

THE RECORD

OF REIGATE PARK CHURCH (UNITED REFORMED)



AUGUST 2008

No 846

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)



World population is exploding. Our economy is on a rampage. Our environment is endangered through carelessness and waste. Our natural resources are being depleted. Our government is often ineffective and sometimes corrupt. Crime is on the increase and millions in our country are jobless. Hundreds of millions throughout the world are starving and homeless.

Drought, earthquake, natural and man-perpetrated disasters are wrecking our world. I think we are beginning to feel something of what those disciples felt as the 'storm of wind arose and the waves beat into the boat', and they awakened the sleeping Christ crying out, 'Teacher, do You not care if we perish?'

Maybe Christ is saying to us what He, in essence, said to those disciples: 'why are you such cowards? How little faith you have! I have created, redeemed, and appointed you for just such times as these. I am always with you, working out My will through you. Trust Me; I won't let you down. There is a quiet harbour somewhere at the end of your journey, but for now you are to abide in me and work for Me in the midst of the storm.'

God truly does care about us and, in the midst of our insufficiency, His grace is sufficient - and it is available. It is not something we have to earn, merit, or work for; it is

grace, His great gift of love. While he does not promise to cancel out all the storms of our lives as He did that storm on the Sea of Galilee, He does promise to be with us as we face and endure the storms that whirl about us. We need only, in faith, to recognise and accept His promises and power and to lay claim to His loving, supernatural peace even in the midst of the raging tempests that beset us.

Help us, O God, to lay hold of that grace which is sufficient to keep us steady and faithful whatever the storms that ravage our lives. Amen

Sue Knight

BOOK CLUB

The next book club meeting will be **Monday September 8th** at 8 p.m. We will be joined by Mary Lawson, the author, who has agreed to discuss her second book *The Other Side of the Bridge* (some people may have read *Crow Lake*, her first novel). Everyone is welcome to join us with questions for Mary. We will meet at 22 Hardwick Road, Meadvale - please call Jane Dotzek (☎ 243277) in advance if you plan to come along.

TODDLER GROUP NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

Our friendly Monday afternoon Toddler Group is again looking for volunteers. After many collective years of service, several of our loyal volunteers will be saying goodbye to Toddlers Plus at the end of August. It is now time for me to look for some more people to take their places at this much needed Toddler Group.

The main task for the volunteers is to welcome the families as they arrive and help them to feel valued, as well as setting up the rooms at 1.30, preparing the drinks and biscuits during the afternoon, washing up the cups and helping the parents to tidy everything away at 4.00.

Every Monday afternoon, mums, grannies, grandpas, carers of all ages, bring their children to the building for a fun afternoon. The babies and children enjoy playing together with the toys while the adults meet new people and form new friendships in a safe and secure environment. This group has been running for over 30 years and is needed as much now as it was then. Some of these families live in flats or small houses, often with no gardens. They like their children to be able to play safely outside in the fresh air on our patio whenever the weather permits. They also really enjoy the fellowship it brings. Often the parents who come know very few people in the area and feel that Reigate Park Church is somewhere where they feel comfortable and welcome. The volunteers too have fun. They are not responsible for the children but they can join them at play if they want to.

Please think about whether you could possibly spare one Monday afternoon each month, working alongside another volunteer. If you think you may be able to help for some or all of the session, then please speak to Angela Bolton (☎ 248430) as soon as possible for more details.

CRÈCHE ROTA

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

Sandra Reid

3rd August	Paul and Catherine Seldon	
10th August	Sandra Reid	Karen or Andrew Telford
17th August	Judy Fowler	Anne Boyd
24th August	Cover from Jam	Zoë or Paul Marshall
31st August	Claire Harris	Rosie Marshall

NEWS OF THE FAMILY

During the last month we were sorry to hear of three deaths. Ken Peters died after a long illness and a spell in hospital, and Rev. John Joseph conducted the committal at Randall's Park Crematorium, and a memorial service in Reigate Park Church. Our love and prayers go to Ken's wife Sheila. Mary Stemp, a former member, died in Norfolk, and it is possible that a memorial service will be arranged in Horley: we think of Ivor at this time. Aileen Dean has died after a long illness and we remember Brian in our prayers; a memorial service in our church is planned for July 31st at 1.00 p.m.

Brian Padgham is in the Nuffield Centre. Daphne Hamblin is at home after a nasty fall. Carol McNeill has a broken ankle. Jane Bourne has had her tonsils removed. Marjorie Elsie has been in hospital and out after surgery. Mary Hyde has had a hip operation at Epsom. Dennis Hills has undergone keyhole surgery. Veronica Nicol is now home. Hilda Chantler has moved to 8 Emmott House, and has been briefly in hospital.

It's a good month for wedding anniversaries: we have two Golden Weddings to celebrate - Daphne and David Hamblin in July, and Marion and Philip Down in August and also a silver for Tina and Jamie Papworth in early August. Tess and David Brown have their 45th anniversary in July, while Michael and Angela Bolton reach 30 years in August.

Congratulations also to Richard Bolton and Rachel Mercer, both of whom are now doctors, though they are continuing their training.

Liz Simpson and family have moved to 96 Somerset Road, RH1 6ND but the phone number remains ☎ 219208.

JUNIOR CHURCH

On the evening of Friday 27th June we said 'thank you' to all our leaders and helpers for another year's service in Junior Church. We enjoyed a delicious three-course meal, prepared once again by Lynda Case-Green and served by Zoë, Lucy, Jenny, Jessie, Conor and Joe.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to Junior Church in any way this year; details of our plans for the autumn term will be in next month's *Record!*

Pat Denchfield and Angela Bolton

UNICEF MITE NEWS

£400 was sent to the Emergency Fund for Burma. Thank you for your contributions. There are plenty of TUBS which will hold 5p, 10p, 20p, 50p or £1 coins. You could save the life of a child.

Hazel Arscott

NEWS FROM THE OLYMPICS

Bibles and Scripture booklets will be available to athletes in the Olympic village in Beijing this summer, despite rumours that Bibles would be banned at the games. In a major break-through, Chinese authorities have given the go-ahead for the printing and distribution of:

- 50,000 booklets with the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John in Chinese and English.
- 10,000 Chinese - English Bibles.
- 30,000 Chinese - English New Testaments.

The Beijing Olympic organising committee has even, for the first time, allowed its logo to be used free of charge on the Gospel portions.

The announcement follows controversy earlier this year over whether the Chinese authorities would allow Bibles to be made available at the Olympics.

James Catford, Chief Executive of the Bible Society, said ‘This is a major and exciting opportunity. We are privileged to be able to support the Church in China in the publishing of these Bibles and Scriptures during the Beijing Olympics.’

The booklets will be available to some 16,000 athletes and officials in the Olympic villages in Beijing and five other cities that are hosting events during the summer.

In other developments

- Places of worship have been set up within the Olympic village to provide religious services to athletes.
- The Church in Beijing has been asked to provide people to staff the chapel and conduct worship services and prayers.
- Thank God for the unique opportunity to make the Bible available in a country where, only 40 years ago, the Bible was banned.
- Pray that people from across the world may encounter the Bible’s life-changing message through the Scriptures available at the Olympics.
- Pray for those staffing the Olympic village chapel, that they may be powerful witnesses for God’s all-embracing love.
- Pray for the Bible Society staff who have been working hard to create this opportunity, for continued energy, creativity and passion in their work.

To join the Bible Society in supporting the printing of Scriptures at the Olympics, visit www.biblesociety.org.uk/china/olympics

WORSHIP IN THE MONTH OF AUGUST

At 10 a.m. on **Sunday 3rd August** our communion service will be led by Rev. Howard Rady. There will be no evening service.

At 10 a.m. on **Sunday 10th August**, our worship will be led by Sue Knight. The evening communion service at 6.30 p.m. will be led by Rev. Ron Talmey.

At 10 a.m. on **Sunday 17th August** our worship will be led by the Ven. Daniel Kajumba, Archdeacon of Reigate. There will be no evening service.

At 10 a.m. on **Sunday 24th August** the service will be led by Rev. Michael Davies, retired Moderator and Assistant General Secretary of the URC. There will be no evening service.

At 10 a.m. on **Sunday 31st August** the family service will be led by Rev. David Downing, Minister at Derby Central and Little Eaton, and will include the baptism of Mairin Wilson. There will be no evening service.

WOMEN'S GUILD

At our July meeting Ron and Evelyn Talmey spoke to us about their almost 59 years of 'Partnership in Christian Ministry'. Ron told us of his ministries at Ware, Spalding, Chatham, Redhill, Polegate and Hastings. All very different churches. Evelyn brought along her piano accordion which she has had since the age of 14. In between Ron's telling us about each church we had a song or chorus. Evelyn played the accordion and we all joined in the singing. A really delightful morning.

Our next meeting on Tuesday 12th August at 10.30 a.m. will be held if it is fine on the patio outside rooms 5 and 6. If it is wet we will meet in the Park Room. This meeting will be a chance to chat and get to know one another over a cup of tea or coffee and cake. If any ladies who don't normally come to Guild would like to join us they will be very welcome.

Liz Bullen

TOYS REQUIRED

If you have a doll's pram or a doll's buggy in good condition which you no longer require, which would be suitable for a 2 year old, please contact

Angela Bolton, ☎ 248430

ECOTIP: GETTING ON MY BIKE!

Almost the last thing I wrote in last month's Ecotip was 'how far do we feel we must go to care for creation...?'. I have been thinking a lot about that this month, especially as my family's transport-linked carbon emissions is one of our big eco-weaknesses. How far am I really prepared to go?

I was humbled and somewhat shamed when talking with another Mum during my youngest Alex's swimming lesson recently. She had invited me to see her chickens. (I long to keep chickens but have yet to convince my husband Bruce, more on that in another Ecotip perhaps!) We were discussing routes to get to her house - in Earlswood - when it became apparent that she cycles everywhere with her two children (aged 3 and 6). Two things struck me whilst we were chatting, the first being how much easier it is to make changes when someone else has already done it and can show me in a very practical sense what to do. The second thing was how important it is to acknowledge to myself the areas in life I can struggle with. If I hadn't been honest with you all (and myself) about my struggle to do something about our car use then I would never have been open to change, forever using the same old excuses.

So, never one to shrink from a challenge, I decided that this month I would make some uncomfortable changes for once. I have cleaned up my bike, and bought a very clever crossbar seat for my four-year-old Alex to sit on between me and the handlebars (he is too big for a rear mounted bike seat and will not tolerate a trailer). I have bought reflective safety jackets for all of us as well as night lights, locks and a basket for my bike. I plan to make all my local journeys on my bike unless I need the car to carry something large. Yes, even to church and the dreaded school run. When the weather is dry the children and I are going to cycle the two miles to school each morning and back again. Give us a wave if you see us, that's if you recognise me, I am hoping that a positive outcome of this will be to lose lots of weight!

Some useful contacts:-

Sustrans (National Cycle Network) www.sustrans.org.net ☎ 01179 290888

Surrey County Council www.surreycc.gov.uk ☎ 08456 009009 has a series of eight free Surrey cycle guides that I have found really useful in my attempts to keep off the main roads with the children. You can pick them up from the Town Hall or the Education Office in Lesbourne Road.

Bike for All www.bikeforall.net

Free compost bin: Pat and Ralph Bristol (☎ 215878) have a small compost bin (we think 330 litre) to give away. They retail at about £30.00 and you can no longer get them at a reduced rate from Reigate and Banstead, so if you were thinking of starting to compost, this is your chance!

The Ecoteam meetings are taking a summer break, back on Tuesday September 23rd 8 p.m. at 26 Windmill Way, Reigate.

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

The following prayer was found in *Under the Clock*, the newsletter of Caterham URC.

Lord God .

Help us to remember
that the earth does not belong to us,
we belong to the earth.
The beautiful, awe-inspiring earth that you created
and which we are destroying.
Remind us, Lord,
every time we make a journey,
every time we take a fresh piece of paper,
every time we turn on the tap.
every time we go shopping,
and every time we have the opportunity
to remind others
that the earth does not belong to us,
we belong to the earth.

GIVING - WHY DO WE DO IT?

(From the *Vellore news-letter*)

Are you, like me, someone who will give 50p to a charity flag day seller in the street as an easy and unembarrassed way of getting past? Is giving just a way of feeling a bit better after an indulgence? Why do we do it?

Most faiths support giving in some form and recognise that merit can be gained. Some religions insist that a proportion of your income be given to the less well off and those with special needs.

As Christians, giving is very much part of our thinking, and cautionary advice for the rich abounds in the Bible, although the proposal of giving away everything seems very extreme in our current affluent Western culture. We are forced to set our own standards in today's world. Kindness and humility are amongst the virtues to which Christians are exhorted. Equally a self-centred lifestyle is decried.

But why do we give? We want to change a situation. It was very clear at the time of the tsunami that the world empathised with those affected. The response was enormous.

This was very largely because ordinary people who had very little anyway were destroyed by an event they could not understand or control. The world wanted to help them get back on their feet. However, in this crisis and in others, there is a problem. By sending our donation, we feel that we have 'done our bit' and can happily move on with our lives. That may be a bit too easy. For the record, many of the tsunami-affected folk in East India are still living in temporary accommodation but the interest has passed and one hears very little about them.

Should we feel good about giving? Is that self-indulgent? There is a danger that we are buying a 'rosy glow' of self-contentment. Is that honest? However, the facts may be that our gift has helped a child have an operation or an older person some badly-needed treatment. That surely is worth celebrating and we should feel pleased and excited that we have helped bring that change about. Perhaps as long as we give in good faith and humility our motives are right. Humility is something I need in big doses when I go to Vellore. I see what is being done and recognise the small contribution we are making to the whole venture. One family whose daughter had just undergone surgery paid for by the FOV's Tucker Fund, and who was being transformed by the treatment, said to me 'thank you for giving us our daughter back'. All I could say was that they were very welcome and to wish the girl and her family a long and happy life. Such an experience is deeply humbling. It was however one situation well and truly changed due to our involvement.

So let us continue to give in good faith, let us recognise the successes we achieve and let us celebrate these little victories. I do not think that is too indulgent. Everyone of us will know why they give and what are their personal motives but where we put our cheque books away let us also think about those we can help in our prayers and by telling others about those that so badly need our care, sympathy and charity. We can never win and we should never forget those whose lives are so much more challenged than ours.

PRAYER CALENDAR

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

- 3rd August Epiphany Church, Mansfield Drive, Merstham.
- 10th August St Philip's Church, Nutley Lane.
- 17th August Reigate Baptist Church, Sycamore Walk, Woodhatch.
- 24th August St Luke's Church, Church Road, South Park.
- 31st August St Bede's School, Carlton Road, at the start of a new school year.

CHURCH OFFICE

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Monday to Thursday, 9.15 am to 1.00 pm

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THE RECORD

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at least two weeks before publication date.

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AUGUST DIARY

Sunday	3rd	10.00am	Rev. Howard Rady. Holy Communion. No evening service.
Sunday	10th	10.00am	Sue Knight.
		6.30pm	Rev. Ron Talmey. Holy Communion.
Tuesday	12th	10.30am	Women's Guild
Sunday	17th	10.00am	Ven. Daniel Kajumba. No evening service.
Sunday	24th	10.00am	Rev. Michael Davies. No evening service.
Sunday	31st	10.00am	Rev. David Downing. Family Service. Baptism of Mairin Wilson. 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, MondayMorning Group, Choir, Conquest Art, Playgroup, Toddlers Plus Group and Short Mat Bowling. Some of these will be in abeyance for August.