

dartford community church

...in the community...for the community

newsletter - autumn 2009

Newday 09

Newday 2009!! Apparently the best site and the best weather since Newday started – it was certainly a far cry from the last youth event I attended – Festival Manchester in 2002. This year we had loads of toilets (cleaned to perfection by Lynne and her team) and I had at least 4 hot showers (one so hot I had to turn it off every few seconds!)

What were the best moments? Seeing our youth, and 5000 others, caught up in praise and worship to God, seeing fourteen 7 and 8 year olds make a first time commitment to Jesus and many, many more learning to hear from God for themselves, watching (from a safe distance) our young people having a water fight. Well, young people and Lynne and Robin.

It was a privilege to be part of the group of 50 who went to Newday from Dartford Community Church. It is so encouraging to see young people worshipping and having fun together, caring for each other and looking out for the younger children in our group. Newday runs a children's programme for children of workers and Michelle, Julie, Rob, Anne and myself were all involved, in varying capacities, with 7s – 8s. Michelle's involved dressing up as a superhero and running around the stage sneezing silly string over children! Mick and Bren humped trolley loads of provisions and slaved over a hot cooker every day to produce wonderful food for us all and when Mick wasn't slaving over cookers or peeling potatoes he was helping with the Norwich City Centre outreach programme, which was one of 22 projects that 3,000 young people were involved in.

The youth were well looked after by Robin, Lynne, Tim, Sarah, (also serving with Newday Global) Erica and Graham. I think Robin and Lynne are perennial youth leaders, their zeal for water fights and messy food games seems undiminished from when my children were 11s – 14s fifteen years ago! We should be so grateful to all these leaders who put so much into serving our young people.

As I looked at our youngsters, some of whom were baptised in the Spirit and spoke in tongues for the first time, worshipping God in one of the evening meetings I felt God say "this is the greatest resource Dartford Community Church has, invest in them". Let's do it!

Jane Gregory



Both Ingrid and Philippa have been working overseas for several years now and it was great to have them both back visiting in April and May. We are very conscious that for many in the church it was the first time they have met Ingrid and Philippa, so we asked Angela to give us her perspective on them:

Humbled by our sisters overseas...

Attending the ladies group on Tuesday mornings has been a great gift for me. It has helped me grow in my faith and given me the chance to ask questions in a relaxed and friendly environment. When Ingrid and Philippa attended the groups after Easter, this again provided me with more insight and understanding of the great work God is doing.

Ingrid

Meeting Ingrid and listening to her talk about her life in China was a true pleasure. She has a busy life running the home, caring for her two children and also participating in the running



Ingrid, with Chen Gang, Sophie and Toby

of their business. I learnt during her talk how important God's grace is. For Ingrid it could be a friend inviting them out on a Saturday when her husband is away from home studying. I completely related to that daunting feeling a mother sometimes gets when she has the chores, children and numerous other things to do and only herself for adult company. Now, when my children are engrossed in a game or just all playing happily together, I thank God for His grace. Ingrid also talked about a visit she had made to her in-laws and how she found this challenging. By staying close to God and taking a little time out when she could meant that the visit went smoothly.

Philippa



Peter, Philippa and Isaac

Philippa gave us great insight into her daily life at home in the Middle East. Overall I think it is fair to say that running a home there sounds considerably harder. A simple thing like shopping is made more difficult due to the condition of

the roads and having to thoroughly clean all fruit and veg on return. The heat has a massive impact. Much work has to be done in the morning before the temperature rises. Living in such a different cultural environment also means that socialising is more structured. There are set times for visiting and it more often than not involves food so there is the need to be culinary minded too. Along with all these daily chores Philippa manages to assist her husband with his work and look after their young son. Quite impressive if you ask me. I occasionally use convenience foods, have shops five minutes drive away and still get stressed.

Having three children and working part time means life is busy for me and sometimes even the simplest of household chores can suddenly seem like I have a mountain to climb. What I had never stopped to think about before hearing Philippa and Ingrid is that, while I might have Mount Snowden in front of me it's not Everest and, with God's grace anything is scalable.

Angela Cawley



The final figure for the 'Sing for Life' event we did (along with some other local churches) at Bluewater, once sponsorship money came in, was £1301.50. Thank you all for your support.

Water Filter Appeal

In July the DCC children raised money for AMEN's water filter appeal. They watched a film showing families in the Philippines who lived and worked on rubbish tips and whose water supplies were highly contaminated. The children were enthusiastic with their fund raising efforts. They filled empty water bottles with small change, decorated and sold cakes and biscuits, and designed posters. Thanks to their hard work, and the generosity of the whole church, £562.50 was donated to AMEN, all of which will be used to send water filter kits to their partners in the Philippines. Many families will now be blessed with pure water for years to come.

Many thanks for supporting the appeal. - Janet White

FROM RUSSIA WITH LOVE!

IN JUNE I HAD THE PRIVILEGE OF ACCOMPANYING AL AND JANE ON ONE OF THEIR APOSTOLIC VISITS TO RUSSIA.

The trip was to two churches one in Novgorod and one in Armavir. We were met in St Petersburg by Sergi the pastor of 'Word of light' Church, and began our four hour (should have been 2 1/2 hours) journey to Novgorod; new road layouts and no sign posts meant a slight detour-Russian for "we got lost"!

On arrival we were taken to the church building where we were served supper. The original plan was for Al to deliver a teaching session on arrival but our delay meant that we could enjoy the hospitality and fellowship of our hosts. This was the first visit from New Frontiers to this church so we were there to build relationships and see what opportunities would arise.

The next day we were given a tour of the city, reputed to be the oldest in Russia, preparing to celebrate its 1150th birthday in September. The vast wall surrounding the Kremlin and the temples laden with gold testified to the power of state control in the days of communism; and serves as a constant reminder of ever present dominant rule.

The evening came and the church gathered. Al delivered a powerful session on 'Building apostolic foundations in the local church', which after listening to feedback was exactly what the church had been seeking. Jane and I were asked to pray for a lady who had been suffering from high blood pressure for a long time. Later that evening we received a call reporting that the all of the symptoms suffered by the woman had gone!

During the next day we were asked to meet with some of the leaders to talk through some issues (many raised from the message delivered). As we prayed God spoke prophetically through us and allowed us to speak into their situations and give wisdom and encouragement.

The evening service came and after another powerful sermon by Al a time of ministry was offered to which the whole church responded! We prayed for many people with different sickness and ailments and had many testimonies of healings. One woman I prayed for had been suffering from abdominal pains for years. As I prayed for her, tears streamed down her face and then a great big smile appeared, when I asked her about her pain she said it had completely gone!

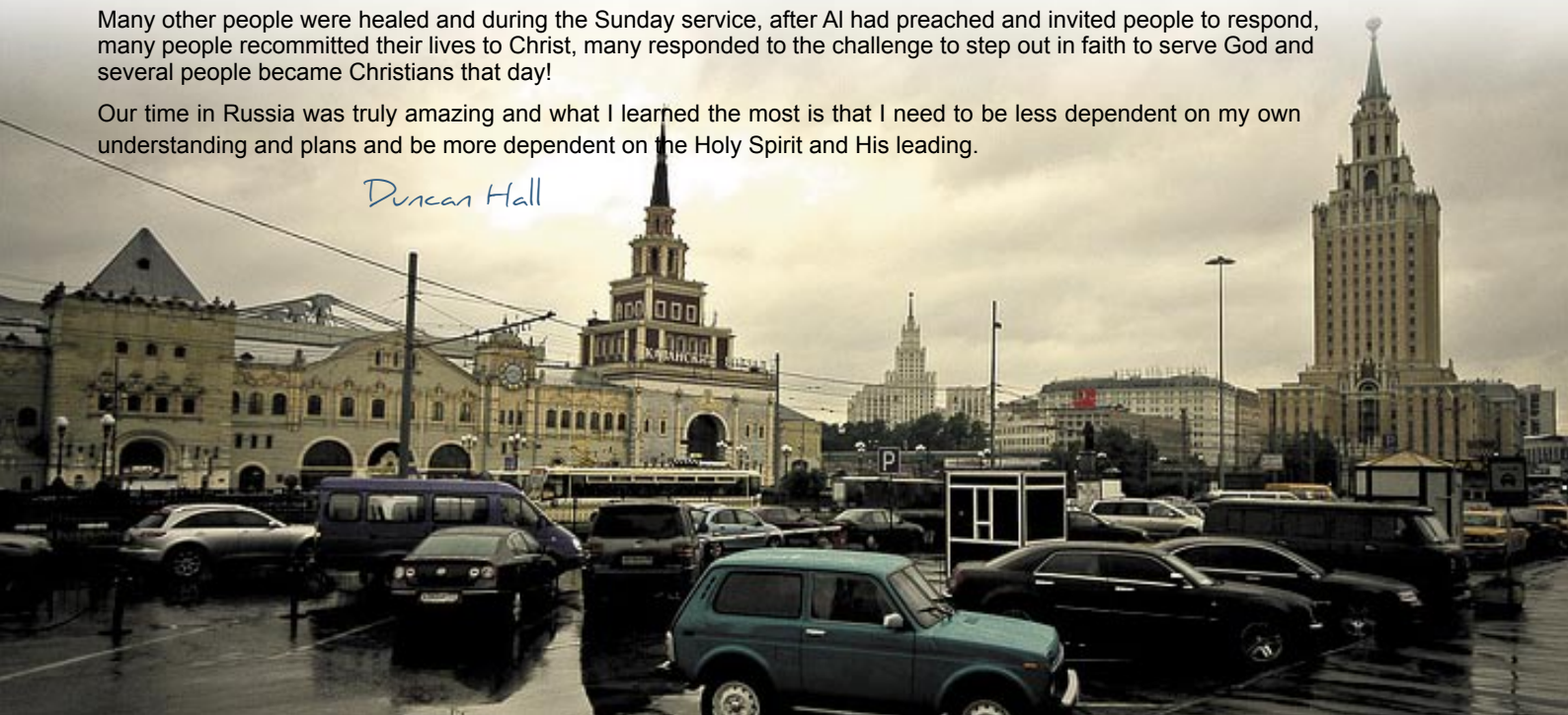
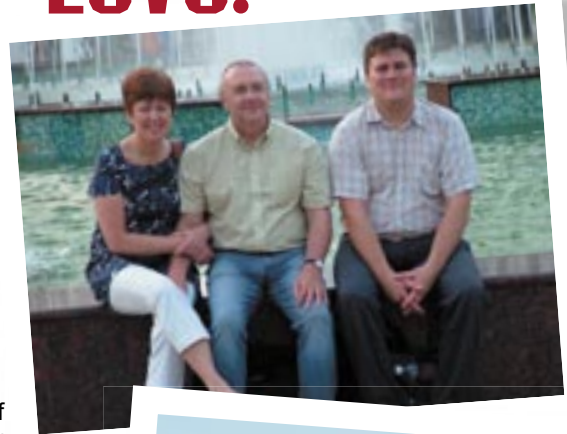
The next day we began our journey south to Armavir (over a thousand miles away!). The church in Armavir is part of the NFI family of churches and had previously been visited by Al and Jane. Here 'we' (Al and Jane) delivered the caring and healing course over a couple of days.

During one session on healing, Al invited those that were sick to come and receive prayer- nearly everyone present responded! Once again we prayed for people God gave us words of knowledge and prophecies and we saw many healed. One man, who was deaf in both ears had been told by the doctor that this was due to his age responded for prayer, as I laid hands on him and prayed (in English with no interpreter!) he began laughing and praising God. He later testified to his hearing having been restored! Another man had responded to a word of knowledge about spinal problems. After I prayed for him he pointed to his head, neck and lower back, when an interpreter arrived he said that he had been suffering from a lower back injury that caused pain to radiate up his back through his neck and into his head but now all the pain (and the restrictions caused) had gone!

Many other people were healed and during the Sunday service, after Al had preached and invited people to respond, many people recommitted their lives to Christ, many responded to the challenge to step out in faith to serve God and several people became Christians that day!

Our time in Russia was truly amazing and what I learned the most is that I need to be less dependent on my own understanding and plans and be more dependent on the Holy Spirit and His leading.

Duncan Hall





On the streets of Alagbada with breast awareness



Showing staff how to use a fetal sonic aid (donated) to hear heart beat

NIGERIA

On May 10th I left the comfort of home for a month, in a step of faith to follow what I felt was my calling to Lagos Nigeria.

Recently qualifying as a midwife I believe that God was leading me on this journey to be something other than a NHS midwife. I went to work with a relatively new charity Wish for Africa set up by Dr Femi Olaleye whom I had met whilst working at Darent Valley. The charity's aim and vision is to provide affordable, quality health care in deprived, low income areas, primarily in Lagos but eventually covering Nigeria and Africa

Femi and myself both being Christians were happy to let God lead the way throughout the month and we were blessed daily by His amazing love. I really enjoyed my time in Lagos, finding everyone friendly and welcoming. I was able to go with medical equipment, toys, clothes and money thanks to the generosity of friends and colleagues; this allowed me to bless many people,

as well as the clinics themselves. I assisted at a caesarean section in very basic conditions, helped train staff, wrote guidelines, took breast cancer awareness to the streets of Mafoluku, Ketu and Alagbada, as well as appeared on TV and radio.

I left knowing that God had more for me to do there and I hope to return to continue the work I have started.

Jo Watts



Jo with Funmi and baby after c section

Street Pastors

ENGAGE
WITHOUT
COMPLICATED
Care
Listen
Help



We had a very good launch meeting on Tuesday 28th July at Acacia Hall. Mick chaired the evening and we had speakers from The Council, The Police, someone from the Street Pastors team, and Al represented the Dartford Churches. We are now at the stage of recruiting people for training.

For information on how to get involved in Street Pastors in Dartford please contact Mick Gibson 01322 275222 or mick@dartfordcommunitychurch.com

Week of Outreach 09

I am not sure if I was anxious or just plain frightened about the prospect of 'Treasure Hunting.'

Something that I had attempted once or twice but never really succeeded in. As we gathered together at The Meeting Hall to receive some training from Mark and Fiona Gilpin, from Tunbridge Wells, there was an atmosphere of expectation as we were told amazing stories of how God had used this man and his wife with words of knowledge and prophetic evangelism. They had seen people healed and had many opportunities to share their faith with complete strangers as God led them to people through words that he had given them.

Then it was our turn on Streets of Dartford – what would happen? How would we do? This was it "God speak to me, speak to us so that we can go and pray for the sick and share our faith with the lost" and that is exactly what he did. God led us to those that he had spoken to us about as we prayed before we went out. Many opportunities arose during our week – some still ongoing.

The success was about our obedience to Him, trusting Him and allowing our faith to create boldness in us to step out – what good fun it was too...

Mick Gibson