

THE RECORD

OF REIGATE PARK CHURCH (UNITED REFORMED)



FEBRUARY 2008

No 840

REIGATE PARK CHURCH

(UNITED REFORMED)


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While our church is seeking a Resident Minister please inform a member of the Pastoral Committee if you hear of cases of need

Mavis Proctor (778430), Michael Ball (244224),

Liz Bullen (248421), Pat Denchfield (761275),

Brian Hoad (243720), Carol Nicholls (240372)



A few years ago, while walking in Cheshire, I popped into a small village church (as one does) to escape the weather for a bit. There was nothing very special or unusual in terms of architecture although I suppose bits of the church probably dated back to the 14th century or earlier - most country churches have medieval foundations.

What struck my eye, in particular, was a more recent addition to the church, a memorial to those of the village who had died in the Great War. There were some 50 or 60 names mentioned which, in itself, seemed a large number for such a small community. However what hit home was the fact that about half of the names mentioned bore just three surnames: very probable, I thought, that there were brothers and cousins among those recorded. On leaving the church, I saw those same surnames recorded on the burial stones alongside the path and I began to try to imagine these families learning of the death of their sons, husbands, or fathers and the sheer horror in a close community as the news came through. Maybe these casualties were part of a 'Pals' battalion decimated in a single day. I didn't take any notes so I can't check.

The new Armed Forces memorial at Alrewas, near Lichfield, records some 16,000 names of other, more recent, deaths of members of the British Armed Forces, since 1945. The information about this memorial includes the chilling note that there is space for a further 15,000 names to be added in the future. Indeed, 'candidates' are currently being added on an almost daily basis.

Another place, another memorial, this time in the Auckland Museum, in

New Zealand; on the top floor of this building is a display showing the involvement of the NZ armed forces since the start of colonial times. On the walls of a large hall are a number of marble panels on which are inscribed the names of people from the Auckland District who have died in war, many of them far from home. Here too there is extra space - a number of empty panels are included. Empty, that is, apart from an inscription at the bottom which simply says 'May these panels never be filled'. I think we can all say 'amen' to that!

Much of the above was originally planned for the November *Record* but I am now able to bring our tour of memorials back home. As part of a recent 'tidy up' in our own church a number of items were recovered from storage, including war memorials from the High Street church. My recollection is that we had hoped to find a permanent position for these in our new church and maybe this can still be achieved. They would need to be cleaned up and repaired but a place in the memorial corridor would seem to be right and proper - joined with the stained-glass windows, that other remembrance to those from our community who had their lives so tragically cut short some 90 years ago.

Peter Whipps

WORDS

David meant to read this out at his last service but was too emotional to do so.

When we come to the end
Maybe we find it is only
The Beginning again,
Our Beginning
Created by Love.
And that here is
A New Beginning
Where we relate
To those we love
Still
But in a new way
For the Light of Love
We shared
Could never be extinguished
Only passed on.

David Skitt, 30.12.07

A LETTER FROM DAVID

How many letters would I have to write to express my feelings now as I sit back on Sunday evening 30th December 2007 and reflect on the generosity and kindness of all at Reigate Park Church?

The friendship of you all means so much to us both and we pray that God will bless you richly in all the years to come.

Thank you so much for all the gifts, the enormous cheque, and the incredibly kind words. It was all so overwhelming.

I have been given by God a true privilege to be your minister and Alison and all the family have felt deeply valued.

May the Lord watch over us all,

Lots of love in Christ

Alison and David

THANKS

Anne Sutton wishes to thank the church family for all their love and prayers, especially while she was in hospital for six weeks:

I felt the love of God around me, and a real joy when I saw faces I knew coming in to visit me. It really was an experience to see how the elderly were helped at Caterham Dene Hospital, some of them so lonely, not knowing what the future held. I realise how fortunate I am to belong to such a caring church and to have so many friends.

Merle Nadal writes:

My sincere thanks to the church family for the cards, good wishes and prayers that supported me following my recent operation. They cheered and encouraged me greatly and considerably aided my recovery. I am truly grateful.

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. After that there will be another of the York courses, this time on the Lord's Prayer, introduced by Sonia Christie and Angela Bolton. Please come and join with us for our new series. The programme is:

February 4th	'A God who is Known'. Acts 17: 1 - 34.
February 11th	Introductory session to course on the Lord's Prayer
February 18th	No meeting (half-term)
February 25th	'Our Father'
March 3rd	'Thy will be done'
March 10th	'Our daily bread'
March 17th	'As we forgive'
March 24th	No meeting (Easter Monday)
March 31st	'In heaven'

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

You don't have to be as mad as a March Hare - just have a birthday in March and join us for a party on March 19th, 3 - 5 p.m. in the Park Room. RSVP to Barbara Wing, ☎ 223831.

WORSHIP IN THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY

At 10 a.m. on **Sunday 3rd February** our morning service will be conducted by Rev. Peter Flint, the minister of Dorking URC, who is our Interim Moderator. There is no evening service.

At 10 a.m. on **Sunday 10th February** (World Mission Sunday) our morning service will be led by Sandra Ackroyd, who is the Urban Churches Support Worker for Thames North and Southern Provinces.

At 6.30 p.m. our communion service will be led by Rev. David Marshall-Jones, OBE, a scout leader and Community Minister at Caterham URC.

At 10 a.m. on **Sunday 17th February** the Family and Parade service will be led by Graham Whybra.

At 3 p.m. Rev. John Joseph will conduct a service in our church commissioning Sue Knight as a Nationally Recognised Lay Preacher. All are welcome to this service, and we hope to have visitors from some of the other churches where Sue has preached.

At 12.15 p.m. on **Wednesday 20th February** Denis Ward will lead our Midweek Communion Service.

At 10 a.m. on **Sunday 24th February** the service will be led by Rev. Charles Meachin, formerly CCEW Secretary for Stewardship and Supplementary Ministries and then the minister of St Paul's URC, South Croydon but now retired.

The evening service at 6.30 p.m. will be led by four of our 'Leading Worship' group - Carol Nicholls, Rosemary Tames, Tina Papworth and Betty Ford.

A warm welcome to any or all of these services.

EASTER WORKSHOP, 7 - 10 APRIL 2008

Please note these dates in your diaries. Work is seriously under way now to ensure this outreach event will be ready. As most of you already know, it is four fun-filled mornings for children of Primary School age. By the time you read this article I will have held another meeting but at this stage of writing we still intend running it in the same format as in previous years. Of course we will need help in many areas and I hope as many of you as possible will come and ask what you can offer. Please give this some serious thought.

For more details please contact Angela Bolton on ☎ 248430 or by email.

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Our speaker at the meeting on 10th January was David Brown, who told us about two of his activities in retirement. He spoke briefly about East Surrey Community Mediation, a service which he helped to set up. Mediation can help in neighbour disputes, boundary disagreements, community conflicts, difficulties within families and those involving schools. The service is independent, totally confidential, and free to all residents of Reigate and Banstead Borough and Tandridge District. Mediators are impartial, they will not take sides, and their help means that often disagreements can be sorted out quickly without the trouble, expense and delay involved in going to court. It is clearly an extremely valuable service.

The longer part of David's talk concerned the friends of East Surrey Hospital. I expect many *Record* readers will have enjoyed a coffee or a snack at one of the two shops manned and run by the Friends' volunteers. An amazing £130,000 a year is generated there, and used to buy new and replacement medical equipment and other items which make patients' visits to the hospital and time spent as in-patients more pleasant (or less unpleasant) than they would be otherwise. All applications for grants from the Friends are strictly assessed, with particular care to ensure that the maintenance and running costs of any medical item will be forthcoming from the Trust. The work of the Friends is wonderfully worthwhile and some volunteers have been doing it for many years. Two projects David mentioned were a donation of £375,000 for a new CT scanner, and grants to the 34th Reigate (Meadvale) Explorers and Scouts who work tirelessly in the courtyard gardens of the hospital and maintain the tubs and shrubs at both entrances throughout the year. There are numerous others.

David closed with an appeal to anyone who could offer a few hours a week to become a volunteer, or would like to join the Friends. He can be reached on 0797 533052, or ☎ 246816, or by email - digbywarren@clara.co.uk I hope there will be some responders from our number.

Our chairman Ron Cooke reminded the meeting of the AGM in March and in particular warned that all the members of the present committee firmly intend to resign at that time. Successors are vitally needed if the Fellowship is not to go out of existence. The three ladies, Eileen Charlton, Mary Perry and Anne Sowton provided and served a superb lunch and our heartiest thanks go to them.

The next meeting will be on St Valentine's Day, February 14th, when Peter Phippen OBE, Dip. Arch., RIBA will be giving a presentation about the life and loves of Frank Lloyd Wright, one of America's most eminent and charismatic architects.

John Sowton

DAVID'S LEAVING SONG

When I asked Ed Butler and David Harnett to write a 'poem, song or limerick' for David and Alison Skitt's Farewell Lunch on 30 December, they agreed without hesitation! I would like to thank them very much for the wonderful words and music they created (not to mention the great double-act on stage!)

Sarah Denchfield

For those who weren't there on the day, or who would like to take another look at the words, here they are:-

There once was a Reverend whose name was David Skitt
 Who came along to Reigate Park and was an instant hit
 He tried to make us laugh in Church with all the jokes he told
 And taught us how to praise our God whether we're young or old
 And now it's time to say goodbye
 We're all going to miss him (especially the pie shop!)

Goodbye David you're the man
 come and see us quick as you can
 goodbye David come back soon
 this is David's leaving tune.

David, part of you will be in Reigate Park URC forever
 A week ago he gave a talk about a Christmas tree
 Then he took a seat and watched the kids' Nativity
 Whenever we were ill he'd come and see us on the mend
 and he was always there for you when you needed a friend
 And now it's time for him to leave
 He's still a Blackpool fan (but nobody's perfect!)

Goodbye David, you're the man
 come and see us soon as quick as you can
 goodbye David come back soon
 This is David's leaving tune

David, part of you will be in Reigate Park URC forever
 He has to work quite hard to keep the Elders all in line
 for anything important he would always make the time
 and even if it wasn't big he would still be there
 just to show the members how much he really cared.
 And now it's time for us to say
 Thank you David for everything!

ANOTHER SONG FOR DAVID

Marnie Simmons, Ted Howick's sister-in-law, lives in St Alban's. She writes that although they were happy to be at our church for the midnight service, they had to miss David's farewell. 'I was moved to put pen to paper which won't win any prizes but I wonder whether you might care to put it in the *Record*.'

Church needn't be boring
And set you off snoring,
There's a lion a'roaring
Hear David Skitt.

He is known for his grit
But especially his wit -
You'll laugh when you sit
Through the sermons of David.

When Blackpool team win
You'll see David grin.
Football's no sin
Says David.

He's not set to tease us
Or even to please us -
He will just show us Jesus
That's David Skitt.

When you've lost someone dear
At your door he'll appear
And with you shed a tear
Will David.

Your time to move away
A time for us to pray
God bless you always
Dear David.

It won't be the same
But our loss and our pain
Will be others' gain
Farewell David.

UNICEF MITE NEWS

At the moment of writing it seems as though Kenya is the next trouble centre with families decimated and homes non-existent. Once again help will be required and requested.

I had the pleasure of speaking to Edward Carwardine on Christmas Day. He was in America with Diane, his wife, having a proper (anyhow, American!) Christmas after many years. He says he is kept busy in Khartoum and Diane spends a great deal of time in Darfur (she works for UNICEF also).

A big 'thank you' to all those who contributed money to UNICEF in the Christmas period either in cash or by 'Inspired Gifts'. I hope some of you have been able to train your relatives - I have! Happy New Year to you all.

Hazel Arscott

JUNIOR CHURCH

We hope everyone enjoyed the Nativity play as much as those of us who put it together. Thank you to everyone who was involved, but especially to Kathy Tillison for producing it, to Jane Patrick and Anne Boyd for organising the music and to Rowena Clayton for making the costumes for the JAM tableau. A big thank you also to the Junior Church team who ensured the smooth running of the day before, making stars, angels and crowns and creating a really special, happy atmosphere.

We should also like to thank the very kind people who offered to look after the children on 23rd and 30th December, so that the leaders and helpers could be in the services.

On 18th December 14 of us had an informal supper in the Park Room, with the Christmas tree lights providing a special atmosphere, and it was a good opportunity to relax without any lists or rotas in sight!

After many years of working with the younger end of our Junior Church Charlotte Yardley-Rees has decided it is time to stop, and we do appreciate her dedication. So many children have benefited from her great ideas. Rowena Clayton is kindly taking on her role in JAM. Liz Simpson has also decided to take a break from helping in Harmony, and we are grateful to her for the help she has given them (and previously Vines). Francesca Page has kindly agreed to re-join the Junior Church team after a year's break and take Liz's place in Harmony.

There will be coffee, juice and biscuits for new families after the service on Sunday 10th February, downstairs in Room 5.

The Spring Term newsletter will be out soon; thank you to all families who have supplied us with an e-mail address so that we no longer need to print lots of paper copies. We wish all Junior Church families a very Happy New Year, and please do get in touch if you have any ideas or comments.

Pat Denchfield and Angela Bolton

PRAYER CALENDAR

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

3rd February *Merstham Baptist Church, Weldon Way*

10th February *St Mary the Virgin Parish Church, Buckland.*

17th February *St Mary Magdalene Church, Chart Lane, Reigate.*

24th February *The Contact Centre at Reigate Park Church.*

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 are following a five-part course 'What is the URC?' studying its NATURE, FAITH and ORDER. This is very relevant at a time of 'vacancy' and could also be of particular interest to anyone considering becoming a church member. The details are as follows:-

- 5th February. 'What is the URC?' Part 1: 'A faithful Church'.
 12th February. 'What is the URC?' Part 2: 'A church based on the Bible'.
 19th February. 'What is the URC?' Part 3: 'Part of one great Church'.
 4th March. 'What is the URC?' Part 4: 'A church that affirms freedom'.
 11th March. 'What is the URC?' Part 5: 'A church that works for unity'.

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.

BOOK CLUB

Our next meeting is on Monday, 11th February at 8 p.m. at 22 Hardwick Road, Meadvale (☎ 243277). The book is *Black Narcissus*, by Rumer Godden.

Jane Dotzec

SHORT MATters

The Club has now entered the second half of the 2007/8 season with four league matches to be played. The report of the first match away to Mannings Heath will have to be in the March *Record*. Health reasons are still preventing the Club from being able to select our strongest team.

Health is also another reason for finding a new Treasurer. Stan Field has performed well over the last two years despite his failing eyesight. Our Secretary is still recovering from heart surgery, but we are hoping she will soon be with us regularly again.

The Club has applied for a grant from Awards for All, a part of the Lottery, to enable us to buy an Electrowind mat handling equipment, which will lay and rewind the mats without straining our ageing members. It can lay or rewind a mat in 45 seconds, so if we are unsuccessful with our application, it is necessary to find other means to purchase this expensive machine.

The Club must also find a way to recruit a few more members as each year we are getting older and need new younger blood to strengthen our team. The Club holds regular sessions on Monday and Tuesday afternoons from 2 p.m., matches are played mainly at the weekends and some Tuesdays.

Brian Dean (☎ 774208)

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Friday March 7th 2008

10.30 a.m.	Redhill Methodist Church
2.00 p.m.	St Joseph's Catholic Church, Redhill
7.30 p.m.	Society of Friends, Reigate

This year the theme for the Women's World Day of Prayer is devised by the Christian women of Guyana and the theme is 'God's Wisdom Provides New Understanding'.

Guyana is a small country situated on the Atlantic coast of South America and is between Venezuela and Surinam with Brazil being behind the country. Guyana is the land where Sir Walter Raleigh searched for El Dorado and where Sir Arthur Conan Doyle was inspired to write *The Lost World*.

A relatively young nation, it boasts a multicultural society diverse in history, race, culture and religion but is the most sparsely populated country in the region. It is a land of fabulous fauna, of many waters, and exotic flora.

Although called the Women's World Day of Prayer, because women devise the service, it is open to all. Please do come along and support one of the services.

Mary Warren

OUT OF THE MOUTHS OF BABES . . .

A mother was preparing pancakes for her two sons - Kevin aged 5 and Ryan aged 4. The boys began to argue over who would get the first pancake. Their mother saw the opportunity for a moral lesson. 'If Jesus were sitting here He would say "Let my brother have the first pancake, I can wait"'. Kevin turned to his younger brother and said 'Ryan, you can be Jesus'.

(from *Horizon*, the newsletter of Horsham URC),

ECOTIP

One of the Ecoteam's aims is to shout a little louder to the 'powers that be' about eco issues that concern us. Why not join in with our lobbying this month?

I have mentioned Tetra Pak recycling to you before. Tetra paks are food and drink cartons that are made from 7 layers of polyethylene, paperboard and aluminium foil. Most of the local authorities that surround our borough have linked up with Tetra Pak and ACE UK (Alliance for beverage Cartons and the Environment UK) to collect cartons either through recycling banks (Mole Valley, Epsom and Ewell, Tandridge) or even kerbside collection (Mid Sussex). Sadly, Reigate and Banstead does not yet recycle Tetra Paks, although we can drive to other borough's recycling banks at Gatwick Tescos in Hookwood, Grange Meadow playing field, Bletchingley or Reigate Road car park, Dorking, but only if you are going that way as I don't want to encourage you to increase your carbon emissions in the process! We can all play our part in persuading Reigate and Banstead Borough Council to recycle Tetra Paks too. Please take just 10 minutes to copy the following pro-forma and send it to Reigate and Banstead Borough Council and also copy it to our MP Crispin Blunt You can also email me on the address below and I will send you a copy to paste in to your own document.

To: Reigate and Banstead Borough Council, Director of Services to the Community, Town Hall, Castlefield Road, Reigate, RH2 0SH (or email customer.services@reigate-banstead.gov.uk) and copied to MP Crispin Blunt (House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA or email crispinbluntmp@parliament.uk)

Dear Sir,

I am writing to ask you to start recycling Tetra Paks. This facility is available in most of the surrounding boroughs (Epsom and Ewell, Mole Valley, Tandridge and Mid-Sussex). They have the support of Tetra Pak and the carton industry under ACE UK (Alliance for Beverage Cartons and the Environment UK) who have created a £1.2 million National Recycling Fund, which has been invested in an array of activities to increase the availability of carton recycling across the country.

Recycling Tetra Paks has many advantages: it saves resources; reduces landfill and it will reduce materials in the general waste bin. Other boroughs have found the experience extremely positive, finding it revenue neutral and increasing participation in overall recycling.

Tetra Pak's National Recycling Officers are a resource to help local

authorities that want to start collections. One such activity includes the offer of a cost-neutral bring bank solution, which is available to all Local Authorities that are not yet collecting cartons.

There is a bit more information on the benefits and facilities available to help Local Authorities set up carbon collections on the website www.tetrapakrecycling.co.uk or you could contact recycling officer.uk@tetrapak.com or write to them at National Recycling Officer, Tetra Pak (UK) Ltd, Bedwell Road, Cross Lanes, Wrexham, LL13 0UT.

I am delighted that this Borough has introduced the recycling of plastic bottles in 2005 and it is great news that we have one of the best recycling records in the country, but there is still more that we can do. I urge you to consider this Tetra Pak recycling initiative as it will benefit our environment by minimizing waste, increasing recycling and helping to provide a sustainable future for us all.

Thank you for your support. Yours Faithfully, etc

Do come and join us at one of our monthly meetings (check the service leaflet and back of the *Record* - the next is on February 28th at 26 Windmill Way). We are a friendly group who want to learn about the actions we can each make so that we feel less powerless. We want to do something however little to make positive changes that really make a difference and look after our planet.

Sonia Christie ☎ 270095 or email sonia.christie@ntlworld.com

WOMEN'S GUILD

Our January meeting started with a short financial AGM and finished with a video about Reigate, We thanked Mary Warren for all her hard work as Treasurer and also Peter for auditing our accounts.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 12th February at 10.30 a.m. in the Park Room, when our speaker will be Mrs Pippa Martin who will be talking to us about her work with Stained Glass.

Programmes for 2008 can be had from either Carol Nicholls or Liz Bullen or from the table in the foyer.

Liz Bullen

HIGHER POWER

(from www.parishpump.co.uk via *Horizon*, the news letter of Horsham URC.)

A Sunday School teacher said to her children, 'We have been learning how powerful kings and queens were in Bible times. But there is a higher power. Can anyone tell me what it is?'. One child blurted out 'Aces!'

CRÈCHE ROTA

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

Sandra Reid

3rd February	Sandra Reid	
10th February	Paul and Catherine Seldon	
17th February	Lefteri Deda	Judy Fowler
24th February	Eleanor Kiy	Anne Boyd

FIRST OPEN DAY THIS YEAR

The hidden gardens and grounds of Gatton Park (Royal Alexandra and Albert School) will be open for the first time this year on Sunday 3rd February from 1 to 5 p.m. Refreshments will be available in Gatton Hall. Dogs may be brought but must be on a lead. Free guided tours at 1.30 p.m., 2 p.m. and 2.30 p.m. A buggy is available for the disabled. Discovery rucksacks for children may be borrowed for a returnable deposit of £10. These contain binoculars and quiz sheets to make their visit extra enjoyable.

The ancient church of St Andrew will also be open. Gatton Park can be accessed via Rocky Lane at Merstham or from the other end of Rocky Lane in Gatton Bottom.

The grounds will also be open to see the snowdrops, under the National Gardens Scheme, from 12 - 4 p.m. on Sunday 17th February and Wednesday 20th February.

Soup will be available.

Entry: Adults £3.50, children free.

For further information please ring Pat Pay on ☎ 0794 157 2434

WESLEY'S DIRECTION FOR SINGING

I. Learn these tunes before you learn any others, afterwards learn as many as you please.

II. Sing them exactly as they are printed here, without altering or mending them at all, and if you have learned to sing them otherwise, unlearn it as soon as you can.

III. Sing all. See that you join with the congregation as frequently as you can. Let not a single degree of weakness or weariness hinder you. If it is a cross to you, take it up, and you will find it a blessing.

IV. Sing lustily and with good courage. Beware of singing as if you were half dead, or half asleep; but lift up your voice with strength. Be no more afraid of your voice now, nor more afraid of its being heard, than when you sung the songs of Satan.

V. Sing modestly. Do not bawl, so as to be heard above or distinct from the rest of the congregation, that you may not destroy the harmony; but strive to unite your voices together, so as to make one clear melodious sound.

VI. Sing in time. Whatever time is sung be sure to keep with it. Do not run before nor stay behind it, but attend close to the leading voices, and move therewith as exactly as you can, and take care not to sing too slow. This drawling way steals on all who are lazy; and it is high time to drive it out from us, and sing all our tunes just as quick as we did at first.

VII. Above all sing spiritually. Have an eye to God in every word you sing. Aim at pleasing him more than yourself, or any other creature. In order to do this attend strictly to the sense of what you sing, and see that your heart is not carried away with the sound, but offered to God continually; so shall your singing be such as the Lord will approve here, and reward you when he cometh in the clouds of heaven.

(from John Wesley's *Select Hymns*, 1761, by way of the *Newsletter* of Sutton Coldfield URC Gracechurch Centre)

THE GENDER OF A COMPUTER

Apparently four eminent men and four eminent women applied their wisdom to this problem. At the end of their debate the women decided unanimously on the masculine gender for the following reasons:

To get their attention you have to turn them on.

They store a lot of data but are really quite clueless.

They help solve problems but half the time they are the problem.

As soon as you are committed to one you wish you'd waited for a better model.

The men on the other hand voted unanimously for the female gender for the following reasons:

No-one but their creator understands how they work.

Their native language for conversing with other computers is incomprehensible to everyone else.

Even the smallest mistakes are stored in their long-term memory.

As soon as you are committed to one you spend half your income on accessories.

(from the report of the former Head of Caterham School, 2001)

I AM NEVER TOO OLD

I am never too old to sing you a song.
 I am never too old to play a game.
 I am never too old to admit I'm in the wrong
 I am never too old to claim myself to fame.

 I am never too old to stay out at night.
 I am never too old to bake a cake.
 I am never too old to give you a fright.
 I am never too old to walk by a lake.

 I am never too old to speak my mind.
 I am never too old to stuff my face.
 I am never too old to lose track of time.
 I am never too old to have a favourite place.

 I am never too old to eat ice cream.
 I am never too old to cuddle my bear.
 I am never too old to have a dream.
 I am never too old to play truth or dare.

 I am never too old to say I love you.
 You are never too old to do something.

Lucy Dawkins, Loughborough High School

found in *CHURCH*, the news letter of Cheadle Hulme URC.

A PRAYER FOR A CHURCH MEETING

**Go deep, Lord,
 To the point beneath our thinking,
 discussing and planning,
 So that, in the stillness
 Beneath all words
 We may open our hearts to you,
 And be soaked in your love,
 From which all wisdom springs.**

**Go deep, Lord,
 As we remain quiet before you,
 And offer our gathering to you.**

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

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THE RECORD

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Contributions should be with the Editor:

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at least two weeks before publication date.

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

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FEBRUARY DIARY

- Sunday** 3rd 10.00am Rev. Peter Flint. Holy Communion.
No evening service.
- Tuesday 5th 8.00pm Church Night - 'What is the URC?' - 2.
- Sunday** 10th 10.00am World Mission Sunday. Rev. Sandra Ackroyd.
6.30pm Rev. David Marshall-Jones, CBE. Holy
Communion.
- Tuesday 12th 10.30am Women's Guild. Pippa Martin - 'Stained Glass'.
8.00pm Church Night - 'What is the URC?' - 3.
- Thursday 14th 12.30pm Men's Fellowship. Peter Phippen, OBE -
'Frank Lloyd Wright'.
- Sunday** 17th 10.00am Family and Parade Service. Graham Whybra.
3.00pm Rev. John Joseph. Commissioning of Sue Knight as
a Nationally Recognised Lay Preacher.
- Tuesday 19th 8.00pm Church Night - 'What is the URC?' - 4.
- Wednesday 20th 12.15pm Denis Ward. Midweek Communion Service.
- Sunday** 24th 10.00am Rev. Charles Meachin.
6.30pm Service led by Carol Nicholls, Rosemary Tames,
Tina Papworth and Betty Ford.
- Tuesday 26th **7.30pm SPECIAL CHURCH MEETING.**
- Thursday 28th 11.00am Zimbabwe Work Party at 1 Evesham Road.
8.00pm Ecoteam meeting at 26 Windmill Way
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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.