

THE RECORD

OF REIGATE PARK CHURCH (UNITED REFORMED)



NOVEMBER 2008

No 849

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)



I have been working in the very privileged position as Church Secretary for several months now and the experience of 'learning the ropes' has certainly been a big life change for me. There is so much to learn - traditions to consider, routines established over many years - people's names - and keeping up with the weekly diary. I could go on and on but what keeps coming to mind is something my mother always said: 'A change is as good as a rest'. However, I'm not sure that this rings true in the context I have just mentioned!

The word change is interesting in that it features positively in many different areas and walks of our lives - - - 'That was nice for a change'. But more often we don't like change at all - - - 'I don't want to change, I like things as they are!' Children often dislike change as they like stability and a certain amount of routine, and equally, as we get older we get more set in our ways and resent change because it may make us feel uncomfortable and threatened.

In our lives some changes happen naturally and other changes are decided upon. Changes that are decided upon always affect other people and in order that these are accepted, people must be allowed and encouraged to take ownership of them. This is best brought about by awareness and involvement, knowledge and understanding of the issues.

We in RPC have been affected by several changes this past year. Everyone is aware that we are actively seeking two Ministers; a Minister to replace David and a Youth Minister. During this period of interregnum many people have

been involved in the process of maintaining the Christian ethos and worship of the Church. Everyone who worships at RPC has been kept informed and updated on where we are in the process through reports given at our regular Church meetings. I am certain that all is being done to alleviate any concerns and reassure everyone that, as in the theatre, much is going on behind the scenes.

I quote from the Synod Moderator's report on the Church living through evaluation and change:

'Change where it happens leads to a degree of uncertainty, and organisational change is not often established quickly. Change is not everyone's cup of tea because it brings with it difference, uncertainty and even risk. It can upset patterns practices and habits and create uncomfortableness.

We can adopt a negative or even suspicious and closed attitude to change, maybe because it doesn't suit our preferences. And anyway we like the way things are. Alternatively we can adopt a more open attitude, trusting that the hopeful God is somehow moving

us, shaping us, inspiring us to discover again the immensity of God's very being.'

Feeling
Afraid
I
Trust
Him

Tess Brown

REMEMBRANCE

I was fortunate enough to go on the Church Holiday to Willersley Castle in May. It was a thoroughly enjoyable week although the weather could have been better. One of the outings organised was to the National Memorial Arboretum near Alrewas in Staffordshire. The whole enormous site is a tribute to the thousands of men and women who have given their lives in the service of their country since the end of the Second World War.

There was a fair bit of walking involved and the one Memorial that really struck me was a building dedicated to the Far East Prisoners of War. It took nearly an hour to wander round this building seeing all the harrowing tributes. One such tribute was a poem written by a PoW on the Burma Railway.

The Prisoner of War -
We stand twenty feet apart,
he knows not my name,
I know not his.
It is a complexity is it not?
He is the enemy,
I am his foe.
If I stop working he will shout.
But I do not stop working,
just wait for him to turn away.
He will always be there.
The question is - shall I be?

I scribbled down the poem on a small scrap of paper. I did not even note the prisoner's name and there seemed to be no mention as to whether the writer survived the ordeal or not. Surely the poem is a fitting tribute for Remembrance Sunday.

Richard Proctor

NEWS OF THE FAMILY

Ron Hollis and Lorraine Fautley have both been in hospital and are recovering well after surgery. Terry Harvey, Mary Venus' son-in-law, is in hospital.

Cathy Oliver is in Caterham Dean following her spell in hospital but is due home soon. Jo Stephens is also in Caterham Dean. Doris Head is in Wykeham House, Horley, for respite care. Brian Nicholls is home from hospital.

Peter Mercer has had more treatment on his eyes and is to have further treatment. Marion Newton is to undergo further treatment. Michael Brown is receiving further treatment. Dorothy Ross-Tomlin has had a nasty fall and David Buck has broken a bone in his knee. Kevin Semple's father is unwell. Colin Best's father has died.

Hannah Robertson was received into membership on Sunday, 5th October, coming from Helensburgh Church of Scotland.

Elaine Girling was married on Saturday, 6th October to Paul Simpson.

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

Grace Price (formerly Chappell) met Olive and Colin Soanes whilst on holiday in Crete and the Cyclades. She now lives in Winchelsea and is well apart from a dodgy knee and sends her regards to everyone.

Christine Gillett writes: One of my part time jobs is at Felbridge Primary School where I am setting up an after-school gardening club. I have registered the school in the new scheme at Morrisons who are giving away vouchers, one for every £10 spent I think, which can then be exchanged for a whole range of gardening products from seeds to equipment. We don't have a store very close to us so I was wondering if I could ask anyone who receives vouchers that they would like to donate to this school, to please send them to me,

Christine Gillett,
Felbridge Primary School,
Crawley Down Road,
Felbridge,
East Grinstead RH19 2NT.

THE LEPROSY MISSION

The quiz held on 11th October proved to be a great success with a fish and chip supper adding to the enjoyment.

Dave Taylor again set the varied questions for the competing teams. The music questions had everyone singing along lustily. The winners were the 'Ping Pong' team. They led from start to finish and were rewarded with either a lacquered trinket dish or a wooden paper knife, made by leprosy sufferers. Many thanks to all who supported the evening, to those who helped so much on the night and of course, to all eighty who took part in the quiz, making it the success it was.

An incredible £656.80 was raised. This sum included some very generous donations. I know how delighted The Leprosy Mission will be to receive my cheque and I thank you all on their behalf.

Dorothy Gray

VELLORE

I should like to thank everyone who donated money to Vellore Medical College when we had our Flower Festival at Reigate Park Church. £251.02 was collected and a cheque has been sent and a receipt received with grateful thanks.

Eileen Charlton

URGENTLY NEEDED

BEAVER LEADER FOR THE 38TH REIGATE BEAVER COLONY

Over the last few months we have been unable to attract a person to lead our Church Beaver Colony and unless we are successful over the next few weeks we shall have to consider closure. If any one in the church family can help us or knows of anyone that they feel might be able to help us please contact any of the Section Leaders. The matter is now very urgent.

Jill Day, Paul Seldon, David Bretherton, Stuart Reid or Andrew Sangster

'HOME AND AWAY'

We have been blessed with some excellent ministers to lead our worship. But the 'Home and Away' group impressed us profoundly, supported by instrumentalists and the Singing Group. We are really fortunate to have a group of young people who not only stick together when some go to University, but keep together when they come back. They were able to challenge us in sketches and sermon to persevere and point us to a goal.

WORSHIP IN THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER

At 10 a.m. on **Sunday 2nd November** our communion service will be led by Rev. John Joseph from Redhill URC, Shaw's Corner.

There is no evening service.

At 10 a.m. on **Sunday 9th November**, Rev. Jane Rowell, minister of South Norwood URC will lead our Remembrance and Parade Service.

The evening communion service at 6.30 p.m. will be led by Rev. John DuBois, now minister at Horsham URC and formerly with us as Student Minister.

At 10 a.m. on **Sunday 16th November** our worship will be led our own Ecoteam.

There will be no evening service.

Our Midweek Communion Service at 12.15 p.m. on **Wednesday 19th November** will be led by Michael Pritchard.

At 10 a.m. on **Sunday 23rd November**, Rev. Jennifer Millington of St John's URC, Orpington will lead our worship, including the baptism of Harry Roberts. When minister of Banstead URC she was District President before our own Jill Campbell.

There will be no evening service.

At 10 a.m. on **Sunday 30th November**, which we are keeping as Bible Sunday, Rev. Stephen Thornton, minister of Fleet URC will lead our worship.

There will be no evening service.

'CALLED TO BE ELDERS'

All members have the responsibility of appointing elders to serve at Reigate Park Church. This annual event is an important moment in the life of our church. It is the time when we must all give careful consideration to the current and future needs of the church, and thought and prayer about those who have been nominated for service as elders. In the absence of a minister, the elders have responsibility for the pastoral care and leadership of the church.

Five nominations have been received for the five vacancies in the eldership - Ian Buck, Brian Hoad, Peter Mercer, Carol Nicholls and Paula Sowton. As agreed by previous church meetings, there will still be a ballot, so that the new elders will know they have the support of the membership. We are a large church, so it may be difficult to put faces to the names of the nominees. To help us get to know them better here are

five short biographies. Please give prayerful consideration before Church Meeting on Sunday morning, November 23rd.

IAN BUCK was born in 1958 in Greenford Middlesex, moving 'down south' at the age of twelve, first to East Grinstead and then, after getting married, to Horley, then Earlswood. He is married to Jane and has two sons, David and Stephen, and as a family they have been actively part of Reigate Park Church since 1992. Ian is an ordained elder, having served at both Banstead and Reigate Park. Jane and Ian co-ordinate the Frogs group of Junior Church which is the secondary school age-group. He is also responsible for co-ordinating the church sound system and project-managing the introduction of the new system. He is also a member of the vacancy committee. This year he helped with Easter Workshop and has every intention of doing so next year. He works for a train leasing company advising on, delivering and inspecting trains all over Europe. His other interests are model trains, gardening and the myriad of animals they seem to be acquiring. Family is of course important but having a wife and children so actively involved in the Church he finds the two are intrinsically linked. His thoughts for the future of Reigate Park? The appointment of the new ministers is paramount equalled by the church's maintaining momentum until this happens. He personally would like to see the development of ecumenical links both home and abroad, especially for young people. However, foremost in his mind at the moment is getting the new sound system completed.

BRIAN HOAD was born in Reigate and from the age of eight until his late teenage years sang in the choir at Emmanuel Church, Sidlow Bridge. In his early twenties he joined the RAF as a photographer and enjoyed five happy years there, Upon leaving he was employed by a local electronics company where he spent the next 25 years working. He is married to Daphne, they have three children and eight grandchildren for which they feel blessed. His interests include helping at the Bob Chudley Blind Club, reading, music and walking. He joined Reigate Park Church about 13 years ago and has for the last four years helped at the Easter Workshop. Brian was honoured three years ago to be elected onto the Eldership where he has enjoyed the participation, especially at this time of ministerial change, and has learnt so much and if re-elected would very much like to carry on being part of the exciting new era in church life.

PETER MERCER has been a member of the church since October 1970 although he had ten years away teaching in Cumbria as Head of Creative Arts Faculty and Head of Music at a large mixed comprehensive school in Barrow-in-Furness. Currently he is the Operations Manager of Reigate & Redhill YMCA. He sings in the choir and on occasions plays the organ.

He has produced numerous pantomimes and two musicals at the church with church members. He took over keeping the church roll from his father and combines it with distributing the Record. He is on the Finance and Premises Committee and can be found replacing the light bulbs in the church and organising the cleaning of the 'goldfish bowls'. He is also one of the authorised persons for the registering marriages in East Surrey. He was one of the driving forces for our Challenge 30+. Having been an Elder for six years he has responded to the challenge and has a call to use his skills for the good of the people of the church.

CAROL NICHOLLS was brought up in Exeter where she attended the local Baptist Church. She trained as a radiographer and moved to Kingston where she met her husband Brian, and they have lived in Reigate since 1972. They have three grown-up sons. She first came to Reigate Park Church through the playgroup where she met Dorothy Mercer who was just setting up the group. She joined Reigate Park in 1977. As she had not been part of a Church for some time before that, when she joined it felt like 'coming home', and she was grateful for the warm welcome she received here. She has been privileged to serve at various times in Toddlers and Junior Church, and now she is Co-ordinator for the Contact Centre and Chair of Women's Guild. Her hobbies are playing bowls, geology and reading.

PAULA SOWTON has been worshipping at RPC with three generations of her family for the last 12 years. She attended Earlswood Baptist Church as a child and moved on to St. John's Redhill where she was confirmed in 1979. She spent many happy years as a bell ringer at three local churches and at Portsmouth Cathedral whilst a student. Her move to RPC was inspired by the friendly welcome they received and the fact that their children loved the Junior Church. If elected as an Elder, she would like to play a greater part in fostering this welcoming atmosphere for all ages. As a busy mother of four children: Ella (16), Lucy (15), Jack (13) and Joel (8), she has remained closely involved with the many aspects of Junior Church. She leads the 'Harmony' group and likes to encourage the children to take part in the church services as much as possible. She has coordinated the children's part of the Nativity service several times and has led groups at the Easter Workshop for many years. She absolutely loves working with children and finds her time at Junior Church a real joy and inspiration. She is married to Andrew. They live in Earlswood. She has been a governor at Earlswood Infant and Nursery School for 9 years; she currently chairs the Human Resources Committee there. She teaches part time at Tadworth Primary School.

JUNIOR CHURCH

The Vines and Harmony groups had great fun together during our Harvest Service making flowers to bring in, and JAM and Explorers each created beautiful gardens. It was nice to have all of Junior Church back in at the end of the service.

On Sunday 16th November, Vines and Harmony will have another joint session in the Hall, this time with an eco theme.

Plans are well under way for this year's Nativity Play, and by now parents should have received a letter with information. Please check your email / service sheets for further details.

Pat Denchfield and Angela Bolton

PRAYER CALENDAR

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

2nd November *St John's Church, Pendleton Road, Redhill.*

9th November *St Katharine's Church, Church Hill, Merstham.*

16th November *Reigate Park Church.*

23rd November *Redhill Corps of the Salvation Army, Lower Bridge Road, Redhill.*

30th November *Heath Church, Flanchford Road, Reigate.*

SHORT MATters

Our visit to Mannings Heath for our first league match did not give us much joy. They have Mastermats which are very slow, and all our players found difficulty to find the right length, and the boards ran parallel to the mat which does not help. At Reigate, we have good quality mats on a fairly good floor.

On October 7th we entertained Horley in a friendly, with a victory to Reigate 42-35. Harris, Howland, James and Piggott won 15 ends in their 21-end game, the score being 33-10. Tossell, Bryant, Talmey and Hood lost the first 10 ends and then won 6 of the next 11 ends to finish 9-25. Titchener substituted at the halfway stage with some improvement.

It is obvious that we need to tighten up our game. The Club is still seeking to increase its membership, so why not come along and try?

Brian Dean ☎ 774208

HAVE YOU THOUGHT . . ?

. OF REMEMBERING REIGATE PARK CHURCH IN YOUR WILL?

Recently, the Church has received a few bequests from Wills - unexpected yet extremely welcome gifts which have been much appreciated. These gifts have enabled us to carry out some essential but expensive work, which we otherwise could not have done without launching a special fundraising campaign.

Leaving a bequest or a legacy (the technical terms for a gift left in a Will) is a very good way of supporting the work of the Church now and into the future, and does not need to be a complicated or expensive process. Perhaps you have already thought of the Church in this way, but if you haven't and would like to, all you need do is consult your solicitor about adding a short 'codicil' (or footnote) to your Will, giving details of what you would like to leave.

We at the Financial Awareness Group are always looking at ways to optimise the way in which people give to the Church, and it occurred to us that giving by Will is one option that is often overlooked. The leaflet enclosed with this copy of the Record gives some outline information about legacies in Wills - please do read it and have a think about the suggestions we make - your gift could really help the continuing work of your Church, and make a difference.

If you have any questions, please contact one of us:

Helen Samuel ☎ 246305 Antonia Sood ☎ 223121
 Nicky Bryant ☎ 221102 Daphne Hamblin ☎ 01342 892465

CRÈCHE ROTA

This is the rota for November. 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

2nd November	Claire Harris	Zoë or Paul Marshall
9th November	Sandra Reid	Anne Boyd
16th November	Judy Fowler	Rosie Marshall
23rd November	Karen Best	Karen or Andrew Telford
30th November	Paul and Catherine Seldon	

CRISIS AT CHRISTMAS - 'No Room in Society?'

16 years ago Reigate Park Church first became involved in CRISIS - the charity that works with homeless people in our major cities all the year round. Over these years we have collected some 500+ sacks of clothing, blankets and towels and some 200+ boxes of food for the Open Christmas project when six special shelters are set up by CRISIS across London 24 hours a day for one week over the Christmas holiday period. Men and women living permanently on the streets or in rundown squats or overnight hostels where they have to move on every day stay in these shelters as invited Christmas guests. During that special week they have proper beds, hot meals, hot showers, sets of new clothing, medical check-ups and eye and dental treatment. CRISIS has gradually extended what is on offer and now include housing and benefit advice and assistance with literacy and form filling to help guests towards finding places to live and jobs. Of course Open Christmas offers friendship, fun, entertainment and activities to ensure that everyone has the real Christmas celebration that most of us take for granted. Hundreds of volunteers give up their own Christmas celebrations to work at the shelters and befriend the guest - and Bjorn Perera from our own congregation was recently one of them.

As many of you know, the major stores and supermarkets now increasingly support the project by providing food, bedding and clothing. This year CRISIS is expecting additional support from these stores with a good supply of new clothing. So this year's Wish List going out to churches like us and other volunteer groups states what help is particularly needed from us -

- Food -**
- tinned food (e.g. baked beans, tomatoes)
 - sweet and savoury biscuits
 - chocolate bars (e.g. Mars, Kitkat, Twix, etc.)
 - large bags of crisps and savoury snacks
 - instant coffee and tea bags
 - sauces and spreads (e.g. marmite, ketchup, brown sauce, honey, jam etc.)
- Clothing -**
- Men's only this year - N.B. new or nearly new**
 - water-resistant jackets
 - body warmers and fleeces
 - jumpers
 - shoes and trainers

Cash donations - to purchase men's new socks and underwear

Towels - urgently needed this year - supplies have run out.

Cleaning items - J-cloths, dish cloths, floor cloths and Brillo pads

Other items - roll-on deodorants (*non-aerosol*)

bars of soap and face flannels

torches and batteries (C, AA and AAA)

rolls of tinfoil, clingfilm and greaseproof paper

Our collection - both goods and cash donations will start on **Sunday 23rd November** and will run for the next two weeks ending **Sunday 7th December**. Boxes will be in the foyer each Sunday morning for your contributions.

I'm sure that many of us are already looking forward to Christmas but please take time to think how we can help with this project by supporting generously so that Open Christmas can provide a good experience for those people for whom there is little or no room in our society.

Any queries to -

Jill Campbell ☎ 223831

CHOOSING SCHOOLS

In September we held two evenings for parents who were thinking about choosing an Infant School or a Secondary School for their children. Both these sessions were very informative and I would like to say a big thank you to the two local teachers who gave up their time to come and help parents approach the situation as well informed as possible. This can be quite a stressful time and opportunities to talk about worries etc. in a safe environment can be so useful. By the time you read this, all applications should have been submitted, so I hope that all parents can now relax.

There have been many questions regarding the position for applying to St. Bede's School, our local ecumenical secondary school, especially during the vacancy here at RPC. We held a meeting on Wednesday 15th October to discuss this with our present Year 5 parents.

Angela Bolton

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Our speaker on Thursday 13th November, after lunch at 12.30 p.m., is Mrs Dorothy Ross-Tomlin who will be giving us an insight to her year as Mayor of Reigate and Banstead.

John Pennell

THE REIGATE PARK CHURCH FAMILY WEEKEND

8TH - 10TH MAY 2009

'If a man insisted always on being serious, and never allowed himself a bit of fun and relaxation, he would go mad or become unstable without knowing it.' So said Herodotus, a Greek historian and traveller (484 BC to 430 BC) in his *Histories*.

Far be it from me to suggest that Reigate Park Church members are going loopy, but you have been warned! Do come and join in the fun, relaxation and reflection at Pilgrim Hall, Uckfield in East Sussex next May. If you are still unsure whether to come along, or would like to bring a family member who doesn't usually come to church, then have a read of my husband's thoughts below or come and see us in the hall after any Sunday service.

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

From the perspective of a Church non-attende

You may not know me but I am the husband of Sonia and the father of Ellie, Ollie and Alex Christie. I rarely come to church but have been aware for a long time that the church is a large part of my family's life: a part that I do not greatly participate in. When invited to join the rest of my family at the last Church Family Weekend I was initially hesitant but in the end decided that here was an opportunity to be with my family as they participated in something that was of importance to them.

I confess that I turned up at Pilgrims Hall with a degree of trepidation as to how I, the outsider, might be received. I needn't have worried. Everyone was open and happy to see me. There was no hint that perhaps I did not belong and no suggestion that I ought to take part in the organised sessions. Whilst my family explored their faith, I took the opportunity to recharge my batteries and do my own thing, which in my case meant walking the beautiful countryside and coastline of Sussex. We all met up again for lunch and dinner and I enjoyed finally meeting with many of the people that for so long had been known to my family but were only names without faces to me.

I ended the weekend genuinely pleased not only that I had taken the time to join with the rest of my family in something that is important to them but also in having the opportunity to take some time out for myself. I for one will be definitely going again.

Bruce Christie

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 current 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 have set us thinking about some of the more difficult sayings of Jesus. The rest of the programme is:-

3rd November Loving and Telling
10th November Trusting and Entering.

After that we hope to study the Advent theme in the Bible. 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!

WOMEN'S GUILD

At our October meeting we were treated to a very entertaining talk by Ralph Bristol about his early life in America and how he came to live in Reigate. We learned that as a young man Ralph played professional tennis, was a very good pianist and also did some preaching!

At our next meeting, which will be on Tuesday November 11th at 10.30 a.m. in the Park Room, a short AGM will be followed by a talk by Dorothy Ross-Tomlin about her year as Mayor of Reigate and Banstead.

Liz Bullen

REFORM MAGAZINE

Did the contents of the free July Reform magazine appeal to you? If they did, would you like me to include a subscription for you when I re-order the Church's magazines, beginning with the January issue? The cost for the eleven issues in 2009 will be £18.70. Please let me know by Sunday 16th November. You can of course, if you wish, subscribe direct by using the form printed in the magazine.

Could existing subscribers kindly advise me by the same date if they do NOT wish me to continue their subscription?

Derek Ford, Reform Distributor

ECOTIP - SOME USEFUL WEBSITES

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

My top five websites

www.foe.co.uk is the Friends of the Earth website, the main title being 'Making life better for people by inspiring solutions to environmental problems'. They are involved in campaigning on many issues and it is a good place to start if you want to get more involved in the politics of environmentalism.

www.wwf.org.uk is the World Wildlife Fund website. Traditionally known as the 'panda people', there is much more to them now. WWF are very proactive in the real world, addressing global threats to people and nature and endangered species and habitats, and the unsustainable consumption of the world's natural resources. This is my home page because of the news updates and environmental articles.

www.treehugger.com calls itself the leading media outlet dedicated to driving sustainability mainstream, striving to be a one-stop shop for green news, solutions, and product information. It has a good series of in-depth articles on how to green your life.

www.tearfund.org has made the link between global poverty and climate change, recognising that those who will suffer most are the poor Third World countries. It is a Christian organisation that works through local churches in the poorest countries. It has some useful resources and always reminds me of why our Ecoteam exists.

www.christian-ecology.org.uk The name of this website is very descriptive. They believe that we are responsible for our impact on God's creation as a whole. CEL helps members to understand and relate these responsibilities to their faith and then to take action. Operation Noah is one of their creations which encourage a Christian response to climate change.

The Ecoteam are taking a break over Christmas - back in January.

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

UNICEF MITE NEWS

With the help of two large cheques, I was able to send £350 to the Appeal for Ethiopia. With the help of 2 x 5p you could save a child's life. In the Bible we are told that God is aware of a sparrow's loss of life - you could save a human being! There are plenty of tubs - use them! and be thankful that you don't have to walk miles for water or food. My thanks to those who contribute already.

Edward Carwardine's father-in-law is ill with a brain tumour so he and his wife (who works in Darfur) are 'shuttling' between Khartoum and Boston in America. Please keep them in your prayers.

Hazel Arscott

THE 'RELEASE' PETITION

Don't miss the opportunity of signing the petition to the Chinese authorities which Nick Pozzo has placed in the foyer, asking for better treatment of North Korean refugees and the humanitarian workers who assist them. It urges the government of China to act compassionately towards the men, women and children escaping from North Korea by granting them refugee status, halting their victimisation by human traffickers while in China, giving them safe passage to third countries, and immediately stopping the forcible repatriation of North Koreans. 'Release International' is a charity calling itself 'the voice of the persecuted church' drawing attention to persecution in many parts of the world. We can support it not only by signing the petition, but by our prayers.

WELCARE AT CHRISTMAS

Welcare are again asking for our help this Christmas to offer support to so many families in the area who are in need. They are looking for BRAND NEW:

Developmental and activity toys, books and crafts for babies, toddlers and children up to age 8.

Gifts suitable for teenagers and parents.

Vouchers from Early Learning Centre, Woolworths, Boots, Marks and Spencer, Sainsbury's.

If you are able to support this very worthwhile organisation, please bring your gifts UNWRAPPED to the morning service on Sunday 7th December. Please note, the items must be brand new.

Any further information from Angela Bolton email@ambolton.me.uk

FROM THE CHURCH MEETING

Among the items at the October Church Meeting (for a proper report, see the minutes when they are available) Jill Campbell reported from the Vacancy Committee. During the six months for which the 'church profile' has been available to possible applicants, we have had three applications - a very good response. Two did not seem to fit the profile. The third was invited to visit the church and meet the elders, but neither the minister nor the elders then felt it would be a good match. The third stage of application would of course have been to invite the prospective minister to meet the church and 'preach with a view'. If anyone has a 'bright idea' about a prospective minister, they should not act upon it themselves, but bring it to Jill, who would pass the suggestion to our Moderator, who would pass it on to the minister's own Moderator. who would know the circumstances of the minister concerned and make a tactful approach if necessary. She asked us to keep in touch by coming to the Church Meetings (the next is Sunday, November 23rd) or at least by reading the minutes. 'Trust us and pray for us', she asked.

Mavis Proctor reported that they are planning to re-do the flooring downstairs and redecorate all the downstairs rooms.

Ian Buck reported on progress with the very ambitious scheme for the new sound system. Phase 1 was now complete, including a temporary desk at the back. Phase 2, the installation of new microphones and six radio mikes, was expected the following week. Phase 3 would take three or four weeks including lockable sound equipment and new speakers on the rear pillars. Recording would take place on CDs instead of tapes. All users would be trained and the system calibrated to the church. And there are ambitious stages 4 and 5, covering the Hall and the Junior Church rooms. The biggest threats to the updates at present are delivery dates and access to the building.

LADIES' CHRISTMAS NIGHT OUT

The Black Horse, Hookwood

Wednesday, 26th November, 7.30pm

All ladies are welcome. Please do come and join us for a meal. For further details please contact Jacki, Sonia or Angela. Do let one of us know if you need a lift.

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

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)

or e-mail: susan@reigateparkchurch.org

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THE RECORD

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☎ 01293 773466

e-mail: peter.mercer@reigateparkchurch.org

NOVEMBER DIARY

- Sunday** 2nd 10.00am Rev. John Joseph. Holy Communion.
No evening service.
- Sunday** 9th 10.00am Rev. Jane Rowell. Remembrance and Parade Service
6.30pm Rev. John DuBois. Holy Communion.
- Tuesday 11th 10.30am Women's Guild. AGM. Dorothy Ross-Tomlin.
- Thursday 13th 12.30pm Men's Fellowship lunch. Mrs D Ross-Tomlin.
- Sunday** 16th 10.00am Led by the Ecoteam.
No evening service.
- Wednesday 19th 12.15pm Midweek Communion Service. Michael Pritchard.
- Sunday** 23rd 10.00am Rev. Jennifer Millington. Baptism of Harry Roberts.
11.30am **Church Meeting**. Election of Elders.
CRISIS collection begins.
No evening service.
- Wednesday 26th 7.30pm Ladies' Christmas Night Out.
- Thursday 27th 11.00am Zimbabwe Working Party at 1 Evesham Road.
- Sunday** 30th 10.00am Rev. Stephen Thornton. Bible Sunday.
No evening service.
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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.