

Reigate Park Church



20 Questions about REIGATE PARK CHURCH (or 21) ?

Q What religion is this church?

A. The United Reformed Church is a Christian Protestant church, like the Church of England, but governed by local members and synods, not by hierarchy.

Q. How did the church get its name?

A When Reigate United Reformed Church moved from the town's High Street into the new Park Lane East building in 1975 it also merged with South Park Congregational Church. So "Reigate Park" is a blend of the two names of these churches. The wooded area where the church is sited is also known as Reigate Park.

Q Do I have to be a Christian to come to Reigate Park Church?

A. No, you don't. Our doors are open to all.

Q. Can I take the communion bread and wine if I'm only a visitor or am not confirmed?

A. Yes. Reigate Park Church has an open-door policy and offers Communion to everyone who attends this service, whether regular or occasional churchgoers, and regardless if they have been baptised or confirmed elsewhere. Equally, if you don't wish or are not ready to take communion, you are welcome to enjoy the service, and decline the wine or bread when it's passed round.

Q. What is the difference between a member of RPC and someone else who comes regularly - can I be a member even if I haven't been baptised?

A. Becoming a member is a public profession of faith and means you can vote at church meetings. All major decisions are made by the members under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. It is not necessary to be baptised before becoming a member nor is there any age requirement.

Q. Who do I talk to if I want to become more involved?

A. The minister or any elder.

Q. What is the difference between a member of RPC and someone who comes regularly, and can I be a member even if I haven't been baptised?

A. Becoming a member is a public profession of faith and means you can vote at church meetings. All major decisions are made by the members under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. It is normal to be baptised before becoming a member and there is no age requirement.

Q. Who do I talk to if I want to become more involved?

A. The minister or any elder.

Q. Can I have my child baptised/get married/arrange a funeral if I am not a member?

A. Reigate Park Church has an open door policy and therefore you do not have to be a member before a baptism/marriage or funeral can take place. Contact the minister who will be happy to arrange a date and come to discuss the service with you.

Q. How many people are in the church and how many children go to Junior Church?

A. We're a big, bustling congregation of between 300 and 350 people, so hopefully you'll find some friends and fellowship here. The number of children in Junior Church is 170, ranging from babies in the crèche to those aged 16.

Q. Does it matter if my child makes a noise in church?

A. Reigate Park Church welcomes children into its services. The Sunday morning service is particularly suitable for people with children and can be quite lively. Most children come into the church itself for the first 20 minutes and then go out to take part in Junior Church with groups organised according to their age.

Q. Do I have to pay for my child to go to Junior Church?

A. No, it is a free service although parents may be asked to help occasionally. Junior Church events outside of the Sunday service, such as barbecues, may require a nominal fee to cover costs.

Q. Can I stay with my child in the crèche for the first time?

A. You bet - and whenever you like after that.

Q. What is an elder and how many elders can there be at one time?

A. There are currently 15 elders who are elected by church members to serve for a period of 3 years. They share responsibility with the minister for the pastoral care and leadership of the church.

Q. What are prayers of intercession?

A. Prayers for the World and the Church - literally "on behalf of others".

Q. What is the money given during the service used for?

A. The church is self-funding so the collection goes towards the upkeep of the building and all resources. The turnover of the church is about £150,000 a year and all but £10,000 approx., which comes from lettings, needs to come from the congregation. We pay to a central fund from ministers but pay other people like the caretaker, admin officer and youth worker ourselves.

Q. Who decides the length of the service and what is the average length?

A. The minister - it is about 70 minutes.

Q. Is there a visitors' book to sign?

A. Yes, it is kept near the leaflets in the vestibule of the church. There is also a list of all the church family given out to each attendee every year.

Q. Which days is the church open during the week?

A. Every day but different hours- best to check with the church office.

Q. Are there disabled facilities, as there are no obvious signs?

A. Yes, there is a loop system for those who with hearing difficulties, a toilet for people with disabilities, and a hymn book in Braille.

Q. Is there a quiet place to sit?

A. On a Sunday morning this is difficult although the library is possible after service. The church itself is often quiet in the week.