

THE RECORD

OF REIGATE PARK CHURCH (UNITED REFORMED)



APRIL 2007

No 830

REIGATE PARK CHURCH

(UNITED REFORMED)

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The film *Snow Cake*, starring Sigourney Weaver and Alan Rickman, is one of the most thought-provoking I've watched in a long time. Alan Rickman goes to comfort a mother after a tragedy, partly to sort himself out. The mother is autistic and despair seems all-pervasive.

Gradually, however, you become aware that none of the characters have given up on themselves or each other. They each keep trying to support the other. For a long time no breakthrough is evident or any corner turned. The persistence, however, of genuine honesty and caring eventually have their effect. Relationships are restored, hope brightens tear-stained eyes and cheeks, and love melts the ice and snow, thawing the ravages of grief.

At one point a grandfather reads out a story written by his granddaughter about a fictional autistic brother called James. In this story the girl records as glowing triumphs each simple developing achievement of her brother. She indicates that she will keep on teaching and loving him whatever happens, waiting for what will prove to be the highlight of her life when he says to her 'I LOVE YOU, SIS'.

The Passion and the Easter Story of Christ reveal the persistence of God's Love. He will keep trying to break through to us, He will keep supporting us, He will keep teaching

us and He will keep loving us, until the limited commitment, the limited friendship and the limited regard and affection we offer Him become more and more whole-hearted. For as the snows of our resistance thaw we can begin to build a new world where despair more frequently turns to hope, grief more often is interspersed with joy, the coin of doubt flipped over more quickly to its other side of faith, and the hatred and bitterness we feel towards others gives way more rapidly to love and mercy.

You and I cannot make this happen. Even God cannot make this happen in our lives without our help. What He can do is what He has done and is doing for us: He dies for us, He conquers death for us and in so doing reveals His eternal love for us. He will not give up on us. May the Easter Message this year bring home to us that we should respond to God's love, that we should not cease trying to support others and that we should never never never give up on ourselves.

With every good wish

David

PRAYER CALENDAR

At this time of change and uncertainty in the councils of the United Reformed Church, the prayer calendar is devoting the three months leading up to General Assembly to prayers for our future life together and in Christ. Dates for which our churches have asked for prayer are added where appropriate. This is the last quarter in which the calendar will be issued in this form and by its current editor, Alan Fox. The prayer cycle of Churches Together in Reigate and Redhill is incorporated below.

A Prayer for our Re-shaping

O Christ,
 the Master Carpenter,
 who at the last,
 through wood and nails,
 purchased our whole salvation,
 wield well your tools in the workshop of your world,
 so that we,
 who come rough-hewn to your bench,
 may here be fashioned to a truer beauty at your hand.
 We ask it for your own name's sake.

(A prayer of George McLeod, contributed by Adrian Skelton)

Banstead + Caterham + Cheam, St Andrew's + Crawley: Pound Hill, Christ Church & Ifield, Trinity + Croydon: East Croydon, South Croydon, St Paul's + Purley + Sanderstead + East Grinstead, Moat + Horsham + Slinfold + Oxted, Church of the Peace of God + Marsh Green, St John's + Redhill + Reigate Park + South Norwood + Sutton, Trinity + Wallington + Walton-on-the-Hill, Christchurch

8th April. Pray for *Redhill Baptist Church* in Hatchlands Road.

15th April. Pray for the *Church of Christ the King*, Honeycrock Lane, Salfords.

22nd April. Pray for *St Mark's Church*, Alma Road.

29th April. *Purley*. Pray for the success of their elders' weekend, as they meet to plan for the church and discuss 'Time to talk of God'.

BOOK CLUB

Next meeting - Monday, April 30th. at Michael Ball's, 23 The Close.

The book is *Half of a Yellow Sun* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie.

Jane Dotzek

LUCKY ESCAPES!

We sometimes include misprints and typos from other magazines. Here are some that were nearly included in the Record, but were spotted in time (by the Editor, or Audrey Ward, or Peter or Mary Warren, or Peter Whipps). It seems a pity to waste them:

She was a member of the Women's Guile.

If you are interested in knowing what bother churches are doing . . .

The rest of the fee will be parable at the beginning of October.

And two we failed to spot last month: The Women's World Day of Prayer evening service was said to be at Christ the King, Salford, without the final s. We hope no-one discovered this error the hard way, by going to Manchester! And Margaret Goodall's telephone number is 210729.

ELECTRIC TYPEWRITER

Is there a typist who doesn't have a computer who would like a lovely electric typewriter (complete with two brand new ribbon cartridges)? If so please contact Olive Soanes ☎ 768120 as it is feeling unloved sitting in a cupboard.

WORSHIP IN THE MONTH OF APRIL

At 10 a.m. on **Sunday 1st April** we shall have about eight visitors from the Chinese Church as part of our World Church Weekend, led by Rev. Ernest Yu. There is no evening service, but following coffee after the morning service there are to be discussion groups with our visitors. If you wish to join in, please just bring a packed lunch. Our visitors will leave no later than 2 p.m.

At 11 a.m. on **Thursday 5th April** we hold our Closing Celebration Service for the Easter Workshop. All are invited. The theme of the Workshop this year is 'On a slow boat to China with Jesus'. At 8 p.m. that evening we are joined by our friends from Reigate Methodist Church for our Maundy Thursday Communion. The preacher this year is Rev. Clive McKie.

The family service at 10 a.m. on **Good Friday** morning, 6th April, is a devotional and reflective one - short and very visual, it will be aimed at all ages with a depth of thought, quite a bit of movement (not compulsory) and times of quiet. It would be good to have all ages together for this important aspect of the Christian story. At 4 p.m. there is a Churches Together afternoon service at Reigate Baptist Church to bring the Labyrinth there to a end.

At 8 a.m. on **Easter Sunday**, 8th April, our Communion Service will be mainly led by Rev. Dr David Owen, who will also participate in the 10 a.m. service. After the first service there will be a breakfast so please sign up. At 10 a.m. the theme of the Easter Communion will be 'Not the answer we wanted!' with the reading of John chapter 21. There is to be no evening service.

At 10 a.m. on **Sunday 15th April** the service includes the baptism of Jennifer Cuff with the reading of Psalm 8 and the theme 'Focussing the Telescope'. Following this service there will be a farewell meal of thanksgiving for all that Rosemary and Michael Coiley have done for us. At 6.30 p.m. the theme of the Communion Service is 'Who Preaches Now?' looking at Luke 4: 16 -30.

At 12.15 p.m. on **Wednesday 18th April** we conclude our series of Lunchtime Communion on the theme 'Full-bodied Christianity' with 'Full-bodied Resurrection' reading Luke 24: 36 -52.

At 10 a.m. on **Sunday 22nd April** our morning service is led by Rev. Ron Talmey. There is no evening service but you are warmly invited to the closing service of the Church Family Weekend which is on the theme: 'Keeping the Balance' and takes place at 2.30 p.m. at Pilgrim Hall near Uckfield.

At 10 a.m. on **Sunday 29th April** the theme is 'Growing a Future' with bible readings of Amos 5: 7 - 14, Ephesians 6: 1 - 3, 5 - 8, Psalm 94, Luke 7: 36 - 50 and John 12: 20 - 26. At 4.30 p.m. we are leading the service at Dovers

Residential Home.

A warm welcome to any or all of these services.

CASH ALERT!

NEWS FROM THE FINANCIAL AWARENESS GROUP

Most people know that the best way to give money, if you are a tax payer, is to Gift Aid it. This lets the Church reclaim tax on your donations.

But are you sure you know how to optimise the use of Gift Aid, across all or any types of donation you may make?

Enclosed with this edition of *The Record* is a new leaflet produced by The Financial Awareness Group, which gives details about Gift Aid, with a special focus on the cash collection.

Here, we summarise how Gift Aid can work with ALL types of giving:

1. Regular Giving (the best kind):

It's easy when we have regular donors who use either standing orders, or the weekly offertory envelopes. In these cases, donors are assigned a Gift Aid Number, and we automatically reclaim tax on all their regular donations.

2. Cash Collection (very important - worth £15,000 last year):

It is much harder when it comes to the cash collection, as this is anonymous. Most people who give cash during services probably are taxpayers, and may even already be registered for Gift Aid - yet we can't reclaim the tax because we don't know who the money in the offertory bag has come from.

To help the Church make the most of its cash collection, please follow the steps in the 'What Should I Do?' section in the leaflet. Remember, if every donation were Gift Aided, the cash collection would be worth £19,200 instead of £15,000...

3. One-off Donations (always very welcome)

Any other donations, including for special purposes e.g. the kitchen fund, can also be Gift Aided - again, refer to the leaflet for details of how.

So remember, if you are a taxpayer, PLEASE use Gift Aid, so that the Church can increase your donation by 28 per cent, without it costing you a penny more.

It's what they call a "no-brainer".....



CHERNOBYL CHILDREN LIFE LINE

In order that this year's visit of ten children from Belarus should go ahead, I have agreed to be acting chairman of the East Surrey Link for the time being. The reason I became involved in the charity was to represent Reigate Park Church at the initial meeting organised by the then Mayor of Reigate and Banstead, Alderman Mary Waller. That was ten years ago. I am committed to the charity because I have seen over the years how the month that the children spend in the area can improve their health and well-being, and it will add at least two years to their life expectancy. Sadly, even twenty years after the Chernobyl disaster, birth defects and childhood cancer are on the increase. In order for this year's visit to be a success, we need families who are willing to host two children for two weeks, (or four weeks if they wish), families who are willing to support the host families and people who are willing to help with various events during the month. Financial support is given to host families.

The children arrive on Sunday 29th July and are in the area for four weeks. We have asked for ten children and we usually have six girls and four boys between the ages of ten and twelve years. Activities are usually planned for three days each week and there is a camp in the middle weekend when the children change from their first to their second host family.

If you think you may be able to help, (and most years we have had at least one Reigate Park helper), you know someone who could help, or you would just like more information, please contact me at samuelm@micklefieldschool.co.uk or margaretannsamuel@hotmail.com or ☎ 243308.

Margaret Samuel

EASTER LABYRINTH

Reigate Churches Together have organised a 'Labyrinth' that will be held in Reigate Baptist Church in Sycamore Walk, Woodhatch during Holy Week, Monday 2nd April to Good Friday 6th April. The opening times are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and 8 - 10 p.m. (except Good Friday evening). The contemplative path will be based on the journey of Jesus as he triumphantly enters Jerusalem, celebrates the Last Supper, his struggle in the Garden of Gethsemane, subsequent betrayal and crucifixion, his forgiving of our sins, resurrection and our steps forward in faith.

The Labyrinth will be open to all. Safe and secure areas for children will be available in the afternoons, and children from all churches will be asked to decorate paper palm leaves and put their own prayers on them, which will line

the route.

Carol Nichols

UNICEF - MITE NEWS

First of all - 'Thank you' to those who supported the Blue Peter 'Shoebiz Collection'. This was linked with Sandcross School's collection. My thanks go also to the Sangster family who did the 'donkey work' - I appreciated their help very much.

I was very pleased to see that the Youth Club are collecting money for a 'Sport in the Box' (£160). Like 'School in a Box' the contents can be used to keep children together and looked after when a disaster occurs. UNICEF believes in trying to make life as ordinary as possible when a catastrophe happens, so that rescue and reconstruction can take place and children are not traumatised. So the provision of funds is vital and it is the public who are asked to support the work of the 'field' workers. The calls on our pockets are many and various, and, sad to say, continual.

The TUBS are an easy way to make small contributions regularly. UNICEF need to support nurse training, medical centres, regular health checks and vaccinations - even wars are stopped for a day for the latter to take place - especially important in heat and the lack of what we would take for granted.

UNICEF's influence in this country has been visible latterly in the reports of lost children, sent to this country, who then disappear. Have you ever wondered what you would do if you were desperate and money was offered for your child? Your other children might have food then!

Although I obviously 'like' larger coins, the TUBS were originally for the 'mites' (5p). The big jar for collection, and empty TUBS, are always in the foyer. Thank you for past support- please continue.

Hazel Arscott

ZIMBABWE PROJECT

We have had one more attempt to transport our consignment to the Fairfield Children's Homes safely, this time through Oasis Trust. They were very helpful and recommended a firm in Redhill!, who might be able to help us, but the story was the same, a safe passage to Harare, but no guarantee beyond.

However, we have found a home for our blankets, jumpers and baby knitwear through Oasis Trust who would be very happy to have them for their work in Harare. They can also guarantee that the parcels will be collected by their staff. So as a 'one-off' this is what we intend to do; at least they will be going to Zimbabwe. Meantime we can gradually build up our stocks again and hope

for better times in that country.

Jean Bushby

CONNECT UPDATE

Following our Open Meeting in March we are delighted to welcome two new committee members Kay Parris and Kathy Trillion.

A further £500 has been sent to Harvest Help and £500 to Building Brighter Futures.

All proceeds from the BOOK FAIR (11th and 12th May) will go to the Kavule Parents School for the Deaf which is situated just outside Mbale in Eastern Uganda.

Many thanks to those who have volunteered to help shift books. I am now looking for people to help at the sale. Please contact me if you can do a few hours on either day. Handbills and posters are available. If you can place these somewhere useful (car windows are good) we would be grateful.

CONNECT socials is another fundraising initiative we are trying out. Anne Richardson held a successful Pancake Day open house which made £81. If you are willing to have a coffee morning or similar we can provide special invitations.

Linda Chandler ☎ 763328, Lindachandler@tesco.net

CAN WE BUILD A BETTER WORLD?

The Monday morning group and the Tuesday Church Nights will be following the same course in the next few weeks. These are based on the York course set around William Wilberforce and the abolition of the slave trade. All these meetings take place in the Park Room and you will be welcome to any or all of them. Some people come to both types of meeting, because the lively discussions on a particular session are seldom the same! The dates are:

Monday morning group at 10.30 a.m.: April 16th, 23rd and 30th, May 14th and 21st.

Church Night at 8 p.m.: April 24th, May 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd.

JUNIOR CHURCH

It was good to get to know some new families better when we had coffee downstairs after the service on 25th February. If ANY family still has registration forms at home, please return them to the box in the foyer so that we can update our records. Thank you.

We are putting the final touches to our Theme Morning in Junior Church on 25th March, so look out for a full report in next month's Record!

Pat Denchfield & Angela Bolton

SHORT MATters

So our first season in the Sussex League has come to an end, but before we reflect over our achievements, let us report briefly on the final matches.

Before the last three league matches, we had the opportunity to visit Banstead for the first time; they had been to us several times. When they were considering starting a club, I gave them some help on how to do it, and the friendship has continued, even though they had decided not to get deeply involved. They achieved their first victory with an overall score was 41- 64 to Banstead.

The next match was in the league against Horley which we expected to win, but they turned the tables for the first time. 24 - 43. with Reigate getting no points. Somehow we could not adapt to their shorter mats.

Our next visit was to Barns Green, where we had been told the floor was terrible. Overall score 27 - 67 and another 6 points gone.

The last match was at home against Barns Green. This time we won 44 - 38 and 6 points.

These results did not go the way we had hoped, so it looks as though we shall be sixth in the league unless Mannings Heath Red Squirrels have a disastrous last 3 games.

On reflecting as to why we did not reach our expectations, it is probably our inability to be consistent in our away games. Nobody else has our quality of mats so the speeds are different and the imperfections are surprising at some venues. Our players were unable to adapt in strange surroundings consistently and therefore did not exert pressure onto our opponents, meaning we always lost by 20 - 30 shots. At home we have a very good floor and good mats giving reasonably reliable bowling, but again, we did not take advantage when in front in exerting pressure from our first wood, hence our victories were only by about 10 shots. This means our shot difference is -111, which is worse than the other teams despite our 33 points. If Horley win their last 4 games, scoring more than 21 points, we could be bottom.

Our Annual General Meeting will be on Monday April 30th at 2 p.m.

Brian Dean (☎ 774208)

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Our outing this month on 12th April is to Singleton Open-Air Museum, leaving the church at 10 a.m. It is not too late to book if you are able to come.

John Sowton (☎ 643488)

WOMEN'S GUILD

We were privileged to have our Student Youth Worker Gemma Stewart to speak to us at our March Meeting. Gemma told us about her early life, how she became a Christian at university in Canterbury and her subsequent feeling of a call to youth work. For the last two years as part of her training with Oasis she has been working not only with our church but with other youth groups such as the Sovereign Centre. We thanked her for all she has done for our young people and we wished her well for the future.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 10th April at 10.30 a.m. in the Park Room when David Bullen will be telling us about the work of Surrey County Council Trading Standards Department. Anyone will be very welcome at this meeting.

Liz Bullen

CRÈCHE ROTA

This is the rota for April. Please remember you are responsible for the session allocated to you. If you are unable to cover your duty, please ensure you have swapped with someone else on the rota. Many thanks!

Sandra Reid

1st April	Rachel and Kevin Semple	Claire Harris
8th April	Lefteri Deda	Eleanor Kiy
15th April	Jacki Glasgow	
22nd April	Sara-Jane Archer	Karen Best
29th April	Rachel and Kevin Semple	Greta Taylor

ON A SLOW BOAT TO CHINA WITH JESUS

By the time you read this it will be very close to our annual Easter Workshop. The volunteers, and hopefully all those booked on it, are all eagerly looking forward to the four exciting mornings here. I would like to say 'thank you' in advance for all the hard work, thought and enthusiasm that so many people have put into this event already. I really appreciate that there are some people who have taken valuable annual holiday in order to volunteer. I hope that for all those for whom this is their first experience, they will really enjoy themselves and want to come back again next year.

Look out for next month's article when you can read all about it, or if you

can't wait that long, join us at the service on Thursday 5th April at 11 a.m. during which many of the children will participate. Please feel free to come along too and share in the fun we have all had.

Angela Bolton

CHRIST THE GOOD SHEPHERD

What difference can Christ the Good Shepherd make to our lives?
(from the Magazine of Christ Church URC, Solihull)

'The Lord is my shepherd'
That's Relationship.

'I shall not want'
That's Supply.

'He makes me to lie down in green pastures'
That's Rest.

He leads me beside the still waters'
That's Refreshment.

'He restores my soul'
That's Healing.

'He leads me in the paths of righteousness'
That's Guidance.

'For his name's sake'
That's Purpose.

'Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death'
That's Testing.

'I will fear no evil'
That's Confidence.

'For you are with me'
That's Faithfulness.

Your rod and your staff they comfort me'
That's Assurance.

'You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies'
That's Hope.

You anoint my head with oil'
That's Consecration.

My cup overflows'
That's Abundance.

'Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life'
That's Providence.

‘And I will dwell in the house of the Lord’
That’s Security.

‘Forever’
That’s Eternity.

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THE RECORD

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APRIL DIARY

- Sunday** 1st 10.00am World Church Weekend. Rev. Ernest Yu and
Rev. David Skitt.
11.30am Group discussions and lunch
7.30pm Youth Club.
- Thursday 5th 11.00am Closing Celebration of Easter Workshop on a Chinese
theme.
8.00pm Maundy Thursday Communion.
- Good Friday** 6th 10.00am Good Friday Family Service (devotional).
4.00pm Churches Together Labyrinth Service at Reigate
Baptist Church.
- Easter Day** 8th 8.00am Early Morning Communion. Rev. Dr David Owen.
10.00am Rev. David Skitt. Holy Communion.
- Tuesday 10th 10.30am Women's Guild. David Bullen.
- Thursday 12th 10.00am Men's Fellowship. Outing to Singleton
- Sunday** 15th 10.00am Rev. David Skitt. Baptism of Jennifer Cuff.
6.30pm Rev. David Skitt. Holy Communion.
- Wednesday 18th 12.15pm Rev. David Skitt. Midweek Communion Service.
20th - 22nd Church Family Weekend:
- Sunday** 22nd 10.00am Rev. Ron Talmey at Reigate Park Church.
2.30pm Closing Service at Pilgrim Hall, Uckfield.
- Tuesday 24th 8.00pm Church Night - Can We Build a Better World? - 1.
- Sunday** 29th 10.00am Rev. David Skitt.
4.30pm Service at Dovers Residential Home.

In addition to those mentioned above, our weekly activities normally include Junior Church and Crèche at 10.00 a.m. each Sunday, Brownies, Guides, Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Busy Bees Playclub, Monday Morning Group, Choir, Conquest Art, Parental Discussion Group, Playgroup, Prayer Group, Toddlers Plus Group, Badminton and Short Mat Bowling.

EASTER EGG HUNT IN ALICE'S WONDERLAND

Gatton Community Theatre are hosting an event on Easter Monday for all young children and their parents and grandparents. Join us in GATTON PARK at the Mad Hatter's Tea Party, then follow the trail and encounter the many characters from Alice in Wonderland as you try to find where the eggs are hidden. No booking required, just come along after 1 p.m. on Monday 9th April. Two

children free with every adult (£3).