

# THE RECORD

OF REIGATE PARK CHURCH (UNITED REFORMED)



**JUNE 2007**

**No 832**

# **REIGATE PARK CHURCH**

## **(UNITED REFORMED)**

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There has been an interesting series of letters published in The Times in recent weeks on the subject of 'grudges', especially political grudges. Correspondents have been trying to outdo one another for the longest standing grudge.

In my view the winner was from a Scottish Minister of a Berwickshire church who records that the church organist flatly refuses to play the hymn *Thine be the Glory* as the tune was written by Handel as an anthem to welcome the victorious Duke of Cumberland on his return to London after the Battle of Culloden in April 1746. The organist had an ancestor who was killed at that battle fighting for the Jacobite cause against the Hanoverian forces led by "Butcher" Cumberland. Hence his steadfast refusal to play the tune of *See, the Conqu'ring Hero Comes*, even though it is set to entirely different words.

In the Bible we read of two of the most famous grudges. Firstly there was Cain who begrudged Abel's offering being accepted more favourably by God. Cain's wrath was so great that he murdered his brother but God refused to condemn him, instead marking him to ensure he would not be killed. Secondly, in the Prodigal Son, the elder son resented the treatment his father afforded the returning profligate younger brother. Maybe the elder son had been harbouring a grudge

all the years that his brother had been absent.

There are probably too many grudges to count of a political nature. We constantly read of thousands of pensioners who have had their retirement incomes decimated by both the actions and inactions of the Government. Unfortunately families are minefields for grudges. Many families are torn apart by grievances that go back decades, when reconciliation would make everyone's lives so much calmer. I sincerely hope that none of you recognise these traits of unfairness and unremitting resentment within your families.

Why is it so hard to forgive? Festering grudges of the nature I have described can only destroy relationships. The unfairnesses or petty resentments of long ago have to be confronted and forgiven before it's too late. In the end we have to accept that 'life is not fair' and that God's sustaining love for us all should bring acceptance of our lots in life.

May God bless you all.

Richard Proctor

## 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 shown below.

### A Prayer of Affirmation Thanksgiving

For all that has been,  
thanks

For all that is to come,  
yes!

*(Dag Hammerskjold, contributed by Michael Pritchard and used last November during the service of thanksgiving for 20 years of ecumenical partnership between Christchurch and St Peter's, Walton-on-the-Hill)*

**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**

*Purley* - pray for the success of the International Partnership Conference to be held in July/August

3rd June. Pray for *Emmanuel Church, Sidlow Bridge.*

10th June. Pray for *Redhill URC at Shaw's Corner.*

17th June, Pray for *Furnistore.*

24th June. Pray for *All Saints' Church, Battlebridge Lane, South Merstham.*

## 38TH REIGATE SCOUT GROUP

The editor apologises. Last month's report should have begun 'Currently the Scout Group consists of **52** boys in three sections . . .', and not '. . . 32 boys . . .'

## BOOK CLUB

Our next meeting is on Monday June 25th at 8 p.m. at 22 Hardwick Road, Meadvale, Redhill RH1 6NH. (Jane Dotzek's, ☎ 243277) The book is *Brighton Rock* by Graham Greene.

## **TO WENDY**

**Here are some, if not all, of the things I should have said at the end of the church weekend on everyone's behalf but couldn't ....**

Thank you for taking care of all our varying needs and practical requirements.

Thank you for doing it with a smile and grace.

Thank you for your attention to detail from which we all benefited so much.

Thank you for thinking of all the little things (as well as all the big things) that made the difference.

Thank you for knowing the answers to everything!

Thank you for your thoughtfulness.

Thank you for noticing.

Thank you for your consideration.

Thank you for making the weekend such a success for every one of us in so very many ways.

That is an incredible achievement and we are SO grateful.

You put us all first ..... we pray you too are put first.

God Bless You.

Heidi and the Church Weekenders

## **JUNIOR CHURCH**

Nick White, our Synod Youth and Children's Work Training and Development Officer, is presenting 'Core Skills for Children's Work' in different venues over the next few months. The full list is on the notice board in the Hall, and on Monday 25th June Reigate Park is hosting 'Spirituality and the Bible'. If you would like to attend any of the sessions, whether at Reigate Park or elsewhere, please talk to Pat Denchfield or Angela Bolton. The Core Skills book is on the table in the Church Library.

## WORSHIP IN THE MONTH OF JUNE

At 10 a.m. on **Sunday 3rd June** our morning communion service will be on the theme 'The Context of Wisdom' and will include the reading of Proverbs 8.

At 6.30 p.m. there will be a Healing Service, 'Praying and Sharing our Story', dwelling on Luke 24.

At 10 a.m. on **Sunday 10th June** we shall look at 'Tall Stories' including the one behind the incidents of John 5: 1 - 15.

At 6.30 p.m. we shall be asking about 'Miracles' at our evening communion service with the readings from Matthew 4: 23 - 25 and Matthew 15: 24 - 31.

At 10 a.m. on **Sunday 17th June** we shall think of Jesus 'Arriving in His Father's Glory' and Matthew 16: 21 - 28.

At 6.30 p.m. the evening service will consist of modern worship songs and the theme 'Action Replay - Reviewing the Day with God' thinking on Deuteronomy 34.

At our Midweek Communion Service at 12.15 p.m. on **Wednesday 20th June** the theme will be 'The Light of the Longest Day' with the reading of Revelation 22: 1 - 7.

At 10 a.m. on **Sunday 24th June** there will be a Family and Parade Service led by Connect. There will be no evening service.

A warm welcome to any or all of these services.

## GOODBYE FROM GEMMA

I can't believe it's already time to say good bye. For a long time during my placement at Reigate Park Church, I had been looking forward to this day, waiting to be qualified, to have my first paid youth work job and be part of the big wide world. It has been an exciting dream, thinking about all the places Jesus will take me and how he will develop my ministry amongst young people. And now it's here, and I've been taken by surprise at how many friends I've made and how many people I will miss.

I want to say a big thank-you to everyone who has looked after me during my time here. I have sometimes felt like a fish out of water, working in a church so different from my home church in Canterbury, so thank you for making me laugh, giving me a shoulder to cry on and walking this journey with me. I have been able to grow professionally, spiritually and personally, and know that Jesus has used every experience I've had here to change me into more of the person he has called me to be.

I owe a big thank-you to the leaders of Youth Club and Re-Fuel, who have given me the space to try new things, fail and try again. I feel we have really achieved something over the past eighteen months, and that the relationships that you have with the young people now have deepened so much. I hope that you will continue trying new things, reaching the unreachable, knowing that I am praying for you and your ministry.

To the young people I want to say a special thank-you for letting me be a part of your lives, watching you grow and seeing Jesus work in you has been a privilege. I'm looking forward to seeing where he takes you next. Jesus has used you in my life more over the past eighteen months than you will ever know, so I thank you for keeping me going when I struggled to know which direction I was going in!

And finally David, well where do I begin!! Thank you so much for the support you have given me, I couldn't have gotten through without it. Thank you for caring about who I am, not just about what I do. Thank you for encouraging me and building me up, my confidence has grown immensely since I've been at Reigate Park and I feel able to use my gifts to benefit Jesus' kingdom in ways I've never dreamed about.

Well that's all the thank-yous; feels like I've been writing my Oscar speech! I will finish with the crafted prayer I wrote for RPC, based on Isaiah 61: 1 - 4.

Lord Jesus,

Sovereign Lord, fill Reigate Park Church anew with your Spirit. Thank you that you have anointed them to preach good news to the poor. I pray that the church will develop a ministry in binding up the broken hearted and bringing comfort to all those who grieve. Jesus, I pray the church will be a place where compassion is abundant and love is visible.

Jesus, so many people are bound in captivity and not free to live the lives you desperately want them to. Lord I pray that Reigate Park Church will shine a light in the darkness of people's lives, that prisoners will be set free, so healing can begin. I pray that the Church in this place, will long to see people wearing a crown of beauty, oil of gladness and a garment of praise, rather than ashes of mourning and a spirit of despair.

Lord, those freed will be called 'oaks of righteousness', deeply rooted in your word, displaying their freedom for all to see and bearing fruit that is ripe and good. I pray your people will bring hope to the ruins of devastated lives, and as they do, fall deeper in love with you their Lord.

Amen

## CONNECT UPDATE

It was hard work for the brave few who volunteered to help shift 3500 books ready for our two-day sale. But it paid off and we raised over £1500 with Friday being the busiest day. Our first customer bought over £50 worth of books! We have also had another EBay success story. The Ladybird book NUMBERS ( 1959 First edition ) went for an amazing £42. The Janet and John books all reached between £5 to £8 and the Co-Operative Society Annual 1917 fetched £20.

At the church weekend the children made collecting boxes for Building Brighter Futures and gave us an immediate donation of £47. Well done and thank you.

The boxes that you took home should be returned on Sunday June 24th which will be the finishing date for this project. That Sunday is our CONNECT service and a chance to find out what we will be supporting next.

The CONNECT committee meets on the first Monday of each month, headed by Anne Richardson. We welcome any suggestions for future projects that meet our criteria of dealing with basic needs WATER, FOOD and EDUCATION. We are always keen to hear from anyone with hands on experience of an overseas aid project.

Linda Chandler.

## TO OUR GUESTS

(seen by Grace Filby on her Winston Churchill Travel Fellowship in a motel in Lubbock, Texas)

Keeping with an ancient tradition for 'The Stranger within our gates' this is our prayer for you.

Because this motel is a human endeavour to serve people, we hope that God will grant you peace and rest while you are under our roof.

May this room be your 'second' home. May those you love be near you in thoughts and dreams. In getting to know you, we hope that you will be comfortable and happy as if you were in your own home.

May you prosper in whatever brought you our way. May every call you make and every message you receive add to your joy. When you leave, may your journey be safe.

We are all travellers on a different path. May your days be pleasant and positive. May you wear a cheerful countenance and give every living creature you meet a smile.

## SHORT MATters

Our home match against Banstead SMBC ended in a victory for the home team 71-43, with two of our rinks winning comfortably and the third losing by a margin of 28 shots. As usual the game was played in a good atmosphere between two clubs with similar attitudes. Thanks again to Brenda and her team for a lovely tea.

Following the AGM on April 30th with David Skitt in the chair, the new committee will have a new look, as Bob Napier retired as Chairman to be replaced by the outgoing Secretary, Brian Dean, whose place was taken by Juliana Bouttell (former committee member). Bob Napier and Dennis Hills were elected to the committee to join Wesley Tossell and Carol Nicholls who were re-elected. Our Match Secretary Ron Hollings agreed to be Club Captain as well. He has officiated very well during our first season in a league by finishing fifth having won six of our twelve matches and he deserves our thanks. In the three matches that were to be played in April, the top two clubs in our division won the matches against the bottom two clubs, but the league leaders West Chiltington were defeated narrowly by Mannings Heath who jumped over us two places. West Chiltington and Ashington Owls are promoted to Division One.

League Table North East Division Two.

Team Name	P	W	L	F	A	Diff	Pts
West Chiltington	12	8	4	544	393	151	51
Ashington Owls	12	8	4	510	424	86	47
Mannings Heath Red Squirrels	12	6	6	505	430	75	36
Barns Green	12	5	7	474	531	-57	33
Reigate Park	12	6	6	421	526	-105	33
Southwater Wasps	12	5	7	446	477	-31	30
Horley Hawks	12	4	8	394	513	-119	22

Two of our members have retired now, so should you wish to take up this sport, if only to get some exercise, there are vacancies.

Brian Dean (☎ 774208)

## CONNECT COSTUME HIRE

School Victorian Day ? - Mob caps and Aprons always available to hire. Call Linda ☎ 763328

## **ST BEDE'S SCHOOL**

The Church has received an approach from St Bede's School in connection with its application for special status as a centre of Musical Excellence. As part of their submission to Dept of Education for the funding for this status, the school has to demonstrate that it is benefiting the wider community. Because of its church links, St Bede's wants to provide that service through working with churches in the local area. David Skitt attended a meeting on our behalf with representatives of other local churches at the school some time ago, where the school made the offer to run a choral workshop on school premises as their way of interacting with the community.

After consulting with some members of the worship group, our agreed response was to thank the school for this kind offer, but it was felt that we were already strong in this area of our worship. Our own option, given the choice, would be for the school to work with the church, particularly (but not exclusively) the children and young people, to encourage and develop the range of musical instruments we were able to use in our worship.

The School will take all the views received into account in making its submission for funding, and we expect a response from the school on our suggestion in due course.

Graham Whybra, Worship Group Chair

## **WOMEN'S GUILD**

Instead of our usual meeting in May we had a very pleasant lunch at the Woodhatch Centre.

At our next meeting on Tuesday 12th June we shall be having 'Desert Island Discs' with Phillip Down as our castaway. Anyone will be very welcome at this meeting which will be at 10.30 a.m. in the Park Room.

Liz Bullen

## **A BIRTHDAY PARTY**

Is your birthday in July? Then please come and join the rest of the July Shiners including David at our Birthday Tea on Monday July 9th from 4 to 6 p.m. in the Park Room. There is no age restriction, 0 to 99 - all are welcome, bring your family if you can't come by yourself. A very happy birthday to all born in July whether you admit it or not. Please let us know if you are able to join us, it will help with the catering.

Angela Merritt

## **KITCHEN REFURBISHMENT**

Following the Church Meeting's decision, the kitchen refurbishment is planned to start at the end of July and finish by the end of August at a cost of over £48,000. This breaks down to £11K for building works to bring the room up to the required standard to meet current Health and Hygiene regulations and £28K on the new equipment and cupboards etc. (The rest is VAT(!) plus a contingency fund).

We are getting a new six-burner range oven, a dish washer, a microwave oven, a freezer, a refrigerator, a water boiler (for your teas and coffees), a fly killer plus all the kitchen cabinets and worktops, sinks, storage racks etc. The list goes on down to new saucepans, baking dishes and kitchen utensils. The cost of these items range from £1,500 to £5. Some of the money is coming from our Buildings Repair and Renewal Fund, some from the Endowment Fund and some from grants and donations. We are applying for a grant towards the work but don't yet know if we are going to be successful. We have already received two very generous donations and I express our thanks for them. Will those people and groups who use the kitchen and would like to make a contribution please get in touch with me or Mavis. The kitchen has lasted 30 years and I hope that the 'new' kitchen will provide the same service to our church family and the local community for as many more years to come.

If you would like any more information please contact myself or Mavis Proctor.

Peter Mercer, Chairman of the Premises Committee

## **UNICEF - MITE NEWS**

I am pleased to say that the 'Inspired Gifts' order has now been processed. The Youth Club has bought a 'Sport-in-a-Box' - balls, nets, games, instruments, whistle etc. for use to keep children together. Then I made an 'All Sorts' order of £459 for the church - 'School-in-a-box' (enough to occupy 80 children while emergency work is carried out), also pencils and exercise books, mosquito nets for five families, water kits for ten families, a water pump, a bike with a vaccine carrier and 'Loads of Porridge' - this is U.N.MIX - food high in protein plus vitamins and minerals. I hope that this list of 'goodies' will meet with the approval of those who continue to support the CHILDREN. Thank you.

Hazel Arscott

## LAY PARTICIPATION IN WORSHIP

Worship at Reigate Park Church has always been enriched by the contributions made in our acts of worship by members of the Congregation. Whilst many of us enjoy reading a lesson or even a prayer, there is much untapped talent in the congregation from which we could all benefit. Can you play the guitar? Percussion, maybe? Do you fancy having a go at writing our prayers, or leading a meditation? Or what about something completely off the wall? - one of the most moving experiences I've ever had in a service was watching someone signing to a song - incredibly powerful! Could anyone bless us with something like that?

So, whatever your particular talent might be, please don't sit there thinking 'I've never been asked' - because I'm asking you now!! Please, please see David Skitt or myself and tell us what you would like to offer. Support is here for the nervous - blessing is here for all of us.

Graham Whybra, Worship Group Chair

## MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Although it was overcast, the 22 of us who boarded the coach for Pashley Manor Gardens did not get the downpour forecast. Unfortunately, as with many plants, most of the tulips had bloomed and were past their best. However, I am sure we all enjoyed the day out.

Because of unforeseen circumstances, we are now going to Bodiam Castle on 14th June and Scotney Castle on 12th July. Will those going to Bodiam please tell John Sowton or Peter Charlton as soon as possible so that we can book a coach. It is National Trust, so the entrance cost to non-members will be £3.90 payable at the gate. The cost of the coach is £13.50 each - cheques payable to 'RPC Men's Fellowship'.

Ron Cooke

## 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

3rd June	Sara-Jane Archer	Claire Harris
10th June	Karen Best	Gretta Taylor
17th June	Sandra Reid	
24th June	Paul and Catherine Seldon	

## MONDAY MORNING GROUP

After the very interesting York Course based on the work of William Wilberforce, we decided to use another from the same series, *Faith in the Fire*, in which this time the Bible studies are reinforced by comments from Archbishop David Hope, Rabbi Lionel Blue, Steve Chalke, Rev. Dr Leslie Griffiths and Ann Widdecombe MP. The five sessions planned are:

- 4th June - Faith facing Facts.
- 11th June - Faith facing Doubt.
- 18th June - Faith facing Disaster.
- 25th June - Faith fuelling Prayer.
- 2nd July - Faith fuelling Action.

You will be very welcome to one or all of these meetings, which are held in the Park Room from 10.30 a.m., closing at 11.45 a.m.

## CHERNOBYL CHILDREN LIFE LINE - CAN YOU HELP?

We still need some Host Families, Support Families and other helpers for ten children from Belarus visiting the area from 29th July to 26th August. Could you host two children for two weeks or support a family who hosts? Visiting the area for four weeks adds at least two years to a child's life.

For more details Margaret Samuel, [margaretannsamuel@hotmail.com](mailto:margaretannsamuel@hotmail.com) or call 243308.

## TOGETHER . . .

Holiness involves friendship with God,  
 God's love for us and ours for him  
 grows like any relationship with others.  
 There comes a moment,  
 which we can never quite locate or catch.  
 when an acquaintance becomes a friend,  
 when we know we can trust the other,  
 exchange confidences, keep each other's secrets.  
 There has to be a moment like that  
 in our relationship with God.  
 He ceases to be a Sunday acquaintance,  
 and becomes a weekday friend.

Cardinal Basil Hume

(from the Newsletter of Christ Church URC, Solihull)

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## ***THE RECORD***

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## JUNE DIARY

<b>Sunday</b>	3rd	10.00am	Rev. David Skitt. Holy Communion.
		6.30pm	Rev. David Skitt. Healing Service. Community Prayers.
Tuesday	5th	8.00pm	Church Night - 100 Years of Scouting.
<b>Sunday</b>	10th	10.00am	Rev. David Skitt.
		6.30pm	Rev. David Skitt. Holy Communion.
Tuesday	12th	10.30am	Women's Guild 'Desert Island Discs' - Phillip Down.
		8.00pm	Church Night - Holidays and Weekends.
Thursday	14th	9.45am	Men's Fellowship. Outing to Bodiam Castle.
<b>Sunday</b>	17th	10.00am	Rev. David Skitt.
		6.30pm	Rev. David Skitt. Worship Songs.
Tuesday	19th	8.00pm	Church Night - RELATE - Jane Swanston.
Wednesday	20th	12.15pm	Rev. David Skitt. Midweek Communion Service.
Saturday	23rd	2.00pm	Kids Klub at the Harlequin.
<b>Sunday</b>	24th	10.00am	Family and Parade Service led by CONNECT.
			No evening service.
Tuesday	26th	8.00pm	Church Night - Israel and Palestine - Rev. Alwyn Knight.
Thursday	28th	11.00am	Zimbabwe Work Party at 1 Evesham Road.

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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.