

# THE RECORD

OF REIGATE PARK CHURCH (UNITED REFORMED)



SEPTEMBER 2007

No 835

# **REIGATE PARK CHURCH**

## **(UNITED REFORMED)**

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

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*The Minister should be informed in all cases of need.*

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One of my pet private insecurities and anxieties concerns my car. When I leave it, will I find it as I left it on my return? I go back and double check that I've locked it (sometimes I haven't). On my circular walks it is a real highlight for me to see my car still in place and feel I have accomplished something in returning to the same spot.

"Just as I left it!" I say to myself . . . and it may be . . . But much of life does not work like that.

Recently I had cause to return to my previous church in New Barnet. There were people there I had not seen for many years. There were people with whom I had shared some of life's deepest moments. It was lovely that the bond of friendship with them was as firm, warm and secure as ever.

The church, however, was not the same. The stages of those people's lives were not the same as I left them. We had all moved on (quite rightly!) - it was that something profound and divine remained between us.

Some people see a basic flaw in Christ's parable of the Prodigal Son. If we can return to God at any time however wasteful and despicable we have been and find things just the same, there is surely no incentive to goodness. God the loving Father will forgive us anyway so we can be as wretched as we like without any consequences.

Such criticism misses one of the main points of the parable. Namely that on his return, the prodigal does find conditions changed because of his actions. In demanding his birthright ahead of his father's death, he has broken up the estate and rendered a whole set of people more insecure and poverty-stricken. What is more, also as a result of his demand, the remaining estate is now run by his elder brother with his father now a family dependent.

So things have changed and no homecoming celebration can change that. The material and external environment of the community has altered as a consequence of his actions - almost certainly in a way detrimental to the prodigal himself and others. His actions do have negative consequences.

What has not changed, however; what has remained the same; what no amount of outrageous and hurtful behaviour can change is his father's forgiving love for him.

This, Jesus is saying, is how it is with our Heavenly Father. Of course, we should avoid deserting the community and the values where faith, hope and love are found and where goodness and selfless service are found. There are negative consequences when we behave badly for ourselves and others. Consequences which can make our and others' future living so much more difficult - unnecessarily so. When we misbehave or hurt others things can never be the same.

The wonderful news of the gospel, however, is that such negative consequences need not be the whole or major story. Because God is the Loving Father he is, the main news can be one of reconciliation - a wonderful experience in itself that gives us grace for whatever changed circumstances we encounter.

As I experienced what I considered to be the divine love of my friends at Barnet enduring through life's changes I was reaffirmed that wherever life takes me and my loved ones and whatever mistakes I make, the love at the heart of the universe will always be there for me. A truth not to abuse or waste, but a spirit in which to live.

With every good wish

David

## **BOOK CLUB**

Next Meeting: Monday September 17th, 8.00 p.m. at 80 Raglan Road (Alison Allen ☎ 224320)

Book: *The Tenderness of Wolves* by Stef Penney.

## **IS THIS FOR YOU?**

Do you work with children in school/Junior Church/Youth Club/Kids Klub/Uniformed Organisations/Pilots etc?

Would you like to know...

....how learning styles in childhood differ?

....how these styles are influenced by society and culture?

Would you like to...

.....work creatively with children?

.....use a variety of learning styles?

.....plan original sessions?

.....develop the practice of reflecting on and evaluating sessions?

Interested?

Come along to the Park Room on Thursday 6th September to get some ideas from Nick White on 'programme planning'.

Coffee at 7.15 p.m., Session: 7.30 - 9.30 p.m.

**ALL WELCOME!**

Names, please, to Pat Denchfield by Friday 31st August or sign the list in the Hall.

## **NEWS OF THE FAMILY**

David and Sue Wylie are pleased that Fiona and Omar Ahmed have just got engaged.

The Synod has approved our application for a Youth and Community Minister for five years and we now search under God's guidance for the right person for the task.

## **THANKS**

May I take this opportunity to say a very BIG thank you to my friends in Reigate Park Church who so very kindly wrote to me in hospital here in Bexhill. It was wonderful to be remembered and certainly lighted my spirits and aided my recovery. My love and blessings to you all.

Joan Hooper

## RITA BASHFORD

Rita lived nearly all her life in Meadvale. She was active in Meadvale WI and in a number of local bowls clubs most notably becoming Secretary of Reigate Priory Bowls Club. She was a well-organised person, always thinking ahead. Her career was in hospital administration, first at Redhill General and then at Hillside in Coulsdon. Rita was a bright cheery person who was a most loyal, kind and helpful friend. Always thinking of others, she attended our church for a number of years and then, when considering membership, delayed it until she felt that her husband Harry, who had started attending later, was ready and willing to join with her. We assure Harry and his sons of our love and prayers at this time. Rita died on Friday 13th July and a service of thanksgiving for her life was held in our church at 2 p.m. on Tuesday 24th July.

## PRAYER CALENDAR

This month's prayer cycle of Churches Together in Reigate and Redhill is shown below.

**2nd September** St Bede's School, Carlton Road, Redhill at the start of a new school year.

**9th September** Redhill Vineyard Christian Fellowship, which meets at East Surrey College.

**16th September** St Theresa's Church (RC), Weldon Way, Merstham.

**23rd September**

**30th September** *Nightstop.*

## TODDLERS PLUS

Toddlers Plus re-commences on Monday September 10th. This is an open Toddler group for any pre-school children and their carer. It takes place every Monday from 2 - 4 in the downstairs rooms and the patio when fine. The group is manned by a willing group of volunteers who welcome the families, make them feel at home and serve refreshments. Thank you to all those who have volunteered during the past year.

At the last session of the summer we said goodbye to Angela Merritt who has been involved with the group for many years and more recently has coordinated it. It is a much appreciated group for families in the community, offering a clean and caring environment where the children are safe. The adults and children often make new friends and learn new things. We would like to say a very big 'Thank you' to you Angela for your loyal commitment to the group.

Angela Bolton

## WORSHIP IN THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER

At 10 a.m. on Sunday **2nd September** we look at Christ in our communion service and ask ourselves ‘How does He do it?’ with the reading of John 7: 1 - 16. At 6.30 p.m. on the same day our evening service includes reflection on Caroline Vodden’s ordination on the previous day, and prayers for her ministry. This could be a special opportunity for those unable to join us on the visit to Dorset on the Saturday. The readings are Exodus 3: 1 - 16 and Luke 7: 36 - 50.

At 10 a.m. on Sunday **9th September** our morning service includes the baptism of Luke Fowler with the theme ‘The Invisible Presence’ and the readings Luke 1: 1 - 4 and Luke 7: 1 - 10. At 6.30 p.m. the evening communion service has the theme ‘The Value of a Sleeping Saviour’ with readings of Psalm 4 and Mark 4: 35 - 41.

At 10 a.m. on Sunday **16th September** is our Memorial Book Service when we remember ‘Mindful Connections’ and read Philippians 2: 1 - 11. There will also be a short dialogue and drama based on a scene from Alan Bennett’s *The History Boys*. At 6.30 p.m. our evening service includes a number of Worship Songs, and reading from Luke 12: 22 - 34 we think about ‘Fingertip Prayer’.

At 12.15 p.m. on **Wednesday 19th September** we begin a series on ‘Animals of the Bible’ with Balaam’s Ass, reading from Numbers 22: 21 - 38.

At 10 a.m. on Sunday **23rd September** we rejoice at how ‘The Lord Gave Refreshing New Life’ with the baptism of Jonathan Royal. The reading is Psalm 29. At 6.30 p.m. the service includes prayers with Taizé but also considers the life of John Donne (‘The Reformed Soul’), reading from Romans 5: 1 - 8.

The Family and Parade Service at 10 a.m. on Sunday **30th September** will include a presentation by the Eco-team and a challenging new perspective on three parables of Jesus, emphasising how, with Him, things never turn out quite how you would expect them to do. At 4.30 p.m. we conduct the service at Dovers Residential Home.

N.B. Advance notice that Rev. Dr David Owen is conducting the morning service on 7th October.

A warm welcome to any or all of these services.

## HALF-YEAR OF WEDDINGS

Since the beginning of March, I have been involved in a number of weddings, which have all been very different. I thought it might be of interest to record them in some way, highlighting what was personally distinctive to me about each one.

On 2nd March Jamie Burch, who grew up in our church, and who also proved to be a Good Samaritan to Pat Bristol just a few weeks later, was married to Emma Cousson in our church. Half of Emma's family are French so, having learnt some phrases to welcome them in their native tongue, I faltered in my English as I said '... God cremated them male and female'. Apart from that, this delightful couple had a great day and since then, young Oliver Sussex Burch appeared on the scene in June.

On 7th April, one of Mary's daughters, Suzanne Perry, who also grew up in the church, was married here on the Saturday of Easter Weekend to David Townshead. memorable for me was conducting the service with my predecessor, David Owen. Also the groom's speech at the reception where he had named each table after a musical connection in their courtship was absolutely great. Priory Drive was in full blossom for this couple from English Nature.

On 21st April came another French connection. This time it was the groom Samuel Flamand who married local girl Philippa Gloyne. The couple put a huge amount of thought into the service but perhaps rather less into their honeymoon, arriving at their destination only to be unsure of their hotel. It was a delight to be the venue for their wedding.

Then on 28th May I had the privilege of conducting my own son's wedding at the Baptist Church in High Wycombe. Jimmy has married Sarah Phelps. Sarah has helped for two years at our Easter Workshop. For us as a family the whole day was very special.

On 9th June Sarah Knight, who grew up in our church, married Scott Houghton. Sarah's father, John, played an excellent organ solo during the signing of the registers. It was his very personal gift to them and this, together with thoughts of loved ones who could not be there and the happiness of the couple themselves made it so special.

On 25th June just six of us were present as David Bass and Valerie Levett, both widowed, were married. David and Valerie attend our communion services regularly and wanted something devout and simple. The experience was incredibly moving for me and I am sorry I missed their later celebration in mid-August.

On 7th July we were just one of the record number of weddings on 'single day worldwide' (7/7/7) when Emma Hepburn and David Shaw were married in our

church. Love, not luck, however was our theme, although there was some fortune in having a fine day in a wet summer when the reception was in a marquee outside.

On 21st July Doreen Skinner and Dave Sharp lit up our church with their wedding. The choir sang, Doreen walked up and down the aisle and beamed, and the happy couple went out to 'Always look on the Bright Side of Life' with a Scout Guard of Honour.

Later that day Alison and I went to the evening reception of a Woodhatch girl, Christie Goddard, to Shane Richie. This marquee was spectacular and we just missed a speech by Barbara Windsor!

Finally on 28th July I conducted a short ceremony for Grant and Josie Samuel, who actually married in France in February. They wanted to celebrate with friends with a party and a short religious ceremony in the place in Gers in France where they will live. Standing in that place in the open air, pronouncing God's blessing on this couple brought back to me all the previous weddings of the year, with one so distinctive in its own way. At this one, as in each of them, I was reminded how important it is to stay in touch with what matters most.

I return from holiday to be part of a wedding at South Nutfield Church of Helen Blacker to Jon Mason.

Next year four weddings have already been booked in our church. On 3rd May Clare Byrne to Barry O'Shea, on 5th July Amanda Mayne to Rodney Benjamin, on 26th July Becky Idle to Ed Butler, and on 9th August Sandra Harnett to Darren Ramp. Let us hope they are all as special and meaningful as those which have made such an effect on me this year.

David Skitt

## **CHOOSING A NEW SCHOOL?**

Don't forget the two open meetings arranged this month, both at 8 pm in the Park Room. The first is on September 10th for those looking at Secondary Schools, the second is on September 19th for those looking at Infant Schools.

Please do come and find out more even if you are not having to make this decision this year. We have invited two teachers to come and help us get our thoughts around the subject.

For more information please speak to Angela Bolton.

## **JUNIOR CHURCH**

We should like to thank the team who provided sessions for the infant and junior age-groups during August, whilst our leaders and helpers were taking a well-earned rest!

Junior Church resumes on September 2nd, and by now all parents should have received a letter with information for the coming term. There are several changes in the Junior Church staff for the coming year. We should like to thank Sam Spence who is stepping down as a leader in Vines - we are very grateful to her for being prepared to help us out in this way - and Nic Wood, who has been co-ordinator of Amity. As usual, we have several new people joining our team: Clare Roberts and Louise Mckay are helping occasionally in JAM, Nick Dunning will be helping in Vines, and Tracey Terry, Neil Radford & Stephen Page are new helpers in Harmony. Sara-Jane Archer is moving from crèche to lead sessions in Vines, and Kathryn Cooper also becomes a Vines Leader, having previously helped in JAM. Carole Whybra is now concentrating on Explorers, having led sessions in both Vines and Explorers for the last year, Liz Simpson is moving from Vines to Harmony and Jane Buck is leaving Explorers to help co-ordinate the new secondary group. We are grateful to David Bretherton who joined the Vines team this year and is happy to carry on. James Bretherton is joining the team of helpers in Explorers, having completed his three months of service with them for his Duke of Edinburgh award.

Looking ahead, does anyone still have a Nativity costume from our cupboard?! We have just sorted and washed the costumes, and there seems to be a shortage of angels' and shepherds' outfits! If you did borrow one please return it as soon as possible - no questions asked! Thank you.

With good wishes to everyone in Junior Church for a happy term!

Pat Denchfield and Angela Bolton

## **CHURCH LIBRARY**

When did you last visit the Church Library? We are constantly updating our collection: sometimes books are donated, and new books are regularly purchased with the profits from the book trolley. Recent purchases include two books by William Barclay in the series entitled 'The New Daily Study Bible': The Gospel of Mark and The Acts of the Apostles. If you would like to borrow anything please write your name in the red book on the table. Why not set yourself the challenge of visiting the Library at least once before Christmas?

Belated thanks to Angela Merritt who has made some beautiful new curtains for the Library.

Pat Denchfield

## IT'S HOLIDAY TIME AGAIN

Those of you who went to Willersley in 2004 will remember what a great place it was. (I believe it has been updated since then!) So we thought it would be prudent to tell everyone that we are going again in 2008, the dates are from Sunday 25th May to Friday 30th May.

Please do join us, we shall be issuing more details towards the end of September, but We are organising another holiday at Willersley Castle, Cromford, Derbys.

please do put the date in your diary, and better still, let us know if you would like to come.

David and Daphne Hamblin ☎ 01342 892465

## ADVANCE NOTICE TO ALL CHURCH NIGHTERS

Two Core Skills Training Sessions on 9th and 30th October have been arranged specifically for Junior Church leaders and helpers. They are however, not only open to Junior Church people from other churches but they are also open to anyone from Reigate Park Church Family. We would be really pleased to see you.

The advance notice bit is due to the timing of these two meetings. As people will be travelling a distance to be with us, both evenings will start at 7.30 with coffee, rather than having coffee afterwards. The sessions themselves will start at 7.45. The contents of both evenings look to provide much food for thought. As they are open meetings with a URC Youth Work Trainer and visitors, we do hope that there will be a very good attendance from RPC families. It is great meeting people from other URC churches and discover what they are facing in their Youth and Children's work too.

For more information please see next month's Record and the posters and fliers.

Angela Bolton and Pat Denchfield

## WOMEN'S GUILD

The rain may have driven us indoors for our August meeting, but it didn't dampen our spirits. We spent a very pleasant morning chatting, eating cake and admiring the photos of Doreen's wedding and Carol's new baby granddaughter.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 11th September at 10.30 in the Park Room when we will be having a speaker from the Redhill and Reigate 'Live at Home' Scheme.

On Sunday 14th October we will be having a Harvest Sales table in the hall during coffee . There will be more about this in next month's *Record*.

Liz Bullen

## **MEN'S FELLOWSHIP**

Our July outing was a visit to Scotney Castle, with its celebrated garden, which was looking especially fine, giving opportunity for a variety of walks, through woodland, past beautiful borders, and around the moat. The house, described in the National Trust's guide book as 'The New House' has only recently been opened and made available to be enjoyed. A house on this site has been the home of the Hussey family from at least 1775; the present one at the top of the hill having been built for Edward Hussey III in 1837-43, and given to the National Trust by his grandson in 1970. It has always been a welcoming and sociable place, filled with books and paintings. To walk through the hall, study, library with its superb view, garden lobby and dining room, all manned by friendly and knowledgeable volunteers was a journey of interest and delight. The only feature which left something to be desired was the catering arrangement. This is to be improved soon, we were told. Once again we travelled by coach, which added to the value of the day. It was judged to have been a worthwhile, successful day's outing.

We decided, following our questionnaire for members, to have no event in August. On September 13th a visit, again by coach, to The Hop Farm at the Kentish Oast Village, Beltring near Tonbridge has been arranged. This gives us a glimpse into the lost world of the pickers who came from the East End of London every year to live and work in the hop gardens of Kent. The best way to appreciate what it was like to be a hop picker, what impact the hop picking industry had on Kent and how an oast house worked. We already have only one empty seat available on the coach, but a larger vehicle could probably be substituted if sufficient interest were to demand it, though we should have to take that decision soon. Please see Peter Charlton or any committee member if you would like to join us for the visit.

John Sowton

## **UNICEF - MITE NEWS**

I am grateful to those who use the film tubs (with the UNICEF label) to give regularly. Please place the full tubs in the big jar (unopened) and take an empty tub - or better still give it to me so that I can make a note in my book. The appeal for money is continuous and for so many disasters and seemingly hopeless areas it appears a waste BUT we must be thankful for being able to bring a smile and hope to any child. That is the central working point - the CHILD. Your 5ps etc. may be a nuisance to you but could help to save a child's life.

Hazel Arscott

P.S. I have the Christmas Catalogue! if anyone wishes to see it.

## **LAUNCH OF NEW SENIOR JUNIOR CHURCH GROUP**

On Sunday 2nd September the new Senior Junior Church group will start with a Breakfast at 10:00 in the church hall. All junior church members aged 11 and above are invited. At this breakfast we will be discussing the new format and plans for the group.

This will be followed by a disco on Saturday 8th September from 19:00 to 22:00 in the Church Hall. Admission to the disco will be by ticket only and are obtained from either Jane Buck or Heather Mildren. There will be no charge for the tickets and each ticket will enable you to have two free drinks - further drink and tuck may be purchased. Tickets for the disco must be obtained by Sunday 2nd September so that numbers are known.

If you require any more information please contact either the Bucks (☎ 764458) or the Mildrens (☎ 764805).

## **CRAFT FAIR**

***SATURDAY 13TH OCTOBER 2007***

**10.00 a.m. - 3.00 p.m.**

The idea was born, the planning started and Crafty Chats are crafting. We are booking stalls that will produce a range of goods for you and the community to buy as gifts for birthdays and Christmas, also cards for various occasions. There will also be something for the children and some car washing. The aim is to make this a really worthwhile event with some of the proceeds going to a charity.

If you can help in any way please come and tell one of us what you can offer.

Best of all please put this date in your diaries and be prepared to come and spend.

Crafty Chats - Angela Merritt, Sharon Scotton, Jane Buck, Heather Mildren

## **CHURCH NIGHTS**

This month we resume 'Church Nights' on Tuesday evenings at 8 p.m. with an important series of meetings, in the Park Room unless otherwise indicated:

4th September Crispin Blunt MP gives his perspective on Palestine (in the Church).

11th September To celebrate Organic Fortnight, our Ecoteam gives us an update.

18th September Film *Amazing Grace*.

25th September Church Meeting (in the Church).

At all of these meetings you will be very welcome.

## SHORT MATters

An introduction to short mat bowling was given by our secretary recently to a meeting of Church Night which some 17 people attended. A number were bowlers, so they probably learnt little new, but there was a lot of interest in how the game came into being, as the game has only really been in existence since the 1950s. The meeting ended with anybody having a go at bowling, followed by fish and chips.

Our fixtures for 2007/8 season are:-

Saturday	Home	08/09/07	Barns Green
Sunday	Home	16/09/07	Mannings Heath
Tuesday	Home	30/10/07	Southwater
Saturday	Away	03/11/07	Forest
Sunday	Away	04/11/07	Martlets
Saturday	Home	10/11/07	Horley
Sunday	Away	18/11/07	Southwater
Sunday	Away	25/11/07	Barns Green
Sunday	Away	13/01/08	Mannings Heath
Saturday	Away	19/01/08	Horley
Saturday	Home	16/02/08	Forest
Sunday	Home	01/03/08	Martlets

All matches start at 2.30 p.m.

Brian Dean (☎ 774208)

## CRÈCHE ROTA

This is the rota for September. 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

2nd September	Sandra Reid	
9th September	Sara-Jane Archer	Gretta Taylor
16th September	Paul and Catherine Seldon	
23rd September	Jacki Glasgow	
30th September	Eleanor Kiy	Claire Harris

## ECOTIP - GOING ORGANIC

'What on earth has going organic got to do with climate change?', I hear you ask. To find out more about this very definite link, you will have to come to Church Night on 11th September. The first two weeks of September are 'Organic Fortnight'. In celebration of this, RPC Ecoteam are hosting an Organic Church Night. Do come along and join us for a hearty talk on this controversial subject.

This month I will share with you the adventures of Sonia the Slug Slayer as I attempt to grow my fruit and vegetables organically. Amongst the vegetables that I am growing this year I have raised some heritage seed lettuces, with some wonderful names like 'Fat, Lazy, Blonde' and 'Drunken Women'. I have been trying every trick known to (wo)man to overcome the slugs without the use of pesticides. As you will see Windmill Way is the site of a major war at the moment!

1. Yes, I still use slug pellets, but I have managed to find some that work and are safe to pets, wildlife and children, a 100% natural product with no additives or chemicals (Slug Stoppa).
2. Beer traps that entice the slugs and drown them.
3. I had a packet in my fridge labelled 'Caution Live Product!', containing naturally occurring microscopic nematodes which when mixed with water and applied with a watering can could seek out and kill slugs under ground, reproducing inside them.
4. On the ground around the lettuces is a roll of ground cover fabric coated with copper (Slug and Snail Shocka!) which slugs and snails do not like to cross - and no wonder as it apparently gives them a shock similar to when tin foil makes contact with an amalgam tooth filling!
5. Thanks must go to Angela Bolton for helping me prepare this next line of attack. Innocently popping in for a coffee one afternoon imagine her surprise when she was handed some pinking shears and some empty plastic bottles (recycling in action!) and we spent the next hour companionably cutting up the bottles to pop around the lettuces as slug collars!
6. What with all that and me out every evening with my Slicing Secateurs (better or worse than stamping on them?!) these lettuces had better be tasty!

Most of the above products are available from the Organic Gardening Catalogue <http://www.organiccatalog.com>.

RPC Ecoteam meets monthly and would love to welcome new participants on to our friendly team to help us turn RPC green. For further information do contact me, our next meetings are on Monday 17th September and Monday 5th October, both 8 p.m. at 26 Windmill Way, Reigate.

## MONDAY MORNING GROUP

We meet each Monday morning for coffee and begin our study at 10.30 a.m. with a really deep discussion starting from the relevant bible reading, but often covering quite unexpected areas arising from the experiences and concerns of the group members. You are welcome to come to any, or all, of this Autumn's meetings, which are based on the book of Acts.

- |                |                             |
|----------------|-----------------------------|
| 10th September | Background to Acts.         |
| 17th September | Ascension (Acts 1: 1 - 11). |
| 24th September | Waiting (Acts 1: 12 - 26).  |

## WHAT'S IN A SMILE?

A smile costs nothing, but gives much.  
 It enriches those who receive  
 Without making poorer those who give.  
 It takes but a moment,  
 Yet the memory of it lasts forever.  
 A smile creates happiness in the home,  
 Fosters goodwill in business,  
 And is a sign of friendship.  
 It brings rest to the weary,  
 Cheer to the discouraged,  
 Sunshine to the sad,  
 And is nature's best antidote to trouble.  
 Yet a smile cannot be bought, begged,  
 Borrowed or stolen;  
 For it is something of no value to anyone,  
 Unless it is given away.  
 Some people are too tired to give you a smile.  
 Give them one of yours.  
 No one needs a smile so much  
 As he who has none to give.

from Merle Nadal, and also from [www.poeticexpressions.co.uk](http://www.poeticexpressions.co.uk) via CHURCH, the magazine of Cheadle Hulme URC.

## **GATTON COMMUNITY THEATRE**

Like to take part in a community theatre project?

Aged between 7 and 97?

Inexperienced or already a star?

Gatton Community Theatre, one of Surrey's most unusual and innovative theatre groups comprising members of churches from the wider Reigate area, is looking for cast members to take part in its next exciting production, *The Twelve Days of Christmas*. This large-scale devised community theatre project is open to any who are interested in participating, either as musician, cast or backstage, under the leadership of a professional artistic director and producer. There are no auditions - everyone who wants to perform will be included - and it is open to anyone of any age or ability who wishes to take part; there is no charge or fee of any kind to be involved. The play will be devised by the cast and written by director, Anna Thompson, and performed in the Chapel of the Royal Alexandra & Albert School, Reigate from 16 - 22 December 2007

Participants will have the chance to be part of an entirely original, new piece of theatre work. In a society full of poverty, illness, crime, greed and despair, *The Twelve Days of Christmas* will ask the question "where is God?" It will be a story showing the diversities among communities, following a group of people with a sense of faith, purpose and commitment as they prepare for a neighbourhood project - a Christmas Pageant to be held in the town square. But it will also relate the story of another, disparate group who have become lost in life. Ultimately, from a despairing situation, the whole community acknowledge and accept their differences and work together as a whole.

To find out more come along to drama workshops to be held at the School Chapel, Royal Alexandra & Albert School, Gatton Park, Rocky Lane, Merstham on:

Sunday 16 September at 2.30 pm

Tuesday 18 September at 7.30 pm

Sunday 23 September at 2.30 pm

For further details or enquiries contact: 642588

or email: [enquiries@gattoncommunitytheatre.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@gattoncommunitytheatre.org.uk)

GCT offers participants an opportunity to take part in something really unusual and creates for local audiences highly original productions in exciting or unexpected venues. The group is unique in this part of Surrey. It aims to produce innovative and memorable theatre events for actors and audiences alike which involve, engage and inspire as many participants from the local community as possible.

## **BANGLADESH**

Prayer based on the message from the Rt. Rev. Bishop Michael S Baroi at the Climate Change Rally, November 2006.

Lord,  
 The simple truth we know  
 From Bangladesh to Birmingham,  
 That all will be affected.  
 This very simple truth we know,  
 The powerful will use money to delay the inevitable.  
 Yet again the poor are suffering  
 Because of our greed.

The simple truth we know.  
 By 2050, parts of Bangladesh will be lost,  
 Land and people lost for ever.  
 The very simple truth we know,  
 Productive land and scattered communities  
 Lost, as we take more than our share  
 Of the precious earth's resources.

Patient Lord, show us a simple way of living,  
 That others may simply live.

© Commitment for Life

## **SMILE LINES**

(from various church magazines)

The trouble with doing something right first time is that nobody appreciates how difficult it was.

The most effective way to remember your wife's birthday is to forget it once.

Young mother: Nurse, what is the most difficult thing for a young mother to learn?

Nurse: That other women have perfect children too.

The good Lord didn't create anything without a purpose, but mosquitoes come close.

God promises a safe landing, not a calm passage.

## **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 1.00 pm

Telephone (01737) 249766 (answerphone outside hours)

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## ***THE RECORD***

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Contributions should be with the Editor:

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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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** 01293 733466**

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## SEPTEMBER DIARY

<b>Sunday</b>	2nd	10.00am	Rev. David Skitt. Holy Communion.
		6.30pm	Rev. David Skitt.
Tuesday	4th	8.00pm	Church Night - A perspective on Palestine: Crispin Blunt MP
Thursday	6th	7.15pm	Nick White - Programme Planning
Saturday	8th	7.00pm	Senior Junior Church Disco
<b>Sunday</b>	9th	10.00am	Rev. David Skitt. Baptism of Luke Fowler.
		6.30pm	Rev. David Skitt. Holy Communion.
Tuesday	11th	10.30am	Women's Guild. Redhill and Reigate 'Live at Home' Scheme
		8.00pm	Church night - Eco update evening.
Thursday	13th	10.00am	Men's Fellowship. Outing to Hop Farm Country Park.
Friday	14th	7.30pm	Meeting for prospective leaders of Pilots.
<b>Sunday</b>	16th	10.00am	Rev. David Skitt. Memorial Book Service.
		6.30pm	Rev. David Skitt with worship songs.
Monday	17th	8.00pm	Ecoteam at 26 Windmill Way.
		8.00pm	Book Club at 80 Raglan Road.
Tuesday	18th	8.00pm	Church Night - Film: <i>Amazing Grace</i> .
Wednesday	19th	12.15pm	Rev. David Skitt. Midweek Communion Service.
<b>Sunday</b>	23rd	10.00am	Rev. David Skitt. Baptism of Jonathan Royal.
		6.30pm	Rev. David Skitt with Taizé chants.
Tuesday	25th	8.00pm	<b>Church Meeting</b>
Sunday	30th	10.00am	Rev. David Skitt. Family and Parade Service. Eco-team presentation.
		4.30pm	Service at Dovers Residential Home.

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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, Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Busy Bees Playclub, Monday Morning Group, Choir, Conquest Art, Playgroup, Prayer Group, Toddlers Plus Group, Badminton and Short Mat Bowling.