

# THE RECORD

OF REIGATE PARK CHURCH (UNITED REFORMED)



APRIL 2009

No 854

# **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)



## EBENEZER

To many people the name 'Ebenezer' would make them think of Scrooge. But to many of us at Cambridge in the forties, it made us think of 'Eb' - Ebenezer Cunningham. He was our choirmaster at Emmanuel Congregational Church, and also

Church Secretary - although it was a large church, he could tackle both jobs very well - and he was my Director of Studies in Maths at St John's College, a lovely person. He was a member of the Oxford Group, which was a Christian revival group that aimed at 'absolute honesty, absolute purity, absolute unselfishness and absolute love'. In Beverley Nichols' book *The Fool hath said* he tells of 'a brilliant Cambridge mathematician' - obviously Eb - who says 'Before I met the Group, I was in a regular mess with my advanced pupils. When I was working out an intricate problem on the blackboard, I sometimes used to get stuck. When that happened, I'd wave my hand airily to the class and say "You can finish that for yourselves". Then I used to retire behind the blackboard. But now, I say quite frankly "Sorry, but I'm stuck". As a result we're all friends, we've got a new interest in our work and they trust me as they've never trusted me before.'

*Ebenezer* is also the name of a lovely Welsh hymn tune - solemn but grand. So called because it is used for the hymn, 'Come, Thou fount of every blessing . . .' (360 in *Rejoice and Sing*) one verse of which begins 'Here I place my Ebenezer: hither, by Thy help, I'm come'. (A more familiar version says 'Here I raise my Ebenezer:.) What was Eben-ezer? It meant the 'stone of help' which Samuel raised to celebrate victory over the Philistines, saying 'Hitherto hath the Lord helped us'. (1 Samuel 7:12).

What does this mean - 'So far so good', perhaps? The *New International Version* seems to think so, and translates it 'Thus far has the Lord helped us'.

Moffat, in the first modern translation, was a little more positive, and translated it 'This is witness that the Eternal has helped us'. The *Revised English Bible* has almost the same words. But the *Good News Bible* translates it 'The Lord has helped us all the way', which I find much more inspiring.

However the one who got the greatest meaning out of it was the great hymn-writer John Newton in his 'Begone unbelief; my Saviour is near' (not, alas, in *Rejoice and Sing*). He says 'Each sweet Ebenezer I have in review, confirms His good pleasure to help me quite through'.

I can 'raise my Ebenezer' in a particularly personal way. Thanks to

Ebenezer Cunningham's advice I was able to persevere with my course when I was having difficulties, so I became a statistician instead of having to be an ersatz physicist. That brought me after the war to Scunthorpe, where I saw a photograph on the piano when visiting the Manse, and said 'I know that girl!'. Indeed I had first seen her from the choir, some years before, in the congregation at Emmanuel, and had met her at meetings of 'Congsoc', the Congregational Society. And here we both are at Reigate Park after sixty years together during which we can say 'The Lord has helped us all the way'.

May you find it is the same for you.

Denis Ward

When I contemplate the beauty  
of Nature's boundless store,  
a blackbird's song, a blade of grass,  
a shell upon the shore,  
I do not know if this evolved  
or was divinely planned;  
I only know I stand in awe  
and see in it your hand.  
The vastness of the universe  
I cannot comprehend,  
but you were there when it began  
and shall be at the end.

And yet you chose to dwell with man,  
and came to walk the earth,  
not as King and Lord of Lords  
but child of humble birth.  
Your ministry was to the poor,  
the sick, the blind, the lame,  
the stranger, outcast, underdog;  
you bid us do the same.  
You came to build your kingdom here,  
not formed of war and strife;  
it was for love of all mankind  
that you laid down your life.

Creator God of all that is,  
beyond, below, above,  
but still you hold each one of us  
in your eternal love.

Liz Bullen

## WORSHIP IN THE MONTH OF APRIL

At 10 a.m. on **Palm Sunday, 5th April**, Rev. Michael Hopkins, minister of Farnham URC, will lead our worship. This will not be a communion service.

At 7.30 p.m. on **Maundy Thursday, April 9th**, when the Methodists join with us, Michael Ball will preach and Rev. Clive McKie will conduct the communion service.

On **Good Friday, April 10th** we shall join with the Methodists in the High Street for the Good Friday service at 10.30 a.m., followed by hot cross buns!

At 7 p.m. we are welcome to a performance of Stainer's *Crucifixion* at which our own Martin Skitt will be playing the organ and there will be a retiring collection for St Catherine's Hospice and the Reigate Methodist Church Community Centre Project.

At 10 a.m. on **Easter Sunday 12th April**, Rev. Brian Stops will lead our Easter Communion Service and Sarah Talbot will be received into church membership. Brian was one of our members who was called to the ministry after giving great leadership in the Reigate and Redhill Council of Churches.

There will be no midday mid-week communion service this month.

At 10 a.m. on **Sunday, 19th April**, the service will be led by Peter Mansfield-Clarke, Director of Crawley Open House, with Sue Knight.

At 10 a.m. on **Sunday, 26th April**, James Gay, a lay preacher from Devon, will lead our worship.

## UNICEF - MITE NEWS

Recently I was able to speak to one of the London workers and was able to confirm that, although several charities were forced out of some countries, UNICEF workers were untouched, because UNICEF has been working in over 100 countries for many years. This means the children are still looked after and the care is extended to mothers. This can be physical - food, medicine and family. Please help.

Hazel Arscott

## BOOK CLUB

Our next meeting is on Monday April 27th at Michael Ball's house, 23 The Close, at 8 p.m. We shall be reading *Dissolution* by C J Sansom.

Jane Dotzec

## THANKS

Dear friends, John and I have travelled many miles between us and have settled in Reigate. We are very blessed to be amongst so many dedicated people with loving hearts. We thank you very much for the nice card and beautiful flowers for our Diamond Wedding Anniversary on 5th March.

John and Margaret Wilcox

John and Anne Sowton would like to say a BIG thank you for all the cards and kind messages they received for their Golden Wedding Anniversary.

To say that I was surprised by the presentation made to me last Sunday would be an understatement, and just to say 'thank you' seems totally inadequate. For once in my life I was lost for words. I was deeply touched at the words expressed by Carol Nicholls and will remember the occasion for a long time to come, particularly as it occurred during the choir service (by the way, copies of the dialogue about 'faith' are available). The name of the camellia is appropriately 'Sunsong', and both Marion and I look forward to seeing it in bloom and eventually planting it in our garden. I can only repeat my heartfelt thanks to everyone at Reigate Park.

Phillip Down

## MONDAY MORNING GROUP

Rev. Howard Rady has led our meetings in March, on the subject of 'Church Growth in the New Testament', and we greatly profited by his leadership. We shall take a break for Easter, but resume on April 20th when Michael Ball will introduce a series on 'Science and Faith'. Come and join us as we meet at 10.30 on Monday mornings in the Park Room, beginning with tea or coffee.

## ARMCHAIR MUSIC GROUP

This group meets about every five or six weeks to listen to music together and sometimes to watch performances on a big screen. Last time we watched *Julius Caesar* from Glyndebourne on DVD. The next meeting will be on 15th April at 8 p.m. in 23 The Close, the home of Michael Ball. Anyone is cordially invited to join this small group.

## **CHURCH FAMILY WEEKEND MEETING**

On Sunday 19th April straight after the Sunday morning service there will be a meeting in the Park Room for everyone attending this year's Church Family Weekend to Pilgrim Hall on the 8th to 10th May. If you would like further details please contact Sonia Christie (☎ 270095) or Anne Edwards (☎ 765891).

## **THE CHURCH WEBSITE**

The website, [www.reigateparkchurch.org](http://www.reigateparkchurch.org), has been updated and in order to get it complete and keep it up-to-date all groups and clubs need to be proactive and notify Keely Harrison on [admin@reigateparkchurch.org](mailto:admin@reigateparkchurch.org) whenever there are any changes to their details.

Tess Brown

## **MEN'S FELLOWSHIP**

Our first summer outing is to Michelham Priory and Gardens on Thursday 9th April and the cost, inclusive of coach, entrance fee and driver's tip is £21. Meet in the church car park at 9.30 a.m. with a view to departing at 10 a.m. and returning at 9.30 a.m. England's longest water-filled medieval moat encloses 7 acres of beautiful gardens and grounds, with an impressive 14th century gatehouse, working watermill and magnificent (reputed haunted) Tudor mansion.

If you wish to attend, please let George Orr know and send your cheque, made payable to Men's Fellowship Reigate Park URC to him at 21 Beaufort Road, Reigate RH2 9DQ.

John Pennell

This month, after a delicious meal - thank you, ladies - we held our AGM. Ron Cooke resigned and Ralph Bristol takes over as Chairman. John Pennell is now called Editor and we no longer have a Secretary (any volunteers?). We are planning a coach trip on 9th April to Michelham Priory (see above) and on Tuesday 12th May to Sissinghurst. All are welcome if seats are available.

Men of any age, whether you belong to our church, any other church or no church, are welcome to our Fellowship. You will be able to enjoy, annually, five trips, five lunches followed by talks from various speakers, and our Christmas lunch. Speak to Ralph Bristol, George Orr or Brian Hoad.

God bless you all.

Ron Cooke

## FROM THE CHURCH MEETING

Carol Nichols chaired our evening Church Meeting on March 17th, opening with a reading, a meditation and prayer.

Michael Bolton suggested that this year we had ‘two treasurers for the price of one!’ as he reported on last year’s results and Jane Buck presented the budget for 2009. He gave particular thanks to the finance team and to the independent examiner of accounts. He pointed out that, although the basic income tax is now at 20p in the £, Gift Aid helps charities as if it were still 22p. in the £. On his retirement from many years as our treasurer, he was presented with a gift of secateurs and some garden tokens.

Peter Mercer reported that 50 information packs have so far been issued to those who are interested in the post of caretaker, and 12 applications have already been received. Previous caretaking experience is essential! He also explained to us the steps we need to take to register as a charity - ‘Reigate Park United Reformed Church Charity’ as we are now required to do. We also agreed to apply for a grant from the Southern Synod Manse Fund to improve the manse bathroom.

A report from the vacancy committee was read. They had received details of a fifth ministerial applicant, but after seeing the CV they decided not to proceed. A sixth was now being considered. The other two ministers whose names had been suggested by members were not interested in moving.

Michael Ball was appointed as another representative to Synod, in addition to Richard and Mavis Proctor who had succeeded in condensing a tremendously long meeting and associated papers into a page and a half of A4. We should note that Rev. Robert Bushby and our Moderator are both celebrating 25 years of ministry and also the death of Mrs Helen Shorthouse, whose husband was minister at Redhill URC.

We heard that the church website had been updated, apart from the section linking with the Record (not the Editor’s responsibility, please note!) by Keeley Harrison and Judith O’Connell and were invited to take a look at it and comment.

## PRAYER CALENDAR

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

- |                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| <b>5th April</b>  | <i>Redhill Baptist Church</i> in Hatchlands Road.   |
| <b>12th April</b> | <i>Christ the King</i> , Honeycrock Lane, Salfords. |
| <b>19th April</b> | <i>St Mark’s Church</i> , Alma Road.                |

## **WOMEN'S GUILD**

At our March meeting our speaker was Mrs Wendy Copse from the Bletchingley Skills Centre. Wendy told us how twenty years ago she started the Skills Centre in a hut at Caterham. Later, helped by Rotary and the Lions they were able to move to Bletchingley and purchase a portakabin, which they have since been able to extend.

The Centre provides computing classes for both sighted and visually impaired people. On Thursdays students can prepare, cook and enjoy a three-course meal. In addition there are craft classes, speakers and outings and last year a group of students had a holiday in Barbados. The Centre provides, for people with disabilities, not just a club, but somewhere they can learn valuable skills.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 14th April at 10 30 a.m. in the Park Room, when our speaker will be Mrs Hazel Hart who is a former fashion designer.

On Friday 15th May we will be holding our annual lunch here at the church. It would be helpful if by the next meeting we could have some idea of numbers. Please let Mary, Carol or myself know if you will be coming.

Liz Bullen

## **MUSIC FESTIVAL AT REIGATE PARK**

Reigate Park will again be hosting several classes in the Reigate and Redhill Music Festival this year. These classes include Recorder, Speech and Drama, Group Music Making and Harp and they take place on various days between 6th and 16th May. The church is also hosting a Family Recorder Concert on Saturday 6th June. I shall need help with catering for all these events and have been asked if anyone is willing to help with car parking on 6th June. Extra stewards are also always welcome. If you would like to help, or would like more details before you commit yourself, please contact Margaret Samuel on ☎243308 or [margaretannsamuel@hotmail.com](mailto:margaretannsamuel@hotmail.com)

## **ECO-NEWS**

If you are wondering what the Ecoteam gets up to, we would love to see you at the next Ecoteam meeting on Tuesday 8th April at 8pm at 11 Park Lane, Reigate.

Sonia Christie, ☎ 270095 or [sonia.christie@ntlworld.com](mailto:sonia.christie@ntlworld.com)

## VACANCY

### ***Residential Caretaker for Reigate Park Church***

Responsible for caretaking, cleaning, security of the premises and other duties when required. May suit married couple.

Salary £10,440 p.a.

Detached accommodation on site

29 hours a week

For more information and application pack contact:

Church and Community Manager, Reigate Park Church (URC),  
Park Lane East, Reigate, Surrey RH2 8BD.

☎ 01737 249766. e-mail [ccm@reigateparkchurch.org](mailto:ccm@reigateparkchurch.org)

Until we find a caretaker we shall need help to carry out the caretaker's duties. The weekly duties have been divided into approximately 2 - 3 hour blocks. If you are interested and able to help on one particular day a week. please speak to Susan Stanley on ☎ 249766 or Tess Brown on ☎ 246816.

## EASTER WORKSHOP

6th - 9th April 9.30 - 12.00

Yes, it's time now for going Round the World with Jesus. We would like to wish everyone who is involved in any way, a wonderful four mornings. So much hard work has been put in already, but I am sure there will be lots of laughter and a real feeling that church is a fun place to be. We shall be concluding with a service on Thursday 9th about 11.00 a.m..

Angela Bolton

## THE CRUCIFIXION

John Stainer's *Crucifixion* will be performed on Good Friday, 10th April at 7 p.m. in Reigate Methodist Church, directed by Roger Wilmon, with Ian Stone (Tenor), Geoffrey Lawrence (Bass), and our own Martin Skitt at the Organ. Admission is free, and there will be a retiring collection for the charities - St Catherine's Hospice, and the Reigate Methodist Church Community Centre Project.

## CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

Christian Aid Week this year will be 9th - 16th May. More collectors are urgently needed. Please contact John and Anne Sowton on ☎ 643488.

## **‘THE ELDERS REQUEST . . .**

### **. . *the pleasure of your company*’**

The elders would like to offer four seasonal evenings - spring, summer, autumn and winter - as an opportunity for the church family to get to know each other better in a relaxed way. They wish to show that the church is still thriving without a minister, that the elders are active and the church is still vibrant.

In this copy of the *Record* is an invitation to our first event on Friday 24th April entitled ‘The Elders Request the Pleasure of Your Company at a Getting-to-know-you Evening’.

The summer event will be on Saturday 18th July entitled ‘The Elders Request the Pleasure of Your Company at a Midsummer Murder’.

For our autumn and winter events watch this space, but please support us.

## **DEREK PARAVICINI IN REIGATE CONCERT**

This concert at 7.30 p.m. on 2nd May at Reigate Park Church will benefit CHASE and St Nicholas’ Child Facilities Appeal. Listen to music from Derek Paravicini and Nick Shaw. £10 adults, £8 for OAPs and under 12s (not £12 and £10 as we stated in last month’s *Record*). To book your tickets please call Sheila Sams on ☎ 01293 774879. An interval at 8.30 p.m. will be followed by a set from the Reigate Grammar School Choir and Orchestra and then more from Derek.

Derek (b. 1979) is an extraordinarily talented pianist, despite being blind and having severe learning difficulties. He plays entirely by ear, and has a repertoire of many thousands of pieces that he has memorised - jazz, pop and light classical - and he is a great improviser. Derek has played in venues across the UK, including Ronnie Scott’s and the Barbican Halls in London, in Europe and the U.S. and he has appeared in the news media across the world.

## **COME TO A BEETLE DRIVE!**

On Saturday 25th April, 5.30 - 7.30 p.m.

Throw a dice to make up your beetle! Fun for all ages!

Sandwiches and cake provided.

Individual (£5) and family (£15) tickets available. For tickets or more information call Anna Silver, ☎245551 or email [the\\_silvers@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:the_silvers@tiscali.co.uk)

All proceeds will go to help women affected by war in the Congo.

## GIVE US A SIGN LORD

Both the *Daily Mirror* and the *Daily Mail* have listed or photographed signs seen outside churches. Here is a selection:

ALL SERVICES ARE DIFFERENT, WE LEAVE THE REPEATS TO TV

GOD IS PERFECT  
ONLY MAN MAKES MISTEAKS

ALMOST 2000 YEARS OLD  
AND STILL UNDER THE MAKER'S GUARANTEE

Speak well of your enemies.  
After all, you made them.

IF YOUR PROBLEM IS LONG STANDING,  
TRY KNEELING

Can't Sleep?  
Don't Count Sheep,  
Talk to the Shepherd!

## THE CLOCK

It's the clock that ruled my life,  
clocking on, clocking off,  
or timing the city train,  
dividing 'work' from 'not work'  
carving up the day.

It's the watch that ended it,  
the golden watch that divided  
a life of 'work'  
from a life of 'not work' ...  
...at least it would have been  
if these occasions had been important any more.

It's the clock I hear now,  
dividing the seconds,  
quietly reminding me from the mantelpiece  
that nature progresses,  
life goes on.

God help me keep you in my mind  
in 'work' and in 'not work'.  
You, and time, and the laws of nature,  
are always at work.  
I praise You.

(from IMAGenda, the magazine of the Industrial Mission Association)

## **THE GATTON PASSION - PERFORMERS WANTED**

Gatton Community Theatre is planning to devise and produce a major new contemporary version of The Passion which will include the events of Holy Week leading up to the crucifixion and resurrection of Christ. This will be performed as a large scale open-air promenade production in the grounds of Gatton Park, Reigate between 14 - 26 July 2009 with a professional actor portraying Jesus.

We are looking for new cast members - both actors, and singers and musicians - to join our current team. A large number of our cast performers continue to come from local churches of all denominations in the Reigate and surrounding areas.

Workshops run by our professional artistic director, Anna Thompson, (daughter of the late Bishop Jim Thompson) are being held at Merstham Village Hall in late April and May when anyone interested can come along to find out more and experience what community theatre is all about. The script will be devised by the cast during workshops in May and will then be written by Anna Thompson. Rehearsals will continue during June and July. Anyone, regardless of experience or ability, who would like to be involved will be able to take part and it is hoped that the cast will number over 100+ actors, singers and musicians. GCT operates an 'open door' policy - anyone of any age from about 9 years upwards would be most welcome to come along and see if they would like to take part - there is no commitment just by turning up for a workshop to see if it is something that appeals. In the past our cast has ranged in age from seven to 85 years!

To find out more about The Passion come along to drama workshops being held at 3.00 pm on **Saturday 25 April & Sunday 3 May** at Merstham Village Hall, Station Approach North, Merstham. For further details or information contact is available at ☎ 642588 or ☎ 832757, or email: [enquiries@gattoncommunitytheatre.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@gattoncommunitytheatre.org.uk)

## **THE CHILDREN'S TRUST**

The Friends of the Children's Trust are holding their 2009 Spring Exhibition of art and sculpture - local artists will be exhibiting their work in a variety of media at Tadworth Court, Tadworth Street, Tadworth on Friday 24th April (6 p.m. to 10 p.m.), Saturday 25th April (10 a.m. to 5 p.m.) and Sunday 26th April (10 a.m. to 3 p.m.). Admission £1 with free catalogue. It will be opened on Friday at 7 p.m. by *Guy Portelli* as seen on *Dragon's Den*, and on Sunday the resident artist will be Chris Forsey. All exhibits are for sale and the proceeds go to the Friends of the Children's Trust.

## **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

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## ***THE RECORD***

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Contributions should be with the Editor:

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***e-mail: record@reigateparkchurch.org***      ** (01737) 244163**


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:

Peter Mercer, 59 Poynes Road, Horley, Surrey, RH6 8LS

** 01293 773466**

e-mail: peter.mercer@reigateparkchurch.org

## APRIL DIARY

- Sunday** 5th 10.00am Rev. Michael Hopkins. (Not a communion service.)
- Monday 6th - Thursday 9th Easter Workshop - '*Round the World with Jesus*'
- Tuesday 7th 10.30am Women's Guild - Mrs Wendy Copse.
- Thursday 9th 9.30am Men's Fellowship outing to Michelham Priory.  
7.30pm Maundy Service Communion Service.  
Michael Ball and Rev. Clive McKie.
- Friday 10th 10.30am Good Friday service at Methodist Church.
- Sunday** 12th 10.00am Rev. Brian Stops. Holy Communion.
- Wednesday 15th 8.00pm Armchair Music Group at 23 The Close.
- Sunday** 19th 10.00am Peter Mansfield-Clarke and Sue Knight.
- Thursday 23rd 11.00am Zimbabwe Working Party at 1 Evesham Road.
- Friday 24th 8.00pm 'The Elders Request . . . ' .
- Sunday** 26th 10.00am James Gay.
- 

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.