

THE RECORD

OF REIGATE PARK CHURCH (UNITED REFORMED)



JUNE 2008

No 844

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 weeks ago the family of an old and well loved scouter who had died donated a bench to our scout campsite at Bentley Copse in his memory and I was asked to lead the service of dedication. Whilst preparing for this service I came across a meditation called 'The Bridge Builder' by Will Allen Drumgoole which seemed to fit well with the occasion. It goes

as follows:

An old man, going a lone highway,
Came, at the evening, cold and grey,
To a chasm, vast, and deep, and wide,
Through which was flowing a sullen tide.

The old man crossed in the twilight dim;
The sullen stream had no fears for him;
But he turned, when safe on the other side,
And built a bridge to span the tide.

'Old man' said a fellow pilgrim near,
'You are wasting strength with building here;
Your journey will end with the ending day;
You never again must pass this way:
You have crossed the chasm, deep and wide -
Why build you the bridge at eventide?'

The builder lifted his old grey head:
'Good friend, in the path I have come', he said,
'There followeth after me today,
A youth, whose feet must pass this way.
This chasm, that has been naught to me,
To that fair-haired youth may a pitfall be.
He too must cross in the twilight dim;
Good friend, I am building the bridge for him.'

Jesus has built that bridge to God for us for he has said, 'There are many rooms in my Father's house and I am going to prepare a place for you. You know the way that leads to the place where I am going.' Thomas said to him, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going; so how can we know the way to get there?' Jesus answered, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life; no one goes to the Father except by me.' (John 14 vv 2 - 6).

It is up to us, through our love and actions, to build the bridge to Jesus for those who are unsure of the way.

With every good wish

David Cooper

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. Ron Talmey has been leading us for six sessions under the heading 'God's Man in a Secular Society'. The remaining programme is:-

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.

CHURCH NIGHTS

'Church Nights' is taking a break until September. If you have ideas for what we could then include, please take them to Michael Ball.

THOSE LITTLE HOLES

We would like to say a big 'Thank You' to Philip and Marion for all their hard work, drilling holes and putting pieces of cork in the back of each chair to hold the communion glasses.

This will save us a lot of time. We used to spend ages, with a lot of help from Pat Franks and others, searching for those elusive little glasses. But now, thanks to the kindness of Philip and Marion - and providing the congregation remember to put their glasses in the holes - we shall be able to have our Sunday dinner earlier!

Norman and Gill Rusbridge

ROBERT DALTON WEATHERILL

One of our members, Bob Weatherill, died on April 26th aged 85 years. He was at one time an art teacher at Purley Grammar School and a very clever artist. He became partially blind and ill. Many years ago he joined the Conquest Art Group, which he loved and where he began to regain the confidence to paint and take an interest in the church. Illness overtook him again and he spent his final weeks with his daughter, with much of that time in hospital. Our love and thoughts are with Esther and their family at this time.

Betty Ford

UNICEF MITE NEWS

The various aid agencies have been trying to help Burma overcome their cyclonic disaster but, at the time of writing, the military forces are refusing to allow 'foreigners' (and their food) into the country. UNICEF has had aid workers in Myanmar for 50 years so they managed to start specific help at once but reliability of renewing stocks is doubtful. An appeal for donations has been made in order to be prepared to move instantly SO

JUNE 1st BURMA APPEAL STARTS.

Please help - and THANK YOU (remember the teaspoon - TSP!)

Hazel Arscott

DEAR FRIENDS 2

‘We have around us many people whose lives tell us what faith means. So let us run the race that is before us and never give up.’ Hebrews 12.1 (NCV)

It is several weeks now since I ‘ran the race’ for Sport Relief together with my best friend Lorna, my next-door neighbour Jane and one of the young people from Broadstone URC, Mark. It was not easy. The field at Ferndown Leisure Centre (near Bournemouth) was soggy from several days of heavy rain, and the more we ran, the more muddy and slippery it became. Our final $\frac{1}{4}$ mile of each lap was a battle against the wind. But we did not give up. We reached the goal. And I am delighted to say that together we raised the amazing total of £2,650 for Sport Relief in memory of Ben.

There were three things that, for me, contributed to this achievement. Training, the support and encouragement of friends, and a worthwhile goal. By training regularly, I had ensured that I was fit enough to complete the course. I had run the distance in practice and knew I could do it. Secondly, I ran as part of a team; we kept going together, encouraging each other, and were supported by a small group of friends and family who stood in the wet and cold, cheering us on. And we had a goal: we were running in memory of Ben and for the benefit of a worthwhile charitable cause for which many people had generously sponsored us; we were determined not to let them, or ourselves, down. So despite the mud, despite the rain and the wind, despite our tired muscles and labouring breath, we kept going, lap by lap, until we reached the finishing tape.

This letter is to send my thanks to you, dear Friends, for your wonderful support which has been such an encouragement to me, and my special thanks to Michael Ball for coordinating your support and collecting in the money. Friends at Reigate Park URC contributed a total of £507 to the total (over five times my original fundraising target!). It was so good to be able to do this in memory of my son, Ben, who was my inspiration when he ran the Sport Relief Mile in 2006.

Thank you also for all your love and prayers which continue to support me in all I do. I truly thank God for you all and pray God’s blessing on you in this time of ministerial vacancy. I look forward to seeing many of you in September. Until then, let us remain fixed on Christ, our true goal and the inspiration of our faith.

In Christian love,

Caroline

WORSHIP IN THE MONTH OF JUNE

At 10 a.m. on **Sunday 1st June** our communion service will be conducted by Rev. Dr Susan Durber, the Principal of Westminster College, Cambridge, which is one of the theological colleges of the URC.

There will be no evening service.

At 10 a.m. on **Sunday 8th June** the worship will be led by Rev. Nick Baines, the Bishop of Croydon.

The evening communion service at 6.30 p.m. will be led by Rev. John Joseph, the minister of Redhill URC.

At 10 a.m. on **Sunday 15th June** there will be a Family and Parade Service led by Nick White, who is the Synod Youth and Children's Training and Development Officer.

The evening service at 6.30 p.m. will be led by Michael Ball.

At 12.15 p.m. on **Wednesday 18th June** Rev. Peter Flint, our Interim Moderator, will lead our Midweek Communion Service.

At 10 a.m. on **Sunday 22nd June** the service will be led by Rev. David Flynn, the minister of Caterham URC.

At 7 p.m. there will be a United Service at Reigate Baptist Church.

At 10 a.m. on **Sunday 29th June** the service will be led by Rev. Dr David Owen, and will include the baptism of Sophie O'Connell.

There will be no evening service.

A warm welcome to any or all of these services.

LADIES' SUMMER GET-TOGETHER

We will be meeting at **Ye Olde Six Bells, Church Road, Horley. RH6 8AD on Wednesday evening June 18th from 7.30** onwards. Whatever your age you are warmly invited to join us, hopefully outside if it is fine, for a meal or just for a drink. This is a great opportunity to meet other ladies who are involved at the church. You do not need to book but it would be very helpful if we knew you were coming so we can try and reserve sufficient space for the group. For further information or if you need transport please contact us. We look forward to meeting as many of you as possible.

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

REIGATE CHURCHES TOGETHER

holds its AGM on 25th of June at St Luke's church. This is open to all: please support this important meeting where we will be considering the future of all our local churches working together. The meeting starts at 8.15, with coffee available from 8pm.

On the previous Sunday evening there is a joint service at the Baptist Church. The preacher is Roy Searle, one of the leaders of the Northumbria Community and currently Director of Renovare.

THEME DAY

Thank you to all the church members who donated tins, bottles and pots to enable us to make our recycled musical instruments. We had a great time making the instruments and making up the songs which are printed here because I think the sentiments are lovely and you may like to be reminded of them. Thank you to Hannah Robertson and Paula Sowton for helping with the preparation and a big thank you to all the adults and young people who helped with the groups, the singing and the performing and of course to the children for taking part with such enthusiasm.

Sharon Scotton and Pat Denchfield

Theme day songs

(to the tune of *Twinkle, twinkle, little star*):-

Twinkle, twinkle, God above
 How we thank you for your love
 Help us with the sounds we make
 Praising you with the sounds we make
 Twinkle, twinkle, God above
 How we thank you for your love
 Bang, bang, music on the drum
 Bash the top with our thumb
 Thank you God for this song
 Listen how we play along
 Bang, bang, music on the drum
 We thank God for this fun
 Music, music, baked bean drum
 On the theme day we had fun
 Up above us in the sky
 God is watching as we try
 Music, music, baked bean drum
 We play loudly, strum, strum, strum

(to the tune of *Three Blind Mice*):-

Bang my claves
 Bang my claves
 See how they sound
 See how they sound
 The streamers are making a rustling noise
 We're having fun with the girls and boys
 We're making music the recycling way
 Bang my claves

Junior Church
 Junior Church
 Making lots of friends
 Making lots of friends
 We love to come and have some fun
 We sing, we play, we sit in the sun
 You should come one day and see what we've done
 At Junior Church

CRÈCHE ROTA

This is the rota for June. 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

1st June	Sandra Reid	Rosie Marshall
8th June	Lefteri Deda	Zoë or Paul Marshall
15th June	Paul and Catherine Seldon	
22nd June	Jacki Glasgow	Gretta Taylor
29th June	Claire Harris	Karen or Andrew Telford

PRAYER CALENDAR

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

1st June	Emmanuel Church, Sidlow Bridge.
8th June	Redhill URC, Shaw's Corner.
15th June	Furnistore.
22nd June	All Saints' Church, Battlebridge Lane, South Merstham.
29th June	Church of the Holy Family, Yorke Road.

DOING WORSHIP DIFFERENTLY

This is a Wimbledon Area Training Day, to which we are invited, at New Malden URC on Saturday 28th June, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. It is organised with lay preachers in mind, but it is open to anyone who would like to come.

Do you ever find you get stuck in a rut when it comes to planning a service? Would you like to do something a little different but have no idea where to start? If so, this could be just the day you need! We will work through some principles and practice which will help us to begin to think 'outside the box' and be creative in any service we lead. In the afternoon, there will be a 'technology surgery' for those interested, so bring your questions along and we'll try to solve them.

Please bring with you:

- A Bible
- Paper and pen (if you wish to take notes)

Lunch will be provided and it will be helpful to know numbers, so please book by the beginning of June to Jenny Snashall, Old Farm Cottage, 38 Old Farm Road, Hampton, Middlesex, TW12 3QT or email jenny.snashall@tesco.net or phone ☎ 020 8979 3552. There is some parking at the church itself and in surrounding streets. The station is about 15 minutes' walk away. If you need directions, please let Jenny know.

WOMEN'S GUILD

On Friday 9th May about 28 members and husbands met for a very enjoyable lunch in the church hall.

A very big thank you to all who worked so hard to make this such a success. Especially those who provided the luscious sweets, wine, chocs, mints, etc., laid tables, cleared away, washed up and helped with transport.

At our next meeting on Tuesday, 10th June at 10.30 a.m. in the Park Room, Pam Lee will be giving us a Flower Arranging demonstration.

Liz Bullen

We would like to thank our 'caterers' who supplied us with a super meal at our May meeting. It was very much appreciated, the cooking and the work involved. Well done.

A partaker

ECOTIP

I have been writing ecotips in the *Record* for several years now, to be exact 35 ecotips in total. Not that I am running out of ideas or getting bored at all (!) but I thought I would do an audit of what I have written about thus far so as not to duplicate any information. It turns out that I haven't done a single, solitary ecotip on transport issues.

I suspect this is because it is an issue we struggle with enormously as a family. We have a big estate car rated by 'What Green Car' (www.whatgreencar.com) as 61, 0 being the greenest car and 100 being the most polluting car. It was bought at a time when we had a growing family and minimal awareness of climate change. We certainly will not be buying a smaller more environmentally friendly car any time soon whilst all available funds go towards doing up our new home, and as I drive 12 miles of school runs every day it is unlikely I can get my 4 year old to cycle that every day! We also have lots of family and friends spread all over the country. What on earth am I meant to do, duck beneath the steering wheel every time I drive past someone I know and never go on holiday abroad again?! Now you see why I haven't tackled this topic before?

According to 'The Rough Guide to Climate Change' by Roger Henson, a UK resident average annual CO2 footprint is 11.6 tonnes, and 29 per cent of that goes on personal travel (car and air). Moreover, transport as a whole is the fastest growing major source of greenhouse gases. So, my plan over the next few months of ecotips is to fill you all with guilt as you jet off on your foreign holidays this summer and feed back what I realistically manage to do to reduce my personal transport carbon footprint. Watch this space!

Our next meeting is at 8 p.m. on Thursday the 26th June at 26 Windmill Way. We would love to see some new faces. We are very supportive of one another in the team, understanding that each of us can cope with different amounts of eco-work depending on our circumstances and skills, and even if you feel that you have little time (or limited knowledge) we would still value your fresh perspective and ideas. If this appeals then come along to our meeting or contact me for more information.

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

SEEN ON A PLUMBER'S VAN

We REPAIR what your husband FIXED.

FOR YEAR 6 PARENTS AND FRIENDS

On Monday 16th June 2008 at 8.00 p.m. we are holding an Open Meeting in the Park Room for anyone who has a child in Year 6. This is not just for RPC families so tell people who might be interested.

We have invited a teacher with experience of being a Head of Year 7 to come and help you think about what it will be like for you and your children in September. We have found it to be very helpful in the past, so we hope as many people as possible will take the opportunity to come and ask questions. Please don't think your questions might be considered 'silly'. If it is something you wonder about, the chances are that others are wondering too.

Contact Angela Bolton: *email@ambolton.me.uk* ☎ 248430

KIDZ KLUB, REFUEL AND YOUTH CLUB

At the March Elders' Meeting it was decided that, for the period of the vacancy, these groups should be part of Junior Church, so that all our young people are covered by the same umbrella. They will continue to be represented at Youth Council. The situation will be considered again once a Youth and Community Minister is in post.

Pat Denchfield

A BIRTHDAY PARTY

If your birthday is in July, you are a July Shiner so please come and join the rest of us at our birthday tea on Tuesday July 15th from 4 to 6 p.m. in the Park Room. There is no age restriction, 0 to 99, all are welcome. Bring the family if you can't leave them or need their help. Parents please come with your July Shiners if they are too young to come on their own.

It will help with the catering if you can let us know you are able to join us but don't worry if you can't - there is always plenty of food.

If you know of a significant birthday in July please let us know, we like to celebrate them.

A very Happy Birthday to all born in July whether you admit it or not.

Keep shining.

Angela Merritt

BOOK CLUB

The next meeting is on Monday June 30th at 8 p.m. at 22 Hardwick Road, Meadvale (Jane Dotzek ☎ 243277). The book is *Engelby* by Sebastian Faulks.

Jane Dotzek

CRADLE ROLL/YOUNG FAMILIES COFFEE MORNING

If you have recently had a baptism at RPC in your family, you should have received an invitation to this coffee morning. If you haven't but would like to join us, meet others and find out more about what is on for you all at RPC, then you and your family will be very welcome to join recent Baptism and other families for coffee, biscuits and play, any time between 9.30 and 11.30 a.m. on Wednesday 11th June in the Park Room at Reigate Park Church. It would be helpful but not essential if you could let me know if you are coming. I look forward to meeting you all then.

For more information please contact Angela Bolton, Families Liaison, ☎
248430 Email:- email@ambolton.me.uk

RANJIT

‘Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground . . .’

At 22 years one does not think much of death. Although Ranjit grew up in a slum, with an alcoholic father who was violent, and had to shoulder the family responsibilities due to his father's premature death, he looked forward to doing well in life. When his abdominal pains began, he at first ignored them. Then he visited the LCECU (Low Cost Effective Care Unit) and the doctors were reassuring. But in spite of treatment at the Unit and the main hospital, his pain persisted though they could find nothing wrong. For months following his discharge, he kept going back trying to convince them that he was NOT all right. But finally one of the doctors who saw him decided on some more sophisticated tests for rare conditions and found that Ranjit had a cancer of the bowel which rarely occurs in this young age group. By this time of course the tumour was beyond surgery and had spread. Ranjit was furious. He vowed never to go back there. But the tumour grew so big that it blocked his gut and he needed palliative treatment with a colostomy. The staff at LCECU helped him to go back to the main hospital. Once the surgery was over the palliative care team visited him and Ranjit found people were really concerned for him. They listened to his angry remarks, his frustrations and his sorrows and fears. Slowly Ranjit began to come to terms with what was happening to him. Life changed, but with acceptance came a peace that he had not known before. His family of mother and two younger brothers was caring and supportive, and he sent for his estranged sister who came with her husband and young child and the reconciliation has meant much to the whole family.

Ranjit belonged to one of the cricket ‘gangs’ in his slum. His friends of course were terrified by his illness and the fact that he was dying. They

however found the new Ranjit something of a puzzle. They began to talk among themselves about what they were seeing. They wondered why he got cancer in the first place. All of them smoked, consumed alcohol and had tried out sex, maybe drugs. Would they get cancer? They could not bear to see him in pain. Yet they found the peace that he seemed to have curious. They talked about all this and only got more and more confused. Finally they went to see Mary who was a volunteer who worked with the LCECU to help disabled people in their slums.

They had seen her going round their slum and her quiet authority had impressed them. Besides, she had contact with the doctors in the LCECU and some of them had even visited their slum from time to time. They had seen how some of the disabled people in the slums had begun to 'live' again. Perhaps she could help? Mary listened to them as they poured out their fears. She realised that these young boys had no good rôle models for life. They seemed to think that men had to smoke, drink, be violent and in control of everyone. She was troubled. She and her husband both felt they must do something for these young boys. They discussed their worries with the LCECU team, who offered to talk to the boys. 35 young men from 18 to 30 years gathered on the appointed day. Over the next few weeks, through sessions with the team specialists and counsellors, many of the worries of the young men were cleared. They talked about sex, alcohol, drugs, images of what is 'male' and other things. After a few sessions many of them said their thanks and said goodbye, but a small group wanted to continue the contact they had made. They were looking for a different way to live. So the team was able to start in this slum a 'life skill' course.

After the course was over the young men felt motivated to tackle the problem of garbage in their streets. They mapped their roads and approached the Municipality for help in cleaning the streets. Before long the young girls in the area also wanted classes for themselves. The girls showed concern for the elderly and the young mothers in the community. They conducted a half-day programme for the old folk, and set up a young mums group, which has asked to meet fortnightly.

Ranjit's death, the pointless waste of a young life? Far from it. As a result of his death young people in his community have been challenged and motivated to transform their life style for the better. Responding to the felt needs of their areas the staff at LCECU has devised new models to help to improve the health and social well-being of the surroundings.

This is another article from the *Vellore Newsletter*, somewhat abridged. Eileen Charlton has copies of this, containing many other interesting articles.

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THE RECORD

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JUNE DIARY

- Sunday** 1st 10.00am Rev. Dr Susan Durber (Westminster College).
Holy Communion.
11.30am **Church Meeting.**
No evening service.
- Sunday** 8th 10.00am Rev. Nick Baines (Bishop of Croydon).
6.30pm Rev. John Joseph. Holy Communion.
- Tuesday 10th 10.30am Women's Guild - Flower Arranging.
- Sunday** 15th 10.00am Nick White (Youth and Children's Training and
Development). Family and Parade Service.
6.30pm Michael Ball.
- Wednesday 18th 12.15pm Rev. Peter Flint. Midweek Communion Service.
- Sunday** 22nd 10.00am Rev. David Flynn (Caterham URC).
7.00pm United Service at Reigate Baptist Church.
- Wednesday 25th 8.00pm Churches Together, Reigate Group AGM, St Luke's.
- Thursday 26th 8.00pm Ecoteam meeting at 26 Windmill Way.
- Sunday** 29th 10.00am Rev. Dr David Owen. Baptism of Sophie O'Connell.
No evening service.
-

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 and Short Mat Bowling.