

THE RECORD

OF REIGATE PARK CHURCH (UNITED REFORMED)



APRIL 2008

No 842

REIGATE PARK CHURCH

(UNITED REFORMED)

Park Lane East, Reigate RH2 8BD

www.reigateparkchurch.org

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

Church Secretary : Michael Ball

23 The Close, Reigate RH2 7BN

☎ (01737) 244224

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

Church Treasurer : Michael Bolton

31 Gatton Road, Reigate RH2 0HF

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

Junior Church Coordinator : Pat Denchfield

47 Abinger Drive, Redhill RH1 6SZ

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

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)



I was turning out some things the other day, when I came across some old photograph albums. In the end I spent very little time turning out but a great deal of time looking at the photos! What lovely memories they prompted:- the children playing on the beach, old friends, good times. Then there was the wedding album. That handsome young man and that very slim young girl staring out at me, could they really be us 40 years ago? I confess to shedding a few tears too, when I looked at the final group photo, at all the people who aren't with us any more.

I felt much the same mixed emotions when I went through the old photo album for our church, which as you all know, I am updating. Some of us have hardly changed at all, but some of us have! I thought too, what a debt of gratitude we owe those who have passed on to higher things. Alas, it's lovely to wallow in nostalgia for the things that were, but we can't stay there. For one thing, it wouldn't be fair to those 'promoted' friends to remain where we are. God is not just the God of history, He is the God of today and tomorrow. As the faces of some of those dearest departed friends stared out at me they seemed to say, 'Go on, the task is not finished yet, take up the baton and God's kingdom on earth will come!' It was Isaac Newton who said that he 'stood on the shoulders of giants' and we have a tremendous number of firm

'shoulders' on which to build, not just recently, but going right back over the centuries to the apostles, and of course, Jesus himself.

So we make a start on a new album. It's exciting, starting the next chapter, learning new names, seeing the eager faces of the children growing up fast. What a rich resource of gifts and talents we have for God's work. As St Paul said 'All of you are Christ's body and each one is a part of it' (1 Corinthians 12 v 27). May we all continue to work together to fulfil his promise, and create our new adventure by building on the foundation of the previous ones, open to change and the prompting of God's Spirit working with us.

God bless you all,

Carol Nicholls

P. S. Have I got *your* photo yet? If not, I would be glad to receive it. I may also be around with my camera to waylay some of the more shy members, with your permission of course! The finished album will be an invaluable help, not just to a new minister, but also to the rest of us who struggle with putting names to faces.

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 or readings, but often covering quite unexpected areas arising from the experiences and concerns of the group members. After a break for the school holidays, we start again on Monday April 21st, with a series based on the book of Daniel. Ron Talmey will be leading us for six sessions under the heading 'God's Man in a Secular Society'. The first two are:-

April 21st Daniel 1. 'Have you got what it takes?'

April 28th Daniel 2 'He's got the whole world in his hands'.

Do come and join us. The sessions are all self-contained, so don't worry if you have to be away for one.

THE APRIL GIRLS

We have been meeting for over twenty years to celebrate our birthdays together. Our number now is very small. If you have a birthday in April you are warmly invited to join us at 10.30 a.m. on Wednesday 23rd April when we will meet for coffee at 26 Waterlow Road. We look forward to welcoming you.

Mary Perry ☎ 243264

ANNE SUTTON

Anne Sutton was born in 1913, and brought up on various farms in Sussex - hence her love of animals. After leaving school she went to Clark's College at Guildford and was befriended by members of Guildford Congregational Church. On moving to Reigate in 1933, there began a long association with the High Street Congregational Church, where she became a member, choir member, and our first lady deacon. She was manager of the Snowflake Laundry in Doods Road, and then at the Hatchlands Road practice eventually became practice secretary before retiring. Her other interests included fell walking and the Choral Society, of which she was a founder member in 1941 and for 23 years secretary. At Reigate Park she was for many years secretary of the envelope scheme, became an elder and organised the rota of vestry elders until her very last year. It was her personal experience of the welcome and caring of this church which made her always keen to welcome new people herself. We shall always remember Anne's wonderful smile and encouraging words. Her funeral on February 28th was conducted by Rev. David Owen, and our thoughts and prayers are with her family and Dr Doreen Johnson.

UNICEF MITE NEWS

There was a special appeal for help for the children of Kenya, and £150 was collected in three weeks. Fortunately the FROGS had their Rag Week at the same time and have collected £247. Neither amount was finalised until after March 9th so I hope the final total can be given in the next *Record*. I have received a further appeal which is for funds to provide a special food - based on peanut butter - which helps those who are in a state of advanced malnutrition.

Thank you FROGS for your hard work and for giving so much to the young children of Kenya.

Hazel Arscott

RALPH GORDON MOXLEY

Gordon was born in 1921. During the war he served with the RAF Dam Busters Squadron but never flew. He was married to his wife May for 59 years but sadly she died in 2004 just short of their Diamond Wedding. When living in Weymouth he became a member of the Congregational Church there. After the war he worked for the DHSS and moved to Salfords and finally Horley. He was a faithful member of Reigate Park Church for a few years. The letter below indicates how much it meant to him. Besides the Monday Morning Group, he enjoyed the friendship of the Conquest Art Group. He had been a member of two Bowling Clubs in Horley, and President of the Horley Probus Club. A few years ago he had an operation on his spine to remove pain but unfortunately became more and more disabled. Recently he suffered from leg ulcers and had four months of barrier nursing in the East Surrey Hospital. He was brave in much suffering and remarkably cheerful, never losing his faith in God. He was always prepared to express his opinion but respected the views of others. He was fond of his family - his son Peter, his daughter-in-law Jen, his grandchildren Richard, Gill and Anita and his two great-grandchildren and always felt his wife May was very close to him. His funeral on February 21st was conducted by Rev. Ron Talmey. Our prayers are for his family at this time.

This letter was received from his son, Peter Moxley:

May I offer my sincere thanks to all the church's parishioners who knew my father, for the friendship and kindness extended to him over the years.

The church meant such a lot to him and in his latter years, following the death of my mother, he truly appreciated the support offered to him by so many.

The fellowship he experienced through church attendance, the Monday morning bible classes and the monthly luncheon club all meant so much to him.

I wish it were possible to write to everyone individually, but sadly I do not know all their names and addresses, but you might feel able to display this letter so that the congregation might know how much my father truly appreciated their support.

FIVE SIMPLE RULES

Remember the five simple rules to be happy. Free your heart from hatred. Free your mind from worries. Live simply. Give more. Expect less.

(quoted in The Times from an e-mail)

WORSHIP IN THE MONTH OF APRIL

At 10 a.m. on **Sunday 6th April** our communion service will be conducted by Rev. Howard Rady, who was our Interim Moderator during the last vacancy and has remained a good friend of the church. There will be no evening service.

At 10 a.m. on **Sunday 13th April** the worship will be led by Rev. Ron Talmey.

The evening communion service at 6.30 p.m. will be led by Jill Campbell.

At 12.15 p.m. on **Wednesday 16th April** Rev. Howard Rady will lead our Midweek Communion Service.

At 10 a.m. on **Sunday 20th April** the worship will be led by Rev. Geoffrey Tillison, a retired URC minister. There will be no evening service.

At 10 a.m. on **Sunday 27 April** the service will be led by the Choir. It is also the Junior Church Theme Day (see page 6 overleaf).

The evening service will be led by Liz Bullen and Carol Nichols.

A warm welcome to any or all of these services.

JUNIOR CHURCH

In February we had a fascinating evening led by Nick White on various aspects of pastoral care when working with children. It was good to see some new faces this time. We also met new families in Room 5 after the service one Sunday; thank you to the 'not so new' families who came to chat with them!

Thank you to Tina Papworth who once again organised the Mothering Sunday daffodils, and to Alicia and Judith Wade and Rosemary Tames who provided the greenery and helped us prepare the posies on the Saturday morning. Thanks also to Harmony for distributing them during the service.

Pat Denchfield and Angela Bolton

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 shall be resuming on April 15th with a series based on a book issued by the Diocese of Chichester to remember the 60th anniversary of the death of Bishop George Bell, who made great contributions to ecumenical understanding during and after the second World War.

HAVING FUN WITH JESUS

7th - 10th April, 9.30 - 12.00

As I am writing this, no letters or fliers have been printed. By the time you read it, we will have distributed fliers to RPC organisations and most of the local schools, had the two booking days and even started registering children from RPC and the volunteers' children. We will also have had the training session for all the young people and the meeting for all the volunteers.

I am so grateful for all the help that has been offered so willingly this year. After quite a number of people said no to helping, I was beginning to get rather concerned but I need not have worried. We now have a great team and it looks like each group is getting loads of fun things ready to do with the children who come and we should be able to cater for about the same number of children as usual.

We have several volunteers who do not attend RPC but who have been involved in other areas of RPC life and we have two people who have kindly offered their time this year from the URC. They are Jamie Bruce, the new Youth Worker from Cheam and John Joseph from Redhill. We are very grateful to them too for giving us time in their already busy schedules. I hope we can all gain lots of experience from each other. It will be good to have comments from outside people.

As usual, the premises will be closed to everyone except those involved in the Easter Workshop, from Monday 7th - Thursday 10th April. This is for the safety of the children who are here.

All RPC families with Primary School aged children should have received a letter about the Workshop. I hope it reached everyone. RPC families only can register their children on Sundays 30th March and 6th April. They will need to bring details of their doctor and school and will need to draw our attention to any learning or behavioural concerns we might need to be aware of plus any health or allergy problems we need to know about. We ask every family these questions so that we can cater appropriately for ALL the children who attend and so that everyone has a really good time.

Please note that even if you have already filled in the registration form, parents still need to actually bring their children into the building on their first morning between 9.30 and 10 just to ensure all registration details are correct and we have everything we need. The children **MUST** be brought into the building by a parent every morning from 9.30 and not just dropped at the door. Parents must also collect their children from inside the building.

We will be closing the Workshop as usual this year with a service at 11.00 a.m. on Thursday 10th April. After this, the volunteers and their children are all invited to sit down together for a simple meal.

Many thanks to everyone who has been so supportive this year. I hope all the volunteers feel as supported as I have done.

In anticipation of a fun time

Angela Bolton

JUNIOR CHURCH THEME SESSION

Our next Junior Church Theme Session will be on Sunday 27th April. Our topic this time is Making Music. We will begin the session in the Hall with all groups, from Explorers up, at 10 a.m. and will come into the service towards the end to show the rest of the congregation what we have been doing.

All parents should receive a detailed letter about the arrangement with this copy of the record. Please contact us if you haven't received one.

As we have a large number of children working together in these sessions we need lots of adult support. If you would be prepared to help with this session please contact Sharon Scotton or Pat Denchfield.

There are also a number of items that we need for the session that we hope you may be able to help us with.

We are looking for unusual percussion instruments, preferably hand-made, to show to the children as an inspiration for their work. We are also trying to use recyclable materials for as many of our craft activities on the day as possible so would be most grateful for donations of the following:-

RIDGED tins)	
Glass wine bottles)	All clean and empty
Yoghurt pots)	
Ice cream tubs)	

There will be a box in the foyer for these items.

Many thanks

Sharon Scotton ☎ 241965 sharon.scotton@ntlworld.com

CONNECT UPDATE

The hall was filled to capacity for our BARN DANCE last month and proved so popular we have already booked the caller again for next year!

Profits from the evening raised £560. This will be sent to AKAMBA AID. Your money is funding an agricultural education project in the village of Katakani in Kenya. After training the farmers at a week-long course the group receive a plough, a chain and two bulls.

This project came to our notice from one of our church members. We always welcome suggestions for future projects so please do come forward to any committee member if you have something you would like us to consider. And if you are new to the church and would like to know more about CONNECT please ask. We have a vacancy on the committee if you would like to be actively involved. We meet on the first Wednesday each month and believe actions speak louder than words, so our meetings are short and informal and always finish within two hours.

Many thanks to everyone for the £1500 collected over Christmas from the collections and the Christmas tree festival. We have been able to send PUMP AID over £3600 in total. We have received several certificates thanking us for providing so many wells. Well done !!

We are about to decide on our next project and details will be in the next Record.

SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT GROUP

Please put 23rd April in your diary. At 8 p.m. the Spiritual Development Group will be meeting in the Park Room, and we would like as many people as possible to join us that evening.

The group meets to think about the spiritual activities of the church that take place outside the Sunday worship.

Currently we have Church Night on a Tuesday, the Monday morning group and a prayer chain. What else could we do to help develop our faith? Do you want a prayer breakfast, Bible study in someone's home, or the opportunity to sing hymns and worship songs?

Please come on 23rd April, and encourage us to take some bold steps.

Paul Marshall

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

At our February meeting we had another visit from Peter Phippen, who told us this time about Frank Lloyd Wright, with the intriguing title that began 'The Life and Loves of ...' We wondered what we were in for, though we knew he was a distinguished and daring American architect. The pictures showed how he achieved amazing effects in what seemed to be most unfavourable situations. And the title seemed quite justifiable!

The March meeting was our AGM and at first proved a discouraging one. The current committee felt they had done their stint, and it was the turn of others, probably younger ones, to take over if we wanted to keep the Fellowship alive - as we all said we wanted to do. Some people are too heavily involved in other organisations to take this on, but Brian Hoad agreed to shadow Ron and take over as Chairman next year, and David Lord agreed to join the committee. But no-one was prepared to tackle the job of Treasurer. Most of the things we do - lunches, meetings with speakers, outings - and of course the collection of subs, require a treasurer. So it looked like a full stop.

I was asked to write an article in the *Record*, encouraging those who have not yet become members to join with us, especially - but not only - those who would be prepared to help with leadership. Do we want a Men's Fellowship? Does it fulfil a need? I think it has provided fellowship for men of all ages (it's no longer just Senior Men's Fellowship), delicious lunches (thanks to some very kind and faithful ladies), interesting talks, fascinating outings during the summer for men and ladies alike. It isn't confined to members of RPC - we welcome those from other churches or none. And, again with the help of ladies, we do a Sunday coffee morning each spring (thank you John and Margaret Harris for leading with this) and a small group collates the *Record* each month (thank you Ron for organising it and Margaret again and Pat Franks for reinforcing us).

So we're worth supporting - and now, just after the meeting, I was delighted to hear that George Orr is prepared to be our Treasurer, so there is hope for us. There is nothing planned for the moment, but the new and old committee members will get together to see what can be done. Watch out (ladies too!) for the trip to Burrwood in June which Michael Ball is arranging. And if you could help with the *Record* collation each month, please see Ron Cooke - it's usually the Thursday morning before the last Sunday of the month.

I must not stop without thanking the retiring committee, and all those who have helped us with ideas, and the ladies with cooking. Thank you indeed!

Denis Ward

WOMEN'S GUILD

The speaker at our March meeting was Elaine Parr of the local Citizens' Advice Bureaux. Elaine showed us a video of CAB in 1942, which was greatly enjoyed by all present.

She then told us about many of the modern-day problems that they deal with. Many of them, such as debt, are sadly on the increase.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday **1st April** at 10.30 a.m. in the Park Room, when Michael Ball will be telling us about his visit to the Holy Land. Please note the *change in date* for this meeting.

Liz Bullen

PRAYER CALENDAR

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

6th April	Redhill Baptist Church in Hatchlands Road.
13th April	Christ the King, Honeycrock Lane, Salfords.
20th April	St Mark's Church, Alma Road.
27th April	

CRÈCHE ROTA

This is the rota for April. 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 April	Eleanor Kiy	Anne Boyd
13th April	Karen Best	Gretta Taylor
20th April	Jacki Glasgow	Claire Harris
27th April	Sandra Reid	

REIGATE AND REDHILL MUSIC FESTIVAL

As before, several of the classes in the Reigate and Redhill Music Festival will be held at Reigate Park Church this coming May. If you would be willing to help with either catering (i.e. providing tea for about half a dozen people, and also making tea and coffee in breaks) or with stewarding, and in the process being able to listen to some of the music, please will you contact Margaret Samuel (margaretannsamuel@hotmail.com or ☎ 243308) for dates and more specific details. Many thanks.

FROM THE CHURCH MEETING

At our meeting on March 18th, with Rev. Peter Flint, our Interim Moderator in the chair, we heard about progress on many fronts, some of which is reported here. For full details, of course, you will have to wait for the minutes to become available.

Jill Campbell reported that some interest was already being shown in our vacancy. The final version of our pastorate profile, which took account of our comments at the previous meeting and further points from the Moderator, Nigel Uden, had been agreed and a one-page summary would also be produced by the weekend. She thanked Peter Mercer and Dave Cooper especially, and everyone who had been involved. The new website had also been praised.

Michael Bolton, as always, presented the annual accounts with great clarity. There were no questions, not because we didn't understand them but because he made sure we did. He thanked the team of around 20 people who help him. One point to give thanks for was that the considerable cost of refurbishing the church kitchen was completely covered by gifts. There was also a generous legacy from Nancy Webster, which would provide double glazing in the caretaker's house. During the recent storm the flat roof covering of the caretaker's house blew off, but the cost of repair will be handled by our repairs provision for the current year.

Then Michael explained the budget for 2008, which took into account our experience of the first few weeks without a minister. We do not save on the Minister's stipend, because that is paid centrally by the Ministry and Mission Fund to which we still give; we save of course on the manse costs and minister's expenses, but there will be other expenses, such as visiting ministers. As might be expected, cash collections are down. Unexpectedly, though, giving in weekly envelopes is also down. After two years of surplus of income over expenditure, we are currently budgeting this year for a deficit of £6,600, which we can stand. But the central message is this: **WE MUST KEEP ON GIVING.** It is needed. Read again the article in last month's *Record* about regular giving!

Mavis Proctor reported the synod meeting at Oxted School, where Martin Skitt accompanied the hymns in the opening and closing worship. The Synod Office is to be moved from East Croydon Church owing to lack of space, and they hope to lease premises at first in Croydon and eventually more central to the Province. Two churches received a child-friendly award - should we be applying for this? The synod meeting included the induction of David Skitt as Synod Pastor.

Mavis also had to report on Premises and Management. We accepted the

elders' recommendations that the eco-sign should be incorporated into our headed notepaper, and that holes should be drilled in the tops of the chairs to hold the communion glasses. It is always a major task to retrieve every glass after the service. Marian Down is providing small discs to prevent any clatter when the glasses are set down.

We have received an e-mail from Caroline Vodden who says her sponsored run for Sport Relief has raised at least £1750. We have promised £400 towards this - have you paid Michael Ball - in cash or as a cheque to Caroline?

We were encouraged to attend the service (postponed from February to March 30th) when Sue Knight receives her Commission as a Nationally Recognised Lay Preacher. She has worked hard for this, and is to be congratulated. The service is in our church, and will be conducted by Rev. John Joseph.

SHORT MATters

Brian has been unable to complete his monthly reports for some time, and we hope that Aileen will soon be able to get hospital treatment. But he has good news for the club. Our application to Awards4All for a mat-rolling machine has been successful and we are to receive a grant of £3,123. This will be a great relief to those who have to work so hard putting the mats down and taking them up, and also to those of us who are no longer able to help with this, but feel guilty about it! We shall have to wait a bit because, although our grant came through unusually quickly, the person responsible has to order several machines at once, after which we shall have several weeks to wait for delivery.

ECOGROUP

Do come and join us at our next meeting on 24th April at 26 Windmill Way, Reigate at 8 p.m.

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

CONCERT AT REIGATE PARK CHURCH

On Saturday April 19th at 8.00pm the Reigate Philharmonic Society presents its Final Gala Concert at our church. The New Chamber Orchestra whose members include players from top London orchestras will be performing. The soloist will be Carole Presland, an established concert pianist, who will play Mozart's *Concerto in F, K313*. Other works in the programme are Wagner's *Siegfried Idyll* and Copland's *Appalachian Spring*. There will also be the first performance of *Awakening*, a piece especially written for the occasion by Mark Slater. The conductor will be the founder of the Reigate Philharmonic Society: Christopher Slater. The Mayor of Reigate and Banstead and the

Chairman of the Mole Valley District Council will attend. Tickets (£12.50) are obtainable in advance from Anne Hodgkinson on ☎ 643116.

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

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Contributions should be with the Editor:

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

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


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

 01293 773466

e-mail: peter.mercer@reigateparkchurch.org

APRIL DIARY

Tuesday 1st 10.30am Women's Guild. Michael Ball. The Holy Land.

Sunday 6th 10.00am Rev. Howard Rady. Holy Communion.

No evening service.

Monday to Thursday 7th-10th Easter Workshop: "Having Fun With Jesus"

Sunday 13th 10.00am Rev. Ron Talmey.

6.30pm Jill Campbell. Holy Communion.

Tuesday 15th 8.00pm Church Night.

Wednesday 16th 12.15pm Rev. Howard Rady. Midweek Communion Service.

Sunday 20th 10.00am Rev. Geoffrey Tillison.

No evening service.

Tuesday 22nd 8.00pm Church Night.

Thursday 24th 11.00am Zimbabwe Work Party at 1 Evesham Road.

8.00pm Ecoteam meeting at 26 Windmill Way

Sunday 27th 10.00am Service led by the Choir. Junior Church Theme Day.

3.00pm Scout District St George's Day Service.

6.30pm Liz Bullen and Carol Nichols.

Tuesday 29th 8.00pm Church Night.

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, Toddlers Plus Group, Badminton and Short Mat Bowling.