

# THE RECORD

OF REIGATE PARK CHURCH (UNITED REFORMED)



SEPTEMBER 2009

No 859

# **REIGATE PARK CHURCH**

## **(UNITED REFORMED)**

**Park Lane East, Reigate RH2 8BD**

Registered Charity 1130103

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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 (☎ 768348),

Liz Bullen (☎ 248421), Pat Denchfield (☎ 761275),

Brian Hoad (☎ 243720), Carol Nicholls (☎ 240372)



September - traditionally the month when we celebrate harvest, the season for gathering in the fruits of the earth, both to enjoy now and also to store up to see us through the winter. Each year at this time special harvest festival services are held when we recognise and gladly give thanks for God's gifts to us, and acknowledge how fortunate we are to have more than enough to sustain us, and our responsibility to try to help those living in poverty and those living in countries where drought, wars and political greed and mismanagement mean that famine is a daily reality.

But let's consider another aspect of harvest. The word is also defined as 'the product of action' - an ongoing task - so we cannot tidy harvest away and confine it to one month of the year.

How goes the 'action' at Reigate Park? We are all part of its ongoing harvest? The long history of this church from 1662 when we worshipped in a farmer's barn, right on through several small chapels and then to the Victorian church in the High Street where Marks & Spencer's store stands today - complete with its harvest products on sale daily! - and finally on to our present place of worship here in Park Lane East, where even as I write this letter we are busy expanding this building for the needs of our growing Junior Church.

Looking back we owe a huge debt to those who have made this history possible - who were involved in the action that led to the harvest product. They were the 'harvesters' of the past that we remember whenever we sing Hymn 113 - 'They sowed the seed and watered it in sorrow and in care, but God alone the increase gave and made it blossom fair!' -

and the chorus reminds us to give thanks 'for the harvest of bygone ages, in the hope of the coming days'.

But look at that second line - 'the hope of the coming days' - that's us! We are the custodians of that hope. As we worship, live and work together at Reigate Park in this 21st century we are charged to look to the future, to the children and young people who will be that future and to the two Ministers we are seeking to call to the church, and to the youth and community, who together will lead us into the future. Above all we need to recognise that everyone of us has a part to play giving support and encouragement to each other as we seek to live our Christian lives both here and in the wider community.

Harvest is a time for giving thanks for the fruits of God's earth. But in his letter to the Galatians Paul listed the fruits of the spirit as 'love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control'. Good advice for us all today to ensure that the Christian life and worship established here nearly 350 years ago continue to the greater glory of God.

Let's pray that our actions result in good harvest products - and let's all have another look at Hymn 113!

Jill Campbell

## **PULPIT SUPPLY**

As it is possible that I may have to do Pulpit Supply during part of next year (I have filled all the Sundays for this year) I would very much appreciate hearing from you any suggestions you may have of people to take our Sunday morning services. It may well be someone we have already had, and you would like to hear them again, or someone entirely new! I would love to hear from you, and many thanks to everyone who has supported me so far.

Many thanks

Daphne Hamblin (☎ 01342 892465)

## **HARVEST LUNCH**

We shall be celebrating harvest this year on September 27th with Rev. Howard Rady leading our worship. After Church Meeting at 11.30 there will be a bring-and-share lunch to which all are invited. Sunday Lunch Club will be on that day and not the 20th as previously arranged. Please come even if you can't bring any food. Queries about what to bring should be addressed to Anna Burgess (☎ 241384) or Barbara Bristow (☎ 241420).

## **URC PRAYER HANDBOOK 2010**

There is a copy of the Prayer Handbook Gathered to the heart of God on the table at the back of the foyer. Please have a look at it. If you would like a copy (price £4.90) then please tick or add your name to the list that you will also find on the table, or come and talk to me about the book.

Eileen Charlton

## **CRAFTY CHATS**

After many years, due to the small number of members and changes in commitments, it is with regret that it has been decided to close down this group. Our thanks go to Linda for regularly advertising our meetings over the years.

Angela Merritt, Sharon Scotton.

## THANKS

Ron and Evelyn would like to express their warm thanks to Tess and all the members and friends of Reigate Park Church for the wonderful service they arranged on 2nd August to celebrate our 60 years of marriage and Ron's 60 years as an ordained minister. It was a marvellous event, and we shall take the memory of it through the rest of our lives knowing God has blessed us through all the years, and that He will be with us through time and eternity.

## MONDAY MORNING GROUP

In September, we begin a new topic entitled 'Journey into Faith through the Senses', plus one other area of interest. You are most welcome to join us on Monday mornings in the Park Room at 10.30 a.m. beginning with tea or coffee.

14th September Journey into Seeing.

21st September Journey into Hearing.

28th September Favourite hymns with an emphasis on the senses.

5th October On the 37th Anniversary of the inauguration of the URC, we consider its importance today.

12th October Journey into Smell.

19th October Journey into Touching.

26th October Journey into Tasting.

9th November Journey into Imagination.

Each session includes lots of opportunities for discussion with appropriate Bible readings and prayer.

You may not be able, or choose, to join us for every session, but you are always welcome and we look forward to seeing you.

Merle Nadal

## OUR LOVELY FLOWERS

We are very fortunate in our church that so many like to make a donation for flowers so that we can be greeted by fresh arrangements in the foyer and in the Sanctuary each Sunday. These flowers are arranged by one of our team of four. And here I make an appeal! We would very much like some more volunteers to help us; when I joined four years ago there were nine of us but five have had to drop out, all for very genuine reasons.

Lest you fear we are all members of a Flower Club or trained in some way let me assure you that is not necessarily the case. Speaking personally, I had never arranged more than a vase of flowers in the beginning but the help and advice of Bobby and others has encouraged me along. All that is needed is a love of flowers and your time when you can offer it.

If you would like to join us or just have a chat about how we work, do please give me a ring on ☎ 216174.

And finally, the list onto which people can enter their names as donors for 2009 /2010 is in the foyer on the table by the Sanctuary doors.

Bridget Band - Flower rota co-ordinator

## **WORSHIP IN THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER**

At 10 a.m. on Sunday 6th September, Rev. Geoffrey Tillison will lead our Communion service. There will be no evening service.

At 10 a.m. on Sunday 13th September, the Elders will lead our worship. At 6.30 p.m. Ted Bellingham, a Lay Preacher from Dorking URC, will conduct our Communion service.

No mid-week communion services are planned until further notice.

At 10 a.m. on Sunday 20th September, Rev. Michael Jagessar, Secretary for Racial Justice and Multicultural Ministry in the URC, will lead our worship. There will be no evening service.

At 10 a.m. on Sunday 27th September, Rev. Howard Rady will lead our Harvest Festival worship. There will be no evening service.

## **TRAIIDCRAFT - HELP NEEDED URGENTLY!**

Help is urgently needed with the Traidcraft stall; sadly, Sharon Quinn can no longer help either picking up goods at Nutfield or delivering the unsold items back again, because of extra work commitments, and would therefore like to stand down, as soon as a replacement can be found, and certainly after Christmas. I would thank her hugely for the tremendous help she has given us - absolutely brilliant!

Just to explain what is required, if you felt it might be possible for you to help...

About six times a year you would need to be available to bring back the goods after the Sunday sale (on the following Tuesday morning) and pick up the new stock on the Wednesday before the next sale. The stock is held at Robert Denholm House in Nutfield. You would also need to be available to help with

the alternate monthly sales, although if you have to miss the odd one it won't be the end of the world! Sharon has kindly agreed to be on hand still, alongside Sarah, for the sales, if needed.

Sales are not usually held on half term weekends or in the school holidays so those with school age children who fear they might be unable to commit to a Sunday during school holidays needn't fear.

Liz Bullen, Sarah Brown or myself very much look forward to hearing from you.

Tricia Hughes (☎ 222244)

## **MEN'S FELLOWSHIP**

A visit to a 'National Treasure' would sum up July's trip by the Men's Fellowship. Petworth House in West Sussex with its wonderful collection of art work spanning the centuries, was indeed, a unique and privileged experience.

There are no planned excursions for the month of August, but come 10th September a wonderful day out has been planned to Amberley Museum and Heritage Centre, near Arundel in West Sussex. Amberley hosts a variety of displays and exhibits, and is a vital part of keeping alive the traditional skills of our ancestors. So do come along to enjoy a wonderful day out. The cost per person is £24.50. To reserve your coach seats phone George Orr 277850.

I have again uploaded my photographs to the 'Snapfish' web site, anyone wanting to have a peek, just email me (rnbristol@ntlworld.com) and I will be pleased to send you an invitation to view.

Warmest regards

Ralph Bristol, Chairman

## **UNICEF - MITE NEWS**

Parts of the world are again suffering because of bad weather. Water - so precious - is causing death through drowning, and wrecking forests, etc., and elsewhere children and adults are starving and living without sanitation and cleanliness. Remember those who cannot help their children, but will still struggle to do their best. Many children must know UNICEF workers with thankfulness - remember them when you are enjoying food and safety.

The Christmas catalogue will be available in September.

Hazel Arscott

## PRAYER CALENDAR

There are only two churches allotted dates in this month's prayer cycle of Churches Together in Reigate and Redhill:

**6th September** Redhill Vineyard Christian Fellowship, which meets at East Surrey College.

**13th September** St Theresa's Church (RC), Weldon Way, Merstham.

## JUNIOR CHURCH

We should like to thank the team who provided sessions for the infant and junior age-groups during August, whilst our leaders and helpers were taking a well-earned rest!

Junior Church resumes on September 6th, and by now all parents should have received a letter with information for the coming term. It is always lovely to have new families, and we welcome Layla Atkinson to our crèche.

This year there are only a few changes in our volunteers: Alison Allen completed a very long spell helping in various Junior Church groups, most recently FROGS, and James Bretherton has just finished a long stint helping in Explorers; we are very grateful to both of them. We also appreciate the time given in the crèche by Claire Harris, Rosie Weston and Jacki Glasgow, who have now stopped. Kate Richardson has been leading in Explorers and Vines, but will now concentrate on Vines; Kim Clink and Linda Cockerill are also moving as helpers from Explorers to Vines, and earlier in the year Lefteri Deda moved from crèche to Vines. Both Ella Sowton and Ellen Simpson have also been helping in Vines. Sarah Talbot is now helping in Harmony. Claire Roberts moved from helper to leader in JAM, and Beverly Man and Anna Silver have changed from helping to leading in Explorers. We are pleased to have Michelle Johnson back in Junior Church as a Vines leader, and we are very glad that Zoë Marshall is returning from maternity leave to lead in Explorers again. At the beginning of 2009 Denise Anderson and Neil Scotton started the monthly Sixth Form Discussion Group; watch this space for exciting new developments in the coming year!

On Tuesday 15th September at 8.00 in the Park Room there will be an open meeting for any parents thinking about visiting Secondary School Open Days to come and gather information and share thoughts. As in the past, this will also help to clarify the rôle of the parents and the rôle of RPC in the case of St Bede's applications.

On Wednesday 16th September at 8.00 in the Park Room there will be an open meeting for any parents to air thoughts and gather information if

considering visiting Infant Schools during their Open Days. All friends very welcome too.

With good wishes to everyone in Junior Church for a happy term!

Pat Denchfield and Angela Bolton

## IT'S TIME FOR SELF-HELP

Like everyone, the church is facing hard times financially just now, with rising costs and falling income. But Reigate Park Church is feeling the pinch even more than it might, because the bad economic climate has coincided with the period of Vacancy. If things continue as they are, RPC will have a deficit of £10,000 in 2009.

What can we do about this? The answer is clear: as over 80 per cent of church income comes from giving by members, we must **HELP OURSELVES!**

What steps should I take to increase my giving?

1. *Standing Orders/Direct Debit:* Contact your bank and authorize an increase.
2. *Weekly Envelope:* Just put the extra amount in your envelope each week.
3. *Cash collection:* Pop in a little more each time, if you can - and remember to use the Gift Aid envelope if you are a taxpayer.

**And, calling all taxpayers!** If you are a taxpayer but do not yet have a Gift Aid number, PLEASE complete the Gift Aid leaflet to be found at the Financial Info Point in the foyer and hand it to the Treasurer - you will receive a number, and we will be able to reclaim tax on all your donations. This tax reclaim is a very significant source of income for the church (and comes at no extra cost to the Giver.

For advice about the best way to give to the church, please refer to the leaflets at the Financial Info Point, or contact one of the Financial Awareness Group:

Helen Samuel ☎ 01737 246305, Antonia Sood ☎ 01737 223121

Nicky Bryant ☎ 01737 221102, Daphne Hamblin ☎ 01342 892465

## THE SIGNIFICANCE OF LITTLE THINGS

As I look back on sixty years of marriage and sixty years as a Christian Minister I have come to realise the significance of little things. Most of us want to demonstrate our loyalty to Christ by some big act of sacrifice and service. We are always looking for the great occasion, and because it doesn't come we get discouraged.

Our mistake is in failing to realise that the real test of discipleship is not in the big but in the small things. It is difficult to recognise the significance of some simple humble duty. In working for God we discover that all the biggest things arise out of very tiny things. Because we obeyed God's call in the small things, large consequences followed.

Because John Wesley obeyed that impulse to go to that meeting in Aldersgate Street he was used by God to reshape the character of British Christianity.

You can never tell how much is depending on how you face that next task, however insignificant it may appear. Almost any small duty done as unto Christ may lead to the most profound results. Your discipleship is tested not in the way you handle some big occasion, but in your attitude to that difficult person; in the nature of your secret thinking; in your courage in facing that burden or fear which presses on your heart.

It is in little things that we prove our loyalty to Christ. As we are faithful in small things we are given responsibility over greater things. 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things.' (Matthew 25, v.21).

Ron Talmey

## **WOMEN'S GUILD**

At our August meeting we enjoyed a coffee, chat and cake morning.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 8th September at 11.30 a.m. (please note later time) in the Park Room. This will be a bring-and-share lunch. Husbands will be very welcome.

Liz Bullen

## **FROM THE CHURCH MEETING**

Carol Nicholls began our July Church Meeting with a reading of 1 Corinthians 12, meditation and the prayer 'Bind us together, Lord...'

Jill Campbell reported from the Vacancy Committee that two more suggestions were being followed up and the outlook was 'encouraging' but reminded us that it would be a mistake to grab the first available minister!

In spite of the lack of a minister, seven people had expressed an interest in membership, and so far, three of them, Paul Seldon, Anna Silver and Sharon Quinn had asked to be received. This would probably be on the first Sunday in October. Michael Bullen queried whether the Pastorate Profile should be revised, but both George Watt and Nigel Uden had said 'Leave well alone!'. It

might, however, be worth while modifying the summary.

Tina Papworth, on behalf of Jane Buck who was on holiday, presented the financial report for the first five months of the year. Our final decision on our contribution to the £3M which the Southern Synod needs to raise will be made at the Church Meeting on Sunday, 26th September.

We congratulated Jill Campbell, Sue Knight and Peter Mercer who have completed their Sacrament Course and are therefore authorised to conduct baptism and communion services in cases of pastoral necessity.

Mavis Proctor reported on behalf of the Pastoral Committee and led us in prayer for those who were mentioned.

## **URC DIARIES**

If you would like to order a URC diary for 2010 @ £5.95 please let me know by Sunday 11th October, so that the order can be sent off quickly. Please say whether you would like a soft cover (red or green) or hard cover (blue or black).

Pat Denchfield

## **BOOK CLUB**

Our next meeting is at Anna Burgess' house, 33 Waterlow Road (☎ 241384), on Wednesday September 30th. The book is *Crime and Punishment* by Dostoevsky.

Jane Dotzec

## **CONNECT UPDATE**

A cheque for £1500 has been gratefully received by PROJECT PERU to help fund the children at their refuge in Lima. Project Peru is a totally voluntary Guildford-based charity which as well as running the refuge offers practical and ongoing support to those living in extreme poverty high in the Andes.

Book the date Saturday November 14th for our BIG BAND FORTIES NIGHT. More details next month.

Linda Chandler ☎ 763328

## STAINED GLASS

A grieving mother  
 links the Great War  
 with Mary at the Cross  
 but in her grief  
 she is not alone  
 for an angel,  
 is it your face or mine?  
 puts God's arm round her shoulder  
 and there is HOPE as fruit appears.

To my left  
 the children come and cling  
 finding a safe place to be  
 but in case we think  
 such is our own doing alone  
 we gather  
 'In grateful memory of ...'  
 those who now play a supporting rôle  
 for there is LOVE as fruit ripens.  
 And at the Centre, fruit reaches its fullness.  
 'Those who gave their lives'  
 held aloft  
 by Him who holds the blade  
 And thus takes the pain himself  
 trusting the God whose life  
 will mean His sacrifice  
 is not vain;  
 and trusting us  
 that those who worshipped  
 surrounded by these objects  
 will find in our ways  
 that Christ has risen again  
 so we keep the FAITH.

Hazel Arscott has found this meditation, on the back of a sheet showing our memorial windows. Does anyone know where it comes from?

## **CHURCH OFFICE**

**Church & Community Manager : Susan Stanley**

Tuesday to Friday, 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](mailto:record@reigateparkchurch.org)      ☎ (01737) 244163***

at least two weeks before publication date.

Copy for the October edition is due by

**Sunday, September 13th**

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](mailto:record.distributor@reigateparkchurch.org)

## SEPTEMBER DIARY

Sunday	6th	10.00am	Rev. Geoffrey Tillison. Holy Communion.
Tuesday	8th	11.30am	Women's Guild.
Thursday	10th	9.30am	Men's Fellowship. Amberley Museum.
Sunday	13th	10.00am	Elders' Service.
		6.30pm	Ted Bellingham. Holy Communion.
Tuesday	15th	8.00pm	Choosing a Secondary School
Wednesday	16th	8.00pm	Choosing a Primary School
Sunday	20th	10.00am	Rev. Michael Jagessar. Traidcraft stall.
Thursday	25th	11.00am	Zimbabwe Working Party at 1 Evesham Road.
Sunday	27th	10.00am	Rev. Howard Rady. Harvest Festival.
		11.30am	<b>Church Meeting.</b> followed by bring-and-share lunch

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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.