

THE RECORD

OF REIGATE PARK CHURCH (UNITED REFORMED)



MAY 2008

No 843

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)



Four months - one third of a year - since the start of our time of vacancy!

How are we getting on? From a personal viewpoint I think we're in good heart. The huge commitment shown by everyone to ensure that life moves on at Reigate Park both within the Church itself and out in the local community is surely a reason to rejoice and give thanks.

What progress have we made in seeking to call a new Minister?

- The Pastorate Profile has been worked on by some 70+ members including the Elders, the Vacancy Committee and the Media Group. It was discussed at two very large Church Meetings and members' approval was given at the latter meeting in February. (The final edition was draft 16!)
- On completion the Profile was printed and handed to the Synod Moderator, Nigel Uden, on 20th March together with the profile summary for initial enquiries. We are grateful for the continuing support and advice the Church receives from Nigel and also from Peter Flint, our Interim Moderator.
- The Moderator was impressed by the Profile and also by our new website which has attracted attention.

Do we now just sit and wait?? — sitting and waiting, and certainly sitting back - is NOT what happens at Reigate Park! Everyone's input, small or large, is vital as we continue to keep the spirit of the gospel alive among our members and friends. So let's be proud of what we've achieved so far, continue to enjoy the many interesting and inspiring services we've experienced from a wide range of different visitors and home-grown groups - and most importantly let's keep firmly in focus our Vision Statement on the opening page of the Profile - it's surely what we're here for -

*“Reigate Park Church is a family of people
who seek to worship a loving and forgiving God,
and to discover how we belong to him.*

*Our aim is to explore
what it means to have faith in Jesus,
living in today's world, for ourselves and others.*

*Therefore, we try to be led by God's spirit
to make all our services and meetings
vibrant and relevant.*

*We attempt to be a community
that demonstrates Christ's care and love for all.”*

Jill Campbell

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 started 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 programme is:-

April 21st	Daniel 1.	'Have you got what it takes?'
April 28th	Daniel 2	'He's got the whole world in his hands'.
May 12th	Daniel 3	'Bow or burn'.
May 19th	Daniel 4	'Pride goes before a fall'.
June 2nd	Daniel 5	'The bigger they are, the harder they fall'.
June 9th	Daniel 6	'How to tame lions'.

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

YOUTH AND COMMUNITY MINISTER

The elders are very conscious of the fact that approval was given for this strategic ministry last summer and that nothing has happened yet. The process has stalled as a result of David Skitt's departure but as soon as we get a minister this will become a priority again. The elders understand the frustration felt by the young people, which we share.

Circumstances have changed since last year including the passing of the District, which was heavily involved in our application. We are preparing some revised paperwork for submission to the Moderator and may ask for comments from our young people. We are truly blessed by them and hope that they feel able to discuss this with the elders.

BADGE MACHINE

We now own a badge machine. If anyone wants to borrow it, they are extremely welcome. It can make clip badges, pin badges, fridge magnets and key rings. We are very happy to lend it to organisations or individuals, all we ask is for payment for the badges used.

For more information please contact Angela Bolton.

GLADYS MAUD EARWICKER

Gladys was born on 20th November 1909 in Leatherhead. She had an older sister and two younger brothers. The family was split up when she was young because of the death of her mother, and Gladys was put in a children's home until she was old enough to go into service, first as a parlour maid but ending up as a cook, which she preferred. In 1936 she was working in Reigate and she married in 1939. They had three children, Linda who now lives in New Zealand, Barbara and John, and over the years grandchildren and then great-grandchildren arrived 'all of whom she loved to bits'. She was always very active and lived in her own home until she was 96. She attended Reigate Park Church for well over 20 years and enjoyed the monthly Sunday lunches, Women's Guild and the Zimbabwe Working Party, making many friends. When she had to give up her own home, she moved to Barnfield Residential Home at Horley and really missed coming to the services. She will be remembered as always being happy, worried about others, but mainly for making people laugh. Even towards the end of her life when she was in pain, she could still find something to say which made people laugh. She died on Saturday 15th March aged 98 years. The funeral service was conducted in our church on Thursday 27th March at 11.45 a.m. by Rev. John Joseph, followed by cremation at the Surrey and Sussex Crematorium. Our prayers are for her family at this time.

BOOK CLUB

Our next meeting is on Monday May 12th at Michael Ball's house - 23 The Close (☎ 244224). The book is *One Good Turn* by Kate Atkinson.

Jane Dotzec

UNICEF MITE NEWS

For three weeks there was an appeal for help in providing food, water, shelter, sanitation etc. for Kenya - particularly for children. I was thrilled when the FROGS decided to join in with their Rag Week. Their contribution was £247 - wonderful! Then the Cubs joined in and contributed £25.65. The church collected £305 so this makes a total of £577.26. Fortunately I had £173 in hand so the final total was £750. 'Explorers' are regular contributors. Thank you all!

The 'in hand' money is the TUB collection and what I find - with luck - in the big jar in the Foyer.

Hazel Arscott

CONNECT UPDATE

Further to our report in last month's Record, we are now pleased to be in a position to update the figures relating to our recent donations:

We will be sending a cheque for £1000 to Akamba Aid, an agricultural education project in the village of Katakani in Kenya. This amount will fund a week-long training course for a group of farmers, who will then receive a plough, a chain and two bulls.

And following the huge generosity of those supporting our fundraising for Pumpaid, we have been able to send a total of £4,700 to fund almost 20 clean water pumps for villages in Zimbabwe that have no access to safe water.

Please do let us know if you have any suggestions for future projects you would like us to consider, and do come along to one of our meetings (8 p.m., first Wednesday of the month in the church library) if you think you might be interested in joining the committee.

Kay Parris

LADIES' SUMMER GET-TOGETHER

Summer is just around the corner and it is almost time for the Reigate Park Church Ladies Summer Get-together. We will be meeting on Wednesday, 18th June from 7.30 p.m. at a local pub (venue to be confirmed, please watch the notice board). Whatever your age, you are warmly invited to join us for a meal or just a drink. This is a great opportunity to get to know ladies from the church and we really hope you can make it. Booking is not necessary, but it would be helpful if you are able to let us know you are coming, and we will try to reserve enough seats. If you would like to speak to one of us about the evening you are very welcome to call.

Sonia Christie ☎ 270095 Angela Bolton ☎ 248430 Jacki Glasgow ☎ 225409

WORSHIP IN THE MONTH OF MAY

At 10 a.m. on **Sunday 4th May** our communion service will be conducted by Rev. Peter Stevenson, minister of Holyhead Road URC, Coventry.

There will be no evening service.

At 10 a.m. on **Sunday 11th May** the worship will be led by Paula Sowton and Harmony group of Junior Church, with a sermon by David Mercer.

There will be no evening service.

At 10 a.m. on **Sunday 18th May** the worship will be led by Rev. John Joseph from Redhill URC.

The evening communion service at 6.30 p.m. will be led by Sue Knight.

At 12.15 p.m. on **Wednesday 21st May** Rev. Ron Talmey will lead our Midweek Communion Service.

At 10 a.m. on **Sunday 25th May** the service will be led by Nina and Phil Atfield, from Sandcross Lane Church.

There will be no evening service.

A warm welcome to any or all of these services.

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 began on April 15th a five-part series based on a study course *A Bishop to Remember* issued by the Diocese of Chichester to remember the 50th anniversary of the death of Bishop George Bell, who made great contributions to ecumenical understanding during and after the second World War. Why should we spend five weeks on the life of an Anglican bishop? Because of his tremendous influence on Christian Unity, on attitudes to Nazi and the underground Germany, on the place of the Arts in the churches, on social issues, education and pastoral work. Even if you missed the early sessions, don't miss the rest. The full programme is:-

- 15 April - A Life in a Landscape
- 22 April - George Bell and Church Unity
- 29 April - George Bell and Peace and War
- 6 May - George Bell and the Arts
- 20 May - George Bell and the Church

Everyone is welcome for any of the sessions; however you will probably gain more from it if you pick up a booklet on the series in advance from Michael Ball.

HAVING FUN WITH JESUS

Well it was fun. The overall theme was Having Fun with Jesus which was subdivided for three days into Physical Fun, Social Fun and Creative Fun, bringing it all together on the final morning. John Joseph was great. Although he has a great deal of experience with children, this was a totally new situation for him. The children certainly learned from him and he learned some new songs and actions from them. David Harnett and Jamie Bruce also very ably took lead roles in these Church sessions, sometimes with very little advance warning. Claire and Jack provided the music on piano and percussion and many of our young people really encouraged the children with their singing. Thank you all music people.

The oldest group were as usual in the Church. As they wanted to play lots of very active games, they removed two blocks of chairs. This was absolutely great. Not only did it enable them to bring a sense of teamwork to the group but it was also better for the Church sessions as the children all sat on the floor and the atmosphere was really relaxed.

Group 3 had some very interesting drama sessions and invented some new games. They also made many items for a party, including hats and food of course. The party was the final event for them on Thursday before the closing service.

Group 2 were a bit smaller in number than usual but there were still plenty of activities. They had a puppet show one morning and a speaker another, all with relevant messages. I believe they too cooked, made masks, played games and cuddled rabbits.

Group 1 were suddenly much larger in number than expected on the Monday morning but the team, as would be expected under the leadership of some very skilled volunteers, set to and ensured that all were well catered for and that they all wanted to return the next morning. There seemed to be food coming up from downstairs on a regular basis too. There were also many games played.

The crèche was available again for our helpers with very young children. This is such a vital group for us and we thank the superb team who looked after these eight children. They followed the same theme as everyone else and I think they too had plenty of opportunities for making food - I think this must be a Reigate Park thing!

I have talked about all the groups but there were many other volunteers working quietly behind the scenes. Where would we have all been if there hadn't been that really welcome cup of tea and biscuit being brought around, as well as squash and biscuits for the children to renew the flagging energy levels? Also, we had a team of volunteers registering the children, seeing to extra resources being needed, printing and addressing letters, designing posters, making badges, sharpening pencils, plus of course all those who

ensured the safety of everyone on the premises.

Thank you so much to all who helped in any way to make the week such a fun time and we hope all who came, children and adults alike, have gone away with the real feeling that being with Jesus can be fun.

Angela Bolton

THE EDITOR REGRETS . . .

Last month's *Record* had several mistakes in it - not deliberate ones! The worst one, I think, was in crediting the help with the Men's Fellowship coffee morning and Record collation to John and Margaret Harris instead of John and Margaret Wilcox - deep apologies to them both and to Margaret Harris too. The cost of the double glazing in the caretaker's house will be covered from the repairs and renewals fund, and not from Nancy Webster's legacy.

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN SURREY

We invite Christians in Surrey and North-east Hampshire to come together to celebrate the Centenary of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity at a service in Guildford Cathedral at 3 p.m. on Sunday May 18th. The preacher is Rev. Myra Blyth and the Worship Leader Alison Adams of the Iona Community. There will be a children's workshop led by Simon Shutt, of the Faith Awareness in Children Trust. The service will be followed by a 'bring your own' picnic. Contact sue.loveday.ctsurrey@lineone.net or 01932 560920 for a booking form.

PRAYER CALENDAR

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

4th May	<i>Earlswood Baptist Church</i> in St John's Road, Redhill.
11th May	<i>Christian Aid Week.</i>
18th May	
25th May	<i>Christ Church</i> , South Nutfield.

CAN YOU HELP?

Are you interested in children's education and would like to give something back to the community? Dovers Green Infant School, in Rushetts Road, Reigate, is looking for community governors to join its governing body. No experience is necessary, just lots of enthusiasm. The commitment is a couple of meetings a term which always promises some lively discussion. If you would like to know more either contact headteacher Sue Hillman direct on 01737 245515 or talk to Keely Harrison, church member, who has been a governor at Dovers Green for four and a half years. Her number is 01737 243959. To find out more about the school visit its website at www.dovers-green.surrey.sch.uk

INTERIM ARRANGEMENTS - A REMINDER

While we are without a minister, our Interim Moderator is Rev. Peter Flint. An Arrangements Group has been formed to handle the following:

Baptisms	Angela BOLTON
Marriages	Peter MERCER
Membership	Michael BULLEN
Funerals	Mavis PROCTOR
Residential Homes	John SOWTON
Schools	Tina PAPWORTH with reference to Pat DENCHFIELD and Angela BOLTON
Pulpit Supply (Morning)	Daphne HAMBLIN
Pulpit Supply (Evening)	Margaret SAMUEL
Pulpit Supply (Midweek)	Angela MERRITT
Photo Album	Carol NICHOLLS
Catering Convenor	Anna BURGESS
Vacancy Committee	Chaired by Jill CAMPBELL

Any enquiries should be directed to the appropriate person on this list.

In case of pastoral need, inform one of the Pastoral Secretaries:

Mavis PROCTOR (☎ 778430)	Michael BALL (☎ 244224)
Liz BULLEN (☎ 248421)	Pat DENCHFIELD (☎ 761275)
Brian HOAD (☎ 243720)	Carol NICHOLLS (☎ 240372)

WOMEN'S GUILD

At our April meeting Michael Ball's slides and talk about his visit to the Holy Land really brought the Easter story alive for us. We know how busy Michael is and are very grateful to him for taking time to come and talk to us.

Our annual lunch will take place in our church hall on Friday 9th May, 12.30 for 1 p.m. If you wish to come but have not yet given your name to Mary Warren can you please do so by May 1st at the latest. If you have any dietary needs please let Carol Nicholls or myself know.

Please note that there will be no meeting of Women's Guild on Tuesday 13th May.

Liz Bullen

ECOTIP

The March Ecotip on plastic recycling was rather confusing in places (that's what comes from leaving it until midnight on the last day for copy!). I have put what I hope is a clearer explanation on the notice board. Thanks for the helpful feedback on these Ecotips that I have received over the years. I would value any comments/ideas on what 'green' information you would like so that I know I am fulfilling a need rather than teaching grandmothers to suck eggs!

Vote with your pounds

I always do my food shop at Sainsbury's (or Waitrose/Marks and Spencer's if I am feeling flush!) because they have all scored very highly in a survey on environmentally friendly practice. Find out which brands and stores you regularly use are making an effort to reduce their emissions and to conduct their businesses in an environmentally responsible manner. Support their practices by purchasing their products and shopping in their stores. Make companies that are negligent aware of your objections. Let them know that until they change their energy-inefficient ways, you'll take your business elsewhere.

A great resource is *The Good Shopping Guide* ISBN 0-9542529-6-9 and an interesting website is www.responsibleshopper.org. It is an American website but since many brands are global it still makes for a relevant read. There is also a UK magazine called *Ethical Consumer*. We are hoping to subscribe and to keep back issues in the church library for you to access.

Do come and join us at our next meeting on Thursday 22nd May at Victoria's, 11 Park Lane, Reigate, ☎ 242616, at 8 p.m.

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

CRÈCHE ROTA

This is the rota for May. 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

4th May	Paul and Catherine Seldon	
11th May	Lefteri Deda	Judy Fowler
18th May	Eleanor Kiy	Gretta Taylor
25th May	Jacki Glasgow	Anne Boyd

INTRODUCING . . .

The United Reformed Church's new General Secretary

The United Reformed Church has appointed Rev. Roberta Rominger as its General Secretary. She is the first woman to hold the post in the Church, or in any of its predecessor denominations.

Roberta Rominger said 'I am passionate about the vision of a Church that is enthusiastically engaged with the world. I believe God speaks and acts in the world today. The Church's life should reflect this God, who is committed to peace, justice and human-flourishing.

'Among the members of the United Reformed Church are many creative, inspiring and intellectually and spiritually alive people. It is a privilege to be called to lead them.'

Roberta Rominger trained for the ministry in the USA, and was ordained in California, in the United Church of Christ. She came to Britain in 1985 and has been a minister in the United Reformed Church ever since, serving as Moderator of the Thames North Synod for the past ten years.

She will take up the post in July, in succession to Rev. Dr. David Cornick, who was recently appointed General Secretary of Churches Together in England.

SIGNS OF 'HEALTHY CHURCHES'

The aspects that make for a 'healthy church' are various and cannot be simply reduced to a set formula. However there are recognised reasons why certain churches can and do grow and here are some features that seem to be common to most of these churches.

1. Empowering Leadership - *Striving to bring out the best in others*
2. Gift-oriented lay ministry - *Members are helped to discern and develop their gifts*
3. Inspiring worship - *Worship that enables people to meet with God*
4. Significant small groups - *Groups that foster fellowship and intimacy*
5. Enabling structures - *The church is organised to fulfil its task in mission*
6. Culturally relevant - *The church is in a community and it knows that community*
7. Outward-looking and participative - *The church knows it exists for those beyond the church walls*
8. An energising faith - *The church is a place where people's faith can be nourished*

9. A clear sense of direction - *The church knows the purpose for which it exists*
10. Welcoming all - *Members seek opportunities to invite others in*
11. Need-oriented evangelism - *the needs of the community are primarily addressed*
12. Loving relationships - *Love is not just spoken about but demonstrated*

Peter Hurter, Development and Support Officer for the Wessex Synod wrote these words hoping that they will provide a basis of discussion in Elders' and/or Church Meeting and that local churches might explore how well they are incorporating some of these features.

(From the *Magazine* of Caroline Vodden's Church)

KNOW YOUR ONIONS AND GROW YOUR CHURCH

We want to make the very most of every new opportunity and resource to enrich the life of our church and to see it have a bigger impact on its community. That is why the Bible Society recently became responsible for the Christian Resources Exhibition.. At the heart of its mission is the commitment to help churches like ours to flourish with the Bible at their heart, and this is what the exhibition offers.

So we are invited to attend the National Christian Resources Exhibition at Sandown Park, Esher from Tuesday 13th to Friday 16th May.

'With up to 350 exhibitors, over 60 practical seminars and workshops as well as an Arts Theatre programme, the National CRE is Europe's leading Christian Resources Exhibition. This unique event provides resources, advice, ideas and much more for anyone involved in church leadership.' But that should mean all of us!

It is possible to book in advance for £5 (concessions £4) by post before 7th May, telephone (0800 061 2772), or online at www.creonline.co.uk . On-door prices are £7 (concessions £5). Children under 16 (whom we should see as part of our leadership) are admitted free.

There is a copy of the very exciting brochure in our Church Library (reached through the Hall).

'An eye for an eye will make the whole world go blind' - Mahatma Gandhi

SAYINGS THROUGH THE AGES

I read in a book that a man called Christ went about doing good, It is very disconcerting to me that I am so easily satisfied with just going about.

(KAGAWA)

The Christian ideal, it is said, has not been tried and found wanting; it has been found difficult and left untried. (Attributed to G K CHESTERTON)

Especially study to avoid and overcome those things that most displease you in other people. (THOMAS À KEMPIS)

I am puzzled about which Bible people are reading when they suggest religion and politics don't mix. (DESMOND TUTU)

He did not say 'You shall not be tempest-tossed, you shall not be discomfited'. But he said 'You shall not be overcome'.

(JULIAN OF NORWICH)

It is a mistake to assume that God is only interested in religion.

(WILLIAM TEMPLE)

There remains for us only a very narrow way, often extremely difficult to find, of living each day as if it were our last and yet living in faith and responsibility as though there were to be a great future. (DIETRICH BONHOEFFER)

Let us not look back in anger or forward in fear . . . but around in awareness.

(JAMES THURBER)

It took all that an angel could do to get Lot out of the doomed city of Sodom, but what else would you expect when his investments were there? (ANON)

We have been given a particular job to do: it is just a small part of the total mission. Rather than crumble beneath a load of cosmic worries we should concentrate on using our talents as best we can. (BERNARD THOROGOOD)

(from Banstead URC *Tidings*)

REPENTANCE is being sorry enough to stop doing something.

RENEWAL isn't an event - it's a process.

CHURCH OFFICE

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THE RECORD

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at least two weeks before publication date.

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MAY DIARY

Sunday	4th	10.00am	Rev. Peter Stevenson (Holyhead Road URC, Coventry). Holy Communion. No evening service.
Tuesday	6th	8.00pm	Church Night.
Friday	9th	12.30pm	Women's Guild lunch.
Sunday	11th	10.00am	Service led by Paula Sowton, David Mercer and 'Harmony'. No evening service.
	11th to 17th		Christian Aid Week
Wednesday	14th	12.15pm	Rev. Howard Rady. Midweek Communion Service.
Sunday	18th	10.00am	Rev. John Joseph (Redhill URC). 6.30pm Sue Knight. Holy Communion.
Tuesday	20th	8.00pm	Church Night.
Thursday	22nd	11.00am	Zimbabwe Work Party at 1 Evesham Road. 8.00pm Ecoteam meeting at 26 Windmill Way
Sunday	25th	10.00am	Nina and Phil Atfield (Sandcross Lane Church). No evening service.
	25th - 30th		Church Holiday at Willersley Castle Hotel, Derbyshire.

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.