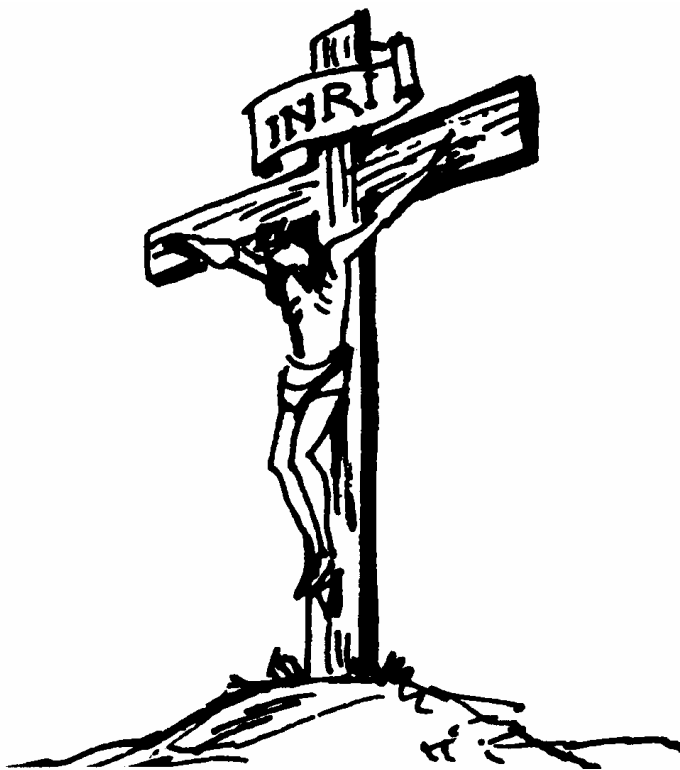


PURLEY PARISH NEWS

APRIL 2003



35p

For the Church & Community of
PURLEY ON THAMES

ST. MARY THE VIRGIN

PURLEY ON THAMES

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Sally Robertson Lorna Herring
Tel: 0118 962 5978 Tel: 0118 942 1547

CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR AND CHURCH HIRE

Sally Robertson
Tel: 0118 962 5978

BAPTISMS, WEDDINGS AND FUNERALS

All enquiries should be made to the Rector

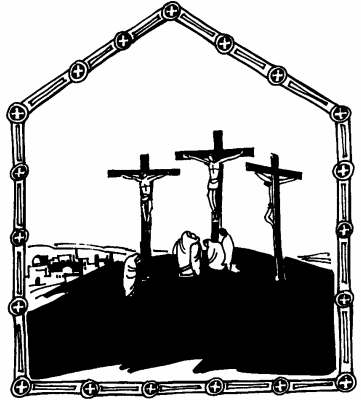
www.stmarythevirgin.fsnet.co.uk

FROM THE RECTOR

Dear friends,

Fear and uncertainty

My colleague Andrew wrote last month about the uncertain times in which we live. One month later and we still do not know for sure what is going to happen on the international scene. The clouds of war have darkened. The beating of drums has grown louder. For many the thermometer of fear has risen alarmingly. And it is not just the possibility of war which produces fear. In the world of finance there has been a series of shakings. Many have seen the value of their pensions eroded and expected returns from savings plans cut savagely.



Solid foundations

At all times, but especially in the current climate, it is very important to have a solid foundation for life - something which can withstand the shocks of changing circumstances. Anyone who relies overmuch on money has a weak foundation which is seriously undermined by the uncertainty in the world today. Houses have been thought of as providing good security and no doubt many have made huge profits with the recent boom in prices. But if house prices take a nose-dive those who have taken out large mortgages may well find themselves unable to keep up the payments and the threat of re-possession will be just round the corner. Lives can easily begin to crumble and fall apart.

Joy and conviction

The message of Easter is one of joy and conviction. Joy in the face of what seemed to be a total disaster. Conviction arising out of the overthrow of death. The friends of Jesus were devastated when they saw Him arrested and condemned to be crucified. When they went away from the place called Golgotha there was no ray of light shining into the blackness of their lives. Their hopes and dreams were shattered. Jesus was dead, and in their minds He was done with. It had all been wonderful while it lasted, but now it was over. He was finished, and now all they could do was to try and pick up the pieces. On the third day, the tables were turned. Their hopes in Jesus had not been misplaced. The things they heard Him say, and the wonders they saw Him do had led them to believe He was the Son of God. And now His resurrection proved it! Granted, it took them some time to grasp the significance of what had happened. But when they saw Him for themselves, they knew, and a deep joy flooded their lives.

What next.....?

None of us knows! By the time you read this, or by the time Easter arrives, the world could be in a deeper turmoil than it is at present. Conflict in Iraq could be escalating out of control. Fearful things could be happening. My prayer for you at this season comes from the words of Psalm 46 in the Old Testament of the Bible[‡]:

*God is our shelter and strength
always ready to help in times of trouble.
So we will not be afraid,
even if the earth is shaken
and mountains fall into the ocean depth;
even if the seas roar and rage, and the hills are shaken with violence.*

May you know the peace of the Lord whatever happens next.

Roger Howell

ADVENTURES IN PRAYER

Many people pray - especially in times of crisis. Many pray but would like to explore other ways of praying. Many don't pray, but would like to learn how to engage with God in this way. *Adventures in Prayer* is a course to explore different ways of praying, and it will be held on Wednesday evening beginning on 7 May at St. Mary's Church.



7 May	<i>Conversation with God</i>
14 May	Doing it
21 May	<i>Using our senses</i>
28 May	Doing it
4 June	<i>Using the imagination</i>
11 June	Doing it
18 June	<i>Meeting God through activity</i>
25 June	Doing it
2 July	<i>Listening to God through His Word</i>
9 July	Doing it
16 July	<i>Ready-made prayers</i>
23 July	Using them

Further details available from Roger Howell

[‡]From the Good News Bible published by the Bible Societies and HarperCollins Publishers, © American Bible Society 1994, used with permission.

CHURCH SERVICES

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
17 Apr Maundy Thursday	8:00 p.m.	A remembrance of the Last Supper (includes meal, please book with Jean Rothery!)
18 Apr Good Friday	10:00 a.m. 2:00 p.m.	Procession of witness (starting at St. Mary's) The Last Hour
20 Apr Easter Day	10:30 a.m. 6:00 p.m.	Easter Communion Evening Worship
27 Apr	9:30 a.m. 11:15 a.m.	Family Worship Holy Communion
4 May	9:30 a.m. 11:15 a.m. 6:00 p.m.	Family Worship with Sunday School Holy Communion Holy Communion
11 May	9:30 a.m. 11:15 a.m.	Family Worship with Sunday School Holy Communion

We invite you to come to your parish church for any of these services.

Lord, when people shout, "**Who cares?**"
Help me to be the one who tells them that you do.
Help me to be your support for them,
To lift them up and show them the love
You long to give to all those who are feeling sad.
Thank you Lord that you do care so much.
Amen.

Peter Comaish

PARISH REGISTERS

FUNERALS

4 March 2003 Basil Williams aged 83 years (cremation)
13 March 2003 Dorothy Aikman aged 67 years
(burial at Beech Road Cemetery)

FROM THE EDITOR

Well, here's my fourth edition of Purley Parish News as editor and apart from trying to persuade some of you to go to church at 1:15 a.m. there haven't been too many clangers so far! Thank you to those readers who have already sent in their reader surveys (from last month's magazine) your comments are most welcome. What has struck me so far is how much the "community" aspect of the magazine is appreciated and I hope that I can maintain that spirit in the future.

In these days of instant messaging it is difficult for a publication like this to keep up-to-date - for example, since Roger sent me his letter war has indeed started in Iraq and much will have changed by the time you read this! - But hopefully you will continue to receive enjoyment from these pages and a bit of a respite from the pressures of post-modern life!

Matthew Slingsby

CINDERELLA

I am sorry that I didn't get this in last month's magazine but I was on the point of going on holiday to South Africa and missed the deadline. As Bill Ayling mentioned in his article last month, this is by way of a big thank you to everyone concerned with the recent production of Cinderella by Purley Players. It was our first attempt at a pantomime and, whilst we were all excited about it, I think we all had concerns and misgivings about what we were taking on! In the event our fears were unfounded and it was a roaring success. It would be invidious to single anyone out for particular thanks because everyone played their part. It was like the pieces of a jigsaw, everyone's contribution was equally valuable in making the whole experience such fun and also such a sparkling success. Into the bargain as you will have seen in last month's magazine we raised a substantial contribution to church funds.

I would like to thank all the associations who so kindly allowed us the run of the church building for the week of the performances. In particular, I am thinking of the "Lace Ladies"; the Music in Worship Group and the Bell Ringers - we are very grateful to you all.

We are always pleased to welcome new members and if you are interested in joining Purley Players please have a look at our website and send us an e-mail. Our website address is www.purleyplayers.fsnet.co.uk.

Once again many thanks

Jean Chudleigh

PURLEY CRICKET CLUB

PRE-SEASON PREPARATIONS

Purley CC is currently undergoing pre-season training sessions, and recruiting new players for the forthcoming season, which starts in April.



PURLEY CRICKET CLUB

The Club currently runs teams for young people aged from 7 up to 17, plus adult First & Second teams (on both Saturdays and Sundays throughout the Cricket Season) in the Berkshire Cricket League (on Saturdays) and Millennium Sunday League/friendly fixtures (on Sundays).

If you think you may be interested, please come along to any of the following:

Starters (boys & girls aged 7 – under 10) at Denefield School on Sundays from 5pm – 6pm

Girls (aged 10 – 13) at Denefield School on Sundays from 4pm – 5pm

Boys Under 11's & Under 13's at Denefield School on Sundays from 4pm – 6pm

Under 15's, Under 17's & Adults at Bradfield Sports Complex on Sundays from 8pm – 10pm

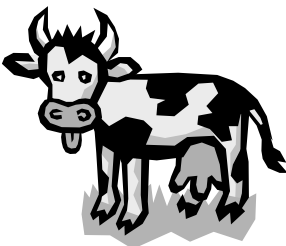
Martin Bishop, Chairman of the Club said "We would like to offer the opportunity to anyone, at all age groups, who might be interested in starting to play cricket this season to attend."

For further information please contact Martin Bishop, Club Chairman on 0118 984 1726, or look at the club website

<http://purleyonthames.play-cricket.com>

Karen Luke

TOWPATH USERS



Tim and Vicky ask for help from all towpath users... we would like to ask if the 'wandering towpath' in our river meadow could be wandered back towards the river (so that it becomes about the width of a very fat horse from the bank, apparently!!). This request follows complaints from our cows that there is less grass to eat in that field!!

Thank you from ALL residents at Home Farm, Purley.

PURLEY ON THAMES PARISH COUNCIL

By the time this edition of the Purley Parish News is distributed nominations will have closed for candidates to the Parish Council. If there have been more nominations than the 13 vacancies, elections will be held on Thursday 1st May at the usual polling station in the Memorial Hall, Glebe Road.

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. This will be in the format of a report to residents of Purley from their Parish Council. Following a welcome from the Chairman, and a brief assessment of the achievements of the last three years, there will be reports from the Recreation, Highways & Footpaths & Barn committees. There will also be a financial report and information on the burial ground & allotments as well as a look back to the Jubilee celebrations. The more formal part of the meeting will conclude with a summary of future challenges and a request for assistance with a village plan. Following a brief intermission the meeting will be thrown open to the public for questions to the Parish Council closing at around 10.00 p.m. All residents of Purley on Thames are cordially invited to attend. Please take this opportunity to make your voice heard.

West Berkshire Council have advised us that Sulham Lane will be closed from 31st March to 2nd May, whilst work is carried out on the Pang & Sulham Brook Flood Alleviation Scheme, although it is hoped to have the road open on a temporary basis throughout the Easter weekend.

Brian J. Smith
Clerk to Purley on Thames Parish Council

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

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

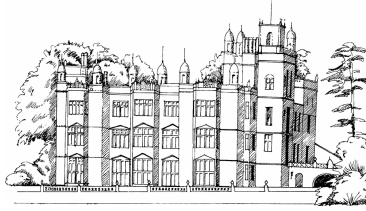
Thursdays: 9.00 a.m. to 3.15 p.m.

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

Tel/fax: 0118 984 4507

FOR SALE

Uniscan folding 4 wheeled walking frame with shopping basket, seat and detachable tray. As new, cost £278, for sale £130. Tel: 0118 984 3530.



ENGLEFIELD INTERIOR DESIGN SHOW

WEDNESDAY 14TH AND THURSDAY 15TH MAY
10am to 5pm

ENGLEFIELD HOUSE, THEALE, NEAR READING
in aid of The SPIRE Trust and Tusk Trust

A chance to see the latest collections of over forty leading design companies, brought together in this magnificent setting. Fabrics, wallpapers, trimmings, furniture, flooring, lighting, gifts and accessories all available to order or purchase on the day

ASSOCIATED EVENTS

CHAMPAGNE reception and dinner in aid of Tusk Trust
Cabaret: Rory Bremner. Auction

Wednesday 14th May, 7pm for 8pm. Tickets: £75 Tel: 01747 831005

LUNCH and tour of Englefield House in aid of The SPIRE Trust
Guest speaker: Lord Hindlip, former chairman of Christie's
Thursday 15th May, 12 noon. Tickets: £40

LECTURE by internationally renowned interior designer, Alidad
'Decorating with Six Senses'
Wednesday 14th May, 11am. Tickets: £15

LECTURE by Dr Freddie Lauernt, archivist of Sanderson,
'Inspired by Elizabeth: Sanderson and the V&A'.
Thursday 15th May, 11am. Tickets: £15

ENGLEFIELD GARDENS OPEN LIGHT REFRESHMENTS
FLOWER FESTIVAL IN ST MARK'S CHURCH

Details and tickets from
Gloria Sleep, Englefield House, Reading, Berkshire RG7 5EN
Tel: 0118 930 2221 fax: 0118 930 3226
Email: glorias@netcomuk.co.uk

Entrance to the Interior Design Show: £5

DISTRICT NOTES

BUSES

I have now received the details of the new Thames Travel services to Reading and Pangbourne. Going towards Reading they leave Purley Post Office at 08:12, 09:22, 10:22, 11:22, 12:22, 13:22, 14:22, 16:22 and 18:22 weekdays with additional journeys at 17:22, 20:22, 21:22 and 22:22 on Saturdays. They return from Reading Station at 1 min past the hour from 10:01 to 16:01 then 17:10 and 17:40 weekdays or 17:10, 18:01 and 23:20 on Saturdays. The return journeys carry on to either Woodcote (142) at 11:17, 13:17, 15:17 and 18:02 or Wallingford (132) at 07:56, 10:17, 12:17, 14:17, 16:17 and 18:02. all services go via Pangbourne, the 132 goes via Upper Basildon, Streatley and Goring and the 142 via Whitchurch.

POSTAL VOTES

You may not be aware of it but you now do not have to give any reason for getting a postal vote. Many people will find postal voting at elections much simpler and less bother than turning out to a polling station. If you would like a form of application then please give me a ring on 0118-942-6999 or e-mail me at john@purley.demon.co.uk. You will need to get your application in soon if it is to apply to the 1st May Local Elections.

COUNCIL TAX

West Berkshire agreed its new Council Tax rates at the end of February. In round terms we will be spending £105.4M on Children and Young People, £26.8M on Community Care and Housing; £24.1M on Environment and Public Protection and £31.6M on other services. In addition we have to fund Magistrates Courts (£204K), Fire Service (£4.8M) and Environment Agency (£867K) and pay £9.9M to Amey for administration. – a total of £203, 758, 615.

The £203M is funded mainly by Income (£59.0M), Non-domestic rates (£43.8M), Government grant (£43.4M) and Balances (£1.84M) At Band D this gives a Council Tax of £987.45 to which must be added the Thames Valley Police rate of £106.24 and parish rates of £34.88 for Purley, £9.61 for Tidmarsh with Sulham, £35.99 for Tilehurst or £35.25 for Pangbourne. The net effect for Purley is a band A rate of £752.38, B: £877.78, C: £1003.18, D: £1128.57, E: £1379.36, F: £1630.16, G: £1880.95 and H: £2257.14.

Incidentally we pay £56M to central government being the business rates collected by West Berkshire. Thus the only out-of district-money is the £43.8 government grant plus the non-domestic rate redistribution of £43.4M less the £56M rate we collect, ie £30.4M. In other words all but just under 15% of our local expenditure is funded locally whereas the government try to persuade you they contribute around 75-80%.

SPEED LIMITS

One of our new residents of Purley Rise is organising a petition to have something done about the continuing speeding traffic on Purley Rise. He has our support – please give him yours.

FLOODING

The council is trying to arrange a public forum at the Barn to discuss the problems we faced during the recent flooding. It will be managed by a professional facilitator and will be based to a large extent upon the responses given to the questionnaire which was circulated around the River Estate recently.

Following the forum a review team will meet at roughly fortnightly intervals to look at various aspects of the incident, First to find out what happened, second to find out what went right and what went wrong and third to investigate changes to procedures and practices to make sure the wrong things don't happen again. While the emphasis will be on Purley the scope will be much wider and will include the questions of River Thames Management and the functioning of our emergency services. Among the agencies that will be questioned are: West Berkshire, The Environment Agency, SEBEV, The Police, The Fire and Rescue Service, The Parish Council, health and social security agencies and local voluntary organisations.

RAILWAY FENCE

Many people are outraged at the galvanised fence along the north side of the railway between Pangbourne and Westbury Lane. We have been making strong representations to Network Rail and at long last they have replied to us. We hope to arrange a site meeting before too long.

SULHAM LANE

Sulham Lane at Briars Close will be closed from 31st March to 2nd May to enable the Environment Agency to install a flood prevention scheme. It will be re-opened temporarily for the Easter weekend

WEB SITE

If you would like to follow the District Notes as they develop and get the latest news why not visit my website:

<http://www.purley.demon.co.uk/update.htm>

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



PURLEY PATHFINDERS

Our last walk in February saw the end of our special 'snowdrop walks'. As we drove in to Ecchinswell, the roadside lined with these pearls of winter gave us a taste of things to come. Although views to Watership Down were obscured by low cloud, we had plenty to see around us.

We made our way along a track to Nuthanger Farm between banks of snowdrops, the white interrupted now and then with colours from primroses and crocuses. On reaching the farm we found its garden buried beneath a snowdrift of thousands of snowdrops – an amazing sight! Down through a woodland strip, where we noticed the promising shoots of wood anemones and bluebells, we arrived at a quaint smallholding from where a wide variety of hens, guinea fowl, ducks and geese tumbled out onto the lane. Soon we were walking within the Sydmonton Court Estate, home to Andrew Lloyd Webber. Passing the immaculate Watership Farm we climbed towards the neat row of Laundry Cottages. After our break we headed for another highlight of this lovely walk, an avenue lined with snowdrops. This splendid sight made a wonderful end to our walk.

On a lovely Spring- like day we climbed up above Hardwick Road to arrive at The Baulk, an impressive house with turrets which make the building resemble a church – a resemblance which, so the story goes, led a young couple to be baulked when arriving at the house hoping to be married there – hence its name. After a pleasant walk through woodland we emerged onto the hillside opposite Purley. Within the wonderful panoramic view we managed to pick out several landmarks over on 'our' side of the river. As we made our way down the hill our view widened to take in more of the river as it flowed beneath the Whitchurch toll bridge. Walking parallel to the river along a pleasant bridleway we eventually arrived at the ancient village of Mapledurham, seemingly standing still in time. The house names spoke volumes, as did the quaint almshouses. We took our break in the churchyard, sandwiched between the Mapledurham Mill and Mapledurham House – a peaceful spot, but the site of much activity in the past when camera crews and clapper boards arrived to film action-packed scenes from eg The Eagles Have Landed and Sharpe. Back to the bridleway we continued until, at Hardwick House, we noted the Ice Houses – another link with the past. Lovely views across the Thames Valley gave a lovely end to our walk.

Soon after leaving Upper Basildon we found ourselves skirting around the old wall of Basildon House. We enjoyed the last of the snowdrops and the first of the spring flowers along the footpath edge. In delightful beech woodland we imagined the scene in a few weeks time when the mass of bluebells covering the woodland floor erupt into a sea of blue.

SPRINGTIME IN THE GARDEN



You are invited to come along to CHERRY ACRE, Purley Village

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

Emerging onto a high path we enjoyed the views across towards the Chiltern Hills, with Gatehampton Farm sitting just above the Thames which flowed under the Brunel Bridge. Dropping down the field, a short walk along a lane, with bleating lambs on each side, took us to a steeply climbing woodland path. Emerging onto playing fields by the village hall, we continued through the village to find the Beehive where we enjoyed lunch.

Our varied walk from Greenham started with us striding out across the reclaimed common with hazy views across to Watership Down. Dropping down through woodland we eventually arrived at the Kennet & Avon Canal. We paused to watch a couple of narrow boats on the sparkling water before walking along the canal path lined with the new shoots of various waterside plants. Our walk continued by water as we skirted the edge of lakes, soon to arrive at Thatcham Nature Discovery Centre. Here we were treated to coffee and homemade cake while relaxing in the sunshine on seats overlooking the busy lake. Dragging ourselves away from this lovely spot we continued on along the canal path for a while before a wooded path took us back up to Greenham Common to end our lovely, interesting walk.

In our next few walks we will be relishing the beauty of the countryside in springtime as daffodil walks lead us on to bluebell walks. If you would like to join us at this wonderful, vibrant time of year then do give me a ring for a programme. We walk on weekday mornings and walks last between 2 – 3 hours. If you would like to see photos taken on the walks then look on the church web site www.stmarythevirgin.fsnet.co.uk and CHOOSE Purley Pathfinders.

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

CAN YOU HELP? SAVE THE CHILDREN WEEK

27 April to 3 May 2003

Are you are able to give up an hour
or two anytime during Save the
Children Week to help with our house
to house collection?

If you can help, please phone:

Beryl Lisk on 0118 984 2744

He died for our sins,
just as
God our Father planned,
in order to rescue us
from this evil world
in which we live.

That is why all glory
belongs to God
through all the ages
of eternity.

Amen.

Gal. 1:4-5



If you've ever twiddled your radio dial and despaired of finding a station that covers local news and items in a way that you'd be interested in, have you ever tuned in to BBC Radio Berkshire?

We're a local station that cares about getting to the stories local people are interested in; and because we're part of the wider BBC, we're also impartial and accurate.

Recently we've covered the issue of rural policing in West Berkshire, the growing trade in stolen dogs in the area, and the confusion over the future of a Kintbury care home.

Now we need your help. We're looking for more local stories from your community; no matter how big or small you think they are. Perhaps you've noticed a change in the local environment, perhaps you've heard something you think others might be interested in too, perhaps you want us to investigate something for you, or warn others of something that's happened to you. Perhaps there's a local character you think would make a good listen, or you've got a good news story others would like to hear. Whatever your story is, we'd like the chance to tell it.

BBC Radio Berkshire has a local reporter in West Berkshire, so if you've got a story; get in touch! Here's how; you can call me, Louise Price on 01635 550374, or e-mail me at louise.price@bbc.co.uk, or drop me a line at Rm 4, 77 London Road, Newbury, RG14 1JN.

Or if you want to publicise a local event on the radio this spring and summer why not e-mail us the details by logging on to our website www.bbc.co.uk/berkshire

One more thing, if you enjoy gardening, then listen out for our special coverage of the RHS Chelsea Flower Show in May. Behind the scenes programming and your chance to win tickets. Don't forget you can listen and take part in our gardening programmes Wednesday from 10.30am and Sunday from 1pm.

You can hear BBC Radio Berkshire on 104.4 FM in West Berkshire.

Louise Price



PROJECT PURLEY

The next meeting of Project Purley will be held at The Barn Goosecroft Lane off Beech Road, at 8pm on April 11th. PLEASE NOTE THE DATE. Christine Milne from Reading University History Library will tell us about the library holdings, the collection strengths, items in the archives, special collections, items of interest to Purley - and how we can use the library.

On February 21st Alan Rosevear gave an illustrated talk on local turnpike roads. He began by showing a map of the Thames area explaining how over thousands of years layer upon layer of footpaths, trackways and roads had built up to the road system we inherit today. Trackways, Roman roads, medieval roads, Saxon bridge crossings and turnpike roads can be plotted along our present day major road systems. In ancient times royalty used regular routes which became thoroughfares. Bridges were vital and were maintained by monastic institutions. This broke down with the dissolution. Later, villagers became responsible for their roads. In the 1600s the economy started to boom and turnpikes became necessary. The first Turnpike Act was passed in 1663. In 1770 the infilling of major routes was started including the road through Purley. As traffic increased the roads deteriorated becoming wider and wider encroaching onto private property.

Turnpike Trustees were appointed to co-ordinate tolls and this financed a source of income to repair damage. In this way the fees would be levied not on the locals but on those who used the road. The tariff of charges for coaches, wagons and droves of cattle and all who used the road was displayed at the toll gates which in general were about 10 miles apart. It was originally thought that the Trustees would operate for 21 years, but this was gradually extended to 180 years. There could be up to 100 trustees for a stretch of road, consisting of local gentry, clergy, entrepreneurs and anyone with local influence. Not all would attend meetings. The Reading Trust meetings were held at The Mitre Inn. Bridges were a separate trust system. Shillingford Bridge was built specifically as part of the Bridges Turnpike Trust. The first bridge was replaced in a second Act in 1826 and is the one we know today.

Wide wheels were preferred as narrow wheels caused more damage and a higher toll was charged. Among exemptions were royalty and beasts involved in ploughing. Nuisances and dangerous practises were forbidden. These included: hanging linen on the side of the road, kite flying and the bleeding or farrying of horses.

In the 1820s Macadam was engaged to deal with the problem of high overhanging hedges which caused problems with lack of light, rainwater and ditches. He dealt with the road surface by making it convex and grading the stone foundations from large at the bottom refining to smaller stones with a fairly fine top. This was the original 'macadamising'.

Large tanker wagons watered the roads twice a day to keep the dust down. The old two wheeled carrier carts created potholes but the new surface allowed for improved and lighter vehicles and this in turn improved the transport of food and also coach services. The day the rail service started was the day the coach service began to die. This was catastrophic for the Toll Trusts. The Victorians regarded the Toll Trusts as hampering free trade and considered that the roads should be paid for through taxes. The ancient thoroughfare from Reading to Pangbourne was called Pangbourne Lane, and the toll gate board for this stretch of the turnpike system is at Reading museum.

This absorbing talk which covered many aspects of transport and travel by road brought the realisation that our present day problems have been visited through the ages and that we are no nearer to solving them.

Rita Denman



FAMILY RAMBLE

I'm pleased to say that the tradition of 'going for a walk' on a Sunday afternoon was proved to not be dead, as nearly 200 people gathered in the sunshine outside the wonderful Black Barn at Rushall Farm. A few couples joined Cilla for a walk beside the River Pang while the rest followed behind me. Children, armed with gingerbread sheep to nibble on the way, skipped and bounced along beside their parents and grandparents. Twisting through lovely woodland we eventually arrived at the Lambing Sheds. Here we were encouraged to cuddle several newborn lambs, squeal with delight at the piglets, and ooh and aah at the calves. We were even lucky enough to witness a lamb being born before it was time to go. Toddlers and the less agile were taken on a tractor/trailer ride around the farm and then back to the Barn. The rest of us continued on an adventurous ramble. The children chose to ignore the 'easy' route, preferring to scale any fallen trees, jump over a stream, and generally run twice as far as the rest of us walked! The woodland floor was covered with the shoots of bluebells, a field was smothered in primroses, and the views across the Pang Valley were wonderful. Everyone worked up quite an appetite which was satisfied back at the Barn with soup, hot dogs and cakes, swilled down with hot and cold drinks. Farmer John made sure everyone had a tractor/trailer ride before wending their way home after a very enjoyable afternoon. £530 was raised on the day, and after a donation to the John Simonds Trust, £480 remained to benefit St Mary's Church. Many thanks to everyone who helped with, and supported this event.

Nicki Woodward

THAMES VALLEY POLICE

My last article for the magazine outlined the following;

- My aim to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour and bring more criminals to justice.
- Thames Valley Police covers three counties, which are divided into ten police areas. West Berkshire police area is divided into three sectors, the Pangbourne sector stretches from Compton to Brimpton, from Streatley to Mortimer, and includes parts of Reading.
- How we provide round-the-clock policing with four shifts, the Community Policing Team and CID.
- The need to prioritise our resources and work with more focus and direction. Police officers have a heavy a case workload reflecting our success in arresting criminals. Some cases require a huge amount of work in relation to investigation and file preparation.

In this issue I'm going to talk about results, anti-social behaviour, the importance of reporting all suspicious behaviour and problems in your community, the Crimestoppers service and how to contact police.

We continue to have great success in apprehending some very active criminals. We have made some excellent arrests for serious assaults, robberies, burglaries and car crime. A large proportion of our crime is committed by travelling criminals from other areas, but let me assure you that the Pangbourne sector is not a soft touch for criminals.

The Community Policing Team is doing an excellent job in dealing with anti-social behaviour. I am not complacent however; it is a priority issue on the sector and will not be tolerated. Although there has been a significant improvement over the last few months, I want to ensure that this is maintained and enhanced throughout the summer months. If you have groups of youths in your locality who make your life a misery it is very important you report the problems. If the problems go unreported it is very difficult to know how we can help.

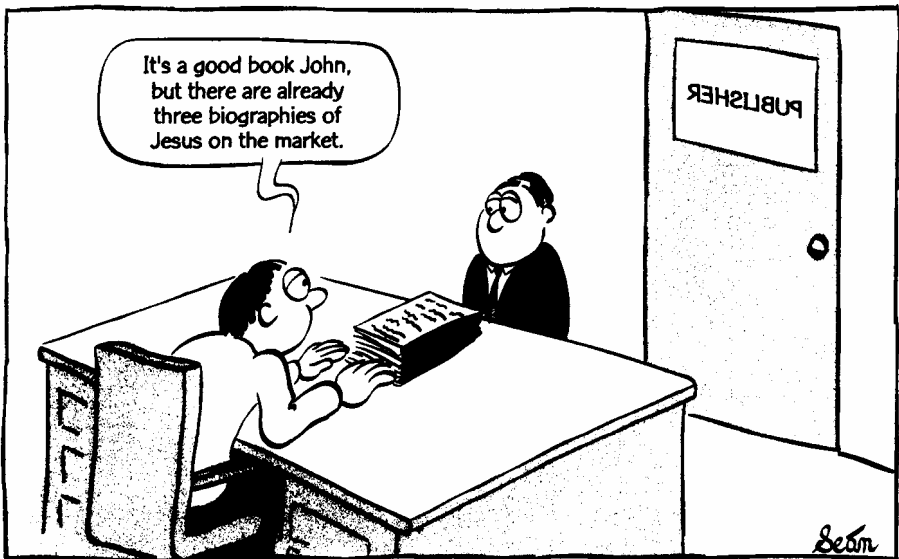
Reporting crime and anti-social behaviour is becoming easier. Thames Valley Police is currently in the process of changing how calls are handled and have recently opened two dedicated call centres for all non-emergency calls. You can contact police on (0118) 954 6000, in an emergency you should call 999.

Another number worth noting is that of Crimestoppers. This organisation helps us enormously by providing a way for people to pass on intelligence to police, anonymously if they wish. 'Intelligence' is information such as who is committing crime, who you believe to be responsible for a particular crime and details of activities such as drug dealing. Members of the local community provide extra eyes and ears that can help to keep criminals on the back foot. Every piece of information is potentially useful. Though it may seem small and insignificant, it may provide us with the missing link. Crimestoppers can be contacted free on 0800 555 111.

So, my message this time is:

- Report crime.
- Report criminals or suspected criminals, anonymously if you wish.
- Report anti-social behaviour.

*Inspector Andy Talbot
Pangbourne Sector*



In the beginning was the word.

John 1, 1

PANG & KENNET VALLEY COUNTRYSIDE PROJECTS

The Friends of the Pang and Kennet Valley Countryside Project has been set up to represent all of the people who care about the countryside in the two valleys. The events below are co-ordinated by The Friends and give you the opportunity to come out on practical tasks, learn new skills, meet new people and, above all, enjoy yourself. The tasks usually begin around 10am and finish by 4pm but you are very welcome to come for as much time as you wish to give during these hours. Please wear suitable footwear and clothing, and bring a packed lunch if you are coming for the full day. Hot drinks are usually provided, as are the necessary tools.

FRIENDS DIARY

Conservation tasks

Tues 15th April	Footpath Work Improve access in the parish by helping to clear encroaching vegetation on its 45 miles of off-road rights of way – but not all of them! Meet at the Black Barn, Rushall Manor Farm* at 10.00 am. Phone 0118 930 5336 for details.	Bucklebury
Tues 13th May	Footpath work Improve access in the parish by helping to clear encroaching vegetation on its 45 miles of off-road rights of way – but not all of them! Meet at the Black Barn, Rushall Manor Farm* at 10.00 am. Phone 0118 930 5336 for details.	Bucklebury
Tues 17th June	Meadow Management Spend the day cutting back invasive bracken to maintain a wildflower meadow. Meet at Black Barn, Rushall Manor Farm* at 10.00am or phone the project office for details of meeting on site. Phone 0118 930 5336 for details.	Leyfield Meadow
Sun 15th June 10am	River Work This is an opportunity to help to pull invasive thistles at Eling Meadows as part of the Pang Restoration Project and a chance to see what effect the demonstration fence is having. Meet at the Black Barn, Rushall Manor Farm* at 10.00 am. Phone 0118 930 5336 for details.	Eling
Tues 24th June	Footpath Work Improve access in the parish by helping to clear encroaching vegetation on its 45 miles of off-road rights of way – but not all of them! Meet at the Black Barn, Rushall Manor Farm* at 10.00 am. Phone 0118 930 5336 for details.	Bucklebury

*The Black Barn is situated off Back Lane between Stanford Dingley and Bradfield, to the west of Scratchface Lane (Grid ref. SU 583723).

Walks and Events

Sat 26th/ Sun 27th April 11.00am – 6.00pm

Bradfield

Bluebell Weekend: Come and enjoy the glorious woods full of bluebells, wood anemones, primroses and violets. The woodland at Rushall Farm, Bradfield will be open to the public for the annual bluebell weekend from 11.00am – 6.00pm. Self guided walks will be signposted and refreshments will be available. A donation of £2.00 per adult and £1.00 per child is invited in aid of Multiple Sclerosis. Woodlands at Rushall Manor Farm*.

Sunday 4 May 11.00am – 4.00pm

Ashampstead

Walk in an ancient landscape: Join Dick Greenaway on a five mile guided walk around Ashampstead parish. The walk will take in many ancient features of the landscape including coppiced woodland, bluebells and other wildlife and historical features. Please bring a picnic lunch. Numbers are limited so booking is essential on this walk - ring the office on 0118 930 5336. Meet at Childs Court Farm, off the Ashampstead Road between Bradfield and Yattendon. Grid ref: SU 753 575.

Bank Holiday Monday 5 May 5.30am!!

Pangbourne

Dawn Chorus: An opportunity to rise with the larks and join John Lerpiniere at the BBOWT nature reserve Moor Copse, to listen to the morning bird song. To book a place call the office on 0118 930 5336 Meet at Moor Copse car park Grid ref SU633738 off the A340.

Tue 17th June 6pm approx 1.5 hrs

Beenham

Waste not Want not: Come and discover what happens to your recycled household waste and join Toni Robinson and Steve Fisher on an informative walk/talk and see how this landfill site is managed and take a look at the material recovery unit and composting trials. Meet at Grundons Waste Management Site, Grange Lane, Beenham . Phone 0118 930 5336 for details.

Thu 26th June 6pm approx 2 hrs

Hungerford

Wildflower Walk: Come for an evening walk and see the wildflower meadows at Bill Acworth's. Little Hidden Farm. Wildflower meadows have been planted here with great success, fields having over 40 species of flower! Meet at the Farm off the A338 between J14 (M4) and Hungerford. Grid ref SU 353713. Phone 0118 930 5336 for details.

Saturday 10th May 7pm

Upper Bucklebury

Quiz Evening: Come and test your memory and pit your wits against other teams at the 'Friends' Quiz evening Upper Bucklebury Memorial hall. Tickets £10 per person to include supper. Cash Bar, Raffle and Prizes. Tickets available from Project Office Tel. 0118 930 5336. Grid ref SU 545 684

Saturday 14th June Brockhurst School

Frilsham

Clay Pigeon Shoot and Hog Roast

Further details available soon from the Project Office Tel. 0118 930 5336

PURLEY TOTS TODDLER GROUP

It has been several months since we last put an update about the group in the Parish News, but certainly not through lack of activities, possibly the opposite, there has been so much going on!

Both the Tuesday & Wednesday session are doing well, however we do have vacancies on the Tuesday.

Over the last 12 months Purley Tots has seen a few changes, most notably with the change in paid helpers, and a new Committee. I hope the changes will benefit all who attend & any prospective new members.

Back in the summer we had a very successful day out to Bucklebury Farm, all the children enjoyed the animals & the tractor ride; we even managed to "dodge" the rain for our picnic lunch.

October was a very busy month at Purley Tots, we had our annual visit to Home Farm, to see the calves & hens & Tim gave us all a ride on the tractor. The biscuits & cakes went down very well with both the Mums & Children & once again the sun was shining!! Our Thanks go to Tim & Vicky Metcalf for their hospitality & we all look forward to going again this year. Our Autumn Fayre was also held, which I believe must be the best we have had for several years, especially looking at the excellent funds raised. This has allowed purchasing of some new toys & musical instruments plus providing all the food & presents for our Christmas Party. This again was very enjoyable with both sessions joining together for games, hat making, biscuit decorating & not forgetting our visit from Santa and a photo for everyone!!

On a more recent note we would like to thank Nikki Woodward & the rest of the people who organised the trip to Rushall Farm in March. Many families from Purley Tots went along & we all had a very enjoyable afternoon & once again we took the sunshine with us!

We are all looking forward to many more fun filled months ahead in 2003.

If anyone has a child or cares for one aged 0-3 yrs & would like to join the fun & make some new friends then please contact either Judie Pickering on 0118 901 2712 or Kathryn Wenczek on 0118 942 2434.

*Judie Pickering
Chairperson*

Q. How would you feel if you crossed a fruit with a vegetable?

A. Melon-cauli!

Angela Webb

PURLEY HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

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 2.30p.m. until 4p.m. Even if you are unable to enter, please come along to support the participants.

PLANT SALE

Our annual plant sale will be held in the Purley Memorial Hall car park on Saturday, 17 May starting at 9.30 a.m. until 11.30 (approx). The plants are raised professionally and will include summer bedding plants and a selection of other plants. If you would prefer to buy your plants rather than grow your own, this is an opportunity for you to support the Society as the Sale will be run by volunteers. Please do come along.

CLEMATIS GARDEN, SHILLINGFORD

We have made provisional arrangements to visit Mr. Michael Brown's garden one evening during the week commencing 23-28 June or 7-12 July (own transport to be provided). The admission charge to the garden will be £2 per person. If you are interested, could you please put your name down on the list at the Trading Shed or contact Mr J. Armstrong (tel. 942 1645) as soon as possible.

TRADING

The Trading Shed in the Memorial Hall car park is open from 10a.m. until 11a.m. on Saturdays and Sundays until the end of October. The annual subscription is still only £1, so could you please renew your subscription as soon as possible if you have not already done so. New members will always receive a warm welcome.

Marion Dabbs
9422349

LAUGHLINES

The vicar called to see one of the older parishioners in the parish one morning.

"Have you ever asked yourself 'Why am I here?' " he asked.

"Yes, many times vicar, when I get to the top of the stairs!"

Irene Whitehead

PURLEY W.I.

The meeting started somewhat differently this month; the daughter of one of our members works at a local vet and thought we'd like the company of three very shy but orphaned hedgehogs. She rears them on goat's milk and tinned cat food (never cow's milk) and provides them with much loving care before they are released into the wild. We loved it!

Plans are being made to provide teas for a visiting choir from Bristol who are pairing up with the South Chiltern Choral Society for their March concert of Verdi's Requiem, plus we are saving our unwanted goods to sell at the Pangbourne June Fete.

As the evening was our Annual General Meeting we summed up our yearly activities and speakers. We felt the year had been enlightening and were happy to reminisce on our Jubilee celebrations. It's fair to say, we do enjoy our extra functions and throw ourselves into them with great gusto. Thanks were expressed to the running of the group and we're delighted our President was back from her long awaited hip op. Extra appreciation was given to our treasurer – How does she balance the books? - Plus our friend in the background Mr Critchell, our auditor. So thanks to all the committee but also to our very happy members, be they old or new. Great to have your support!

Points from throughout the year were calculated and prizes, plates and cups were presented.

Flower competition	1 st Sybil Pryor
	2 nd Edna Bint
	3 rd Sylvia Conquest

Monthly competition	1 st Edna Bint
(usually teamed up with	2 nd Shirley Lewis
the speaker)	3 rd Kath Hodge, Pam Gilham, Sylvia Conquest

When it came to changing the committee it was "no change" so we finished with a hectic Beetle Drive and perhaps next time we play this game we should sound proof the hall, as we do get excited!

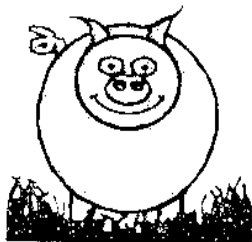
Flower competition	1 st Sylvia Conquest
	2 nd Dorothy Viljoen

April's meeting: Mrs Franklin – Women at work through the Ages
Competition: Easter Eggs Stall: Goods – white, yellow and green

The meeting takes place at Purley Memorial Hall, Glebe Road on
Wednesday 9 April 7:30pm - **Visitors Welcome**

Sylvia Conquest
941 1936

**" A FUN DAY OUT FOR
ALL WALKS OF LIFE:
BERKSHIRE COUNTRY FAYRE
SUNDAY 18TH MAY 2003**



ENGLEFIELD, A4, THEALE, Nr READING

BOZO AND ZIZI – with Freddie the Fire Engine

- | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|
| • Shetland Pony Grand National | * Food Fayre |
| • Kennett Gun Dog Display | * Licensed Bar |
| • Children's Farmyard | * Exhibition Tent |
| • Countryside Area | * YFC Competitions |
| • Craft Exhibition | * Birds of Prey |
| • Trade Stands | * Exemption Dog Show |
| • Fun Fair | * Helicopter Rides |
| • Archery | * Vintage Machinery |



9.00am until 5pm, Sunday 18th May 2003

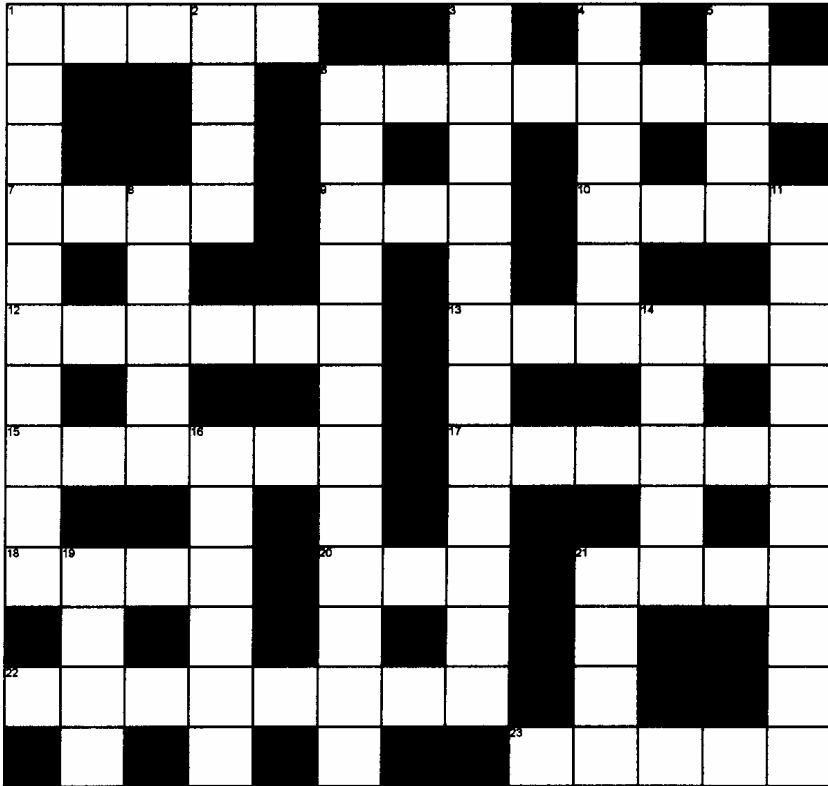
FREE Car Parking and Dogs on leads are welcome!

Adults £4, Children (3-12yrs) & OAP's £2, Family Ticket £10

**For further information please call
07939 504145 or 0118 9744822**

**Organisers: BERKSHIRE FEDERATION OF YOUNG FARMERS CLUBS.
Charity Number 300104.**

HOLY WEEK CROSSWORD



Across

- 1 Official of a Presbyterian church or the early Christian church (5)
- 6 Our God (8)
- 7 Tabernacle (4)
- 9 In music, the fifth note of the scale (3)
- 10 Sister of your mother or father (4)
- 12 Member of the Society of Friends (6)
- 13 Place of worship (6)
- 15 To inflict retribution (6)
- 17 To summon to return to a place (6)
- 18 Paradise garden of Adam and Eve (4)
- 20 Small child (3)
- 21 Mountain (4)
- 22 Spiritual (8)
- 23 This made up Christ's crown on Good Friday (5)

Down

- 1 What happened when Jesus on the cross yielded up the ghost (10)
- 2 Direction in which a church usually faces (4)
- 3 Pilate's judgement place, called in Hebrew Gabbatha (12)
- 4 Not impartial (6)
- 5 To knock senseless (4)
- 6 Christ's rising from the dead (12)
- 8 Translator of the hymn All Glory Laud And Honour often sung on Palm Sunday (5)
- 11 Person who studies Christianity (10)
- 14 Icon (5)
- 16 Papal ambassador (6)
- 19 Medical substance (4)
- 21 German composer of St Matthew and St John Passions (4)

Michael Dawney

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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