

THE RECORD

OF REIGATE PARK CHURCH (UNITED REFORMED)



AUGUST 2007

No 834

REIGATE PARK CHURCH

(UNITED REFORMED)

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Sunday by Sunday, we gather in our church to worship God, completely free to do so. I wonder how often we pause to give thanks for this privilege. It was not always so easy.

In 1662, people were hauled before the magistrates for breaking the new Act of Uniformity, by worshipping in Blatt's Barn in the High Street. Thomas Blatt was a local member of the Society of Friends (the Quakers) who allowed the first Congregationalists in Reigate to meet for worship in his barn. The barn stood on the southern side of the High Street where Marks and Spencers now stands and the church continued on that site for over 300 years, until it moved to the present site.

There was further trouble at the beginning of the 19th century when

the Established Church tried to persecute non-conformists. Men often came into the church to disturb the services. One Sunday a donkey was driven up the aisle in the middle of the service.

Thank goodness those days are long gone in this country, but Christians are still suffering in other parts of the world, with some being murdered and their meeting places destroyed.

Let us remember to pray for those who suffer, just for following Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour. Let us pray that God will protect them and give them the spiritual strength to maintain their faith.

Alec Bushby

PRAYER CALENDAR

This month's prayer cycle of Churches Together in Reigate and Redhill is as follows:

5th August	Epiphany Church, Mansfield Drive, Merstham.
12th August	St Philip's Church, Nutley Lane.
19th August	Reigate Baptist Church, Sycamore Walk, Woodhatch.
26th August	St Luke's Church, Church Road, South Park.

CHURCH TRANSPORT

During the months of August and September it is very difficult to cover for regular drivers who are on holiday. Please think very hard whether you could possibly volunteer one Sunday out of the eight to cover this service - IF REQUIRED. Please give your name, date available and telephone number to the help desk or ring me at 216987. Thank you very much.

Doreen Hardham, Church Transport Co-ordinator

CAROLINE VODDEN'S ORDINATION

This takes place at Broadstone URC, near Poole, at 3p.m. on Saturday 1st September and a coach is being organised, at a small cost, for those of us wishing to attend: this will leave our church in the morning, arriving in time for some lunch before the service. Please add your name(s) to the list on the notice board.

If you plan to travel independently it would be helpful also to say so in order that Broadstone has a better idea of numbers to cater for.

Any queries, please speak to Heidi on ☎ 01737 821301.

WOMEN'S GUILD

At our July meeting David Cooper came along to tell us about his trip last year to Uganda with the Scouts. David and his group were involved in building two schools.

The delightful video he brought along to show us really brightened up an unsummery July morning. We were extremely impressed by the work they had been doing and the amount of money they have raised. We were also impressed by David and June's previously hidden talents as bricklayers.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 14th August at 10.30 am and will be our "Garden Party", taking place on the church patio. Please note change of venue.

Liz Bullen

CRÈCHE ROTA

This is the rota for August. 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

5th August	Paul and Catherine Seldon
12th August	Jacki Glasgow
19th August	Lefteri Deda
26th August	Karen Best

MINISTER'S HOLIDAY

The Minister's annual leave will be from 3rd to 20th August, inclusive. In case of pastoral need please contact the office (although see the notice elsewhere about reduced hours during August) or speak to the church secretary or a member of the pastoral group.

BOOK CLUB

Our next meeting is on Monday, July 30th at 8 p.m. at Anne Edwards', 143 Carlton Road, Reigate (☎ 765891). The book is *Caravans* by James A. Michener.

WORSHIP IN THE MONTH OF AUGUST

At 10 a.m. on **Sunday 5th August** our morning communion service will be led by Rev. Janet Sowerbutts, formerly Moderator of Thames North Synod.

The evening service at 6.30 p.m. will be led by Liz Bullen and Carol Nicholls

At 10 a.m. on **Sunday 12th August** our morning service will be led by Rev. Michael Davies, another former Moderator of Thames North Synod and a secretary of the World Council of Churches in Geneva.

At 6.30 p.m. our communion service will be led by Sue Knight and Graham Whybra.

There will be no midweek communion service in August.

At 10 a.m. on **Sunday 19th August** our morning service will be led by Rev. Howard Rady, a much-valued loyal friend of this church.

At 6.30 p.m. the evening service will be led by Michael Ball.

At 10 a.m. on **Sunday 26th August** our morning service will include the baptism of Scarlett Mackenzie and the reading of Mark 1: 9 - 18 on the theme "Windows into Life".

For the evening service at 6.30 p.m. on the same day there will be a Healing Service with the reading of Philippians 1: 1 - 4 and the theme of "Bringing Distant News Close".

A warm welcome to any or all of these services.

THE SCOUTS

celebrate their 100th anniversary this year and, all over the country, Sunrise Services will be held at 8 a.m. on Wednesday 1st August to mark exactly 100 years of Scouting. The local event, which our scout group will be attending, is to be held at Redhill Memorial Park. All supporters and present and past scouts are warmly invited.

CHURCH KITCHEN REFIT

Work starts at the end of July on rebuilding the kitchen and will continue through much of August. This means that the kitchen will not be available during this time and so the usual tea or coffee, after the morning service, will not be served for a few weeks. There may additionally be some obstruction in parts of the hall from time to time.

CONTACT THE ELDERLY

Contact the Elderly is a national charity which helps alleviate loneliness. It needs volunteers to host tea parties for its groups in Redhill, Reigate and Horley, and members for its groups in Redhill and Reigate. The very elderly client group we serve are too housebound to get out and about without help and may not have family and friends living nearby who visit them. Although for some of our members the tea-parties are a welcome addition to their social lives, for others, they are a life-line - the only social occasion they can manage in a month.

Each month, a volunteer driver collects them and takes them to the home of a different volunteer host, where they have a tea-party and where they meet other elderly guests with their volunteer drivers. They make friends, have a gossip and a laugh, exchange phone numbers, and ensure that age and infirmity do not cut them off from their communities.

Would you like to help change lives? Do you have a car and three or four hours to spare once a month on a Sunday afternoon? Or do you have a downstairs loo and a big teapot, or at least a big heart, and one or two afternoons a year to spare to welcome a group of elderly guests and their drivers into your home? Or do you know an elderly person in your street or community, who you know doesn't get out much and would welcome the opportunity to make new friends and have a Sunday afternoon treat to look forward to once a month?

If you do, please get in touch with Jean Molloy, the charity's Development Officer for this area, on 01634 718178, for an informal, no-obligation chat about how you can be part of making your community a happier, more sociable place to be. You can find out more on www.contact-the-elderly.org - their website.

UNICEF - MITE NEWS

I have had several peaceful Sunday afternoons recently as there have been few coins to count. Fortunately I had a good reserve so was able to send £600 to the Dafur appeal.

The tubs are on the book stand in the foyer so please use them to collect your 5p (or other) coins. This is just one way people donate to UNICEF: even better if you are able to contribute on a regular basis.

Remember it is the CHILDREN who are the focus of the work done by UNICEF - and that is a long-term commitment.

Hazel Arscott

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Bodiam Castle near Robertsbridge, in East Sussex and a few miles from Hastings, is a wonderful place. It must be everyone's idea of what a medieval castle should be - almost perfectly square in shape, massive walls rising from a wide moat, a round tower at each corner and square towers midway along each side wall. Added to all this, it is set amidst countryside of rare beauty. If you throw in a comfortable coach ride, congenial company and fine weather you have the mixture for a perfect day out. Such was our outing on Thursday 14th June. Eighteen members and friends made the trip. We wandered at leisure and thoroughly enjoyed picnicking in the park or sampling the first-rate food offered for lunch at the National Trust tea-room. There were two particularly interesting audiovisual presentations, one on the history of the castle, the other demonstrating the components of armour of Queen Elizabeth I's time and showing an armourer helping a knight to put on a full suit and helmet. Very memorable too it was to see dozens of pipistrelle bats lying on the stone benches in the turret chambers. They barely moved even if touched.

In July we visited Scotney Castle (seem to be making a habit of popping into castles!) but we'll save the report on that until next month.

John Sowton

SHORT MATters

Ron Hollings has now completed the League fixtures for 2007/8 season which will include a Club relegated from Division 1 North East zone West Sussex League and a newly joined club. The fixture list will appear in the next issue of the Record with our first match on September 8th.

Sessions at the Club have been a bit quiet, probably due to holidays, but we have had some members not renewing their membership and our newly appointed Secretary Juliana Bouttell has had to visit St. George's Hospital for heart surgery. We are pleased to hear she is now at home recuperating and all members wish her a speedy recovery.

Due to the refitting of the kitchen during August, we thank the Church for arranging with the fitters to allow us to get a mat or two down on the north side of the hall. It is hoped our members will appreciate this and turn up to play even if there has to be some restrictions. There will be no Tuesday sessions during August and we may have to limit visitors for a while.

Brian Dean (☎ 774208)

VELLORE MEDICAL COLLEGE

To all our friends: I have just received four reports from Dr Wallis which can be read on the Mission notice board in the hall. There are also some new photos which were taken when Dr Wallis was in India last February.

Your contributions are being spent on operations and support. Many thanks for your support for this very good cause.

Eileen Charlton

ECOTIP: GREEN CONES

Anyone who has visited us in our new home will tell you that rather weirdly, the first thing I do is frog-march visitors out into the garden to show them our Green Cone! Despite it taking quite some time to dig a 70cm deep hole in our clay and flint soil to install the basket of the cone in one of our vegetable beds I am thrilled with this very clever waste reduction tool. The Green Cone as the name suggests is a green cone-shaped container that is attached to a vermin proof basket that is buried in the ground. The Green Cone reduces food waste to its natural components of water, carbon dioxide and a small residue, which now automatically feeds the veggie patch without my having to empty it. The solar-heated garden unit takes all cooked and uncooked food waste including meat, fish, bones, dairy products, bread, pasta, soup, cooked food scraps, curry, vegetables and fruit, crushed egg shells, tea bags and animal excrement. Those of you who already compost will know that most of the above items cannot be composted in the traditional way. Rather smugly I can now honestly say that all I have in my wheelie bin is plastic wrappings (except when Bruce and the children forget to use the compost and green cone kitchen caddies, what can you do with them? They just don't seem to understand what it means to be related to an Eco-warrior!)

The Green Cone website is a mine of information <http://www.greencone.com>
RPC Ecoteam meets monthly and would love to welcome new participants onto our friendly team to help us turn RPC green. For further information do contact me, our next meetings are on Tuesday the 14th August and Monday the 17th September both 8 p.m. at 26 Windmill Way, Reigate.

Sonia Christie, ☎ 01737 270095 or email
sonia.christie@reigateparkchurch.org

HAVE YOU SEEN . . . ?

The Scouts have "lost" the cradles for their barbecues. If, by chance, you may have knowledge of their whereabouts, please can you advise David

Mercer (☎ 761691)

CRAFT FARE - SATURDAY 13TH OCTOBER

The date and the hall are booked, all we need now are:

- ◆ More stalls - six are already lined up and there will be room for about another dozen.
- ◆ Craft to sell
- ◆ Publicity
- ◆ Refreshments
- ◆ Buyers

Can you help us? Do you know of anyone who sells at Craft fares? Could you produce some items to go on a stall? Could you help on or before the day?

Is there somewhere you can put up some small posters? Publicity is vital to our success.

Remember we are raising funds to go towards paying for the new kitchen which will be of benefit to all of us.

Crafty Chats (Angela Merritt, Sharon Scotton, Jane Buck, Heather Mildren)

CHOOSING SCHOOLS

Does choosing a school seem like a real puzzle to you? Well, help may be at hand. We are holding 2 evening sessions this September, one for those beginning to look at Secondary schools, on Monday September 10th, and one for those beginning to look at Infant schools, on Wednesday September 19th. Both sessions will take place at 8.00 p.m. in the Park Room. We have invited 2 teachers to join us to help us to get our thoughts around the subject. Please feel free to join us and share your thoughts and questions.

For more information please speak to Angela Bolton.

JUNIOR CHURCH

On Friday 13th July, 20 of our co-ordinators, leaders & helpers enjoyed a splendid bring and share summer meal. Many thanks to the Buck and Mildren families who prepared the tables, served the drinks, washed up and cleared away afterwards.

As our Junior Church staff now take a well-earned rest over the summer, we should like to thank the people who are currently providing sessions for the infant and junior age-groups throughout the month of August. Junior Church starts again on September 2nd and families will be notified of groups towards the end of August.

Pat Denchfield & Angela Bolton

CONNECT: NEW PROJECT

For those who missed the announcement during the CONNECT service our next project is PUMPAID. Each water pump (called elephant pumps) costs £250 and we will know exactly where in Zimbabwe each pump is situated.

We collected £335 from the retiring collection so will shortly be installing our first pump. Thank you for your continued support.

DID YOU KNOW?

More than one billion people lack access to safe drinking water and more than two billion lack adequate sanitation facilities.

Six million children under age five die each year as a result of hunger.

The US spends about \$10 billion each year on foreign aid - while Americans spend \$33 billion on diet and weight-loss products.

(Source: Church World Services)

PILOTS

After an exploratory meeting it looks as though it may be possible to set up a Pilots company for 7 - 14 year olds, meeting in our church hall from 7.00 to 8.30 p.m. Each Friday evening, except those weekends when there is a Kidz Club meeting on a Sunday. Redhill URC may join us in this venture and we are still one or two leaders short for ideal numbers. If you are interested to help please speak to Kathy Tillison or Alison Skitt. There is a meeting for all prospective leaders in the church hall at 7 p.m. On Friday 14th September.

Look out for Pilots displays early in September explaining more about this fast-growing element of the URC.

LADIES' EVENING OUT

Despite the rain and cold, about 20 ladies met at the Black Horse early in July for our evening out – well maybe I should say for our evening in. We arrived to find a bouncy castle outside. Our hopes were raised, perhaps we would get warm after all. On looking around we decided perhaps this was not for us and yes, there was LOADS of room inside.

The evening was filled with much chatter and laughter and getting to know others. It was great. Unfortunately there were quite a few ladies who were unable to attend this time. Well if you missed it and would like to come, we have decided these evenings are great for getting to know people, so we intend having another evening out nearer Christmas when we will be sharing a Christmas Meal. All ladies will be very welcome to attend, so watch this space.

Sonia Christie, Jacki Glasgow, Angela Bolton

GATTON COMMUNITY THEATRE

The next GCT production takes place just before Christmas and we invite people of all ages, from 8 to 88, to join us in making and presenting “The Twelve Days of Christmas”. No experience necessary - roles available to suit all levels: the more the merrier! We shall be commencing workshops in September and you are very welcome to come and find out more on the following dates:

Sunday 16th September	2.30 p.m.
Tuesday 18th September	7.30 p.m.
Sunday 23rd September	2.30 p.m.

Each session lasts 1½ to 2 hours. Meet at the chapel of the Royal Alexander & Albert School, in the grounds of Gatton Park.

More information from Linda Chandler, ☎ (01737) 763328

CRISPIN BLUNT M.P.

Church Night resumes in September and a full programme is detailed below. Your attention is especially drawn to our opening evening in the church at 8 p.m. on Tuesday 4th September. To follow up our excellent evening in June with the Rev Alwyn Knight who went to Hebron as an Ecumenical Accompanier, our local M.P. is coming to share with us his perspective on Palestine, which promises to be very challenging. It is kind of Mr Blunt to do this for us and hope that the evening can be well supported.

The autumn programme for Church Night is as follows (normally meeting in the Park Room, at 8 p.m.):

4 September	Crispin Blunt MP – A perspective on Palestine
11 September	Organic Fortnight: Eco Update Evening
18 September	Film “Amazing Grace”
25 September	Church Meeting
2 October	Discussion about William Wilberforce
9 October	Nick White: “Leadership Skills”
16 October	Simply Christian: “The Book God Breathed”
23 October	Simply Christian: “The Story and The Task”
30 October	Nick White: “Pastoral Awareness”

MONDAY MORNING GROUP

The Autumn programme begins on 10th September with a series based on Acts:

10 September	Background to Acts
17 September	Ascension (Acts 1: 1-11)
24 September	Waiting (Acts 1: 12-26)
1 October	Pentecost (Acts 2: 1-41)
8 October	The Early Early Church (Acts 2: 42-47)
15 October	Healing & Conflict (Acts 3: 1 to 4: 31)
29 October	Give us your Money (Acts 4: 32 to 5: 11)
5 November	A New Theology (Acts 5: 12 to 8: 3)
12 November	Open House? (Acts 8: 3-40)
19 November	The Challenge of Paul (Acts 9: 1-31)
26 November	There must be Limits, surely! (Acts 9: 32 to 11: 30)
3 December	Herod is still a Threat (Acts 12: 1-23)

This discussion group meets at 10.30 a.m. in the Park Room and is open to all.

THE CONTINUING CONVERSATION

When no one else is around, do you talk to yourself?

When he was alone, the 17th century Christian Carmelite monk known as Brother Lawrence carried on conversations with God. Lawrence was the cook for his religious community.

We should remember that as a lay brother his life was one of long hours and continuous work. There was actually little time for contemplation, the lay brothers being expected to find time for mental prayer only when the practical work was done for the day.

One of his teachings urges us "Offer God your heart from time to time, during the day, while at work, at every possible moment".

He practised the presence of God while he prepared meals. Describing his experience of work and prayer, he said: "The time of business does not ... differ from the time of prayer, and in the noise and clatter of my kitchen, while several persons are calling for different things, I possess God in the same great tranquility as if I were upon my knees."

With God's help, our prayer life can bring a similar tranquility to our busy days.

(found on the web)

AUGUST ARRANGEMENTS FOR JUNIOR CHURCH

During the month of August there will be limited facilities available for Junior Church. Groups will be provided as follows:

Crèche and pre-school (0 – 4 year olds) in Room 6

Present Infant school (5 – 7 year olds) in Room 5

Present Junior school (8 – 11 year olds) in the Hall

Secondary School children remain in the church.

All visiting children are most welcome to join Junior Church activities.

CHURCH OFFICE

During the holiday period to the end of August the church office will only be open in the morning, from Mondays to Thursdays. Telephone messages and e-mails will be checked on a regular basis.

CHURCH OFFICE

Church & Community Manager : Susan Stanley

Tuesday to Friday, 12.00 noon to 3.00 pm

Administrative Assistant : Linda Cockerill

Monday to Thursday, 9.15 am to 1.15 pm

Telephone (01737) 249766 (answerphone outside hours)

or e-mail: susan@reigateparkchurch.org

or linda@reigateparkchurch.org

Church Caretaker: Nick Pozzo

Contact via Church Office

e-mail: caretaker@reigateparkchurch.org

THE RECORD

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at least two weeks before publication date.

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☎ 01293 733466

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AUGUST DIARY

- Sunday 5th 10.00am Rev. Janet Sowerbutts. Holy Communion.
6.30pm Liz Bullen and Carol Nicholls.
- Tuesday 7th 10.30am Women's Guild.
- Wednesday 8th 8.00pm Music Group at 14 South Close Green, Merstham.
- Sunday 12th 10.00am Rev. Michael Davies.
6.30pm Holy Communion. Sue Knight and Graham Whybra.
- Sunday 19th 10.00am Rev. Howard Rady.
6.30pm Michael Ball.
- Thursday 23rd 11.00am Zimbabwe Work Party at 1 Evesham Road.
- Sunday 26th 10.00am Rev. David Skitt.
6.30pm Rev. David Skitt. Healing 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. Some of these activities are suspended during August.
