

PURLEY PARISH NEWS

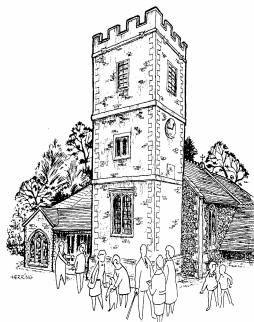
FEBRUARY 2004

35p

For the Church & Community of
PURLEY ON THAMES

ST. MARY THE VIRGIN

PURLEY ON THAMES



RECTOR

Rev. Roger B. Howell
The Rectory, 1 Westridge Avenue
Purley on Thames
Tel: 0118 941 7727
Email: rbh@bradean.fsnet.co.uk

CURATE

Rev. Jean Rothery
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Tel: 0118 984 3625

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Rev. Andrew Mackie
12 Church Mews
Purley on Thames
Tel: 0118 941 7170

CHURCHWARDENS

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

CHURCH HALL BOOKINGS

Lorna Herring
Tel: 0118 942 1547

BAPTISMS, WEDDINGS AND FUNERALS

All enquiries should be made to the Rector

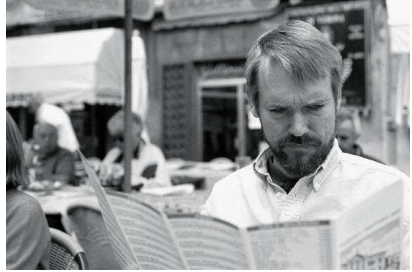
www.stmarythevirgin.fsnet.co.uk

FROM THE RECTOR

Dear Friends,

TO EAT OR NOT TO EAT!

How do you decide what you will eat? Of course personal preference will play a large part in making such decisions. Some people are allergic to certain foods and sensibly avoid them.



Thousands of folk are seeking to lose weight and so aim to steer clear of foods which produce weight-gain. There is much concern about the way food is produced, and so some shoppers make for organic vegetables and fruit in the supermarkets.

On a frequent basis the news media carry reports about food scares – items which we are urged to be aware of, and avoid for the sake of health. At the time of writing, the latest scare concerns Scottish farmed salmon, which it was said contains a high percentage of carcinogenic chemicals, and which it would be unwise to eat more than six times a year. In the same week one newspaper carried articles about possible dangers in other foods. In fact there are often similar articles on the subject – one week this is to be avoided, the next something else, and later on an “expert” refutes the previous findings and says those things are not only not dangerous, but probably good for you. How did you react to the scare about salmon? Some people may have emptied their freezers of it; the supermarkets promptly reduced the price of their stocks; and no doubt some folk made a bee-line for the shelf to buy several more packets! Food plays a very important part in our lives each day, its preparation occupies a good deal of time – for some at least, – and its eating considerably less!

I don't know who it was, but I seem to recall someone saying “You are what you eat.” Jesus said, “Man cannot live on bread alone.” Of course food is essential for our physical bodies – without it we cannot survive for long. But there is more to life than the physical. Here and now is very important – a wonderful gift. But we are not only made for the here and now. There is also the perspective of eternity to be reckoned with. Again it was Jesus who said, “Life is much more important than food, ...”

In all probability you spend a lot of time thinking about food – working for it, buying it, preparing it etc., but how much time do you give to thinking about the life Jesus spoke of, about His life laid down in costly sacrifice? What God offers to us through His Son Jesus is not subject to price-rises and health-scares like so many foodstuffs today. In fact it costs us nothing at all. It is free for the asking because He paid for it in full. His gift has no hidden dangers, for it provides a security nothing else can give – the

security of knowing that whatever happens, God is there and will never fail or forsake us.

There is a lot of concern about obesity these days – especially in children. Thousands of pounds are spent each day on “junk food” – a large factor in weight-gain. Slimming down is all very well and perhaps necessary, but it is time to get rid of other things which hang around life and get in the way of the most important discovery of all – that in Jesus, God gives a satisfaction which no amount of food delicacies can ever give.

How about changing your diet?

Roger Howell

LENT MEETINGS

St. Mary’s will be having a series of Lent meetings this year beginning on Ash Wednesday 25 February at 8:00pm with a service of Holy Communion, and concluding on Easter Sunday evening.

FROM TEMPLE TO EMPTY TOMB

Ash Wednesday 25 Feb	8:00 p.m.	Cleansing the Temple Holy Communion
Tuesday 2 March	"	Jesus the Servant
Tuesday 9 March	"	Jesus at prayer
Wednesday 17 March	"	Jesus in Gethsemane
Wednesday 24 March	"	Peter denies Jesus
Wednesday 31 March	"	Jesus before Pilate
Maundy Thursday 8 April	7:30 p.m.	The Last Supper A Supper with Communion
Good Friday 9 April	2:00 p.m.	The Last Hour
Easter Day 11 April	6:00 p.m.	The Resurrection Songs of Praise

Full details available from the church

All are welcome!

CHURCH SERVICES

8 Feb	9:30 a.m. 11:15 a.m.	Family Worship Holy Communion
15 Feb	9:30 a.m. 11:15 a.m. 6:00 p.m.	Family Communion with the laying on of hands Morning Worship Evening Worship
22 Feb	9:30 a.m. 11:15 a.m.	Family Worship Holy Communion
25 Feb Ash Wednesday	8:00 p.m.	Holy Communion
29 Feb	9:30 a.m. 11:15 a.m. 6:00 p.m.	Family Worship Holy Communion Deanery United Service
7 Mar	9:30 a.m. 11:15 a.m. 6:00 p.m.	Family Worship Holy Communion Holy Communion

CHRISTIAN MINISTRY OF HEALING

We continue to have the laying on of hands for healing on a monthly basis at St. Mary's. The next service will be on Sunday 15 February at 9:30 a.m. We are always willing to pray for those in need - please let us know, and we will visit you at home or you can come to church on one of these Sundays, or on any other Sunday.

REVISION OF CHURCH ELECTORAL ROLL

The Electoral Roll is the official list of members of St. Mary's Church. This year we shall be revising this list between the following dates: 1 February and 7 March.

Application forms are available from Matthew Slingsby (961 5585) or Roger Howell (941 7727).

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) for St. Mary's Church will be held on Tuesday 30 March at 8:00 p.m. in the church. All are welcome to attend this, but you have to be on the Electoral Roll to take part in any voting required.

BISHOP OF READING

It has been announced from 10 Downing Street [6 Jan] that the Queen has approved the nomination of The Revd Canon Stephen Cottrell, as the next Bishop of Reading.

Since 2001 Stephen Cottrell has been Canon Pastor and Vice Dean of Peterborough Cathedral, where he has been responsible for the pastoral care and faith development of the congregation, and the Cathedral's links with the local community.

Stephen was ordained in 1984, having trained for ministry at St Stephen's House in Oxford. He served his title in the Southwark diocese at Christ Church & St Paul's Forest Hill where he began leading parish missions and teaching and writing about evangelism, particularly from a catholic perspective. After this he was a Parish Priest of St Wilfrid's, Parklands, a small council estate parish on the edge of Chichester, and Assistant Director of Pastoral Studies at Chichester Theological College.

In 1993 he became Diocesan Missioner for the missionary diocese of Wakefield. It was here that he was part of a group that wrote and developed the Emmaus programme for evangelism, nurture and discipleship. This is used by about 3000 churches in Britain, and also around the world, where it has been translated into several languages. In 1997 he began working for Springboard, the Archbishop of Canterbury and York's initiative for evangelism.

Stephen is on the Governing Body and is a founder member of the College of Evangelists. He has served on the Church of England's Mission, Renewal and Evangelism committee. He has been a member of the Advisory group for Anglican Church Planting Initiatives, and remains an Associate Missioner with Springboard and a member of the Springboard Executive. Stephen is also a member of the Society of Catholic Priests, a group of clergy committed to evangelism, and a member of Affirming Catholicism.

He was born and brought up in Essex. Before ordination he lived in South London, working in the film industry, and for a year at St Christopher's Hospice in Sydenham. Along with the growth and renewal experienced in Chichester, and working across traditions in Wakefield and with Springboard, his work at St Christopher's is the other great influence on his ministry.

Stephen's interests are writing, reading, cooking and music. He is married to Rebecca, who is a potter, and also works part time as a Learning Support Assistant in a secondary school. They have three lively boys - Joseph who is 13, Benjamin, aged 10, and Samuel, 8.

Stephen has written widely about evangelism, the work of initiation and spirituality, and has just published, the Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent book for 2004, *I thirst* (Zondervan). This is a book about the cross.

On learning of his nomination, he said: "I am looking forward to becoming the next Bishop of Reading with a mixture of excitement and trepidation. I hope to be a Bishop whose ministry is based upon the apostolic call to live and share the gospel".

"I believe my work in mission and evangelism has prepared me well for the challenges facing the church in this new century. I hope and pray that my love for and understanding of the different traditions of the Church of England will enable me to be a focus for unity in the Reading Episcopal area. I have always worked in the church as a Pastor and an Evangelist: I believe that these must also be at the heart of the ministry of a Bishop".

He asks that the clergy and people of Berkshire will begin praying for him and his family as they prepare for the move, seek to sort out schools for the children, and begin to focus priorities for this new chapter in ministry. He also wants to assure everyone in the churches of the Berkshire area that he is already praying for them.

His consecration will be on 4 May 2004.

DEANERY NEWS

A new Priest-in-Charge has been appointed for the parishes of Basildon, Aldworth and Ashampstead. He is Revd Alan Hogarth from Beckington in the Diocese of Bath and Wells. His Licensing Service will be held on Thursday 4 March – conducted by the Bishop of Oxford.

Deanery Task Force event - Thursday 19 February at 8:00 p.m. at St. Mary's Church, Purley. Revd Jean Rothery will be speaking on Healing.

Deanery United Service – Sunday 29 February at 6-00pm at St. Mary's Church Purley. This is the first in a new series of shared worship on the fifth Sunday of the month. Preachers will be speaking about favourite Bible passages.

WHERE MAY US WALK?![†]

Since the evening before Christmas when a crowd of us walked round part of Purley singing Christmas Carols, several people have said that they wished we had sung in their street. Would people like to see this as a regular Christmas activity? Where would they like singers to go? Do let us know what you think, and we can take your thoughts into account when considering what to do for Christmas 2004.

Jacky Brown: jrbcommunicating@clara.co.uk

Sally Robertson: sallyrobertson@waitrose.com (0118 962 5978)

[†] Sorry about the pun! Jacky said she couldn't think of a catchy title and I just couldn't resist it! - Matthew



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for Third World
Producers

MARK THE 10th and choose a TASTE FOR LIFE

FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT 1-14 March 2004

**Come to St Mary's Church Hall
on Friday 5th March 2004**

9.30 – 11.30 *Coffee Time*

Drop in and join us for fairly traded coffee, tea, snacks...

4.00 – 6.00 *Chocolate Time*

Kids fairly traded teatime.

TICKETS £2 each

8.30 – 10.00 *Coffee Farmer Supper Time*

Late fairly traded supper with chocolate too!

TICKETS £5 each

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM:

Pam & Matthew Slingsby

9615585

Roger Howell

9417727

Sally Robertson

9625978

All profits from these events to Action Aid

LOCAL VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Fire Victim Support – helping families and individuals made homeless by fire or flood in Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire

Family disaster can strike at any time – but perhaps the effects of fire or flood can be the worst.

The Red Cross Fire Victim Support vehicle, called out by the local Fire Service, will arrive at an incident soon after the Fire Fighters. It carries a wide variety of equipment, including Hot and Cold drinks, clothing for all ages and any item a destitute, homeless family might require, including their pets. It is warm, friendly and equipped with a phone, shower and toilet and the crew is trained to advise on insurance, social services and local accommodation.

The Red Cross FVS service provides the immediate support necessary for a family traumatised by the loss of their accommodation. Even the family dog will be cared for!

If you are interested in joining this important service please telephone Tricia Earp on 01235 552685 or write to her at BRCS Colwell Drive, Abingdon OX14 1AU.

KINGDOM COME: THE LIFE OF CHRIST

PERFORMED BY ERIC PETROSSIAN

Saturday 15 May at 7:30 p.m.

Combining all four Gospels, one actor brings the story alive and plays over 30 different characters.

For *Kingdom Come: The Life of Christ*, Eric brings together his success of performing one-man plays, his experience on the stand-up comedy circuit and his faith to produce a dramatisation of the gospels that is accessible, enjoyable and moving for Christians and non-Christians alike.

"Tremendous... An excellent, lively and professional performance that really brings the Bible to life." - Revd Alex Afriyie, Moderator of Churches Together in Acton and Senior Pastor of London Network Church

"A tour de force. The performance has pace, humour, sensitivity and Eric has an intimate understanding of what the gospel story is telling us. It is a rare opportunity to see and hear the complete gospel on one unique occasion which is not to be missed." - Revd Ken Tombs, St Giles Church, Ickenham

Eric Petrossian trained as an actor at degree level at Trinity College, University of Wales. In 1998, after being spotted on stage by talent scouts, he was chosen to represent the country at the International Thespis Festival in Jerusalem, a festival of one-man plays. This was a double honour as it was the first year that anyone from the UK had been invited to perform there. At the festival, Eric performed a one-man play, *Harry's Christmas* by Steven Berkoff, to a packed crowd - selling more tickets than any other play at the festival.

Eric also has a successful background in stand-up comedy. He has performed on Carlton Television's *Net.Comedy* and Radio 5's *Sunday Service*. He has also performed live at such prestigious venues as the Comedy Store, the Hackney Empire, Ealing Studios, as well as the Gilded Balloon Theatre at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival - where he appeared in the live Grand Final of Channel 4's *So You Think You're Funny Stand-Up Awards*.

He also made it to the regional finals of *BBC New Talent 2000*, which was televised by the BBC.

Further details to follow soon.

MESSAGE FROM HOME FARM

Well it's official. Latest figures show that British farming is on the up with every sector making increased profits, except one. You guessed ... Dairy farming. In the last few years over half of the dairy farmers in Berkshire have given up. Just before Christmas the latest casualty, well-known local farmer, Lord Lloyd Webber, held a dispersal sale for his superb herd at Watership Down. Whatever will he do now?!

The contrast of working on the farm to putting on a clean shirt and swooning around the luxurious offices at West Berks has been a revelation. Who could honestly say that they would prefer to milk cows at 5.30, on these cold, damp mornings with cows intent on dumping something unmentionable on your head, to going to 'work' (slight exaggeration) in the warm, sumptuous Council Offices in Newbury.

Yet even with these thoughts in mind and after reading '*The Vision of Purley in 2028*' (wonderful article), with the thought of the '*Thames Experience Park*', I have no intention of selling my cows (at least not this year). The reason is simple, after every winter comes spring followed by summer, and to me the thought of working in an office on a beautiful summer day fills me with horror. The only bit I would like to see change is the reward. When I learn of the scale of salaries that those working at West Berks receive, it fills me with awe knowing that we will have to meet the bill.

So, 2004 will see me out with my wooden spoon, stirring as much as usual and hopefully reporting, in a lighthearted way, anything of interest. So on behalf of Vicky and my family may I wish you all a happy and prosperous new year. We will certainly need a prosperous one, as the rise in Council Tax, I fear, will upset most of us.

Tim Metcalfe
Parish and District Councillor

PURLEY ON THAMES PARISH COUNCIL

Although West Berkshire Council did not agree to place the Denefield campus proposal on the agenda for the Eastern Area Forum meeting on 20 January they did ensure that officers were available to answer appropriate questions. They have advised the Parish Council that a decision on government funding for this proposal has not yet been received but have promised to arrange public meetings should the scheme gain approval.

The Parish Council continue to make their observations on the various planning development applications in Long Lane and have again called for a review of this area as a matter of urgency. Parishioners may be

interested to note that copies of plans can now be viewed in the Pangbourne Library during the normal opening hours.

Streetcare can now arrange for old cars to be collected and disposed of and further information can be found on the West Berkshire website.

The year long deliberations of the Flood Review Team (comprising the District Council, Parish Council, Environment Agency & local residents) has culminated in the publishing of a REPORT on the flooding events of January 2003 which was the subject of a press launch at the Parish Office on 20 January and has been widely reported in the media. Copies of the report may be obtained from the office and a summary will be delivered to all affected properties. The report includes a number of recommendations for the future and debunks some of the myths over the cause of the flooding. It concludes that many of the problems were caused by poor communications and the Parish Council will consider the implications in their budgeting process. Copies of the report will also be found on the West Berkshire website.

In welcoming the report at the press launch the Parish Council Chairman, David Betts, said:

“We are pleased that the panel has completed its work and are confident that this report goes a long way towards addressing the concerns which have been raised

“We recognise and accept that the Parish Council was not as well prepared as it could have been for the events of last winter and are acting to implement the recommendations of the report and to play an active role in the Purley Flood Emergency Plan (FERP).

“In particular, we are working closely with the volunteer flood wardens, the Environment Agency, West Berkshire District Council and others to improve communications during any future emergency. As part of our current budget process we plan to make funds available during 2004/2005 to equip the Parish Office to function as a forward communication centre.”

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

UPDATE ON VILLAGE PLAN

Work is progressing on finalising the questionnaire that will go to all households in the village to ask them about their views on the future of Purley on Thames. This will provide a clear picture of what local people think about services, amenities and development which will then form the basis of the plan. Our aim is to distribute the questionnaire just before Easter. Volunteers have been enlisted to help deliver and collect the questionnaire from each house.

We are though still on the lookout for anyone who has IT skills or who can help with the analysis of the questionnaire returns and help write the plan. Please contact Richard MacDonald (0118 942 6056); Tim Whitaker (0118 984 5553) or Penny Williams (0118 941 1310) if you think you can help.

SPRINGTIME IN THE GARDEN AT CHERRY ACRE

Come for a browse around the garden to see the spring blossom, and the results of planting thousands of spring bulbs over two successive autumns. Afterwards, relax with a cup of tea and a slice of cake. There will also be a plant stall to tempt you.

**DATES :- Friday 2 April 11:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
 Sunday 3 April 1:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.**

All Proceeds to St Mary's Church.

*Nicki Woodward
984 1919*

PIKESHAW

Do you know and use Pikeshaw? Maybe you use it for walking the dog or just to saunter through the trees, to get away from it all?

Pikeshaw is an unexpected patch of wild land amongst the houses near Knowsley Road. It is a flavour of the countryside in the middle of the built up area on the edge of Purley.

The parish council is looking at what its future should be and how it might be managed. Should it remain a wild place? How would you like to see it change or develop?

If you have a view on Pikeshaw please come to a meeting on 17 February. The meeting will start at 8 p.m. at The Barn, Goosecroft Lane (off Beech Road). Come along and contribute your ideas on how to make Pikeshaw more of a local amenity.

WEST BERKSHIRE COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

If you receive health care from Newbury Hospital rather than RBH/Battle then you may like to know that facilities at Newbury and Sandleford hospitals will be moving to the new West Berkshire Community Hospital over the last weekend in February.

There are two entrances to the hospital. People approaching from Purley will need to use the entrance in Turnpike Road as the entrance on the A4 is accessible from the Newbury direction only.

Contact numbers: Tel (01635) 273300 Fax (01635) 273306

PURLEY HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY



A.G.M.

The 26th Annual General Meeting will be held in the Purley Memorial Hall on Wednesday 18th February, commencing at 7:45 p.m.

It will be followed by a talk by Mr. David Penny from the Berkshire College of Agriculture. David has been very involved in the designing of their Show Gardens at the R.H.S. Shows for quite a few years and regularly broadcasts on Radio Berkshire's Garden programme giving expert advice to solve our gardening problems. His talk will be "Year-round colour and interest in your garden". Members are reminded that any nomination for election as an Officer or Committee Member must be made in writing to the Secretary, Mrs. P. Brightwell, 99 Devonshire Gardens, Tilehurst, RG31 6FF by 11th February.

TALK

On Wednesday, 17th March, Mrs. E. Farrar will give a talk on "Learning from Ones Mistakes". This will take place in Purley Memorial Hall at 8 p.m.

SPRING SHOW

This will take place on Saturday, 3rd April in Purley Memorial Hall.

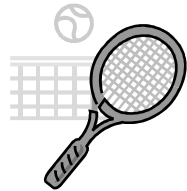
TRADING

The Trading Store will be open each Saturday and Sunday between 10 a.m. and 11 a.m. until the last Sunday in October. Membership of the Society for 2004 is now £1.50 and subscriptions can be renewed at the Trading Shed.

Marion Dabbs
942 2349

PURLEY (BERKS) TENNIS CLUB

COURT AVAILABILITY – CLUB SESSIONS



- Wednesday afternoons Club session 1.30 pm until dark (all through the year)
- Saturday mornings 10.30 am - Club session for adults and older juniors are continuing throughout the winter. If you fancy getting fitter after an indulgent Christmas then tennis is a fun and sociable way to do so.
- Informal free winter coaching for juniors continues on the first Saturday of the month from 9.30 to 10.30 am. For further information ring Colin Moses on 0118 984 5429. If in doubt regarding the weather then ring first to confirm.

The Berkshire Winter 2003/04 Leagues for men, ladies and juniors is nearing an end with the club languishing mid table for both ladies and men's first teams. However, the men's 2nd team are proudly at the top of their league and two successive mixed doubles wins should see the mixed team heading up the table.

Plans are underway for the forthcoming summer season with plans for an open day in mid April and many more tournaments and social events so please watch this space.

For membership enquiries please contact:

Colin Moses (Chairman) 0118 984 5429;

Judy or Martin Dickins (Membership Secretaries) 0118 941 2399

New members are **very** welcome with now being a perfect time to take up a new sport.

Bev Mackenzie

PROJECT PURLEY

The next meeting of Project Purley will be held at The Barn, Goosecroft Lane, on February 20th at 8 p.m. There will be a talk on the St John Family, Lords of the Manor of Purley Magna, presented by Jean Debney and Rita Denman.

On December 12th Val and Rick Jones kindly hosted the society Christmas Social Evening at the Gatehouse. Members enjoyed the traditional Christmas fare and mulled wine in a relaxed atmosphere. A picture caption competition provided a great deal of amusement. It is a pleasure to be able to celebrate in this historic house and thanks are extended to Val and Rick for their warm welcome.

Rita Denman



PURLEY ON THAMES CC PRE 2004 TRAINING FOR ALL AGES

Pre-season nets & training sessions for all ages (from 7 years to Adults) will commence from February 2004 onwards at Bradfield College and Denefield School.

Starters (boys & girls aged 7 to under 10), Boys Under 11's and 13's and Girls (10 onwards) will all have sessions at Denefield School on Sunday afternoon/evenings starting on the 15th February and running through to the start of the cricket season.

Under 15's, 17's and Adults Net sessions will commence at Bradfield College Sports Complex on Sunday February 8th and run through to mid April ready for the start of the cricket season.

All Sessions will be Supervised and run by Qualified Coaches.

Purley on Thames CC is a progressive Club offering excellent facilities to play competitive and friendly cricket, come along and join us.

Newcomers of all ages welcome.

For further information please contact Martin Bishop, (Club Chairman) on 0118 945 3117, or look at the club website:

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



Has anyone a Windows 98 for dummies book I could borrow or buy please?

Tel: 0118 942 3610

Thank you.

Word-processor – Brother LW-840ic

Free to a good home.

Tel: 0118 984 2989





PURLEY PATHFINDERS

A "Happy New Year" to all Purley magazine readers. I wonder if you made any New Year Resolutions this year. Perhaps some of you are determined to get fitter in 2004? If so, what better way to workout than by walking in our lovely countryside with a group of the friendliest ladies around! The 'feel good factor' experienced on our walks will certainly put a spring in your step, and hopefully, the only aches you will suffer will be from aching sides from the laughter which can often be heard coming from our merry throng! We have an exciting programme planned for 2004 with a running theme, (excuse the pun!), of The River Thames, from the Source to the Sea. On our weekly walks we will be walking as much of the Thames Path as we can within reasonable distance of Purley.

Throughout the seasons we have our 'Specials' and the Springtime Special will be a coach trip to the Cotswolds where we will walk to the official Source of the Thames. Then we will walk the riverbanks near Lechlade to find the First Lock on the Thames, and the First Navigable Point of the river, and the statue of 'Old Father Thames' himself, before finishing the



Purley Players CAPER at the OK CORRAL

St Mary's Church Hall, Purley on Thames

Wednesday 10 March 2004

until

Saturday 13 March 2004

all performances will commence at 8.00 pm

Tickets: £6 for Adults and

£4 for Senior Citizens and Children

Tickets will be reduced for the Wednesday performance

PROCEEDS IN SUPPORT OF PURLEY CHURCH OF ENGLAND INFANT SCHOOL

Box Office Opens on Monday 9 February 2004

Telephone Nos:

0118 984 2563, 0118 962 5760 and 0118 941 3259



day off with a Cotswold Cream Tea! Our Summertime Special will find us at the 'sea end' of the Thames as we take a boat trip along the river, passing through the Thames Barrier to 'the sea', before walking in Greenwich Park. We plan to spend our fifth birthday by the Thames with a visit to Clivedon. Well, these are just some of the pleasures to come. If you would like to join us this year then do ring for a programme.

We ended our autumn walks in the Chilterns, and after a very wet, gloomy weekend our spirits were lifted as we set off from Checkendon on a dry, sunny morning. Our route took us through the lovely Ipsden Wood, part of the Chiltern Forest. The fallen leaves had left the beech trees to show off their skeleton shapes, whilst the earth had been transformed into a magnificent orange carpet, stretching away on either side. Now and then a splash of colour caught our eye as pink-berried spindleberry bushes clamoured for attention. On reaching Stoke Row we walked through the Cherry Orchard to arrive at the charming Maharajahs Well, built in 1863 with funds from the Maharajah of Benares. We took our break in the well-tended garden whilst learning some facts about this un-typically Chiltern building. Suddenly we appreciated the weekends' rain, filling the reservoirs to feed our taps at home. The Well provided the water supply to the village for over 70 years. It took 10 minutes to wind up a bucket of water, and proved a meeting place for villagers as they waited their turn. A Warden was paid £1 per year to admit people to the Well.

We admired the sweet honey-pot shaped Wardens' Cottage, a compact 200 square feet divided into three minute rooms. We left the ornate well, with its super-structure adorned with a golden elephant, to continue between fields of horses and along woodland paths to eventually pause beside a magnificent half-timbered house with herringbone brickwork. Back at Checkendon we gazed across the lovely grounds of Checkendon Court, the estate of which dates back to 1030. Our varied walk ended with a look inside the Norman Church with its Norman arches and 13th century wall paintings.

With the arrival of December our mood turned to all things festive, and we set out in merry mood on a walk which was to highlight the wide open countryside to be found, moments to the east of Reading centre. Cutting through Pound Copse, donated to Arborfield Cross, we followed one field edge after another with hardly a sighting of civilisation. Then, a climbing path, unfortunately rutted by 4 x 4's, took us up through woodland, beginning to look stark now as the wonderful autumn of 2003 slides into winter. Unwilling, however, to cast off the final remnants of autumn, the occasional birch tree joined in the festive spirit with a magical adornment of gold – leaf.

At Farley Hill we were hailed a cheery 'Good Morning' by two horse riders as they clip clopped through the village. A contrast of pretty hedged tracks, open fields and woodland strips took us, eventually, alongside

Arborfield Court, and back to Arborfield Cross. Here the Henry's Street Garden Centre made us feel even more 'Christmassy' with festive lunches, and their wonderland of Christmas goodies in their 'Christmas World.'

A drizzly start did nothing to dampen our mood as we finished the year with our traditional local Winter Wonderland Walk. We chatted and laughed our way along the riverbank, returning to St Mary's via the bridleway. Soon we were tucking in to a splendid lunch, washed down with warming glasses of mulled wine. As we finished off with coffee and Christmas cake we were transported back in time as we reminisced over a happy year of fabulous walks.



The New Year dawned, and 51 eager ladies met in Aldworth for our New Year walk. It felt good to be out in the fresh air that comes on a bright morning after a day of rain. So, breathing refreshing lungfuls, we set off for Aldworth Church where we explored inside and admired the beautiful tapestry, designed and made for the new millennium celebrations. The nine 'Aldworth Giants' were an awesome sight. These early 14th century stone effigies of the Norman family of de la Beche are unique in this country, and even Queen Elizabeth I visited St Mary's Church to see them in 1644. Her visit is remembered as a part of Aldworth's history with a picture of the Queen herself depicted on the tapestry. Other historic features of the village are also remembered 'in stitches' such as the Old Yew Tree, estimated at over 1,000 years old, and still surviving in the churchyard. We poignantly looked at the beautiful outline of Concorde. Its last flight is now over, but this fabulous aeroplane is remembered on the tapestry for the pilot of its very first commercial flight, Brian Calvert, was a regular at The Bell Inn.

We continued our walk, heading out into the open countryside of the Downs, with good views opening up into Oxfordshire, and across to the Berkshire villages of East Ilsley and Compton, nestling in the hollows. At a converted barn we turned eastwards to soon enjoy good views across the Thames Valley. Then, as we made our way southwards, back towards Aldworth village, a winter sun, low in the sky in this high downland village, dazzled our eyes. Back at The Bell we were welcomed into the cosy interior. As if by magic, steaming bowls of soup and heartily filled hot rolls appeared, and were devoured with relish. The wonderful hospitality didn't end there, for large trays holding complementary slices of Christmas cake and warm mince pies were carried in, and, needless to say, all 'good intentions' were put 'on hold' for the time being!

Breathing in the freshness of a lovely bright January day, we made our way along the bridleway from Purley Village, noting the many places across the river where we have walked on previous walks. Soon we were in Sulham Wood, enjoying the uninterrupted view across the Thames Valley to the Chiltern hillside beyond. At times the sun in our eyes was so

dazzling it was difficult to see where we were going – two weeks running, and a nice ‘problem’ to have in January! Two deer stood in the field beside us, their noble outlines emphasised by the background of blue sky. After a good walk into the depths of the wood we turned to make our way back. We ended our walk at Cherry Acre where soup and fruitcake was served for lunch. Afterwards, some ladies wandered around the garden to see snowdrops, winter aconites and crocuses, coaxed into early bloom by the warmth of the sun.

A Red Kite welcomed us from above as we arrived at Rotherfield Greys. A series of fields joined by stiles led us easily from one to the next as we made our way deep into the countryside. All the while we took in the excellent views all around, the wide fields reflecting the dominance of agriculture. In contrast to the openness, we followed a bridleway that took us through an attractive beechwood strip. The land on one side fell away steeply through the trees to the deep valley below. In open countryside once more we meandered gently down to the foot of the valley, where a track passed in and out of copses, to find ourselves deep in the valley floor with green hillsides rising up on both sides. A hawk flew, hovered and dived from above. Climbing up the hillside, we paused to watch a Muntjac

deer fleeing up the opposite bank. Finally we arrived at The Malsters Arms where we enjoyed lunch.

Every time of year has its treasure, and February is the time in which we enjoy the fleeting show of snowdrops. Despite their diminutive size, nothing can banish the winter blues faster than swathes of these defiant white pearls. We hope to witness their beauty as we walk from Aston Tirrold to John Masefields former home. Then we will be off to probably the best place locally to see thousands of snowdrops growing in the wild, Echchinswell.

Nicki Woodward
984 1919



Rotary Club of Reading
presents a
BIG BAND CONCERT
featuring
The Berks Bucks & Oxon Big Band
plus vocalists
"keeping alive the music of the Big Band era"



in support of
Mercy Ships
"Bringing Hope and Healing..."
and local Rotary Charities



The Falkland Islands Memorial Chapel
Pangbourne College
Friday 2nd April 2004
8.00pm

Tickets £10.00
including Interval Refreshments
available from
Philip Baker & Co (Estate Agents)
18 Bridge Street, Caversham Reading RG4 8AA
Tel: 0118 946 4606
and
Premier Pets
8 Reading Road, Pangbourne Reading RG8 7LY
Tel: 0118 984 2111



PURLEY W.I.

Happy New Year everyone, trust the waistline hasn't expanded too much!

We were happy to receive festive greetings from members who have moved away. Good to be remembered. For our diaries a date for Scrabble in January plus a fashion show, also this month's proceeds towards RNLI.

We were happy to welcome visitors from Tidmarsh again this month and business matters over, we proceeded to part with our money for a Blind Auction. Our auctioneer wasn't too forceful as we are easily tempted by pretty parcels, all dressed up to disguise the unknown. Some very attractive gifts presented themselves, plus that notorious naughty parcel which we all look forward to, for our usual 'giggle'. Good fun was had by all plus a healthy profit. We then finished with a tasty ham salad and baked potatoes; Lovely. Thank you committee for preparing a mouth-watering supper!

Competition: Best Wrapped Parcel

1st Daphne Howard

2nd Joan Pierce

Flower Table

1st Edna Bint

2nd Sylvia Conquest

Next month's speaker: Mrs J Lane, "Sleeping In Strange Beds"

Competition: Theatre poster, A4 page

Stall: Bath & Beauty

The meeting will be held on Wednesday 11 February, 7:30 p.m. Purley Memorial Hall, Glebe Rd. **Visitors Welcome**

*Sylvia Conquest
0118 941 1936*

THAMES VALLEY POLICE

I'm pleased to have some good news to share with you at the beginning of this New Year – the success of the Force's recruitment drive means I am able to put officers out on more foot patrols across the Pangbourne sector - in fact, you may already started to notice the difference.

High visibility in itself is useful in preventing crime and I know it reassures the communities to see officers actually walking the beat and getting to know people.

Christmas and New Year were relatively quiet for the sector but in the weeks running up to the festive season a lot of work was done to tackle several issues.

Crime figures for 1 April 2003 to 8 January 2004 show that crime has been reduced by seven per cent compared with the same period last year. This is a larger reduction in crime than Reading and Newbury, which border the Sector either side. I have an excellent team of officers and would like to thank them for their hard work. The efforts of the parish councils, with whom I have been working closely over recent months, are also paying off, as is that of residents who have taken crime prevention seriously and taken action to stop themselves becoming a victim and another statistic.

The work of the Community Policing Team continues; this week, following a number of complaints about go-peds being ridden in an anti-social way, Sgt Ian Henderson has released guidelines regarding petrol-driven go-peds to the media in an attempt to inform people of the law surrounding them.

- Petrol-driven go-peds are classified as motor vehicles, meaning that if ridden on a public road, including the pavement, the rider should have a driving licence, insurance, vehicle excise licence (tax) and a crash helmet.
- Therefore most teenagers and children can only ride them legally on private roads or private land. Even then care must be taken that the land is not somewhere to which the general public has access.
- Riders must be sober and can be breathalysed.

We don't think people have been purposefully breaking the law - most people simply don't realise the bikes are classified as motor vehicles; so hopefully publicising this will help.

Problems such as this can seem minor to those who have not experienced such behaviour, but the issues must not be trivialised. If you are suffering because of the anti-social behaviour or criminal activity of others, please report incidents to us, no matter how small they may seem. The Force's new phone number for non-emergency calls is much easier to remember and is charged at the local rate. You can call 0845 8 505 505 any time of the day or night.

You can still report a crime in person at Pangbourne police station. The experience should be slightly more pleasurable as building work is complete. Full disabled access is now available and Mel Freeman or one of his colleagues are available between 8am and 4pm, Monday to Thursday and 8am until 3.30pm Fridays. The station is closed for an hour between 12.30 and 1.30pm every day.

Insp. Andy Talbot

Gossip is the art of saying nothing in a way
that leaves practically nothing unsaid.

Walter Winchell (1897 - 1972)

MAGAZINE DEADLINES

Although I try to keep a constant pattern to the copy deadlines for the magazine, there are a few times this year where these need to be altered. For the benefit of contributors the following table shows all the planned deadlines for this year.

Publication Month	Paper copy	Electronic copy
MARCH	15 February 2004	15 February 2004
APRIL	15 March 2004	22 March 2004
MAY	15 April 2004	20 April 2004
JUNE	15 May 2004	22 May 2004
JULY	15 June 2004	22 June 2004
AUGUST	NO EDITION	NO EDITION
SEPTEMBER	15 August 2004	15 August 2004
OCTOBER	15 September 2004	22 September 2004
NOVEMBER	15 October 2004	22 October 2004
DECEMBER	15 November 2004	22 November 2004
JANUARY 2005	10 December 2004	12 December 2004

CHOOSE YOUR BANANA CAREFULLY!

Consumers all over the UK are looking forward to Fairtrade Fortnight (1-14 March) – the tenth birthday of the FAIRTRADE Mark. The theme, 'A Taste for Life' is a celebration of quality, both quality of life for the producers which is enhanced by the Fairtrade premium, and the top quality of the products.

"From school tuck-shops to smart hotels, Fairtrade is now moving into the mainstream. The past 10 years have been a quiet revolution as more and more people choose foods with the FAIRTRADE Mark. People are starting to see Fairtrade as part of their lifestyle. And this is only the beginning, Fairtrade is the food of the future," says Fairtrade Foundation executive director Harriet Lamb.

"Bananas are a great example of how consumer power works," she adds. "It's so tempting to pick up that cheap bunch, but the rock bottom prices mean that banana plantations are being closed down. Too often, prices to farmers don't even pay the cost of production and hundreds of banana farmers are living in poverty. Buying Fairtrade means the farmers can stay on the land and keep farming. So your decision at the banana stand has a powerful impact."

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 and to maintain consistency of style (font etc). Local event adverts can be accommodated but space is limited; landscape format copy is preferred in this case as it allows a ½ page entry to be published.

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 – nor is any endorsement of the products and services of our advertisers implied by their inclusion.

This magazine is published on the first Saturday of each month (except August). The price of each issue is 35p with a discounted annual subscription price of £3.50 for eleven issues.

If you are new to the area and would like to subscribe to Purley Parish News, please contact the Circulation Manager, Les Jamieson.

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