

THE RECORD

OF REIGATE PARK CHURCH (UNITED REFORMED)



SEPTEMBER 2008

No 847

REIGATE PARK CHURCH

(UNITED REFORMED)

Park Lane East, Reigate RH2 8BD

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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)



May I start with a confession? Once, not too many years ago, I was a Morris Dancer. I'm sorry - 'Please forgive me, I know not what I do'. Actually it was great fun and they are a wonderful group of people.

At an event called a Ring Meeting we met up with dancers from across the country and indeed groups from Norway and far away places, for a weekend of dancing. And on the Sunday morning we followed the tradition and went to church. And a wise, wizened Anglican minister slowly hobbled up to the pulpit and told a story that has always remained with me...

During the war he was an industrial chaplain, visiting the factories. He went to one in Coventry where they made aircraft parts. During the tour of the factory his guide stopped by a drop forge. This is a large machine where a very heavy hammer is raised into the air, then falls and smashes into a hot metal component, bashing it into shape. 'This is an amazing machine' said his guide. 'It lands with the force of several tons, and yet is accurate to within 1/16 of an inch. You can put your finger in here, and it will just kiss it'. And he gestured to the chaplain to rest his finger on the metal. The chaplain remembered

the sound of crashing metal, he looked at the weighty metal hammer held high, he looked at the die onto which the hammer would fall, he looked at his finger. And he looked at his guide and said 'I believe you'. The now minister went on to explain - 'it was in that moment I recognised the difference between belief and faith. I truly did believe what my guide was saying, but I didn't have enough faith to put my finger in.'

I often wonder - do I have enough faith? Enough to truly trust God with my life? To be honest, I probably don't. Not yet. Which leaves it in my hands. Hmm. Knowing myself, that doesn't sound like the best option! I sometimes feel God is there in the background, catching me when I fall. Perhaps that's enough. And yet I wonder - how would it be different to move beyond belief and live fully in such faith? What would that do? What would that be like? Do you know? One day, perhaps, I hope to find out.

Neil Scotton

WHEELCHAIRS NEEDED

If anyone has a wheelchair that they no longer need we should be very glad to hear of it, since we could make use of a couple more on Sundays. I could collect it, if you let me know at ☎ 245586.

Ron Cooke

CHURCH NIGHTS

‘Tuesday night is Church Night’. We are planning to start again on 16th September. Meetings are usually in the Park Room at 8 p.m. We shall start with a Bible Study series about that fascinating character Joseph, the son of Jacob. There are many lessons for living today in the story. Everyone is welcome.

AILEEN DORIS DEAN

Aileen was born on 24th April 1912 at Wembley and her family moved to Reigate from Hither Green in 1916, when a Zeppelin bombed London. After studying at Micklefield and then a secretarial college in South Norwood while living in South East London, she started work at the Prudential, where after WW2 she met and married John Oliver. Aileen had a good singing voice, and while they were living in the Croydon area she belonged to the Springpark Choral Society. Her husband John died in 1968. She moved to Harrison Close in Reigate in 1984 and became a member of our choir, and also of the Evergreen Singers. When Brian Dean founded the Short Mat Bowls Club at Reigate Park in 1996 she became a member and they met at church for worship and at the Sunday Luncheon Club. In June 2000 it was discovered she had cancer, and Brian visited her, and took her to Guildford every day for six weeks for chemo-therapy. They became close friends, and were married in Reigate Park Church on 2nd November 2000, and lived at Redhill. During the last four years she has not been able to attend church but appreciated visits. From last January her health degenerated and she died in Epsom General Hospital on 14th July 2008 at the wonderful age of 96 years.

THANKS

My family and I would like to thank all those who sent such kind and caring messages which were much appreciated. We would like to thank in particular Ron Talmey for the preparation and conducting the Committal and the Thanksgiving Service, also Mavis Proctor and the Office Staff for helping with the arrangements and Philip Down and the Choir. Thank you also to the many who came along to the service and sang so well that we are sure that Aileen must have been happy at that moment as singing was her first ‘love’. The closing choral piece was the ‘icing on the cake’. There were friends from the past and present and also the bowls club, and it was a pleasure to hear of their happy memories of Aileen. Thank you all.

Brian

NEWS OF THE FAMILY

May Tatlock is very poorly in hospital. Jean Baldwin (Karen's mother) has been in hospital. Cathy Oliver is in Tandridge Heights.

We have had two weddings. Becky Idle and Ed Butler, and Sandra Harnett and Darren Ramp. Jo Seaman is getting married at the end of August. Our good wishes to all of them.

Congratulations to Elizabeth Bourne on passing her driving test.

Congratulations and good wishes to all those who have been waiting for their GCSE and A-Level results. We hope they all did as well as they expected and some even better than that!

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.

'CALLED TO BE ELDERS'

Nominations are soon to be invited for the Elders' election which will take place at the November 23rd Church Meeting. We have five vacancies. Mike Bullen, Brian Hoad, Peter Mercer, Carol Nichols and Robert Sangster have come to the end of their 3-year term of office. Mike Bullen has indicated that he would not be prepared to stand again.

Any church member of six months' standing is eligible for election. Please give prayerful thought about whom you think may be called to serve our church in this way. There will be a meeting at 8 p.m. on Thursday 11th September at 23 The Close, the home of Michael Ball, for anyone to find out more about the rôle of an elder. Everyone is welcome and the discussion may help you decide whom you wish to nominate for election.

CONNECT BEETLE DRIVE

Our current project is TARGET TUBERCULOSIS, so with TB in mind we are holding a **T**ea and **B**eetle drive on Sunday 14th September. Tickets are now on sale and can be purchased at the Ask Here point after morning service. Or call ☎ 763328 or email lindachandler@tesco.net

Beetle is a simple fun game that can be played by anyone from age 8 to 88 !

VACANCY COVER - A REMINDER FOR EVERYONE

Congratulations and thanks to everyone who is so ably making sure that all aspects of our church life continue smoothly during the vacancy. Can we remind everyone that there are systems in hand to ensure that everything is taken care of and we don't have clashes or overlaps - you may have a lovely idea but please share it with us and don't act independently or you may find it conflicts with something else that is already planned.

Please speak to Angela Bolton if you want to plan a baptism - to Mavis Proctor for guidance regarding funerals - and to Peter Mercer regarding weddings. All the church services are planned well in advance and if you want anything included at some stage please don't take unilateral action but first consult Daphne Hamblin for morning services - Margaret Samuel for evening services - and Angela Merritt for mid-week services. In your Church Family List all the specific church groups are listed and each group has a supporting Elder. It is particularly important while we are without a Minister that the Elders are aware of all thoughts and plans and that these meet with the approval of the Church.

The Pastoral Group meet weekly and can only respond to individual needs if they are kept informed, and the 'Third Man' on the door on Sundays is available to pass on messages.

The monthly Elders' Meeting is the ideal time to ensure that all aspects of church life are well co-ordinated and running smoothly, and attendance at Church Meetings is our opportunity to keep everyone involved and informed. The next Church Meeting is on Sunday 21st September - we hope to see you all there.

Barbara Wing, Chair of Elders

SHORT MATters

We are now coming to the end of the quiet summer period and preparing for the new season of league and friendly matches. This summer is an important occasion as by the time you read this, the Club will have received their Electric Mat Winder, which will save our members the backbreaking task of laying and rolling up the mats. Not before time, many will say! This project has been partly funded by the National Lottery.

Now is the time for newcomers to take the opportunity to participate in this pleasant game and we will coach you.

Brian Dean 📞 774208

WORSHIP IN THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER

At 10 a.m. on **Sunday 7th** September our communion service will be led by Rev. Dr David Owen, our former minister.

At 6.30 p.m. in St Mary's Church, Reigate there will be a united service led by Mr Gary Chapman.

At 10 a.m. on **Sunday 14th** September, our annual Memorial Book service will be led by a former member, who was one of our own young people, Rev. Robert Bushby, minister of Burgess Hill and Haywards Heath URCs.

The evening communion service at 6.30 p.m. will be led by Mr Albert Read, who is a lay preacher from Redhill URC.

Our Midweek Communion Service at 12.15 p.m. on **Wednesday 17th** September will be led by Mr Denis Ward, one of our lay preachers.

At 10 a.m. on **Sunday 21st** September our worship will be led by Rev. Phil Andrew, Vicar of St Mary's, Reigate.

There will be no evening service.

At 10 a.m. on **Sunday 28th** September our Harvest of Flowers (more information on page 6) will continue, led by Rev. Caroline Vodden, who was with us for a time as Minister-in-training and is now Minister at Broadstone and Lytchett Minster URCs.

There will be no evening service.

HARVEST '*Bring and Share*' LUNCH

As part of our Harvest on Sunday 28th September we are holding a '*Bring and Share*' lunch. We would hope to start at 12.45 p.m. and all are welcome to join us. It would normally have been Sunday Lunch Club and members of the Club should just come and they will be looked after.

Carol Nichols has kindly offered to coordinate the items to be brought and if anyone has any difficulty please contact her.

PRAYER CALENDAR

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

7th September *Redhill Vineyard Christian Fellowship*, meeting at East Surrey College.

14th September *St Theresa's Church (RC)*, Weldon Way, Merstham.

A HARVEST OF FLOWERS

This year we are celebrating harvest on 27th and 28th September round the theme of a Harvest of Flowers. We are hoping that individuals and church groups including Junior Church will provide displays to make the church look beautiful. The displays will be set up on Friday 26th September from 2 p.m., and everyone will be welcome to come and see them on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.. Refreshments will be available through this period. There will be a collection for the Vellore Hospital in India.

The church flower arranging team will decorate the dais with pedestals and a horizontal display. The options for everyone else are:

An arrangement to go on a table,

A bouquet of garden flowers.

Anything appropriate for harvest e.g. gourds, hedgerow gleanings, special vegetables or fruit.

For our young people:

Spray of wild flowers (including grasses or bush cuttings) in a jam jar - named if possible,

Garden in a tray - aluminium tray provided.

We shall be needing helpers. For further information contact Michael Ball.

FLOWERS ON SUNDAY

I think that most of us on a Sunday morning appreciate the generosity of the members who donate the money for the flowers each week. However, they have to be arranged and, sadly, I have lost the services of two members of the team. I feel sure that amongst all the people who come to church there must be some who would like to 'have a go' at arranging a pedestal, one of the loveliest ways of displaying flowers! If you have the slightest urge to try your hand, please contact me either on a Sunday morning or on ☎ 765625. I would love to hear from you and would be happy to give any help or encouragement you feel you would like.

I shall also be putting in the foyer the rota for October 2008 to September 2009 so that people can fill in the weeks they would like to give money for the flowers.

Bobbie Hodges

COMMUNITY COFFEE STOP

The Park Room will be open for coffee, tea and friendship on the third Wednesday of each month from 10.30 till 12 noon. We hope you will find this a pleasant break in a busy life, just drop in.

Betty Ford

JUNIOR CHURCH

We should like to thank the team who provided sessions for the infant and junior age-groups during August, while our leaders and helpers were taking a well-earned rest! Junior Church resumes on September 7th, and by now all parents should have received a letter with information for the coming term.

As always we would like to thank all the Junior Church leaders and helpers who show such dedication week by week. There are quite a few changes to report: Gill Bretherton is stepping down as Co-ordinator of Vines, and we are very grateful to her for all the hard work she has put in; luckily for us she is happy to continue as a leader! Hannah Robertson has agreed to take on the co-ordinating, and we hope she will enjoy her new role. Returning to Junior Church as helpers in Vines we have Denise Anderson and Michelle Johnson; also joining the team are Ella Sowton and Ellen Simpson (who is working in Vines this term as part of her Duke of Edinburgh Award). Coming to the end of long service in Junior Church, most recently in FROGS, are Nicky Bryant and Deborah Taylor, and Jacki Glasgow (Crèche); also stepping down are Kathryn Cooper and Sara-Jane Archer (Vines). We welcome Zoë Marshall as a leader in Explorers - she has already helped us out several times this year, as has Hannah Goldsmith - and Anna Silver as a helper in Explorers. Sue Crone and Kathy Tillison have joined FROGS as leaders, and Graham Stanley, David Harnett and Jonathan Bell have become helpers. Francesca Page and Sarah Talbot have become helpers in Harmony; Zoë and Paul Marshall, Karen and Andrew Telford and Rosie Weston have joined the crèche rota.

Several people are staying on but changing groups. The following people stepped down earlier in the year: Nicky Allen, Charlotte Yardley-Rees, Liz Simpson, Rowena Clayton and Eleanor Kiy. At any one point there are over 70 people involved in leading our Junior Church, and we are very grateful to everyone who gives so generously of their time.

We are making some adjustments to some of our age groups this year: Crèche, JAM and FROGS will stay the same, but Explorers will be Reception, Year 1 and Year 2, Vines Years 3 and 4, and Harmony Years 5 and 6. This will give a better distribution of numbers across all groups. Vines and Harmony will have some joint sessions so that they can all enjoy the space of the Hall and the opportunity of sharing activities in a wider age-range.

With good wishes to everyone in Junior Church for a happy term!

Pat Denchfield and Angela Bolton

MONDAY MORNING GROUP

We meet at 10.30 in the Park Room for lively discussions and enjoy the questions provoked by the Bible and daily living. There are two courses planned:-

‘Where is God in our daily lives?’ on September 15th, 22nd and 29th, to be led by Angela Bolton and Sonia Christie

‘Tough Talk’ - the hard sayings of Jesus, another of the helpful York courses with outside speakers on tape to start us thinking, will start on 6th October for five weeks, with a break for half-term on 27th October. Fuller details next month.

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

TODDLERS PLUS

I would like to say a Huge ‘THANK YOU’ to a large number of very loyal volunteers at Toddlers Plus. Eileen Charlton, Margaret Goodall, Laura Johnson, Pam Keay and Pam Radford have all now finished volunteering at our very popular and lively Toddler Group which runs every Monday afternoon here in our downstairs rooms. Their help has been invaluable over the years and they have given a very warm welcome to all the families who have attended. I now have some new volunteers, plus the three of the original team who remain.

The group has been running at the Church almost since the Church was opened here on this site. It is an open group for anyone at RPC or in the community with children and babies who are four and under and runs on Monday afternoons from 2 - 4. We aim to have two volunteers on duty, offering a warm welcome, friendship and refreshments to those who come. We encourage families to make a voluntary donation of £1 per session to cover the basic costs.

For more information or to find out how you can help, please contact Angela Bolton email@ambolton.me.uk ☎ 248430.

REFUEL

We should like to thank Angela Merritt who is now stepping down from the Refuel team. She has put a lot of time and thought into leading this valuable group, and we are very grateful to her - especially as she has hosted the meetings in her home!

If you are in Year 7 or above look out for news of the Autumn term’s Refuel and Youth Club meetings!

Jonathan Bell

CHOOSING SCHOOLS

Does the thought of choosing a school for your child excite you or does it make you feel a bit anxious? Whichever you feel, or even if you haven't started thinking, then read on. I have arranged two evenings in September before the schools Open Days, when a Secondary School teacher and an Infant School teacher will come and help us think about what we might look for, questions we might ask, useful information, a chance to air queries, generally help us all have a clearer all round picture of what we are trying to find out when we go and have a look at the schools. These meetings are open meetings, so anyone can come, whether they come to Reigate Park Church or not, so if you have a friend or a relative you know will need to make decisions about school this Autumn or next, then tell them about these two evenings.

The **Secondary School** evening is Monday **15th September** at 8.00 in the Park Room.

The **Infant School** evening is Wednesday **17th September** at 8.00 in the Park Room.

For more information contact Angela Bolton email@ambolton.me.uk or telephone ☎ 248430

WOMEN'S GUILD

Although the unseasonable weather drove us indoors for our August meeting, we had a very enjoyable time chatting over coffee and cake. Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 9th September at 10.30 a.m. in the Park Room, when our speaker will be Sheila Charge. There will be a harvest sales table at this meeting.

Liz Bullen

BEWARE!

Please be aware that bogus traders are being a nuisance in this area with their latest 'scam'. The traders say they have been sent by a church to offer cut-price work. The traders will target those who have vehicles displaying the Christian fish symbol. Anyone showing this sign should be especially vigilant.

Derek Ford, Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator

LADIES' EVENING OUT

On the cool summer evening of 18th July, a group of 16 ladies met for our summer evening out. After a sudden change of venue and many phone calls (Ye Olde Six Bells, advised that morning they could not cater for such a large group!), we transferred to The Black Horse in Horley (who were wonderfully accommodating). The conversation was flowing in a very relaxed atmosphere, with excellent food and service. It was good to see a few more new faces along with the very welcome familiar ones and we were delighted that Alison (Skitt) was able to join us. We will be meeting next for our annual Christmas meal and details of the date and venue will be advised nearer the time. We would be delighted to see you there, please remember the invitation is for all. Any lady who would like to join us will be very, very welcome.

Jacki Glasgow, Sonia Christie, Angela Bolton

UNICEF MITE NEWS

In July Mr and Mrs Hawkins celebrated the 25th year of 'Furnishing Touch' serving Reigate. They had a sale and a lucky number draw, which provided £100 for UNICEF. They have supported UNICEF for many years. This cheque is the initial gift starting the APPEAL for ETHIOPIA. Please join in.

TV has shown children with every sign of malnutrition. Fields of plants for food are not ripe for another two months. The main appeal from Ethiopia will start on September 7th but any contributions before then will be welcome. How many life-saving drinks can you get from the contents of one 'tub'- average contents £2? £30 will provide 159 sachets of a special vitamin-enriched peanut butter used for acutely malnourished children, and 5p will provide a life-sustaining milk drink. How much food and drink have you had today?

UNICEF has been working in Georgia for years, in particular with disabled children who are severely neglected. James Nesbitt (actor and ambassador) has visited some of the special centres catering for these children. The government is now committed to taking disabled children out of institutions and into better alternatives. Unfortunately recent events must have made further work rather difficult.

Hazel Arscott

ECOTIP - CARBON OFFSET SCHEMES

One way to neutralise my effect on climate change may be to use one of the various schemes that allow me to 'offset' my carbon footprint. Whether I want to cancel the CO₂ of a long-haul flight, a year of car journeys or my entire existence, the process is the same. I visited the website of an offsetting organisation www.climatecare.org and used their carbon calculator to work out the emissions of last year's family holiday to Italy (writes smugly: we holidayed at home this year!) The five of us flying to Rome and back emitted 1.59 tonnes of CO₂ and this is translated in to a fee of £14.04 which Climate Care use to soak up a matching amount of CO₂ from the air. To do this they fund projects such as the replanting of damaged rainforest or the distribution of low energy light bulbs in developing countries or most commonly funding renewable energy projects.

However, offset schemes are not without their critics. One argument levelled against offsetting is that it's just a plaster on the wound, hiding the inherent unsustainability of carbon-intensive Western lifestyles. After all, offsetting isn't as ideal as not emitting the carbon in the first place, but it could be considered better than doing nothing at all. Another criticism sometimes made is that the offset projects may not make swift long term savings, most notably tree planting which may take decades to soak up the carbon that has been paid to be offset.

Our next Ecoteam Meeting is on Tuesday 23rd September, 8 p.m. at 26 Windmill Way, Reigate, Surrey. Do come along and help us make a difference.

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

BIBLE READING NOTES 2009

It is now the time to order next year's Bible Reading notes. At present the notes I get are from BRF, IBRA and Scripture Union. BRF have two titles, 'New Daylight' and 'Guidelines'. IBRA's two options are 'Words for Today' and 'Light for our Path'. 'Daily Bread' is the Scripture Union choice. There will be a list in the vestibule during September. Please will those who already order notes indicate whether or not they wish to receive notes next year. If you would like to start taking any of the above notes, please add your name to the list. There are, of course, other notes available and if you would like me to get these for you please add your name and the title of the notes to the list. If you have any questions, I can be reached on email at margaretsamuel@hotmail.com or on ☎ 243308.

Margaret Samuel

THE LEPROSY MISSION

The following is from a letter thanking Reigate Park Church for the recent gift of £56.38.

‘When The Leprosy Mission was founded in 1874, there was little we could do to help our patients beyond caring for their immediate physical needs and making them comfortable. We have come a long way since then, Today we can provide a completely effective cure, and continue to support patients, their families and their communities long after their treatment has ended. Our programmes include vocational training, education, case detection, rehabilitation and reintegrating people into their communities.

‘We know that the needs of leprosy-affected people are varied and complex - no two patients are the same. Where The Leprosy Mission excels is in treating people as individuals, identifying their unique needs and giving the appropriate help and support to meet those needs. More than a medical cure, we can give independence, dignity and self-respect to the most marginalized people across the world.

‘Unfortunately stigma still prevails, leading to misunderstanding and exclusion and preventing people from seeking treatment when they first suspect they have leprosy. If not treated early enough, these patients are likely to develop debilitating and irreversible disabilities and future complications. With your help, The Leprosy Mission is changing this situation.

‘Thank you so much for your compassion, and for being a partner in The Leprosy Mission’s vision of a world without leprosy.’

My big fund-raising event this year is a quiz on Saturday, 11th October. Again Dave Taylor will ask the questions. The ticket price includes a fish-and-chip supper and tickets will be on sale during September.

I thank everyone who continues to support The Leprosy Mission, and look forward to seeing you at the quiz.

Dorothy Gray

REFORM

Did you get your copy of the FREE July edition of the new relaunched Reform magazine? If you did not, there are still copies available in the Vestibule. Please take one and see if this new-style magazine could provide you with insight into our denominational activities and current Christian thinking on matters of concern to us at this present time.

Derek Ford, *Reform* Distributor

CHASE

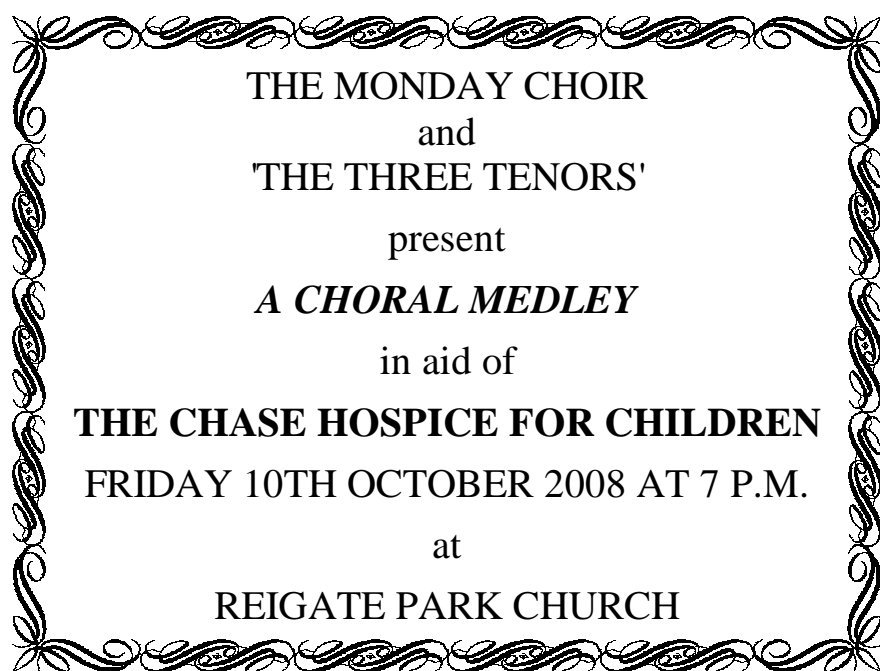
CHASE hospice care for children exists to support families with life-limited children - that is, children or young people who are not expected to reach the age of 19 because of illnesses that are incurable.

The care network that CHASE offers stretches through S. W. London, Surrey and Sussex.

The heart of the CHASE service is its Community Team, whose members are out and about every day of the year supporting these families where it counts most - in their own homes and communities.

CHASE also has its own children's hospice, called Christopher's, which is based at Artington near Guildford - a fantastic facility where families can come to spend some quality time together, Christopher's can also give the life-limited child some independent time out if the family needs to take a rest elsewhere. CHASE supports families throughout the illness of their child, and beyond. Without CHASE many families would find it difficult to cope.

It costs around £4 million each year to run CHASE, which has to be raised almost entirely through charitable donations and fundraising. CHASE provides its caring services free of charge, 24 hours a day, every day of the year and in whatever way is needed.



Tickets at £5 (unreserved) may be obtained from ☎ 221249 or 1st Stop Stationers or at the 'Ask Here' desk on Sunday morning at the church.

THE RPC FAMILY WEEKEND, MAY 2009

This is a wonderful opportunity to enjoy a relaxed weekend of fun and fellowship in East Sussex. The weekend is organised for the 8th – 10th May 2009 and the venue is Pilgrim Hall, an Edwardian country house in the beautiful rolling hills of Halland near Uckfield which is sandwiched between Ashdown Forest and the South Downs.

The weekend includes optional activities for all ages and caters for tiny tots to teenagers and adults. The adult sessions are being led by Synod Moderator of the Southern Province Rev. Nigel Uden and the children and young people's sessions by Nick White and Jamie Bruce.

The atmosphere is informal and friendly and the weekend programme is structured to allow plenty of time for getting to know each other better and for quiet reflection. Look out for the articles in the Record next month onwards from people who have been before. One of us will be in the hall after each Sunday service from the 7th September for further information and to take bookings. We are hoping to have lots more information on our church website www.reigateparkchurch.org

Location: Pilgrim Hall, Uckfield, East Sussex

Time: From 5pm Friday, 8th May to 4pm Sunday, 10th May 2009.

Contact: Further information from Richard Garlick ☎ 226476 or Sonia Christie ☎ 270095, and for bookings Anne Edwards ☎ 765891.

CRÈCHE ROTA

This is the rota for September. 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

7th September	Jacki Glasgow	Gretta Taylor
14th September	Paul and Catherine Seldon	
21st September	Lefteri Deda	Karen or Andrew Telford
28th September	Judy Fowler	Anne Boyd

SONGWRITING IN SENEGAL

It was the beginning of a four-day songwriting workshop among the Beliyan (Bassari) people, who live in the mountains in the south-east corner of Senegal where they moved to avoid Islamisation several hundred years ago. Our actual composition group comprised only 16 people, but while we were researching the music/dance styles and musical

instruments the first day, about 70 people came to 'help' - including the village chief and many of the elders. It was great to be able to draw on their collective knowledge, experience and enthusiasm.

The group listed all the instruments found among the Beliyan people and then decided, with much discussion and debate, which ones could be used in the church and which ones, for now, could not. Some may be redeemed later, but at present, since they are strongly associated with traditional religious beliefs, activities and festivals, it would be inappropriate to use them in the church.

We went through the same process with the song and dance styles and musical gestures (hand-clapping, swaying, waving etc.) deciding what was appropriate for church use. This was followed by some teaching on what the Bible says about mother-tongue languages; why we worship; biblical reasons for singing; the biblical call to sing, dance and play musical instruments; and the command to 'Sing a new song unto the Lord' (Psalm 90, 1 - 2).

Pastor Nico gave some teaching on the attributes of God (one of the themes for our songs) and then the participants were divided into three groups and went for it! For the next three days, the groups worked really hard and we ended up with a total of 40 new songs - ten of which were specifically for Christmas. I particularly likes the one that said 'The Good News was brought to the homely people first (i.e. the shepherds, which also means 'cowherds' in this culture) and not to the village chiefs'.

Before a final field recording was made, the large group listened to each song. Then the words were checked for biblical and theological accuracy and fluidity in the Oniyan language. The recording is a memory and for the tunes and words, I have made 30 copies, which have been distributed to the 16 composers, each church and the village chief.

On the Sunday morning at the church, many of the new songs were presented to the village members. The response was enthusiastic, with much spontaneous hand-clapping, dancing and responsive singing - not to mention the tears of joy dropping from my eyes!

The translation team is typing up the words for all the songs in the Oniyan language. These new songs will then be combined with some older songs which they are revising before we set to and create a hymnbook. I hope to complete this soon, but that depends when the translation team gets the song scripts to me. But, in the meantime, thanks to funding and prayer support from Wycliffe Associates UK, the Beliyan are already singing new songs to the Lord. Hallelujah!

This article, by Sheila MacKenzie Brown of Ethnomusicology, SIL International, is taken from *Help!*, the newsletter of Wycliffe Associates (UK) who have the purpose of serving missions and particularly Wycliffe Bible Translators in their work overseas, by helping in this country.

GATTON PARK OPENINGS

The beautiful historic gardens at Gatton Park in Reigate will be open on Sunday 7th September and Sunday 5th October from 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.

On **7th September** there will be a family activity, 'Trees and seeds', to identify different trees whilst enjoying the first signs of autumn.

5th October will be the last open day of the year and will feature the family activity 'The Big Draw - Weird and wonderful insects'.

Gatton Park, situated off Rocky Lane at Merstham, was formerly owned by Sir Jeremiah Colman of the famous mustard firm, and the kernel of the estate with Gatton Hall overlooking the spectacular 'Capability' Brown designed parkland with its lakes and hidden gardens now belongs to the Royal Alexandra and Albert School.

Admission is £3.50 for adults and children are free. Pick up a Discovery Rucksack containing binoculars and activity sheets for a deposit at the Hall. A golf buggy is available (with driver) for disabled visitors and dogs are welcome but must be on a lead. Refreshments are served in Gatton Hall. It is advisable to wear stout shoes as the ground in some parkland areas is muddy. St Andrew's exquisite ancient church will also be open on the above days.

Thursday 11 September Heritage Day Tours

10 a.m./ 2 p.m./ 3 p.m. Meet at St. Andrew's church lych gate. Free.

Advance booking only: Telephone ☎ 649068

THE WEAVER

(Seen by Michael Ball in a weaving shed.)

My life is but a weaving
Between my Lord and me.
I cannot choose the colours
He worketh steadily.

Oftimes he weaveth sorrow,
And I in foolish pride,
Forget he sees the upper
And I, the underside.

Not till the loom is silent
And the shuttles cease to fly,
Shall God unroll the canvas
And explain the reason why.

The dark threads are as needful
In the weaver's skilful hand,
As the threads of gold and silver
In the pattern He has planned.

CHURCH OFFICE

Church & Community Manager : Susan Stanley

Tuesday to Friday, 9.15 am to 1.00 pm

Administrative Assistant : Linda Cockerill

Monday to Thursday, 9.15 am to 1.00 pm

Telephone (01737) 249766 (answerphone outside hours)

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THE RECORD

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Contributions should be with the Editor:

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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

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SEPTEMBER DIARY

Sunday	7th	10.00am	Rev. Dr David Owen. Holy Communion.
		6.30pm	United Service at St Mary's, Reigate, led by Gary Chapman.
Monday	8th	8.00pm	Book Club at 22 Hardwick Road, Meadvale.
Tuesday	9th	10.30am	Women's Guild. Sheila Charge.
Friday	12th	8.00pm	Spiritual Development Group in the Park Room.
Sunday	14th	10.00am	Rev. Robert Bushby. Memorial Book Service.
		3.00pm	'Connect' tea and beetle drive, in aid of 'Target Tuberculosis'.
		6.30pm	Mr Albert Read. Holy Communion.
Monday	15th	8.00pm	Choosing a Secondary School. Park Room.
Wednesday	17th	10.30am	Community Coffee Shop
		12.15pm	Midweek Communion Service. Denis Ward.
		8.00pm	Choosing an Infant School. Park Room
Sunday	21st	10.00am	Rev. Phil Andrews.
		11.30am	Church Meeting.
			No evening service.
Tuesday	23rd	8.00pm	Ecoteam meeting at 26 Windmill Way.
Thursday	25th	11.00am	Zimbabwe Working Party at 1 Evesham Road.
Friday	26th	2.00pm	Harvest of Flowers - setting up.
Saturday	27th	10.00am	Harvest of Flowers - viewing.
Sunday	28th	10.00am	Rev. Caroline Vodden. Harvest Festival.
		12.45pm	Bring and Share lunch
			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.