

PURLEY PARISH NEWS

JUNE 2004



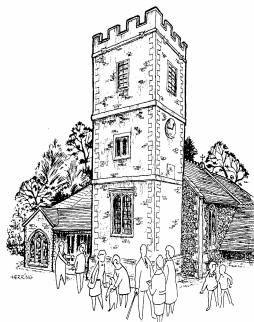
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35P

For the Church & Community of
PURLEY ON THAMES

ST. MARY THE VIRGIN

PURLEY ON THAMES



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CHURCH HALL BOOKINGS

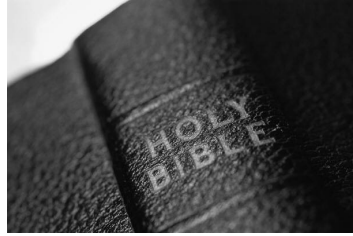
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BAPTISMS, WEDDINGS AND FUNERALS

All enquiries should be made to the Rector

www.stmarythevirgin.fsnet.co.uk

FROM THE CURATE



Dear Friends

Words are such an important part of our lives. From babyhood onwards many words were spoken to us. We heard words of greeting and welcome, words of encouragement and affirmation, words of advice and guidance, words of correction and chastisement, words of warning and caution, words of comfort and consolation.

Every parent will remember the proud excitement when their baby first said 'da-da', even if it was directed to everyone and everything, not just to his or her daddy! Next, at school comes the challenge of linking the black squiggles on a page to the spoken word as the child learned to write. To be able to link a squiggle to a sound and then build a number of them into a word and then into a sentence is an amazing ability.

Words aren't there only for us to read. Without words we cannot get to know one another properly or to understand what other people think and feel and need. Communicating with other people, whether we are involved in discussing an important international issue or buying vegetables from the green grocer is a necessary skill. If you have ever been abroad and tried to speak to the local people, without any knowledge of their language or they, yours, and then had to resort to sign language, you will remember how disadvantaged and awkward you felt.

Where would we be without words? We have words for speaking, for reading and writing and we have the word of God. Being able to communicate with others through the spoken or written word is a learned skill, but it is also God's gift to his human creation.

The bible is referred to as 'the word of God' and it is through this amazing book that we know about God. In it we can read about God, about Jesus, his disciples and the early church. In Jesus we have a vivid word- picture of Jesus the man and Jesus the Son of God.

Jesus knew the power of words. On one occasion he warned that 'on the Judgement Day everyone will have to give an account of every useless word they have ever spoken'. The words that we use in our every day lives are so important – they become a window through which others can see what we are really like. If we are angry, our words will be angry; if we are unforgiving, others will see through our speech.

The book of Proverbs is full of wisdom and common sense and had these things to say about our use of everyday words. *'Kind words are like honey, sweet to the taste and good for your health'* (Prov 15:23) while *'Thoughtless words can wound as deeply as any sword, but wisely spoken words can heal'* (Prov 12:18)

The gift of words and speech is tremendous, but it is one that carries with it a great responsibility. May our words reflect God's love to all those amongst whom we live and work.

Jean

PARISH REGISTERS

23 May Matthew Anthony Steven Olivier

FUNERAL

26 April Henry Bordiss aged 84 years
5 May Joan Mason aged 81 years
 Gillian Wing aged 66 years
6 May Patrick Coulling aged 70 years
19 May Rhoda Joyce Bell aged 88 years (Cremation)
26 May John Casey aged 81 years (Burial)
28 May Anthony Page Fothergill aged 67 years



The next opportunities to pray for Purley with Christians from different churches will be on Monday 7 June at 8 p.m. at St. Mary's church and then 20 July and 6 September.

For details: Sally Robertson (962 5978).

JOAN EDWINA MASON

My daughters (Patricia & Wendy) and I would like to thank the many who sent sympathy cards and messages at the sad loss of my wife and their mother. Joan had struggled with cancer for some 30 years but finally lost the battle on 24 April. We were highly delighted with the large attendance at her cremation service. She had great courage and determination and thanked God for her wonderful life. She will be greatly missed by family and friends

Peter Mason

CHURCH SERVICES

6 June Trinity Sunday	9:30 a.m. 11:15 a.m. 6:00 p.m.	Family Worship Holy Communion Holy Communion
13 June	9:30 a.m. 11:15 a.m.	Family Worship Holy Communion with the laying on of hands
20 June	9:30 a.m. 11:15 a.m. 6:00 p.m.	Family Communion Morning Worship Evening Worship
27 June	9:30 a.m. 11:15 a.m.	Family Worship Holy Communion
4 July	9:30 a.m. 11:15 a.m. 6:00 p.m.	Family Worship Holy Communion Holy Communion with the laying on of hands

BOOK THIS DATE IN YOUR DIARY NOW!

On Saturday 25 September at 7:30 p.m. the Parish Council and St. Mary's Church are jointly sponsoring a Community Harvest Supper at the Barn, Beech Road. After the supper there will be an auction of donated items in aid of the Macmillan Nurses Fund – see below. If you have any items – e.g. Wine, unwanted gifts or other new goods, please contact the Rectory (941 7727)

MACMILLAN NURSES

One million people in the UK have cancer. The Macmillan Nurses can only help 20% of these people!

One way or another, cancer affects just about all of us. And as the number of people diagnosed continues to rise, the need for specially trained, highly qualified cancer care nurses becomes ever more pressing.

At Macmillan Cancer Relief we believe that every single person with cancer deserves the best possible care, treatment and information available. And our Macmillan nurses are specially trained to give it.

But right now we simply do not have enough Macmillan nurses to go around. That's a serious concern. Because no one should have to face the challenge of cancer without the vital support they need.

By providing the practical, emotional and medical support each individual needs, Macmillan nurses help patients and their families to live their lives as fully as possible - in spite of cancer

76,818

This is the number of people from 30 countries who so far have signed the petition urging freedom for those in mainly Muslim countries who wish to change their religious allegiance. The petition is organised by the Barnabas Fund (www.barnabasfund.org), which St. Mary's Church supports. We have an ongoing display that is updated regularly giving information about the situations many Christians face in Muslim countries.

Please note. Our support for this organisation is not meant in any way to be anti-Muslim. It simply makes people aware of what is happening in many countries – horrific events that rarely get reported in the national newspapers. If anyone has any queries about this, please contact the Rector (941 7727)

PURLEY HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

PLANT SALE



The Plant sale held on Saturday, 22 May was very successful with a wide variety of plants available. Thank you to all the people who supported us and to members of the Society who looked after the sales. We were lucky enough to have a sunny morning and we hope that all the plants purchased will grow well and people will be pleased with how the plants perform during the summer.

SHOWS

The Late Summer Show will be held in The Barn, Beech Road on Saturday 11 September. Schedules will be available in the Trading Shed towards the end of June.

ROYAL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

If you wish to visit the R.H.S. Gardens at Wisley, Rosemoor or Hyde Hall during the summer months, a card enabling one member to enter at a reduced rate (plus one guest) is available from Pat Brightwell (9412424).

TRADING

The Shed in the Memorial Hall Car Park is open on Saturdays and Sundays from 10 a.m. until 11 a.m. until the end of October. If you have not renewed your subscription for this year, we would be grateful if you could do so in the near future. If you are a new resident in this area, why not visit the Trading Shed to see the advantage of being a member of the Society. The yearly subscription is only £1.50.

Marion Dabbs
942 2349

FAMILY TREASURE HUNT & TEA

**On the afternoon of SUNDAY 13 JUNE
(staggered starting times from 1:45pm)**

Spend a fun and interesting afternoon with the family, or group of friends, (the more the merrier!), solving observational and cryptic clues on a set route along attractive footpaths and sleepy backwaters of Whitchurch-on-Thames. The route will be mostly level, and on good paths, so Grandparents, Aunts and Uncles, Mums and Dads will all be able to join in along with the children, who will have their own 'treasures' to find!

The full route will take 1½ - 2 hours to complete at a gentle pace, allowing time to 'look', with an optional shortcut for anyone who wishes to get back for tea more quickly!!

Refreshments will be for sale in the marquee, which will be erected in idyllic surroundings on private water meadows abutting the River Thames. Here there will be room for the children to play while the adults sit back and soak up the atmosphere, or perhaps wander along paths cut through the meadow to see a multitude of wild flowers, including orchids.

**Prizes will be awarded to the team with the most points
and to all the children**

Treasure Hunt Tickets- £3 per adult with children 12 and under, free

BOOK YOUR TEAM'S TIME SLOT IN ADVANCE!

(limited number of teams able to compete)

Contact Nicki Woodward ASAP on 9841919

(Proceeds to St Mary's Church)

Hampstead Norreys Open Gardens

Saturday, 19th June: 2.00-6.00pm

**8 very different gardens, some with teas being served,
will be open during the afternoon
in aid of Hampstead Norreys Church.**

Tickets: £3 for adults (under 16's free)
available in advance from

Pamela Betts, The Manor House, Hampstead Norreys - tel: 01635-201276

or

Liz Crew, 29 The Close, Hampstead Norreys - tel: 01635-201653

2-TEN FM KIDS APPEAL FUND

The aim of the "2-TEN FM Kids Appeal Fund" is to develop the talents, stretch the minds and equip the children and young people of Berkshire and North Hampshire with the skills they need to meet the challenges of our ever-changing world.



*inspiring minds
for a brighter future*

To qualify for funding a group/organisation must:

Operate within the scope defined above.

Cater for children aged 5-18 years.

Work within the 2-TEN FM broadcast area.

Be charitably based (non-profit making) although it does not have to be a registered charity.

Give children and young people the opportunity to

Take part in activities that they may not otherwise have the opportunity to participate in,

Undertake experiences that will develop them as a person and inspire them to achieve their full potential

There are two grant streams:

General Grants – of up to £1000, with application deadlines of 15 March and 15 September annually.

Major Grant – one grant a year of £15,000, intended to be used for a "strategic purpose" to allow an organisation or consortium to make a significant leap forward, with an application deadline of 15 July.

Grants from the "2-TEN FM Kids Appeal Fund" are administered by the West Berkshire Education Business Partnership. Applications must be on the official application form which is either available on-line at www.wbebp.co.uk or from the following address.



2-TEN FM Kids Grants Officer

West Berkshire Education Business Partnership

188 Main Street

New Greenham Park

Thatcham RG19 6HW

Tel: 01635 279900

Fax: 01635 279915

Email: office@wbebp.co.uk

Registered Charity No: 1030564

*inspiring minds
for a brighter future*

Party in the Park



Bucknell's Meadow
Purley on Thames
18th July 2004
3 – 6 p.m.

3 p.m. *Start with the Detective Trial*
from St Mary's church to Bucknell's Meadow

3.30 p.m. *Activities in the meadow including*

Displays Games Music

Bring your own picnic

Ample parking at St Mary's Church

Toilets available

PURLEY ON THAMES PARISH COUNCIL

At the Annual Meeting, held on May 6th, the following appointments were made for the ensuing council year:

Chairman:	David Betts
Vice-Chairman:	Christine Taylor
Alternate Vice-Chairman:	Penny Williams

The membership of standing committees was agreed and they chose the following Chairmen:

Highways & Footpaths:	Bill Ayling
Recreation:	Rick Farrow
Barn Management:	Rick Jones

The resignation of Ralph Miller, on grounds of ill health, was accepted with regret and West Berkshire Council will be advised accordingly.

The Annual Public Assembly was held in the Barn on May 13th when the Chairman reported on the past year. Following short presentations on playgrounds & recreation facilities, Thames Path & Pikeshaw Woodland, finance, Flood Panel & Village Plan there was an opportunity for questions from the floor. Copies of the Annual Report for 2003/2004 (and minutes of the 2003 meeting) are available from the Parish Office.

The dates for distribution of the West Berkshire Council travel tokens from the Parish Office has now been agreed as:

1 July	10.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m.
2 July	10.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m.
7 July	10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.

The Concessionary Fares Team should be advising those involved direct.

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



Now the summer term has begun, staff, committee and children are looking forward to the (hopefully!!) improved weather, and the sun to shine down on the events planned.

We have our annual Outing and Sports Day plus a Family Fun Day organised for June. The outing this year will be to Bucklebury Farm on 10 June. The children take a packed lunch and enjoy a tractor ride and meeting the farm animals. Some parents help by accompanying the children on the day.

As usual the children will all be involved in the running and activity races on Sports Day 29 June. Mainly tempted by the box of sweets at the finishing line! All parents are welcome to come along to cheer on the children and there will also be a raffle and refreshments available.

On the Sunday 20 June, Fathers Day, Pre-school will be holding its first Family Fun Day. It has been organised with 'FUN' in mind!! We have a Jester Giggles children's entertainer, a bouncy castle, face painting and nail art, lucky dip, a chocolate and a bottle tombola, activity/making tables as well as a penalty shoot out for adults and children to get us into the mood for Euro 2004, with football shirts and other various prizes! We are also running a bar, BBQ, Ploughman's and tea/coffee as well as an ice cream van to keep everyone fed and watered. So come along and join us between 11:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. for some fun with the family. Bring your Dad's down, buy them a burger and get them to show off their football skills!!!

All the fundraising will go towards buying new art supplies and equipment for the pre-school children to use and to help fund the outing to Bucklebury Farm. We hope you will all come along to support us and enjoy the events. See you there!!

*Nicky Garratt
Chairman, Purley Pre-school
Reg. Charity No. 1028921*

LUMPS, BUMPS & DOUGHNUTS

To those who have so generously helped me through days of 'lumps', I've got the much awaited "All Clear".

I thank God for prayers, support, surgeons and scan. What would we do without them?

Thank you

*Sylvia Conquest
The Doughnut Queen*

MESSAGE FROM HOME FARM

After the rain came the sun and a very busy fortnight has seen the maize drilled, the sprayer covering over half the farm and first cut silage safely in the clamp. Big bale silage followed by haymaking will keep us busy for the foreseeable future as we not only do our own, but also help other local farmers; plus, of course, the usual round of meetings.

This year's Annual Parish Meeting has taken place recently. The reason for the meeting is that we are legally obliged to hold one to inform the residents of all that is happening in the Parish and to answer queries or problems. I receive plenty of phone calls, mostly to do with planning, a few to do with anti-social behaviour but hardly any making suggestions as to how the Parish or District could help the community.

I have it on good authority that at next year's Annual Parish Meeting there will be a demonstration of lap-dancing. It is all to do with getting to know what is happening locally. So a couple of young ladies, who usually work behind one of those 'innocent' shop facades down the Oxford Road, are coming to give an insight into their profession. 'Is he serious?', I hear you ask. Well the only certain way of finding out is to come to that meeting!

At next week's Planning Committee we have three developments in Purley being discussed. Nobody likes change and we are all N.I.M.B.Y.'s at heart, but these new houses will, I believe, spoil the lives of some of our existing residents and put serious pressure on the present infrastructure, in particular schools and roads. We will not be able to stop the majority of these new developments, (there are others in the pipeline), but we must try to make sure that they don't impact negatively on our village.

In gaining knowledge and experience of local issues and problems I often visit sites, both formally and informally by myself; this is the only way to reach a personal view without being influenced by someone with a personal axe to grind. Perhaps to gain that extra bit of knowledge and understanding I should visit some of those premises in the Oxford Road that I mentioned earlier. Vicky doesn't agree!!

*Tim Metcalfe
Parish and District Councillor*

PANGBOURNE & DISTRICT BOWLS CLUB

Incandescent with fury! I pen these few words*, just an hour after witnessing what must be the most insane act of mindless vandalism of the Bowling Green at Pangbourne.

One of the long wooden benches, still attached to 3' square paving slabs, had physically been up rooted, dragged across the surrounds and dumped unceremoniously onto the Green. It took four men to get the bench off the

Green and back into position; goodness knows how many people it took to move it from its foundations in the first place.

The tap controlling the watering system tanks had been turned on full and a bottle jammed down on top of it to keep it open. The tank, containing 5,000 gallons of water had emptied and filled itself, only to re-empty itself continually for 14 hours. In addition to the damage to the Green they then cut down the rope from the flagpole, turned on the stand by tap and finally skidded bicycles all over the Green.

My article was going to start about a wonderful opening game Pangbourne had against Didcot. Warm sunshine and the Green in a superb playing condition. Everybody enjoyed the game that Pangbourne actually won. It was great fun.

But since then we have gone six matches without starting, all due to the weather. Last Sunday [9 May] was the first time I've played since my "heart scare" back in November and it was with some trepidation I turned out to play against Prospect Park; imagine my feelings to find that I'd been made skip for our rink and, to make matters worse, my opposing skip was none other than Purley's County Champion Peter Holder. At the end a much bedraggled, exhausted and knee aching Bill put down his last wood which ensured that we had tied at 20 shots each. Both Peter and I were relieved, as he too has had his own problems. But it was great fun and enjoyed by everybody.

On Wednesday we play at Trenthams always a good match, excellent bowling and very friendly bowlers, although that doesn't mean to say they won't make every effort to beat us – they usually do, but at least we have an excellent supper and we always try to return the compliment when they visit us at the end of June.

I hope that this will be an enjoyable season, we have some new bowlers and they seem already to be fitting in very well. But remember any person from the village is welcome to come to the Green at any time – provided they behave themselves!

Bill Ayling

**I prefer not to resort to censorship of articles but Bill was clearly very upset about the vandalism at Pangbourne, so much so that his original text would have even made one of Tim Metcalfe's more outrageous articles (e.g. this month's) look like the finest example of political correctness! Therefore some text has been altered to avoid unnecessary offence or embarrassment – Matthew.*

PURLEY W.I.

Our members reported how much they enjoyed their trip through the bluebells and finished with a tea at Rushall Farm. Nothing like it, is there, at this time of year to blow away the cobwebs? They were off again to visit our own Denham College where W.I. members (and a companion) indulge in a three day course. If a subject is not mentioned, just ask and if possible it will be arranged. GO-FOR-IT LADIES! It's your chance to stretch your mind and talents.

Dates for our diaries:

June trip to Syon Park

12 June Fete at Pangbourne, W.I. to man a stall

It's always a though provoking time, this time of year, when we address the Resolutions, which our representative forwards to the A.G.M., this year held in Sheffield. The resolutions are as follows:

Trafficking of women and children

In view of the constantly increasing trafficking of human beings, particularly women and children, for sexual exploitation and forced labour, this meeting urges HM Government to put into place legislation to combat trafficking and support victims, and urges all WI members to raise public awareness of this issue. *Public Affairs Sub-Committee, West Yorkshire Federation*

The growing of GM crops in the UK

In the light of growing evidence that the current generation of GM crops are beneficial for neither people nor planet, this meeting strongly opposes the .growing of GM crops in the UK and calls on HM Government to prohibit their cultivation. *Belmont and District WI, Hertfordshire Federation*

Air Ambulances

This meeting calls upon HM Government to make substantial funds available annually to the Air Ambulance Service. *Old Windsor WI, Berks Fed.*

I'm sure you'll feel as we did, such resolutions give us much to churn over and hopefully solutions provide that improve social standards. Such discussions do give us "food for thought" so we were rescued by cheese & wine. Aren't we just the lucky ones!?

Flower Competition

1st Ella Petrie

2nd Dorothy Viljoen

3rd Shirley Lewis

Competition

1st Edna Bint

May Queen head-dress

2nd Shirley Lewis

3rd Muriel Haime

The subject for June's meeting is a "Flower Arrangement Workshop", provided by our own flower expert Daphne Howard. Bring: basket/container - dish, flowers, foliage/greenery - newspaper, scissors and a bag for rubbish.

The meeting will be on Wednesday 9 June, 7:30 Purley Memorial Hall, Glebe Road. See you there ladies, with your gear!

Competition: Garden in a saucer

Visitors Welcome.

*Sylvia Conquest
941 1936*

A 1000 YEAR WALK TO CHRIST CHURCH

A major pilgrimage to Christ Church cathedral will be taking place on Sunday 12 September to mark the one thousandth anniversary of the re-building of the original church on the cathedral site.

According to legend, St. Frideswide founded the church, the first in Oxford, some time in the early 8th century. It was a double monastery used by both nuns and monks, and presided over by Frideswide herself. It was here that she was buried, and the church then became a centre of pilgrimage for local people in and around Oxford.

Although little is known about Frideswide's original church, one vivid picture of life there has come down to us. In the year 1002, on the orders of King Ethelred the Unready, Danish settlers in Oxford were herded into it. It was then set alight, killing everyone within. This shameful episode in the city's history, which has come to be known as the St. Brice's Day Massacre, is a cautionary tale of how the stranger in our midst is often treated,

Ethelred made some attempt at making amends for his actions by having Frideswide's church rebuilt in 1004, and it is the anniversary of this event that we will be remembering on 12 September. That day also happens to be Racial Justice Sunday, and it offers us a chance to consider the place of the stranger in our midst today. The music, prayers and readings at Choral Evensong in the cathedral, with which our pilgrimage ends, will reflect this theme.

If you would like more information about the pilgrimage, please contact Jim Godfrey, Visitors' Officer, Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford, OX1 1DP. The pilgrimage is intended to suit all ages and abilities, so whether you feel like a twenty mile hike or a gentle walk to the cathedral, you will be welcome to join us, and the countless number of pilgrims who, over the years, have made their way to Frideswide's church.

Long Lane Primary

Summer Fair

Saturday 26th June 11.30am to 2.30pm

Books * Toys * Cakes * Raffles * BBQ * Bar

Other attractions include.....

- * Bouncy castle * Welly whanging**
- * Coconut shy * Face painting**
- * Plant stall * Entertainment**

And lots more!

Registered Charity 1040890

THAMES VALLEY POLICE

The sector has had two recent successes which I'm pleased to be able to report to you this time.

The first is the arrest of two men responsible for a number of burglaries across the sector. Gareth Melhuish, aged 24, and Darren Littleboy, aged 25, both from Reading, were arrested along with a woman accomplice, on 26 April in Anstey Place, Burghfield Common, after police were called to reports of a burglary.

After being interviewed the two were charged with burglary dwelling. They pleaded guilty and admitted a further 16 offences across Burghfield, Mortimer and Calcot. They currently on remand and will appear at Reading Magistrate's Court on 6 May.

Obviously this is a great result for the sector and hopefully reassuring news for you all. It is interesting to note, however, that the pair chose to target this particular property after breaking into a car parked at a pub in Trash Green and stealing a handbag which had the owner's address details and house keys inside. If ever there was a reason not to leave your belongings in the car, then this is it.


This brings me onto the subject of the second success - the arrest of a man thought to be responsible for a spate of break-ins to vehicles left at

the service stations. A 23-year-old from Middlesex is believed to have travelled to the service areas to break into vehicles and steal laptop computers. He was arrested at the end of March after a police operation was launched. He too was remanded in custody and will be appearing at Reading Magistrate's Court on 21 May.

These are two examples amongst many notable arrests that are regularly made on the sector. Both these examples show how our sector is prone to attacks from criminals who travel to the area looking for opportunities to commit crime. If residents are aware of this, everyone can be prepared and, using tried and tested prevention techniques, protect their homes and other property. The message that I want to give to any criminals who intend to commit crime on the Pangbourne Sector is that, despite our close proximity to Reading, we are not a soft target, your activities will not be tolerated and we will do our utmost to track you down, arrest you and put you before the courts.

Anti-social behaviour continues to be an issue which the team here are paying particular attention to as we are aware of the misery it causes residents. Some people may have heard of very new legislation which gives police the power to disperse groups of more than two people. This could obviously be a very helpful tool and it is something which I will be looking at, particularly for continuing hotspots such as Knowlsey Road and Overdown Road, in the not too distant future. I am determined to tackle groups of youths who hang around with the sole purpose of intimidating others as this behaviour is totally unacceptable.

I am well aware that residents have other concerns they feel we should be giving attention to. In order to get more information on how the communities want us to target our resources, I am holding a meeting on 25 May with the aim of getting much closer links between community leaders such as parish councillors and head teachers. I am hoping to set up a network of people who are able to feedback to us what issues people in the sector are concerned about which in turn will influence the way we work, making our service better targeted and hopefully more effective.




Family Funday
Sunday 20th June 2004
"Fathers Day"
11.30 - 2.30 p.m.
Purley Memorial Hall

COME ALONG AND JOIN IN THE FUN !
FREE CHILDREN'S ENTERTAINER
"JESTER GIGGLES"

LUCKY DIP PENALTY SHOOT OUT
FACE PAINTING BOUNCY CASTLE
CHOCOLATE TOMBOLA
BAR BBQ RAFFLE
CAKE STALL

PLUS MORE EXCITING
STALLS.....

ENTRY 50P FOR ADULTS,
CHILDREN - FREE



VILLAGE PLAN

A very big “thank you” to all of you who filled in your Village Plan questionnaire. Just over 60 per cent of households in Purley on Thames returned their questionnaire - exceeding our expectations and a great effort. This clearly shows the strength of local interest and commitment to the village.

Thanks also must go to the sterling band of volunteers who walked the streets delivering the questionnaires, knocked repeatedly on doors and persuaded people to send their questionnaires in.

Over the next few weeks all the findings will be inputted and the results analysed. This will take some time and there will be a lot of work from now on getting the report together which is due out in the autumn. If you are interested in helping in data analysis or analysing the results then please contact Penny Williams on 0118 941 1310, Ben Viljeon on 0118 984 3170 or Richard McDonald on 0118 942 6056.

We are also in the middle of consulting young people in Purley on Thames. A model of the village has been used in Purley Infants and Long Lane school to promote discussion about the village. In addition a questionnaire for 11-18 year olds has been given to Purley based students at Denefield and other local schools. Finally, a group of local youngsters have been given disposable cameras and given the task of taking pictures of positive and negative things about living in the village as well as suggestions for new amenities and facilities.

We will be reporting back in the next issue of the Parish News on the emerging findings from the questionnaires

Tim Whitaker

THE REVEREND ANTHONY FOTHERGILL

Anthony died suddenly at home on May 19th. He was well-known in Purley where he had lived since his retirement in 1987. Before he left home for studies in Durham, and in 1962 ordination at Lichfield Cathedral, he had lived here since boyhood. A major stroke at the age of 51 led to his premature retirement from parish ministry in Wolverhampton, Chasetown, Wellington, Hanley and Rocester – all in the same diocese. Despite his severe disability, Anthony never complained and was very determined to do things. He visited the residents at The Stone House, Lower Basildon both during his mother’s stay there and also after she died in 1997. He even carried on with some visits after the house closed and the residents moved to other places. We thank God for Anthony’s life of service to others. He will be missed here in Purley and also in the parishes of Basildon, Aldworth and Ashampstead where he assisted on a regular basis.

PURLEY PARISH NEWS

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I welcome all contributions to this magazine, particularly on local issues and events. Contributions can either be delivered in writing or 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.

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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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