

THE RECORD

OF REIGATE PARK CHURCH (UNITED REFORMED)



JULY 2008

No 845

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)



'You are nearer God's heart in a garden than anywhere else on earth.' So go the rather sentimental lines of verse but I believe there is truth in it. I have my own special garden and it is the churchyard of St Just in Roseland in Cornwall, One of my ancestors, Joseph Hooker, was buried there in 1810. He came from nearby St Ewe and, although he may not have known it, so did the forebears of his cousins the Hookers of Kew. Joseph Dalton Hooker was one of the great Victorian plant hunters and some of his rhododendron introductions from the foothills of the Himalayas are in the churchyard as well as in gardens all over the world.

The location of the garden by a creek off the river Fal is beautiful especially at high tide and it is so peaceful there. The best time is spring when the rhododendrons and camellias are in bloom, but what makes the garden different is its collection of the inscribed granite stones placed all over and especially along the main path. Most of the inscriptions are from the Bible and range from Genesis to the letters of Paul, with several from Isaiah and many from the Gospels. All the well-known quotations from St John's Gospel are there and the whole garden would make a fantastic prayer walk.

I confess to liking the following doggerel near the church:-

There is great beauty in old trees
Old streets and ruins old
Why should not I as well as these
Grow lovely, growing old.

I am going to let Rudyard Kipling have the last word in the final verse of *The Glory of the Garden*.

'Oh, Adam was a gardener, and God
who made him sees
That half a proper gardener's work is
done upon his knees,
So when your work is finished you
can wash your hands and pray
For the Glory of the Garden that it
may not pass away!
*And the Glory of the Garden it shall
never pass away!*'

Michael Ball

CHURCH NIGHTS

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

WILHELMINA MEYER

Rev. John Joseph conducted Wilhelmina's funeral service recently at the crematorium. Wilhelmina was a church member and regular attender at Sunday services and also the Sunday lunch club, which she enjoyed very much. She was interested in collecting many things and all things artistic. She also painted, and her pretty watercolours decorated her flat in South Park. When in later years she could not manage the walk to the shops she saved up for a ride-on buggy, and was a familiar figure in the district riding on it, though she gave us all a few heart-stopping moments as she negotiated the steep hill and sharp bend leading to the church! When she broke her arm badly she had respite care at Park Hall. Here she was very happy, and even when she moved house she still spent two or three days a week there. The staff encouraged her to continue to paint and watch her videos, of which she had a large collection. Our love and prayers go to her two sisters and brother.

ALEC BUSHBY

There is so much for us to remember about Alec who died, age 85, and has used his membership to enrich the life of our church for so many years. During his National Service in Germany he found the non-denominational Christian fellowship there widened his vision and on his return he was able to form links with Christians of many denominations and many nations. After his marriage he was a member at Christ Church, Redhill, but he and Jean soon returned to Reigate and made their home a centre of hospitality, as our Moderator Nigel Uden found when he was a fellow theological student with Alec's son Robert. Alec was an enthusiastic supporter of our World Mission Weekends and, when Geoffrey Clarke was no longer living in Reigate, took over their organisation. Alec trained as a lay preacher and qualified for National Recognition, leading many services in our church and other churches in the District. This training made him a very good leader of Bible study groups, too. He felt strongly about things, and was not afraid to speak out, as when he pleaded with the District that Reigate Park should be allowed to give what we wanted to give to the Home Churches Fund although it was more than our 'quota'. He was a regular member of the Men's Fellowship. The memorial service was conducted by the Synod Moderator, Rev. Nigel Uden, on Saturday 31st May. Our love and prayers are with Jean and their two sons, Robert and Andrew and the three grandchildren.

KEITH BYE

Keith Bye had been a member of our church for over 30 years although the debilitating effects of his illness had prevented him from attending for some time. He was raised in the village of Tillingham in Essex where his father was a lay preacher at the local Congregational Church. After a first-class honours degree in Physics at Nottingham and a Ph.D. at Imperial College, London he spent a year in Pakistan working for V.S.O. He then moved to Phillips Research Laboratories where he achieved some distinction before the effects of his illness forced him into early retirement - he is remembered also for his participation at this time in the local International Voluntary Service group. For some time he managed to attend the (then) Senior Men's Fellowship and the Conquest Art Club, but had been living in a nursing home for several years. After a short spell in the East Surrey Hospital, he died on June 11th, aged 63. The funeral was on June 23rd at Christ Church, South Nutfield. Our love and prayers go especially to Eileen, Keith's wife.

MONDAY MORNING GROUP

The Monday Morning Group is continuing to meet in the Park Room at 10.30 a.m. until 11.45 a.m. until July 7th. We then take a summer break before returning on September 15th with a series called 'A different approach to finding God' and introduced by Angela Bolton and Sonia Christie.

LOOK OUT FOR IT!

In July the Reform magazine, under the editorship of Kay Parris, one of our own members, will be relaunched with a new look. The magazine will aim to incorporate as much as possible of the feedback gained from a recent reader survey. The comments received requested that Reform should contain a strong mix of topics, voices and article styles. One clear demand was for more articles on theology and Bible study that develop understanding and provide for discussion and/or reflection.

Later this month there will be a FREE copy of the new-style magazine for each family in the church. These will be handed out one Sunday as you leave the service. Please make sure that you receive your copy and read it to see if this new-style magazine could be the one you have been looking for, to provide you with insight into our denominational activities and current Christian thinking on the matters of concern to us this present day.

Derek Ford, *Reform* Distributor

FRIENDS OF VELLORE

This letter has been received by Eileen Charlton, who collects for Vellore Hospital on our behalf, from Richard Smith who is the Director of FOV UK.

Dear Eileen

Thank you very much indeed for the generous gift of £160 from Reigate Park Church. It is much appreciated and I trust you will thank all those who made the donation possible. PTP funds are always under pressure as more and more seek help in meeting medical costs which are rising in India as everywhere else. Of course, the increases in food and fuel prices are putting an extra burden on those who can least afford it and the rôle of PTP today is even more important.

I am sorry that you have not had reports from patients supported by your January donation. It is true that we did have a problem following Dr Pat Wallis's move from Blackheath to Oxfordshire but I hoped that had been resolved. I will contact Pat to see where we are with the reports and I hope you will hear from her soon. If you do not get reports soon please contact me.

Meanwhile thank you again for your continued support. It is so vital at the present time and your gifts as well as thoughts and prayers are most welcome.

Very best wishes, yours sincerely,

WORSHIP IN THE MONTH OF JULY

At 10 a.m. on **Sunday 6th July** our worship will be led by Jenny Mills, with assistance from Sue Knight at the Communion Service. She is to be ordained soon, and is the daughter of our former elder Brian Stops, who then himself had a call to the ministry. There will be no evening service.

At 10 a.m. on **Sunday 13th July**, our Medical Mission Sunday, the worship will be led by Rev. Sheila Purdey, who is a retired missionary, and is at Reigate Methodist Church.

The evening communion service at 6.30 p.m. will be led by Ian Fletcher.

At 12.15 p.m. on **Wednesday 16th July** Sue Knight will lead our Midweek Communion Service.

At 10 a.m. on **Sunday 20th July** our worship will be led by Rev. David Marshall-Jones, Community Minister at Caterham URC. There will be no evening service.

At 10 a.m. on **Sunday 27th July** the service will be led by Rev. Martin Camroux, the minister at Trinity Church Sutton. There will be no evening service.

WOMEN'S GUILD

Not only were we blessed with a beautiful sunny morning at our June meeting, but Pam Lee's wonderful demonstration of flower arranging was a real treat for both eye and soul. At our next meeting on Tuesday 8th July at 10.30 a.m. in the Park Room, Ron and Evelyn Talmey will be telling us of their '58 years of Partnership in Christian Ministry'. This will be an open meeting. So if any gentlemen wish to join us that morning they will be very welcome.

Liz Bullen

OFSTED-RECOGNISED FIRST AID COURSE

Would you be interested in doing a First Aid course for babies and children? This is an Ofsted recognised course with a certificate that lasts for three years. The course lasts for 12 hours and will take place over two Saturdays at Reigate Park Church, probably in the Autumn. The more people sign up, the less the course will cost. The maximum would be £60 - £70 but we hope much less when everyone clamours for a place. This is open to anyone. For more details please phone Gail, our Playgroup Manager, on 📞 241530.

CHURCH HOLIDAY TO WILLERSLEY CASTLE HOTEL

Two reports - one from the organisers and one by Margaret Goodall to the Church Meeting:-

Our holiday to Willersley in Cromford, Derbyshire, started very well as everyone turned up on time! This was the pattern for the whole holiday as everyone (except one person on one auspicious occasion!) was extremely prompt.

We had a really happy and fun holiday, everyone had such good spirits throughout the holiday and we would like to say an enormous THANK YOU to all who came for making the holiday so enjoyable especially for David and me and enabling it to run smoothly. You were really great!

We arrived at Willersley after a damp journey during Sunday afternoon and were taken to our bedrooms where we had the very necessary cup of tea. Before evening prayers we had a good sing-along, then Betty and Derek Ford took prayers.

The following days we had trips to many varied places including Chesterfield with its market and church with a crooked spire. We visited Poole's cavern which had wheelchair access (a bonus), then Buxton after which we had a lovely drive over Derbyshire peaks. On Wednesday we had a heart-jerking visit to Alrewas, the National Arboretum (see opposite). We had a local day visiting Bakewell (where I know many tarts were consumed), Haddon Hall, the Mining Museum, Aquarium, Matlock Bath then lastly the Massom Mill museum and the outlet shops!

Our Elizabethan evening is described opposite. We also had an evening when we each were able to talk about anything interesting in our lives, and this was really successful. Another evening, Simon told us about the history of Derbyshire, etc., and the last evening concluded with a most entertaining social arranged by Simon.

Evening prayers were led by various people beside Derek and Betty - Barbara Wing, Philip Down and Yvonne Larg, Hazel Arscott and David.

There was a great deal of companionship and it was really a time when we could get to know everyone and it was said to us 'It was a particularly good time for the church to have this time together and the group really benefited from time together and it was great to be able to get to know people so much better - what a nice set of people it turned out to be!'

So what a shame so many people didn't come on this holiday to experience our fellowship!

David and Daphne Hamblin

We had a wonderful holiday at Willersley Castle Hotel and a warm welcome from the staff.

Unfortunately our original numbers were just about halved as quite a few people decided not to come and three or four sadly had to drop out because of sickness.

The weather could have been a little kinder but it was much better than it was down in Reigate,

There were many highlights but I will only mention a few.

On Monday evening a lady came to give a talk on Elizabethan dresses. She brought three with her, one of which was modelled by Mavis. She then proceeded to dress herself, with some help. As the dress consisted of layer upon layer we realised that ladies in those days spent most of the day getting dressed and undressed.

On Tuesday we visited Poole's Cavern, a really spectacular sight. I am very glad I saw it, thanks to Jill and Barbara doing a 'recce'.

On Wednesday we went to the Forces Memorial Gardens at Alrewas near Lichfield. We got there before eleven so that we could be in the Chapel at eleven when a recording is played of the Last Post, two minutes' silence and the Reveille is sounded. This is done every day of the year. It was very moving. The memorial itself is made of Portland stone in which the names of service personnel who have died since 1945 are carved. We watched as a young man was adding names. We can only pray that the remaining wall will never be filled, as there is room for 15,000 more names.

Jack was able to come with us on holiday but of course we missed David, Alison and Martin. Now that five months have passed, and although we will always miss them, I'm sure David would say 'There is a time for tears and a time for laughter' and we had plenty of that.

Thank you to those who led our evening prayers and a huge thank you to Daphne and David for all the hard work they put in before the holiday, and for the care shown to everyone during the holiday. Our thanks come, I know, from everyone to them both with much love.

Margaret Goodall

GIVING BY ENVELOPE

This article is a gentle reminder from the Financial Awareness Group to those people who use one or the other of the two types of envelope currently available to make their giving most efficient. The two types of envelope are:

1. The original white weekly Offertory envelopes

These are sets of 52 small envelopes, held together by perforated lines, and each stamped with the date of a specific Sunday - one envelope for each Sunday of the year. Each envelope also has a number on it, which enables the Treasurer to identify the donor, and reclaim tax if appropriate.

The main idea behind these envelopes is to encourage regular weekly giving via the cash collection. Nearly everyone who uses these envelopes puts the same amount in for each week. This regularity is a great help to the Treasurer when he is trying to forecast how much the Church is likely to receive by way of donations over the course of the year.

Our reminder: If you miss Church for a week or two, please do remember to bring in the envelopes containing your donations for the missing weeks. Because otherwise, for every envelope and its contents that is missing, the Church is missing out on a donation that it will be anticipating. However, if you can only give on an ad hoc basis, please continue to do so.

2. Gift Aid envelopes

These envelopes are also small and white, and should be found in the back of every seat in Church. They were introduced in 2006 and their sole aim is to ensure that the Church can recover tax on any one-off donations that are made by tax-payers.

Our reminder: When using Gift Aid envelopes, please always remember to write on the back of the envelope either your Gift Aid number, or your name and address. Without this information, the Church is unable to reclaim the tax on your donation.

And finally, once again THANK YOU to all who give by envelope - whether the focus is on **regularity** (as with the first type) or on **tax efficiency** (as with the second type), it all helps ensure your Church gets the most out of what you give.

Footnote: If you use the weekly envelopes and you also have a bank account, you might find it easier to change to a Standing Order - and that would make your giving even more efficient for the Church. There's more about this at the Financial Info Point in the Church foyer, or do put any questions to one of the Financial Awareness Group:-

Helen Samuel ☎ 246305 Antonia Sood ☎ 223121

Nicky Bryant ☎ 221102 Daphne Hamblin ☎ 01342 892465

or to Gill Wiseman ☎ 01293 411881, who deals with the weekly envelopes.

38TH REIGATE SCOUT GROUP (REIGATE PARK CHURCH)

You may have been at the Family and Parade Service on Sunday morning 15th June. This service contained a considerable input from the Church Scout Group. Our scout group faces the problem of not having enough leaders and helpers to continue to offer a good and meaningful programme for these boys and girls who wish to join.

We are now appealing for help in all sections, particularly the Beavers and the Cubs. We also would be interested in anyone who could join our executive committee, which meets about three times a year (once a term).

How many of you can remember the time that you enjoyed yourself in the scout movement? I am sure that for a few hours a month you could give us some help.

The situation has become so serious that we shall be faced with some difficult decisions in the coming weeks if we cannot find help.

If you feel you can help in any way, please speak to one of our Leaders:-

Andrew Sangster (Group Scout Leader), David Bretherton (Scout Leader), Robert Wales (Assistant Cub Leader), Jill Day (Assistant Beaver Leader) or Joanne Chatfield (Beaver Leader retiring end July 2008)

We have approximately 50 boys between the ages of 7 and 13. You may consider this an adequate number of Leaders but remember some Leaders have full-time jobs and families.

Please help if you can.

CHRISTIAN AID

Our thanks to all Christian Aid collectors. We had some more money donated, so the eventual total was £1691.84, a little up on last year.

John and Anne Sowton

ECOTIP: GREENER (AND CHEAPER) DRIVING.

'Transport for London' has an excellent website. It has advice on green cars and alternative ways of getting around London rather than using the car and advice on ways to reduce your carbon emissions whilst driving. Here are some tips from the website www.tfl.gov.uk :

Pump up to cut down.

Under-inflated tyres create more resistance when your car is moving, which means your engine has to work harder, so more fuel is used and more CO₂ emissions are produced. Simply check and adjust your tyre pressures regularly and also before long journeys.

Less clutter in your car means less CO₂.

Clutter in your boot is extra weight your engine has to lug around. By removing it, you could reduce your engine's workload. This will burn less fuel and cut your CO₂ emissions, so unload any items you won't need for your journey before you set out.

Driving at an appropriate speed reduces CO₂.

Staying at the appropriate speed reduces CO₂ emissions and saves money on your petrol costs. At 70 mph you could be using up to 9 per cent more fuel than at 60 mph, and up to 15 per cent more fuel than at 50 mph.

Less stopping and starting means less CO₂.

Every time you stop then start again in a traffic queue, the engine uses more fuel and therefore produces more CO₂. Apparently, if you keep an eye on the traffic ahead and slow down early by gently lifting your foot off the accelerator while keeping the car in gear, the traffic may have started moving again by the time you approach the vehicle in front, so you can then change gear and be on your way (but perhaps not possible whilst on the Reigate school run!)

Over-revving accelerates emissions.

Modern car engines are designed to be efficient from the moment they are switched on, so revving up like a Formula 1 car in pole position only wastes fuel and increases engine wear. Using your gears wisely by changing up a gear a little earlier can also reduce revs. If you drive a diesel car try changing up a gear when the rev counter reaches 2000 rpm. For a petrol car change up at 2500 rpm.

Idling is wasting fuel.

When the engine is idling you're wasting fuel and adding to CO₂ emissions. If you're likely to be at a standstill for more than three minutes (Reigate level crossing?), simply switch off the engine.

I am sorry, an eco-warrior I may be but I hated that last tip! Whoever wrote it obviously has never had a baby who has just gone off to sleep only to wake up (with much screaming) the moment the car engine is switched off! That started me thinking along the lines of how far do we feel we must go to care for creation.....?

The Ecoteam meetings are taking a summer break, back in September.

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

UNICEF MITE NEWS

It sometimes happens that there is a catastrophe every day, and certainly parts of the world never seem to be free of difficulties. Unfortunately, although seldom shown, hundreds of children throughout the known world are left parentless, homeless and hopeless. UNICEF concentrates on trying to help in many ways - food, shelter, medical help, and schooling as the latter can become a focus of togetherness and hope. UNICEF workers are in at least 52 countries helping to make life possible and, we hope, giving children a chance to grow up and have a happy life.

Money is vital for obtaining 'things' and also providing a life for the helpers who are involved - which can be very uncomfortable in many countries. I was rather worried when I heard of an air crash at Khartoum but I am pleased to say that I have heard from Edward Carwardine that he and his wife were not involved and that the casualties were not as many as feared.

Please use the little tubs - every 5p is precious, and thank you for past contributions.

I hope to send about £200 for Burma.

Hazel Arscott

CRÈCHE ROTA

This is the rota for July. 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 July	Lefteri Deda	Anne Boyd
13th July	Sandra Reid	Rosie Marshall
20th July	Jacki Glasgow	Gretta Taylor
27th July	Judy Fowler	Zoë or Paul Marshall

PRAYER CALENDAR

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

6th July	Sandcross Lane Church.
13th July	St Matthew's Church, Station Road, Redhill.
20th July	Redhill Counselling Centre at the East Surrey Hospital.
27th July	Redhill Methodist Church, Gloucester Road.

LOOKING FOR FUN? AT A LOOSE END?

Why not book April 6 - 9, 2009 in your diaries now? What for? you might ask. Well, it will be when the Easter Workshop will be taking place. Yes, there was such a positive response this year it was felt that we should offer this outreach again next year. We ALL had fun, whatever age and whatever rôle we took.

So why not think about joining us next year? A huge variety of skills is required among us all, so let's use yours. For more details, contact Angela Bolton.

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

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

At the June Church Meeting we learned that a volunteer is needed for the task of recording Church Meeting minutes. Carol Nichols would also be glad to hear of a member willing to act as a trustee for the Playgroup.

THE RECORD

Because of holiday arrangements, the editor hopes that contributors to the next edition will do their best to get their material to him a week earlier than normal. As usual, if you are likely to have anything which can't quite make this deadline, please warn him in good time and we can save a space for you.

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THE RECORD

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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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 01293 773466

e-mail: peter.mercer@reigateparkchurch.org

JULY DIARY

Sunday	6th	10.00am	Jenny Mills. Holy Communion. No evening service.
Tuesday	8th	10.30am	Women's Guild - Ron and Evelyn Talmey.
Sunday	13th	10.00am	Medical Missions Sunday. Rev. Sheila Purdey.
		6.30pm	Ian Fletcher. Holy Communion.
Wednesday	16th	12.15pm	Sue Knight. Midweek Communion Service.
Sunday	20th	10.00am	Rev. David Marshall-Jones. No evening service.
Sunday	27th	10.00am	Rev. Martin Camroux. 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.