

THE RECORD

OF REIGATE PARK CHURCH (UNITED REFORMED)



NOVEMBER 2009

No 861

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)



“Called to be . . .” (Part 2)

Sunday 13th September 2009 - To recap - Friends know more about you than other people. - Best friends and family know the most about you. - Jesus wants to be your best friend. - God knows you inside out since before you were born.

Accept what and who you are. - God calls you at unexpected times. - God calls ordinary people. - God calls ordinary people to do extraordinary things.

That God knows each of us and that God calls us by name. - Doubt is normal. - Our feelings are a clue to what God might be calling us to do. - The psalmist promises that God satisfies the deepest desires of our hearts. - Seek confirmation.

Listen. - Pray. - The challenge of God’s calling to all of us is the same. - To find a way of living with who we really are, forgiven, loved and set free by God. - God calls us when we don’t expect it. - God calls us all into his light of love, compassion and satisfaction which is what faith is all about.

Being a Christian is a vocation - start with a concern for people and from that comes what in Galatians is described as the fruits of the spirit, love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness and self-control - Jesus is with you every step of the way.

Luke: *‘tell the message about repentance and the forgiveness of sins’*

Mark: *‘Go throughout the whole world and preach the gospel to the whole human race’*

Matthew: *‘Go then to all the peoples everywhere and make them my disciples, baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit and teach them to obey everything I have commanded you. And I will be with you always to the end of the age.’*

Ask yourself what am I called to be?

Follow up thoughts:

Called to be an Elder - The first function of eldership in the URC has been laid down in the Basis of Union as follows: to foster in the congregation concern for witness and service to the community, evangelism at home and abroad, Christian education, ecumenical action, local inter-church relations and the wider responsibilities of the whole church;

Is it I Lord?

Called to be a Christian - New members promise - Do you confess anew

your faith and trust in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, maker of heaven and earth, giver of life, redeemer of the world? - **I do**

Do you promise to continue in the worship and fellowship of the Church in this congregation, accepting the gift and cost of following Christ and proclaiming by word and action the good news of God in Christ? - **I do, with God's help.**

The congregation's promise - In welcoming fellow members in the life of this church, do you promise your friendship in the Lord, and will you give them your support in prayer and service, so that they, with us, may continue to grow in the knowledge and love of God and witness to Jesus Christ our risen Lord? - **We do, and with God's help, we will.**

The prayer from the URC rededication service.

O God. who calls us in Jesus not to be afraid.

but to tell others the good news.

confirm us in our love for you

and in our dedication to your service

that we may be filled with new energy

for the task of mission which you give us.

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

We will delay our mission no longer.

We will live in ways that show those around us

the good news of God's love in Jesus.

We will demonstrate by our actions

as well as by our words how much God longs

for the healing and wholeness of the world.

We will build one another up in love, so that those who encounter

our common life will find in our sharing a foretaste of God's

kingdom on earth.

Amen.

And finally, read Hymn 574.

Peter Mercer

BOOK CLUB

Monday November 9th 8pm

At Michael Ball's, 29 Holmesdale Manor (on Ladbroke Rd), Redhill
(☎ 768348) : the book is *Testament of Youth* by Vera Brittain

Jane Dotzec

UNICEF - MITE NEWS

In other countries, 5p would enable a child to have food (a small amount) and with other coins could provide living conditions, like drinking water, sanitation, schooling - i.e. books, pencils, etc. Our living conditions are vastly different. Can we help even in spite of our very different difficulties? - I hope so. The jar and the containers are in the foyer every week. For the sake of the children - please help.

Hazel Arscott

IF THERE IS TO BE PEACE

If there is to be peace in the world,
There must be peace in the nations.

If there is to be peace in the nations,
There must be peace in the cities.

If there is to be peace in the cities,
There must be peace between neighbours.

If there is to be peace between neighbours,
There must be peace in the home.

If there is to be peace in the home,
There must be peace in the heart.

(Lao Tzu, 570 - 490 B.C.)

JUNIOR CHURCH

Plans are well under way for our next Theme Day on November 1st. It's not too late if your child has not yet signed up: just complete a form from the table in the foyer. This time we are creating a Nativity Newspaper with pictures, articles, interviews, puzzles, photos etc, and it promises to be a really exciting morning. Children from Explorers upwards will go straight to the Hall on arrival; crèche and JAM will also operate from 10 a.m. in their normal rooms, and they will be doing activities on the same theme.

At the Synod Meeting at Brighthelm on October 10th Reigate Park was awarded the Child-Friendly Church Award. This represents a lot of work by very many people, and we will be telling you more about it in the next copy of the *Record*.

Pat Denchfield and Angela Bolton

CATS

CATS is the name of the new teenage group which comprises year 11 upwards. We meet in the library during Junior Church time and discuss life, the universe and everything or anything the group is interested in.

CATS stands for Christians As TeenagerS.

Denise Anderson

ZIMBABWE PROJECT

We have just heard that the two boxes of blankets and clothes have arrived at the mission safely. Peter Mufute the administrator is very grateful.

Jean Bushby

WORSHIP IN THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER

At 10 a.m. on Sunday 1st November, Rev. Brian Bowyer, a retired URC minister, will lead our Communion service and receive new members. This is Junior Church Theme Day, so the children will be out for the whole of the service. There will be no evening service.

At 10 a.m. on Sunday 8th November, Rev. Ron Talmey will lead our Remembrance Day worship. At 6.30 p.m. Graham Whybra will conduct our Communion service.

At 10 a.m. on Sunday 15th November, Rev. Jennifer Millington, the minister of St John's URC, Orpington, will lead our worship. There will be no evening service.

At 10 a.m. on Sunday 22nd November, Dave Cooper and his team which went to Uganda will lead our Parade Service. There will be no evening service.

At 10 a.m. on Sunday 29th November, which we are keeping as Bible Sunday, Rev. Daniel Kajumba, Archdeacon of Reigate, will lead our worship. There will be no evening service.

MONDAY MORNING GROUP

There is still one session left of our 'Journey into Faith through the Senses'. This is our 'Journey into Imagination' on 9th November. After that, on 16th November, we shall begin an Advent series. You are most welcome to join us on Monday mornings in the Park Room at 10.30 a.m. beginning with tea or coffee.

REFORM MAGAZINE

This month I shall be renewing our church's subscription for Reform magazine for 2010. If you do not already take a copy of this magazine, which has articles of general Christian interest, Bible study articles, book reviews etc., and would like to receive a copy, please let me know by 15th November. The subscription rate for 11 issues, beginning January 2010 will be £19.80. Could existing subscribers kindly advise me by the above date if they do not wish me to renew their subscription.

Derek Ford, Reform Distributor, ☎ 246438

'CALLED TO BE ELDERS'

All members have the responsibility of appointing elders to serve at Reigate Park Church. This annual event is an important moment in the life of our church. It is the time when we must all give careful consideration to the current and future needs of the church, and thought and prayer about those who have been nominated for service as elders. In the absence of a minister, the elders have responsibility for the pastoral care and leadership of the church.

Four nominations have been received for the six vacancies in the eldership - Angela Bolton, Carol McNeill, Mavis Proctor and Barbara Wing. As agreed by previous church meetings, there will still be a ballot, so that the new elders will know they have the support of the membership. We are a large church, so for some of us it may be difficult to put faces to the names of the nominees. To help us get to know them better here are four short biographies. Please give prayerful consideration before Church Meeting on Sunday morning, November 22nd.

Tess Brown, Church Secretary

ANGELA BOLTON has been part of the RPC family for over 30 years. She has always been particularly interested in working with young people and families. Her role now as Families Liaison Officer involves supporting many families within the church especially as Cradle Roll Secretary and Deputy Junior Church Coordinator. She also works in RPC outreach projects by organising the Easter Workshop and the Church Toddler Groups. She was part of the group supporting our student youth worker and helped secure the funding for a Strategic Minister. Angela has been an Elder for six years and would feel privileged to serve for another three years, particularly in this time of vacancy.

CAROL McNEILL moved to Redhill in 1982 with her husband Graeme and shortly afterwards started her dance school for local children, which is now in its Silver Jubilee year. Her Christian life, she says, has been a Heinz 57, as she was brought up in the Church of England and attended C of E and mission churches through her life, but with grandparents that were Roman Catholic, Friends and Jewish she became familiar with those traditions as well. She became a member of Reigate Park in October 2002 having come to the church through friends, and was made to feel immediately welcome. even though she does wear hats! She then became involved in flower arranging, Women's Guild and the Music Group, and she finds great fellowship from all those involved with these groups. She has become very involved with Saving the Harlequin for the community at large by becoming a member of the Harlequin User Group and through

supporting many Gala Charity nights with the children of her school. She feels now she is being called to give of herself and to serve Reigate Park in any capacity that the Lord wills.

MAVIS PROCTOR has been an Elder at the Church since 1978. She was Church Secretary for seven years and then Booking Secretary for six years. She is married to Richard, who is treasurer of the Playgroup. She is part of the Pastoral Team who meet every week. She helps with Sunday Lunch Club, Men's Fellowship Lunches, is secretary of the Premises and Management committee and is in the choir. She has a son, David, and a daughter, Tina, who has twin girls of 11, and she takes care of them for part of the week. She likes to read, listen to music and plays Bridge on a regular basis.

BARBARA WING attended Sunday School in the High Street Congregational Church, was very active with the young people's group and sang in the choir. She became a church member in 1952, but took time out while working in London and returned to the church in the 1970s. She was first ordained as an Elder at Reigate Park in 1991 and has been chairman of the Fellowship and Enterprise Groups and chair of the Elders' Meeting. She is now a member of the Worship Group and the Management and Premises Group. She is currently the Sunday Morning Steward and tries to provide a relaxed and welcoming atmosphere for the service so that all the congregation can benefit from this very special time together. She is looking forward to the exciting time ahead as the Church works together to seek a new Minister.

HOME AND AWAY

I'd like to thank all those who have participated in, and supported, the 'Home and Away' group whilst I have been leading it.

In case you haven't heard of it, 'Home and Away' is primarily a social group for young people aged 16 plus. It aims to provide a link between the Church and those at 'Home' in the Reigate area (perhaps in Sixth Form or starting work) and those 'Away' at College or University. In addition to social events, the group sometimes participates in worship, and in October 2008 we led a Sunday morning service.

David Harnett has been leading this group for several months now, and I would like to thank him for taking over and wish him all the best. I am sure he would be keen to hear from you if you want to get involved!

Sarah Coughlan (nee Denchfield)

WILD LIFE AT REIGATE PARK CHURCH!

Did you know that our native sparrow population has declined by 62 per cent over the last 25 years? Similar figures can be found for many other bird species, and bat numbers are declining too with six species of bat in the UK now endangered. They have declined dramatically due to loss of roosts/nesting sites from farming and building, and loss of food sources as insect populations decline through pesticide use.

For this reason, on Saturday 3rd October, 22 people aged from five through to somewhat older (!) came together for a really fun morning to create a wildlife haven in the church grounds. There was an unintentional male/female divide as the men and boys climbed ladders to put up the bird and bat boxes, and the women, girls and younger children got creative, building the Wildlife House at the Priory Drive entrance. Food and water and nesting material have also been provided, now all we need to ensure is that visiting ministers are riveting enough to keep our attention from wavering to the bird feeder! All of the supplies were either donated or bought out of the £1000 WWF fund accessible to the Ecoteam for eco work to the church and grounds.

Thank you to all contributions and to all who turned up to help on the day.

Sonia Christie

WOMEN'S GUILD

The speaker at our October meeting Anthea Fox from Woodlarks. Woodlarks is a camp site at Farnham which provides holidays for disabled people of all ages, It was started in the 1980s and provides holidays for 1000 disabled people and their volunteer helpers each year, Activities include swimming, football, cricket, archery, water-skiing, crafts, drama, dancing and many more. At the moment they are trying to raise £2 million to rebuild and update their facilities.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 10th November at 10.30 a.m. in the Park Room. There will be a short AGM followed by a talk from one of our members, Wilma Dalton, who will be telling us about the uniformed organisations to which she has belonged.

Liz Bullen

CRAWLEY OPEN HOUSE

our Christmas collection

Crawley Open House is a local charity helping homeless and disadvantaged people. From its centre in Crawley, it runs a 24-bed hostel and a drop-in Day Centre which are both open 365 days a year. It also operates a 10-bed hostel for homeless 16- and 17-year olds. You may remember the moving presentation given by the Director at one of our Sunday services earlier this year.

Crawley Open House is experiencing increasing demands for its services as the recession bites deeper into the local community. At Church Meeting in September, we decided to support them this Christmas instead of Crisis. We will be collecting items for them on three consecutive Sundays, 22nd and 29th November and 6th December.

We have asked Crawley Open House for their priorities:

Clean, good quality men's and women's clothing.

Blankets and quilts (they have no stock for the winter as the recession has cleared them out).

Sleeping bags are like gold dust!

Toiletries are extremely useful.

Tinned and dry food, particularly coffee, sugar, tinned meat and fish.

In fact anything which might have gone to Crisis, the big difference being that it is used throughout the year, not just for a few days over Christmas.

Please consider if you can find some items for our collection to help Crawley Open House support those who turn to them for help. Look out for the containers in the foyer for your donations.

Jill Campbell and Michael Bolton (☎ 248430)

PRAYER CALENDAR

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

1st November *St John's Church, Pendleton Road, Redhill.*

8th November *St Katharine's Church, Church Hill, Merstham*

15th November *Reigate Park Church.*

22nd November *Redhill Corps of the Salvation Army, Lower Bridge Road.*

29th November *Reigate Heath Church, Flanchford Road.*

RECONCILIATION

Sometimes I have heard Christian people say ‘I can’t stand so-and-so’. From the frank way they say these words, there is obviously a sense of self-justification in that attitude. A moment’s thought will help us realise that we cannot have such a loveless attitude to another person, and remain Christian. Jesus told us that one test by which his disciples are known is that they have love toward another. This means that however unlovely a person may be, no matter how much they have wronged or harmed us, we must still retain love for them.

‘But’, you say, ‘how can I love an utterly objectionable person?’. The answer is seen in the attitude of a mother to her wayward son. A true mother continues to love her son while she hates his sin, and contrives to work and pray for his deliverance from the evil that has seized him. It is seen more vividly in the prayer of Jesus on the Cross for the men who crucified him: ‘Father, forgive them for they do not know what they are doing’.

The fact is that Christians should not entertain an unloving attitude. The thing that separates us from another person separates us from God. We must put sour relationships right from our side as soon as possible, and if we have the courage to do it we shall receive a new flood of divine power. ‘If we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us’ (1 John 4, v.12).

Ron Talmey

CONNECT UPDATE

A further cheque for £750 has been sent to PROJECT PERU, making the total they have received £2,250. This will enable all the children at the refuge to attend school and receive meals for one year.

Linda Chandler

PENCIL IN YOUR SEAMS, LADIES!

We have the bunting and the band and spare tickets for the FORTIES NIGHT on Saturday November 14th. Do join us for this trip down memory lane. The Reigate and Redhill Community Band will be entertaining us with some nostalgic sounds, and we have been saving our rations to provide you with a simple buffet. We promise you a fun evening. I can’t spoil the surprise but I guarantee you will be disappointed if you miss it. For your ration book entry ticket, mail to

Lindachandler580@googlemail.com

FROM THE CHURCH MEETING

Church Meeting on September 27th was kept fairly short because of preparations for the Harvest Lunch to follow immediately afterwards. It was chaired by Carol Nicholls for the last time, as she completes her term of office as chairman of the elders' meeting, handing over to Tina Papworth.

The Vacancy Committee was not able to report any substantial progress in the search for a new minister, although we were told that a new 'name' was being pursued (unfortunately, we have recently learned that this lead has come to nothing). Four nominations had been received for the eldership: Angela Bolton, Carol McNeill, Mavis Proctor and Barbara Wing. For more information, see pages 6 and 7.

Sonia Christie gave an update on the eco-group, partly to remind people that work is still continuing, but also to ask for help the following Saturday morning in setting up a wild-life garden in the church grounds, bird and bat boxes, insect 'hotels' and so on. The results can now be seen on our trees and elsewhere.

The Premises Committee warned us that plans are in hand to replace our ancient gas heaters later in the autumn. These will be more efficient than before but users of our church premises during half-term week might have to suffer a short time without any heating.

Finally, the curious matter of the bike stands. This suggestion, from the eco-group, was to encourage people coming to our church to use two wheels rather than four. Fair enough, so far, but we weren't being asked to approve of any particular scheme. There are no plans or proposals in existence, nor has any research been undertaken to assess how many people might use such facilities. Instead we were asked to seek approval from the Synod for work to take place. We don't know the potential cost but we understand that grants are available to cover most (or all) of this. Never mind bikes: the cart seems to be somewhat ahead of the horse!

Church Meeting dates for 2010 have been arranged: January 17th, March 16th, May 23rd, July 20th, September 26th and November 21st.

CONQUEST ART OPEN MORNING

Conquest Art will be holding an Open Morning on Wednesday 4th November from 10 a.m. to 12 noon in the Hall. Please come and meet our artists and see their work. Tea and coffee will be served and there will be a cake stall and cards etc. for sale.

Liz Bullen

A GOOD USE FOR GARDENING VOUCHERS

As last year, Felbridge primary school are collecting Morrisons' Gardening Vouchers to obtain more equipment and seeds. Some very kind people at Reigate Park sent me some unwanted vouchers, so if anyone feels they would like to do the same this year, please could they send them to me, Mrs Christine Gillett, 17 Fermandy Lane, Crawley Down, West Sussex, RH10 4UB. All donations are gratefully received and last year helped us to achieve enough for two spades, two forks, three mini-watering cans and some seeds. Many thanks.

DEAR REIGATE PARK FRIENDS

We cannot believe that it is a year since we left for pastures new, but what a year! We have bought a lovely bungalow in Hordle, Lymington with a pool in the garden, so if anyone is passing by please come and visit! John is working hard for his money and is coming across many challenges in his work with people with learning disabilities. I am loving nursing in Milford-on-Sea and feel I am on holiday all the time!

We became members of Lymington URC in July and have been made very welcome. We moved back into our refurbished church and have a new minister starting in January so feel very lucky if a little guilty to have missed out on the hard times the church has gone through!

Amy is marrying next year and is very attached to Chipstead C of E church, Heather has a lovely boyfriend and is happy in her job in Bristol and Tim continues to freelance in Croydon, living in Purley and enjoying life.

We think of RPC often and feel privileged to have been part of such a fantastic church. Lymington Church is in the centre of town much like Reigate used to be and we still have three or four children in Junior Church - if we are lucky - that is our church's new big challenge! You are a hard act to follow!

Much love to everyone we know, Gill and John,
wiseman760@internet.com

BROCKHAM CHORAL SOCIETY

Brockham Choral Society are performing the Duruflé *Requiem* at the All Souls service in St Martin's Church, Dorking at 8 p.m. Monday 2nd November. Admission free.

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THE RECORD

is the magazine of Reigate Park Church and is normally published on the last Sunday of each month: the next *Record* is due for collection on November 29th

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at least two weeks before publication date.

Copy for the December edition is due by

Sunday, November 15th

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

NOVEMBER DIARY

Sunday	1st	10.00am	Rev. Brian Bowyer. Holy Communion and Reception of New Members. Junior Church Theme Day. Traidcraft Stall.
Wednesday	4th	10.00am	Conquest Art open morning.
Sunday	8th	10.00am	Remembrance Day. Rev. Ron Talmey.
		6.30pm	Graham Whybra. Holy Communion.
Monday	9th	8.00pm	Book Club at 29 Holmesdale Manor, Ladbroke Road, Redhill.
Tuesday	10th	10.30am	Women's Guild. AGM and Wilma Dalton.
Thursday	12th	12.30pm	Men's Fellowship. Angela Vivian.
Saturday	14th	8.00pm	'Connect' Forties Night.
Sunday	15th	10.00am	Rev. Jennifer Millington.
		6.00pm	Kidz Club. 'German Spotlight'.
Wednesday	18th	10.30am	Community Coffee.
Sunday	22nd	10.00am	Parade Service. Dave Cooper. Uganda team. Start collection for Crawley Open House
		11.30am	Church Meeting
Thursday	26th	11.00am	Zimbabwe Working Party at 1 Evesham Road.
Sunday	29th	10.00am	Rev. Daniel Kajumba.

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.