

AIPM at Ducklington 2010 - 2011

Ducklington – Short-Term Volunteer Interim Pastor

By: Chuck McComb

Two American couples served 6-month assignments at Ducklington Baptist Church in Oxfordshire, UK. Dennis and Brenda Greer from Abilene, TX served the first half of 2010. Brian and Paula Brewer from Pinckneyville, IL served in the last half of 2010. DBC was a small congregation with from 10 to 15 for Sunday worship. Five were in the 40 to 55 age range and the rest were older. Seven attended a house group Bible study on Monday evenings. DBC entered the partnership with AIPM with very limited funds, just enough for about 12-months support of AIPM. Indeed, when the Brewer's assignment concluded, remaining funds were not adequate for DBC to invite a third American couple.

The church had pastoral ministry by a British pastor until 2008. From then until 2010 when AIPM started, they had visiting preachers from nearby churches conduct services. That is a typical arrangement when UK churches have a vacant pulpit because they are between installed pastors, or the congregation is too small to afford an installed pastor.

There were no children or teenagers in the church. However, on Mondays they had mothers and toddlers with about 20 to 25 coming. On Saturdays they had dads and toddlers with 5 to 10 coming.

Ducklington is 12 miles west of Oxford and has 3000 people. It is within walking distance of Witney at the edge of the Cotswolds, an area of outstanding beauty. In 958 King Edgar granted the estate at Ducklington to one of his ministers called Earnulf to establish the village.

The following was posted on AIPM's website on 15 July 2010:

On Sunday July 11, 2010, the baton was passed from Dennis Greer to Brian Brewer to continue American Short-term pastor ministry at Ducklington Baptist Church in Oxfordshire, England.

Dennis and Brenda Greer from Abilene, Texas finished their 6-month assignment and Brian and Paula Brewer from Pinckneyville, Illinois began their stint at Ducklington. In fact, part of the service was an enactment of passing the baton.

Chris Mephram, retired Administration Manager at the Baptist Union of Great Britain and at that time a volunteer with AIPM on "the other side of the pond," (retired from AIPM in 2017 – 15-years service) wrote about that service at Duckington:

"I so wish all the directors and supporters could have been at Ducklington this morning. It was a special occasion. We were all aware of the Holy Spirit being there in power. Each of the 4 AIPM personnel spoke. The Greers reflected on the past 6 months and the Brewers related their commitment and sense of call to just this place at just this moment. Brian spoke and got Dennis to act out the passing of the baton from the Greers to themselves, saying we must take care not to drop it. The three Deacons called the Brewers forward and prayed and laid hands on them, and then did the same for the Greers. It was an awesome moment! It was AIPM at its very best."



Dennis & Brenda Greer



Brian & Paul Brewer

Photos from Ducklington:



Ducklington Baptist Church.



Ducklington Congregation



Ducklington Worship Center.



Playroom



Ducklington Pond