

# THE RECORD

OF REIGATE PARK CHURCH (UNITED REFORMED)



**MAY 2007**

**No 831**

# **REIGATE PARK CHURCH**

## **(UNITED REFORMED)**

**Park Lane East, Reigate RH2 8BD**

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When I was in my late teens, I belonged to a church youth club. One month several of us were handed slips of paper and told that at the next meeting we were to speak for five minutes on the subject we were given.

My slip held the title 'Is church-going necessary to be a Christian?'

Anyone who has done public speaking will know that five minutes requires quite a number of words. However I did not need to give the answer a lot of thought but I did need to find many words to support my reply. I believed then and still do that the answer for me is an unequivocal 'Yes'. The occasions when I do not attend church, I always feel that something is missing. I haven't had my weekly boost.

Anything one does on one's own, it is very easy to slip when our enthusiasm wanes and one feels low. Churchgoing is vital to us to strengthen our faith especially in times of stress and other problems which blight our way. Many things come up which cause us doubts and whilst going to church may not give us an answer it does help us to sort things out in our mind.

When one reads the paper or hears news on the radio or TV regarding not only ourselves but worldwide, God must be very sad at what we are doing to his creation. Churchgoing is declining and there are many reasons for this, the main one being that Sunday is not a special day any

more, a day set apart from the rest. For many it is just another day of working, shopping and sports fixtures for children as well as adults. Does this not make you think that churchgoing is not just necessary - it is vital?

We still receive the magazine of churches we have previously attended and feel so sorry when we hear of the decline of members and especially of children attending.

We are so fortunate here at Reigate Park to have such a flourishing congregation and to have so many people willing to assist with the teaching of our young people, but I find it very sad when I look through the list of members and realise that some people no longer attend so regularly. I do appreciate that some people have valid reasons. Circumstances change, and faith does wax and wane. I am sure we wouldn't be human if it didn't, but coming to church is so essential to uphold us and for us to uphold one another.

I do hope that you will agree that 'churchgoing is necessary'.

With every blessing,

Mary Warren

## 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 Church and Community*

We pray for:

*our local church,*

that we may be guided by the Holy Spirit in our mission  
and that our leaders are granted the strength and wisdom  
to guide us in God's way;

*our local community,*

that Christians and those of other faiths may live together in peace  
and understanding of each others' ways;

*the Christian Church throughout the world,*

especially in places where there is no freedom to worship  
and where our brothers and sisters are persecuted for their faith.

*(contributed by Peter Campbell Smith)*

**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**

**6th May.** *Sanderstead* - for their Flower Festival this weekend and the service today at which the new amplification system and the chairs which are replacing the pews in the sanctuary will be dedicated.

Pray also for *Earlswood Baptist Church*, in St John's Road, Redhill.

**13th May.** Pray for *Christian Aid Week*.

**27th May.** Pray for *Christ Church, South Nutfield*.

## ONE PIANO AVAILABLE

The church no longer has a need for one of its pianos and we are therefore offering it to our members or anyone who may like it. There will be no charge if you come and collect it. If you are interested please speak to Susan Stanley in the church office.

## **CHRISTIAN AID WEEK MAY 13TH - 19TH**

Bags containing Christian Aid envelopes and instructions will be ready for collectors on Sunday May 6th in the church vestibule. Thank you.

John and Anne Sowton

### ***Campaigning***

We are asked to love our neighbour.

So that means our neighbours are asked to love us too. Will they love us as neighbours, when we fail to stop climate catastrophe, allow injustice to prevail, ignore the violence that scars every day, buy and sell out cheap goods that destroy local markets across the world, murmuring that it is all too difficult, not our problem.

Show us how to love them with your power, God who can empower us to force change against the tide of injustice. Give us the resolve to work with determination and confidence to show your love to our neighbours across the world.

©*Commitment for Life*

## **38TH REIGATE SCOUT GROUP**

Currently the Scout Group consists of 32 boys in three sections, Beavers 6 - 8 years, Cubs 8 - 10½ years, Scouts 10½ years upwards and three Warranted Leaders plus a team of interested parents and Reigate Scout District Leaders, not forgetting our supportive Executive Committee of three people.

Over the past few months we have had a very active campaign to recruit more warranted leaders to guarantee the survival of the Group in Reigate Park Church. This campaign had taken three forms - appeals to the church and parents, publicity in newspapers, and leaflet drops.

As a result of these approaches we have been successful in recruiting a complete team for the Beaver section who are now going forward to hold Beaver Scout Leader Warrants and complete basic training. This will allow us to return to the District their excellent leaders who have kept us going over the last year.

We have also successfully recruited an Assistant Cub Scout Leader from Horley, who has held warrants in the past and comes with considerable experience. A church member parent has been appointed as a Cub Pack Assistant and is now helping with administration support for the Cub section.

A further three parents have expressed an interest in being considered for Assistant Cub Leaders, thus allowing us to operate on a rota basis, asking them to one meeting a month. I am still in negotiation on this point and hope to be successful in the next few weeks. N.B. One of these has now come forward to be warranted, which is now being processed.

Our former Cub Scout Leader has offered to act as our Quartermaster and this is being processed through the system and will be a valuable job that needs to be done.

Currently I am looking for a couple of lay members to boost our Executive Committee to strengthen our width of experience.

If you wish to find out more please do not hesitate to contact me.

Andrew Sangster - Group Scout Leader

## **CHURCH LIBRARY**

What did the bookworm say to the librarian?

‘Can I burrow this book?’

See what a fine choice of books there is to borrow in the church library (through the far door of the hall, door on the right at the top of the stairs).

## WORSHIP IN THE MONTH OF MAY

At 10 a.m. on **Sunday 6th May** our morning communion service will include some reflections on the Church Family Weekend so the theme will be 'Living a Balanced Life' and the reading from Acts 11: 1 - 18.

At 6.30 p.m. our Moderator, Nigel Uden (interviewed by Ron Talmey) will share with us his 'Five Gold Rings'.

At 10 a.m. on **Sunday 13th May** our morning service will include the baptism of Samuel Roberts, the theme will be 'God's Engagement Ring' and the bible reading will be Ephesians 1: 1 - 17.

At 6.30 p.m. our evening communion service will consider 'Red-Letter Bibles' with the reading from Mark 1: 21 - 28.

Our Midweek Communion Service at 12.15 p.m. on **Wednesday 16th May** falls on the day before Ascension Day and the reading will be Acts 1: 1 - 11.

At 10 a.m. on **Sunday 20th May** our morning service will include the baptism of Betsy Piers, the daughter of Pim and Sarah (née Sowton). The bible reading will be Mark 3: 1 - 15 and the theme 'Stretch Out Your Hand!'.

At 6.30 p.m. there will be an ecumenical service in the town to celebrate the tercentenary of the birth of Charles Wesley. The service will be at Reigate Methodist Church.

The morning service at 10 a.m. on **Sunday 27th May** will be conducted by Rev. Howard Rady. There will be no evening service on that day.

A warm welcome to any or all of these services.

## CONNECT UPDATE

We don't know who donated it but we made £53 selling The Jungle Book (1894) on eBay, and a further £10 from The Second Jungle Book.

The long awaited Book Fair has finally arrived and details are on the enclosed flyer.

We have thousands of books on all subjects and most are priced at 50p or £1. There is a large selection of recent paperbacks and plenty of children's books. We even have some large print novels. Something for everyone so come along and browse.

A few extra hands needed on Saturday, please call ☎ 763328 if you can help.

[lindachandler@tesco.net](mailto:lindachandler@tesco.net)

## SHORT MATters

A month has passed since we played our last league match, and there are still three matches to be played. These involve the top two teams who have already secured promotion to Division 1, but we do not know whether they have to play each other. We do know that West Chiltington must have to play one of the three bottom clubs. Mannings Heath need only 2 points from their last game to overtake Reigate Park and Southwater need 4 points to do the same. If Horley Hawks are playing one of those teams, they could do us a favour if they win. Final results in the June Record.

There have been very few away wins throughout this league this season and these are mostly by the stronger clubs. Reigate Park have lost only one of their home matches and that was against Southwater whom we beat at their venue. We lost the other five! When we play away on different types of mat, we do not seem to be able to adjust to the speed and also to some terrible floors, so we lose by a large margin. Clubs visiting us seem to be able to adjust as the match progresses on our good quality mats and among the best floors in this area, resulting in our winning only by small margins.

League Table North East Division Two.

*As at 29.03.07*

Team	P	W	L	F	A	Diff	Pts
West Chiltington	10	7	3	460	331	129	43
Ashington Owls	11	7	4	460	400	70	41
Barns Green	12	5	7	474	531	-57	33
Reigate Park	12	6	6	421	526	-105	33
Mannings Heath	11	5	6	472	399	73	32
Southwater Wasps	11	5	6	417	424	-7	30
Horley Hawks	11	4	7	370	473	-103	22

Banstead are visiting Reigate again during May for a friendly match.

Brian Dean (☎ 774208)

## CAR TREASURE HUNT

Gatton Community Theatre will be holding a Car Treasure Hunt on Sunday 20th May. Peter Whipps has devised the clues and the route which leaves Gatton Park at 2.30 p.m. Entry is £5 per person . Please call ☎ 763328 if you would like more details or to reserve a place.

Linda Chandler

## CAN WE BUILD A BETTER WORLD?

The Monday morning group at 10.30 a.m. and the Tuesday Church Nights at 8 p.m. will continue 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, and involves contributions from John Sentamu, Wendy Craig and Leslie Griffiths. Most of 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! We now have full details -

1. 'SLAVERY: then and now' - Micah 6: 8. 16th and 24th April.
2. 'FRIENDSHIP AND PRAYER' - Matthew 7: 7 - 14. 23rd April and 1st May.
3. 'CHANGE AND STRUGGLE' - Malachi 3: 6 - 7. 30th April and 8th May.
4. 'THE BIBLE: then and now' - Psalm 19: 17 - 25. 14th and 15th May.
5. 'REDEMPTION AND RESTITUTION' - 1 Peter 1: 17 - 25. 21st May and 17th July.

## MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

We were blessed with a fine day for our first outing; we were transported comfortably, the journey marred only by a rather trying traffic delay around Wisborough Green, to the Weald and Downland Open Air Museum, Singleton, near Chichester. This is a fine collection of fascinating buildings of many types, brought from Surrey, Kent and Hampshire, often saved from being demolished and lost, by being restored and re-erected with enormous skill and care for authenticity in superb surroundings. Other exhibitions and demonstrations are held there often and eco-awareness is very much in evidence. The ages of our party ranged from under ten to over ninety, and signs of enjoyment appeared on every face. The collection is so extensive that a single visit is far from adequate even to begin to do it justice, and several members and friends plan to go again later in the year. Altogether I found it a very happy start to our season and I look forward to our other trips and expect them to continue to give the same level of interest and pleasure.

Our second outing will be to Pashley Manor Gardens on Thursday 10th May, Since we last visited these superb gardens and excellent restaurant several members have asked when we were to go again. Once again I plan to book a small coach or large minibus, so I am putting a notice on the board for signatures of those intending to come. We plan to leave the church car park at 9.45 on that day.

## UNICEF - MITE NEWS

UNICEF is the charity specifically for children in need everywhere, even in this country. Thank you all who contribute to the UNICEF collections especially regularly in the 'Tubs'.

There is a permanent, continuous appeal by UNICEF - just to save children by looking after their health and by being prepared for the disasters which seem to be occurring so frequently. There is a special need to help the children who are sold and disappear.

For those who remember our former UNICEF representative Edward Carwardine, and his wife Diane, they are now in Khartoum. He is involved in the media and she is continuing her work as a nutritionist, and has found a Spanish-American dancing group!

Hazel Arscott

## WOMEN'S GUILD

At our April meeting we had a very interesting talk from David Bullen about the work of Surrey County Council Trading Standards Department. We learnt that their work covers a great variety of things from Weights and Measures, food labelling, prosecuting rogue traders to issuing passports for horses!

Although we were warned to be on our guard when unsolicited callers were concerned, we were given some very good tips on how to get a reputable tradesman if we need work doing.

Instead of our usual meeting, on Tuesday 8th May we shall be having a lunch at the Woodhatch Centre, meeting at 12 noon for 12.30 p.m. lunch. The cost will be £5. If anyone wishing to go has not given her name to Mary Warren, please ring her straight away (☎ 762104), as she needs to give numbers to the Centre.

Liz Bullen

## DELIVER US . . .

(from Horsham URC's *Horizon*)

I had been teaching my three-year-old daughter the Lord's Prayer. For several evenings at bedtime, she would repeat after me the lines from the prayer. Finally, she decided to go solo. I listened with pride as she carefully enunciated each word, right up to the end of the prayer: 'Lead us not into temptation,' she prayed, 'but deliver us some e-mail. Amen.'

## **EASTER WORKSHOP 2007**

In Easter Workshop this year, our theme was China.

In group three, the first day we had fun just playing lots of games and activities, including making part of the dragon, designing and putting together Chinese flags and learning a lot about China.

The second day we were even more into learning about China. First we enjoyed cooking moon cakes, which are cooked at Chinese celebrations. Then we went on to the games section. We had to be the first group to find and collect all the puzzle pieces of the Great Wall of China and put them all together before the other groups. Then we went on the stage to do some drama. We learnt about the Chinese calendar and what animal we were if we didn't know and learnt about their characters, we also chose some animals to act out in pairs.

On the third day we went straight in to do some games. All groups had to get 5 marbles across to a white line, working as a team, in only three open tubes. Then we practised working with the dragon. Then we did some craft, we decorated pots in Chinese signs, we also made letter racks, dyed eggs and drew on them.

On day four we had a quick practice of the dragon routine, the drama scenes and finished off our arts and craft before the service began.

My brother George was in group 2 and said " I enjoyed making creative and exciting objects from China and the dragons coming in at the last service"

Hannah Page

I would just like to add my thanks to so many people who made the Workshop happen this year and who made it such fun for everyone involved. The atmosphere was very relaxed and the children all seemed very involved. Again, there were so many new ideas. There were a large number of parents who commented on how much their children enjoyed coming. So once again, many thanks to you all, volunteers and participants alike and let's hope we see you all again next year.

Angela Bolton

## **RELIGION - ONE TEENAGER'S THOUGHTS**

Religion is a place inside your brain that you can escape to and feel safe.

All religions are the same, just different peoples' interpretations.

If everyone had their own religion, each one would be different.

It's only the people who believe in theirs the most, that take time to write it down and start doing something from it.

Tommy Langridge (age 18)

## **JUNIOR CHURCH**

We should like to thank Tina Papworth very much indeed for all the time she has given to Junior Church over many years. She has decided to step down as leader of Harmony, and we know she will be greatly missed. We are grateful to Victoria Clifford and Claire Page who till now have shared the leading of a session and have offered to lead separately.

Tina organises the Mothering Sunday daffodils (and has also done this for a good many years!) and we thank her and also Rosemary Tames, Bridget Band and Alicia and Judith Wade, who provided greenery and prepared the posies on the Saturday morning. Thanks also to the children who distributed them during the service.

Pat Denchfield & Angela Bolton

## **DOGS AND CATS**

Was the following addition to the Book of Genesis found in the Dead Sea Scrolls?

And Adam said ‘Lord, when I was in the garden, you walked with me every day. Now I do not see you any more. I am lonesome here and it is difficult for me to remember how much you love me.’

And God said ‘No problem! I will create a companion for you that will be with you forever and who will be a reflection of my love for you, so that you will know that I love you even when you cannot see me. Regardless of how selfish and childish and unlovable you may be, this new companion will accept you as you are and will love you as I do, in spite of yourself.’

And God created a new animal to be a companion for Adam. And it was a good animal. And God was pleased. And the new animal was pleased to be with Adam and he wagged his tail. And Adam said, ‘But Lord, I have already named all the animals in the Kingdom, and all the good names are taken, and I cannot think of a name for this new animal’.

And God said ‘No problem! Because I have created this animal to be a reflection of my love for you, his name shall be a reflection of my name, and you shall call him Dog.’

And Dog lived with Adam and was a companion to him and Eve and loved them. And Adam was comforted. And God was pleased. And Dog was contented and wagged his tail.

After a while it came to pass that Adam’s guardian angel came to the Lord and said ‘Lord, Adam has become filled with pride. He struts and preens like a peacock and believes he is worthy of adoration. Dog has taught him that he is loved, but no one has taught him humility.’

And the Lord said ‘No problem! I will create for him a companion who will be with him forever and who will see him as he is. This companion will remind him of his limitations so that he will know that he is not worthy of adoration.

And God created Cat to be a companion for Adam. And Cat would not obey Adam. And when Adam gazed into the Cat’s eyes he was reminded that he was not the Supreme Being and Adam learned humility.

And God was pleased. And Adam learned humility. And the Cat did not care one way or the other.

From *Tillington Parish Magazine* via *West Sussex Area Ministry Magazine* and Horsham URC’s *Horizon*.

## CRÈCHE ROTA

This is the rota for May. 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

6th May	Sandra Reid
13th May	Paul and Catherine Seldon
20th May	Jacki Glasgow
27th May	Lefteri Deda      Eleanor Kiy

## REIGATE AND REDHILL LIVE AT HOME SCHEME

This scheme, to enable older people to continue living in their homes and reduce their social isolation, is part of Methodist Homes for the Aged, and based at Redhill Methodist Church. But it is available to any older person in need - not just Methodists. Dorothy Mercer was one of the founding committee. They serve Redhill, Reigate, Merstham and Horley (where they have just received a grant of £6000 from Help the Aged to set up a new day centre).

They help by befriending, providing a day centre on Wednesdays, monthly shopping trips and coffee mornings, an annual seaside holiday and a quarterly news letter.

How could we help them? As volunteers or by fundraising - in groups or as individuals. They would provide speakers for group meetings. They could help some of us - but at present there is a waiting list. If you have any queries, ring the manager, Tanya Stafford at ☎ 780610.

## WINDERMERE CENTRE

Many of you will have heard about the Windermere Centre, even if you've never been there. Since 1986 (21 years old this year) the former manse to the Carver Memorial URC at Windermere has served as the national URC Conference Centre, providing conference facilities and accommodation for up to 33 people.

Bookings at the centre may be made for a variety of events. Some of the time is taken up by northerly (or not-so-northerly) churches having a special weekend - much like we have just had at Pilgrim Hall. There are some URC or inter-church groups (often small) who will hold their private meetings there. There are also a number of organised activities, specialist or recreational courses, through the year. Here are some examples coming up for 2007:

18 - 20 May.	The Bible in a Weekend
25 - 28 June.	Creative Threads
4 - 11 August.	Walk and Talk
10 - 14 September.	Painting in Autumn
21 - 26 October.	Autumn Peaks (guided walks)
3 - 6 December.	Advent Retreat
23 - 27 December.	Christmas House Party

and we hope to put information up on the notice board about these, and others.

Even when these things are happening there are often spare rooms available for people who want to do their own thing in the Lake District (£30 b&b, £44.50 inc. dinner) and you can enquire about bookings on 015394 44902.

Fuller details are also available on <http://windermere.urb.org.uk> the Windermere Centre web site, or from me.

Peter Whipps

## PRAYER

Heavenly Father

We entrust to your loving care the members and friends of our fellowship,  
both near and far.

Supply their needs,  
guide their footsteps.

Keep them safe, in body and mind  
and your peace rest upon our homes

and upon those whom we hold dear to us everywhere.

In the name of our Risen Saviour, Lord Jesus Christ.

Amen.

(From *Horizon*, the news-letter of Horsham URC).

## **CHURCH OFFICE**

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## ***THE RECORD***

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at least two weeks before publication date.

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If you wish to receive a regular copy of *The Record*, please contact the Distributor:

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Surrey, RH6 8LS      ** 01293 733466**

e-mail: peter.mercer@reigateparkchurch.org

## MAY DIARY

Tuesday	1st	8.00pm	Church Night - Can We Build a Better World? - 2.
Thursday	3rd	11.00am	Zimbabwe Work Party at 1 Evesham Road.
Sunday	6th	10.00am	Rev. David Skitt. Holy Communion.
		6.30pm	Rev. Nigel Uden's 'Five Gold Rings' with Rev. Ron Talmev.
Tuesday	8th	12.00nn	Women's Guild lunch at the Woodhatch Centre.
		8.00pm	Church Night - Can We Build a Better World? - 3.
Thursday	10th	9.45am	Men's Fellowship. Outing to Pashley Manor Gardens.
Friday	11th	3.00pm	Connect Book Fair
Saturday	12th	10.00am	. . . . continued
	13th to 19th		Christian Aid Week
Sunday	13th	10.00am	Rev. David Skitt. Baptism of Samuel Roberts
		6.30pm	Rev. David Skitt. Holy Communion.
Tuesday	15th	8.00pm	Church Night - Can We Build a Better World? - 4.
Wednesday	16th	12.15pm	Rev. David Skitt. Midweek Communion Service.
Sunday	20th	10.00am	Rev. David Skitt. Baptism of Betsy Piers.
		6.30pm	Ecumenical service in Reigate Methodist Church..
Tuesday	22nd	8.00pm	<b>Church Meeting.</b>
Thursday	24th	1.00am	Zimbabwe Work Party at 1 Evesham Road.
Sunday	27th	10.00am	Rev. Howard Rady.
			No evening service.

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.