

PURLEY PARISH NEWS

MAY 2005



The TRINITY:

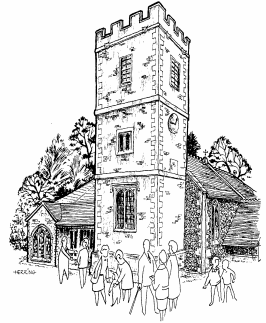
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit...
three persons in one substance.

35P

For the Church & Community of
PURLEY ON THAMES

ST. MARY THE VIRGIN

PURLEY ON THAMES



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CHURCHWARDENS

Lorna Herring
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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 LOCAL MINISTER



It was my father-in-law, I think, who pointed out to me one way you can detect at what stage you are in life. When Christine and I first came to Purley, the postman brought invitations to weddings. A few years later, we packed the car full of nappies as we headed off for baptisms. Now, sadly, it is news of funerals to which we respond. Matches, hatches and dispatches my father-in-law called them.

As I write this, we are preparing to go to a funeral. Mike was once a headmaster, but gave it up to be a missionary. Much of his work was supporting local initiatives in Africa, China and South America, but he was no stranger to people in parts of Eastern Europe, and a popular speaker at fundraising events in the United States. He and his wife became David's friends a few years ago when he went with them to help at a summer school, teaching English to children in Poland. A year or so ago Mike announced that he was giving up his trips overseas, and a few months later cancer of the kidney was diagnosed. People all over the world prayed for him, but on Saturday he died.

James had a brain tumour diagnosed a couple of years ago, and around Christmas the decision was taken that an operation was required. For over a month afterwards he was emerging very slowly from a coma, and then a second operation was needed. At some point during that process, he suffered a stroke. At best, his recovery will be slow. James should have been starting his last term in Primary School this week. Instead, people all over Reading and beyond are praying for his recovery. The next few months will be crucial.

Pat has suffered from cancer for the few years I have known her. Last summer she went to London for a major operation. She seemed to be recovering well, and then had a relapse from a side effect of the operation. For many days, she was unconscious in intensive care, her husband commuting on a daily basis. Prayers were said for her by the people of Purley on Thames and beyond, in and out of church. Last Sunday she told me that she had been given the "all clear" by the hospital, and that a holiday in the sun is being planned to celebrate.

I can't explain the different outcomes. Pat, James and Mike have all been prayed for. But the outcome for Pat and Mike has been very different. And for James the outcome has yet to be determined, but already it can be said that it could have been so much better, or at least so much faster.

But one thing which they and their families – and I – all share is a belief that prayer does change things. And we are not alone. In 1952 Albert Einstein, asked by a university student what was left in the world to research, replied, "Find out about prayer".

Christians from many different churches meet once every couple of months in Purley to pray for our village, to pray for you and your neighbours. Members of St. Mary's meet more frequently to pray. Why not come and join in? What have you got to lose – all that you risk is experiencing for yourself that prayer changes things.

And if you have something particular that you would like us to pray for, come and write it up on the board just inside the church, beside the kitchen. And come back and let us know when things change.

With best wishes,
Andrew

SERVICES WITH PRAYER FOR HEALING

The ministry of the laying on of hands continues to be available at St. Mary's Church on a monthly basis, but if anyone would like prayer for any aspect of healing, at another time please contact the Rector (941 7727).

The next service will be on Sunday 12 June, at 11.15am

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

Election Results:

Churchwardens	Lorna Herring	John Rothery	
PCC Members	Trudie Wigley	Debbie Corrigan	
Deanery Synod Reps	Sally Robertson	David Bolam	Mary Barrett
Pangbourne & District ACT	John Dolbear	Christine Mackie	Mary Barrett
Women's World Day of Prayer	Melanie Davis		
Electoral Roll Officer	Matthew Slingsby		
Stewardship Officer	John Dolbear		
Independent Examiner	Eric Smith		



SOUTH AMERICAN MISSION SOCIETY

On Sunday 5 June, Michael and Virginia Patterson, and friends, will be visiting St Mary's church to highlight the work of SAMS. They will be sharing during our services, over lunch and into the afternoon...

If you want to know more, contact Pam & Matthew Slingsby on 961 5585

CHURCH SERVICES

8 May	9.30 a.m. 11.15 a.m.	Family Worship Holy Communion
15 May Pentecost	10.30 a.m. 6.00 p.m.	Pentecost Communion Evening Worship
22 May	9.30 a.m. 11.15 a.m.	Family Worship Holy Communion
29 May	9.30 a.m. 11.15 a.m.	Family Worship Holy Communion
5 June	9.30 a.m. 11.15 a.m. 6.00 p.m.	Family Worship with visiting speakers Holy Communion with visiting speakers Holy Communion
12 June	9.30 a.m. 11.15 a.m.	Family Worship Holy Communion with prayer for healing



The next opportunity to meet with Christians from a number of different churches will be on Tuesday 14 June, at 8 p.m. at St. Mary's Church.

If you would like further details, please contact:

Sally Robertson	962 5978	sallyrobertson@waitrose.com
Chris Rayers	942 1880	c.rayers@talk21.com

SPRINGTIME IN THE GARDEN

Blessed with two sunny days, people poured into the garden of Cherry Acre to explore the many areas of the garden in springtime. Tea and cake was served on the lawn, and an excellent plant stall tempted many to treat themselves to a plant. Children were kept occupied with an Egg Trail around the garden.



May I thank everyone who came along to support this event, which raised £660 for St Mary's Church.

Nicki Woodward



PLANT SALE

Purley Park Trust in Huckleberry Close will be holding a plant sale on Saturday 14 May 2005 between 10am and 2pm. Everyone welcome.

MESSAGE FROM HOME FARM

By the time you read this article, I presume you will be about to put a cross in a box. To this end, meetings at the moment are being disrupted by those keen to go out knocking on doors and making out that their party offers more and takes less than the opposition. To the chagrin of my fellow members at West Berks I may be political, but Party Politics I have little time for. The majority of Councillors on both sides (remember we are split at 26 Lib Dems and 26 Cons with the Lib Dems holding the chair,) are only interested in getting the best deal for their ward and are not really interested in the national agendas.

However, at West Berks we also have a bi-election as a Lib Dem representing Thatcham North has resigned and the canvassing there is reaching fever pitch as the result could go either way. Whether the result will mean we still have a Lib Dem controlled Council or whether the Conservatives (whoops I almost said Tories!) will have a two seat lead is too close to call at the moment with both parties appearing confident. To the less affiliated – of which I certainly class myself – it is an annoying distraction from the important issues, although it is a great source of banter.

This week I happily sat among the Lib Dem members (the only seat left by the time I arrived from another meeting) at a *Special Environment & Public Protection Select Committee* meeting to review the decision to increase the speed limit from 30mph to 40mph on the A329 Wallingford road at Streatley. I was one of the members to *call in* the individual decision made by an Executive Member and the council chamber was full of Streatley Parishioners eager to safeguard their village. We could only make a recommendation to the Executive Committee but it was unanimous in opposition. The only question remaining unanswered as a leading Lib Dem quipped is which Executive Committee will have the final word?

Back on the farm the cows are milking well on the fresh spring grass, the crops are growing apace and Josephine has gone on holiday to Guilford for a liaison with a grand old Gloucester Old Spot boar. It is time for Josephine's last set of sons to grace the dinner plate; apparently, the breed is renowned for the quality of their crackling! We are having them 'dealt' with locally and will be presented fully butchered in ½ pig boxes. Anyone interested?

Tim Metcalfe

LOOKING FOR A NEW HOBBY?

Geocaching is an entertaining adventure game for GPS users, taking advantage of the features and capability of a GPS unit. The idea is to have individuals and organisations set up caches all over the world and share the locations of these caches on the Internet. GPS users can then use the location coordinates to find the caches. Once found, a cache may provide the visitor with a wide variety of rewards. All the visitor is asked to do is if they get something they should try to leave something for the cache.

A cache can come in many forms, but the first item should always be the logbook. The logbook contains information from the founder of the cache and notes from the cache's visitors. A logbook might contain information about nearby attractions, coordinates to other unpublished caches, and even jokes written by visitors. Larger caches may consist of a waterproof plastic bucket, placed tastefully within the local terrain, containing the logbook and any number of more or less valuable items. These items turn the cache into a true treasure hunt. You never know what the founder or other visitors of the cache may have left there for you to enjoy

Visit www.geocaching.com for more information

Party in the Park 2005

22 May Sport in the Park

Cricket, Tennis and Football challenges,
Rounders match and more

Supported by Purley Cricket Club
and other local sports clubs

Have some fun!

**17 July
Praise in
the Park**

*All in Bucknell's
Meadow*

3.30-5.30 p.m.

**26 June
Crafts in
the Park**

Bring a picnic

Parking available at St. Mary's Church
Organised by St. Mary's Church and other local groups



**Family Sunday
19th June 2005
"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 SPORTING ACTIVITIES

FACE PAINTING BOUNCY CASTLE

CHOCOLATE TOMBOLA

BAR BBQ RAFFLE

CAKE STALL

PLUS MORE EXCITING
STALLS.....

ENTRY 50P FOR ADULTS,
CHILDREN - FREE



**Springtime ~
Come and See**



**Friday 3rd June 2005
11 a.m. - 2 p.m.**

St Mary's Church Hall

**Coffee, cake, light lunches
Raffle, craft stalls
Children's activity area**

More info contact Pam Slingsby [961 5585]
Or Babs Waring [942 8844]

GARDENING GOD'S WAY

Plant three rows of peas:

- Peace of mind
- Peace of heart
- Peace of soul

Plant four rows of squash:

- Squash gossip
- Squash indifference
- Squash grumbling
- Squash selfishness

Plant four rows of lettuce:

- Lettuce be faithful
- Lettuce be kind
- Lettuce be obedient
- Lettuce really love one another

No garden is without turnips:

- Turnip for meetings
- Turnip for service
- Turnip to help one another

Water Freely with patience.

Cultivate with love.

There is much fruit in your garden
because you reap what you sow!

To conclude our garden:

We must have thyme:

- Thyme for God!
- Thyme for Study!
- Thyme for Prayer!

VILLAGE PLAN UPDATE

NEIGHBOURHOOD ACTION GROUP

I thought you might like an update this month on some of the progress we have been making with the Neighbourhood Action Group (NAG) in support of our Village Plan commitment to improve community involvement in the safety and security of Purley residents.

Many of you were at the public meeting last November at which we kicked off the NAG in Purley. All those who did attend will remember we asked you to prioritise the *quality of life* issues that were causing you concern.

The specific issue, which emerged at the top of your list, was that of illegal motorised scooters and monkey bikes causing a hazard on roads and pavements. Thanks to a concerted effort on communication by all of us – including a leaflet through every door – and on enforcement by our neighbourhood policing team, my impression is that the problem has been much reduced... but please let me know if this is not the case around your way.

Also high on your list of concerns was the problem of vandalism, together with a range of related anti-social behaviour issues including under-age drinking. This is the next priority to be targeted by the NAG in Purley and a range of actions has been agreed, including focusing police attention on those areas where vandalism has been occurring.

In particular, we will be looking at problems on the River Estate and around Bucknell's Meadow; in Pikeshaw and along footpath five which links Pikeshaw to the Oxford Road opposite the top of New Hill; and in and around the Goosecroft Lane Recreation Ground. Focusing the attention of our neighbourhood police in the right areas at the right times is, however, very much up to us.

It is vital that we report incidents. I know it is all too easy to take the view that it doesn't do any good to report low level crime because nobody is interested, or to assume that somebody else will report something which a lot of people must have seen or heard... like the phone booth at the top of Nursery Gardens being smashed again, for instance. All this information, however, contributes to building a picture of where and when the problems are occurring so that something can be done about it.

We can all play our part by reporting problems and incidents on the police non-emergency number – 0845 8505505 – as soon as they occur. Every report gets logged and is taken seriously, even if the response may not be visible immediately.

As well as targeting the minority of young people who cause problems, the NAG has also charged your Parish Council with developing plans to provide more and better facilities for young people. This is, of itself, a Village Plan

commitment and was also a high priority for residents who attended the NAG public meeting in November.

A key starting point for these initiatives will be the public meeting to be held on the future use of Bucknell's Meadow and we hope to see as many of you as possible – including young people who can tell us what they want – in the Church Hall from 7.30pm on Tuesday 10 May.

There will also be an opportunity to hear a report on the activities of the NAG and to provide us with your feedback at the Annual Parish Meeting in The Barn from 7.30pm on Tuesday 24 May.

ADULT EDUCATION

For those who have not got to grips with computers yet, there is the chance of a free three-session course. If we can find 6-10 people who would like to learn the first steps about computer use, the use of the mouse and how to play games, insert photographs, make your own cards and so on, then West Berks Council will provide laptops and a tutor. If you are interested please let Penny Williams know on 0118 941 1310.

*David Betts
Chairman, Purley on Thames Parish Council
Email: ppc.chair@ntlworld.com*

OUT OF THE MOUTHS OF BABES

In the Daily Mail there is a section called 'Out of the Mouth of Babes'. Most days there is a charming tale of some gem that a child has said. A particularly telling one was the child who was looking at cigarettes on sale and read the message 'Smoking Kills'. 'That's silly, they won't sell any with that on it!' Who can argue with that?

I seem to be particularly good at remembering all the funny and poignant things said by the children in our family. Who could forget the day I lifted my small daughter up to the bank counter when she asked the cashier if she could 'see our money'? Or the time my little brother finally got his questions answered about where babies came from and fell off his chair laughing because he said it was the best joke he'd ever heard!

I really wish I'd kept a book of all these special moments so that they can be passed on down through the family. If you've got small children, please try to preserve their unique view of the world. It will bring so much joy in future years.

Incidentally, I still find great difficulty in correctly naming the programme my granddaughter loved but always called 'Aminal Hostible'!

Dorothy West

WEST BERKSHIRE CARERS WEEK

13-19 JUNE 2005

Carers look after adults and children who are disabled or have an illness. Many people cope in very difficult situations with little or no support and they are unaware of the help that is available to them through local voluntary organisations or the statutory authorities. Many people do not see themselves as 'carers' at all. Many may be reaching the point of being unable to cope and may become ill themselves, through stress – caring at home can be very isolating and tiring.

Carers Week gives us a great opportunity to recognise the work of those who care for a family member or friend at home and to raise awareness of their vital role.

The theme of Carers Week this year is 'work, rest and play', with an emphasis on opportunities. Many activities are being planned, including competitions, parties and an open day for information (taking place on Monday 13 June in the Town Hall, Newbury from 10am to 4pm)

One of the main things being arranged for the week is a special prize draw - for a female carer, male carer and young carer aged 5 to 18 years. For each of these categories we are hoping that individuals will contact the number below for an entry form which, when completed and returned, can be submitted for the draw. At the same time we will be happy to give carers any useful information they need about support available to them in the community and/or provide them with details of organisations who can help them.

Perhaps you know of someone who is a carer within your community? Maybe you yourself care for someone at home? If you would like more information about Carers Week, the competition or help available to you in West Berkshire, please ring Jenny Hatch, User/Carer Development Officer at West Berkshire Council, on 01635 519406.

SHOES

A weary clergyman who had travelled to another city by train to officiate at a funeral was making his return journey when he began to suffer an acute attack of pins and needles in his foot. He turned to the old lady beside him and said: "Do you mind, madam, if I remove my shoe – my foot's gone dead." The lady assured him there was no problem.

The clergyman felt some relief and soon fell asleep. After a little while the old lady gave him a gentle nudge. "Excuse me, sir", she said. "But would you mind putting your shoe back on again? I think your foot's been dead for some time!"



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

- Tue 10 May 10am** **Footpath Work** **Bucklebury**
Help 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 Dennis Gower at the Black Barn, Rushall Manor Farm* at 10am
- Sun 15 May 2-4pm** **River Dipping** **Riverside Meadow**
Come and discover what is living in the River Lambourn, at Turnpike in Newbury, and at the same time wander along the path and admire the newly laid hedge beside the meadow. Meet outside Riverside Community Centre at 2pm. Grid ref: SU485678
- Sun 22 May 1pm** **Following the Drovers** **Bothampstead Farm
Hampstead Norreys**
A five-mile (8km) walk in partnership with Hampstead Norreys Parish Council to explore the western side of Hampstead Norreys parish. We will walk an ancient drove road along which sheep and cattle were driven to East Ilsley markets, and we will introduce walkers to the new Permissive Paths which link a number of paths cut off by the construction of the new A34. Walk leaders Frank Paul and Dick Greenaway. Meet at Bothampstead Farm (SU506 762) at 1pm. Well-behaved dogs welcome. Please contact the Project Office to book a place.
- Tue 24 May** **Glade Clearance** **Kings Copse Bradfield**
Spend the day clearing invasive Himalayan Balsam at Kings Copse to help maintain the native woodland flora. Meet at Black Barn, Rushall Manor Farm* at 10am or phone the Project office for details of meeting on-site.
- Tue 14 Jun 10am** **Footpath Work** **Paices Wood**
Help to make sure the woodland and lakeside footpaths are clear at Paices Wood Country Park. Meet at 10am at Paices Wood (through Youngs Industrial Est.) Grid ref: SU586638
- Tue 14 Jun 1.30pm** **Farm Biodiversity Training Event HLS
Little Hidden Farm**
Training for farmers interested in entering Higher Level Scheme. This is a practical event providing training in species and habitat survey and

identification and options available under HLS. Meet at 1.30pm at Little Hidden Farm off the A338 between J14 (M4) and Hungerford. Grid ref SU 353713. Please contact the Project Office to book a place.

Wed 15 Jun 6pm Farm Walk Holt Lodge Farm, Kintbury
To celebrate National Farm Week we have organised a walk around Holt Lodge Farm near Kintbury. Join Dick Greenaway and farmer Ian Freeland for a short stroll looking at the wildlife, historic landscape and farming of this gem of a farm in the picturesque North Wessex Downs AONB. Meet at the farm (SU 389647) at 6.00pm. No dogs. Please call the Project office to book a place.

Sun 19 Jun 11am Down the Pang Bradfield
A repeat of this popular walk that includes riversides, wetlands and woodlands, with a visit to the Blue Pools. Come and enjoy a 5-mile (8km) circular walk along the Pang to Bradfield and back via ancient woods and a SSSI chalk pit. Walk leaders Dorcas Ward and Dick Greenaway. Start at Rushall Manor Farm (SU 584 722) at 11am. Bring a packed lunch. Sorry, no dogs on this walk. Numbers are strictly limited so please contact the Project Office to book a place. There is one modest hill and a couple of stiles on this walk.

Tue 21 Jun 10am Glade Clearance Kings Copse Bradfield
Spend the day clearing invasive Himalayan Balsam at Kings Copse to help maintain the native woodland flora. Meet at Black Barn, Rushall Manor Farm* at 10am or phone the Project office for details of meeting on site.

Tue 28 Jun 10am Meadow Management Leyfield Meadow
Spend the day cutting back invasive bracken to maintain a wildflower meadow. Meet at Black Barn, Rushall Manor Farm* at 10am or phone the Project office for details of meeting on site.

**Wed 6 Jul 7.30pm Pang Valley Conservation Volunteers AGM
Rushall Manor Farm**
Join the Pang Valley Conservation Volunteers for their AGM. Meet at Black Barn, Rushall Manor Farm* at 7.30pm

Sat 9 Jul 5–9pm Sheep Racing Fairholme Farm Stanford Dingley
Come and join in the fun at the annual sheep racing to be held at Fairholme Farm in support of the Pang and Kennet Valleys Countryside Projects. The Pangbourne Silver band will be in attendance and other attractions will include a bouncy castle and a hog roast, fun for all the family. Admission is free but donations appreciated. If you would like to sponsor a race or be an owner of a sheep for the evening, please contact the Project office for further details.

Sat 9/Sun 10 Jul Open Weekend Stanford Dingley
The village of Stanford Dingley is holding an open weekend, events include a flower festival, and an art exhibition. Some of the delightful gardens will be open for you to wander round. So, come along and visit this lovely gem of a village. Why not make a day of it and come to the Sheep Racing on the Saturday evening.

Project Office: 0118 930 5336

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

ST BIRINUS PATRON SAINT OF THE THAMES VALLEY

Sent by Pope Honorius in 634 to evangelise central England, St Birinus never got beyond the Thames Valley. Tradition says he preached to the pagan King Cynegils of Wessex on Churn Knob, near Blewbury and later baptised the King at Dorchester-on-Thames. The Pilgrimage commemorates St Birinus' journey. See www.dorchester-abbey.org.uk



SUNDAY 3 JULY

ARE YOU FEELING ENERGETIC?

Would you be interested in joining others from Purley to take part in this year's St Birinus Pilgrimage?

The day combines walking, local history, joining with several hundred people for an inspiring service in Dorchester Abbey and a mouth-watering barbecue supper in the Cloister Garden. This year the preacher at

the service in the Abbey is Rt. Revd Stephen Cottrell, Bishop of Reading, and Reading Central Salvation Army Band will lead the singing.

Walk options are 12 miles or 5 miles. Depending on numbers, we could organise a coach, minibuses, or car-share, to enable us to get to & from the two ends of the walk.

Interested? E-mail or phone Jacky Brown, jrbcommunicating@clara.co.uk, 0118 984 2989, preferably before 10 May, to allow time to organise transport.

Long Lane Primary School

Summer Fair

Saturday 25 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

PURLEY W.I.

We were somewhat taken aback that a lady named Margery Turner had sought us out and made it known to us that, in the 1940s, she had contributed to the making of the original Purley W.I. banner. She lives across town and, hopefully, will join us one evening.

We have dates for our diaries, i.e. a coffee morning which will include a bring-and-buy stall, plus a trip to the Wilton Carpet Factory and outlet village. Also, on 19 May, there is a visit to a Quilting Show at Malvern – further details available.

Gillian MacDonald attended the Spring Council Meeting held at the Hexagon last month. It was opened by the Mayor of Reading, the only gentleman present – how brave Sir – and the speaker was Tricia Stewart (one of the Calendar Girls). Gillian said the gathering was held spell bound as Tricia swanned her way through her adventures since appearing on the W.I. Calendar. This lady (Miss October) had much to offer since the film, and her travels were numerous. Considering the calendar had started as a joke, it just goes to prove what the outcome can bring. If you do not know the story or have not seen the film, the calendar was a fundraiser to provide a decent sofa in a hospital waiting room when John (husband of one of the girls) was being treated and eventually died of Leukaemia. Would you believe the money raised has amounted to £1,500,000? And, as I love a happy ending, you will be pleased to learn that John's widow is about to marry the local vicar – plus the hospital has two new sofas. Ah!!!

Our speaker for April, Rita Lenney, demonstrated how to massage our head and shoulders. Soothing and relaxing it is much needed in our stressful day, and to benefit from this massage for half an hour a day must surely help us stoke up our engines. Rita Lenney's first consultation includes getting to know her patient so as to provide a wider feel of any problems. Upper back, shoulders, arms, neck, head and face are all given treatment to soothe away tension. So concentrated were we, you could have heard a pin drop during the demonstration.

Flower table competition:

1st Sylvia Conquest

2nd Dorothy Viljoen

Next month's meeting will be the Resolutions Meeting when we debate the topics for this year, followed by Cheese and Wine. It will be held on Wednesday, 11 May at 7.30 p.m. at Purley Memorial Hall, Glebe Road, Purley. Visitors are always welcome.

Sylvia Conquest
941 1936

AND NOW FOR SOMETHING COMPLETELY DIFFERENT!!

Following much acclaimed staged performances of Britten's War Requiem in March, the Pangbourne Choral Society's next concert will be in a much lighter vein. On Saturday 21 May at 7.30pm in the Falkland Islands Memorial Chapel at Pangbourne College, they will be presenting an **American Evening** with excerpts from Gershwin's **Porgy & Bess** and Bernstein's **West Side Story** as well as a selection of American Folksongs and Spirituals. As usual, the Choral Society will be under the baton of their Director of Music, Darren Everhart.

Tickets – £10 (U-18s £2) from Premier Pets, Pangbourne or (with SAE please & cheques to 'PCS') to:

PCS Tickets, 13 Shooters Hill, Pangbourne, RG8 7DZ

pcs@musician.org

www.pangbournechoralsociety.fsnet.co.uk

ST MARY'S CHURCHYARD



Like all grass in Purley, the grass in the churchyard grows far too quickly, but it is kept neat and tidy over the summer months by a team of volunteers who, in pairs, look after the churchyard, for a month each. If you would like to help with this vital task, either by volunteering yourself, or making a donation towards the cost of the maintenance of the machinery please contact Sally Robertson (962 5978). Thank you.

Jesus said: 'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me... he has sent me to announce good news to the poor.'
Luke 4:18

PRAY FOR A CHANGE

Over 600 million people in the world do not have access to clean drinking water. High in the Peruvian Andes, Christian Aid's support has helped local people to find safe water sources and build community links, improving health and transforming lives in these remote villages.
Find your faith into action with Christian Aid.

London: 020 7462 1111. Belfast: 01234 343434. Dublin: 01 454 4444.
Edinburgh: 0131 552 1111. Glasgow: 0141 276 1111. Manchester: 0161 275 1111.
Newcastle: 0191 276 1111. Nottingham: 0115 951 1111. Oxford: 01865 206 1111.
Sheffield: 0114 276 1111. Swansea: 01792 206 1111. Cardiff: 0117 206 1111.
Birmingham: 0121 206 1111. Liverpool: 0151 206 1111. Preston: 01773 206 1111.
Plymouth: 01752 206 1111. Southampton: 01703 206 1111. Wolverhampton: 01902 206 1111.
Bristol: 0117 206 1111. Exeter: 01392 206 1111. Gloucester: 01452 206 1111.
Leeds: 0111 206 1111. Newcastle: 0191 206 1111. Norwich: 01603 206 1111.
Preston: 01773 206 1111. Reading: 01163 206 1111. Sheffield: 0114 206 1111.
Stoke-on-Trent: 01827 206 1111. Swansea: 01792 206 1111. Telford: 01827 206 1111.
Wolverhampton: 01902 206 1111. York: 01904 206 1111.

Christian Aid
We believe in life before death

You add.
We multiply.

Christian Aid
We believe in life before death



PURLEY ON THAMES CC PURLEY ON THAMES CC PARTICIPATE IN "CRICKET FORCE"

During the weekend of 2/3 April 2005 Purley on Thames CC, along with 100s cricket clubs nationally, participated in "Cricket Force".

Over 50 volunteers at Purley on Thames CC, junior & adult players and friends/family, all joined in over the weekend to prepare for the forthcoming season – amongst other things, preparing the wicket and outfield, painting the inside and outside of the changing rooms, building a new junior "mobile" scoreboard, repairing and painting the sight screens, and building new nets.

Thanks must be given to all those who participated, including sponsorship and donations from, amongst others, Waitrose, Asda, Tesco, Country Homes & Garden Centre in Caversham, Home Farm in Purley on Thames, Purley on Thames Parish Council, Village Butchers in Tilehurst, Lewendon Glaziers in Tilehurst...



Cecil Fright, Chairman of Berkshire Cricket, who joined the Purley on Thames workers, said "I was delighted when the Berkshire CDO (Cricket Development Officer) told me that 13 clubs in Berkshire had signed up for the Cricket Force weekend. I was even more so when I visited Purley on Thames CC and saw so many people, including an abundance of youth team players carrying out work in preparation for the new season. The idea behind the weekend was to encourage clubs, and the members of those clubs, to work together to improve facilities. If Purley on Thames was anything to go by, then the weekend was a 100% success."

Mark Roche, Community Coach for Berkshire Cricket Board made a presentation of the Cricket Force commemorative plaque to Ashley Busby, Chairman of Junior Cricket (photo: below).



If you are interested in playing, whether adult or junior, or for further information regarding Purley on Thames Cricket Club, please contact Martin Bishop on 0118 9453117 or look at our website:

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

PURLEY ON THAMES PARISH COUNCIL



As the General Election is being held on 5 May, the Annual Council Meeting scheduled for that day has been postponed until 12 May in the Council Offices. This is the first meeting of the new council year and although as usual public are welcome to attend this should not be confused with the Annual Parish Meeting which will be held in the Barn on Tuesday 24 May commencing at 7.30 p.m. An agenda will be displayed on the notice boards when timings have been finalised. This is the annual opportunity to hear about the activities of the Council or to raise your concerns and is normally well attended by local residents.

We announced in last month's edition the recent appointment of Jean Chudleigh as community Barn Manager. We are keen to encourage the use of the Barn by local groups, for meetings and events, and by local residents for private functions which fall within the policy set down by Council for use of the building and its two halls. Anyone wishing to book the barn facilities or seek further information should contact Jean on telephone number 07917 453187. Emails can be addressed to barn@purleypc.wanadoo.co.uk, and these will be forwarded to her.

There are now a few vacant half plots on the allotment site and enquiries should be made with John Chapman (0118 942 6999 john@purley.demon.co.uk) who acts as Allotment Manager on behalf of the Parish Council.

West Berkshire Council has informed us of the dates when the mobile library will visit. These are 19 May, 9 & 30 June, 21 July, 11 August, 1 & 22 September. Scheduled stops on those days are:

Orchard Close	1.45	-	2.00
Memorial Hall	2.05	-	2.20
Hazel Road	2.40	-	3.05
Farm Close	3.15	-	3.30
Purley Church	3.35	-	4.20

Brian J. Smith

Clerk to Purley on Thames Parish Council

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

Mondays (not BH): 5.45 p.m. - 8.30 p.m.
Including an opportunity to meet
Councillors between 6 p.m. & 7 p.m.

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

E-mail: clerk@purleypc.wanadoo.co.uk

I'd really love to see...

Bucknell's Meadow **Have your say**

Wouldn't it be great if...

Purley on Thames Parish Council invites you to a Public Meeting to discuss the future of Bucknell's Meadow

Why isn't there a...

On Tuesday 10 May
At 7.30 p.m.
St. Mary's Church
St. Mary's Avenue

Why is it always such a mess?

Everyone Welcome

FIGHTING FOR THE COUNTRYSIDE IN THE 21ST CENTURY



Campaign to Protect
Rural England
BERKSHIRE

You are invited to join us for
An Evening with Sir Max Hastings
on Thursday 19 May 2005
in The Long Gallery, Englefield House
Englefield, Theale

Sir Max Hastings is the President of The Campaign to Protect Rural England. He has been a courageous foreign correspondent and a distinguished editor. He is now an eminent historian and an entertaining forthright public speaker. He has always been a countryman, and was raised and lives in Berkshire.

His talk will follow the Annual General Meeting of CPRE's Berkshire Branch. The evening will be free for CPRE members and £5 for non-members. The AGM will start at 7 p.m. and will be followed by light refreshments. The talk will start at 8.45 p.m.

Telephone CPRE Berkshire at 0118 930 6756 or email inform@cpreberkshire.org.uk for further details and to book tickets.

CPRE Berkshire is a registered charity registered no. 210734

BEAUTIFUL ATTITUDES

When did you last read The Beatitudes? These are the famous sayings of Jesus which all begin: *Blessed are the...* During Lent, over 30 Christians from different churches in Purley and Pangbourne followed a course, which studied this part of the Bible and helped us to understand it better. Some people were encouraged to write poems in response to this course and three examples are printed below. If you'd like to read the Beatitudes themselves, you'll find them in St Matthew's Gospel chapter 5 verses 3-10.

On Studying The Beatitudes

We try to live our lives, following Jesus' way
We strive, as we see it, to be good day by day.
But it's not just about effort, but accepting too!
Accepting Blessings and gifts for a life style new.

His example is there in His life on this earth,
We feel we can never manage to attain His worth,
It isn't easy, we're all individuals and at different stages
But surely the Good News is written within the Gospel pages.

God's understanding love of our lifestyle questing
Holds us on our path with hope and unnumbered Blessings:
That whoever we are and wherever in Faith
We are never lost, but accepted, through our God's loving grace.

Annette Townsend

Do not live the worldly way,
Claiming rights, exacting pay,
Self interested through and through
Hear what Jesus would have you do.

Blessed are those who live his way
Pure and kind, who trust and pray
Blessings will descend to you
Who do what Jesus would have you do.

Rita Denman

Beautiful Attitudes, Beautiful Results

A kingdom for the Humble, comfort for the sad,
Inheritance of everything for those who do not grab.
"Full up" will shout the righteous,
"Forgiven", the merciful,
Those whose heart is flawless, gaze on the almighty jewel.
"My children" says the Father to those who foster peace,
For the persecuted Christian, God's kingdom will increase.

Sally Robertson

PURLEY HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

SPRING SHOW

We held a successful Show in April with over 90 entries. Considering the very varied weather during March, we had a fine display of daffodils, etc. The weather was perfect and we were pleased to see a considerable number of people coming in from the sunshine to view the exhibits. Many thanks to all the exhibitors and those who helped in the running of the Show. Congratulations to Ray Stuart of Pangbourne who gained most points and won the Springs Farm Cup.



PLANT SALE

This will take place in the Purley Memorial Hall car park on Saturday 21 May, from 9.30 a.m. until 11.30 a.m. (approx.). Bedding plants will be available.

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.

COACH TRIP

On Sunday 26 June, we have provisionally arranged a coach trip to the R.H.S. Gardens at Wisley. If you have not already put your name on the list in the Trading Shed and are interested, could you please do so as soon as possible. We are hoping to arrange a visit to the HDRA Organic Gardens at Ryton later in the summer.

22ND LATE SUMMER SHOW

This will be held in The Barn, Beech Road, Purley on Thames on Saturday 10 September 2005. Schedules will be available at the Trading Shed in early May.

Marion Dabbs
942 2349

YOGA AT THE MEMORIAL HALL

We have a few vacancies at present. The class for mixed ability and gender runs from 1.30-3.30pm on Mondays at Purley Memorial Hall.

Janet Dacre (janetdacre@hotmail.com)
0118 950 4272

PURLEY PLAYERS

present

AN EVENING CONCERT BY THE CAERPHILLY MALE VOICE CHOIR

The concert is on Saturday, 4 June 2005 at 7.30 pm in St Mary's Church Hall, Purley on Thames. Tickets are £10.50 and can be obtained from Jean Chudleigh on 0118 984 2563 or Sara Lang on 0118 954 8052.

Tickets are also available for the Village Party commemorating the 60th Anniversary of VE Day at the Barn, Purley on Thames on Saturday, 14 May 2005 at 7.30 pm and can be obtained from Mike Adnett on 0118 962 5760. The evening will take the form of a 1940s party, dance and supper. The cast will be dressed in costumes of the time and the audience will be invited to do the same. There will be sketches, songs and dancing to Glenn Miller music and some of the Big Bands of the era.

Tell me how it is that in this room there are three candles and but one light, and I will explain to you the mode of the divine existence.

John Wesley

PROJECT PURLEY

The speaker at the March meeting was Margaret Cubley from the Campaign to Protect Rural England. It was clear from the beginning of her talk that she was an enthusiastic and vigorous defender of all that is beautiful in the countryside, and for over an hour she kept us fascinated with an explanation of the origins of the CPRE, and its present function and aims.

The CPRE was formed in the aftermath of World War One and is now approaching its 80th birthday. England was meant to be *a land fit for heroes* but the idealism of all that was good in the country was being threatened by increasing urban sprawl and development. There were no planning controls in the 1920s, so country lanes were becoming increasingly abused by large numbers of motorcars. People who wanted to enjoy some form of weekend tranquillity had to move away from their homes into more rural areas, and from these people emerged groups of enthusiasts who joined forces to try and ensure that as much of England as possible remained attractive.

This was the beginning of the CPRE, and it was supported by a succession of Prime Ministers including Lloyd George, Ramsey McDonald and Stanley

Baldwin. Locally the Berks Bucks & Oxon Prevention Society, which already existed and had similar aims, became affiliated to CPRE, which currently has two hundred branches in England. Purley on Thames comes under the umbrella of the Bradfield District of Berkshire.

The CPRE tries to exert influence on the Government of the day, and is successful in establishing green belt areas, so that town dwellers can reach the fresh air of the countryside. It has also identified National Park areas, but has not always proved to be popular with Members of Parliament, as some of them insist that as the population grows, building development must take place in the areas which the CPRE is attempting to preserve. West Berkshire has been designated an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, but this does not mean that parts of it will not fall prey to the developers.

The CPRE has had some success in persuading Government to introduce the Town Planning Act, but can still foresee a situation where all the densely populated towns in the South of England will eventually join up to form one huge conglomerate. However, grants are now available from the European Union to create waterside meadows, and farmers can be rewarded financially for creating and looking after hedgerows, so that wildlife can flourish.

Other campaigns in which the CPRE has become involved include: the introduction of Food Miles, where home-grown produce can be sold at local markets, thus avoiding transport costs and associated pollution; the aim to prevent rat runs along quiet roads; consultation with the Government about limiting night flights between 11pm and 6am; and the Night Blight campaign, which encourages people to turn off lights as much as possible. Mrs Cubley surprised many of her audience by pointing out that the only real area of darkness in England at night is in the middle of Dartmoor, and that it is difficult to see the Milky Way from some parts of Berkshire because of the preponderance of artificial light throughout the Royal County.

Just before the end of her talk, Mrs Cubley showed us some slides illustrating the beauty and diversity of the countryside. As she now lives on the Berkshire side of Marlow Bridge, most of the views were of that area, including Bisham Church, Cookham Church and Cookham Dean looking across Buckinghamshire towards the M40. She also told us something of the history of Bisham Abbey, where Oliver Cromwell's head was once found mouldering away in a trunk, and where Lady Hoby is said to have beaten her son to death and hidden his body behind wood panelling just because he had spilt ink over his copybook. Another tragedy, though not on the human scale, is the death of tops of trees in the Chiltern woodland due to pollution caused by aviation fuel.

To conclude her lengthy but interesting talk, our speaker summarised some of the aims of the CPRE. These are to campaign for a beautiful, thriving countryside for everyone, forever, and to obtain what we need

from the countryside without destroying it. The CPRE also wants to see farming which provides healthy food and beautiful landscapes, and that there remains sufficient quiet space for everyone to enjoy.

Finally, those attending were invited to join the Berkshire Branch, and to attend the A.G.M. at Englefield House on 19 May, which will be followed by "An Evening with Sir Max Hastings". Sir Max is the President of the Campaign to Protect Rural England, and is almost a local resident, living near Hungerford.

David Downs

The next meeting of Project Purley will be held on 20 May and will be the annual walkabout, this time in the grounds of Englefield house. Please meet at 7.30 at the Englefield car park and be prepared with a donation of £3.

PURLEY PRE-SCHOOL 30TH ANNIVERSARY AND SUMMER FUN DAY



This year sees the 30th anniversary for Purley Pre-School and we have decided to combine celebrations for this alongside our summer Fun Day. Last year's Fun Day was a great success and this year we hope it will be even better.

Once again, we will be holding the event on Father's Day, 19 June at Purley Memorial Hall. There will be lots of exciting things to do: entertainment for the children, competitions, a raffle, a barbeque and other refreshments. There will also be craft and sporting activities and a variety of other stalls.

As we are celebrating our 30th anniversary, this will be a great opportunity for those of you who have attended Purley Pre-School to come along and reminisce those childhood days! We would be delighted if any previous staff and pupils would be able to attend as it would help to make this a very special day for Pre-School.

If you would be able to share any fond or amusing memories of your time at Purley Pre-School, we would really appreciate hearing from you. We are hoping to produce a display or perhaps a booklet about 30 years of Purley Pre-School and would be delighted to receive any thoughts or comments that past pupils or staff may have.

We look forward to seeing you on the 19 June.

Please contact Sharon Fowler, Chairman with any interesting stories about the pre-school on 0118 945 6300 (Sharon@Fowler28.fsnet.co.uk)

PURLEY PATHFINDERS

A WALKING GROUP FOR LADIES



Springtime! We welcomed the season with a special walk – our Springtime Special. We left the dreary rain at Purley, and, settled comfortably in our coach, headed towards the blue skies of Gloucestershire. Upon reaching Birdlip, we called into the Royal George Hotel where jugs of hot coffee awaited us in the spacious lounge. After refreshments, we stepped out across the grass towards a small wood from which we emerged to a wonderful view stretching across to the

Black Mountains in Wales – breathtaking, and an excellent start to the day. Back on the coach, we picnicked on our way to The Forest of Dean. Here we began our main walk, soon to be filled with delight as the woodland revealed its golden treasure – a host of Wild Daffodils. We walked amongst these amazing flowers through Dymock Wood, Queens Wood and Oxenhall Wood. At Shaw Common, we took a break in a magical copse, glowing with a carpet of yellow. Dragging ourselves away, we reached Gwen and Vera’s Fields – a special Nature Reserve carpeted with Wild Daffodils. What we had seen so far, well exceeded our expectations, but ‘the best was yet to come!’ Our final wood, Betty Daw’s Wood, is a Site of Special Scientific Interest. This wonderful wood amazed us with its complete woodland floor covered in yellow Wild Daffodils. Fabulous! Our final treat of the day came in the form of yummy Cream Teas served especially for us in the village hall by local ladies. A traditional and satisfying way to end our wonderful Springtime Special.

Back in Berkshire, a wild flower not to be missed, during our ‘Wild Flower’ themed year, is the Loddon Lily, having been named as ‘Berkshire’s Flower’. This flower, actually a member of the daffodil family, can only be found growing wild in very few places in the country. We felt privileged, therefore, to find huge white drifts of these pretty flowers in a copse beside the River Loddon at Dinton Pastures. During our walk we also enjoyed discovering many other wild flowers – stitchwort, bluebells, marsh marigolds, wild garlic, lady’s smock and comfrey to name a few. The blossom of blackthorn billowed around us and a wide variety of birds serenaded us with their joyful song. It was good to be alive! Over lunch, back at the café, we reflected on the sights we had seen

In celebration of St George’s Day, our walk was chosen to take us across the most wonderful English landscape. Within a band of trees, we delighted in the fresh greens of new leaves above us, the blue of the bluebells at our feet, and the freshness of the countryside which stretched away on either side. England at its best! Across a wide, oh so green field,

we headed towards the lovely buildings of the aptly named 'English Farm'. We stood to share its far-reaching view across field upon green field, divided by the green lines of hedgerows, and dotted with the green blobs of copses. We were in awe at the number of greens within England's 'Green and Pleasant Land'. Reaching the village of Nuffield, we headed for it's church where we found the simple grave of William Morris, Lord Nuffield, surrounded by daffodils. Our wonderful walk ended at Nuffield Place, former home of Lord Nuffield. Here we were welcomed into the garden to picnic in the sunshine before an interesting and informative tour of the house. Although one of the richest men in the world, he preferred to live simply. Famous for developing the Morris Oxford car, we entered the workroom next to his bedroom where he worked on various projects during sleepless nights. We also saw the Iron Lung, one of many he made for free. Lovely views from the windows tempted us out to explore in the garden. As expected, we found a very English garden with tempting vistas leading us past native plants, and along the core of an English garden – a Rose Walkway. During his lifetime, William Morris gave away over £3million in order to improve life for his fellow man. A true English Gentleman. Saint George would have been proud!



Our walks in May continue in search of more wild flowers as we head for meadows rich in Wild Fritillary, hillsides covered in Cowslips, and woodland flooded with Bluebells. May also sees us celebrating our sixth birthday, with a trip planned to the former garden of Enid Blyton, and a walk in the inspiring countryside surrounding her home.

If any ladies would like a programme of walks, which take place on weekday mornings, then do give me a ring.

Nicki Woodward
984 2112

APRIL CROSSWORD ANSWERS

Across:

5 ELECT, 6 FOREST, 8 GAVE, 9 IDOLATRY, 10 ZEBEDEE, 12 DINE, 14 AREA, 15 HARNESS, 18 FOUNTAIN, 19 WERE, 20 MYRTLE, 21 FRONT

Down

1 SENATE, 2 HERE, 3 STRIPES, 4 CREATION, 6 FLOW, 7 SERVE, 11 ETERNITY, 13 MAGNIFY, 14 AGONY, 16 SURETY, 17 DATE, 19 WOOD



PANGBOURNE & DISTRICT VOLUNTEER CENTRE

If you need help with transport, or know of anyone else who does, please contact us.

Volunteer drivers always needed! Do you have a few spare hours? Car drivers are needed to transport clients to hospitals, also for local journeys to doctors, etc. Help in the office is also required. Office opening hours: Mon/Wed/Thurs/Fri 9.30 a.m. to 11.30 a.m. Please come and join us.

Call 984 4586 or pop into The Committee Room, Pangbourne Village Hall.

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 1/2 page entry to be published. If specially preparing content, please set your page size to A5.

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.

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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, Steve Corrigan.

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