

THE RECORD

OF REIGATE PARK CHURCH (UNITED REFORMED)



JANUARY 2009

No 851

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)



The other day I read an article in the Times about the Archbishop of Canterbury and his experiences in New York when he was close to the twin towers on 9/11. He seems from the stories of those with him to have been outstandingly brave and caring. The thing that hit me was his response to the question 'Where was God when this happened?' and I will come back to this later.

Similar questions have been raised in the past and I remember that when the Aberfan disaster happened people were asking 'Why did God allow this to happen?', 'How can we retain our belief that God is caring when this sort of thing happens?'. These questions will always be asked, for instance about the genocide in the Congo.

I have a book called *Greatest Sermons of the Last 2000 Years* and I was surprised to find that Robert Runcie was included. When I read his sermon on the Zeebrugge ferry disaster I was no longer surprised. Again there is the question 'Why should a good God let it happen?'. The Archbishop relates many acts of selfless heroism and suggests that this is where we can see God's love at work.

Runcie goes on to say 'For the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ is not a God who stands outside us, and sends disaster. He is not even a God who offers comfort at a distance. He is Immanuel, God with us, the God who in Christ crucified plunges

into the darkness of human sorrow and suffering, to stand alongside us, even in death.'

The day after 9/11 Rowan Williams was asked to take an unscheduled service and preached off the cuff. He said 'God didn't cause this and God was not going to stop it. God has granted us free will and God has to suffer the consequences of this like we do'. In his intercessions Rowan Williams addressed different facets of the disaster and the response to the invocation 'Lord, in your mercy' was 'Hear our prayer'. The congregation was so affected by his intercessions that the response started quietly and then became louder each time until it was like the noise in a football game.

I don't have troubles at the moment but, if they are to come, I find it wonderful that I can be confident that God will come even closer alongside me. He may not take the troubles away but by sharing the suffering He will make them much more bearable.

Michael Ball

STEWARDS

Over the past few years, the number of volunteers for inner door stewards has been sadly reduced, which means that present stewards are on duty more frequently.

Please consider whether you could spend a little extra time every two or three months on a Sunday morning, to greet church members and visitors and then tidy the hymn books after the service.

Could I please remind stewards that I prepare the rotas quarterly at the beginning of February, May, August and November. When stewards know when they will not be available on Sundays, e.g. holidays, could they please let me know, in writing, by the first week of the above months. This would help to avoid the need of finding a replacement and altering the rota in the foyer.

Elizabeth Shaw 📞 242865.

MONDAY MORNING GROUP

After a Christmas and New Year break, we resume on January 19th, when Rev John Joseph has kindly agreed to lead us in a 'taster' series of Vision4Life, the series of studies which the URC is promoting. Come and 'taste' - 10.30 every Monday morning in the Park Room. We start by tasting tea or coffee!

The programme is as follows:-

19 January	Transformed by the Bible
26 January	Transformed through Prayer
2 February	Transformed by Evangelism
9 February	Taking the Next Step

SUNDAY LUNCH CLUB

I want to thank all who have, with their helpers, cooked Sunday lunches over the last nine years. A huge thank you as well to all those who have helped me when I have cooked. Without their help and support I would never have been able to manage. My best wishes to Barbara and Anna who will be co-ordinating from January.

My love to you all - God bless,

Margaret Goodall

CHURCH FAMILY WEEKEND 8TH - 10TH MAY 2009

Owing to very high demand for places, which was mentioned in the December Record, bookings have been closed, but there is a waiting list - speak to Sonia Christie (☎ 270095).

CRÈCHE ROTA

This is the rota for January. 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

4th January	Sandra Reid	Rosie Marshall
11th January	Paul and Catherine Seldon	
18th January	Claire Harris	Karen or Andrew Telford
25th January	Sandra Reid	Gretta Taylor

EASTER WORKSHOP OPEN MEETING

There will be an open meeting on Monday 12th January at 8 p.m. in the Park Room to discuss a variety of items but in particular to decide on the theme for this year's Primary School Easter event at Reigate Park Church. Please come and share your thoughts.

For more information please contact Angela Bolton ☎ 248430.

FROM THE CHURCH MEETING

Our Sunday morning meeting on 23rd November was the first to be chaired by Carol Nicholls, our new Chair of Elders, who opened it with reading and prayer.

The first item was the election of elders to fill the five vacancies. All five of those nominated were elected, having received votes from more than half of those who voted. So we give thanks and will pray for them - Ian Buck, Brian Hoad, Peter Mercer, Carol Nicholls and Paula Sowton.

Jill Campbell reported further progress on our search for a minister, now eight months since its effective start with the issue of our church profile. In addition to the three ministers who had applied, three names had been suggested by members of the church, and one of these names has been passed on to our interim moderator, Peter Flint, and the Synod Moderator. Jill asked us to pray about the vacancy, for the minister whom God is finding for us, and for the Vacancy Committee, and to let them know of any new ideas. Carol reported that the committee dealing with the Community Minister vacancy had also been meeting.

Richard Garlick reported the encouraging news that 47 adults and 35 children had booked places at the Family Church Weekend - already more than last time. No more firm bookings are being taken, but there is a waiting list.

At the time of the meeting we were still seeking a Church Treasurer, and an Open Meeting was to be held.

Shirley Harnett reported that Connect had raised £27,000 for overseas causes during its five years of life. For details, see the notice-board in the Hall.

Peter Whipps has been invited to represent Reigate Park Church at the Clergy Fraternal. They are praying for us and have asked us to pray for them.

We received written reports of the Synod Meeting and from the Youth Council, the Premises and Management Committee and the World Mission Committee. Ian Buck brought his written report on the Sound System verbally up-to-date. Phase 3 (the Sanctuary) is almost complete and they hope it will be finished by Christmas. A manual is being prepared and Ian hopes to run a training programme in January. Anyone who would like to join the rota for the control desk is invited to speak to Ian.

Barbara Bristow and Anna Burgess have agreed to take on responsibility for the Sunday lunches, but we are still seeking Communion Stewards.

This is only a selection of the things we dealt with - all in less than an hour!

WORSHIP IN THE MONTH OF JANUARY

At 10 a.m. on **Sunday 4th January** Rev. Ron Talmey will lead our Communion Service, including the ordination and induction of elders.

There will be no evening service.

At 10 a.m. on **Sunday 11th January**, Dr Graham Campling, the Synod Clerk, will lead our worship.

At 6.30 p.m. Rev. Adrian Skelton, from Oxted URC will lead our Communion Service.

At 10 a.m. on **Sunday 18th January**, Canon Chris Vallins, a retired Anglican minister who lives locally, will be leading our worship.

There will be no evening service.

On **Wednesday 21st January**, Rev. David Flynn from Caterham URC will lead our midweek communion service.

At 10 a.m. on **Sunday 25th January**, Rev Charles Meachin, formerly minister of St Paul's URC, South Croydon, will lead our worship.

There will be no evening service.

WOMEN'S GUILD

On Tuesday 2nd December we had our Christmas meeting in the Hall. Although our numbers were slightly down we had an enjoyable morning. We had our usual Christmas service with readings, lighting of candles and carols. This was followed by coffee, mince pies and a quiz.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 13th January at 10.30 a.m. in the Park Room. There will be a short financial AGM followed by a talk about 'Hats' by Carol McNeill.

We hope to have our 2009 programmes available very shortly. Any ladies who would like to attend any of the meetings will be very welcome.

Liz Bullen

PRAYER CALENDAR

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

- 4th January** *For all who gave their life for the Christian Ministry.*
11th January *St Andrew's Church, Gatton.*
18th January *Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (18th - 25th January).*
25th January *Holy Trinity Church, Carlton Road, Redhill.*

REFORM MAGAZINE

The Editor of *Reform* (who of course is Kay Parris, a member of our church) has written to all church magazine editors, encouraging their readers to send interesting stories directly to them, preferably by email. These come under two headings -

Notes and Queries: Do you have a question to ask other readers, or a suggestion they might find useful? (up to 200 words)

On Reflection: Spiritual reflections, perhaps your own perspective on what life is all about, how you cope with your doubts, or how you came to get a spiritual dimension in your life. (300 - 400 words)

The email address is reform@urc.org.uk or the postal address is Reform Magazine, 86 Tavistock Place, London W1H 9RT. Of course, the Editor of the *Record* would also be glad to receive items of the types suggested.

PREMISES AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

NOVEMBER 2008.

At our last meeting Sonia Christie came and talked us through the Eco-team's report on our premises and the ideas they had for environmental friendly improvement we could implement. The first thing they are looking at is replacing the lighting in the rooms downstairs. We thank them for the work they are doing.

Quinquennial Report. Every 5 years the United Reformed Church sends round a surveyor to assess the state of the buildings and identifies what work needs to be carried out over the next 5 years to maintain the building. We were complimented on the way we have maintained the buildings - 'The church buildings are conscientiously maintained and day-to-day cleaning and repairs are carried out methodically and effectively'. Susan Stanley was complimented on her work in keeping our Log Book of work carried out. The Church's approach to the care of our buildings is reflected in the list of work that has to be carried out immediately - 'clean out the gutters and the drains on the roof'. In the near future we will be asking for a working party to attend to this. We will also be having the 5-yearly test of all electrics in the church (£1,459).

Other work that is in hand is the replacement of Church House roof after the storm damage earlier in the year. We are just about to appoint the contractors for this. The interior of the Manse is having all the cracks in the plaster repaired, a new bathroom installed (out with the avocado green suite!), minor repair to the fittings and then we will need another working party to paint all the rooms. Finally the carpets will be cleaned and it will be ready for a new minister.

We have carried out a review of our Health and Safety Policy, and groups who use the church will be asked to carry out periodic Risk Assessments. We have put in place a Policy and Procedure in case of a 'Flu Pandemic. We have been asked by Reigate and Banstead Council if the Church can be used as an emergency centre to help them deal with any disaster (e.g. floods). This is due to be discussed at Elders and then a recommendation will be brought to Church Meeting. The Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005, that now includes Churches, has come into force. For many years we have complied with these regulations, although we did not have to, and the final part of our planned improvements will take place next year when we extend the smoke detection system to the Church and foyer. Plans have now been drawn up for the conversion of the stage into three extra rooms and stores on two floors, and we are looking at implementation in August 2009 subject to Church Meeting approval.

Just to give a flavour of other items we dealt with at our last meeting:- replacement of the heating boilers, sound system, bad crack in Room 5, memorial corridor old brass plaques, cover for cleaning and locking up when caretaker is on holiday, new photocopier, foyer notice board, old large stained glass window, loose boards on the main dais, loop system wiring in the hall.

We are now in the time of work reviews for our paid employees. Susan Stanley has had hers and those for Linda Cockerill and Nick Pozzo will be completed shortly. We thank them all for the work they do to ensure that the work of the church can be carried out so effectively.

Can you help?

- 1) The Premises and Management are looking for some people who have expertise in Human Resources or Structural Engineer / Building Maintenance to assist the committee in its work?
- 2) Do you enjoy working at heights? We need a small working party to clear the gutters, drains and moss on the roofs. The views of Gatwick from up there are spectacular!

If you think you could assist in either of these please contact either Peter Mercer, Mavis Proctor or Susan Stanley.

BOOK CLUB

Our next meeting is at 8 p.m. on Monday January 19th at Michael Ball's, 23 The Close (☎ 244224) to discuss *The Outcast* by Sadie Jones.

Jane Dotzek

A PRAYER FROM JERUSALEM FOR THE NEW YEAR

(from CHURCH, the newsletter of Cheadle Hulme URC.)

May the babe of Bethlehem
bring you peace

May the child of Nazareth
bring you Joy

May the man of Galilee
bring you strength

May the Christ of Calvary
bring you courage

May the risen Jesus
bring you hope

and the ascended Christ
a foretaste of His Glory

SHORT MATters

In our friendly against Banstead at home, it was good to see our reserve rink, skipped by Ron Talmey, do so well. Although losing 16 - 21, they won nine of 21 ends. It was give-and-take for the first 11 ends with the scores even at 9 - 9, and over the next six ends Reigate pulled away only to lose that lead again to 15 - 15. Tiredness must have arrived as they only scored one shot to Banstead's six, still a valiant effort against a very strong side to lose 16 - 21. Our second rink managed to win ten ends to be defeated 16 - 23, but put up a fight towards the end. Our strongest rink, under skip Ron Hollings, got away to a good start, lost ground in the middle but then pulled away to win 19 - 14. The final score was 51 - 58, but a very pleasant afternoon.

With five of our strongest players not available at our visit to Southwater to play a league match against the Sharks, it was not surprising that it was an uphill battle. John Harris skipped with only one regular player and a late substitute of little experience and after nine ends scored their first shot having given away 13. Whilst the Sharks continued to score at a similar rate, Reigate improved as the match progressed to score five shots, losing 6 - 25. The other rink was also at half strength, skipped by Juliana Bouttell, and got off to a bad start being down five shots in two ends, but at the 11th end had pulled up to 10 - 14. Sharks then scored 11 shots in five ends but were contained in the last five ends to six shots to Reigate's nine, with the final score 19 - 31. After two league games, we were still without a point having lost this match 25 - 56.

Our visit to Forest SMBC at Faygate was our third away game on the trot, and our opponents were properly named as their new venue was tucked away in a wood, admittedly on the edge of the village, but a nice hall though the mats were two feet shorter than normal. Ron Hollings' rink had to have a substitute as John Hood had had a fall, but they made a reasonable start sharing the shots to the 15th end at 13 - 13, but then only scored three shots to Forest's seven, losing 16 - 20. Wesley Tossell's rink at full strength were 2 - 12 down after 7 ends but pulled back, over 14 ends, 15 shots to Forest's seven, losing 17 - 20, with the joint scores 33 - 40, and no points.

The last game before the Christmas break was at home to Horley Falcons and Ron Hollings' rink began to pull away after four ends and won 14 ends with a score of 27 - 11. They tried to get a hot shot with all their woods counting, but missed out by one. The other rink were short of their usual skip Wesley Tossell and were 0 - 14 in six ends, but won 10 of the next 15 ends when time ran out at 9 - 21. The overall score was 46 - 32 and our first four points. Let us hope our home form continues in 2009. It was unfortunate that this fixture clashed with the Sunday Lunch Club's Christmas lunch so that they had to hurry their exit, for which we apologise for the inconvenience.

On December 2nd we, that's 18 members and 11 guests, went to the Mill House at Salfords for our Christmas lunch and had an enjoyable meal. Bob Napier, our former chairman, was presented with the fourth Tony Vokes Award for services rendered. He received a Certificate and a pair of engraved goblets. Our Chairman also announced that he would not be seeking re-election in April 2009.

Brian Dean ☎ 774208

CHURCH TREASURER

Reigate Park Church urgently needs a new Treasurer, as the current holder of the post is ending his term of office on 31st December. The rôle of Treasurer has already been split and various activities have been delegated to members of the Finance Group, as shown in the list below:-

Treasurer	✕	Core activity
Asst Treasurer CAF	✓	Already delegated
Asst Treasurer NatWest	?	Possible new post
Sunday Banking	✓	Already delegated
Weekly Envelopes	(✓)	Being taken over
Lettings	✓	Already delegated
Payroll	?	Possible new post
Gift Aid	✓	May be a better way
Financial Awareness	✓	Already delegated
Independent Examiner	✓	Already in post

At the present time the Treasurer performs the activities marked by a cross or a question mark and this takes one evening a week. The question marks show activities which could be done by someone else.

Michael Bolton will give a short presentation at the end of the morning service on January 11th. If anyone is prepared to take on either the whole job or part of it, please get in touch with Tess Brown, the Church Secretary (246816).

This is a vital rôle in the life of Reigate Park Church and is an interesting and rewarding one. We need your help.

CRISIS COLLECTION

- thanks for an excellent response!

Many thanks to everyone for responding so generously to our annual CRISIS Wish List. You all read the list carefully and donated exactly what was wanted. In particular you took on board that towels were urgently needed as supplies had run out, and provided masses of towels of all colours and sizes! We also had a good response to the various specific types of men's clothing listed this year and the other items - and generous cash donations amounting to £230 which were used to purchase brand-new men's socks and underwear as requested by CRISIS. (As I said to the packing team, if I have to buy such a vast amount of men's underwear ever again I think I need a male escort - I got some very funny looks from other shoppers and had to explain what I was doing - but the shop assistants were extremely helpful and gave me some wonderful special offers!)

Thank you to all who contributed this year and a special thanks to the sorting and packing team made up of regular helpers from Women's Guild + husbands and another new recruit this year - Ron Cooke, who was going to work in the church garden and on deciding it was too wet, came inside to join us! Pat Franks also decided it was too wet to garden and made tea and coffee for the rest of us! Between us all we managed to get everything packed up in record time ready for David Mercer to load up the Scout trailer for transporting all the sacks and boxes to the special 'drop-off' point in Dorking.

Let's hope that all the volunteers who worked over the Christmas period in the CRISIS shelters were able to give their homeless guests a good week where they realise that people care about them and want to help them to a better New Year.

Jill Campbell

*A copy of the full list of what we sent is on the notice board in the foyer

GET YOUR CLUB ON OUR WEBSITE

Is your church group or club promoted on the Reigate Park Church website - www.reigateparkchurch.org?

It is an ideal way of encouraging new members and informing current ones of forthcoming events.

Please send information about your club via email to Keely Harrison - keely.harrison@btinternet.com. She needs to know the following: the name of your club, what it does, who it is for, when it meets and where, any costs to join and a contact name and phone number or email address.

If you are still not sure what information to provide, click on the details for the Reigate Park Church Book Club or its Crafty Chats group - both can be found under the 'groups and clubs' heading on the website and are good examples of the type of information needed.

And for groups that are already included, please let us know your programme for the coming year!

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

On 11th December 44 of us went up to the Reigate Manor Hotel for our annual Christmas Lunch. We were greeted with a glass of "Buck's Fizz" before sitting down to eat. We were served a very good three-course lunch plus coffee or tea that most of us were happy with. The Fellowship hopes you all had a very happy Christmas and wishes you a happy, healthy New Year.

I look forward to seeing all existing members and any other men who would like to join us on the second Thursday in January (8th) at 12 noon for a scrumptious lunch at 12.30.

Ron Cooke

SIGNS SEEN OUTSIDE CHURCHES

Dusty Bibles lead to Dirty Lives.

In the dark? Follow the Son.

Church Car Park - for members only. Trespassers will be baptized!

(from Horizon, the news letter of Horsham URC.)

A PRAYER FROM VELLORE

Inscribed in the outdoor chapel of the Low Cost Effective Care Unit at the Vellore Hospital is this prayer of Mother Theresa:-

Lord, when I am hungry - give me someone needing food.

When I am thirsty - send me someone needing a drink.

When I am cold - send me someone to warm.

When I am grieved - send me someone to console.

When my cross grows heavy - let me carry another's cross too.

When I am poor - lead me to someone in need.

When I have no time - give me someone I can help a little while.

When I am humiliated - let me have someone to praise.

When I need understanding - give me someone who needs mine.

When I need to be looked after - give me someone to care for.

When I think only of myself - draw my thoughts to another.

(from the Vellore UK Newsletter)

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JANUARY DIARY

Sunday	4th	10.00am Rev. Ron Talmey. Holy Communion. Ordination and Induction of Elders.
Thursday	8th	12.30pm Men's Fellowship.
Sunday	11th	10.00am Dr. Graham Campling (Synod Clerk) 6.30pm Rev Adrian Skelton (Oxted)
Monday	12th	8.00pm Easter Workshop Open Meeting. Park Room.
Tuesday	13th	10.30am Women's Guild - AGM and 'Hats' - Carol McNeill.
Sunday	18th	10.00am Canon Chris Vallins. 11.30am Church Meeting. No evening service.
Wednesday	21st	12.15pm Midweek Communion Service. Rev. David Flynn (Caterham)
Thursday	22nd	11.00am Zimbabwe Working Party at 1 Evesham Road.
Sunday	25th	10.00am Rev. Charles Meachin. 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.