

THE RECORD

OF REIGATE PARK CHURCH (UNITED REFORMED)



JANUARY 2008

No 839

REIGATE PARK CHURCH

(UNITED REFORMED)


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GRACE, MERCY AND PEACE

When our first baby was on the way, Audrey took to signing her letters 'Audrey+' and we got into the habit of alluding to it as 'Plus', and did not seriously consider names until Margaret actually arrived. But in the discussions about a name for Margaret we decided that the next one, if a boy, would be

Timothy or, if a girl, Grace. So when we knew that a second was on the way, we called it 'Timothy Grace'. That was all very well, but during this time, one of the church readings began 'To Timothy Grace, Mercy and Peace . . .' That got me a little worried - we hadn't bargained for quadruplets! Grace duly came along, and then a third girl, whom we called Amanda - later shortened to Mandy - and at last came Timothy.

Grace, Mercy and Peace, a lovely collection of words, but what do they mean? This was partly made clear to us at Raymond Burgess' Memorial Service when we heard that with God's Grace we receive what we don't deserve, and then that in His Mercy we don't receive what we do deserve. But what about our mercy to each other?

Stephen Fry in his collection of short newspaper articles, etc., *Paperweight*, makes a most fundamental remark, 'The real divide in Britain is not between rich and poor, between Labour and Conservative, between North and South, but between the merciful and the unmerciful'. He claims that he is not a Christian, but he seems to me to have the root of the matter in him. Jesus said 'Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy'. And not just mercy from God, but mercy from each other. There are too many news stories, too many quiz games, which probe

unscrupulously, and teach us to be unmerciful. In the song 'Who is Sylvia?' we are reminded that 'beauty lives with kindness' So does mercy, and we need more of that kindness.

As we move into the days of 'interregnum' - a most inappropriate word, I think - a minister doesn't 'reign' by any means! - we must remember the grace and mercy that we have received, not only from God and our minister but from our other friends at Reigate Park Church. We must try to keep them going, and pray not only for our elders and each other, but for the minister - no! the two ministers - whom God is preparing to lead us forward when we are ready to be led. May God's peace - beyond all understanding - reign in our hearts and minds, while we wait for His guidance.

With every good wish,

Denis Ward

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. We plan to continue with the book of Acts until Lent begins, led alternately by Ron Talmey and Denis Ward. The programme is:

| | | |
|--------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| January 7th | 'The First Missionaries'. | Acts 12: 24 - 13: 52 |
| January 14th | 'Pushing Forward'. | Acts 14: 1 - 28. |
| January 21st | 'No Extra Burdens'. | Acts 15: 1 - 35. |
| January 28th | 'With Luke to Europe'. | Acts 15: 36 - 16: 40. |
| February 4th | 'A God who is Known'. | Acts 17: 1 - 34. |

Please come and join with us for what is really an exciting series of true adventure stories.

WOMEN'S GUILD

As always it was a real treat to have David Skitt as the speaker at our December meeting. Only this year was tinged with sadness that this would be David's last meeting with us,

David had brought along some of the items he treasures and told us what they meant to him and the memories they evoke. Several members also brought along items associated with Christmas and shared what they meant to them. We thanked David for all that he has done for us and wished him well in his new job.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 8th January in the Park Room at 10.30 a.m. This will be our financial AGM and there will also be a video of the Isle of Man. Programmes for 2008 are now available and can be found on the table in the foyer or from myself or Carol Nicholls. Ladies will be very welcome at any of these meetings.

Liz Bullen

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

THANKS

Mary and Peter Warren would like to express their appreciation to the church family for their support and prayers following Mary's recent surgery, but more especially to you all and the prayer group for your prayers for our grandson Christopher. We are happy to say he is now home after nine weeks in hospital, but must have constant checkups and three months' convalescence before returning to work. Grateful thanks to you all.

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Once again we are indebted to Mrs Smulierite Jinkinson, the owner of Rowfant House, and her staff for providing such an enjoyable gastronomic experience for our Christmas lunch.

Our programme for 2008 promises to be another interesting and fascinating series of talks. We begin on Thursday 10th January when David Tylee, grandson of a former member, George Walton, will be talking to us about his work in the aviation industry.

John Pennell

PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR

(from *CHURCH*, the news letter of Cheadle Hulme URC.)

So far today
I'm doing all right
I have not gossiped,
lost my temper,
been greedy, grumpy,
nasty, selfish
or over-indulgent.

However, I'm
getting out of bed
in a few minutes
and I will need
a lot more help
after that.
Amen

RPC WEB-SITE

After a great deal of work I am pleased to tell members that the church now has a completely redesigned website. The address is the same as before: <http://www.reigateparkchurch.org> and is definitely worth checking out. We went 'on-line' towards the end of November and the site has already received a number of favourable comments. Thanks to everyone involved in its construction: I won't mention any names because I would probably miss someone out and get myself into trouble!

We have introduced a number of new features - in particular, many of the church groups now have their own page to present to the world at large. But we have room for more and if you have so far missed out, then construct a few paragraphs (add pictures where available) to describe what you do, let us know on **admin@reigateparkchurch.org** and we will link you in. Other new features include the quarterly calendar for Sunday worship. The weekly service and notices sheet (the one handed out as you come in on Sunday morning) is normally available on the preceding Thursday or Friday. You will also find back-numbers of the *Record*.

It is important that everybody take 'ownership' of this site and let us know if you spot any errors or if your group's contact person changes. Tell us if anything special is planned: we can help with publicity by adding a page to the site; information will also go to people who have contacts with the local newspapers. Likewise tell us if you have ideas for making the site more useful to our members. The address is the same as above: **admin@reigateparkchurch.org**

This is probably a good place to remind people that, as a facility available with our web-site, we can provide members with an email address of the form 'firstname.secondname@reigateparkchurch.org' or, if you require it, 'churchgroupnameoranythingelseyoulike@reigateparkchurch.org' which will redirect to your home email address: if you have not already taken advantage of this, then send your information to Linda (linda@reigateparkchurch.org) in our office; also let her know if you have changed your home email address.

Peter Whipps, on behalf of the Media Group (and a few others!)

PRAYER CALENDAR

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

| | |
|--------------|---|
| 6th January | for all who give their life for the Christian Ministry. |
| 13th January | St Andrew's Church, Gatton. |
| 20th January | Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (18th - 25th January). |
| 27th January | Holy Trinity Church, Carlton Road, Redhill |

WORSHIP IN THE MONTH OF JANUARY

At 10 a.m. on **Sunday 6th January** our morning service will be conducted by Rev. Ron Talmey, a retired URC minister, whom many of us have come to know as one of our members. The theme is 'The Door of Prayer' and the readings 1 Samuel 1: 9 - 20 and Luke 11: 5 - 13. There will be no evening service.

At 10 a.m. on **Sunday 13th January** our morning service will be led by Jill Campbell. Jill has been one of our serving elders and for a time Church Secretary, but more recently she has been President of Croydon URC District and is now the chairman of our Vacancy Committee - for the second vacancy she has had to cover. At 6.30 p.m. our communion service will be led by Rev. Adrian Skelton, minister of Oxted URC.

At 12.15 p.m. on **Wednesday 16th January** our Midweek Communion Service will be led by Michael Pritchard, the local church leader at Christchurch, Walton-on-the-Hill, one of the other churches in our URC North Downs Cluster.

At 10 a.m. on **Sunday 20th January** the service will be led by 'Frogs' - our own young people with Jane and Ian Buck.

At 6.30 p.m. there will be a united service at **St Mary's**, Chart Lane, Reigate.

At 10 a.m. on **Sunday 27th January** the service will be led by Rev. Janet Sowerbutts, who after being North Thames URC Moderator was responsible for Enmore Road Church, South Norwood.

At the evening service at 6.30 p.m. Denis Ward will discover the Five Gold Rings of Rev. John Joseph, the minister of Redhill URC.

A warm welcome to any or all of these services.

ZIMBABWE PROJECT

We continue to remember and pray for our friends in Zimbabwe, those at the Mission, Caleb and Christine and their family and Monica Dodge whom we tried to help at one time without success. Snippets of news from people with personal contacts confirm how bad the situation is, and correspondence is virtually non-existent, even with Caleb, which makes it hard to imagine how they are coping.

We carry on with this Work Party and will hold the things we make in the hope that one day we can send to the Mission. We still send Scripture Union Junior Church material to Caleb, and will collect used Bible Reading Notes in January to send as well, though I sometimes wonder how he can afford the import tax which has been levied on everything entering the country.

Meantime our sincere thanks for all the 'pennies' you contribute for the postage.

UNICEF MITE NEWS

UNICEF made a special Christmas appeal for funds to provide immunisation for more than 30 million children.

I received a 'thank you' letter for the £400 sent to the Darfur Fund. Unfortunately there does not seem to be real progress in providing settled places for the 1.8 million children in the region - so often it is in tented camps. 70 per cent will have access to safe water provided by hand pumps, water tanks and all will be able to use proper constructed latrines. BUT there is a greater need to provide proper settled environments for their many children who have been moved several times because the camps have been attacked.

Let us hope and pray that people will learn to live together and provide a happy place for the children.

Did you see Mia Farrow, once wife of André Previn, is an ambassador for UNICEF? She has adopted at least 14 children.

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. They are all well worth coming to, and you will be very welcome.

We start the New Year on 22nd January with a talk by Anne Richardson on the spiritual care of people with mental health problems. Then we begin to follow a five-part course 'What is the URC?' studying its NATURE, FAITH and ORDER. This is very relevant at a time of interregnum and could also be of particular interest to anyone considering becoming a church member. The first session on 29th January is 'What is the URC? Part 1: A faithful Church'. Details of the rest of the programme will be given in the February Record.

But please take special note of **26th February** when we will all want to be there for a SPECIAL CHURCH MEETING which will be chaired by our Interim Moderator, Rev. Peter Flint from Dorking URC, so that we can discuss our 'Pastorate Profile' which the Elders are preparing. The final version of this will be the first thing that any prospective minister will see. Draft copies will become available shortly before that Church Meeting, so read the service sheets and listen to the notices to find out when they are ready and how to get to see one. But please also take special note that this special meeting will begin at **7.30 p.m.**

SHORT MATters

Matches are coming thick and fast at present and our first report is the league match at home to Horley Hawks. This match should have been an easy victory and Ron Hollings' rink including Stan Field, Mary Bryant and Wesley Tossell got away to a good start and apart from hiccups on ends 14 and 16 when they had 9 shots against them, they never looked back and won 39 - 14. Brian Dean's rink only won 4 ends with a shot score of 4 at end 13, so they went down badly, 7 - 29. The overall result was a win 46 - 43 with 4 points for and 2 against.

Next match was a friendly away to Banstead where Ron Hollings' rink with Ron Titchener, Mary Bryant and Barbara Piggott managed to keep pace with Banstead for 9 ends but they then pulled away with a result 21 - 11 to Banstead. Wesley Tossell's rink with Brian Dean, Dennis Hills and Carol Nicholls started on the wrong foot and only won 6 ends to lose 41 - 7. That was a defeat 20 - 62.

Our next was a visit to Southwater and both rinks lost, 25 - 14 and 27 - 16, a 52 - 30 overall score without any points.

Our visit to Barns Green was another defeat 56 - 27 and no points. Team selection is proving to be a problem as, for various reasons, players are not available and constant selection is impossible. If we play on Saturdays, Carol Nicholls is not available and a Sunday fixture means Wesley Tossell is not available and they are consistent players. We are also missing Juliana Bouttell due to her heart surgery and Vic Barrow whose wife has had major surgery.

On December 4th we had our Christmas lunch at the Mill House with 17 members and 7 guests, which everybody enjoyed. This was the last time that David Skitt would be with us as our President, and the occasion was marked with the presentation of the Tony Vokes Award with a pair of engraved goblets and a certificate acknowledging his support and encouragement over ten years. This award has been presented only twice before.

Brian Dean (☎ 774208)

'WINTER WONDERS!'

It's Party Time again for all those 'Winter Wonders' whose birthdays are in January and February. The date for your diaries is Thursday January 31st from 4 to 6 p.m. in the Park Room. Those who did not manage to come last year, we hope you will be able to join us this time. Anyone from 0 to 100 years plus, we would like to see you. Please let us know who you are. More later.

Angela Bolton ☎ 248430, Betty Ford ☎ 246438

ECOTIP - TIME TO CELEBRATE!

I am delighted to announce that Reigate Park Church is an Eco-Congregation!

In November two external assessors came to look around our church and meet members of the congregation to evaluate what environmental initiatives we had undertaken at our church. The assessment covered four main areas and involved the preparation of a dossier of evidence to help prove:

1. that we had audited our church's environmental impact.
2. that we had helped the whole congregation to make the link between their Christian faith and environmental concerns.
3. that we had taken practical action in the church and/or church grounds.
4. that we had had a positive impact on and/or worked with our local or wider community.

Some of the ways we 'wowed' the assessors were through Ecotips like this one, that we had consulted with some 30 people from church and undertook an energy audit and then developed an Action Plan. We also hosted Church Night presentations, had involvement in church services, discussed many environmental issues with Junior Church, and ran an Environmental Bible Study course (thanks to David!). More practical initiatives included putting in place (and emptying weekly!) recycling bins, compost bins, water butts, switching to recycled paper, using environmentally friendly cleaning materials, hippo bags in toilet cisterns, systemiser in gents' urinals to control the flow of water, using energy saving light bulbs. If all that isn't enough, we have also been involved with Easter Workshop with a green theme in 2006, teaching at local schools and talking to other churches.

It doesn't stop there however!

The assessors commended the range of work we had undertaken and made some suggestions in the hope that we will be able in the future to:

- take services ourselves, putting together an environmental diary for the church year which could suggest themes for services and to pick up on Car-free Sunday, World Environment Day etc.;
- join Christian Ecology Link;
- look at issues of transport and perhaps develop a church travel plan;
- focus on energy consumption at church, both electricity and heating and switch to green electricity;
- share the work we have done through local newspapers and with other churches, there may even be scope for a local network of churches to be established in partnership with the Borough;

- look at opportunities to engage with the secular world through community-based initiatives, perhaps in partnership with the local council, or through an initiative with a community in the developing world.

Thanks need to go to so many people for helping us get this award; the RPC Ecoteam has worked tirelessly and consists of me, Sare Bassett, Victoria Clifford, Sonia Hayward, Nic Wood, Yvonne Larg and Niamh Carey from WWF. Thanks also must go to the support we received from David Skitt and the Elders, Susan Stanley, Ron Cooke, Nick Pozzo and before him Rosemary Coiley, and to the entire congregation for taking these issues seriously. Watch out for the unveiling of the plaque ceremony coming soon!

As we set ourselves new targets for the coming year, now is a good time to come and join us, our friendly team always welcomes fresh ideas and new perspectives! Our next meeting is on the 16 January, 8 p.m. at Victoria Clifford's, 11 Park Lane, Reigate. Do come along and join us!

Sonia Christie ☎ 270095 or email

EASTER WORKSHOP, 7 - 10 APRIL 2008

The Easter Workshop will run in 2008 as usual. It will take place in the mornings only and any Primary School children can attend. We have already been thinking about it - earlier than usual - and have ideas as to themes. We hope to keep as many people as possible up to date with progress so they can talk about it to anyone who asks them. I will try to keep people informed mainly by email but if you would like paper information please let me know.

We shall be looking for lots of volunteers for all areas - admin., refreshments, organisation, groups, church sessions.

This is an outreach project that has been embraced wholeheartedly by RPC. It contacts many families, from RPC and the community. It involves volunteers from within RPC and from elsewhere. It reaches the young children and their families, the teenage helpers and the older helpers. Please help us to make it just as vibrant and meaningful for everyone. Think about what you can do to help.

For more information and offers of help, please contact me at ☎ 248430 or by email.

Many thanks

Angela Bolton

CRISIS COLLECTION - Packed and dispatched!

We've managed to do it again! We asked for your help and had a wonderful response - masses of really good quality men's clothing - a good quantity of the foods requested - a great pile of warm blankets and towels - and generous cash donations enabling us to send off a cheque for £315 towards the last-minute Open Christmas extras.

Thanks to everyone who contributed, and a special thanks to the sorting and packing team who worked so hard to get everything ready to send off. As usual members of the Women's Guild plus husbands made up the team and this year we had two new recruits, George Orr and Andrew Sangster, who were a great help and we got through the work in double quick time! The team was kept going with teas and coffees shared with us by the Conquest Art Group who were busy painting in the Hall while we were packing in the Church. Thanks also to David Mercer and the loan of the Scout trailer for transporting everything to the special 'drop off' point in Dorking.

The 'monsoon type' rain we all experienced in the few weeks leading up to Christmas was a timely reminder of the dreadful conditions in which the homeless sleep on the streets of London. Let's hope that those who were helped by CRISIS over the Christmas period had a good week, practical help, and have started the New Year knowing that people care about them and try to help them towards a better future.

A copy of the full list of what we sent is on the notice board in the foyer.

Jill Campbell

VELLORE MEDICAL COLLEGE

Dear Friends of Vellore,

In the year 2007 you have donated £508 for which I thank you very much. I hope you have all been keeping your eye on the Mission notice board in the Hall. From time to time I put new reports there - they are too long for me to put in the Record. If you cannot get to the Mission board I will in future have copies with me. Please ask to see them.

My thanks to Mary Perry for collecting money from our choir members.

A Happy New Year to all.

Eileen Charlton

DESIGN THE COVER PAGE

FOR OUR YOUTH AND COMMUNITY MINISTER PROFILE.

The Elders are looking for a Young Person - that's Secondary School age - to design the cover page for our Pastorate Profile for the Youth and Community Minister. We want something that will 'wow' the interested candidate. It will be the first thing that they see.

Remember this person will be working not only with the Youth at RPC but also with the communities of South Park and Woodhatch. You should bear this in mind when planning your design.

Please make the design A5 size on white paper and hand to Angela Bolton or any Elder by January 13th by the very latest.

Also we would like some other contributions from our young people to add to the Pastorate Profile. This may be, for example, your thoughts or your poems about life here at RPC. Please hand these in by Jan 13th too.

For any more information please contact me.

Angela Bolton 📞 248430

THE LANGUAGE OF CHURCH-GOING

AMEN The only part of a prayer that everyone knows.

BULLETIN Your receipt for attending the service.

CHOIR A group of people whose singing allows the rest of the congregation to lip-synch.

HYMN A song of praise usually sung in a key three octaves higher than that of the congregation's range.

JONAH The original 'Jaws' story.

JUSTICE When kids have kids of their own.

PEW A medieval torture device still found in many Anglican and Catholic churches.

RELICS People who have been going to church for so long that they actually know when to kneel, sit and stand.

USHERS The only people in the church who don't know the seating capacity of a pew.

TEN COMMANDMENTS The most important - and oldest - Top Ten List.

from *Horizon*, the news letter of Horsham URC.

LADIES' CHRISTMAS MEAL

This was a great time of eating, meeting and fellowship. We had a record number of ladies of all ages attending and we were really able to talk and find something out about each other that we didn't know before. We all agreed it can be difficult meeting new people on a Sunday morning so we enjoyed this opportunity. As yet we haven't booked our next event but keep an eye out for the adverts in the Record or service leaflet. We usually meet in the summer, when people can opt for a drink or a meal and at Christmas when we do like to have a meal, although some people just join us for a drink.

For more information contact:- Jacki Glasgow, Sonia Christie or Angela Bolton

CRÈCHE ROTA

This is the rota for January. Please remember you are responsible for the session allocated to you. If you are unable to cover your duty, please ensure you have swapped with someone else on the rota. Many thanks!

Sandra Reid

| | | |
|--------------|---------------|---------------|
| 6th January | Lefteri Deda | Claire Harris |
| 13th January | Eleanor Kiy | Judy Fowler |
| 20th January | Karen Best | Gretta Taylor |
| 27th January | Jacki Glasgow | |

RECIPE FOR A HAPPY NEW YEAR

(From the *Messenger* of Pype Hayes URC, Birmingham, but originally from Australia)

Take twelve months. Clean them thoroughly each month into 29 (this year), 30 or 31 different parts, but don't make up the whole batch at once. Prepare it one day at a time out of these ingredients.

Mix well into each day one part each of faith, patience, courage, work, hope, faithfulness, generosity and kindness.

Blend this mixture with a pint of prayer. Season the whole with a dash of good spirits, a sprinkle of fun, a pinch of play and a cupful of good humour.

Pour this batter into a vessel of love and cook thoroughly over radiant joy. When done, serve the day with a smile in the name of your Saviour who fills the New Year with love and joy.

A MINOR INCIDENT IN CATERHAM

The service manager at the garage, the most courteous and helpful of men, had had a long and difficult day. In his tiredness, he suddenly became irritable with an elderly customer and for no reason at all he spoke sharply to her. He regretted it immediately.

Some months later she returned to book a service for her car. Her warm smile immediately reassured him that she had forgiven him. 'How are you?' she asked, her voice full of gentle concern. 'You looked so very tired the last time I was here. I've been praying for you ever since.'

'I think she's a retired missionary' the service manager added when he told me the story, as if that was explanation of her prayers.

A minor incident one afternoon in Caterham, yet one full of encouragement for us.

There is encouragement in the service manager's reaction to his customer's vigil of prayer on his behalf. I do not know whether he goes to church or even if he has a faith. Yet his telling of the story made it clear that he had been greatly warmed by the knowledge that a lady whom he knew only as a customer should care enough about him to pray for him - every day, apparently, for three or four months.

Perhaps we should be less shy than I suspect we are in letting people know that we are praying for them. We do not have to make a great thing of it. There are quiet and unassuming ways of telling them.

There is encouragement too in the retired missionary's response to the service manager's sharp words.

Many customers would have answered back, or written a letter of complaint to the managing director, or withdrawn their business from the garage. This lady, however, understood the reason why the service manager had spoken as he did, so out of character, and had been concerned for his well-being. In her love for him, she remembered him each day in the healing presence of our heavenly Father and took the next opportunity that presented itself to ask how he was.

Can you imagine a more Christ-like way of dealing with the matter than that? What an example she sets us! And how much happier, how much more relaxed, how much healthier the world would be if more of us followed it!

(From *Under the Clock*, the news letter of Caterham URC.)

ALL I NEED TO KNOW ABOUT LIFE, I LEARNED FROM NOAH'S ARK

- Don't miss the boat.
- Remember that we are all in the same boat.
- Plan ahead, it wasn't raining when Noah started building the Ark.
- Stay fit. When you're 600 years old someone may ask you to do something big.
- Don't listen to critics, just get on with the job that needs to be done.
- Build your future on high ground.
- For safety's sake, travel in pairs.
- Speed isn't always an advantage. The snails were on board with the cheetahs.
- When you're stressed, float awhile.
- Remember the Ark was built by amateurs, the Titanic by professionals.
- No matter the storm, when you are with God, there is always a rainbow waiting.

from *Horizon*, the news letter of Horsham URC.

PROBLEMS DOWN UNDER

Extracts from correspondence reportedly received by the Australian Department of Social Security:

In accordance with your instructions, I have given birth to twins in the enclosed envelope.

Mrs Brown has had no clothes for a year and has been regularly visited by the clergy.

Sir, I am sending my marriage certificate, and two children, one of which is a mistake as you will see.

I am glad to say my husband, who was reported missing, is now dead.

I am sending my marriage certificate, and six children. I have seven and one died, which was baptized on half a sheet of paper by the Rev. . . .

The teeth on the top are all right, but the ones on my bottom hurt terribly.

You have changed my little girl into a little boy. Will this make any difference?

Milk is wanted for my baby as the father is unable to supply it.

(From *The Messenger* of Uckfield URC)

RECOVERING FROM DIVORCE AND SEPARATION

What is it?

The Recovering from Divorce and Separation Course is to be run over seven weeks on Monday evenings, from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. by members of St Mary Magdalene Church, Reigate. The course is both practical and supportive, giving any separated or divorced person the opportunity to discuss the challenges they are facing and the tools to deal with these effectively.

Who is it for?

The course is for any person who is separated, or who is currently going through a divorce or is already divorced, either recently or at any time in the past. Based on Christian principles, it is helpful for any person with or without a church background.

What is covered?

- Facing the effects of separation and divorce
- The importance of good communications
- Resolving conflict
- Forgiveness
- Divorce - the legal issues
- Parenting issues
- Moving forward with hope.

When and where is it?

The course will run from Monday 14th Jan to Monday 18th Feb 2008, inclusive. It will be held in a home belonging to one of St Mary's church family.

Contact Liz Barnett ☎ 221100 or email: admin@stmaryreigate.org

St Mary Magdalene Church, Chart Lane, Reigate

REIGATE AND REDHILL CHORAL SOCIETY

Enjoy singing? Potential new members are warmly invited to meet and sing alongside existing members to achieve high standards in a friendly and enjoyable atmosphere. Experience the thrill of taking part in concerts, tours, festivals and recordings, singing a wide range of music with professional instrumentalists and soloists. Come on Tuesday, 15 January to Redhill URC, Shaw's Corner, at 7.45 p.m.

THE REIGATE CHURCH SOCIETY

This society was founded in June 1864 by a group of local Anglican clergy. They met in each other's homes for a 'meal of a simple nature' and to hear members of the group, or others by invitation, 'read a paper' on matters of theological interest. In continuous existence, apart from a break of a few years early in the 20th Century, all the minutes of the meetings are still held, as is a list of all the speakers and the titles of their talks.

Although the rules have been amended a number of times over the years the present object of the Society remains that of its founders - 'To promote the discussion of matters of a theological character, bearing directly or indirectly on the interests of the Church'.

This is done by inviting a speaker to each meeting, and many well-known people in local and national church life have been welcomed to the Society. Listening to them and to the questions and discussions which follow helps members and guests together with their fellowship together, to learn and appreciate more about their faith.

For many years the Society was an Anglican one but others were admitted to associate membership some thirty years ago. Now, membership of the Society is open to members of Christian Churches in the Borough of Reigate and Banstead, and nearby. Except in exceptional circumstances membership is limited to thirty and is by invitation only. Prospective members are proposed and seconded at one meeting and elected at the following meeting. For many years most of the local clergy were members but now our members are all of the laity. It is hoped that some of the local clergy and ministers will join us later.

The Society meets eight times a year - six dinners, formerly at the Cambridge Hotel, Horley (a new venue is under consideration), a Lent Hunger Supper and, in recent years a summer buffet supper at the home of one of our members. Although the current membership is only about half the maximum of thirty, the average attendance is about twenty, including guests. Members include those from several Anglican Churches as well as from Methodist and United Reformed Churches.

The Society welcomes further applications for membership. If you would like to join contact Derek Lyons (☎ 245353) for details or send your name, address and telephone number to Derek K Lyons, 23 London Road, Reigate, RH2 9PY.

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

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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 January 27th.

Contributions should be with the Editor:

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

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at least two weeks before publication date.

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Sunday, January 13th

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 773466

e-mail: peter.mercer@reigateparkchurch.org

JANUARY DIARY

- Sunday** 6th 10.00am Rev. Ron Talmey.
No evening service.
- Tuesday 8th 10.30am Women's Guild. Financial AGM and video.
- Thursday 10th 12.30pm Men's Fellowship. David Tylee.
- Sunday** 13th 10.00am Jill Campbell.
6.30pm Rev. Adrian Skelton, Oxted URC. Holy Communion.
- Wednesday 16th 12.15pm Michael Pritchard. Midweek Communion Service.
- Sunday** 20th 10.00am 'Frogs' led by Jane and Ian Buck.
6.30pm United Service at St. Mary's, Chart Lane, Reigate.
- Tuesday 22nd 8.00pm Church Night. Anne Richardson. Spiritual care of
people with mental health problems.
- Sunday** 27th 10.00am Rev. Janet Sowerbutts.
6.30pm Rev. John Joseph tells Denis Ward about his
'Five Gold Rings'.
- Tuesday 29th 8.00pm Church Night.
'What is the URC? Part 1 - A Faithful Church'.
- Thursday 31st 4.00pm 'Winter Wonders' party. Park Room
-

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.

THE RECORD

OF REIGATE PARK CHURCH (UNITED REFORMED)



JANUARY 2008

No 839

REIGATE PARK CHURCH

(UNITED REFORMED)


Park Lane East, Reigate RH2 8BD

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GRACE, MERCY AND PEACE

When our first baby was on the way, Audrey took to signing her letters 'Audrey+' and we got into the habit of alluding to it as 'Plus', and did not seriously consider names until Margaret actually arrived. But in the discussions about a name for Margaret we decided that the next one, if a boy, would be

Timothy or, if a girl, Grace. So when we knew that a second was on the way, we called it 'Timothy Grace'. That was all very well, but during this time, one of the church readings began 'To Timothy Grace, Mercy and Peace . . .' That got me a little worried - we hadn't bargained for quadruplets! Grace duly came along, and then a third girl, whom we called Amanda - later shortened to Mandy - and at last came Timothy.

Grace, Mercy and Peace, a lovely collection of words, but what do they mean? This was partly made clear to us at Raymond Burgess' Memorial Service when we heard that with God's Grace we receive what we don't deserve, and then that in His Mercy we don't receive what we do deserve. But what about our mercy to each other?

Stephen Fry in his collection of short newspaper articles, etc., *Paperweight*, makes a most fundamental remark, 'The real divide in Britain is not between rich and poor, between Labour and Conservative, between North and South, but between the merciful and the unmerciful'. He claims that he is not a Christian, but he seems to me to have the root of the matter in him. Jesus said 'Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy'. And not just mercy from God, but mercy from each other. There are too many news stories, too many quiz games, which probe

unscrupulously, and teach us to be unmerciful. In the song 'Who is Sylvia?' we are reminded that 'beauty lives with kindness' So does mercy, and we need more of that kindness.

As we move into the days of 'interregnum' - a most inappropriate word, I think - a minister doesn't 'reign' by any means! - we must remember the grace and mercy that we have received, not only from God and our minister but from our other friends at Reigate Park Church. We must try to keep them going, and pray not only for our elders and each other, but for the minister - no! the two ministers - whom God is preparing to lead us forward when we are ready to be led. May God's peace - beyond all understanding - reign in our hearts and minds, while we wait for His guidance.

With every good wish,

Denis Ward

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. We plan to continue with the book of Acts until Lent begins, led alternately by Ron Talmey and Denis Ward. The programme is:

| | | |
|--------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| January 7th | 'The First Missionaries'. | Acts 12: 24 - 13: 52 |
| January 14th | 'Pushing Forward'. | Acts 14: 1 - 28. |
| January 21st | 'No Extra Burdens'. | Acts 15: 1 - 35. |
| January 28th | 'With Luke to Europe'. | Acts 15: 36 - 16: 40. |
| February 4th | 'A God who is Known'. | Acts 17: 1 - 34. |

Please come and join with us for what is really an exciting series of true adventure stories.

WOMEN'S GUILD

As always it was a real treat to have David Skitt as the speaker at our December meeting. Only this year was tinged with sadness that this would be David's last meeting with us,

David had brought along some of the items he treasures and told us what they meant to him and the memories they evoke. Several members also brought along items associated with Christmas and shared what they meant to them. We thanked David for all that he has done for us and wished him well in his new job.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 8th January in the Park Room at 10.30 a.m. This will be our financial AGM and there will also be a video of the Isle of Man. Programmes for 2008 are now available and can be found on the table in the foyer or from myself or Carol Nicholls. Ladies will be very welcome at any of these meetings.

Liz Bullen

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

THANKS

Mary and Peter Warren would like to express their appreciation to the church family for their support and prayers following Mary's recent surgery, but more especially to you all and the prayer group for your prayers for our grandson Christopher. We are happy to say he is now home after nine weeks in hospital, but must have constant checkups and three months' convalescence before returning to work. Grateful thanks to you all.

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Once again we are indebted to Mrs Smulierite Jinkinson, the owner of Rowfant House, and her staff for providing such an enjoyable gastronomic experience for our Christmas lunch.

Our programme for 2008 promises to be another interesting and fascinating series of talks. We begin on Thursday 10th January when David Tylee, grandson of a former member, George Walton, will be talking to us about his work in the aviation industry.

John Pennell

PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR

(from *CHURCH*, the news letter of Cheadle Hulme URC.)

So far today
I'm doing all right
I have not gossiped,
lost my temper,
been greedy, grumpy,
nasty, selfish
or over-indulgent.

However, I'm
getting out of bed
in a few minutes
and I will need
a lot more help
after that.
Amen

RPC WEB-SITE

After a great deal of work I am pleased to tell members that the church now has a completely redesigned website. The address is the same as before: <http://www.reigateparkchurch.org> and is definitely worth checking out. We went 'on-line' towards the end of November and the site has already received a number of favourable comments. Thanks to everyone involved in its construction: I won't mention any names because I would probably miss someone out and get myself into trouble!

We have introduced a number of new features - in particular, many of the church groups now have their own page to present to the world at large. But we have room for more and if you have so far missed out, then construct a few paragraphs (add pictures where available) to describe what you do, let us know on **admin@reigateparkchurch.org** and we will link you in. Other new features include the quarterly calendar for Sunday worship. The weekly service and notices sheet (the one handed out as you come in on Sunday morning) is normally available on the preceding Thursday or Friday. You will also find back-numbers of the *Record*.

It is important that everybody take 'ownership' of this site and let us know if you spot any errors or if your group's contact person changes. Tell us if anything special is planned: we can help with publicity by adding a page to the site; information will also go to people who have contacts with the local newspapers. Likewise tell us if you have ideas for making the site more useful to our members. The address is the same as above: **admin@reigateparkchurch.org**

This is probably a good place to remind people that, as a facility available with our web-site, we can provide members with an email address of the form 'firstname.secondname@reigateparkchurch.org' or, if you require it, 'churchgroupnameoranythingelseyoulike@reigateparkchurch.org' which will redirect to your home email address: if you have not already taken advantage of this, then send your information to Linda (linda@reigateparkchurch.org) in our office; also let her know if you have changed your home email address.

Peter Whipps, on behalf of the Media Group (and a few others!)

PRAYER CALENDAR

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

| | |
|--------------|---|
| 6th January | for all who give their life for the Christian Ministry. |
| 13th January | St Andrew's Church, Gatton. |
| 20th January | Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (18th - 25th January). |
| 27th January | Holy Trinity Church, Carlton Road, Redhill |

WORSHIP IN THE MONTH OF JANUARY

At 10 a.m. on **Sunday 6th January** our morning service will be conducted by Rev. Ron Talmey, a retired URC minister, whom many of us have come to know as one of our members. The theme is 'The Door of Prayer' and the readings 1 Samuel 1: 9 - 20 and Luke 11: 5 - 13. There will be no evening service.

At 10 a.m. on **Sunday 13th January** our morning service will be led by Jill Campbell. Jill has been one of our serving elders and for a time Church Secretary, but more recently she has been President of Croydon URC District and is now the chairman of our Vacancy Committee - for the second vacancy she has had to cover. At 6.30 p.m. our communion service will be led by Rev. Adrian Skelton, minister of Oxted URC.

At 12.15 p.m. on **Wednesday 16th January** our Midweek Communion Service will be led by Michael Pritchard, the local church leader at Christchurch, Walton-on-the-Hill, one of the other churches in our URC North Downs Cluster.

At 10 a.m. on **Sunday 20th January** the service will be led by 'Frogs' - our own young people with Jane and Ian Buck.

At 6.30 p.m. there will be a united service at **St Mary's**, Chart Lane, Reigate.

At 10 a.m. on **Sunday 27th January** the service will be led by Rev. Janet Sowerbutts, who after being North Thames URC Moderator was responsible for Enmore Road Church, South Norwood.

At the evening service at 6.30 p.m. Denis Ward will discover the Five Gold Rings of Rev. John Joseph, the minister of Redhill URC.

A warm welcome to any or all of these services.

ZIMBABWE PROJECT

We continue to remember and pray for our friends in Zimbabwe, those at the Mission, Caleb and Christine and their family and Monica Dodge whom we tried to help at one time without success. Snippets of news from people with personal contacts confirm how bad the situation is, and correspondence is virtually non-existent, even with Caleb, which makes it hard to imagine how they are coping.

We carry on with this Work Party and will hold the things we make in the hope that one day we can send to the Mission. We still send Scripture Union Junior Church material to Caleb, and will collect used Bible Reading Notes in January to send as well, though I sometimes wonder how he can afford the import tax which has been levied on everything entering the country.

Meantime our sincere thanks for all the 'pennies' you contribute for the postage.

Jean Bushby

UNICEF MITE NEWS

UNICEF made a special Christmas appeal for funds to provide immunisation for more than 30 million children.

I received a 'thank you' letter for the £400 sent to the Darfur Fund. Unfortunately there does not seem to be real progress in providing settled places for the 1.8 million children in the region - so often it is in tented camps. 70 per cent will have access to safe water provided by hand pumps, water tanks and all will be able to use proper constructed latrines. BUT there is a greater need to provide proper settled environments for their many children who have been moved several times because the camps have been attacked.

Let us hope and pray that people will learn to live together and provide a happy place for the children.

Did you see Mia Farrow, once wife of André Previn, is an ambassador for UNICEF? She has adopted at least 14 children.

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. They are all well worth coming to, and you will be very welcome.

We start the New Year on 22nd January with a talk by Anne Richardson on the spiritual care of people with mental health problems. Then we begin to follow a five-part course 'What is the URC?' studying its NATURE, FAITH and ORDER. This is very relevant at a time of interregnum and could also be of particular interest to anyone considering becoming a church member. The first session on 29th January is 'What is the URC? Part 1: A faithful Church'. Details of the rest of the programme will be given in the February Record.

But please take special note of **26th February** when we will all want to be there for a **SPECIAL CHURCH MEETING** which will be chaired by our Interim Moderator, Rev. Peter Flint from Dorking URC, so that we can discuss our 'Pastorate Profile' which the Elders are preparing. The final version of this will be the first thing that any prospective minister will see. Draft copies will become available shortly before that Church Meeting, so read the service sheets and listen to the notices to find out when they are ready and how to get to see one. But please also take special note that this special meeting will begin at **7.30 p.m.**

SHORT MATters

Matches are coming thick and fast at present and our first report is the league match at home to Horley Hawks. This match should have been an easy victory and Ron Hollings' rink including Stan Field, Mary Bryant and Wesley Tossell got away to a good start and apart from hiccups on ends 14 and 16 when they had 9 shots against them, they never looked back and won 39 - 14. Brian Dean's rink only won 4 ends with a shot score of 4 at end 13, so they went down badly, 7 - 29. The overall result was a win 46 - 43 with 4 points for and 2 against.

Next match was a friendly away to Banstead where Ron Hollings' rink with Ron Titchener, Mary Bryant and Barbara Piggott managed to keep pace with Banstead for 9 ends but they then pulled away with a result 21 - 11 to Banstead. Wesley Tossell's rink with Brian Dean, Dennis Hills and Carol Nicholls started on the wrong foot and only won 6 ends to lose 41 - 7. That was a defeat 20 - 62.

Our next was a visit to Southwater and both rinks lost, 25 - 14 and 27 - 16, a 52 - 30 overall score without any points.

Our visit to Barns Green was another defeat 56 - 27 and no points. Team selection is proving to be a problem as, for various reasons, players are not available and constant selection is impossible. If we play on Saturdays, Carol Nicholls is not available and a Sunday fixture means Wesley Tossell is not available and they are consistent players. We are also missing Juliana Bouttell due to her heart surgery and Vic Barrow whose wife has had major surgery.

On December 4th we had our Christmas lunch at the Mill House with 17 members and 7 guests, which everybody enjoyed. This was the last time that David Skitt would be with us as our President, and the occasion was marked with the presentation of the Tony Vokes Award with a pair of engraved goblets and a certificate acknowledging his support and encouragement over ten years. This award has been presented only twice before.

Brian Dean (☎ 774208)

'WINTER WONDERS!'

It's Party Time again for all those 'Winter Wonders' whose birthdays are in January and February. The date for your diaries is Thursday January 31st from 4 to 6 p.m. in the Park Room. Those who did not manage to come last year, we hope you will be able to join us this time. Anyone from 0 to 100 years plus, we would like to see you. Please let us know who you are. More later.

Angela Bolton ☎ 248430, Betty Ford ☎ 246438

ECOTIP - TIME TO CELEBRATE!

I am delighted to announce that Reigate Park Church is an Eco-Congregation!

In November two external assessors came to look around our church and meet members of the congregation to evaluate what environmental initiatives we had undertaken at our church. The assessment covered four main areas and involved the preparation of a dossier of evidence to help prove:

1. that we had audited our church's environmental impact.
2. that we had helped the whole congregation to make the link between their Christian faith and environmental concerns.
3. that we had taken practical action in the church and/or church grounds.
4. that we had had a positive impact on and/or worked with our local or wider community.

Some of the ways we 'wowed' the assessors were through Ecotips like this one, that we had consulted with some 30 people from church and undertook an energy audit and then developed an Action Plan. We also hosted Church Night presentations, had involvement in church services, discussed many environmental issues with Junior Church, and ran an Environmental Bible Study course (thanks to David!). More practical initiatives included putting in place (and emptying weekly!) recycling bins, compost bins, water butts, switching to recycled paper, using environmentally friendly cleaning materials, hippo bags in toilet cisterns, systemiser in gents' urinals to control the flow of water, using energy saving light bulbs. If all that isn't enough, we have also been involved with Easter Workshop with a green theme in 2006, teaching at local schools and talking to other churches.

It doesn't stop there however!

The assessors commended the range of work we had undertaken and made some suggestions in the hope that we will be able in the future to:

- take services ourselves, putting together an environmental diary for the church year which could suggest themes for services and to pick up on Car-free Sunday, World Environment Day etc.;
- join Christian Ecology Link;
- look at issues of transport and perhaps develop a church travel plan;
- focus on energy consumption at church, both electricity and heating and switch to green electricity;
- share the work we have done through local newspapers and with other churches, there may even be scope for a local network of churches to be established in partnership with the Borough;

- look at opportunities to engage with the secular world through community-based initiatives, perhaps in partnership with the local council, or through an initiative with a community in the developing world.

Thanks need to go to so many people for helping us get this award; the RPC Ecoteam has worked tirelessly and consists of me, Sare Bassett, Victoria Clifford, Sonia Hayward, Nic Wood, Yvonne Larg and Niamh Carey from WWF. Thanks also must go to the support we received from David Skitt and the Elders, Susan Stanley, Ron Cooke, Nick Pozzo and before him Rosemary Coiley, and to the entire congregation for taking these issues seriously. Watch out for the unveiling of the plaque ceremony coming soon!

As we set ourselves new targets for the coming year, now is a good time to come and join us, our friendly team always welcomes fresh ideas and new perspectives! Our next meeting is on the 16 January, 8 p.m. at Victoria Clifford's, 11 Park Lane, Reigate. Do come along and join us!

Sonia Christie ☎ 270095 or email

EASTER WORKSHOP, 7 - 10 APRIL 2008

The Easter Workshop will run in 2008 as usual. It will take place in the mornings only and any Primary School children can attend. We have already been thinking about it - earlier than usual - and have ideas as to themes. We hope to keep as many people as possible up to date with progress so they can talk about it to anyone who asks them. I will try to keep people informed mainly by email but if you would like paper information please let me know.

We shall be looking for lots of volunteers for all areas - admin., refreshments, organisation, groups, church sessions.

This is an outreach project that has been embraced wholeheartedly by RPC. It contacts many families, from RPC and the community. It involves volunteers from within RPC and from elsewhere. It reaches the young children and their families, the teenage helpers and the older helpers. Please help us to make it just as vibrant and meaningful for everyone. Think about what you can do to help.

For more information and offers of help, please contact me at ☎ 248430 or by email.

Many thanks

Angela Bolton

CRISIS COLLECTION - Packed and dispatched!

We've managed to do it again! We asked for your help and had a wonderful response - masses of really good quality men's clothing - a good quantity of the foods requested - a great pile of warm blankets and towels - and generous cash donations enabling us to send off a cheque for £315 towards the last-minute Open Christmas extras.

Thanks to everyone who contributed, and a special thanks to the sorting and packing team who worked so hard to get everything ready to send off. As usual members of the Women's Guild plus husbands made up the team and this year we had two new recruits, George Orr and Andrew Sangster, who were a great help and we got through the work in double quick time! The team was kept going with teas and coffees shared with us by the Conquest Art Group who were busy painting in the Hall while we were packing in the Church. Thanks also to David Mercer and the loan of the Scout trailer for transporting everything to the special 'drop off' point in Dorking.

The 'monsoon type' rain we all experienced in the few weeks leading up to Christmas was a timely reminder of the dreadful conditions in which the homeless sleep on the streets of London. Let's hope that those who were helped by CRISIS over the Christmas period had a good week, practical help, and have started the New Year knowing that people care about them and try to help them towards a better future.

A copy of the full list of what we sent is on the notice board in the foyer.

Jill Campbell

VELLORE MEDICAL COLLEGE

Dear Friends of Vellore,

In the year 2007 you have donated £508 for which I thank you very much. I hope you have all been keeping your eye on the Mission notice board in the Hall. From time to time I put new reports there - they are too long for me to put in the Record. If you cannot get to the Mission board I will in future have copies with me. Please ask to see them.

My thanks to Mary Perry for collecting money from our choir members.

A Happy New Year to all.

Eileen Charlton

DESIGN THE COVER PAGE

FOR OUR YOUTH AND COMMUNITY MINISTER PROFILE.

The Elders are looking for a Young Person - that's Secondary School age - to design the cover page for our Pastorate Profile for the Youth and Community Minister. We want something that will 'wow' the interested candidate. It will be the first thing that they see.

Remember this person will be working not only with the Youth at RPC but also with the communities of South Park and Woodhatch. You should bear this in mind when planning your design.

Please make the design A5 size on white paper and hand to Angela Bolton or any Elder by January 13th by the very latest.

Also we would like some other contributions from our young people to add to the Pastorate Profile. This may be, for example, your thoughts or your poems about life here at RPC. Please hand these in by Jan 13th too.

For any more information please contact me.

Angela Bolton 📞 248430

THE LANGUAGE OF CHURCH-GOING

AMEN The only part of a prayer that everyone knows.

BULLETIN Your receipt for attending the service.

CHOIR A group of people whose singing allows the rest of the congregation to lip-synch.

HYMN A song of praise usually sung in a key three octaves higher than that of the congregation's range.

JONAH The original 'Jaws' story.

JUSTICE When kids have kids of their own.

PEW A medieval torture device still found in many Anglican and Catholic churches.

RELICS People who have been going to church for so long that they actually know when to kneel, sit and stand.

USHERS The only people in the church who don't know the seating capacity of a pew.

TEN COMMANDMENTS The most important - and oldest - Top Ten List.

from *Horizon*, the news letter of Horsham URC.

LADIES' CHRISTMAS MEAL

This was a great time of eating, meeting and fellowship. We had a record number of ladies of all ages attending and we were really able to talk and find something out about each other that we didn't know before. We all agreed it can be difficult meeting new people on a Sunday morning so we enjoyed this opportunity. As yet we haven't booked our next event but keep an eye out for the adverts in the Record or service leaflet. We usually meet in the summer, when people can opt for a drink or a meal and at Christmas when we do like to have a meal, although some people just join us for a drink.

For more information contact:- Jacki Glasgow, Sonia Christie or Angela Bolton

CRÈCHE ROTA

This is the rota for January. Please remember you are responsible for the session allocated to you. If you are unable to cover your duty, please ensure you have swapped with someone else on the rota. Many thanks!

Sandra Reid

| | | |
|--------------|---------------|---------------|
| 6th January | Lefteri Deda | Claire Harris |
| 13th January | Eleanor Kiy | Judy Fowler |
| 20th January | Karen Best | Gretta Taylor |
| 27th January | Jacki Glasgow | |

RECIPE FOR A HAPPY NEW YEAR

(From the *Messenger* of Pype Hayes URC, Birmingham, but originally from Australia)

Take twelve months. Clean them thoroughly each month into 29 (this year), 30 or 31 different parts, but don't make up the whole batch at once. Prepare it one day at a time out of these ingredients.

Mix well into each day one part each of faith, patience, courage, work, hope, faithfulness, generosity and kindness.

Blend this mixture with a pint of prayer. Season the whole with a dash of good spirits, a sprinkle of fun, a pinch of play and a cupful of good humour.

Pour this batter into a vessel of love and cook thoroughly over radiant joy. When done, serve the day with a smile in the name of your Saviour who fills the New Year with love and joy.

A MINOR INCIDENT IN CATERHAM

The service manager at the garage, the most courteous and helpful of men, had had a long and difficult day. In his tiredness, he suddenly became irritable with an elderly customer and for no reason at all he spoke sharply to her. He regretted it immediately.

Some months later she returned to book a service for her car. Her warm smile immediately reassured him that she had forgiven him. 'How are you?' she asked, her voice full of gentle concern. 'You looked so very tired the last time I was here. I've been praying for you ever since.'

'I think she's a retired missionary' the service manager added when he told me the story, as if that was explanation of her prayers.

A minor incident one afternoon in Caterham, yet one full of encouragement for us.

There is encouragement in the service manager's reaction to his customer's vigil of prayer on his behalf. I do not know whether he goes to church or even if he has a faith. Yet his telling of the story made it clear that he had been greatly warmed by the knowledge that a lady whom he knew only as a customer should care enough about him to pray for him - every day, apparently, for three or four months.

Perhaps we should be less shy than I suspect we are in letting people know that we are praying for them. We do not have to make a great thing of it. There are quiet and unassuming ways of telling them.

There is encouragement too in the retired missionary's response to the service manager's sharp words.

Many customers would have answered back, or written a letter of complaint to the managing director, or withdrawn their business from the garage. This lady, however, understood the reason why the service manager had spoken as he did, so out of character, and had been concerned for his well-being. In her love for him, she remembered him each day in the healing presence of our heavenly Father and took the next opportunity that presented itself to ask how he was.

Can you imagine a more Christ-like way of dealing with the matter than that? What an example she sets us! And how much happier, how much more relaxed, how much healthier the world would be if more of us followed it!

(From *Under the Clock*, the news letter of Caterham URC.)

ALL I NEED TO KNOW ABOUT LIFE, I LEARNED FROM NOAH'S ARK

- Don't miss the boat.
- Remember that we are all in the same boat.
- Plan ahead, it wasn't raining when Noah started building the Ark.
- Stay fit. When you're 600 years old someone may ask you to do something big.
- Don't listen to critics, just get on with the job that needs to be done.
- Build your future on high ground.
- For safety's sake, travel in pairs.
- Speed isn't always an advantage. The snails were on board with the cheetahs.
- When you're stressed, float awhile.
- Remember the Ark was built by amateurs, the Titanic by professionals.
- No matter the storm, when you are with God, there is always a rainbow waiting.

from *Horizon*, the news letter of Horsham URC.

PROBLEMS DOWN UNDER

Extracts from correspondence reportedly received by the Australian Department of Social Security:

In accordance with your instructions, I have given birth to twins in the enclosed envelope.

Mrs Brown has had no clothes for a year and has been regularly visited by the clergy.

Sir, I am sending my marriage certificate, and two children, one of which is a mistake as you will see.

I am glad to say my husband, who was reported missing, is now dead.

I am sending my marriage certificate, and six children. I have seven and one died, which was baptized on half a sheet of paper by the Rev. . . .

The teeth on the top are all right, but the ones on my bottom hurt terribly.

You have changed my little girl into a little boy. Will this make any difference?

Milk is wanted for my baby as the father is unable to supply it.

(From *The Messenger* of Uckfield URC)

RECOVERING FROM DIVORCE AND SEPARATION

What is it?

The Recovering from Divorce and Separation Course is to be run over seven weeks on Monday evenings, from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. by members of St Mary Magdalene Church, Reigate. The course is both practical and supportive, giving any separated or divorced person the opportunity to discuss the challenges they are facing and the tools to deal with these effectively.

Who is it for?

The course is for any person who is separated, or who is currently going through a divorce or is already divorced, either recently or at any time in the past. Based on Christian principles, it is helpful for any person with or without a church background.

What is covered?

- Facing the effects of separation and divorce
- The importance of good communications
- Resolving conflict
- Forgiveness
- Divorce - the legal issues
- Parenting issues
- Moving forward with hope.

When and where is it?

The course will run from Monday 14th Jan to Monday 18th Feb 2008, inclusive. It will be held in a home belonging to one of St Mary's church family.

Contact Liz Barnett ☎ 221100 or email: admin@stmaryreigate.org

St Mary Magdalene Church, Chart Lane, Reigate

REIGATE AND REDHILL CHORAL SOCIETY

Enjoy singing? Potential new members are warmly invited to meet and sing alongside existing members to achieve high standards in a friendly and enjoyable atmosphere. Experience the thrill of taking part in concerts, tours, festivals and recordings, singing a wide range of music with professional instrumentalists and soloists. Come on Tuesday, 15 January to Redhill URC, Shaw's Corner, at 7.45 p.m.

THE REIGATE CHURCH SOCIETY

This society was founded in June 1864 by a group of local Anglican clergy. They met in each other's homes for a 'meal of a simple nature' and to hear members of the group, or others by invitation, 'read a paper' on matters of theological interest. In continuous existence, apart from a break of a few years early in the 20th Century, all the minutes of the meetings are still held, as is a list of all the speakers and the titles of their talks.

Although the rules have been amended a number of times over the years the present object of the Society remains that of its founders - 'To promote the discussion of matters of a theological character, bearing directly or indirectly on the interests of the Church'.

This is done by inviting a speaker to each meeting, and many well-known people in local and national church life have been welcomed to the Society. Listening to them and to the questions and discussions which follow helps members and guests together with their fellowship together, to learn and appreciate more about their faith.

For many years the Society was an Anglican one but others were admitted to associate membership some thirty years ago. Now, membership of the Society is open to members of Christian Churches in the Borough of Reigate and Banstead, and nearby. Except in exceptional circumstances membership is limited to thirty and is by invitation only. Prospective members are proposed and seconded at one meeting and elected at the following meeting. For many years most of the local clergy were members but now our members are all of the laity. It is hoped that some of the local clergy and ministers will join us later.

The Society meets eight times a year - six dinners, formerly at the Cambridge Hotel, Horley (a new venue is under consideration), a Lent Hunger Supper and, in recent years a summer buffet supper at the home of one of our members. Although the current membership is only about half the maximum of thirty, the average attendance is about twenty, including guests. Members include those from several Anglican Churches as well as from Methodist and United Reformed Churches.

The Society welcomes further applications for membership. If you would like to join contact Derek Lyons (☎ 245353) for details or send your name, address and telephone number to Derek K Lyons, 23 London Road, Reigate, RH2 9PY.

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 January 27th.

Contributions should be with the Editor:

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

at least two weeks before publication date.

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Sunday, January 13th

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 773466

e-mail: peter.mercer@reigateparkchurch.org

JANUARY DIARY

- Sunday** 6th 10.00am Rev. Ron Talmey.
No evening service.
- Tuesday 8th 10.30am Women's Guild. Financial AGM and video.
- Thursday 10th 12.30pm Men's Fellowship. David Tylee.
- Sunday** 13th 10.00am Jill Campbell.
6.30pm Rev. Adrian Skelton, Oxted URC. Holy Communion.
- Wednesday 16th 12.15pm Michael Pritchard. Midweek Communion Service.
- Sunday** 20th 10.00am 'Frogs' led by Jane and Ian Buck.
6.30pm United Service at St. Mary's, Chart Lane, Reigate.
- Tuesday 22nd 8.00pm Church Night. Anne Richardson. Spiritual care of
people with mental health problems.
- Sunday** 27th 10.00am Rev. Janet Sowerbutts.
6.30pm Rev. John Joseph tells Denis Ward about his
'Five Gold Rings'.
- Tuesday 29th 8.00pm Church Night.
'What is the URC? Part 1 - A Faithful Church'.
- Thursday 31st 4.00pm 'Winter Wonders' party. Park Room
-

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.