

# THE RECORD

OF REIGATE PARK CHURCH (UNITED REFORMED)



DECEMBER 2007

No 838

# **REIGATE PARK CHURCH**

## **(UNITED REFORMED)**

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

*www.reigateparkchurch.org*

e-mail address: **office@reigateparkchurch.org**

**Minister : Rev. David M.M. Skitt, LL.B., B.A.**

7 Priory Drive, Reigate RH2 8AF


Telephone/Fax (01737) 244170

e-mail address: **minister@reigateparkchurch.org**

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

**Church Secretary : Rene Cummins**

77 West Street, Reigate RH2 9DA

 (01737) 245436

e-mail: **secretary@reigateparkchurch.org**

**Church Treasurer : Michael Bolton**

31 Gatton Road, Reigate RH2 0HF

e-mail: **treasurer@reigateparkchurch.org**  (01737) 248430

**Junior Church Coordinator : Pat Denchfield**

47 Abinger Drive, Redhill RH1 6SZ

e-mail: **pat.denchfield@reigateparkchurch.org**  (01737) 761275



In the last few weeks, an idea has been forming on my mind. This was to sit down and write a letter of appreciation to those individual people to whom I owed so great a debt. Those in the last 14 years who had helped me to see God more clearly through their love, those who self-sacrificedly had offered their gifts to bless, and those in whose personality I saw that which makes me think of them as heroes to emulate.

In the abstract (some would say 'void') of my mind, I had imagined writing about a dozen or so letters like this. That was until I came across the church family list and started to read down. I then very powerfully wanted, and felt the urge, to write to each one. As I paused over each name there was a kindness I remembered given to me or to my family, a delightful moment shared or a moment when I've been overcome by admiration of that person.

Sadly, I therefore have not the time to write those letters, but how wonderful that there would have to be so many!

So my first last word is one of gratitude that you have been 'as Christ to me'. Now be Him, again, and forgive me my inadequacies, insensitivities and incomplete actions or for those times when you feel I have led the church down a path not of Christ's leading. So gratitude and a plea for forgiveness are keynotes of this last effort.

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## **TREASURER NEEDED**

After many years of loyal service, Michael Bolton, our Church Treasurer, is retiring for a well-earned rest. We need someone else to step into his well-worn shoes! Please pray about this and let any of the elders know if you feel called to this vital rôle in the church community. You would not be working alone, but as part of an established team.

Above all, however, I want to say: 'Please, remain true to the calling to be the Body of Christ in this place', as outlined so well in last month's 'Dear Friends'.

We celebrate at Christmas the coming to earth of the divine nature in human form. God has taken human shape, flesh and blood. If Christ lives in you, you are now that human shape, that flesh and blood. Live in fulfilment of that wonderful calling so that many others may feel about you as I do, and give praise to their Father in heaven.

I am sorry that you have not had a personal letter - you deserve one - but please be assured that Alison and I, Martin, Jimmy and my Dad wish you a lovely Christmas and, beyond, a future of blessings richer than words can describe.

With every good wish and lots of love. God Bless.

David

## **BOOK CLUB**

Our next meeting is on Monday, 7th January at 8 p.m. at Anne Banks', 9 Doran Drive (☎ 761940). The book is *Hogfather*, by Terry Pratchett.

Jane Dotzec

## **MONDAY MORNING GROUP**

We meet each Monday morning in the Park Room 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 the last of this Autumn's meetings on 3rd December - 'Herod is still a threat' (Acts 12: 1 -23), and we plan to continue with the book of Acts in January.

## **CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL 18th - 22nd December**

Come along after dark to experience the magic of the twinkling lights. Dozens of different decorated trees representing local and church organizations.

Refreshments available. Entry is free; donations are invited for the church's Christmas charity PUMPAID, the current project supported by CONNECT.

Tell your friends and family. Everyone welcome. The Church will be open from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. each evening.

## **WOMEN'S GUILD**

We had a most enjoyable morning at our November meeting. Jill Campbell came along to share with us some of her 'Favourite Things'. These ranged from books, to stones brought back as holiday souvenirs, to food. The meeting finished with a short AGM.

At our next meeting on Tuesday December 11th our speaker will be our minister David Skitt. This will be held in the Park Room at 10.30 a.m. We will not be having our usual Candlelight Service, but we will be having mince pies.

We are also having a Christmas Sales Table, and contributions to this will be very welcome.

Liz Bullen

## **NEWS OF THE FAMILY**

Congratulations to Kay Parris on being appointed editor of the URC's national magazine *Reform*. It is quite an honour having one of our members in this rôle. If you wish to subscribe for the coming year please see Derek Ford.

Congratulations also to Michael Finch who has been awarded the Mayor's Community Award for his service to the community in setting up the East Surrey Talking Newspaper for the Blind and running it for 30 years.

## MODERATOR'S CHRISTMAS LETTER

Dear Friends

Christmas is something we celebrate. And there is something to celebrate! At Ordinations and Inductions ministers of the Word and Sacrament are asked 'Do you believe that Jesus Christ, who was born of Mary . . . is the gift of God's very self to the world?'. That's what we celebrate at Christmas - the gift of God's very self to the world. These words move me deeply every time I put them to a minister.

The way we celebrate Christmas is, of course, hotly debated. Too secular? Too commercial? Too drawn out? Where we were on holiday in Suffolk, Turkey Dinner bookings were being taken in August. Certainly it can feel as if Christmas is done to us in an unhelpful way, by everyone for whom, to be fair, Q4 - the fourth quarter - is the only part of the year when they make the profit that balances the books. We can easily resist it, resent it, especially those of us who think we know the real reason for the season.

Yet surely Christmas is something that is done to us, and for us - and it's something we should do to and for each other. It's done to us in that the birth of Jesus is a vital part of God's loving purposes. That mewling infant in Bethlehem is pivotal to God's gracious, it's-not-up-to-you, dealing with us. Jesus is God being done to us.

And in essence our celebrating of that is given its authenticity as we do Christmas to one another - making real something of God-with-us in the lives of our families, and perhaps even more importantly, in the lives of those who are aching for someone else's love in order to be more fully alive. The Christmas Day meal at church for people who would otherwise be on their own; the 'six geese a-laying' for a remote village in Africa; the charity Christmas Cards; the extra cheque for Cancer Research . . . these are all ways - and there are millions of others - of doing Christmas to each other. And each of them proves that love came down at Christmas.

In short, do unto others as you have been done unto.

The Synod Officers: Graham Campling, Michael Davies, Ian Fleming and Sue Henderson - and the Synod staff: Des and Hilary Colechin, Simon Harding, Martin Hayward, Catherine Kingdom, Guy Morfett, Janette Pollard, Bryan and Rosemary Shirley, Glenys Sibley, Peter Southcombe, Alison West and Nick White,

together with Bethan and Jess,

join me in wishing you all a Christmas marked by the joy of real giving and receiving.

Yours sincerely

Nigel Uden

## WORSHIP IN THE MONTH OF DECEMBER

At 10 a.m. on Sunday **2nd December** our morning communion service includes the reception of new members, and the readings for this first Sunday in Advent are Luke 1: 26 - 33, Isaiah 9: 2, 6 and 7 and John 1: 19 - 31 with the theme 'Not the Accusing Finger'.

At 6.30 p.m. the Community Carol Service (open to all) takes place in our church with our member who is Mayor, Councillor Dorothy Ross-Tomlin in attendance. Rev. Phil Andrew from St Mary's will speak.

At 10 a.m. on Sunday **9th December** our morning service includes the baptism of Harrison Darani, the second grandson of Sue and John Knight. The readings are Song of Songs 8: 6 and 7 and Matthew 13: 44 - 46 and the theme 'The Pearl of Great Price'.

At 7.30 p.m. the Choral Society will hold a concert 'Christmas Classics' - glorious festive music to capture the spirit of Christmas. The Society has to cover costs so there will be a charge of £13 (concessions £11, students £3) for tickets.

At 10 a.m. on Sunday **16th December** we hold our Children's Nativity Service, and I am told that Harry Potter, Hermione and Ron will be coming along. There will be no evening service that day.

At 12.15 p.m. on **Wednesday 19th December** our Midweek Communion Service will think about 'Mary's Donkey' and Luke 2: 1 - 7.

At 6.30 p.m. the Christmas Tree Parade Service will include Christingles and the baptism of Molly and Amy Talbot.

At 10 a.m. on Sunday **23rd December** the service includes the baptism of Thomas and Anna Garlick and the readings are John 1: 1 - 14 and Luke 2: 8 - 20 with the theme 'Breaking the News'.

At 6.30 p.m. is our service of Nine Lessons and Carols with the theme 'An Act of Humility'.

At 4 p.m. on **Christmas Eve** there is our CRIB SERVICE for all ages. A number of people have been knitting crib figures and these will be the ones used to tell the Christmas story to the children and everyone.

At 6 p.m. we meet at the East Surrey Hospital chapel to commence carol singing around the wards. This normally finishes at 7.30 p.m.

At 11.30 p.m. there is our late night Christmas Communion Service.

At 10 a.m. on **Christmas Day** we are 'Looking for Christmas' and praising God that He is alongside us.

At 10 a.m. on Sunday **30th December** the service includes COMMUNION and the Ordination and Induction of Elders. The theme is from Deuteronomy: 'The Fire is to be Kept Burning on the Altar'.

A warm welcome to any or all of these services.

## DEAR EDITOR

*from Ray Brotherwood, of Christ Church, Walton-on-the-Hill, one of the churches in our cluster.*

May I thank Mike Bullen for his frank declaration of what he believes, not because I agree entirely with his position, but because it challenged me to examine mine.

The Bible, for me, is more than ‘a unique account’. I believe it is ‘the highest authority of what we believe and do’ - something we assent to when we become elders or, indeed, church members.

For me, God is more than the ‘divine presence in each one of us’. God (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) is the creator, sustainer and redeemer of this universe.

For me, Jesus not only ‘was the perfect human embodiment of God’ but by his death and resurrection enables us to become new creatures.

Furthermore, we are able to live this new life of truly loving God and our neighbours by the presence of his Holy Spirit within us. I believe we all start off as rebels against God and need to be reconciled to him through repentance and personal faith in Jesus. But this is only the beginning of our pilgrimage with him in service and understanding.

*Personal comment by Denis Ward, without his editorial hat.*

When we become church members or elders, we ‘assent’ to various wordings about the faith of the United Reformed Church. These are compromises which have aimed to be acceptable to all within the URC, though many would have expressed in different ways their own views more explicitly, as both Michael and Ray have done. When we are ordained as elders - or admitted to church membership - there are some things we do not understand, and know we may never understand in this life. They are rightly called ‘mysteries’, but we ‘assent’ to them because we have the faith that others, whom we love or respect, have understood more than we do, and we have the hope that one day we too will understand more than we do now.

*Editor’s comment.*

We welcome comments on articles from friends inside and outside Reigate Park Church, provided they are relevant, kind and brief! But we do not guarantee to accept all of them in the future.

## THE RECORD

For next month’s *Record*, the editor asks that contributions be with him seven days earlier than normal, although there may be a little leeway if you tell him to leave a space for something arriving during the week. This is to allow him, the printer and the collation team more time to do their Christmas shopping!

## UNICEF MITE NEWS

I thought we had found fame at last when 'Mite' was used when reporting on collections. But apparently there is a gentleman who collects from five churches and his work is described as a Mite Collection.

I am sending a cheque for £400 for the latest appeal for Darfur. There seems to be a never-ending series of troubles either war or natural. The latest is the flooding in Mexico, but many small countries are lacking in ordinary medical care, e.g. polio vaccinations, and of course HIV, etc. This means that our contributions are vital - the cost of an ordinary Sunday dinner could feed a family for a week - or save a child from being sold into slavery.

Please help - there are plenty of 'film tubs'.

Happy Christmas to all contributors to UNICEF.

Hazel Arscott

## CHURCH NIGHTS

Church Nights are held on Tuesdays, usually in the Park Room at 8 p.m., concluding with coffee and tea at 9.15 p.m.

The programme for the rest of the year is as follows:

Tuesday 4th December **at 7 p.m.** in the Church. Schools Carols Festival.

Tuesday 11th December. Moral Issues: Peer Pressure. **At the Manse.**

## PRAYER CALENDAR

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

**2nd December** Heath Church, Flanchford Road, Reigate.

**9th December** St Bartholomew's Parish Church, Leigh.

**16th December** Redhill Christian Fellowship, meeting at Warwick School.

**23rd December** Reigate Methodist Church, High Street.

**30th December** Reigate Christian Bookshop, High Street.

## CHURCH HOLIDAY TO WILLERSLEY CASTLE

We have once again arranged a Church Holiday to Willersley Castle, Derbys. It is a great place in beautiful surroundings. We are going from 25th to 30th May inclusive 2008. We need your completed booking forms returned at the latest by 9th December please.

Daphne and David Hamblin ☎ 01342 892465

## JUNIOR CHURCH THEME SESSION

On Sunday 4th November, around 90 of our Junior Church children and young people met with around 25 of our youth leaders and helpers to celebrate the old Christian Feasts of Hallowtide and Martinmas through cooking traditional cakes, biscuits and drinks which are associated with them. All of our groups from Explorers to FROGS (that's all the school and sixth form age children) worked together in mixed age groups to prepare Soul Cakes, Horseshoe Cookies and Spiced Wine to share with the Church Family during coffee after the service. They also made little paper baskets decorated with poppies, horseshoes and marigolds, all symbols associated with these celebrations, to carry home the leftovers.

It was lovely to hear the spontaneous comments of the children as David asked them what they had been doing as they came back into church at the end of the service. 'Making a mess!' was an accurate reflection of how much fun they had. As you may have noticed when you came in for coffee, there was no sign of that mess when we all came into the Hall after those few minutes in church telling and showing you what we had been up to, and a great vote of thanks must go to all the adults who cleared it all up in such record time.

I would like to thank all of the team who helped on the day, and all of the children who were there, for working together so well and creating such a great atmosphere of fun and fellowship. I would also like to thank all those who helped before hand preparing and handing out the letters, making signs etc. We are getting it down to a fine art now as this is our third themed session in just over a year but it couldn't happen without all the support we get behind the scenes beforehand and on the day.

Below is what the children read out to you at the end of the service in case any of you missed it or couldn't hear it all.

Hallowtide runs from 31st October to 2nd November. Hallows Eve was based on the Celtic feast of Samhain when people frightened away the evil spirits they associated with long dark winter nights. Christians believed goodwill always conquers evil and Jesus, the light of the world, defeats all fear of darkness. All Saints Day was a day to remember and honour all the men and women through the ages who were outstanding Christians. It used to be known as All Hallows. On All Souls Day all those who have died were remembered - not just the great and the good. Families visited the graves of loved ones and their names were read out in church. The day often ended in a play or singing. Children would go around singing and asking for soul cakes; these are the words they sang:

A soul, a soul, a soul cake.  
Please good missus a soul cake.  
An apple, a pear, a plum or a cherry,

Any good thing to make us merry.  
 Up with your kettles and down with your pans  
 Give us an answer and we'll be gone  
 Little Jack, Jack sat on his gate  
 Crying for butter to butter his cake  
 One for St Peter, two for St Paul,  
 Three for the man who made us all.

At the Feast of Martinmas (Nov 11th) there were great hiring fairs for farm labourers as this was the time of year when they would seek jobs for the coming year.

Farmers would provide a cake-and-ale feast for the workers to celebrate this and the harvest. Since November 11th was declared Armistice Day in 1918 all remnants of the old Martinmas celebrations have died out in this country. St Martin was a military man born in Hungary in the 4th Century. After meeting a beggar on a very cold night and giving him half his cloak, Martin had a vision where Jesus appeared to him to commend him on his generosity. He was baptised shortly afterwards. He left the army at 40 to become a hermit and was later made Bishop of Tours. In Poland horseshoe cookies are eaten on this day for St Martin's snow-white horse on which he appears through the snow when you least expect him.

Some of you have asked for the recipes we used so here they are:

### ***HORSESHOE COOKIES***

½ cup butter, ¼ cup icing sugar, 1 cup plain flour, ½ cup rolled oats, 1 tsp vanilla extract.

Cream the butter. Add sugar GRADUALLY while continuing to cream. Beat till fluffy. Stir in flour, salt and vanilla. Blend in rolled oats. Press out on a lightly floured surface into a ½ cm thick rectangle. Cut into 12 strips approx 1 cm wide.

Curve into horseshoe shapes and place on baking tray. Bake at 160 - 170 C (325°F, Gas 3) for about 15 - 20 mins till golden.

### ***SOUL CAKES***

110g ground rice, 110g plain flour, 110g butter, 110g sugar, 2 beaten eggs, 1 tsp cinnamon.

Mix the flour, ground rice and cinnamon in a bowl. Cream the butter and sugar till light and fluffy. Combine with half of the flour and ground rice mix. Add half of the beaten eggs and stir in, then add the rest of the flour. Once mixed add more of the beaten egg a little at a time to form a firm dough. Put on a lightly floured surface and press out to ½ cm thick. Cut out circles using a cup, re-form dough and cut out more circular cakes till all used up (12 - 15). Cut a

cross into the top of each. Place on a baking tray and bake at 190°C (375, gas 5) for about 15 mins until lightly golden.

### **SPICED PUNCH**

1½ litres red grape juice, ¾ litres white grape juice, 2 oranges thinly sliced, 2 lemons thinly sliced, 16 cloves, 1 tsp ground nutmeg, 2 tsp ground cinnamon, 225g Demerara sugar.

Pour juice into large pan. Add orange and lemon slices, sugar and spices.

Sharon Scotton

### **CRISIS - OPEN CHRISTMAS once again**

Don't forget, Reigate Park is planning to support the Open Christmas project when the charity that works with homeless people in our major cities all year round sets up six special centres across London 24 hours a day for one week over the Christmas holiday period. Men and women who live permanently on the streets, or in run-down 'squats' or who may have beds in overnight hostels where they have to move on every day are invited to stay in the Open Christmas shelters where they are given beds, hot meals, full medical care including eye and dental treatment, hot showers, housing and benefits advice, help with reading and writing skills and form-filling where necessary and new sets of clothing, in the hope that all this may lead to finding employment and somewhere to live. The shelters aim to provide much-needed friendship, personal support and Christmas fun with activities and entertainment at a time of year when being on the streets without friends or family can be a desperate and lonely existence.

This year's 'wish list' was included in the November issue of the Record. Our collection started on Sunday 18th November and will run for the following two weeks ending on Sunday 2nd December. There will be boxes in the foyer each Sunday for our goods and an extra box for cash donations.

This is our fifteenth year of support for CRISIS - please help as much as you can so that in the midst of our own Christmas celebrations these lonely and vulnerable people have a better time and realise that they are not forgotten.

Contact for any queries - Jill Campbell (☎ 223831)

### **CRÈCHE ROTA**

This is the rota for December. 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 December  
9th December

Jacki Glasgow  
Sandra Reid

16th December	Paul and Catherine Seldon
23rd December	No crèche
30th December	No crèche

## SHORT MATters

The Club has now entered the busy part of the league season and lost the match against Southwater 27 - 46, and no points. Ron Hollings' rink lost on the last end, but unfortunately with Carol Nicholls' rink, yours truly was sick at the end of the seventh end when we were ahead, and had to be substituted.

We then visited Forest, a team that was relegated last season from Division 1, only to lose again 49 - 31. Again Ron Hollings' rink were behind at 10 ends before starting to win and a 5 shot thirteenth end put them in front for two or three ends. It was still level at the eighteenth when Forest got back into gear and we lost 27 - 20. Wesley Tossell's rink got off to a flying start to be 3 -10 up after 9 ends, but lost the next 10 ends going down 22 -11. No points on our first visit.

Next day the Club visited a newly formed club, Martletts at Billingshurst. Whilst a new club, they had some very skilful players resulting in us having a thrashing 73 - 16. Carol Nicholls' rink came up against two brilliant players and only won 4 of the 21 ends going down 47 - 5. Ron Hollings' faired better by sharing the shots till the 5th end when Martletts pulled away, with Reigate Park getting 5 shots in the 12th and 13th ends, and finally losing 26 - 11, and no points.

The next match was against Horley Hawks with Ron Hollings' rink romping away with a 39 - 14 victory, with their opponents only replying in 6 ends. Unfortunately, Brian Dean's rink were only able to win 4 ends to lose 7 - 29, meaning our victory by 3 shots gave us only 4 points with Horley getting 2.

A lesson to learn from these results is that there is plenty of scope for new members, unless our current players pull their socks up. Are there any bowlers out there wanting to have a go!

Brian Dean (☎ 774208)

## MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

On 8th November, after another delicious meal, we adjourned to the Park Room, where Ralph Bristow gave us a talk, with slides, of the life of himself and his brothers and sisters in America. We saw them as babies growing up to be teenagers. We saw the buildings, the cars, the clothes of the times. He told us how the 'Cold War' with Russia disturbed the American populations far more than it did here.

He eventually joined the Navy and in due course was posted to England. When demobbed he decided to 'stay with the pretty girls in their mini skirts!' He also showed us a slide of a cranberry field and thoroughly recommended us to go to

Priory Farm to get them.

Thanks very much Ralph.

Don't forget we are lunching at the Rowfant on 13th December at 12.30 p.m.  
Please arrive by 12 noon.

Ron Cooke

## **FRIENDS OF JESUS CHRISTMAS SERVICE**

In February this year the Friends of Jesus group for adults with learning disabilities took part in our worship by presenting two dances during a morning service. All members of Reigate Park Church are now warmly invited to join the Friends of Jesus for their Christmas Service on the theme 'Looking forward to Christmas'. This will take place at Holy Trinity Church, Redhill, at 4.00 p.m. on Sunday, 9 December. The service will be led entirely by the Friends of Jesus group, and will include one of the dances that we saw earlier this year. It will be followed by drinks and cakes in the Holy Trinity Church Centre.

Holy Trinity Church is wheelchair friendly, with disabled parking bays and disabled toilet facilities. The church is on the north side of Redhill, on the corner of London Road (A23) and Carlton Road, with the entrance to the car park on Carlton Road. For further details, please e-mail [elizabethwatts@btinternet.com](mailto:elizabethwatts@btinternet.com) or phone Liz Watts on ☎ 767841.

Carolyn MacDonell

## **CAROL SINGING**

Please come and support the Churches Together carol singing this year:

Reigate, December 1st at 4 p.m., Cage Yard

Woodhatch, December 15th at 4 p.m., by the park entrance.

Peter Whipps

## **THANK YOU FROM FROGS**

Thank you to every one who gave a donation for the hand made poppies on Remembrance Day. We were able to send £30 to the Poppy Appeal.

We think today about the poppies that grow on battlefields.

They are something beautiful, grown from something awful.

May the memories of the wars be just like that.

When we think about the deaths that occurred then

May we see that there is still hope amongst the grief.

May we see that there are many other ways to solve arguments.

Other than fighting and ruining so many lives.  
 May we learn from our mistakes  
 And strive now to live a good life, a peaceful life.  
 And we pray that our good, kind natures may be an example to all.  
 We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen

(Written by Ellie Christie)

## **THE CHURCH GARDEN**

Dear David

Don't go! We promise we will stop nagging you about 'how we thought William Wilberforce had abolished slave labour' and we won't threaten to make you sweep up leaves if we do not get a rise or Christmas bonus. Being serious - we thank you for always finding time to stop and have a cheery word with us, being so appreciative and thanking us for the work we do around the church. This gives us fresh heart if perhaps we were feeling a little despondent with all the leaves.

Ron, Eileen, Peter and myself are going to miss you but we sincerely wish you happiness and fulfilment in your new position.

As the summer was so wet and everything grew rapidly, we spent most of our time trimming back hedges and shrubs.

Dennis Hills, once again, gave the plants for the summer display at the church doors. He tells me he is growing a very new variety of geranium for next year. Thank you Dennis for all your time spent in the greenhouse for us. We do appreciate it.

The Scouts have taken over a patch of garden which they are busy planting with heathers and lavenders.

I cannot close without thanking Ron Cooke, Eileen and Peter Charlton for all their hard work and for the pleasure of their company.

We can always do with extra help if anybody feels like a morning spent in the fresh air. Do come along. The wages are not good, but chocolate biscuits are provided in the coffee break.

I thought gardeners would appreciate this poem by Helen Steiner Rice.

Life is a garden  
 Good friends are the flowers  
 And times spent together  
 Life's happiest hours.

Happy gardening!

Pat Franks

## CHRISTMAS STAMPS AND THE ALBATROSS

The albatross is a bird that takes its food from the sea but we are killing it. It is endangered because of us.

Wandering albatrosses and royal albatrosses have the largest wingspan in the world of up to 3.5 metres (11 feet). They fly up to 10,000 kilometres (6,250 miles) to find food for their young. 19 of the 22 species are threatened with extinction.

The albatross's food is fish and the discarded fish waste from fishing boats attracts them, but the long line hooks used by the fishermen float on the surface and when the albatross swallows this they are caught and drown. This happens every 5 minutes somewhere in the world.

FROGS are collecting stamps to send to the RSPB who are working with the fishermen to help stop this happening. PLEASE save ALL your stamps, especially foreign ones) and give them to any member of FROGS.

Georgina Bassett

## ECOTIP

Following on from Georgina Bassett's very clear explanation about the plight of the albatross, FROGS and RPC Ecoteam would like to ask if you have time and would like to help then please bring to church and give to any of us the used stamps from your post. There are also containers for the stamps in the church office and in the kitchen.

Money can be raised for the RSPB from all types of stamps whether they are used or unused, UK, foreign or even first day covers. 1 kg of UK stamps raises £1.50 and 1 kg of foreign stamps raises £12.50.

The ideal format is to cut out the stamps from the envelope leaving a 3 mm border around the outside of the stamp. The stamps do not have to be steamed off the envelope.

### ***Mail Preference Service***

Stop unwanted junk mail and reduce the amount of waste paper you throw away.

The Mail Preference Service (MPS) is a free service set up 20 years ago and actively supported by the Royal Mail and funded by the direct mail industry to enable consumers to have their names and home addresses in the UK removed from lists used by industry. This limits the amount of direct (junk) mail they receive, removing your name from up to 95 per cent of Direct Mail lists.

Find out more from [www.mpsonline.org.uk](http://www.mpsonline.org.uk) or 0845 703 4599

RPC Ecoteam meets monthly with the aim of turning Reigate Park Church into

an environmentally friendly church and of passing the message on to other churches and in schools. We would love to welcome new participants on to our friendly team. For further information do contact me. There will be no meeting in December. We meet again in January, check out the January Record for dates of forthcoming meetings.

Sonia Christie 📞 270095 or email

## **ON THE FIRST DAY OF CHRISTMAS ....**

Gatton Community Theatre, one of Surrey's most unusual and innovative theatre groups, comprising members of churches from the wider Reigate area and beyond, is staging its next exciting large-scale community theatre project, The Twelve Days of Christmas, from Monday 17th - Saturday 22nd December at Gatton Park, (the home of the Royal Alexandra and Albert School) near Reigate. The play is a new piece of theatre, which has been devised by the cast and written by Artistic Director, Anna Thompson. It will be staged in a specially built interior theatre setting and will be suitable for adults and children aged 8 and over.

This interpretation of the well-known Christmas song tells a contemporary story of a group of people with a sense of faith, purpose and commitment as they prepare for a community project - a Christmas Pageant to be held in the town square. Using images from the traditional rhyme as the basis for the different groups of people one might expect to find in a village community, characters include, among others, an ageing rock band without a drummer; a discordant children's recorder group struggling to cope with a well known Christmas carol; the women's catering committee each striving to outdo each other, and a group of teenagers who hang about the village square. Watching them all is the symbolic figure of the 'partridge' in a pear tree.

Members of the 60-strong cast come from all parts of the local area - from Banstead to Horley and Caterham to Dorking and, in keeping with Gatton Community Theatre's policy of involvement for all, the youngest performers are aged 7 and the oldest is 87. In addition, a local gospel choir of 22 singers provides the musical interludes.

Tickets are now on sale from the Dorking Halls, ☎ 01306 881717 or online at [www.dorkinghalls.co.uk](http://www.dorkinghalls.co.uk) priced £10 for adults and £8 for under 16s or via [www.gattoncommunitytheatre.org.uk](http://www.gattoncommunitytheatre.org.uk) Tickets on the door, if available will be £12 and £10. Early booking is advised to avoid disappointment.

## **FOUR CONCERTS!**

The Redhill Sinfonia orchestra is returning to our church for its first concert of the season on Saturday 1st December at 7.45 p.m.. They are playing a delightful programme, The Lark Ascending by Vaughan Williams, Symphony No. 104, (London) by Haydn and Symphony No. 4 (Italian) by Mendelssohn. The soloist for the Vaughan Williams is David Burton, the leader of the orchestra. Tickets cost £9 (adults), £8 (concessions) and £6 (under 16). Family tickets are also available. The tickets include a glass of wine or a soft drink at the interval and are available from Hannah Robertson ( 216115) before the day or on the door.

We have already given news of two interesting concerts on Saturday, 8th

December, at 7.30 p.m. Just after we went to press last month, we heard of a third! This is Carols by Candlelight by the West Heath Occasional Choir, at Gatton Park at 7 p.m. For this tickets are adults £12, children £5. The price includes mulled wine and mince pies.

Cheques with SAE to 'Gatton Trust, Foundation Office, Gatton Park, Reigate, RH2 0TW. Gatton Park is in the grounds of the Royal Alexandra and Albert School, off Rocky Lane, Merstham. 649068. The superb Occasional Choir was formed in 1987 by conductor Penny Walker. The core of sixteen singers, many of whom have demanding careers and young families, travel from as far away as Suffolk and the West Country to sing at these fundraising events, giving their time and talent freely.

For details of the two already mentioned, one in our church by 'Dyscover' and the other by Brockham Choral Society, the Bach B Minor Mass in St Martin's Church, Dorking, please refer to the November *Record*.

## **INTERREGNUM ARRANGEMENTS**

With the imminent departure of our Minister, an Interim Moderator has been appointed and will be Rev Peter Flint of our Dorking church. We will have the opportunity of meeting him in February.

An Arrangements Group has been formed to handle the following:

Baptisms	Angela Bolton
Marriages	Peter Mercer
Funerals	Mavis Proctor
Residential Homes	John Sowton
Schools	Tina Papworth, supported by Pat Denchfield and Angela Bolton
Pulpit Supply (mornings)	Daphne Hamblin, Graham Whybra and Michael Ball
(evenings)	Margaret Samuel
(midweek)	Angela Merritt
Vacancy Committee	to be chaired by Jill Campbell

In addition, Carol Nicholls is attempting to rebuild the church photo album (the last one is about ten years old). Please could you give her a copy of a recent photograph of yourself (about 6 inches x 4 inches for an individual) or a family group (7 x 5); write your name(s) in pencil on the back. Such a collection will be an invaluable resource for any new minister coming to our church.

## **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)

or e-mail: susan@reigateparkchurch.org

or linda@reigateparkchurch.org

**Church Caretaker: Nick Pozzo**

Church House, Park Lane East, Reigate RH2 8BD

Telephone (01737) 244250 e-mail: caretaker@reigateparkchurch.org

## ***THE RECORD***

is the magazine of Reigate Park Church and is normally published on the last Sunday of each month: the next *Record* is due for collection on December 30th.

Contributions should be with the Editor:

***Denis Ward, The Chantry, 49 Park Lane East, Reigate RH2 8HS***

***e-mail: record@reigateparkchurch.org***      ** (01737) 244163**

at least two weeks before publication date.

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**Sunday, December 9th**

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

Peter Mercer, 59 Poynes Road, Horley, Surrey, RH6 8LS

** 01293 733466**

e-mail: peter.mercer@reigateparkchurch.org

## DECEMBER DIARY

- Saturday 1st 4.00pm Carol Singing, Cage Yard, Reigate.
- Sunday** 2nd 10.00am Rev. David Skitt. Reception of new members.  
Holy Communion.  
6.30pm Community Carol Service. Rev. Phil Andrew.
- Tuesday 4th 7.00pm Church Night - Schools Carol Festival.
- Sunday** 9th 10.00am Rev. David Skitt. Baptism of Harrison Darani.  
7.30pm Choral Society 'Christmas Classics'.
- Tuesday 11th 10.30am Women's Guild  
8.00pm Church Night: Moral Issues - Peer Pressure (at the  
Manse.)
- Thursday 13th 12.30pm Men's Fellowship Christmas Lunch at Rowfant.
- Saturday 15th 4.00pm Carol Singing, Woodhatch Park.
- Sunday** 16th 10.00am Children's Nativity Service.  
No evening service.
- Wednesday 19th 12.15pm Rev. David Skitt. Midweek Communion Service.  
6.30pm Christmas Tree Parade Service.  
Baptism of Molly and Amy Talbot.
- Sunday** 23rd 10.00am Rev. David Skitt. Baptism of Thomas and Anna  
Garlick.  
6.30pm Nine Lessons and Carols.
- Monday 24th 4.00pm Christmas Eve Crib Service.  
6.00pm Carol Singing at East Surrey Hospital.  
11.30pm Christmas Eve Communion Service. Rev. David  
Skitt.
- Tuesday 25th 10.00am **Christmas Day** Service. Rev. David Skitt.
- Sunday** 30th 10.00am Holy Communion. Rev. David Skitt.  
Ordination and Induction of Elders.

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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.