

THE RECORD

OF REIGATE PARK CHURCH (UNITED REFORMED)



JUNE 2009

No 856

REIGATE PARK CHURCH

(UNITED REFORMED)

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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)



How does your garden grow? I have a kind of love-hate relationship with mine! I love to see the spring flowers, but after they have finished, the growing season really kicks off and everything goes wild. This year I have managed to clear the vegetable patch before the weeds took too much hold but it's a constant struggle with dandelions, buttercups and - the worst weed of all in my opinion - grass!

A weed, they say, is just a plant in the wrong place. The other day I was weeding the bed at the bottom of the garden, which was full of a common countryside plant called herb Robert. It has a dainty pink flower and pretty fern-like foliage, and it comes up quite easily; but I suddenly thought as I was pulling it up what a lovely border plant it would make. I have even left a patch of it because I thought it looked so good. Even dandelions look good when they are 'en masse'; our street has a pavement border which was left untrimmed to grow such a crop recently and they really were a picture. You have to admire their sheer tenacity with their prolific dandelion clocks and deep roots. What can better a field full of buttercups, and as for my worst weed, grass, what can beat a newly mown green lawn? Much nicer looking, in my opinion, than the very popular decking, even if it is a lot more work. Everything in the garden is indeed lovely as long as it all matches up.

Ever felt like a weed yourself? What I mean is, have you ever felt out of place when your opinion is different from that of those around you? Oh it's great to be part of the herbaceous border, blending in with those around you, sharing the

same thoughts and ideas. But there are times for all of us when I am sure we feel 'weed-like', when we are out of kilter with the majority. It is sometimes a very uncomfortable feeling. Perhaps a celebration is happening when you least feel like celebrating, or you feel angry when everyone else is quite calm. Too often, I know, I have remained quiet when I should have spoken out, afraid of upsetting people or putting my foot in it. Not so Simon Peter. He was different, he was impetuous and outspoken.

He was the only disciple to follow Jesus after that night in Gethsemane. Yet even he shrank back when questioned and denied he ever knew him. I often wonder what I would have done. Jesus himself never lacked courage to speak out against the injustices and prejudices of his day. So, going back to the gardening theme, are we shrinking violets by nature or bold tenacious dandelions?

I guess that we all may have acted like both at different times. I pray that the Head Gardener himself will show us all when we ought to 'dare to be a Daniel', or even a dandelion!

Happy gardening,

Carol Nichols

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

An enthusiastic group of 23 boarded their coach on May 15th for the short journey into the wilds of Kent. The National Trust Gardens at Sissinghurst were our destination, boasting over 400 acres of farm, woodland, and gardens to explore. We were not disappointed. If gardening holds your interest, then the variety of plant life and the care with which it is presented is well worth a visit.

I have uploaded 68 photos of our visit to 'Snapfish', a photographic web site on the net. Anyone wishing to view my poor effort, is more than welcome. Please email me at rnbristol@ntlworld.com with your request, and I would be very pleased to send you an invitation by email. If you would like to add your photos to the display, just forward them to me via email as an attachment.

Our planned trip in June will be to Leeds Castle, on the 11th. Tickets are £26 and our coach will be departing from Reigate Park Church at 9.30 a.m. To reserve your coach seats, and to answer any questions please contact George Orr, ☎ 277850.

Looking forward to our next outing.....

Ralph Bristol, Chairman

BOOK CLUB

Our next meeting will be on Monday June 8th at 12 St Alban's Road Reigate - the home of Christina Oyeboode (☎ 243515). The book is *The Cellist of Sarajevo* by Steven Galloway.

Jane Dotzec

A BIRTHDAY PARTY

Is your birthday in July? Then please come and join the rest of the July Shiners at our birthday tea on Wednesday July 8th from 4 to 6 p.m. in the Park Room. All ages are welcome and children can bring a parent if too young or unsure about coming on their own. Come and shine on July 8th and find out who else shares your birthday month.

A very happy birthday to all born in July whether you admit it or not.

Please let us know if you are able to join us, it will help with the catering.

Angela Merritt, ☎ 223274

THANKS

Our diamond wedding anniversary was a wonderful time. Thank you all for so many good wishes, cards and especially flowers (the house has never been so full of them!). We felt that the whole church family was celebrating with us.

Audrey and Denis Ward

Tess would like to thank all those who kindly provided cakes for the tea sessions on 2nd and 3rd May. All the guests who came to tea were delighted at the lovely choice and variety of cakes and expressed their appreciation to you all. Thank you once again. I feel grateful to have had so much support.

A big thank you to everybody at Church for the very kind gift you gave me on my 'retirement' as Treasurer. The choice of garden tokens was absolutely right as I am very keen on my garden, and I intend using them to buy two beautiful pots together with the plants to go in them. Kind wishes,

Michael Bolton

Jean and Connie would like to say thank you to everybody for their kindness to us at the Church weekend, specially Dr Sowton for his care and attention. We were so disappointed at not being able to share in the fellowship, so many happy memories.

MONDAY MORNING GROUP

In June we start a new series, 'God's Upside-down World', prepared by The Leprosy Mission. It lasts seven weeks, with a one-week break at the end of this month. After that we shall have a long break until September. Come and join us as we meet at 10.30 on Monday mornings in the Park Room, beginning with tea or coffee.

Each session will include bible references and discussion, quotations to give food for thought, maybe an appropriate hymn, and a prayer focus to finish with. The topics are:

June 1st - Suffering If God is so good, why do so many bad things happen? Why does he allow wars and disasters? Why is there suffering, sadness and sickness nearly everywhere we look?

June 8th - Loneliness There are even more lonely people around now than ever before. Today's fractured society has contributed to this. According to 'Help the Aged', one third of older people in the UK now live alone. It can be heart-breaking to be afflicted with loneliness.

June 15th - Affluence In his book *Affluenza* Oliver James suggests that affluence is like a virulent virus sweeping through the developed world. Two thirds of Britons believe that they cannot afford to buy everything they really need. As a result, people are prone to depression, anxiety and addictions and the developing world goes without.

June 22nd - Conflict During the twentieth century about 100 million people lost their lives in situations of conflict. War continues to claim its victims. The deadliest since World War 2 has been that in eastern Congo where 5.4 million have been killed in the last decade. How does Christianity address this?

July 6th - Fear How will the history books record the dawning of the century and millennium? Will they capture our increasing climate of fear? We're certainly not short of things to be fearful of: terrorism since 9/11, climate change, population growth, financial meltdown, to name but a few.

July 13th - Death The way that we view death affects the way we live life: is it a hopeless end or an endless hope? As we celebrate each birthday, our death-day draws nearer.

You may not be able, or may not wish, to come every week. You will be welcome at all the meetings, or just at the ones that specially interest you.

WORSHIP IN THE MONTH OF JUNE

At 10 a.m. on **Sunday 7th June**, Rev. George Watt of St Andrew's, URC, Cheam, will lead our annual Family Communion service, including the rededication of Junior Church Leaders. There will be no evening service.

At 10 a.m. on **Sunday 14th June**, Rev. Peter Flint, the minister of Dorking URC and our Interim Moderator, will lead our worship, including the baptism of Erin Telford..

At 6.30 p.m. Graham Whybra will conduct our service of Holy Communion.

There will be no midday mid-week communion service this month, nor until September.

At 10 a.m. on **Sunday 21st June**, Rev. David Marshall-Jones, Community Minister at Caterham URC, will lead our Parade Service. There will be no evening service.

At 10 a.m. on **Sunday 28th June**, our own 'Leading Worship' group will lead the service. There will be no evening service.

UNICEF - MITE NEWS

I find it very sad that every month there seems to be a tragic disaster somewhere in the world, and inevitably large numbers of children are involved. A big thank you to all those who try to help by providing funds for the variety of help required.

Hazel Arscott

PRAYER CALENDAR

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

7th June	<i>Redhill URC</i> at Shaw's Corner.
14th June	<i>Furnistore.</i>
17th June	<i>All Saints' Church, Battlebridge Lane, South Merstham.</i>
24th June	<i>Church of the Holy Family (RC), Yorke Road.</i>

SHORT MAT BOWLING CLUB

The Annual General Meeting was held on 27th April 2009 with Brian Dean as the Chairman. Brian gave the Chairman's Report and expressed appreciation for the support of the Church when the Club was formed in 1996, and during the whole of its 13 years' existence. It is a Church Club with an open membership. During the last year six members have had to leave but six people have joined, giving a current membership of 29. Brian presented the Treasurer's report in the absence of Ron Howland, and the current balance is £800, but the equipment is worth about £8000.

The election of officers then took place and the following were elected: Chairman Ron Talmey, Secretary Enid James, Treasurer Mary Bryant, Match Secretary Ron Hollings. In addition four people were elected as committee members, Juliana Bouttell, John Harris, Dennis Hills and Wesley Tossell.

Brian Dean decided to stand down as Chairman after 13 years of valuable and dedicated service. He was responsible for getting the Club started, and he has been an efficient and conscientious leader all the time holding the offices of Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer at different times. The Club owes a great debt to Brian and all members would like to express their appreciation for his leadership.

As we look to the future we need more members to keep the Club viable financially and to maintain teams for the Sussex League. We play in the Hall on Mondays and Tuesdays all through the year from 2 p.m. to 4.15 p.m. Why not come and have a look and perhaps play? We can provide woods (bowls) and we will welcome all male or female people who are interested.

Ron Talmey

WOMEN'S GUILD

We held our annual lunch on Friday 15th May. Although our numbers were slightly down, it was a very enjoyable occasion. Thanks to everyone who helped.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 9th June at 10.30 a.m. in the Park Room when Mike will be telling us about his recollections of National Service. This is an open meeting and any gentleman who would like to come will be very welcome. Please note this is a change to the advertised programme.

Liz Bullen

FROM THE CHURCH MEETING

Finance and Premises were pleased to report that after advertising for a new caretaker six people had been interviewed. Two of them were called back for a second interview and after careful consideration the position was offered to Mrs Vikky Crosby. She will be assisted by her husband Karl. Vikky will start on 1st June 2009. A big thank you goes to all those people who did cleaning, caretaking jobs, opening up and locking up during our time without a caretaker.

Four years ago we put a temporary room on the stage while a more permanent solution was found for the use of our ever-growing Junior Church. We were also finding it difficult for Church groups to find space for meetings on the premises such is the demand. Some time ago Church Meeting gave approval, in principle, to the conversion of the stage into three rooms on two floors. Over the four years the lack of the stage has not been a problem. The plans have been on view in the Hall for the past two weeks. We have retained the front part of the stage as a viewing area and this can be used with our movable staging to create a stage if in the future we need it. The 'upper room' will be nearly as big as the Park Room. These rooms will be available for Junior Church and Church groups and also available for hire.

Church Meeting gave its formal approval for the conversion of the stage to three new rooms and a store and that the £60,000+ cost (including building work, all fees, Building Regulation, contingency and VAT) will come out of a bequest we had last year and there will still be some money left over. This solution is more than 50 per cent cheaper than any other solution and does not need planning per-mission. Next we need approval from Southern Synod for the work to commence and if we get that it is planned that building work will start at the end of July 2009 and be complete by the end of August 2009.

FROM THE EAST CROYDON WEB SITE

Terri asked her Sunday School class to draw pictures of their favourite Bible stories. She was puzzled by Kyle's picture, which showed four people on an airplane, so she asked him which story it was meant to represent.

'The flight to Egypt,' said Kyle.

'I see ... And that must be Mary, Joseph, and Baby Jesus,' Terri said.

'But who's the fourth person?'

'Oh, that's Pontius - the Pilot.'

JUNIOR CHURCH

Firstly I would like to thank Laura Chase, Kim Clink and Shirley Nicholson-Best who very kindly looked after 30 children (aged 18 months and upwards!) during our special Church Meeting in May. We are all very grateful to them.

We are looking forward to our Family Communion Service on 7th June, conducted by Rev. George Watt, when we come together as a whole church family to receive Communion. This is always a very special service for us, and one which the children have specifically requested. The service will also include the re-dedication of our Junior Church and Youth leaders and helpers.

You may remember that we have been working on our application to become a 'Child-Friendly Church'. This is quite a long process: before Nick White's visit we had to complete a very detailed grid of questions, produce a questionnaire for parents and children and supply many documents as supporting evidence. During his visit he checked the Junior Church rooms very thoroughly, watched part of all six groups' sessions and talked to many different people - leaders, helpers, children of all ages and parents. Afterwards he spoke at length with Jo Goldsmith, our Child Protection Liaison Officer, Sandra Reid, Paula Sowton and myself. We are now awaiting his written report; this will probably contain action points based on which we write a development plan for the next 3 years. All of this is then sent off to Church House in London and we await the outcome - watch this space! My thanks to all who have helped and supported us through this process.

Apologies to parents that this term's newsletter has been delayed - it will be sent out after half-term.

Pat Denchfield

EASTER WORKSHOP 2010

Yes, following our debrief session in May, it was decided to go ahead with booking the dates for the Easter Workshop 2010, Minister or no Minister! So, for all those who will have Primary School children then or who would like to help in some way, the dates of the Workshop will be 12 - 15 April. To avoid disappointment, book these in your diary now. I am also in the process of booking the dates for the meetings beforehand, so watch out for these too. People who have helped in the last couple of years will get the info by letter or email, so please, if you have email, keep looking out for it. For more information please contact Angela Bolton.

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THE RECORD

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at least two weeks before publication date.

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Sunday, June 14th

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

JUNE DIARY

Sunday	7th	10.00am	Rev. George Watt. Family Communion service.
Monday	8th	8.00pm	Book Club at 13 St Alban's Road.
Tuesday	9th	10.30am	Women's Guild. Mike Bullen.
Thursday	11th	9.30am	Men's Fellowship Outing to Leeds Castle.
Sunday	14th	10.00am	Rev. Peter Flint. Baptism of Erin Telford.
		11.30am	Church Meeting.
		6.30pm	Graham Whybra. Holy Communion.
Sunday	21st	10.00am	Rev. David Marshall-Jones. Parade Service..
Thursday	25th	11.00am	Zimbabwe Working Party at 1 Evesham Road.
Sunday	28th	10.00am	'Leading Worship' Group.

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.