

THE RECORD

OF REIGATE PARK CHURCH (UNITED REFORMED)



OCTOBER 2008

No 848

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)



GOING ROUND IN CIRCLES

Just recently I have been forced to take a break from my usual routines. I was like a hamster on its wheel racing around - work, home, work, church, work. I had a problem with both my eyes. The circle was broken, my life had changed. It would have been easy to sink down into a spiral of despair but a phrase of my Dad's has always guided me 'a problem is not an obstacle but an opportunity'. The opportunity that I had was time and space to think and to bring into focus important things that had become obscured. The circle of God's love that surrounds and upholds me. The circle of prayer that has been directed towards me by the members of the church. Prayer can also give you the time in the rush of life to pause and reflect. The willingness of family and friends to help and support in the practical things of life. I found it difficult to let others help me but I remembered, in one of David's sermons, based on 'it is better to give than receive', his twist that we should allow others the grace to give while we receive. I realised that I had forgotten the time when I lived in Cumbria and every Friday when I had had a tough week teaching that a group of my friends and I would go for a walk in the fells where there is space to think and reflect and be amazed at God's kingdom. Walking to the bus stop and waiting for the bus I have the same opportunity with time to reflect and organise what I am going to do and be amazed at God's kingdom. In *Finnegans Wake*, ending is no ending at all. James Joyce leaves off in mid-sentence, without punctuation or explanation. Some scholars believe the last phrase connects with the incomplete sentence that begins the book, implying an unending cycle. I hope it's so. I like that. What is that phrase from *The Sound of Music* 'when God closes a door He opens a window'? I like the Robert Fulghum approach where he can find amazing truths from everyday things:-

ALL I REALLY NEED TO KNOW about how to live and what to do and how to be I learned in Junior School. Wisdom was not at the top of the graduate school mountain, but there in the sandpile at Sunday School. These are the things I learned:

- Share everything.
- Play fair.
- Don't hit people.
- Put things back where you found them.
- Clean up your own mess.
- Don't take things that aren't yours.
- Say you're sorry when you hurt somebody.
- Wash your hands before you eat.

Flush.

Warm cookies and cold milk are good for you.

Live a balanced life-learn some and think some and draw and paint and sing and dance and play and work every day some.

Take a nap every afternoon.

When you go out into the world, watch out for traffic, hold hands, and stick together.

Be aware of wonder. Remember the little seed in the Styrofoam cup: The roots go down and the plant goes up and nobody really knows how or why, but we are like that.

Goldfish and hamsters and white mice and even the little seed in the Styrofoam cup - they all die. So do we.

And then remember the Janet and John books and the first word you learned - the biggest word of all — LOOK.

Everything you need to know is in there somewhere. The Golden Rule and love and basic sanitation. Ecology and politics and equality and sane living.

Take any one of those items and extrapolate it into sophisticated adult terms and apply it to your family life or your work or your government or your world and it holds true and clear and firm. Think what a better world it would be if we all - the whole world - had cookies and milk about three o'clock every afternoon and then lay down with our blankies for a nap. Or, if all governments had as a basic policy always to put things back where they found them and to clean up their own mess.

And it is still true, no matter how old you are — when you go out into the world, it is best to hold hands and stick together.

Peter Mercer

URC DIARIES

If you would like to order a URC diary for 2009 at £5.95 please let me know by Sunday 12th October, so that the order can be sent off quickly. Please say whether you would like a soft cover (red or green) or hard cover (blue or black).

Pat Denchfield

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

We propose to hold a series of meetings for anyone who might like to know more about what Church membership involves. No commitment is required, just an interest in being involved in an exploratory discussion. Please give your name to Michael Bullen (☎ 248421) if you might be interested, with details of when you could be available.

MAY TATLOCK

May's funeral was conducted on 11th September at the Surrey and Sussex Crematorium. She and her late husband, Jim, were longstanding members of Reigate Park Church. They came to live in this area after Jim was demobbed after losing an arm in the war in North Africa. During the war, May herself was a 'clippie' on the buses, and she had many an amusing tale to tell about her experiences at that time. Born in Liverpool, she had a wonderful sense of humour and a feisty, energetic outlook on life. She and Jim helped in organising the church transport for giving lifts to people, and she attended the then 'Mother and Toddlers' club with her grandson Leon and also helped there. In later years she was a keen member of the Zimbabwe working party, and knitted many baby jumpers for the children out there. She was also a member of the Sunday Lunch club and attended Women's Guild. We extend our love and prayers to her son Colin, daughter-in-law Soraya, and grandchildren Leon and Danielle.

NEWS OF THE FAMILY

Carol McNeill's father, Charles Collings has died. Rev. George Watt from Cheam URC conducted the service on 9th September. Carol herself is all right after a car accident on Sunday 7th September.

Brian Nicholls is in Tilgate Ward, East Surrey Hospital. Jo Stephens has been in East Surrey Hospital and Dr Chris Harris has been in East Surrey Hospital with pneumonia. Cathy Oliver is in the East Surrey after breaking her hip. Pam Radford has had surgery in hospital. Graham Larcombe has had surgery in Gatwick Park and Brian Padgham is still in the Nuffield Centre. Rev. Ron Talmey has had minor surgery and Pam Keay has had dental surgery.

We also have to report a series of accidents. Mark Squire fell from his bicycle.

Susan Knight had an accident in the garden and injured her leg. Gillian Rowe has injured her back.

Congratulations to Claire and Mark Roberts whose son, Thomas was born 8th August.

Our good wishes to David Harnett, who is going to Ravensbourne University, Chichester to study Creative Sound Design.

CHURCH GROUPS

Over the next few months Church Groups are invited to provide a brief résumé of their rôle and function and their responsibility for overseeing various aspects of Church life. Here is the first one!

THE WORSHIP GROUP

The Worship Group consists of representatives of stewards (morning and evening services), music, Junior Church, Elders, older and younger members of the congregation and pulpit supply co-ordinators.

What do we do? We consider the services planned for three months ahead and any changes or additions that need to be made. We review the past services, reporting any comments made on any aspect of the service - these are always welcome. Aspects considered are services that are particularly notable, length, content, variety of hymns, new/old hymns. We discuss - when should we seek quiet before services begin? - is there an atmosphere of worship? - how can we improve any aspects of the services for everyone? - how long should the notices be? - can we add a special appeal on a particular week? We also make sure hymn books and Bibles are available and repaired when necessary.

We encourage the congregation's participation in the services through reading the Bible passages, leading prayers, using their musical talents and leading some services. Our aim is that every worship service takes place in a well-prepared sanctuary that is conducive to worship for everyone, and we hope to succeed most of the time.

Angela Merritt - Chairman

CONQUEST ART

Conquest Art will be holding an open morning on Wednesday 22nd October in the Hall from 10 till 12. Please come and meet our artists to see their work. Tea and coffee will be served and there will be a cake stall and cards for sale. One of our artists, Doreen Sharp, has recently had one of her paintings chosen to be displayed in the Mayor's Parlour.

Liz Bullen

WORSHIP IN THE MONTH OF OCTOBER

At 10 a.m. on **Sunday 5th October** our communion service will be led by Rev. David Marshall-Jones, the Community Minister at Caterham URC. We hope to receive new members. There is no evening service.

At 10 a.m. on **Sunday 12th October**, our 'Home and Away' group of young people, with the support of the Singing Group, will lead our worship. The evening communion service at 6.30 p.m. will be led by Rev. Mark Westerman, a retired URC minister now living at Horsham.

Our Midweek Communion Service at 12.15 p.m. on **Wednesday 15th October** will be led by Rev. Sheila Purdy, who is a retired missionary at Reigate Methodist Church.

At 10 a.m. on **Sunday 19th October** our worship will be led by Rev. Martin Hazell, the URC Director of Communications and our own Kay Parris, the Editor of *Reform*. There will be no evening service.

At 10 a.m. on **Sunday 26th October** Rev. Sue Henderson, minister at Sanderstead URC, will lead our worship, including the baptism of the Berry family. There will be no evening service.

REIGATE PARK CHURCH PLAYGROUP

On Monday, 20th October, the Playgroup will be holding its Annual General Meeting at 8 p.m. in the Park Room. The Playgroup itself is a thriving part of both our church life and the community, and a warm invitation is extended to church members to come to that meeting. In particular the Playgroup are looking for Trustees from the church and also the parents to be on the management committee. The committee meets twice a term in the evenings and the Church's involvement in the committee is a vital factor to the smooth running of the group. In addition we are also seeking a new Treasurer. Would anyone with skills in this area, or who would be interested in becoming a Trustee, please contact either Jill Walker (☎ 245289) or Carol Nicholls (☎ 240372).

PRAYER CALENDAR

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

5th October	St Joseph's Church (RC), Ladbroke Road, Redhill.
19th October	Reigate Society of Friends.
26th October	East Surrey Chaplaincy Service.

SHORT MATters

The day the Club had long been waiting for, August 18th, was the day our new Electrowind mat handling machine arrived. This should take a lot of the effort out of the task of rolling and unrolling the mats each time we have a session. Duncan Whitehead, the supplier, came along to show us how it worked and gave us a demonstration of putting a mat onto the machine, winding it up and then laying the mat down again; these are two-person tasks and one of our members, Mary Bryant, stepped up to help. It all looked simple and our members were suitably impressed, asking just a few questions. Of course the real problems arose at the end of our game, after Mr Whitehead had left, when we discovered we hadn't quite understood how to operate the machine! It's amazing how many different versions of how to do it had come across.

After speaking to the supplier, it was decided to make a few modifications to the machine and we were given some tips to help us winding on. By the time you read these notes we (hopefully!) will have worked out the best technique. The equipment cost £4800, partly funded (£3200) from Lottery funds, so we want to make full use of it. Since delivery, the manufacturers have send us a "birth certificate" - all their machines are given a name and ours is called *Hellena*.

This time of the year is when we are particularly happy to receive new members and we welcomed three more over the last few weeks. There is room for others, both from within or outside the church family.

We are also starting our league matches for the 2008/9 season and, by the time you read this, we should have completed our first game, away to Mannings Heath (report next month). November is a busy time with four matches in a three week period.

Brian Dean ☎ 774208

CRÈCHE ROTA

This is the rota for October. 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

5th October	Sandra Reid	Rosie Marshall
12th October	Judy Fowler	Karen or Andrew Telford
19th October	Karen Best	Gretta Taylor
26th October	Paul and Catherine Seldon	

THE REIGATE PARK CHURCH FAMILY WEEKEND

8TH - 10TH MAY 2009

Bookings are now flooding in for a weekend of relaxation, contemplation, fun and fellowship at Pilgrim Hall, Uckfield in East Sussex next May. We are very excited that the adult sessions are being led by our Moderator Nigel Uden and the children and young people's sessions will be led by Nick White and Jamie Bruce.

If you are still undecided about whether or not to come along, have a read of Angela Merritt's experience below and look out for the other articles in the Record over the next few months from people who have been before. One of us will be in the hall after each Sunday service for further information and to take bookings. We also have more information on our church website including a booking form.

For further information contact Richard Garlick ☎ 226476 or Sonia Christie ☎ 270095 and for bookings Anne Edwards ☎ 765891.

An experience of the RPC Church Family Weekend

A change of scenery, a time to relax, a time to think about my faith. This is the weekend for me but it is also a lot more. It is a chance to meet the people belonging to the faces we greet on Sunday mornings but don't really get to know. A chance to connect families that are only seen as individuals, and for them to be together yet also choose to be apart if they wish as they can choose to sit at different tables for meals or maybe join different groups for discussion etc.

The weekend is an opportunity, if we have the courage, to talk about our faith to one another, to share experiences, ask questions, to discuss anything and everything. Most of all it is a time to enjoy fun and fellowship and to see people in a new light as they may choose to take part in an evening entertainment, or maybe lead morning or evening prayers.

Come to the Church Family Weekend and you won't regret it, I'm looking forward to my number four.

Angela Merritt

DON'T BREAK 'EM

There was a very gracious lady who was mailing an old family Bible to her brother in another part of the country. 'Is there anything breakable in here?' asked the postal clerk, 'Only the Ten Commandments' answered the old lady politely. (from Horizon, the news letter of Horsham URC.)

ECOTIP - USEFUL GREEN BOOKS

There are so many different sources of information to do with environmental issues. It can be hard to know where to go to get the real facts and find the guidelines for changes you can make, that REALLY make a difference.

There are several books that I repeatedly return to for guidance and I thought it would be helpful to tell you about them:

My top five green books

Save cash and save the planet by Friends of the Earth. ISBN 0-00-719420-X

The opening sentences of Chapter 1 appealed to me enormously - 'Lots of us care for the planet, but find it just too much effort or too tricky to do the right thing. Sometimes it is not even clear which is the most effective way to be greener.' This book gives you six key principles to help you find clear practical answers.

The Rough Guide to Climate Change by Robert Henson. ISBN 1-84353-711-7

This is my 'Eco Bible', the one I refer to again and again both to help me to write my Ecotips and to plan the teaching sessions, school assemblies and presentations to other churches that we do. It makes clear the complex and politicised issue of climate change, although in somewhat of a text book fashion.

An Inconvenient Truth by Al Gore. ISBN 0-7475-8906-2

I know that this is an emotional and perhaps even cringingly gushing book for us stiff-upper-lipped Brits, but it is such an easy read; when I am grappling with understanding a particular eco issue or when I quickly need an answer, this book always provides the answer.

See Inside Planet Earth by Katie Daynes and Peter Allen. REF 0746087543

This is a wonderful book for 5 to 11 year olds. It delves deep into the mysteries of Earth's geography to reveal the hidden secrets of life on our planet. But this is also under threat so the book encourages children to take a closer look at the challenges facing planet Earth today and discover what we can all do to make a difference.

Organic Gardening the natural no-dig way by Charles Dowding. ISBN 978-1-903998-91-5

Being the avid gardener that I am I couldn't possible write a list of my top

5 eco books without including one on organic gardening! This is a much thumbed mud-splattered tatty-looking book which I refer to constantly whilst trying to grow my veggies in tune with Mother Earth.

I am sure that many of you will wonder why I haven't mentioned a favourite eco-book of yours that is just as informative and useful; I should love to hear about them if that is the case! We are delighted that we now have a green section in the church library. All of the above books are there, along with others and some useful booklets donated to us by WWF and Friends of the Earth. Pat Denchfield and I are also working on providing some eco-books for the book stand soon. Next month I will tell you about my top five eco-websites.

Come and join us at our next Ecoteam meeting on Tuesday 28th October at 26 Windmill Way, Reigate.

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

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. Our next series is called 'Tough Talk' - another of the helpful York Courses with outside speakers on tape to start us thinking. In this course we meet Tom Wright, the Bishop of Durham, Steve Chalke, the Baptist minister founder of Oasis, Father Gerard Hughes, a Roman Catholic priest, and the Methodist Professor Frances Young. They will set us thinking about some of the more difficult sayings of Jesus. The programme is:-

6th October	Shrinking and Growing
13th October	Giving and Using
20th October	Praying and Forgiving
27th October	(Half-term break)
3rd November	Loving and Telling
10th November	Trusting and Entering.

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!

BOOK CLUB

Our next meeting is on Monday October 20th at 8 p.m., at 12 St Albans Road, Reigate (Christina Oyebo, ☎ 243515). The book is *The Road Home* by Rose Tremain.

Jane Dotzek

WOMEN'S GUILD

At our September meeting we had a most interesting talk by Sheila Charge, about her time in the Women's Land Army. It's good that the wonderful work that she and many others did during the war has at last been officially acknowledged.

At our next meeting, which will be on Tuesday October 14th at 10.30 a.m. in the Park Room, our speaker will be Dorothy Ross-Tomlin who will be telling us about her year as Mayor.

Liz Bullen

UNICEF MITE NEWS

I hope to send £200 for the Ethiopian Crisis. I had hoped to send more but there seem to be so many calls on pockets now. Unfortunately the number of children in trouble does not get less. Lately the weather has been extra unkind with storms both windy and wet or very dry; depending on the country these things affect crops and living conditions and children are lost and without parents and homes. UNICEF workers do their best to safeguard home life and so allow children to eat, learn and grow up.

Please use the TUBS:- 20 x 5p = 10 x 10p = 5 x 20p = 2 x 50p = £1.

Thank you for your help.

Hazel Arscott

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Our speakers on Thursday, 9th October, after lunch at 12.30 p.m. will be a WPC and a Community Support Officer from Reigate Police who will be talking to us about police work in Reigate.

John Pennell

Members who are unable to attend lunch are asked to notify the Secretary on ☎ 646117 at least two days before. This will ensure that the ladies who prepare and cook the meals do not have to waste any food. Cost of meals remains at £5.

Ron Cooke

REV. JENNY MILLS (NÉE STOPS)

On Sunday 7th September John and I along with our family travelled to Newport Pagnell for the Ordination and Induction of Jenny to the pastorate of Newport Pagnell URC and the Milton Keynes Mission Partnership.

Jenny was a member of Reigate Park Church during her teenage years, attending our Guide Company and attaining her Queen's Guide award. For us as a family she was our babysitter and someone we came to love very dearly. When she left Reigate to begin her teacher training at Nene College her parents Joan and Brian Stops were living in Baghdad and I can remember packing up a food parcel for her and sending her on her way. Jenny and I have kept in touch over the years and was a great support to me during my TLS Courses, so when she rang and said that she had been accepted for ministerial training I was delighted and gave her my full support. It hasn't been an easy time for her as she still continued with her part-time teaching as well as running a home for her husband and three children.

Jenny's ordination service had to be conducted in the Anglican Church as the URC was not large enough to hold the expected congregation - what a credit to her! The service was very moving and included a commendation from Rev Dr Walter Houston her tutor from Mansfield College, Oxford and a sermon preached by her father Rev. Brian Stops. I had the proud privilege of reading one of the lessons and also taking part in the 'Laying on of Hands'.

Perhaps in some way Reigate Park had some hand in sowing the seeds and preparing Jenny for her future Ministry and I'm sure we all wish her well in this new phase of her life of faith and service.

Sue Knight

THOSE CHURCH BULLETINS

The church will host an evening of fine dining, super entertainment and gracious hostility.

Potluck supper Sunday at 5.00 pm - prayer and medication to follow.

Weight Watchers will meet at 7 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church. Please use the large double door at the side entrance.

At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be 'What is Hell?'. Come early and listen to our choir practice.

(from CHURC, the news letter of Cheadle Hulme URC.)

THE MONDAY CHOIR
 and
 'THE THREE TENORS'
 present
 A CHORAL MEDLEY
 in aid of
 THE CHASE HOSPICE FOR CHILDREN
 FRIDAY 10TH OCTOBER 2008 AT 7 P.M.
 at
 REIGATE PARK CHURCH

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

REIGATE AND REDHILL CHRISTIAN AID

present the welcome return of the

PEMBROKE AND DISTRICT MALE VOICE CHOIR

Redhill United Reformed Church, Shaw's Corner

7.30 p.m. on Saturday 18th October

Tickets £12.00

Enquiries and Box Office ☎ 763769

OUR INTERREGNUM PRAYER

(found by the Editor in the back of his file - not printed during the last vacancy!)

Our God and Father, your love and wisdom know no bounds. We thank you for leading us to the choice of a new minister, and we believe he/she is being sent by you. Continue, we pray, to guide him/her and, knowing our weaknesses, strengths and needs, help us as we prepare for his/her coming.

This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ, our brother and redeemer.

Amen.

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☎ 01293 773466

e-mail: peter.mercer@reigateparkchurch.org

OCTOBER DIARY

Sunday	5th	10.00am	Rev. David Marshall-Jones. Holy Communion. Reception of members. No evening service.
Thursday	9th	12.30pm	Men's Fellowship lunch and talk by the police.
Saturday	11th	7.30pm	The Leprosy Mission Quiz.
Sunday	12th	10.00am 6.30pm	'Home and Away' and Singing Group Rev. Mark Westerman. Holy Communion.
Tuesday	14th	10.30am	Women's Guild. Dorothy Ross-Tomlin.
Wednesday	15th	12.15pm	Midweek Communion Service. Rev. Sheila Purdy.
Sunday	19th	10.00am	Rev. Martin Hazell and Kay Parris. No evening service.
Monday	20th	8.00pm 8.00pm	Book Club at 12 St Albans Road. RPC Playgroup AGM, Park Room.
Tuesday	21st	8.00pm	Ecoteam meeting at 26 Windmill Way.
Wednesday	22nd	10.00am	Conquest Art open morning.
Thursday	23rd	11.00am	Zimbabwe Working Party at 1 Evesham Road.
Sunday	26th	10.00am	Rev. Sue Henderson. 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.