

THE RECORD

OF REIGATE PARK CHURCH (UNITED REFORMED)



JANUARY 2010

No 863

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)



I hope you all had a very happy Christmas. Now that we have just started the New Year, I guess many of you will have made New Year Resolutions. Of course, making them is the easy part; it is keeping them that is the problem!

I have had some thoughts about some of the elements of religious life, and here are a few ideas which will enrich and challenge you in your own personal lives as we begin 2010.

Be thankful for what you have. Spend a little time each day giving thanks for what you have and try not to feel disgruntled about things you don't have.

Make a point of pleasing someone else by showing appreciation for something they have done, and thanking them for it.

Try to find a special time to be together as a family, with no distractions - this could be at mealtimes.

Spend a little time analysing your part in everyday life. Where are you going? Are you reaching fulfilment and best using your gifts? And what do you hope to achieve?

Try to forgive and not bear grudges or harp on things. Forgiveness is sweet for the other person, as well as yourself.

Keep your mind alert. Be willing to learn something new; it will keep you young in mind and body.

Just stop sometimes and have a quiet moment of reflection.

Learn to listen; we too often are thinking only of what we want to say next.

Just following a few of these points will help us to lead a more blessed and fulfilled life. I will certainly try! The passage from Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians 5:12-18 that was read on Sunday December 6th seems to encapsulate all of the above. Have another look at it!

On behalf of the Elders I would like to say a big 'thank you' to all the volunteers in the church who generously give of their time, making sure that the church runs smoothly throughout the year. We as a church are so thankful to everyone of you who quietly and diligently undertake small and large jobs, week to week and year to year. Your good works don't go unnoticed. Bless you all and may you have a Happy New Year.

Tess Brown

PLAYGROUP

Playgroup is seeking to employ a financial administrator for a few hours a week to deal with wages, budgets, nursery grants and ordering supplies etc. Anyone with expertise in those areas who wants to know more please contact Carol Nichols on ☎ 240372.

JUNIOR CHURCH

We have been using the new rooms on the stage (officially called Rooms 1 & 2!) for just over 2 months now, and all of us in Junior Church would like to say a big 'thank you' to everyone who worked hard to make them happen - especially to Peter Mercer and Susan Stanley.

Here are some of the comments from the leaders of Explorers and Vines:

'It's light, bright and airy. It's uplifting to have such a lovely base and you cannot fail to be inspired to do better and do more than before. Having a sink for clearing up is just a genius-touch, and I can't imagine how we coped without before. I no longer have to worry about gluey, glittery hands on the biscuit plates, on Mum's coat or inside Dad's car! Thank you very much to everyone who contributed in every way, whether hugely or a just a tiny amount - the work was all very worthwhile and we are all very proud.'

And this is what the children say:

'It's fantastic.....a really nice place.....excellent.....immaculate.....we love it!!'

'I like the new room because it's bigger, better and bright' (Joe, aged 7)

'Better windows!' (Charlie, aged 4)

'I like this room because it has taps to wash hands' (Kathryn, aged 6)

'I like the kitchen' (Maddie, aged 4)

Ben, aged 5, liked the bin.

If you have not yet visited the rooms, maybe this will encourage you to do so!

Beverly Man and Anna Silver have recently agreed to take on the co-ordinating of the Explorers group, and we are very grateful to them. We also welcome Susan Stanley as a leader in Explorers.

Pat Denchfield

PRAYER CALENDAR

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

3rd January	for all who give their life for the Christian Ministry
10th January	St Andrew's Church, Gatton.
17th January	Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (18th - 25th January).
24th January	Holy Trinity Church, Carlton Road, Redhill.
31st January	Merstham Baptist Church, Weldon Way.

NEWS OF THE FAMILY

We congratulate Ruth and David Lord whose Diamond Wedding Anniversary fell on December 10th.

We have a prayer chain which is updated each week. Should you wish any names to be included, or you have friends and family that you would like mentioned, please contact the Pastoral Group.

OUR CRADLE ROLL

We hope that most of you will have now seen our new Cradle Roll board. A big 'Thank You' to Catherine, Ellen and Sarah Simpson for designing and painting it. It will hang downstairs in Room 6 with our other Cradle Roll boards. These boards are a visible record of children who have been baptised or blessed at Reigate Park Church over the years. Please take the opportunity at some time on a Sunday to go and have a look at them all. We are now trying to get them framed once they are completed to help keep them looking good.

Angela Bolton

ANYONE INTERESTED IN EASTER WORKSHOP?

Yes, the time has come round again for us to get the ball rolling for this exciting event. There will be an open meeting on Monday 11th January at 8 pm in the Park Room for anyone interested in any way in the Easter Workshop. Please come. For more details please speak to Angela Bolton ☎ 248430 or email:- email@ambolton.me.uk

A YEAR IN THE CHURCH GARDEN

I think the trees and shrubs forgot to put their brakes on this year. We have been trimming shrubs and hedges and sweeping up leaves all through the summer.

Dennis Hills once again grew the geraniums for the planters at the church doors. They hadn't been in long when they were attacked by a bug. At one point I nearly pulled them up, but they fought off the invaders and, as I write this, they are looking beautiful. Thank you, Dennis, for all your time spent in the greenhouse for our benefit.

I have been the garden convenor (with much help from Ron Cooke) for 18 years. I can hardly believe it myself, but it is with regret that the time has come for me to hang up my trowel. I find looking after my own garden is quite enough for my back these days.

Over the years many members of the congregation have given me plants. They can still be seen. Many I used as edging plants and the others give

colour to the borders in summer. Thank you all so much.

I would like to thank Ron Cooke, Peter Charlton and George Orr for all their help. They did a wonderful job painting the white lines in the car park and cutting hedges, etc..

Next year is the 100th anniversary of the Guide Movement. The girls are going to plant 100 snowdrops in the planters at the doors, and with a few plants we are going to try and make a design with 100 as the theme.

I have spent many happy hours in the garden. We have had lots of laughs together, yet there was always a feeling of peace and there was not a day when we were not entertained by the church robin.

I hope my successor loves the garden as much as I did. Happy gardening

Pat Franks

P.S. Since writing this article Tess has presented to me a beautiful orchid from the church, which was so kind. Thank you very much.

MONDAY MORNING GROUP

On January 18th we begin a five-week series on some of the parables of Jesus, and this will be followed by one of the excellent York Lent courses. You are most welcome to join us on Monday mornings in the Park Room at 10.30 a.m. beginning with tea or coffee.

WORSHIP IN THE MONTH OF JANUARY

At 10 a.m. on Sunday **3rd January**, Rev. Ron Talmey will lead our service of Holy Communion, including the Ordination and Induction of Elders.

At 10 a.m. on Sunday **10th January**, Rev David Marshall-Jones will lead our worship.

At 6.30 p.m., Peter Mercer will lead our Communion Service.

At 10 a.m. on Sunday **17th January**, Sue Knight will lead our worship and there will be the presentation of our child-friendly church award.

At 10 a.m. on Mission Sunday, **24th January**, our service will be led by members from the Epsom & Ewell Street Pastors organisation. There will be no evening service.

At 10 a.m. on Sunday **31st January**, arrangements are still in hand - please refer to the weekly notice sheet for up-to-date information.

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

As we enter another year at Reigate Park Church I would like to take the opportunity for some gentle reflection.

Our first fall Men's Fellowship lunch was held on 6th October, and our speaker was Mr. Steve Aylin-White. Mr. Aylin-White a former member of the Surrey police spoke on the subject of personal and household security.

Our speaker for the November Fellowship lunch was our own Angela Vivian, who presented a most interesting and informative talk on her wartime experiences as a civilian employee of the American Army. Angela took us on an around-Britain journey, then to France, Germany and the Nuremberg trials. She also brought along her personal memorabilia of those years for all to view.

Our Christmas lunch was held on 10th December and was well attended.

January's guest speaker on the 14th will be Mrs. Dorothy Ross-Tomlin, and the subject of her talk will be 'My Year in Office as Mayor'.

Ralph Bristol

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

FROM THE CHURCH MEETING

This was Tina Papworth's first time to chair the meeting as Chair of Elders, and there were several important matters, though as usual not all of them are reported here - others are elsewhere in the Record, and of course will be in the minutes.

The four elders nominated for the five vacancies were all elected. This is not a mere formality; it ensures that each elder is supported by a sufficient number of members. So we shall be ordaining Carol McNeill on January 3rd, and inducting her along with Angela Bolton, Mavis Proctor and Barbara Wing, who are already ordained elders, to serve for three years. Our thanks were expressed to the retiring elders and to the four who are willing and able to serve at a time when the church is passing through a difficult period.

Jo Goldsmith reported on behalf of the Vacancy Committee. One candidate who was being considered withdrew. Rev. Peter Flint from Dorking has returned as our Interim Moderator, in place of Rev. George Watt from Cheam. The Committee is meeting a new applicant, but we

were warned that Christmas was likely to delay progress. A flowchart has been prepared showing the various stages in the process of finding a minister, and this will be placed in the vestibule, with a movable arrow to show us where we have got to. We hope it will not have to be moved up and down - or down at least - too many times! There have been eight applicants, which is very good in this time of ministerial shortage, but of course we can consider only one applicant at a time. The candidates have felt that our church profile gives the right information for their needs. We thanked the committee for its work.

Sonia Christie reported that we were to receive a 100 per cent grant from Surrey County Council for the new cycle racks, which are to be on the left-hand wall of the terrace to the left of the main church entrance. She offered to lead a short course on green issues, and asks if anyone is interested in this.

Angela Merritt gave her last report as chairman of the Worship Group (she expects to be leaving the district soon and we shall miss her) and thanked Daphne Hamblin for the work she has done in finding Sunday morning preachers - Daphne would welcome any suggestions. The Worship Group now takes responsibility for the Monday Morning Group. Some people have noticed that fewer have been going out to Junior Church, but of course FROGS and CATS are not usually with the adults now for the beginning of the service. She reminded us of the need for the time of real quiet at the start of the service. We thanked Angela for all she has done.

Jane Buck reported that our income in the third quarter was less than budget. The Freewill Offering was on budget, but Standing Orders and money for the Use of Church Premises had declined. Expenditure had been kept within budget by switching to alternative suppliers, but General Church Expenses were up. Our balance was £21K at the end of September, but Gift Aid of £20K was expected by the end of the year. She expected a deficit of £8K by the end of the year, which averages at £30 per member.

We were glad to hear that Paul Seldon wished to become a member - he was received on December 6th.

Mavis Proctor reported from the Finance and Property Committee, thanking Peter Mercer for making the new rooms on the stage possible. The new boilers had been installed. The heat should come on two hours before any meeting, but when the temperature has been reached the hot air cuts out. She asked us not to change anything if the temperature is unsatisfactory, but to contact the office.

Michael Ball presented the Synod report, which mainly dealt with reorganisation which does not affect the ordinary church member, but then described the presentation of the child-friendly church award to two churches, Wimbledon and Reigate Park. Each church was allowed to make a simple presentation with slides, and there had been an audible gasp when the number of children on our roll was mentioned.

A HOLY LAND HOLIDAY

Rev. Stephen Thornton, who has several times preached at our church, is leading a holiday to the Holy Land from October 19th to 28th. They will visit Jerusalem, Bethlehem, the Judean Wilderness, Jericho, Masada and the Dead Sea, before moving north to the Galilee and visiting Nazareth, Cana, Mount Tabor, Capernaum and the sites of Jesus' ministry by the lake side. As well as walking in the footsteps of Jesus, we will explore the present situation between Israel and the Palestinians.

The cost will be £1360. This will include very comfortable hotels, all food, air fare, the air conditioned coach, the driver, the guide, all entrance fees, two cable cars, one taxi trip, so all people need to pay for are drinks and souvenirs.

Michael Ball has been on one of these trips. Everyone who has been thinks it very good value.

If you would like any extra information I either have this, or can obtain it for you.

Daphne Hamblin (☎ 01342 892465)

ABOUT YOUR RECORD

A joyful New Year to you from the *Record* team.

One copy of the Record is distributed to every church family, each month. If you would like to help towards the cost of producing it, a voluntary donation would be appreciated. A gift envelope is enclosed, which you may wish to use. This can be placed in the collection bag on Sunday or sent to the church office. If you are a taxpayer, please put your name and address on, or use the number you have been allotted. £5 would amply cover the cost.

I am taking this opportunity to say thank you to Peter Mercer for all his years of work as distributor of the magazine, also thank you to our devoted team who produce it - Denis, our editor, Audrey his wife and Peter and Mary Warren who proof-read it, Peter Whipps who prints it and the group, mainly some of the Men's Fellowship and their ladies, who collate it.

Your magazine is available for collection in the church vestibule from the

last Sunday in the month preceding the date of issue. Do please remember to pick up yours.

Betty Ford

ZIMBABWE PROJECT

It has been good this year to be able to help our friends in Zimbabwe and to know that everything has arrived safely.

Starting on Sunday 5th January we shall begin to collect your used Bible Reading Notes to send to Caleb. If you do have any small or lightweight New Testaments that I could send I'm sure he would be pleased to have them.

Thank you for your continued support for the Project and in particular for the 'Pennies', they are invaluable. It now costs over £160 per year to send the Scripture Union Junior Church material, and anything up to around £50 for the Bible Reading Notes, depending on how much we are able to send.

Jean Bushby

WOMEN'S GUILD

We held our Christmas meeting on Tuesday 1st December, a very pleasant start to our Christmas celebrations.

Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday 12th January at 10.30 a.m. in the Park Room. There will be a short financial AGM followed by a talk by our secretary entitled 'A short history of the Geordie-speaking peoples'.

We hope to have our new programmes for 2010 available very shortly.

Liz Bullen

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:

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

 (01737) 246438

e-mail: record.distributor@reigateparkchurch.org

JANUARY DIARY

- Sunday** 3rd 10.00am Rev. Ron Talmey. Holy Communion.
Ordination and Induction of Elders.
Collection for Benevolent Fund.
- Sunday** 10th 10.00am Rev. David Marshall-Jones. Traidcraft Stall
6.30pm Peter Mercer. Holy Communion.
- Monday 11th 8.00pm Easter Workshop meeting in Park Room.
- Tuesday 12th 10.30am Women's Guild. AGM and Liz Bullen.
- Wednesday 13th 10.30am Community Coffee.
- Thursday 14th 12.30pm Men's Fellowship. Dorothy Ross-Tomlin.
- Sunday** 17th 10.00am Sue Knight. Child-friendly award presentation.
11.30am **Church Meeting**.
6.00pm Kidz Klub.
- Sunday** 24th 10.00am Mission Sunday. The Street Pastor Organisation.
- Thursday 28th 11.00am Zimbabwe Working Party at 1 Evesham Road.
- Sunday** 31st 10.00am (to be arranged)

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.