

THE RECORD

OF REIGATE PARK CHURCH (UNITED REFORMED)



DECEMBER 2009

No 862

REIGATE PARK CHURCH

(UNITED REFORMED)

Park Lane East, Reigate RH2 8BD

Registered Charity 1130103

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 (☎ 768348),

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

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



As many of you are aware, Reigate Park was presented with the Child-Friendly Church Award at the Synod Meeting in October. But what does this mean for us as a Church Family? Although the award reflects our work with children and young people, the significance and responsibilities of the award go far beyond the Junior Church volunteers.

The whole process took over a year. We were required to answer questions on nine different areas, providing detailed evidence to support the facts. Although much of this related to the content of Junior Church sessions, the safety of the children and the suitability of their rooms, there were also searching questions about the opportunities for children to take a meaningful part in Church life - not just taking part in services, but being 'involved in the day-to-day running of the Church'. Having visited us one Sunday morning and written a detailed report, Nick White (Synod Children's and Youth Development Officer) identified areas for development. As well as practical, relatively easy targets such as updating our registration forms, there were more challenging ones, for example 'to encourage more participation by young people in Church Meeting'. If we are to achieve this, it will require careful thought, planning and sensitivity.

Of course, many of the targets focus on our work with families, and we will continue to provide opportunities for parents and children to meet together and make suggestions for the development of Junior Church. One of the year's

highlights was a meeting for families during coffee one Sunday. The purpose was to complete a questionnaire, which in itself was a fascinating exercise, but many of the families enjoyed the opportunity to get together so much that they asked for it to become an annual event!

The concluding part of the process was to write a three-year plan, based on the areas identified by Nick for development. We chose to write this plan around the Junior Church Vision Statement already in place:

- For children to feel secure, loved and valued
- For children to discover that meeting with God is easy, exciting and enjoyable
- For children to build good relationships with one another and their leaders and helpers
- For children to develop their understanding of Christian principles
- For children to apply what they learn to their daily lives

All of us who work with children will keep this vision in mind as we face the challenges set for us. But what does this mean for the rest of the Church Family? We hope everyone will feel both inspired and

challenged by the award, which reflects the enthusiasm of our children and young people and the dedication of everyone who works alongside them. Let us all maintain a positive approach as we seek our new Minister, and may we feel sustained by these words from Jeremiah 29 v 11:

‘For I know the plans I have for you,’ declares the Lord, ‘plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.’

Pat Denchfield and Angela Bolton

NATIVITY NEWS

On November 1st 2009, over 70 children and adults from our Junior Church got together for a Theme Session in the Hall. The theme this time was to create the material to make a Nativity themed newspaper. Jam and Crèche also contributed to the newspaper working within their own group. We had a fantastic morning doing lots of fun things, but we’re not going to tell you about any of them!

Well, not today in this article, because for our Nativity Service this year on Sunday 20th December, our Junior Church and Sue Knight will be presenting Nativity News. We will tell you all about how we rediscovered the stories surrounding the birth of Jesus through creating our newspaper and then after the service and throughout the Christmas services the Nativity News (in full colour we might add) will be on sale. So please bring along £3 to buy your copy. Or buy more for your relatives and friends - we are hoping to sell our complete limited edition run, and if we do, we will raise over £300 for our Church Christmas Charities.

See you there on Sunday 20th December.

Sharon Scotton, Pat Denchfield, Sue Knight and the whole Junior Church.

BOOK CLUB

Our next meeting is on Monday January 18th, 2010 at 11 Park Lane, the home of Victoria Clifford (☎ 242616). We shall be reading ‘South Riding’ by Winifred Holtby.

Jane Dotzec

CHRISTINGLES FOR TINY PEOPLE

Calling all Infant and Pre-school children. Come and make your own Christingle in the Park Room on Wednesday 16th December from 3.30 (on the way home from school), followed by a simple service. Older brothers and sisters can come and help. All ingredients for the Christingles will be provided. Please bring a small snack. More details from Angela Bolton ☎ 248430 or email: email@ambolton.me.uk

MONDAY MORNING GROUP

On 5th December, we shall be thinking of Christmas - or rather 'Advent' - poetry and carols. On 12th December, we shall be making Christingles for the Christingle Service the following evening. You are most welcome to join us on Monday mornings in the Park Room at 10.30 a.m. beginning with tea or coffee.

CHURCH LIBRARY AND BOOK TROLLEY

Mike and Liz Bullen have kindly donated some books to the Library - they are all on the table in the middle and definitely worth a look. Mike has also recommended some very interesting books by Marcus J. Borg which are currently on the trolley.

We are very lucky to have these facilities, so please do use them. The library contains many fascinating titles, but I am always glad of recommendations for this or the trolley, and do ask if you would like any books ordered.

Pat Denchfield

TREE OF LIGHT REMEMBRANCE SERVICE

Many of us know of people, maybe even relatives, who have been helped by the St Catherine's Hospice. Every year services of remembrance are organized in the various localities where St Catherine's works to celebrate the life of someone who cannot be with us this Christmas.

For Reigate, St Philip's Church in Nutley Lane is hosting the Tree of Light service on December 6th at 5 p.m. and invites you to come. Everyone is welcome, regardless of whether the loss is recent or some time ago, or if the person being remembered was cared for by St Catherine's or elsewhere. All the churches in Reigate are supporting this event.

Peter Whipps

WORSHIP IN THE MONTH OF DECEMBER

At 10 a.m. on **Sunday 6th December**, Dr Graham Campling, formerly Southern Synod Clerk, will lead our Communion service.

At 5 p.m. there will be a United Service at St Philip's, on the theme of the Tree of Light at St Catherine's Hospice.

At 10 a.m. on **Sunday 13th December**, the Ecoteam will lead our worship.

At 7 p.m. there will be the Belfry Carol Service in Redhill.

At 6.30 p.m. on **Tuesday 15th December**, Rev. Peter Flint, minister of Dorking URC and our Interim Moderator, will lead our Christingle Service.

At 10 a.m. on **Sunday 20th December**, our Nativity Service will include the baptism of Jenna Dorani by her grandmother, Sue Knight.

At 6.30 p.m. there will be our service of lessons and carols.

On Christmas Eve, **24th December** at 11.30 p.m., our evening communion will be led by Rev. David Marshall -Jones.

At 10 a.m. on Christmas Day **25th December**, our family service will be led by Jill Campbell and other church members.

At 10 a.m. on **Sunday 27th December**, Graham Whybra will lead our worship. There will be no evening service.

TOY COLLECTION 13TH DECEMBER

As usual we would like to collect new toys for less fortunate families in the area. These will be taken to Welcare and distributed by them as appropriate at Christmas and throughout the year. Their request is particularly for the following:-

Simple puzzles, Bath toys, Toys for children under 3, Toys for children under 8, Footballs, Skipping ropes, Dolls, Books, Plain Drawing Books, Colouring/Dot to Dot Books, Colouring materials, Craft Sets, Wrapping paper, Sellotape, Tins of biscuits, Food or toy Vouchers.

Please bring them to the service on Sunday 13th December at 10.00. Thank you.

ZIMBABWE PROJECT

I have received this letter from the Muzambi family, which speaks for itself.

Dear Jean

We greet you in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour.

My name is Vernamay and my husband is Gladmore. We are Laura's parents. We've two children, Lincoln is eldest son 17 years now followed by Laura the blind girl who is 10 years old. We were introduced to you by Monica Dodza.

We are writing to thank you for your kindness. We have received the Braille machine called Jot-a-Dot. We thank you so much. Our girl is now able to write her school and home-work. She can now have more practice at home. Thank you so much for giving our child the most precious thing which will make her future meaningful. Only God the almighty knows how best to reward you. May He bless you now and forever more.

Yours,

Vernamay, Gladmore, Lincoln and Laura. MUZAMBI family.

When we write you next, Laura will write you with the machine and we will send you our photos. We would like to keep in touch.

Jean Bushby

RECORD DISTRIBUTION

I am pleased to report that the long-standing vacancy for the Record Distributor has now been filled - our thanks to Betty Ford for stepping forward. Contact details are on the inside back cover.

This seems a suitable point to remind all members and adherents that one copy of the Record is allocated to every family on the church list - we can provide an extra copy (or copies) if required. Please make sure you collect your Record on the last Sunday of the month.

For our readers who receive their Record by post, I am aware that we may have been less than 100 per cent in our coverage in recent months. Let us know if you have missed out and we will try to fill the gap. Back numbers can also be found on our web site.

Peter Whipps

MODERATOR'S CHRISTMAS LETTER

To all churches in Southern Synod

Dear Friends

It's been quite a year. President Barack Obama's inauguration launched it with such hope, but then amongst other things there has been an awful death toll in Afghanistan, serious recession-induced strain on many households, the death-dealing earthquake at L'Aquila in Italy and for the synod, the distraction of a radical review of structures, not forgetting the more personal challenges many of us have stoically faced behind our front doors. It has not ended as it began.

Under the circumstances it would be easy for us to look to the Christmas message for some unshakeable stability. And in a way that is what we're offered by the news of 'God with us', with its love that nothing can snatch away from us. But actually the child of Bethlehem heralds not so much a reliable status quo as a constantly transforming, renewing upheaval. The Spirit-influenced Christian life is all about constant evolution, gradual development and sometimes radical change, in pursuit of God's commonwealth of justice and joy. That the world and the church are in transition is not therefore a sign of God's absence, so much as of God's active presence; that difference-making with-us-ness.

Of course, if being caught up with Christ is inevitably about change, we do need something by which to check that the conversion is taking us in the right direction. Some of those much-loved Christmas narratives perhaps offer a few benchmarks by which to keep an eye that the changes are good ones: for example, the shepherds advocate a bias to the poor; the magi urge us to address the spiritual hunger in people of every race and culture; the angels model how we should be forever immersed in worship - 'lost in wonder, love and praise'.

We follow Christ ultimately not to tread water, nor to be cosseted, but to know an inextinguishable light as we traverse life's different and unknown pathways. That, rather than the longing for soporific changelessness, is what gives us hope for 2010. So be it, as we strive for peace in our time, as we emerge from recession - lessons learned and priorities changed, as we implement new mission-enabling structures for the synod, and as we embrace all that the New Year offers us personally.

Bethan and Jess join me in wishing you all an inspiring Christmas and a New Year that does not end where it began.

Yours sincerely

Nigel Uden

SURREYSAVE CREDIT UNION

An update on an exciting new project

2001 saw efforts to launch a credit union in Surrey. Well, the project is alive and kicking thanks to some intrepid volunteers. We have raised £120K start-up funding and gained the support of Guildford, Mole Valley, Waverley and Woking Borough Councils, some Housing Associations and many voluntary groups. Professional consultants have helped us produce a Prospectus, a Pledge Form and a Business Plan and we are on track to register with the Financial Services Authority next year.

What is a credit union? It is an ethical financial cooperative in the mutual banking tradition of the old Building Societies. It is owned and controlled by its members who save and borrow from it and elect its volunteer Board. Credit Unions are world wide with 177 million members of 49,000 credit unions in 96 countries (550 in the UK) collectively owning assets of £1.8 trillion.

Why does Surrey need one? Well, credit agency data shows 250,000 Surrey people in potential financial distress. Of UK towns with the highest credit card debt 1 in 3 are in Surrey. 30,000 Surrey households have no savings, no insurance and no access to affordable credit. Child poverty affects 1 in 10 Surrey households. We may appear affluent but our lovely county has many pockets of deprivation and under the surface the credit crunch is hurting.

How can SurreySave help? We will help all income groups. At the bottom end, we will help families get away from the clutches of the door-step lender, the pawnbroker and the cheque casher. For the struggling young professional, we will offer consolidation loans. For the retired saver, we will offer a safe and ethical investment with a competitive interest rate, 100% covered by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme. SurreySave is a local solution to a local problem.

Can you help? Most definitely! Why not find out more by looking at our website at surreysave.co.uk, read our Prospectus and our Frequently Asked Questions. If you are interested, you can fill out a Pledge Form on line. This is not a commitment but an expression of interest in our services when we open for business in 2010. Please spread the word among your family and friends. We have 250 pledges so far, halfway to our FSA target.

Thank you for your interest.

Cllr David Wright. Guildford Borough Council.
Chair of SurreySave Executive Committee.

WOMEN'S GUILD

Following the AGM at our November meeting we were delighted to have Wilma Dolton as our speaker, who told us about the three uniformed organisations to which she had belonged.

At the beginning of the war she had been a member of the St John's Ambulance Brigade and did duty at the London tube stations during the air raids. In the early 1940s she joined the WAAF and worked in signals and was stationed in several parts of the country. After the war she was a member of the WRVS and was very involved with Crab Hill House at Nutfield which was then run by the Winged Fellowship Trust as a holiday home for disabled people.

Our next meeting which will be our Christmas meeting will take place on Tuesday 1st December at 10.30 a.m. in the Park Room. Please note the earlier date.

Liz Bullen

OUR CHRISTMAS COLLECTION - A REMINDER

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. 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. Our collection continues each Sunday until 6th December, and there will be containers in the foyer for your donations.

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.

Jill Campbell and Michael Bolton (☎ 248430)

UNICEF - MITE NEWS

Some months ago I wrote about a young boy who was forced to become a boy soldier. He was eventually found by UNICEF, went to America, was adopted and wrote his autobiography. This week on the radio there was a girl who at the age of six had both hands chopped off by one of the wandering tribal groups who had made this behaviour their tradition. She also was rescued by UNICEF, went to America and wrote about her life. Unfortunately I do not know the title of the book. How many children have suffered in this way?

Thank you for your help.

Hazel Arscott

CONNECT UPDATE

What a wonderful turnout we had at the FORTIES NIGHT! It was lovely to see everyone dancing and enjoying themselves. I have had so many emails and phone messages from people thanking us for a great night out.

We raised a profit of £701 which is going to our new project ELEPHANT TOILETS for PUMPAID. A similar idea to the ELEPHANT PUMP, these toilets provide sanitation at only £20 each and are being built in many parts of Africa.

Full details can be found on the PUMPAID website www.pumpaid.org

Some excellent photos were taken at the Forties Night. These can be purchased on CD for £1 from lindachandler580@google.com.

Our next event will be 27th MARCH 2010 when we are holding a QUIZ NIGHT.

Linda Chandler

EASTER WORKSHOP 2010

Next year's diaries out, please, everyone!

The Easter Workshop for Primary School Children will be running at RPC from 12 - 15 April 2010. Anyone who is interested in any way is invited to join us for our first meeting in the Park Room on Monday 11 January at 8 pm. Other evening meetings that have already been arranged are Monday 8th February and Wednesday 24 March. More details from Angela Bolton ☎ 248430 or Email: email@ambolton.me.uk

PRAYER CALENDAR

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

- 6th December St Bartholomew's Parish Church, Leigh.
 13th December Redhill Christian Fellowship, meeting at the Harlequin.
 20th December Reigate Methodist Church, High Street.
 27th December Reigate Christian Bookshop in the High Street.

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

On Saturday 5th December at 7 p.m., in the chapel at Gatton Park, the Gatton Community Theatre is providing a varied programme of readings between the carols which are to be sung by the Redbury Singers under the direction of David Leeke. The focus for this year's Carols by Candlelight concert will be the restoration of the Parterre on the southern side of Gatton Hall. All the money raised from this evening of festive fun will go towards the restoration of this key feature of the estate. Tickets £12.00, including mulled wine and mince pie, from ☎ 649066.

BROCKHAM CHORAL SOCIETY

Brockham Choral will be presenting a Children's Christmas Concert with the Alberti Brass Ensemble and will be joined by choirs from four local schools and Virginia McKenna, who will be doing a reading, in St Martin's, Dorking on Saturday 5th December, 3 p.m. Tickets £4, children free.

This will be followed by a 'Christmas Celebration' at 7.30 p.m. with the Alberti Brass and the award-winning New Voices girl's choir. Enjoy an evening of music and readings with audience participation. Tickets £10, students £5, children free. Available from Maria Chadwick ☎ 01306 882728 or on the door.

CHURCH NEWSLETTER BLOOMERS

Don't let worry kill you off - let the Church help.

Next Thursday there will be tryouts for the choir. They need all the help they can get.

Miss Charlene Mason sang 'I will not pass this way again', giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.

PERSON TO PERSON - A VELLORE CHALLENGE

(From the Newsletter of CMC, the Christian Medical College and Hospital, Vellore, South India)

It is often said that life is precious, but good health is equally precious in India. If you are poor, illiterate, uneducated and subsisting from day to day on a few rupees, a health problem can be devastating for you and your family. Person to Person allows you to bring some comfort to those who are unable to help themselves, facing unimaginable squalor and pain, but who are often the very last to seek help. These two stories are typical.

Mural Amun, a Muslim, was born in Tamil Nadu but worked as a bus conductor in Bangladesh. He developed diabetes in 1998 and while on insulin developed chronic renal failure. Four months ago he developed back pain with difficulty in walking. He came to Bangalore and was diagnosed with tuberculous spondylitis (spinal bone infection). He came to CMC for spinal decompression and fixation of the 10th and 11th vertebrae. He remains paraplegic and will need some months in the rehabilitation unit. He has two sons and two daughters. The younger son is studying for a degree.

Mural is being cared for in Vellore by his son, also a bus conductor from Bangladesh. When working, he earns 600 rupees a year (£90). All this illness has drained the family finances and threatens the education of his bright children. Although PTP can help just a little, we can support the devotion shown by his family and the care offered by CMC.

Munaswamy lives 50 km from Vellore. He is an agricultural labourer, but has not worked since he needed a lower leg amputation for vascular disease, and he is also a diabetic. His wife usually earns 15 rupees a day as a coolie. They have two children in secondary school.

He developed further vascular problems in his remaining leg. He had an angioplasty with removal of a blood clot, but it looks as if this was unsuccessful. He has a very painful ulcer and will probably lose this leg too.

They are destitute and his wife had not eaten for two days when we saw them. They were given a grant from PTP .

Eileen Charlton would be delighted to let you see more of the Vellore Newsletter and to receive gifts for the work of CMC.

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

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 December 27th

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.

Copy for the January 2010 edition is due by

Sunday, December 6th - note: 1 week early

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

Betty Ford, 6 Park Lane East, Reigate RH2 8HN

 (01737) 246438

e-mail: record.distributor@reigateparkchurch.org

DECEMBER DIARY

- Tuesday 1st 10.30am Women's Guild.
1.00pm Bowls Club Christmas Lunch at Lakers Hotel,
Redhill.
- Sunday** 6th 10.00am Dr Graham Campling. Holy Communion.
5.00pm United Service at St Philip's, Nutley Lane.
- Thursday 10th 12.00nn Men's Fellowship Christmas Lunch
at Reigate Manor Hotel.
- Sunday** 13th 10.00am Ecoteam Service.
5.30pm Kidz Club Christmas Party.
7.00pm Belfry Carol Service, Redhill.
- Tuesday 15th 6.30pm Christingle Service. Rev. Peter Flint.
- Wednesday 16th 10.30am Community Coffee.
3.30pm Christingles for Tiny People.
- Sunday** 20th 10.00am Nativity. Baptism of Jenna Dorani.
6.30pm Service of Lessons and Carols.
- Thursday 24th 11.30pm Christmas Eve Communion.
Rev. David Marshall-Jones.
- Friday 25th 10.00am Christmas Day Service.
- Sunday** 27th 10.00am Graham Whybra.

The next **Church Meeting** is on Sunday January 17th 2010

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.