

THE RECORD

OF REIGATE PARK CHURCH (UNITED REFORMED)



MAY 2009

No 855

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)



Back at the end of March, we were blessed with a Sunday morning service given by the Harmony group of our Junior Church, based on a survey they undertook earlier of our favourite Bible passages. Arising from that I was led to thinking about my own preferences for readings from the Bible and, for me, I don't think there is anything to match the poetry of many of the Psalms, particularly in the 'King James' versions. One which means a lot to me is the one which starts '*I will lift up my eyes to the hills, from whence cometh my help - my help cometh from the Lord: who made heaven and earth*' (Psalm 121).

As one who spent his early years living in a very flat part of London, where you could 'see clear to 'Ackney Marshes, if it wasn't for the 'ouses in between!', there was always something special about going to a hilly place. So the occasional weekend trip to Epping Forest, or even as far as Box Hill, provided a completely different aspect to life. More challenging than the flat, but the view from the top was always better.

So it was natural that people should think of the mountains as being the home of God (perhaps to keep a better eye on us?), and so a place more holy than the plain land below: we read of Moses being summoned up Mount Sinai to receive the ten commandments from God, and the place of the transfiguration of Jesus is traditionally identified with Mount Tabor.

Nowadays, of course, all the

mountains have been climbed and their tops have been thoroughly photographed and surveyed. No-one has seen God in these places - so where should we go to look for help?

Maybe we trust in our own abilities and ingenuity to keep ourselves safe. Perhaps we rely on our money and possessions to keep ourselves comfortable. Or do we depend on government and the rule of law to make a good and fair society for all? Events might teach us to be careful about depending on any of these. But the psalmist tells us that we can rely on the Lord. '*The Lord is thy keeper*'. He will save you from the heat of the day, as well as the cold of night. He will help you if you stumble. He will watch over you, and save you from evil '*from this time forth forever more*'.

Peter Whipps

ROUND THE WORLD WITH JESUS

Yet again the weather was kind to us. Monday morning the sun shone and we had a fantastic time beginning our world journey with over 100 children, most of whom live in the local community of Reigate and Redhill. The first continent we visited was Africa and in our church session we learned the song 'We are marching in the light of God', which became our theme song for the week. Tuesday we visited Europe and on Wednesday we visited South America. We had a lively time with much singing led by several of our own young people. The main parts of all the church sessions were led by Rev John Joseph who had very kindly taken time from his own church activities to help out and be involved in RPC's important annual outreach to our local Primary School children.

In the four groups, including crèche, the leaders had organised many fun activities based on Easter in these continents and the children were kept very busy and focussed with many volunteers helping them all to achieve some wonderful models, pictures, costumes, instruments and great things to eat.

Thursday culminated in our service to which the families of the children involved were invited to see what had been going on. The children sang us songs, showed us what they had made, acted and paraded in carnival fashion. It was a colourful and vibrant ending to a very happy week. The children had had fun and I think the volunteers had too.

We finished, as usual, by having the opportunity of eating lunch together on Thursday. This is always a great way to end, as we relax over a well earned meal, before having to restore the whole of the church building to its normal layout. Thank you to all those who helped, it is a mammoth task.

This year we had over 60 volunteers, about 20 of whom were young people. It was great seeing them helping, passing on the fun they had received when they had been part of the Workshop as young children. I would like to say a huge thank you to John for being so enthusiastic and to all our volunteers. There are so many people who need thanking individually that there isn't enough space here but I can assure you that without you all this event wouldn't happen. Thank you to all those who had read our pleas for items and donated or lent us things. Thank you too to the volunteer who very quietly came up to me at the end of the service and handed me a bunch of flowers just saying thank you for everything. I have looked at those flowers frequently in the days since and felt warmed. It is great having so much enthusiastic support from so many people.

Angela Bolton

WHAT IS THE FINANCIAL AWARENESS GROUP?

The Financial Awareness Group (FAG) was set up in July 2006 to support the work of the Finance Committee, with a particular focus on the area of Giving. This does not mean simply asking members to give more - it also means ensuring that all giving is as effective as possible - e.g. tax-efficient (Gift Aid) and regular (Standing Orders or weekly envelopes); and that all members are aware not only of the most effective way to give, but also of the financial needs of the Church.

We see our main rôle as communication and raising awareness, and our activities to date have focused on producing written material to clarify what are the best methods of giving. There are leaflets on Gift Aid, Standing Orders and Legacies; and we have published articles in the Record about Gift Aid, Standing Orders. 'One Year On', Regularity. Giving by Envelope and Legacies.

These leaflets and articles give useful information and how-to tips for different forms of giving. The leaflets are to be found at the Financial Info Point in the foyer - please take one - and if you would like copies of any of the articles, please contact one of us below.

Through these publications, we have now covered the main 'technical' issues concerned with modes of giving - with some success, it would seem: numbers of people registered for both Gift Aid and Standing Orders have increased markedly since the start of our campaign, and the Church has received one or two unexpected legacies. So - thanks to those who have responded already, and we hope you will be joined by others before too long.

But being efficient is not enough! Sadly, the Church is still suffering from rising costs and falling income (we still have to pay our full contribution for a Minister's salary to the central URC Ministry and Mission Fund, even during the Vacancy) and we are budgeting for a significant deficit this financial year. In light of this, FAG's next task is to increase awareness of the real financial needs of the Church - and we hope that, in response to the information we provide, we shall see an increase in giving by those who are still in a position to support the Church in this way.

So - look out for charts and statistics in our next article - and please do read them. It will be important information, which we all need to know and understand, if we care about the future of our Church.

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

WORSHIP IN THE MONTH OF MAY

Our worship on **Sunday 3rd May** - Holy Communion at 10 a.m. and evening worship at 6.30 p.m. - will be led by a visiting minister.

At 10 a.m. on **Sunday 12th May**, Rev. Howard Rady will lead our worship, though some of us will be at the Church Weekend at Uckfield.

There will be no evening service.

At 10 a.m. on **Sunday 17th May**, Jill Campbell will lead our worship.

There will be no evening service.

On **Wednesday 20th May** there is our midday mid-week communion service.

At 10 a.m. on **Sunday, 24th May**, Rev. David Owen will lead our worship, which will include the baptism of Matthew Best.

There will be no evening service.

At 10 a.m. on **Sunday, 31st May**, Rev. Brian Bowyer will lead our worship.

There will be no evening service.

‘THE PLEASURE OF YOUR COMPANY’

The elders were very sorry to have to postpone their ‘Getting to Know You’ evening from 24th April. It was all arranged, but we realised that the following weekend of 2nd - 3rd May would be a very busy one for Reigate Park Church - and it is of course the Church Family Weekend at Pilgrim Hall the week after that. So we felt that rather than put everyone under too much pressure to be at the church so frequently we should postpone our event.

This will now be held on what was to be our second event - Saturday 18th July - when we shall continue to look forward to the pleasure of your company. New invitations will be issued but please put the date in your diaries.

PRAYER CALENDAR

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

3rd May	<i>Earlswood Baptist Church, in St John’s Road, Redhill.</i>
10th May	<i>Christian Aid Week.</i>
24th May	<i>Christ Church, South Nutfield.</i>
31st May	<i>Emmanuel Church, Sidlow Bridge.</i>

CONNECT UPDATE

The Barn Dance held in March raised £405 and Anne Richardson's Pancake Day in February a further £300. This money will be allocated to PROJECT PERU, a Guildford-based charity with a refuge in Lima. There are 32 children and it costs £70 per child to send them to school for a year. We hope to raise enough to educate all the children for one year.

On 26th April at the morning service we welcomed Sophie from TARGET TUBERCULOSIS who came to collect our final cheque to this project for £1000. They have received a total of £3000 and were able to tell us how the money has been used.

Once again many thanks to all our supporters. In these credit crunch times it will be difficult to maintain the amounts we normally raise each year but we shall certainly keep trying!

The CONNECT committee would welcome more members. We meet on the first Wednesday evening of each month for about an hour and a half, at the home of Anne Richardson, 83 Lesbourne Road. Come along without obligation to find out more.

Linda Chandler

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 2009

Christian Aid Week runs from Sunday 10th to Saturday 16th May this year. Envelopes and badges for collectors will be at church on Sunday April 26th and Sunday May 3rd. If anyone is unable to be in Church on both Sundays please email Sowton@talktalk.net or telephone Anne and John Sowton on ☎ 643488. We shall be glad to deliver to you or arrange for you to collect from our house.

We are very grateful to all the members who have agreed to be collectors and we pray that they will be blessed in the task and will be successful.

MONDAY MORNING GROUP

We hope to complete our series on 'Science and Faith' on May 11th and 18th, because of course we do not meet on bank holidays. Come and join us as we meet at 10.30 on Monday mornings in the Park Room, beginning with tea or coffee.

CAN YOU HELP?

We need somebody (or bodies) to take over responsibility for distribution of the church *Record*. The job should take an hour or so and mainly involves placing ready-printed name labels on each copy and laying these out for collection each month. Please talk to me if you might be able to help.

Peter Whipps (☎642411)

UNICEF - MITE NEWS

In an increasing number of areas of the world UNICEF is the only group of people 'allowed' to provide help in disasters, e.g. earthquakes and other natural disasters, and where governments have failed. Money has to be collected and then used for providing food, shelter, medical care, education etc. Outside countries can provide what is necessary but have to arrange transport, workers and distribution arrangements through UNICEF. More than 100 areas require regular contributions and then there are disasters that require help immediately. Please remember the CHILDREN and THANK YOU.

P.S. - even in this country.

Hazel Arscott

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

An organised trip to Michelham Priory, on Thursday 9th April, kicked off the first outing of the year sponsored by Men's Fellowship. A lively group boarded their coach for about an hour's journey, deep into the Sussex countryside. The Priory, which boasts the longest water-filled moat in England, has been inhabited for over 800 years. We walked the gardens, toured the house, with its outbuildings, and observed the still-working water-powered mill. At 3.30 we boarded our coach for the return journey, tired but still filled with the joy of the day.

Our next trip will be held on Friday 15th May, and is a day out to Sissinghurst Castle, in Kent, a National Trust property. The cost for this visit is £15 per head for the coach including a tip for the driver, plus £7.80 for those who are not members of the National Trust. NT Members do of course get in free but don't forget your card! If you wish to come, please let George Orr know, on ☎ 277850, and let him have a cheque at 21 Beaufort Road, Reigate, RH2 9DQ.

Looking forward to greeting you on our next group away day,

Ralph Bristol, Chairman

WOMEN'S GUILD

The speaker at our April meeting was Mrs Hazel Hart. Hazel gave us a really fascinating talk about her work as a fashion designer in the 1940s and 50s. She brought along many of her original drawings and photos of outfits she had designed including the marvellous outfit she had made for her by Hardy Amies as her prize in a national designing competition.

On Friday 15th May we shall be having our annual lunch in the Church Hall, 12 for 12.30. If you wish to come and haven't already given us your name, please let myself, Mary Warren or Carol Nichols know by the beginning of May.

Liz Bullen

SPOKEN NOTICES

If you need an announcement to be made by our Church Secretary, Tess Brown, during the service, please would you inform her several days before and not on the Sunday morning.

ECO-NEWS

Owing to pressure of work, Sonia Christie has reluctantly given up for a time her monthly articles in the Record, which many of us have both enjoyed and valued. For the time being, at least, she is continuing her most entertaining eco-articles in *Reform*, which we should all try to get hold of if possible (see Derek Ford). The article below was written quite a time ago, but not used, so here it is. The monthly meetings of the eco-group are also suspended for the time being, but it is important we do not lose sight of our aim, and our status as an eco-church.

DEAR ECO-AGONY AUNT

So much of my waste these days is plastic; can I recycle it? Thanks, Claire.

Dear Claire,

You can now recycle any plastic bottle with the recycling triangle and the numbers 1, 2 or 3 on the base, in the orange label recycling banks throughout Reigate and Banstead. The plastic lids on bottles for recycling cannot be recycled at the bottle banks, but if you collect them at home, you can take them to the Council recycling centre at Earlswood.

Plastic such as yoghurt pots or film wrap to cover fruit and vegetables cannot yet be recycled. How about trying these environmentally friendly actions next time you shop?

- Buy your fruit and vegetables loose rather than in sealed plastic bags or plastic trays. When I buy small produce, like Brussels sprouts, I take a selection of resealable sandwich bags with me, put the produce into them at the shop and then reuse the bags next time I go shopping.
- Most supermarkets now have plastic bag recycling banks, alternatively, try using the 'shop and go' facility that some supermarkets now have. You are given reusable long life bags that you keep, and a scanner to 'blip' the shopping as you go around. No long queues at the till, as you just hand the scanner in and pay, and no plastic bags.
- If you are feeling very radical, take off any plastic wrapping and hand it to the customer services. Supermarkets are now obliged to handle their waste in an environmentally friendly way. The more of us who make the point that we don't want all the packaging, putting the onus on the supermarkets to get rid of it, the more likely the industry is to find environmentally friendly alternatives.

CHURCH OFFICE

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Tuesday to Friday, 9.15 am to 1.00 pm

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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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at least two weeks before publication date.

Copy for the June edition is due by

Sunday, May 17th

If you wish to receive a regular copy of *The Record*, please contact the Distributor:

(post currently vacant - can you help?)

e-mail: record.distributor@reigateparkchurch.org

MAY DIARY

- Sunday** 3rd 10.00am Visiting Minister. Communion service.
6.30pm Visiting Minister.
- 8th - 10th Church Family Weekend at Pilgrim Hall, Uckfield
9th - 16th Christian Aid Week
- Sunday** 10th 10.00am Rev. Howard Rady.
- Friday 15th 9.30am Men's Fellowship outing to Sissinghurst Castle.
12 for 12.30 Women's Guild lunch.
- Sunday** 17th 10.00am Jill Campbell.
11.30am **Special Church Meeting.**
- Sunday** 24th 10.00am Rev. Dr David Owen. Baptism of Matthew Best.
- Thursday 28th 11.00am Zimbabwe Working Party at 1 Evesham Road.
- Sunday** 31st 10.00am Rev. Brian Bowyer.
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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.

DIARY NOTE

The Church Meeting planned for Sunday, 7th June has been postponed to Sunday, 14th June.