



Churches
serving
secondary
schools in
Redhill and
Reigate.



Winter Term
2008 Issue

Meeting Every Week

Monday

180° - Reigate College Christian Union – lunchtime

Tuesday

Brambletye Junior School – after school club

Wednesday

Horizon – Reigate School Christian Union, held at Reigate Baptist Church – after school

Thursday

CU2Talk (Lower school) & CU (Upper School) at St Bede's – lunchtime

Rock Solid After School Club at Holy Trinity Church

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

I hope this newsletter finds you all well and rested after the Christmas festivities, and ready for the year ahead. The New Year is a great time to be making a fresh start and like millions of others, every New Year I make my resolutions about eating more healthily and taking more exercise. I usually manage to stick with it until at least mid January!!

It is a great time to make a fresh start, trying to get rid of all those bad habits that have been picked up over the years. Every year as I think of starting a new, I am reminded of the verse 2 Corinthians 5:17 *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!* We don't have to wait till the New Year to start again, in fact if we are *In Christ* we are already new creations everything in the past is forgotten, and everything now is new. What a great thought, we no longer have to be burden with the past but can instead focus on the future.

So many young people in this area are already full of guilt and bear huge burdens. Encounters wants to make a difference and show them how they can be set free to live the life that God intended for them, free from the guilt of the past and instead focused on the hope of the future.

We can be new creations because Jesus died on the cross to make us free, may that be in our hearts as we start this New Year. We are new creations, lets live like it!!

Yvette Upton

Encounters Reps

Redhill Baptist – Shirley Odysseos & Gerald Day (Chairman)

Redhill Christian Fellowship – David Brows

Redhill Methodist – Anne Branson

Redhill URC – Diana Read

Holy Trinity – Alan Earwaker

Reigate Baptist – Isobel Nott

St Mary's – Jackie Natt

St Luke's with St Peter's – Helen Gillett

St Mark's – David Simmons

Christchurch South Nutfield – Carol Cooper

Crusaders – David Wigner

Urban Saints – Gary Mann

Thank you to all the church reps who make the work of Encounters known in their churches.

If you want to know more, please contact your rep or the office.

Contact our office on 01737 224854

Or write to: Encounters, 90 High Street, Reigate RH2 9AP

Encounters provides Christian education,
example and engagement.
We are associated with the Schools Ministry
Network and Crusaders, Reg Charity 223798.



A CALL TO PRAYER

How fortunate we are to have heard the Good News! Jesus Christ is born. How terrible it is that so many young people don't know this. Many young people, as you may be aware, are not sure that Jesus was an historic person. So what did Christmas 2007 mean to the 12,000 or so students aged 11-18 who are being educated locally?

O.K. so ten Churches in Redhill and Reigate have united with each other and with many individuals like us to support Yvette [Upton] who takes this News to these students. Please continue to pray for Yvette, as well as for Jackie and Alan, who work so hard to teach about social issues; and for the other. Very good! Let's thank God for nine years' progress.

I don't like political 'targets', but Jesus did point to the immediacy of the situation; "the crop is heavy ... you must ASK the owner to send labourers to bring in the harvest". We should also remind ourselves of the local Primary schools where probably another 10,000 children are in Reception to Year 6. What does God want us to do for these? Should it be in time for next Christmas? Please join us as we ask Him for guidance. It may seem an impossible task! but then the LORD told Jeremiah "I am the LORD, is anything impossible for me?"

In 1903 two Christian ladies in Korea longed for revival and asked the LORD. The greatest revival was in 1907. The consequent Korean churches united and overcame 35 years of Japanese tyranny. Now there are 16,000 Korean missionaries in 170 countries.

Their and our example for praying is Jesus Christ who prayed alone after tiring days of ministry and in public, for example, when he looked to heaven and asked that there would be enough from a boy's lunch to feed the 4,000 – 10,000 by the lakeside. When his disciples wanted to know how to pray, he taught them to pray together saying "our Father in heaven ...". That was a new approach then, but is now part of our lives. Jesus also prayed before difficult decisions such as choosing 12 disciples and prior to the Cross at Calvary.

Perhaps we could at least start 2008 with persistent prayer; "if you call to me I will answer you" says God. We have less than a year before next Christmas to tell these young people Who it's all about.

As we take up this task may we each one continue to know God's peace and joy throughout this Term and the year ahead.

David Wigner

David Wigner is in the Steering Committee for Encounters and responsible for our monthly prayer meetings. We would really encourage you to come along to one of these – David arranges the meeting around scripture and includes an update on the projects with time to pray into the situations.

In Memory of David Roper

David Roper has been involved in Encounters for many years. He has been an active member who was the Holy Trinity Church rep, and on the committee. David was passionate about the young people in this area hearing the gospel message of Jesus. He was a very valued member of the team who gave a lot of time and effort into the project.

Sadly over the past few years his participation has had to decrease until the very sad news of his death in October last year. We are all very grateful and praise God for all the work David has done with and for Encounters and know that he is now in Glory with our awesome heavenly Father.

We thank God for David.

The White Board Our news in brief

Encounters Prayer Meetings

Monday 14th January
Wednesday 27th February

Please join us from 7.30pm – 8.30pm at Holy Trinity Church, Carlton Road, Redhill. We'd love to see you even if you can only make part of the time.

Youth Leaders Network

The YLN prayer meeting is on
Saturday 19th February
8.30 to 10.30am at
Reigate Baptist Church, Sycamore
Walk

The YLN Training Sessions is on
Saturday 15th March
9.30 to 12.30pm
Holy Trinity Church, Carlton Rd
Topic: Reaching the unchurched

For more details contact the office
on 01737 224854

For Your Prayers:

The committee will be meeting on
Monday 28th January

Please pray that God will guide them in their decisions for the Encounters Project and thank God for their faithful support of the project.