

Mission

As may be painfully obvious by the time you read this, we at Danbury Mission have been getting very exercised over the idea of "mission" this month, with a series of large and small events sending all our people scurrying around like a nest of ants. We wouldn't expect the other Danbury churches to start jumping up and down as well, though we do hope and pray that our sister churches might also gain some benefit from all the activity.

To be quite honest, the most exciting thing for us hasn't been organising an all-singing, all-dancing extravaganza which leaves everyone wondering, "What was all that about?" The best thing has been the renewed realisation that the Father of Jesus Christ is a God of Mission, who lets us take part in just a little of what he's doing.

People have the impression that God is a force beyond space and time, who nods benignly when we humans do something right, and shakes his head in sad impotence as we destroy the rain forests or each other. But the Gospel of Christ shows a dynamic God whose very nature is to reach out to people in love.

He did that when he first created us to enjoy him and his universe. And when our race turned its back on him and invented all those evils we see in the world today, he never stopped reaching out to get us on the road back to him. That's the meaning of those Old Testament prophets like Abraham and Moses. That's the meaning of his particular dealings with one nation, Israel. Most of all it's the meaning of the coming of Jesus Christ, his death on the cross and his resurrection. They all demonstrate God's Mission to the people he made.

Danbury's churches are full of people who have discovered God reaching out to them, too, to offer healing, forgiveness and new life in Christ. If you speak to some of them, perhaps you'll find he's reaching out to you.

Jon Garvey
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