

# PURLEY PARISH NEWS

**MARCH 2003**



**35p**

For the Church & Community of  
**PURLEY ON THAMES**

# **ST. MARY THE VIRGIN**

## **PURLEY ON THAMES**

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### **CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR AND CHURCH HIRE**

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Tel: 0118 962 5978

### **BAPTISMS, WEDDINGS AND FUNERALS**

All enquiries should be made to the Rector.

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[www.stmarythevirgin.fsnet.co.uk](http://www.stmarythevirgin.fsnet.co.uk)

## FROM THE LOCAL MINISTER



I am forever reading books.

Since Christmas, two of these books have been on leadership. One is called *Courageous Leadership*, the other simply *Leadership*.

One is by Rudy Giuliani, a politician who gained tremendous international admiration for his leadership as New York sought to recover from the events of September 11th 2001. But before then he

was already known throughout North America. During his time as mayor the number of shootings had fallen to a quarter of its previous level, over 100,000 lost jobs every year had been reversed to almost 70,000 new jobs a year, and the number of tourists had gone up by half.

The other author is Bill Hybels. Thirty years ago he founded a church in the suburbs of Chicago. Today it is one of the best attended in North America. On Saturdays and Sundays its services are not for the church members, but are used to build bridges with those who are not yet Christians. What we would recognise as a "Sunday service" takes place in the middle of the week. The church also gives practical help to the poor of Chicago in a number of different ways.

What struck me when reading the books was how similar they were. Both believe that the starting point for change is to have a clear vision. Both believe that matching the right person available to the job best suited to that person is a key to realising the vision. Both believe in spending time developing people so that they are equipped to become the leaders of the future. Both are wary of spending time and money on things which do not clearly contribute to reaching the vision. Both believe it is important to learn from the experiences of other leaders.

But there is one big difference between the books. Although Rudy Giuliani writes of the influence of the church on his life and the standards he holds, only Bill Hybels writes of the part which God plays in leadership decisions made day by day. He talks of leaders filled with God's vision. He talks of a team sharing moments when they experience together what it's like to be part of God's plan. He talks too of mistakes made, when he has tried to make things happen in a way or at a time which he now realises was not what God wanted.

In mid-February, as I write this, it seems to me that we need great leaders. In politics the leaders of the United Kingdom have a vision of a more peaceful world with less threat from terrorism. The way they decide to seek this vision may involve us in a war. The public debate over the right decision continues all the way from the United Nations in New York to marches on the streets of London and Glasgow.

This is a huge decision. I'm not sure whether I yet have the information which enables me to say with any confidence "I believe that this is the right decision." Ultimately the decision is not mine, but that of our political leaders, and it will affect the lives of many people in many countries for years to come.

The Bible tells us that the biggest decision I have to make in life is this. Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth and the life." In other words, he said that he knows the right answer to every decision we have to make. We each have to decide for ourselves whether we believe that.

If the answer is "yes", you will want Jesus to be the leader of your life. You will want to make decisions that Jesus would make. Like Bill Hybels, at times you will get it wrong, mistakes you will put behind you as you seek Jesus' way again at life's next crossroads.

If you don't believe what Jesus said, who will lead your decision-making? Should you trust them more than you trust Jesus?

If you feel you don't yet know enough about Jesus to make that decision, I invite you to come to St. Mary's and talk to us. We look forward to meeting you.

*Andrew Mackie*

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## **FAREWELL TO THE BISHOP OF READING**

There will be a farewell service for Bishop Dominic on Sunday March 16th at 4-00pm at St. Mary's Minster Church in Reading. All are welcome to attend. His installation as Bishop of Monmouth will take place on Saturday March 29th, at St. Wollo's Cathedral, Newport.

## **PARISH REGISTERS**

### **BAPTISM**

23 February 2003      Darnell Anthony Sprott

### **FUNERAL**

10 February 2003      Olga Pybel aged 82 years. (Cremation)

# CHURCH SERVICES

2 Mar	9:30 a.m. 1:15 a.m. 6:00 p.m.	Family Worship Holy Communion Holy Communion
<b>5 Mar</b>	<b>8:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Ash Wednesday Service</b>
9 Mar	9:30 a.m. 11:15 a.m.	Family Worship with Sunday School Holy Communion
16 Mar	9:30 a.m. 11:15 a.m. 6:00 p.m.	Family Communion with combined Sunday School Morning Worship Holy Communion
23 Mar	9:30 a.m. 11:15 a.m.	Family Worship with Sunday School Holy Communion
30 Mar Mothering Sunday	9:30 a.m. 11:15 a.m.	Family Worship with Sunday School Holy Communion
6 Apr	9:30 a.m. 11:15 a.m. 6:00 p.m.	Family Worship with Sunday School Holy Communion Holy Communion
13 Apr Palm Sunday	9:30 a.m. 11:15 a.m.	Family Worship Holy Communion

Everyone is welcome at any service but those with children may prefer to bring them to the 9:30 services which often include Sunday School either in small groups or all together

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## LENT 2003

We shall be sharing this season with our friends from other churches in Pangbourne and District, and there will be a united service at St. Mary's Purley at 8-00pm on Ash Wednesday (5 March) to mark the beginning of Lent. Inter-church study groups will also be taking place in the weeks leading up to Easter, and the course will conclude with another united service on Wednesday 16 April at St. Bernadette's Church, Pangbourne.



## **ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING**

The APCM will be held on Tuesday 1 April at 8-00pm in St. Mary's Church.

In connection with this meeting, the Electoral Roll - i.e. official church membership list - is being revised between now and 16 March 2003.

All are welcome at the APCM, but you must be on the Electoral Roll to participate in any voting which may take place.

## **NITTY-GRITTY CHURCH**

Are you one of those Christians who like to think of the Church of Christ only in its deepest and widest sense - the whole family of God's people? Do you reckon the local church's annual meeting a waste of time with its talk about money, maintenance, music and membership? I once knew a church member who would not give towards such mundane things as carpets, curtains and crockery. But he gave very generously to an independent evangelistic enterprise among children.

So look at six verses of Paul's letters to Timothy. They're about fitness, witness and order.

Would-be ministers, elders, evangelists and preachers must be given time to prove themselves before appointment. Beware of hasty decisions.

The church should provide ample financial support for faithful work, especially preaching and teaching.

Leaders should be protected from unfair complaints - any accusations should be backed by witnesses. Serious offences should be rebuked publicly.

How's that for the nitty-gritty of the local church in six verses.

1 Timothy 5: 17-22

*Gordon Harman*

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## **CHURCHYARD WORKING PARTY**

There will be a working party at St. Mary's Churchyard on Saturday March 15th from 9-00am. Any help you can give would be much appreciated as we seek to keep this area looking as good as possible.

# CHANGE YOUR LIFE WITH NEW FRIENDS

'Friends First' is an organisation that assists single Christians to meet new friends and potential partners. It was established in early 2000 and Katharine Gray, the co-ordinator, has recently written to us telling us that it continues to go from strength to strength as people of all ages find new friendships really do change their lives.

Katharine says that the feedback she receives from happy members says it all:-

"I know I joined 'Friends First' to meet other people, but I cannot believe what is happening in my life. I did not anticipate meeting someone so lovely as Felicity and that we would get on so well. If I have learnt anything over the last year it is that it is only when you take a risk, only when you do something different, do you allow God to start working in your life."

Membership continues to grow as the organisation attracts men and women in their 20's to their 80's (and everything in between), from all walks of life - both professionals and non professionals, single people and people who've been married before.

Although it can seem daunting to join something like this, it is a friendly, discrete and confidential service. Moreover the organisation is founded on the principles of security, integrity and discretion. If you think it's a service that might be of interest to you or your friends then further details can be obtained in a number of ways. Look at [www.friends1st.co.uk](http://www.friends1st.co.uk), ring Katharine on 0121 427 1286 or write to her PO Box 8377, Birmingham B17 9TE, or finally email her at [info@friends1st.co.uk](mailto:info@friends1st.co.uk).

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## CROSSWORD ANSWERS

I apologise that last month's crossword had the wrong grid. The correct grid has been printed in this issue. Some people may have received a correction sheet; so to save you waiting, the crossword answers are included below.

If you don't want to know them yet, turn the page now!

Down : 1 Deacon, 2 Nestle, 3 Exalt, 5 Trinity, 6 Adamitic, 7 Incarnation, 8 Means, 13 Moistern, 14 Islam, 15 Accept, 17 Curate, 18 Smithy, 20 Nitre
Across : 1 Daniel, 4 Atlas, 9 Abstain, 10 Image, 11 Tradition, 12 Noel, 13 Money, 16 Acts, 19 Sacristan, 21 Adept, 22 Outlast, 23 Atone, 24 Heresy

## ADVENTURES IN PRAYER

A course will be available at St. Mary's Church after Easter to explore some of the different ways of praying. It will take place on Wednesday evenings and will cover the following:



- Conversation with God
- Using our senses
- Using the imagination
- Meeting God through activity
- Listening to God through the Bible
- Ready-made prayers

**Further details available from Roger Howell**

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## THANK YOU

Last month Roger Howell kindly presented me with a gift on behalf of the PCC and everyone at St Mary's to mark the end of my time as editor of Purley Parish News. The gift is a watercolour of The Thames at Purley by local artist Howard Birchmore. The painting has a special significance for me as it portrays a favourite walking spot for a recently departed, much loved and faithful friend – my labrador Ben.

I am delighted and very grateful for the gift and thank everyone for their support during my years as editor.

*Pauline Manning*

## CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 2003

The people of Purley have been extremely generous, over many years, in response to Christian Aid Week. Collectors will be out with those red envelopes again this year (between 11 and 17 May). If you would like to help with the delivery and collection of the envelopes this year, please let us know and we'll include you in the team.

*Pam and Matthew Slingsby*  
961 5585

A B C D E F G H I J K L M

## Our noticeboards need **you!**

A project has been started to try and brighten up the porch area at church and make it more welcoming. You may have seen the new noticeboards which are already in use there. We want to produce lots and lots of letters which can be attached to these boards to make a variety of messages. ("Welcome to St. Mary's" is all very well, but "God is Great" or "Hallelujah" would make a nice change every so often!) It would be great to involve as many people as possible in this letter making process, so that we can feel we are all involved in welcoming people into the church. So, what can you do to help?

You could use your favourite art or craft to make some letters (templates can be provided).

You could pick up a crayon/felt pen/paint brush for the first time in years and colour some letters in.

You could doodle all over a piece of paper and then hand it in to have letters made from it.

You could look out some old curtains or an old shirt or skirt, or other scraps of material or even wrapping paper and hand them in to have letters made out of them.

You could offer to make letters out of other people's (or your own) curtains etc.

You could think of some alternatives to letters - images, pictures or patterns which could be used to decorate the boards instead of or as well as letters.

Whatever you think of doing, contact Sally Robertson (962 5978 or [sallyrobertson@waitrose.com](mailto:sallyrobertson@waitrose.com)) for further details.

I am convinced that **you're** not too young, **you're** not too old and **you're** certainly creative enough to contribute to this project!

N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

# PURLEY (BERKS) TENNIS CLUB



## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- Open Day Sunday 6 April 2003, 11 – 4 pm
- American Tournament Sunday 11 May 2003, 11 – 4 pm
- Tournaments: Juniors 14 September 2003; Seniors 20 September; Reserve day 21 September 2003
- AGM 18 October 2003

## COURT AVAILABILITY – CLUB SESSIONS WINTER

- Wednesday afternoons Club session 1.30 pm > (all through the year)
- Saturdays - afternoon matches possible
- Informal free winter coaching Saturday mornings, 9.30 to 10.45 am juniors - including competitions, and from 10.45 am adults. For further information ring Colin Moses on 0118 984 5429. Members are encouraged to attend these sessions. If in doubt regarding the weather then ring first to confirm.

## REPAINTED COURTS

The 3 tennis courts were repainted in the Autumn 2002, putting the surface again in good condition, easy to play on and with clear white lines. The Club thanks Purley Parish Council for its contribution towards the cost of the repainting.

For membership enquiries please contact: Colin Moses (Chairman) 0118 984 5429; or Judy or Martin Dickins (Membership Secretaries) 0118 941 2399 - new members are very welcome.

*Mary Brooksbank  
(Ladies Match Secretary)*

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## PURLEY ON THAMES PARISH COUNCIL

West Berkshire Council have distributed questionnaires to all those in the areas affected by the recent flooding. The Parish Council hopes that as many as possible have been returned in the pre-paid envelopes so that lessons may be learned by those responsible for emergency planning.

At the recent budget meeting the Parish Council reviewed probable expenditure for the financial year 2003/2004 and, after adjustments for possible income and transfers from balances, agreed to precept for £62,000 from West Berkshire Council. As the estimated tax base for Purley on Thames is 1777.33 this should result in the Purley element of council tax being set at £34.88 for householders in band D properties.

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held in the Barn, at the Goosecroft Recreation Ground off Beech Road, on Thursday April 24th. Doors will open at 7.45 p.m. for a prompt 8.00 p.m. start. Further details will be advised in the next issue of the Parish News.

Thames Travel have now increased their bus services through Purley, providing direct links with Reading and Pangbourne, and timetables are available from the Post Office, Parish Council or online at [www.busbook.co.uk](http://www.busbook.co.uk). Telephone enquiries should be made to 01491 837988.

We are still collating the names and addresses of those who may wish to stand for election to the Parish Council on 1st May so that we can ensure they receive details as soon as available from West Berkshire Council. Over the next few weeks we will be preparing information packs for those who have already expressed an interest in being a councillor. If anyone else is interested please contact me at the office (details below).

*Brian J. Smith*  
*Clerk to Purley on Thames Parish Council*

The Purley on Thames parish precept has increased for the first time in four years. The increase mainly covers the required election costs, imposed by West Berkshire on all parish councils, for running the local election. This cost (about £3,500) will be required every time there is a council election - normally every three years. The rest of the increase is to improve recreation and security facilities.

If there is no contested election the money will be retained for the next election. The overall cost to individual council tax payers to meet this increase is approximately £3.50 per year.

*John Southall*  
*Chairman*

The office is located near the tennis courts and is open:

Mondays: 5.45 p.m. to 8.30 p.m.  
(except bank holidays)

Thursdays: 9.00 a.m. to 3.15 p.m.

Purley on Thames Parish Council  
Parish Office  
Goosecroft Lane  
off Beech Road  
Purley on Thames  
Reading  
RG8 8DR

Tel/fax: 0118 984 4507

## DISTRICT NOTES

There have been a lot of recriminations and investigations since the flooding in January. It is still too early to come to any proper conclusions and George Fielder's article in last month's magazine has put a lot of facts to right. What does seem to be clear however, is that between the several agencies involved and with responsibilities there was a failure of communication, of anticipation and of procedure. The next steps forward are to have a public forum facilitated by a specialist presenter to be followed by a review team which will enquire into the facts and the way the crisis was handled. From this review we expect to see some significant improvements and although they are unlikely to prevent future flooding, at least the effects of that flooding can be minimised.

I was pleased to see that Thames Travel has increased the frequency of the 132 service to hourly during the daytime. I now hope to persuade them to operate via Long Lane.


A great deal of concern has been caused by the planning applications for the land to the south of the Oxford Road between the Roebuck and Roebuck Rise. Unfortunately this is now subject to the government's insistence that all new developments of over 10 houses must have a density of no less than 35 dwellings per hectare, of which 30% have to be 'affordable' and with no more than 1.5 parking spaces per dwelling. If


indeed planning permission is granted we will have a most undesirable development which will be totally out of keeping with the area.

We had a report on the Adult Education services recently. Overall the report was very critical of the Council's failure to monitor and plan the adult education programme effectively with the overall conclusion:- "The quality of provision is not adequate to meet the reasonable needs of those receiving it." A very high percentage of teaching in ICT, in Hospitality, sport, leisure and travel and in Languages was adjudged unsatisfactory although it was rated good in Performing arts and media and in Community learning.

The Church Shop

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cards and gifts**

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 **FAIRTRADE**

Guarantees  
a **better deal**  
for Third World  
Producers

**St Mary's Church  
1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday  
After all services**

The council is consulting on the arrangements for admission to schools after a re-assessment of 'admission numbers'. There is a separate consultation on entry to nurseries.

We had the sting in the tail on education finance in February. The Education Secretary wrote to all headteachers telling them to expect an uplift in their budgets of 12% but then applied a cap on funding to the LEA of 8% creating a £1.6M shortfall in the school's budget. We are now told this should be added to the Council Tax for next year.

*John Chapman  
West Berkshire District Councillor for Purley, Sulham & Tidmarsh*



## **The Royal Star & Garter Home**

FOR DISABLED EX-SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN

Registered Charity No. 210119

Patron: The Queen

Forthcoming Charity Concert by

### **The Band of the Corps of**

### **Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers**

Director of Music-Major IR People (Appearing by permission of the  
Director of Electrical and Mechanical Engineering)

**7.45 PM SATURDAY APRIL 5TH 2003**

SPECIAL GUEST: SIMON WESTON OBE

### **THE FALKLANDS MEMORIAL CHAPEL**

PANGBOURNE COLLEGE

Tickets: £10 and concessions £8.50 available from:  
**THE NEWBURY CORN EXCHANGE BOX OFFICE**

**01635 522733**

usual credit and debit cards



## PURLEY PATHFINDERS

The beautiful, mild, sunny morning on which we met at Dinton Pastures Country Park made us all feel so good as we set off for a walk around the park's six lakes. Although still January, there was a definite feel of spring in the air. Birds sang out their mating calls, catkins dangled merrily from the hazel trees, and even some green was in evidence, peeping out from fat buds. The Emm Brook babbled beside us as we made our way towards Black Swan Lake. Here we paused to feed, and try to identify, the numerous waterfowl which find this area the perfect spot to over winter. We walked beside the busy lake for a while before branching off to arrive at our second lake, White Swan Lake. This lake is favoured by fishermen, but today it was the sole playground of the swans, ducks and grebes. Passing a dragonfly, sculpted from wood, we headed for Tufty's Corner – a paradise for children who can stand on the specially made platform, nets in hand, and pond-dip for the enormous variety of underwater creatures lurking in the depths of this, our third lake. Our path continued beneath a tunnel of trees alongside the lake, and soon we were beside the River Loddon. Otters have recently been discovered in this river, showing how much the condition of the water has improved over the

years. Unfortunately we didn't spot any of these elusive creatures, but we were delighted to spot a kingfisher, darting by in a flash of blue.

We followed the river path for quite some while, marvelling at the number of long-tailed tits in the trees. Eventually our fourth lake came into view, Heron's Water, and then on to Sandford Lake where we left the main park to cross the road alongside the white, weather boarded Sandford Mill. We enjoyed watching the birds in its lovely waterside garden as we quietly made our way to the hide overlooking our sixth lake, Lavell's Lake. These water scrapes are used by wading birds here on migration, and is a site for serious ornithologists.

### SPRINGTIME IN THE GARDEN

At  
CHERRY ACRE



You are invited to come along to  
Cherry Acre, Purley Village

FRIDAY 4 APRIL

Between 11am & 2:30pm

Or

SUNDAY 6 APRIL

Between 1:30pm & 4:30pm

To enjoy  
TEA or COFFEE & CAKE  
And a  
BROWSE AROUND THE GARDEN

See what has come up from the 3,000 bulbs  
planted in the autumn.

There may be some blossom on the cherry  
trees too!

PLANT STALL  
Donations to St Mary's Church welcome

Retracing our steps we returned to Sandford Lake to walk along its banks before veering off to the Black Swan Lake. A wide, open path allowed us to enjoy the sunshine as we wandered beside this large lake. Back at the Tea Cosy Café we enjoyed lunch – who would have thought we would be able to sit out in the garden at this time of year!?

On a crisp, bright February morning we left Moulsoford to, soon, be walking within the Well Barn Estate. We were greeted by a wonderful, cheery display of winter aconites. We looked for any triumphant pheasants but, seeing only a few, assumed the recently ended shooting season had been a successful one for those armed with a gun. However, we did spot various other game birds running around the fields, along with a hare. In the blue sky we enjoyed the aerial display of four Red Kites, while a flock of peewits swooped down onto a ploughed field to rise again moments later in precision formation. Having climbed up within the well-kept estate, we paused for our break with the delight of spotting four deer crossing the field beside us. Then, as we made our way back to the start, we savoured the wide sweeping views across the Chiltern Hills, with Moulsoford and Cholsey nestled within the valley.

We were in the Chiltern Hills for our next walk. We climbed out of Swyncombe to walk within typical Chiltern beechwoods for a while, before dropping down the other side. Unfortunately our views over the Oxfordshire plain were obscured by low cloud, but we enjoyed watching the Red Kites which patrolled from the sky above banks of fresh green fields. Eventually we were walking on the Icknield Way alongside the elegant 18th century Britwell Salome House. More beechwoods opened into a pleasant glade where we enjoyed our break. As more Red Kites glided above us we listened to the latest news on these majestic birds. Happily the number of breeding pairs is up, with 139 pairs successfully breeding, and another 19 pairs attempting to breed. From this, 219 chicks were hatched last year – excellent considering it was not long ago that Red Kites were in serious danger of extinction! With this happy news we cheerfully headed for the lightly wooded, snowdrop-lined Ridgeway path. Then, at Swyncombe Church, we saw what we had come to see on this February day – the heady sight of thousands of dainty snowdrops and bright yellow winter aconites covering the graveyard in a blanket of white and yellow. What a wonderful sight!

With an early deadline for the mag this month we still have one lovely snowdrop walk to look forward to. Then, as we pass into March we will be on the lookout for all kinds of Spring flowers and the first lambs of the year. If any ladies would like to join us, do give me a ring for a programme. We walk on weekday mornings.

*Nicki Woodward*  
9841919

# SPRINGTIME SPECIAL LUNCHPOT

Wednesday 9 April  
Eat between 12 noon and 1 o'clock  
St Mary's Church, Purley

## MENU



Homemade Soup with Rustic Bread  
or  
Jacket Potato with various fillings  
or  
Hot Dog  
~~~  
Yummy Cakes  
~~~  
Hot & Cold Drinks



All this for just £3 adult / £ 1.50 child (toys & some high-chairs available)  
So, don't miss out on this friendly, sociable occasion!

Book Your Tickets Now (in advance only please)  
from Nicki Woodward 9841919  
Everyone Very Welcome!

Proceeds to St Mary's Church



Hendrick Mahlangu, leader of 'Hope for Africa' ministries and of the work in Chiaquelane supported by Reading3000, will be in Reading from 13-24 March. He will be accompanied by Edward Ndebele, a Bible School teacher, one of the workers supported by Reading3000.

One or both will be at the morning services (9:30 and 11:15) at St Mary's, Purley on Sunday 23 March.

Come along and hear their perspective or learn more about the community in Chiaquelane and God's work there.

# READER SURVEY

As with any publication, Purley Parish News wouldn't exist without its readers. Therefore, I would be most grateful if you could spare a few moments to complete this survey about what you find interesting and useful about the magazine. You can either send your form directly to the editor (address at the back) or hand it to your distributor when they visit.

Please tick the box under the face that reflects your feelings about each article!

Article			
Minister's letter			
Church Service Listing			
St Mary's Church News			
Project Purley			
Purley Women's Institute			
Purley Horticultural Society			
Pangbourne & District Bowls Club			
Purley Cricket Club			
West Berks Scrabble® Club			
Purley (Berks) Tennis Club			
Purley Pathfinders			
Pang & Kennet Valley Countryside Projects			
Workers Educational Association			
District Notes (John Chapman)			
Parish Council			
Community Council For Berkshire			
Thames Valley Police			
Adverts for local events			
Regular advertising			
Crossword			
Laughlines			

What do you enjoy most about the magazine?



What do you like least?

What would you most like to see in the magazine?

How else could the magazine be improved?

Any other comments?

Your name and address (optional)

## **A VIEW FROM BACKSTAGE**

Cinderella! What images the very name conjures up - colour, lights, beauty, warmth, friendship and happiness. The whole were much in evidence at the Purley Players recent production of this famous pantomime. This was so, especially backstage. Considering that we had been rehearsing for the Panto since September, it was not surprising that the show went off so well, what was surprising was the sheer warmth and friendship of every member of the cast towards each other. Pats on the back, friendly smiles, encouragement to each other from first to last and a genuine desire for everybody to do well in the show. We all enjoyed hearing the applause for our fellow "artistes" when they were on the stage, and we all sat - very quietly - behind the door to the side and watched their performance through a closed circuit screen.

In all the productions I've taken part in this was undoubtedly the happiest and friendliest. Each performer tried their best, gave of their best and encouraged their fellow actors on and off the stage. Like the Panto itself, the result was magic.

I know that Jean Chudleigh is writing a little "thank you" message for the Parish Magazine, but I thought I'd like to add just a few words of thanks from the rest of the cast. The backstage work was unbelievable, David Manning's lighting and music were inspiring and breathtaking: Sue with her never failing help on the piano. Anne and her back stage people, always there to help us off the well-lit stage and down into the dark, and the very hard work of Doreen and Pauline with the props was wonderful. Speaking personally I was more than just grateful to Vera for her help in getting me dressed, undressed, dressed and made up - it was, I believe a possible "first" for a male Purley on Thames Parish Councillor to appear in two "day dresses" a blue evening gown, false eyelashes and a China silk nightdress - in front of his parishioners! And to finish up with, a rather raunchy striptease (all in the best possible taste!). I was made to promise not to reveal where the items of feminine lingerie came from which Chris and I divested with such gusto - but I'll never be able to look at their owner again without a twinkle in my eye!!

I know that the person who made this wonderful experience for the Purley Players possible was Jean with her patience, hard work and always with a warm friendly smile, and our thanks also to Sara who stepped in for Gerry for this production. I know from what people have told me who saw the show that they had a great time, and if it was half as enjoyable as the fun we had in presenting the Panto - it must have been a happy experience. I can hardly wait for the next one!

*Bill Ayling*



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

*I've had several letters this month. I can't guarantee to print every letter but where there is an update or response that can be given I shall endeavour to include them if space allows.*

Dear Sir,

I refer to the report in the February edition regarding the new bus services.

My husband is 76, I am 64 and considerably disabled with degenerating rheumatoid arthritis. By our own choice we have never owned or run a car. Our doctor's surgery is along the Oxford Road and I have to attend Battle Hospital at regular intervals. Changing buses at the Triangle is not an option for me as I cannot stand for more than a few minutes at a time. A return taxi fare costs in the region of £20 each time which quickly eats into small pensions.

We feel not only 'badly inconvenienced' but completely cut off from the NHS services which matter to us more than any other. It is yet another example of the needs of the elderly and disabled being totally overlooked when services are planned and executed. What's new?!

Yours faithfully,  
Juliet Baxter  
Long Lane

*I believe that John Chapman, our district councillor, is aware of people's concerns in this area. In his article this month, he refers to his hope to persuade Thames Travel to extend their services along Long Lane. – Ed.*

Dear Sir

I write with reference to the Honorary Secretary's article about the future of the memorial hall in the [February] issue of the Purley Parish News.

Having held my dance school in the memorial hall for nearly 8 years on a Saturday morning (and in Purley for 17 years) the above article was brought to my attention by several of my pupils, who were distraught at the penultimate paragraph, which states:

"...the committee is proposing to restrict regular bookings to the weekdays only"

As the school operates on a Saturday - this restriction would force the school to close - thus depriving many local children of a worthwhile pastime.

Would someone please be kind enough to explain the rationale behind this - bearing in mind that in using the hall the school is bringing in regular revenue, and I wonder how many enquiries have been turned down (surely a negligible amount).

Janet Foskett  
for Janet Foskett School of Dancing

*I received a number of letters from pupils and their parents with concern for the fate of the dance school. I forwarded these to Mrs Hoare who, at this time, has issued the following statement on behalf of the Memorial Hall committee:*

All the views and opinions will be considered at the next meeting of the Purley Memorial Hall Management Committee. The Committee is disappointed that it has not received any correspondence on the other matters raised in the article.

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## **UNHCR STATISTICS**

Developing countries produced 86 percent of the world's refugees over the past decade, but also provided asylum for seven out of ten of those fleeing, according to a new statistical yearbook released by UNHCR.

The UNHCR Statistical Yearbook notes that while rich countries voice increasing concern over asylum seekers arriving on their borders, it is mainly poor countries that provide asylum to the world's refugees - 72 percent over the past 10 years.

"The fact that 7 out of 10 refugees are hosted by low-income countries underscores the responsibility of industrialised states to share in international refugee protection, the book states.

They kill widows and foreigners and murder orphans.

"The Lord isn't looking," they say,

"and besides, the God of Israel doesn't care."

Think again, you fools!

*Psalm 94:6-8a*

## PROJECT PURLEY

The next meeting of Project Purley will be The Annual General Meeting at 7.30pm followed by a celebration to mark the 21st Anniversary of the founding of the Society. The meeting will be held in the Barn Goosecroft Lane off Beech Road.

On January 18th member Janet Southall gave an informative and thoroughly researched talk about the Battle Workhouse in Reading, its beginnings in the Victorian era and subsequent change of use to the hospital that we know today. Janet reminded us of the great stigma that was attached to being admitted to the workhouse - a dread that has remained in the minds of the very elderly to this day. The practise of separating elderly couples into male and female wards was particularly distressing.

The problem of dealing with the poor and underprivileged is an age-old problem. In 1601 a Poor Law was passed to try to deal with this by taxing the rich this was known as the Poor Rate. Some parishes built poorhouses. In 1795 Berkshire became famous when the village of Speenhamland decided to increase the low wages of farm labourers by a donation from the Poor Law rate. In the early 19th century only out-door relief was given. Some poorhouses were thought to be too comfortable and there was a growing feeling that people should take responsibility for themselves and this led to a reform of the Poor Law. In 1834 a new law was passed calling for Workhouses to be provided in local areas by Poor Law Unions.

The first meeting of the Reading Union was held in August 1835. It was decided to close the existing St Giles Workhouse in Southampton Street. St Mary's Coley Street and St Laurence in Friar Street were to provide for the indoor-poor. It wasn't until 1865 that it was decided that a purpose built workhouse was necessary to come up to the standards of workhouses in other parts of the country.

### Marquetry Pictures of Purley Church



A picture of Purley Church handcrafted for that special occasion by Wally Watkivs, a member of Marquetry Society

**£40.00**

of which £32 is donated to church funds

Contact  
WALLY WATKIVS  
15 Fulbrook Crescent, Tilehurst  
Telephone 0118 942 6170

In 1865 the Guardians purchased an 8.5 acre site on Oxford Road from a Mr Jones at a cost of £5,000. Seven architects were invited to submit plans for a workhouse to accommodate 250 inmates and at a cost of no more than £6,700 however only six did so. After much discussion and some adjustments the plans of Mr Woodman were accepted. The minutes of the Board of Guardians, which can be seen at the Berkshire Record Office provide a blow by blow account of the building process. In 1867 Mr and Mrs Pocock of the Melksham Union were voted in as Master and Matron. The first inmates, transferred from St Laurence workhouse were admitted in August 1867. By 1850 the infirmary ward was overcrowded and a second storey was added together with a new lying-in ward, bakehouse and storerooms and a room for the gardener.

The buildings were faced with red bricks and had slate roofs with bands of blue glazed bricks giving a point of interest in the walls. There were major changes to the Workhouse in the 1890s. The plans submitted by architect Mr Charles Smith provided for about 500 people. The new Thames block was added in 1911.

The end of the Workhouse came in 1915 when on instruction from the War Office the Reading Union Workhouse was handed over to the Military Authorities. In 1921 the Workhouse was reinstated as a Public Assistance Institution. In 1929 Reading Union Workhouse became Reading Municipal Hospital and the name Battle Hospital was first used since when the hospital has served the local community but has sadly been in decline since the 1980s. Soon all that will be left of the buildings is the Guardians Committee Room, which will remain as a reminder of the history and architecture of Reading Union Workhouse. Janet had a wealth of information about the design of the buildings, the daily life of the inmates, and the facilities provided. It was a timely reminder before this Oxford Road landmark disappears.

*Rita Denman*

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## **THE THAMES VALE SINGERS**

We are performing Stainer's Crucifixion at 7.00 pm on Saturday 12th April at St James the Less Church in Pangbourne and Saturday 19th April at Tilehurst Methodist Church. There is no charge for admission but at each church there will be a retiring collection for their chosen charity

*Jenny Dimmock*  
*Secretary*

# **THAMES VALLEY POLICE**

I have been in post since May 2002. My aim is to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour and bring more criminals to justice. To achieve this I need to ensure that we have a co-ordinated and focused approach and target active criminals, crime hotspots and areas of anti-social behaviour. I would like to take this opportunity to tell you how we operate, without compromising our operational effectiveness.

Thames Valley Police cover the counties of Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire. The three counties are divided into ten Police Areas. West Berkshire is sub-divided into three Sectors each headed by an Inspector. The Sectors are Pangbourne, Newbury and Hungerford. The Pangbourne Sector stretches from Compton to Brimpton and from Stratley to Mortimer. It includes parts of Reading i.e. Purley, Tilehurst and Calcot. Policing is from Pangbourne Police Station 24 hrs 7 days a week.

In order to sustain 24/7 policing there are 4 Shifts working a rotating shift pattern. These officers are at the sharp end of policing and do an excellent job. I am very proud of their achievements in apprehending prolific and sometimes very violent criminals. The Community Policing Team is an additional team with a specific role in targeting crime and anti-social behaviour without the abstractions of shift officers. Over the last few months they have had a significant effect in reducing anti-social behaviour and have had some notable results in apprehending criminals. I am fortunate to have a very experienced and effective team of Detectives who investigate the serious crime (murders, rapes, robberies etc.) At the time of writing this article we are averaging 94 crimes a week. Some require a significant amount of investigation which is time consuming. The knock-on being that you see us less and the question "where are the police"? Well the short answer is catching criminals. Sometimes we have to work very hard to catch them and just as hard at times to prove their guilt.

When criminals are brought before the Court, the case has been investigated and the file prepared up to prosecution standard by the investigating officer. All cases are time consuming, some cases require a huge amount of work. It does not finish when the suspect is brought to the police station, that's when the work starts. In a Criminal Court we have to show that beyond all reasonable doubt the accused committed the offence.

Due to the current demand on the Police Service we need to prioritise our resources and police with more focus and direction. In order to be able to focus on the problems, we need to know what the problems are. Some of that is down to you, you need to tell us. If you are the victim of crime report it. By reporting it we can get a clear picture of where the crime is so that we can combat it.

Our procedures for recording crime altered in April 2002 [National Crime Recording Standards]. The impact being that some incidents that previously weren't recorded now are. When the crime figures are published in April there will be a recorded increase for this reason. I can say that over the last few weeks there has been a reduction of crime on the Sector. It won't really be possible, however, to get a clear picture until next year when we are in the second year of the new National Crime Recording Standards.

Let me assure you that we are on top of crime on the Sector. With your help we can reduce it. How we reduce it is my problem all you have to do is report crime and tell us if you know who is active in crime. We are already making significant progress, having caught three times as many domestic burglars compared with last year.

I hope I have given an insight as to what the police actually do and to give you some reassurance as to why you don't always see us. I have an excellent team of officers at Pangbourne. If you need us urgently dial 999 we are not far away. We will stop what we are doing and come straight to you.

*Insp Andy Talbot*



### **DO YOU WANT TO WORK WITHIN SCHOOL HOURS AND TERM-TIMES?**

Purley Pre-School are looking for someone to join their committed staff team on Wednesday and Friday mornings, 9 am until 12:30 at Purley Memorial Hall, Glebe Road, Purley. You will be working with 3 to 5 year olds in a lively and fun environment.

Experience and appropriate qualifications are preferable but enthusiasm and a willingness to undertake training will also be considered.

If you would like to know more, please call Sue Slade (Supervisor) at the Hall between 9 and 12:30 on (0118) 984 4245 (during term time) or call Nicky Garratt on (0118) 377 6541 (anytime).

Reg. Charity No. 1028921

# PURLEY PLAYERS

<http://www.purleyplayers.fsnet.co.uk>

Purley Players are pleased to announce that following the success of "Cinderella" they will be donating £720 to Church funds.

The Players would like to thank all those who came to see the Pantomime.

## **WE'RE A COUPLE OF SWELLS!**

Two Ugly Sisters we, of the Aristocracy,  
We'd like to get to the Ball tonight, Prince Charming for to see.  
We're a couple of hags; they call us "the old slags"  
But though we're dressed for the Ball tonight we look like Derby nags.  
But how are we to reach this fine soiree  
We have a transport problem you'll agree, you'll agree...  
We would ride on a pumpkin, but that isn't very nice  
And most of our coachmen have all been turned to mice,  
Our horses are main courses, which are served with chips or rice.  
So we'll hop on our broomsticks  
Our highly powered zoom sticks  
And be up at the Palace in a trice.  
A silver slipper round, there in the Palace ground  
The Prince has said that he will wed  
The owner when she's found.  
But the slipper is size seven on the nub,  
And we take size eleven that's the rub, that's the rub.  
We would cut our big toe off if the shoe would only fit,  
We would slice our left heel down, more than just a bit.  
To help with our deluding we'd try some drastic pruning.  
So it's out with the snippers, the secateurs and clippers.  
And get this blasted shoe on in a tick!

*Bill Ayling*

A video of the Purley Players Pantomime, Cinderella, is now available.  
Contact Ron Denman at The Mimosas, 0118 984 4682.  
Cost is £5 plus a blank video tape. All proceeds to church funds.

# PURLEY HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

## TALKS

The talk on 19 March will be given by Mr. Bob Aggiss - one of the 'greenest finger' gardeners in Berkshire, with a wealth of knowledge on many gardening topics. Do come to hear what is sure to be a very informative talk and pick up tips on how to get the best results from your house and conservatory plants.

## TRADING

The Trading Store is open every Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. until 11 a.m. Membership of Purley Horticultural Society, costing only £1 for a year, is tremendous value; not only can you buy items at the Store at lower prices than most other sources, but also you can make further savings on purchases at **Collins of Pangbourne**, **BSB Garden Machinery**, Sulham Lane (repairs, servicing and new mowers), Phone 9843601, **Englefield Garden Centre** (9304898), **Glenvale Nursery**, Bradfield Southend (9744006) and **Newington Gardens**, Newington on the A329 road, north of Shillingford (01865-400533). Please remember to show your membership card at the start of any transaction, as tills have to be set to deduct discount in some outlets.

## SPRING SHOW

This will be held in Purley Memorial Hall, Glebe Road on Saturday, 5th April. The Show will be open to members of the public from 2.30 p.m. until 4 p.m. Even if you are unable to enter, please come along to support the participants. Schedules will be available at the Trading Store from late February.

## PLANT SALE

We wish to ensure that there will be a wide choice of plants available at the Sale on **17 May** to satisfy your needs. If there are any species you would particularly like to buy, please let us know and give us some idea of the quantity.

*Marion Dabbs*  
942 2349



Our help is from the LORD,  
who made the heavens and the earth.

*Psalms 124:8*

## PURLEY W.I.

At February's meeting Ron Pearce, a press photographer, gave us his 2<sup>nd</sup> talk on "Point And Press". Over the years he has photographed many well known people including royals and rock stars in various situations and at other times been called upon to cover many dangerous issues.

It was a very interesting talk with photographs and we now look forward – at a later date – to "Point And Press 3".

One of our very active and supportive group members, Jean Smith, is moving away from the area. We thank her for all she has done and wish her many happy days in the sun with her family.

Flower competition

First: Angela Edwers

Second: Myra Fairfoul

Local press cutting competition

First: Marilyn Hoare

Second: Pam Gilham

7:30p.m. 12 March 2003 is general meeting plus beetle drive.

**Visitors Welcome**

*Phyllis Hasemore  
"A deputy"*

### **How can doing your shopping help support St Mary's Church ???**

By doing your shopping online at  
**[www.UshopUgive.com](http://www.UshopUgive.com)**

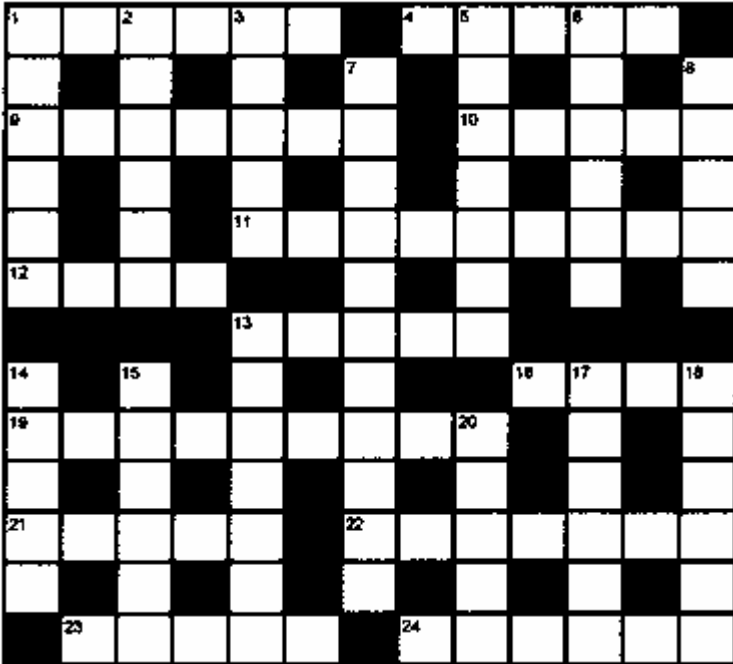
It gives you fast access to a good selection of online stores and when you start your shopping from this site you help to raise money for charities at no extra cost.

You choose which charity gets the money and it doesn't cost you anything extra to shop and give in this way. St Mary's Church is registered with the site allowing you to select your local church as your chosen charity.

The range of retailers available through the site is expanding all the time so visit [www.UshopUgive.com](http://www.UshopUgive.com) for the latest details.

# A CROSS WORD

Those of you that tried the crossword last month may have said a cross word as you found you had some trouble fitting the answers into the grid. I gave a reprinted copy to a few people but since many of you won't have seen this and CNS haven't issued a new crossword this month, I've reprinted it here. The answers can be found on page 6.



## Across

- 1 Old testament book (6)
- 4 Map (5)
- 9 To refrain (7)
- 10 God created man in his own ..... (5)
- 11 Doctrine with divine authority (9)
- 12 Christmas carol (4)
- 13 You cannot serve both God and ..... (5)
- 16 New testament book (4)
- 19 Official in charge of vessels and vestments (9)
- 21 Thoroughly proficient (5)
- 22 Last longer than (7)
- 23 What Christ did for our sins (5)
- 24 Belief contrary to the Christian church (6)

## Down

- 1 Christian minister ranked below priest (6)
- 2 To settle snugly (6)
- 3 I will ..... you, O Lord. Psalm (5)
- 5 Three persons in one God (7)
- 6 Like the first man (6)
- 7 Christ as God and man (11)
- 8 Sources available (5)
- 13 Make slightly wet (7)
- 14 Religion of the Muslims (5)
- 15 Consent to receive (6)
- 17 Assistant priest (6)
- 18 A forge (6)
- 20 Saltpetre (5)

# SPRINGTIME FAMILY RAMBLE ON THE FARM WITH TEA



## SUNDAY 16<sup>th</sup> MARCH



### Meet at The Black Barn, RUSHALL FARM At 1.45pm - walks start at 2pm Prompt!

Enjoy one of three walks, in delightful spring woodland, through primrose fields, or along one of the nicest stretches of the River Pang.

Choose a short amble, suitable for toddlers and the less able, with a Tractor/Trailer Ride back to the start; or a medium ramble suitable for families and bouncy children, or a longer walk suitable for the more able.



All the routes will include a visit to the LAMBING SHEDS where you will be encouraged to cuddle the NEWBORN LAMBS

Afterwards we will all meet up again for  
TEA at THE BLACK BARN  
With its wonderful views out across the Pang Valley.

TICKETS, which include a mug of homemade soup with rustic bread, or a hot dog (vegetarians catered for), will be  
£3 Adult : £1 Child : under 3's Free

Available in Advance Only from  
Nicki Woodward 984 1919 or Cilla Holt 941 4832

Hot and Cold Drinks and Yummy Cakes will also be on sale

Proceeds to St Mary's Church, with a donation to the John Simmond's Trust

# PURLEY PARISH NEWS

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I welcome contributions from anyone to this magazine, particularly on local issues and events. Contributions can either be delivered in writing or, preferably, as a WORD attachment by email. Please note however, I reserve the right to edit contributions to suit space availability.

Comments and opinions expressed in this magazine do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editor or the P.C.C. of St. Mary's Church, Purley on Thames – publishers of Purley Parish News.

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