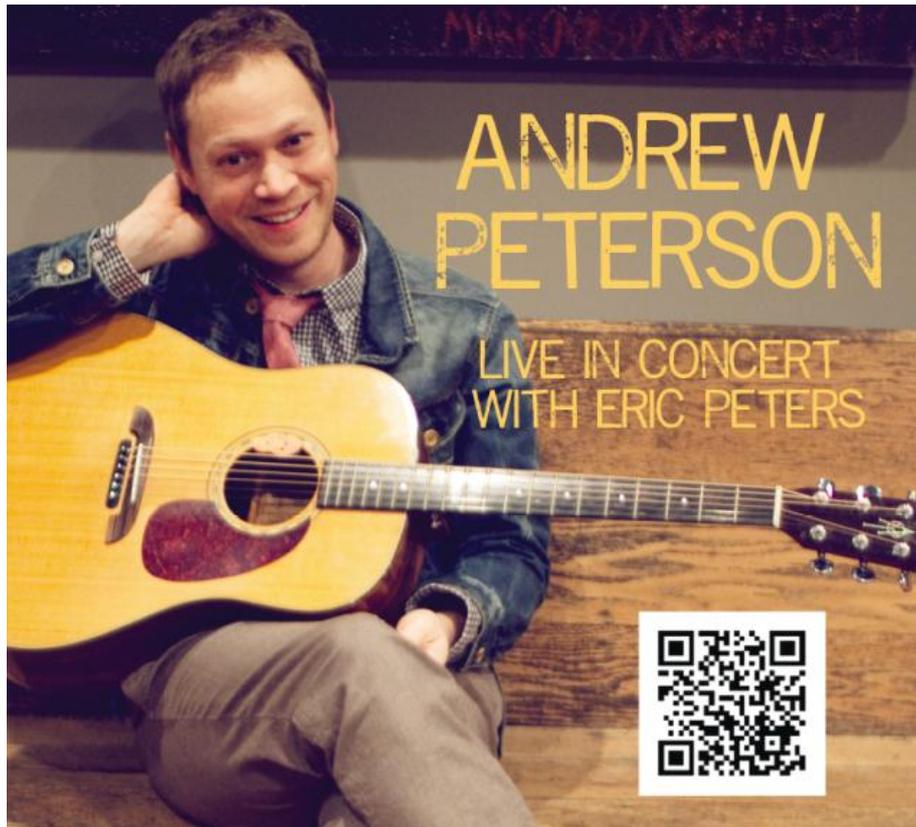
God isn't a mute idol, like the golden calf in Exodus. He is not an absent father either, but one who runs out to meet his long-lost children, like the father of the prodigal Son. We are impacted by God's presence - He wants to meet us.

God describes his church as a pillar - holding up something very precious. It is a foundation - a place where something important is built. The truth.

The church stands on the truth; that God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16)

Kanishka Raffel spoke on this topic at the South East Gospel Partnership Conference. During the conference, we also heard talks about how to hold out the truth to different parts of the world - council estates, suburban streets and the City. We also heard about why we need to hold onto the truth within the church.

We learned that there's a great temptation for Christians to adapt to our modern world, to be seduced by money or compromise with other beliefs. But if we let go of the truth - what Jesus did for us and why it matters - then we there will be something missing in all we do. We'll lose our foundation, our defence and our purpose. We'll be like a pub with no beer!



SATURDAY 28TH FEBRUARY 2015  
7:30PM AT UPNEY BAPTIST CHURCH

**TICKETS £7**

TO BOOK, PLEASE

**PHONE 07538 852 985**

**E-MAIL SEGPEVENTS@GMAIL.COM**

**Our website:**

**[www.dagenhamparishchurch.org](http://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.**