

THE RECORD

OF REIGATE PARK CHURCH (UNITED REFORMED)



JULY 2009

No 857

REIGATE PARK CHURCH

(UNITED REFORMED)

Park Lane East, Reigate RH2 8BD

www.reigateparkchurch.org

e-mail address: **office@reigateparkchurch.org**

Church Secretary : Tess Brown

50 Warren Road, Reigate RH2 0BS

☎ (01737) 246816

e-mail: **secretary@reigateparkchurch.org**

Church Treasurer : Jane Buck

106 Prince Albert Square, Redhill RH1 5AP

e-mail: **treasurer@reigateparkchurch.org** ☎ (01737) 764458

Junior Church Coordinator : Pat Denchfield

47 Abinger Drive, Redhill RH1 6SZ

e-mail: **pat.denchfield@reigateparkchurch.org** ☎ (01737) 761275

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'm sitting down to write this letter at the end of May, having just experienced two very important events in the life of Reigate Park Church. Our Church Weekend at Pilgrim Hall (what an appropriate name as we journey towards calling a new minister!), a weekend when we did invite a minister to preach 'with a view', and a vitally important church meeting when under God's guidance we came together to decide whether it would be appropriate to issue a call. What thought-provoking times we've been having, and how hard everyone in the church has worked to be involved, to make a contribution, and come to a decision!

Nigel Uden who led the Church Weekend used Paul's letter to the Corinthians to focus what he called his letter to the Reigatians, using the text from 2 Corinthians 12:20, 'Our whole aim, my own dear people, is to build you up', and his message throughout the weekend had such relevance as we all go forward together for whatever the future may hold for Reigate Park Church. We all have different gifts and different priorities but as a church we are complete only when we come together and recognise our need of each other. I thought how well we demonstrated this when we all came together to make a decision as an entire church family. People felt encouraged to express their views so that a spectrum of opinions could be shared and different aspects put forward in the confidence that they would be respected. Nigel gave us six hallmarks of being bound together - there were: respect differences, recognise our need of each other, work on relationships (see Ephesians 'speaking the truth in love'), welcome the stranger, respect each other's space, and

recognise the primacy of love. Through these run the golden threads of God's goodwill. We should be encouraged and be encouraging, remembering this stems from the French *coeur* meaning 'from the heart'. So much of this was reflected in our church meeting and gives us a basis to move on together in seeking the right path for the future.

We may have some anxieties and questions about how the United Reformed Church system for seeking a minister works, but I recently had several conversations with friends from other denominations who are also in a vacancy, and the stories they tell of having no choice or say whatsoever in who is appointed to their church make me very glad to be where I am, and involved in the whole process starting from our careful discussions about the pastorate profile to the wonderful attendance at the 'preaching with a view' weekend and at the church meeting. There is no doubt we are a vibrant, involved and caring church, we now know a lot more about the system, what the different phrases

mean and what our rôle can be throughout the process.

Of course we all pray daily for a minister and it will be such a relief to have someone permanently once again, and of course there have been particular times when individuals have specifically felt in need of what a minister can offer, but the church has remained united and tries to be supportive. The Elders and the Vacancy Committee know we must get it right and that we must persevere until the call is clear, reflecting the first Beatitude 'How blest are those who know their need of God, for the kingdom of Heaven is theirs'.

Barbara Wing

EDITORIAL POSTSCRIPT

My spell-checker didn't recognise the word 'Reigatians' and offered the following as alternatives: Remigrations, Resignations, Rogations, Recitations, Regains, Ruinations, Irrigations, Regattas or Radiations. Let's hope very few of these fit us!

CHURCH FLOWERS

As from the beginning of July I am handing over my duties regarding the flowers in the church to Bridget Band. I was amazed to learn that I have been in charge of the rota for 18 years, so it is definitely time for a change! I shall continue to remain on the rota as one of the arrangers as we are so short of volunteers for this most lovely job, but would like to take this opportunity to express my thanks to all the people who so kindly donate money for the flowers we use to decorate our church. It has been a privilege to arrange them.

Bobbie Hodges

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

WOMEN'S GUILD

At our June meeting, Mike told us about his memories of National Service. we enjoyed hearing about his early months in the Army and his later experiences on the Joint Services Russian Course.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 14th July at 10.30 a.m. in the Park Room, when Peter Whipps will be telling us about his recent visit to New Zealand.

Liz Bullen

'THE ELDERS REQUEST . . .

. . the pleasure of your company'

Saturday July 18th, at 7.30 p.m. in the Church Hall.

You will be glad to know that the Elders are still keen to enjoy your company even though we had to postpone the April event because so much was happening in the church.

So please do join us for a relaxed evening for all the church family with the objective of enjoying everyone's company and a chance to get to know people a little better.

In this Record is an invitation, and there are spares at 'Ask Here' in the foyer. Cost £1.50 for a glass of wine or juice and 'interesting nibbles'. Please reply by 12th July in the box in the foyer. We very much hope you will be able to join us.

BOOK CLUB

Our next meeting is on Monday July 6th at 8 p.m. at our house, 22 Hardwick Road, Meadvale (☎ 243277). The book is *The Secret Scripture* by Sebastian Barry.

Jane Dotzec

MONDAY MORNING GROUP

In June we started a new series, 'God's Upside-down World', prepared by The Leprosy Mission, and there are still two weeks to go. After that we shall have a 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 includes bible references and discussion, quotations to give food for thought, maybe an appropriate hymn, and a prayer focus to finish with. The remaining topics are:

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 at any one that specially interests you.

WORSHIP IN THE MONTH OF JULY

At 10 a.m. on **Sunday 5th July**, Rev. Clifford Bembridge of Avenue St Andrew's URC, Southampton, will lead our Communion service.

There will be no evening service.

At 10 a.m. on **Sunday 12th July**, the Junior Church group, FROGS, will lead our worship.

Our evening service at 6.30 p.m. will be led by Rev. David Marshall-Jones and will include Holy Communion.

There will be no midday mid-week communion services until September.

At 10 a.m. on **Sunday 19th July**, Brian and Anne Witchells of Friends of Vellore will lead our Medical Missions service.

There will be no evening service.

At 10 a.m. on **Sunday 26th July**, Rev. David Marshall-Jones, community minister at Caterham URC, will lead our worship.

There will be no evening service.

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

June blessed us with another wonderful day out this time to Leeds Castle in Kent. Once past the gate, a pleasant relaxed walk awaited us, through well manicured gardens laced with connecting ponds, teeming with wildlife. Our day included a tour of the castle, lunch, and flying demonstrations by the resident birds of prey. Mid-afternoon we made our way back to our coach and the return journey.

July's outing will be to Petworth on the 15th. The cost to National Trust members will be £15, otherwise £23.50. Our coach will be departing Reigate Park Church at 9.30 sharp. Come join us for a wonderful day. To reserve your booking and answer any question please contact George Orr ☎ 277850.

I have again uploaded my photos onto the 'Snapfish' website. If you would like to view them or add your own please email me at rnbristol@ntlworld.com

I look forward to seeing you on our next outing.....

Ralph Bristol, Chairman

THE LEPROSY MISSION

Lisa Lewis, our new Area Co-ordinator, has been busy arranging fund-raising events in the South East area. On the notice-board in the foyer is a leaflet giving details of these events.

Mike and Liz Bullen are taking part in the sponsored walk on Saturday 11th July which starts and ends at Guildford Cathedral, taking in part of the Pilgrims' Way. The walk is approximately eight miles. There is a shorter three-mile course too. If anyone would like to join Mike and Liz please contact them. They will soon have sponsorship forms so if you are unable to join them on the walk please do sponsor them.

Do you enjoy making cards? If you do, then meet the challenge and make 60 cards and sell them at £1 each to raise money for TLM. By doing this you could help three people to receive the treatment they need to be cured of leprosy. Selling 20 cards would cure one person.

Thank you for your help. Also, my thanks to those who continue to fill their donation boxes. I have just sent off another £59.

Dorothy Gray

SHORT MAT BOWLING CLUB

In the June Record, I invited all readers to come and play or watch bowls on Mondays and Tuesdays from 2 p.m. to 4.15 p.m., and the invitation is still open, but I need to report that we shall not be meeting from 27th July inclusive for six weeks, starting again on Monday 7th September. This is because work will be done in building three rooms on the stage and so the hall will be out of use. We will welcome new members and friends in July and September.

Ron Talmey

PRAYER CALENDAR

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

5th July	<i>Sandcross Lane Church.</i>
12th July	<i>St Matthew's Church, Station Road, Redhill.</i>
19th July	<i>Redhill Counselling Centre at the East Surrey Hospital.</i>
26th July	<i>Redhill Methodist Church, Gloucester Road.</i>

ZIMBABWE PROJECT

We have been greatly encouraged recently to learn that the work continues at Old Mutare Mission. Our friend Miss Monica Dodzo, whom we tried to sponsor in the past, has been to Old Mutare and confirms that Cecillia Thobani is still in charge of the Fairfield Children's Home. This is really good news, and since then I have received a card from Mrs Thobani, via the USA!, to say 'All the children at the Home are doing well. The health of the children has improved a lot over the past six years. I would like to thank God for that.'

In the meantime we are trying to send a Braille writing machine for a little girl who lives in Seke, Chitungwiza, where Caleb used to be, who goes to St Giles' School for the Blind in Harare. When this is accomplished we will endeavour to send a parcel to Old Mutare. Please hold these endeavours in your prayers. Thank you.

Jean Bushby

FROM THE CHURCH MEETING

After prayer, Carol Nicholls began the Church Meeting on 14th June by reading a letter from the Synod Moderator, Nigel Uden, who asked for our agreement to replace Peter Flint of Dorking URC as our Interim Moderator, by George Watt of St Andrew's Cheam, who has been our acting Interim Moderator while Peter Flint was on sabbatical leave. Peter will instead be helping churches in the former Wimbledon District which are needing support. Of course we agreed, and gave Peter Flint a gift of thanks - in person, as he had been conducting our service that very day.

We had two other gifts of thanks to make - we had an orchid for Bobbie Hodges, who is retiring from organising the church flowers after 18 years, and another gift for Peter Warren, who is giving up as auditor of the Playgroup after an astounding 33 years, ever since it began!

Kay Parris gave a lively report on the recent Church Weekend. Unlike many other groups visiting Pilgrim Hall, our numbers were up on the previous Weekend.

Jo Goldsmith, our Child Protection Co-ordinator, told us of the updated policies agreed by the Elders and the central organisation.

As usual, not everything we did is mentioned here. Mavis always gives a report on behalf of the Pastoral Group, and leads us in prayer for those of us who particularly need our care and thought.

UNICEF - MITE NEWS

Can you solve a mystery? Why do the small tubs used for collecting disappear from the large container sitting among the bibles and hymn books? Please remember that a tub full of silver could save a child's life. It would be good to see them back again.

UNICEF is not funded by United Nations, but by people like us.

Hazel Arscott

JUNIOR CHURCH

On Tuesday 7th July, starting at 7.30 p.m., we have a drama training session in the Park Room. The session is being led by Ella Sowton and Will Goulder, both A-Level drama students at St Bede's, and the aim is to give us practical ideas to use with children. Anyone is welcome, whether or not you work in Junior Church, but it would help if you let me know in advance if you intend coming. (patricia.denchfield@ntlworld.com or ☎ 761275).

Our traditional end-of-year meal for all leaders and helpers is taking place on Friday 10th July. Please let Karen Best know if you have not yet received your invitation. Once again, we are very grateful to Lynda Case-Green for doing all the catering, and we look forward to a relaxing evening together.

Pat Denchfield and Angela

Bolton

SCOUT GROUP NEW LEADER REQUIRED

The Church Scout Group, Scout section, is in need of a Leader to take over from David Bretherton who has now retired after a good number of years' service, for which we thank him. This need is urgent as we need to have someone in place for the Autumn term in order to keep the Scout Section operational.

So are there any Church members that would like to inspire young people and have adventure and challenges themselves? You could add something special to our group whatever your background, and no previous experience is needed. All you need is energy and enthusiasm.

Give something back and get involved today by ringing our Group Scout Leader. Andrew Sangster on ☎ 242026 or email macdonnell@hotmail.co.uk

MAKE SCOUTING HAPPEN FOR ALL

Andrew Sangster, Group Scout Leader

THE GATTON PASSION

Gatton Community Theatre (GCT) is a unique Christian community theatre company based in the parishes of Merstham and Gatton on the North Downs above Reigate and is also one of Surrey's most unusual and innovative theatre groups. Made up of members of different churches from all over the Reigate Deanery area and beyond, they are staging an exciting open air promenade production, The Passion, in the Capability Brown designed grounds of Gatton Park, Reigate, Surrey, RH2 0TD on ten evenings between 13th and 26th July 2009. Gatton Park is home to the Royal Alexandra and Albert School and its beautiful grounds are maintained by volunteers from The Gatton Trust.

The Passion follows the story of Jesus and his ministry, staged at various stunning locations in Gatton Park, concluding with the events of Holy Week, the Crucifixion and the Resurrection. Audiences are invited to join this journey, both physically and emotionally, as they travel together with the cast through Gatton Park as followers of Jesus and become involved in the events unfolding before them. Through this production of The Passion, GCT hopes to bring to life the familiar story on which our shared faith is based, which it is hoped will involve, engage and inspire as many people as possible.

This large scale open-air production is a new piece of theatre work, devised by the cast and written by professional director, Anna Thompson, daughter of the late Bishop Jim Thompson. The role of Jesus will be played by actor Matthew Rutherford, with all other characters played by members of churches of all denominations in the area, and from local primary and secondary schools. Including local PATH gospel choir (Praise God and Take Heart), approximately 80 people of all ages from 8 to 80(ish) will be performing in the production. Some 2000 people saw GCT's last, different, production of The Passion in 2000.

Tickets are priced at £12 for adults and £8 for under 16s, with a group discount of 10 per cent for 10 or more people (telephone bookings only). The box office is being operated by Dorking Halls, 01306 881717 or online at www.dorkinghalls.co.uk

For further information email: enquiries@gattoncommunitytheatre.org.uk or find the web site: www.gattoncommunitytheatre.org.uk

WHAT IS 'CONNECT'?

Back in 2003 the church felt that there were too many odd retiring collections for special emergencies and a group was formed to propose a solution. 'Connect' was then launched to take over the job of raising money for miscellaneous overseas needs, with the intention of channelling it to bodies doing specific tasks, which would report how the money we gave was used. It does not handle our ongoing collections for UNICEF, Christian Aid, Vellore Medical College, The Leprosy Mission or our Zimbabwe Project. The Annual General Meeting, open to us all, was held last month, but unfortunately this was announced only in the weekly notice sheet, and not in the Record. However, the World Mission Committee has received a report from the Treasurer which is so impressive that it is right to share it with our readers. Well done, 'Connect' and everyone!

First, the yearly income:-	£
2003/2004	4972
2005	5504
2006	6131
2007	5289
2008	5845
2009 to date	1451
Total	29192

Second, the gifts:-	£
Water Aid	1540
SKIP	315
Kids for Kids	700
Hogar Christian Orphanage	1600
DEC Tsunami	1000
Impact	1500
RUSH	2000
Children of the Andes	3500
Practical Action	3000
Harvest Help	1250
Building Brighter Futures	3000
Pumpaid	4700
Akamba	1000
Target Tuberculosis	3000
Total	28105

The report gives an impressive list of fund-raising events, some of which

we will remember, but others not. Some of the money comes from the regular church events - the Christmas collection, several years - two services conducted by 'Connect' - the Christmas Tree Festival one year and a flower festival. But there were many extra events - three parties, including the launch - two Ceilidhs - two barn dances, two beetle drives and a concert by 'Cantata'. A total of £637 was raised by the sale of CDs and there was a car boot sale and some things were sold on ebay, and as for the Book Fair - the editor still has one book left to read from that event! Some of the ideas included an auction of promises, baby sitting, costume hire and frock swap. Do you remember the 'Kids for kids' event - it sounds exciting? The most recent event was pancake day. Other organisations also contributed - there was a sale of cards made at 'Conquest', and the profit from the Tradecraft stall sometimes went to 'Connect'. The collection at Ray Burgess's memorial service was also given to 'Connect'.

Most impressive, perhaps, is the list of items paid for:-

- 300M water pipe
- 60 goats and hand pump
- Tsunami emergency provisions
- Poshomill and shed
- Two communal water points
- Support for 2,500 farmers
- Ten elephant pumps
- Plough, chain and two bulls
- TB testing and treatment
- Food for 200 children for three weeks
- Building materials for orphanage
- ENT clinic - 62 sound-restoring ops
- 7 months nutritional programme
- Livestock drought emergency fund
- Chicken-farming project
- Sanitation and nutrition garden
- Farmers' education courses

PALLIATIVE CARE AND THE PHONE BOX!

(from the Vellore Newsletter)

Jayaseelan's income as a scooter-mechanic was the sole income for his family. His wife was ill and could not work. Their adult son Johnson was blind from childhood.

Jayaseelan was diagnosed with advanced lung cancer and unable to work.

His physical symptoms were controlled with medication and he was regularly under the Home Care Programme with FOV (Friends of Vellore) sponsors.

After Jayaseelan's death, the bereaved family had to face a second tragedy. Their one-room hut disintegrated in the rains and, since it was not safe to sleep at home, they slept in the porch of a nearby church.

Mr Ramu, the Palliative Care Team Social Worker, brought the situation to the attention of a well-wisher who offered to help. He paid for the cost of the construction material and local builders provided their services free to build a small dwelling for the family.

The family had no income but, despite his disability, Johnson was a responsible and capable young man who felt that given the opportunity he could run a small business. Since their house was opposite the Vellore bus stand, Johnson was given a coin-operated box phone, which has become a source of income.

Johnson is happy that for the first time in his life he has a job and can be the family's breadwinner. His success in this endeavour has been recognised in the community and a social worker from the neighbourhood has offered to find him a bride!

So as with most of the work at Vellore, there are many sides, and simple support for Palliative Care can end up in unexpected ways!

FURNITURE - URGENT

Furnistore are in urgent need of the following items to help people in need:-

Flannels	Deodorants	Toothpaste	Shower gel
Shampoo	Bath towels	Hand Towels	

If you can help in any way please drop the items off at the address below.

We are also in need of single and double beds if anyone is replacing theirs.

Sue Shortman

Volunteer Coordinator

Furnistore

Unit 10, Bridge Industrial Estate,

Balcombe Road, Horley, Surrey, RH6 9HU

☎ 01293 822221 or email sue@furnistore.co.uk

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

or linda@reigateparkchurch.org

Church Caretaker : Mrs Vikky Crosby

Church House, Park Lane East, Reigate RH2 8BD

Telephone (01737) 244250 e-mail: caretaker@reigateparkchurch.org

THE RECORD

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Contributions should be with the Editor:

Denis Ward, The Chantry, 49 Park Lane East, Reigate RH2 8HS

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:

(post currently vacant - can you help?)

e-mail: record.distributor@reigateparkchurch.org

JULY DIARY

Sunday	5th	10.00am	Rev. Clifford Bembridge. Holy Communion.
Monday	6th	8.00pm	Book Club at 22 Hardwick Road, Meadvale.
Tuesday	7th	7.30pm	Junior Church drama training session.
Thursday	9th	9.30am	Men's Fellowship Outing to Petworth Park.
Sunday	12th	10.00am	Service led by FROGS. Traidcraft Stall.
		6.00pm	Youth Club.
		6.30pm	Rev. David Marshall-Jones. Holy Communion
Tuesday	14th	10.30am	Women's Guild. Peter Whipps.
Wednesday	15th	10.00am	Community Coffee in the Park Room.
Saturday	18th	7.30pm	'The Elders request . . .'
Sunday	19th	10.00am	Medical Missions. Brian and Anne Witchells, Friends of Vellore.
		7.30pm	Kidz Club - Barbecue and games.
Sunday	26th	10.00am	Rev. David Marshall-Jones.
Thursday	30th	11.00am	Zimbabwe Working Party at 1 Evesham Road.

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.