



Churches Together in Reigate & Redhill – Reigate Group

Meeting Notes: 13th September 2007

A meeting took place at 8:00pm in the Reigate Baptist Church building.

Representatives were present from nine local churches, [Reigate & Redhill Community Church, Reigate Baptist Church, Reigate Methodist Church, Reigate Park Church, Reigate Society of Friends, St Luke's, St Mary's, St Mark's and Sandcross Lane Evangelical Church]. Of the 13 people present, eight were lay representatives and five were members of the Reigate ministers fraternal.

Concern was expressed that at least three churches were unrepresented at the meeting. It was agreed that all local churches should continue to be encouraged to participate, and be included in all relevant communications.

Apologies were received from two clergy and three lay representatives.

Alisdair Semple had been asked by the fraternal to Chair the meeting.

Phil Atfield (the outgoing Chair of the CTRR Reigate group) helped in the meeting planning and preparation.

The purpose of the meeting was to explore how the Reigate ministers fraternal and the CTRR Reigate group could work more closely. In recent years the fraternal has worked increasingly closely and well together, having an informal and supportive structure. In practice this had worked to marginalise slightly the CTRR Reigate group. The desire of the fraternal was to ensure greater lay involvement without losing the improved working relationships gained through a simpler structure in the fraternal.

After an open and constructive discussion, these were the recommendations of those present at the meeting:

We wish to remain part of, or be properly affiliated to Churches Together in England:

- At present we are the CTRR Reigate group (CTRR being a properly constituted body, but with an uncertain future).
- Should CTRR cease to function, we will look to constitute formally a 'Churches Together in Reigate' group.
- We also wish to have closer communication links with other such groups in Redhill and will explore some simple ways of achieving this.

The CTRR Reigate group will have one formal meeting annually:

- The Chairman and Secretary will be appointed at that meeting for the following year.
- Of these two 'officials', one will be a member of the fraternal, the other will be a lay person.
- The fraternal members commit themselves to be part of this meeting.
- The church lay representatives of the CTRR Reigate group are equally part of this meeting.
- The meeting itself is open to other interested parties attending.
- The primary activity of the meeting is to review past joint activities and outline future ones.

The Reigate Ministers Fraternal will continue to meet approximately monthly:

- The fraternal is the primary decision making group for joint church activities in Reigate.
- Lay input into this group will be primarily through each church's/group's representative.
- Lay people can write directly to the fraternal by addressing comments to the Chair or Secretary of the CTRR Reigate group, marking the correspondence 'for the fraternal'.
- The detailed planning of joint activities will be handed to working groups of selected lay people, empowered, encouraged and supported by members of the fraternal.
- Lay representatives will be on the e-mail distribution list of the fraternal meetings so that they are reminded when and where the fraternal is meeting.

The Reigate churches currently host three joint evening meetings a year:

- These meetings will continue in their current format.
- At each meeting there will be intercessory prayer for a number of the member churches with the intention of profiling and praying for each member church at least once a year.

The CTRR Reigate Group routinely organise several annual activities directly:

- Carols in Cage Yard (and at the Woodhatch parade of shops), details of church services for the Christmas and Easter editions of the 'Challenger' will continue to be organised by Phil Atfield until other arrangements are made.

Handling Money together:

- CTRR currently holds some funds that belong to member churches. Enquires will be made to discover the intended use for these funds.
- The current method for managing finances between the Reigate churches is on a project by project basis. An individual member church handles the financial administration of a project and notifies the member churches that are involved accordingly. We will continue to use this way of working until we find a reason to change.

Churches Together in Reigate & Redhill website: www.ctr2.org

- This website will be used to post relevant inter-church notices and information.
- It is the responsibility of the member churches to forward information for uploading to the Secretary of the CTRR Reigate group.
- It is suggested that member churches print off important information from the website and present it in a way to benefit their church members who are without internet access.

We will act on all of these recommendations and then review them at our first annual meeting in June 2008:

- Alisdair Semple (Reigate & Redhill Community Church) was asked to be the Chair at this first annual meeting. Stephen Tickell (Reigate Methodist Church) was asked to be the Secretary.
- The fraternal will agree the date in June that will enable most of them to be present.

The meeting concluded at 9:30pm with a brief roundup of significant happenings across the churches represented at the meeting, followed by a short prayer.

Note taker for this meeting: [Alisdair Semple](#) (Draft notes issued on 14th Sept, finalised on 21st Sept 2007).