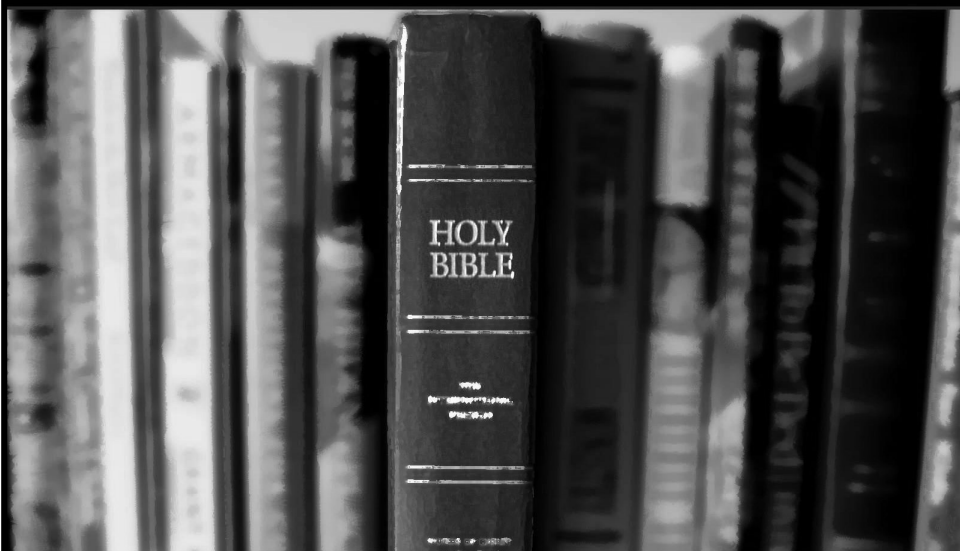


PURLEY PARISH NEWS

JULY 2006



For the word of God is living and active.

Hebrews 4:12

35P

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For the Church & Community of
PURLEY ON THAMES



ST. MARY THE VIRGIN

PURLEY ON THAMES

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BAPTISMS, WEDDINGS AND FUNERALS

All enquiries should be made to the Rector

www.stmarythevirgin.fsnet.co.uk

FROM THE RECTOR

Dear friends,

I wonder why he wrote it.

Someone asked why Dan Brown wrote the book *The Da Vinci Code*. Did he deliberately set out to discredit the traditional account of Jesus' life as recorded in the Gospels of the New Testament? Or did he merely use the Jesus story with much imaginative artistic licence to provide the backdrop for a good read? There could of course be another reason seeing that the book has sold well over 45 million copies worldwide!

If you have read it, what did you make of it? Did you read it for what it is – a work of fiction, or did you swallow the lie that the story of Jesus in the Gospels is the product of a massive cover-up by the Early Church? Some countries have banned this book for fear that it will unsettle Christian believers. But there is no good reason for such action. To do that would simply lend credence to the idea that the Church does have something to hide! But back to my earlier question –

what did you make of this book? Did it confirm an already-held opinion that the Christian Faith is a myth which only appeals to weak-minded people?

If you reckon yourself to be a Christian – and well over 70% of the population of Purley does – this book brings a challenge to you: if the New Testament record of Jesus Christ is true, then what this Man said and did is not only important, but supremely important! If this man is the Son of God, and if in what he said and did, he shows us what God is like and how we can experience God in everyday life, then it is vital that we discover as much as we can about him!

The chances are that those who read this will claim to be Christians, and if that is the case, what do you actually know about Jesus? You may have read The Da Vinci Code, but have you ever read – as a thinking adult – one of the Gospels? The context in which we live today is multi-cultural and multi-faith. Many people see Jesus as a great teacher and religious leader – no different from any other religious teacher and leader. But that is not what the New Testament presents! Here he is clearly more than a mere man. He made great claims for himself and they were backed up by equally great deeds. The disciples believed he was divine, and they were willing to lay down their lives for their belief that God raised him to life again after the crucifixion. There is no way they would have gone to that length if they knew it was a lie!

If you have not read The Da Vinci Code, read it by all means, but read one the Gospels too. The former may be good entertainment, but you will soon forget it and pass on to the next best-seller. The latter has the capacity to bring to your life the reality of God – someone who knows you, loves you and promises to be with you in all circumstances.

Roger Howell

PARISH REGISTER

BAPTISM

11 June Benjamin John David Wigley

WEDDING

17 June Kier Darby and Joanna Box

FUNERAL

15 June Cherrie Tomlin aged 58 years (Cremation)

BRADFIELD DEANERY SERVICE

The next in the current series of Deanery Services will be held on Sunday 30 July at 6pm at St. James the Less, Pangbourne. Revd Ian Thacker, the Chaplain at Huntercombe Young Offenders Institute, will be preaching. All are welcome!

CHURCH SERVICES

9 July	9.30am	Family Worship
	11.15am	Holy Communion (Healing ministry)
16 July	9.30am	Family Communion
	11.15am	Morning Worship
	6.00pm	Evening Worship
23 July	9.30am	Family Worship
	11.15am	Holy Communion
30 July	9.30am	Family Worship
	11.15am	Holy Communion
6 August	9.30am	Family Worship
	11.15am	Holy Communion
	6.00pm	Holy Communion
13 August	9.30am	Family Worship
	11.15am	Holy Communion
20 August	9.30am	Family Communion
	11.15am	Morning Worship
	6.00pm	Evening Worship
27 August	9.30am	Family Worship
	11.15am	Holy Communion
3 Sept	10.30am	Joint Service
	6.00pm	Holy Communion

WWW.CHRISTIANITY.ORG.UK

VOLUNTEER VISITORS NEEDED

The Chaplaincy of the Royal Berkshire Hospital, Reading offers spiritual care both to church members and to all others. Volunteer visitors are an essential part of our work, visiting wards regularly (weekly) in order to meet people, to offer support and report any particular needs. This is an opportunity for caring at a significant time in people's lives, and it is a responsible position which is both valuable and challenging.

We invite you to reflect on whether you may be called to come to share in the spiritual care of patients in the hospital. This essential pastoral work requires sensitivity, commitment and a clear understanding of the needs of the diverse population of our area. We offer training for volunteer visitors, for one night per week for twelve weeks. This includes enhancement of listening skills, consideration of the impact of suffering, pain and loss, and respect for others' spirituality as we engage with them. Prospective volunteers need to demonstrate some ability in these areas and to be ready to adapt and learn.

The next course begins in mid-September, and the closing date for applications is 10 July 2006. Please telephone us on 0118 322 7105 if you would like an application form. Thank you for your interest.

PURLEY PATHFINDERS

A WALKING GROUP FOR LADIES

A broken computer meant I missed the last magazine deadline so, as I write, I am reminiscing over walks which took place in springtime. Sitting here, with a fan cooling the 29° temperature, I realise just how the seasons are moving on. This is one of the joys of walking each week. Being out there in the countryside, following the progress as one season makes way for another, each bringing their own special qualities and pleasures.

Our Springtime Special took place a couple of days before St George's Day and, keeping our *Waterways* theme going, we decided upon a very traditional and *English* outing – a trip on a Horse-Drawn Barge along the Kennet & Avon Canal. "Oh to be in England now that April's there!" This nostalgic and patriotic thought set us up for the day as we gathered at Kintbury as spring had finally decided to arrive! Excitedly we boarded the awaiting barge, traditionally painted and decorated, and pulled by a Suffolk Punch, Bonny, also traditionally decorated with shiny brasses. So, the scene was set, and away we floated at a pace reminiscent of days gone by. Our seemingly effortless progress was silent as befitted the calm atmosphere of the pretty countryside through which we passed via the Canal. Through several locks, with their distinctive black and white woodwork, and under several ancient bridges looking wonderful, built of old stone, we watched our progress with



interest and delight. Waterfowl and birdlife on and around the canal busied themselves in the bushes and trees, in the fields nearby, or amongst the reeds and other water loving plants. We, in contrast, sat back in comfort, sipping at cups of coffee! At the very English market town of Hungerford we were welcomed to our destination by a flurry of ducks and swans, all eager to share the remains of our picnics which we had enjoyed on board. Saying "goodbye" to the friendly staff of the Kennet Horseboat Company, and to Bonny, our 'engine' for the day, we made our way back to Kintbury on foot. We enjoyed seeing the waterside from this different angle as we picked our way past banks of primroses. For a while we walked with the canal on one side and the River Kennet on the other, and we noted Dun Mill where the River Dun, the Kennet & Avon Canal, and the River Kennet all seem to merge. Back at Kintbury we reflected on how wonderful it truly is to be in England in April, and felt that we had celebrated the forthcoming St George's Day in true English fashion!

We finished our April walks on a lovely spring morning, noting how, despite the slow start, spring had really caught up with itself as we walked within the lush Loddon Nature Reserve at Twyford. Above us willow and alder trees were coming into leaf, beside us hedgerows were white with the blossom of

We finished our April walks on a lovely spring morning, noting how, despite the slow start, spring had really caught up with itself as we walked within the lush Loddon Nature Reserve at Twyford. Above us willow and alder trees were coming into leaf, beside us hedgerows were white with the blossom of

blackthorn, and at our feet cowparsley was sending its flower stems ever further into the air. The Reserve fitted well into our *Waterways* theme as it boasts the largest group of flooded gravel pits along the River Loddon. The islands set in the lakes are home to a wide variety of waterbirds, and several herons took to the air as we made our way along the very pleasant route. As we left the Reserve the white of the blackthorn and wild cherry blossom was exchanged for the pink blossom of crab apples and ornamental cherries peeping over the walls of the gardens of Landsend. One fine property had its very own copse full of bluebells, lovely! Eventually we arrived at the splendid white weatherboarded Sandford Mill. Here we witnessed a dell full of Berkshire's flower – the Loddon Lily – a wonderful sight! We continued near Dinton Pasture's wildest lake, Lavell's Lake, then hugged close to the banks of The River Loddon. Along this one-mile stretch we spotted more Loddon Lilies, and were delighted when we heard a cuckoo sing. We left the Loddon at the picturesque Whistley Bridge to find the lakes of the Nature Reserve once more which took us back to Twyford where we enjoyed lunch in the sunny garden of the Wagon & Horses.

Our next walk started from Tidmarsh along a delightful path, passing a field of pretty Highland cattle, and a paddock containing a couple of friendly pigs! Soon we were walking beside the River Pang, a highlight of the walk with its clear water and attractive waterside plants. At Pangbourne we walked beside the River Thames before woodland, looking lovely clothed in its fresh green leaves, took us up to Upper Basildon. From here we entered the grounds of Pangbourne College to walk beside their woodland, at first hazy with the blue of bluebells, then bright with the white of wild garlic. Dropping down past one green field after another we arrived back in Tidmarsh where we enjoyed lunch in the refurbished Greyhound.

May is *birthday month* and this year Blewbury proved an excellent place to celebrate our seventh birthday. Sited at a point where numerous springs arise, and with tributaries which feed the Millbrook which carries water to the Thames at Wallingford, we set out from this *watery* environment to walk through several fields to reach the pretty village of West Hagbourne with its attractive cottage gardens and interesting church. From here we took the path along a disused railway, which not only gave us extensive views, but also offered a bit of culture for it is dotted with green oak sculptures designed by students of Thame College. As the sun warmed us on the hottest day so far we made our way back to Blewbury to explore the labyrinth of winding lanes, streamside paths, and alleyways edged with interesting Saxon cob walls topped with thatch. The churchyard also proved pleasant. Managed by BBOWT it is classed as a *living churchyard* and is planted with various wild flowers. With the walk completed we headed for The Manor House, making our way up the long drive, once the fourth side of a moat. We were welcomed into the orchard to enjoy our picnics within the grateful shade of the blossoming fruit trees. Refreshed, the Head Gardener gave us a tour of the wonderful 10-acre garden with its parterre, privy garden, kitchen garden, rose arbour, woodland, lake, streams, moat, and sunken gravel garden, developed over the past ten years by owner and designer, Alice Coptcoat. Our fabulous day ended with a share of the birthday cake.

From the magnificent Black Barn at Rushall Farm we headed for the woodland which, on this May day, was full of bluebells cascading down the banks in waterfalls of blue. Lambs huddled close to their mothers in the fields nearby and the Pang Valley stretched out before us – how wonderful! We joined the River Pang at Bradfield via a pretty winding path leading from the church. Then, making our way along this, one of the prettiest stretches on the river, we enjoyed the company of ducks with their ducklings, and a swan even stood up from her nest to show us her precious clutch of eggs. Back at the Black Barn we picnicked with lovely views and good company.

Our next walk began along a wild stretch of the River Kennet. As our path twisted and turned the sound of rushing water could be heard and soon, we arrived at the weir. After crossing the foaming water we joined the towpath with the Kennet & Avon Canal on one side and lakes on the other. This watery scene was a delight to walk within. Swifts and swallows gave us a spectacular aerial display as they flew with perfect timing in all directions, while the graceful tern quietly patrolled the water, diving down now and then to expertly scoop up a tempting snack from the canal's surface. Eventually we left the towpath to make our way through lush countryside with far reaching views. We passed the Police Training College at Sulhamstead and eventually, rejoined the path beside the River Kennet which took us back to the start.

Our next walk also had a link with Sulhamstead. As we paused at the Folly, we heard the story which states that it was built by a member of the Wilder family in an attempt to impress a lady who lived in Sulhamstead, from where it can be clearly seen. Personally, I would prefer a box of Milk Tray, but it seemed to do



the trick for this couple for they later married! We enjoyed the open view, noticing Englefield House, Theale Church, and the green of The Kennet Valley. From Nunehide Lane we took a path beside crops, looking very strong and healthy despite the drought-induced cracks along our route. Beside Horsemoor Wood we paused to soak up the calmness of the green around us, with the Folly perched on its hill outlined against the blue sky. The path continued to the River Pang but we left it to follow a woodpecker, which lead us away through more fields of crops and beside a field of cows with their calves. Our break at Sulham Church gave us time to take a look at the Tapestry inside upon which the Folly is depicted in stitch, along with the many beautiful cottages of the

area. We continued with a climb into Sulham Wood, relishing in its coolness on this hot day. We explored a copse which promises a good show of foxgloves. Sadly only a few were out due to the lateness of the season. Out in the sunshine again, we walked through fields to the song of the skylark, passing a pond visited by numerous dragonflies and damselflies. Watched by several horses from the nearby stables, we ended our lovely, peaceful walk in this Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Our summer walks continue beside the cool waters of the Kennet & Avon Canal at Aldermaston, and The Thames at Henley, Dorchester and Wargrave. We will be celebrating the tennis season with our *Wimbledon Strawberry Walk* in the Pang Valley, while our *Summertime Special* will take place in Bath where we will walk beside the River Avon and the Kennet & Avon Canal before enjoying the delights of this beautiful Georgian city.

Any ladies wishing to join us are welcome to give me a ring or visit our website www.purleypathfinders.co.uk. Here you will find more details about the group, plus photographs taken on our walks. (Sorry for the delay this month. My husband says that there's only one thing more frustrating than a woman, and that's a computer. I'm beginning to think he's right!)

Nicki Woodward
984 2112



HAPPY BIRTHDAY **LUNCHPOT**

Come and join in the Celebrations at the

20th Birthday Party

Noon till 1pm Friday 22 September

St Mary's Church Hall

Enjoy all your favourites for lunch - Tickets £4 Adult / £2 Child for lunch & drink

Available from Nicki Woodward 984 2112 - Please Tell any Past Lunchpoters!

MAGAZINE HOLIDAY

Don't forget there is no August edition of the Purley Parish News, which gives me a rest in July. Please continue to forward all articles to me ready for the September edition: the deadline is printed at the back of the magazine.

Deadlines for copy are now always a fortnight before publication, although late copy may be accepted up to the Wednesday following subject to available space.

If you are emailing large articles, particularly over the summer break, please use my alternative email address of matthew.slingsby@yahoo.com to avoid the regular email overfilling (ntl only allows me 10MB of space).

Have a wonderful summer!
Editor

NEIGHBOURHOOD ACTION

Speeding and anti-social behaviour are neighbourhood priorities

Feedback from the annual Parish Meeting, when we revisited Purley's priorities for the Neighbourhood Action Group, shows that speeding and anti-social behaviour remain the main concerns for residents. This closely reflects the results from similar public meetings in neighbouring parishes.

Perhaps surprisingly, it is not speeding by traffic passing through Purley on the Oxford Road which is upsetting people, but inappropriate speed and inconsiderate driving by local people on local roads. As a result, we plan to deploy the SID speed indicator devices in a number of areas, including New Hill, Hazel Road, Purley Village and Nursery Gardens over the coming weeks and months.

We hope that this will remind motorists to demonstrate greater concern for their neighbours on their way to and from work, or on the school run and shopping trips. Where problems remain we have been promised the support of the police in enforcing local speed limits and prosecuting persistent offenders.

Addressing incidents of anti-social behaviour remains a priority for the NAG, with Carew Close, Pikeshaw and footpath five (from the Oxford Road to Pikeshaw) receiving special attention from the Neighbourhood Police Team at the moment.

We are pleased to report that two new wardens have been recruited to the Neighbourhood Wardens' team and daily patrols are now taking place in Purley.

David Betts
Chairman, Pangbourne and District Neighbourhood Action Group
david.betts@purleyonthames.net

PROJECT PURLEY

WALKABOUT

It was an intrepid band of twenty Project Purley members who braved the incessant drizzle to gather under the bandstand in the Forbury Gardens on 19 May for our annual walkabout. This was not to be an outing for the fainthearted, for not only did we have to contend with the miserable weather, there was also the danger posed by the busy late rush-hour traffic as we criss-

You are invited to.....

A



Teddy Bear's Picnic

Sunday 9th July
from 4-6 p.m.
in Bucknell's Meadow
...in church hall if wet...

bring a Picnic games bring your Teddy stories photo opportunities

All welcome

Additional information from Sally Robertson tel: 962 5978

crossed the road in the centre of Reading, the cyclists and hurrying pedestrians on the pavements. Also, in some ways most bemusing of all, the fact that we were to be bombarded with information about no fewer than 54 buildings and monuments which are to be found in the centre of the town.

It was fortunate that our guides, Sidney Gold, a National Trust member and well respected expert on local monuments, and John Dearing, Chairman of the History of Reading Society, were sufficiently knowledgeable and enthusiastic to retain our attention for most of the evening. They had obviously prepared their scripts with great care and took it in turns to tell us about so many interesting and beautiful parts of Reading which, in the hustle and bustle of our daily lives, we take for granted and are too busy to appreciate.

It is possible to select only a few highlights from the many places we visited and the stops we made. The evening began with a look at the Maiwand Lion, an iconic statue in the Forbury which commemorates a famous battle of the Afghan War and where, on 27 July 1880, 328 soldiers of the Royal Berkshire Regiment were massacred by native tribesmen. The sculptor was George Simonds, a member of the well-known local brewery family, who took five years to complete the work, and Sidney was quick to dispel the myth that the sculptor committed suicide when it was pointed out to him that the lion's stride pattern is unrealistic. Simonds had in fact studied for some time at the Zoological Gardens in London to ensure he effected an accurate representation.

The Forbury Gardens themselves, recently renovated and upgraded, were originally laid out in 1855 on the site of an old rubbish dump owned by the Council. Besides the grotto, fountain and rustic arch, they also contain the Henry I cross, unveiled in 1909 to commemorate King Henry I who founded Reading Abbey in 1121 and was buried there in January 1136.

Surprisingly we did not visit the Abbey Ruins, which many would consider to be the most significant part of Reading's heritage, but walked briskly past the Abbey Gate and the four surviving terraced houses of Abbots' Walk, near where there is a bronze plaque showing where Jane Austen, author of *Pride & Prejudice*, attended school from 1785 to 1786.

John spoke briefly about Reading Prison which dates from the 1840s and which is best known as the temporary home of Oscar Wilde. It became the inspiration for his enduring poem, *The Ballad of Reading Gaol*, and replaced an earlier gaol built in the late 1790s on the same site. There was a quick reference to St. James Roman Catholic Church, built in 1837 but extended in 1925 and 1962, and then we made our way into St. Laurence's Churchyard. The churchyard, as our guides explained, is notable for the grave and wooden headboard in memory of Henry West, killed by a sudden whirlwind whilst working at the Great Western Railway Station in 1840, and also the remains of the massive church window which was damaged during a German Luftwaffe bombing raid in February 1943.

We saw the War Memorial between the Forbury and St. Laurence's, commissioned in 1919 but not completed until 1931, and then at a much reduced cost of £1,000, by local builders Collier & Catley. After World War Two, the letter "s" was added to the inscription so that it now remembered citizens of Reading

who fell in both Great Wars. The architect was Leslie Gunston, a cousin of the war poet, Wilfred Owen.

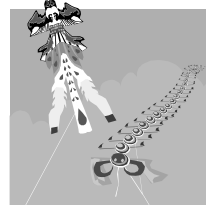
There was a brief pause by the statue of Queen Victoria, erected in 1887 to mark her Golden Jubilee. Simonds, following the success of his Maiwand Lion, was the obvious choice as designer and sculptor, but he and his assistants had to work for 15 hours a day for five months to ensure that it was completed in time for its unveiling by the Duke of Cambridge in June 1887. Another local myth was refuted when we were told that the statue is not facing away from the town centre due to the Queen's dislike of the town, because she never actually visited Reading. The statue has become the object of unofficial adornment from time to time, especially on University Rag Days, but most recently with blue and white scarves and banners as town centre football fans celebrated Reading FC's promotion to the Premiership.

The Town Hall complex was built in several stages between 1786 and 1897, though the main building stands on the original site of Reading School, which was founded in 1120 but relocated to Erleigh Road in 1870. From there we moved on to the Market Place and looked at the Simeon Obelisk, paid for by Edward Simeon, a Reading man and director of the Bank of England. He commissioned his friend, St. John Soane to make the original design in 1804, to improve the appearance of a rather dull and gloomy part of the town. The obelisk is triangular in outline to correspond with the shape of the Market Place.

The majority of buildings in the Market Place, King's Street, Broad Street and Minster Street have changed their appearance as well as their function over the decades, so there is a not completely pleasant contrast of styles in the town centre. Some are timber framed, some have Ionic columns, Attic arches, one or two are in Art Nouveau style, some have glazed tiled and terra cotta fronts and Barclays Bank is built in the Italian Palazzo style. Minster Street Telephone Exchange was designed by Leonard Stokes around 1901, in the rather plain and functional English style, but the fact that Stokes married Edith Gaine, the daughter of the General Manager of the National Telephone Company, ensured that he received the commission to design a further twenty telephone exchanges throughout the country.

We were nearing the end of our tour now and gained brief respite from the inclement weather as we sheltered in St. Mary's Churchyard to be told that

Let's go fly a kite!!



Sunday 20th August

4.30 - 6.30 p.m.

In Bucknell's Meadow

**Bring a picnic
Bring a kite
or make one there**

Everyone welcome

Additional information from Pam Slingsby tel: 961 5585

this was Reading's oldest church, having celebrated its millennium in 1979. Apart from the tower which dates from 1550, much of the rest of St. Mary's dates from the Victorian restorers. The Harrinson memorial of Portland Stone in the churchyard is not a war memorial, but was erected in 1887 to recognise the munificence of Dr. Isaac Harrinson, a wealthy medical practitioner whose generosity enabled a series of old, dilapidated cottages to be cleared and thereby alleviate traffic problems. He also paid for a new aisle and organ at St. Mary's and for the Jubilee Fountain in St. Mary's Butts. The fountain has 29 water jets plus an overflow for dogs and, like Harrinson's memorial, is built from Portland stone.

The final stage of the two and half hour long journey saw us cross the Butts and begin the steady climb up Castle Street past Lydford House (formerly the Castle Brewery), the Congregational Chapel which has been transformed in turn into a furniture store, nightclub and public house, and The Sun pub. The latter dates from the early 17th century and was a minor coaching inn which also served the important carrier trades which passed through Reading on their way to surrounding villages.

And then at last we were granted sanctuary, at least from the heavy rain, as John Dearing opened the door to St. Mary's Episcopal Chapel in Castle Street and allowed us to sit for a while in the pews of the church where he is a regular worshipper. He explained that he is a member of the congregation of the Church of England (Continuing) and the opportunity to look around the beautiful building with its raised pulpit and high vaulted ceiling in relative comfort made an enjoyable ending to our lengthy walkabout.

Although better weather would have made for a more pleasant outing, those members who completed the journey – and a few did fall by the wayside during the evening – all agreed that we had learned much about Reading town centre. For that we are indebted to our two indefatigable guides, Sidney Gold and John Dearing. We should be grateful for their expertise.

David Downs

WARNING: DON'T MESS WITH OLDIES

We went to breakfast at a restaurant where the *Seniors' Special* was two eggs, bacon, hash browns and toast for £2.99.

"Sounds good," my wife said, "but I don't want the eggs."

"Then I'll have to charge you three pounds and forty-nine pence because you're ordering a la carte," the waitress warned her.

"You mean I'd have to pay for NOT having the eggs?" my wife asked incredulously. "I'll take the special."

"How do you want your eggs?"

"Raw and in the shell," my wife replied.

She took the two eggs home – and baked a cake.



Thames Vale Singers
and
EMC Big Band
present

Sing & Swing

We invite you to join us for a bistro-style evening of foot-tapping nostalgia
(feel free to bring your own drinks/glasses and refreshments)

Sunday 9 July 2006, 7.30pm at Denefield School, Long Lane, Tilehurst

Tickets cost £8 for Adults £5 for Senior Citizens & Children
and can be obtained by telephoning 962 4651

A PLACE TO PAUSE

Down to the river I long to go
Where the unhurried waters of the great Thames flow;
Restful rippling, glistening sun –
A place to pause when the day is done.

Focused fishermen fix their gaze
On the deep, dark pools where the big fish laze.
A squadron of geese in formation fly,
A raucous band in the open sky.

Bobbing boats rest in the shade
Of a curtained screen that the willow has made.
Ducks come dawdling, two by two,
Hunting for food, as all ducks do.

Down to the river... it calls me now
Through the meadows green and the herd of cow;
Restful rippling, glistening sun –
A place to pause when the day is done.

Joan Muirhead

A MESSAGE TO HOME FARM

Having read the *Following Recent Events* message from the Metcalfe family in May's edition, a reader asked me to publish the following message of support to all at Home Farm:

Thank you for your note and for the great community spirit that you have shown in rejecting the proposal – I am extremely grateful to you. Though not working in your area of expertise, which I have always valued and had the highest regard

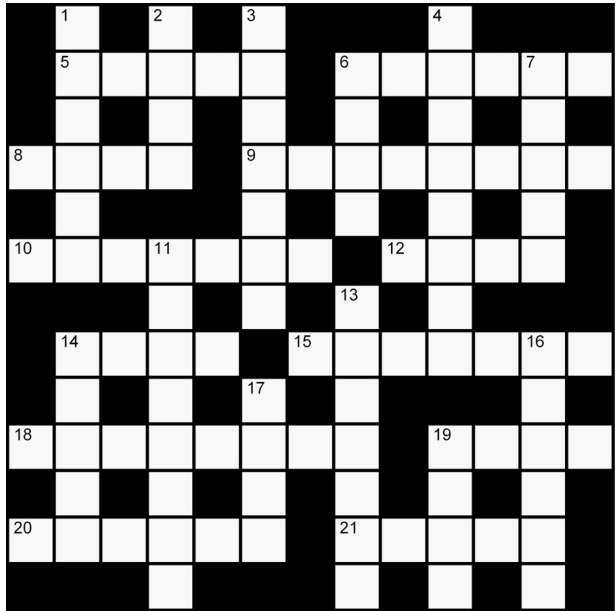
for, I realise how hard it is working in the climate you are with today's finances and bureaucratic red tape and the sacrifice you have made.

Though I cannot speak for the whole community, whom I am sure would reciprocate if they knew of a way to do so, I would like to express publicly that I would willingly give the family some of my time to help best as I can on the farm to show my appreciation.

I have, over the years, valued councillor Metcalfe's involvement in our community affairs and communications with me through this magazine. Long may it continue. Thank you, once again.

Name and address supplied

W CROSS R D



Across

- 5 Visible result of burning (5)
- 6 Command with authority (6)
- 8 Express in words (4)
- 9 A place where wealth and precious objects are kept (8)
- 10 The first Christian martyr (7)
- 12 Delayed (4)
- 14 Cable (4)
- 15 Amount (7)
- 18 Odd (8)
- 19 Aspect (4)
- 20 Thoroughfare (6)
- 21 Mammal in which Jonah spent three days and nights (5)

Down

- 1 Consequence (6)
- 2 Travel by ship (4)
- 3 Animal skin (7)
- 4 Sin (8)
- 6 Marked by depth (4)
- 7 Profane or obscene expression (5)
- 11 Used to anoint the dead (8)
- 13 Those claiming descent from Jacob (7)
- 14 Corn (5)
- 16 Second wife of Jacob (6)
- 17 Bring up (4)
- 19 Unleavened (4)

THE HAND OF FRIENDSHIP

Is there anyone who would like to meet new friends, and spend a pleasant afternoon in friendly company? The Hand of Friendship is a group that meets every Tuesday afternoon from 2pm to 4pm in St. Mary's Church Hall. We welcome new members, of any age, for a chat, tea and cakes; we have a small raffle. We look forward to seeing you soon.

*Babs Waring 942 8844
Gladys Morris 942 3610*

WEST BERKS SCRABBLE CLUB

We are a Purley-based club who meet in The Barn at the Recreational Ground. Our members are of mixed abilities. For people who are new to the game we give individual help and guidance.

June has been our annual holiday month with everyone no doubt enjoying the good weather we have been fortunate to have.

July sees us meeting again on Tuesday evenings. This is from 7.15pm to 10pm.

We commence meeting on Thursday afternoons in September. (We have a three month break during the summer months).

Why not join us on a Tuesday evening and see for yourself what a friendly welcoming group we are. We would love to meet you. Just give us a call – Ian or Elizabeth on 984 5054.



St Mary's Church Holiday Club 2006

Monday 14 – Friday 18 August

9.30am until 1.30pm

£4.00 per day

Ages 5-11

Reduced rates for families

Subsidised rates for families on low incomes

Contact Anna for further information: 942 8351

£10.00 non-returnable deposit and booking form

MUST be received to reserve a place

Registration Opens 3 July

Limited Places!!

PURLEY PLAYERS

Present their summer show

THAT'S LIFE!

ON FRIDAY AND SATURDAY 14 & 15 JULY 2006

THE BARN, GOOSECROFT LANE, PURLEY ON THAMES

Tickets, which include a bowl of strawberries and cream and a glass of wine
£8.50 with concessions at £7

Come along with your friends and enjoy an evening of
sketches and songs of situations we all recognise

Tickets from Jean Chudleigh (984 2563) or Anne Bolland on (941 3259)

Lucky programme wins a bottle of Champagne

Proceeds in aid of Daisy's Dream
a service supporting bereaved children in Berkshire and the surrounding area

PURLEY ON THAMES PARISH COUNCIL



A small but enthusiastic audience attended the Annual Parish Meeting held in the Barn on 23 May when they were able to input their views on quality of life issues and assist in the setting of priorities for Thames Valley Police. These were reported to the Neighbourhood Action Group at their June meeting and the major items were speeding, anti-social behaviour and parking problems. The West Berkshire Neighbourhood Wardens also gave a presentation on their expansion into the Purley area and we should all see the benefits soon when the newly recruited staff commence more regular patrols. Following a report and update on the activities of the Parish Council, from the new Chairman Rick Jones, there was an opportunity to deal with general questions from the floor. Our thanks go to the Women's Institute who provided refreshments for the meeting. Please continue to utilise our website for the latest information on local issues.

West Berkshire Council is holding a public meeting on recycling at the Slater Centre, New Greenham Park, Newbury on 6 July between 7 and 9pm. As there is local interest in this issue please take the opportunity to attend. Further information can be found on the WBC website link:

<http://www.westberks.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=6604>

I have been asked to advise you that the Community Furniture Project will again be attending the Farmers' Market at the Barn on 9 September. Smaller household items can be left for reuse on the day but for larger furniture

collection can be arranged by ringing 01635 43933. Further information can also be found on their website: www.cfpnewbury.org

Please continue to support the Farmers' Market to ensure its continuation. Future dates are 8 July, 12 August, 9 September, 14 October, 11 November and 9 December.

All available allotment plots have now been let for the season but I have had to advise tenants that the hosepipe ban does apply to them following discussions with Thames Water. If you wish to be considered for the waiting list for plots please contact the Allotment Manager, Alex Stott, on 941 9186 or e-mail vastott@aol.com

The Carebus Volunteer Group who provide community transport in the area are desperately short of volunteer drivers and have asked for anyone interested to contact them on 930 4837 or e-mail CarebusVG@aol.com

I regret that both our footpath map notice boards have now been vandalised and the map stolen from the one at the end of Mapledurham Drive. I would again urge anyone witnessing criminal damage or anti-social behaviour to report it at the time on the police non-emergency telephone no. 0845 8 505 505. All calls are logged and will assist both the police and the wardens in targeting this sort of behaviour. As suggested by government the remedy is often in your own hands by providing information.

Those of you who use the A4 between here and Newbury may be interested in an A4 Transport Corridor Study currently taking place including exhibitions the most local of which was recently held at Theale. Further information can be found on the WBC website and responses can be sent to a4study@westberks.gov.uk

Finally, a reminder that this office will be open for the collection of WBC travel-tokens on:

Tuesday 4 July (10am-2pm)
Wednesday 5 July (Noon-4pm)
Thursday 6 July (10am-4pm)

Any queries should be made to the Concessionary Fares Team on 01635 519800 or by e-mail transport@westberks.gov.uk

Brian J. Smith
Clerk to Purley on Thames Parish Council

The office, located near the tennis courts, opens:

Mondays (not BH): 5.45pm to 8.30pm
Including an opportunity to meet
Councillors between 6pm & 7pm
Thursdays: 9.00am to 3.15pm

Barn Manager: Jean Chudleigh 07917 453187

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@purleyipc.wanadoo.co.uk

www.purleyonthames.net

JANET FOSKETT SCHOOL OF DANCING

Classes are held at Whitchurch Village Hall – with many Purley children attending. These classes are held on a Monday and Thursday evening.

There are very few vacancies in the pre primary and tiny tot class (Monday) but if there is enough interest, I will start a new a Tiny Tot (2½ to 4) ballet class and a pre-primary class on a Tuesday evening at either St Mary's, Purley, or Whitchurch.

20TH ANNIVERSARY SHOW

This was held at Pangbourne College on Saturday 25 March 2006 and was very successful. No hiccoughs and smiley children! A few 'old girls' and their mums came to assist, for which I was grateful.

PILATES

There is a long established class on a Thursday afternoon at St Mary's Purley, as well as one at Whitchurch on a Monday evening.

Beginner's Pilates: if there are enough of you requiring a class I will start a beginner's class in the area.

If you require any further information on the above, then please do contact me.

*Janet Foskett - Dance and Pilates Teacher
01635 863891*

PURLEY W.I.

Plants and herbs have been around as long as we have, so it makes sense to take advantage of their properties. Drinking herbal tea may not have an immediate effect, but then we will not suffer the side effects of modern drugs. We now know of the pill which will help soothe that taunting headache, but what is it doing to our stomach lining? We have to respect our bodies – use it, don't abuse it! Don't you remember when, as a child, we would suffer a fall and Grannie would know which leaf from the garden to use for soothing. We can grow our own medication patch.

Anna Cannon is Polish and her mother British and we were swamped with knowledge and enthusiasm. You can ring her for advice and given a health query, she will soothe the problem. Should you suffer with your liver, joints or gastric problems, there is something there to help. Sage for digestion; Rosemary opens up the arteries to the brain and Thyme is twenty times stronger than a cleaning property. We must remember, sometimes, that we have become immune to antibiotics. There are plenty of chemicals in herbs, but not the synthetic variety. Now Rosemary taken "properly" helps with (can't remember), oh yes, the memory! Remember giving gripe water to teething babies? Well, that's Dill to the rescue and Parsley for the joints – the list is just endless. The understanding of numerous herbs really gave us food for thought, so much so I'm off for a coffee – perhaps not, eh? What's that herb for the memory – Rosemary? Mastermind, watch out!

BREAST AWARENESS

We were challenged to decorate a bra to be forwarded to the Newbury Show in September. What wonderful entries. Wendy Chapman wowed us with her pair of bulging eyes with lashes to die for, plus little poems. The ingenuity was priceless and workmanship excellent. Ann Davis produced a symbolic bra with trailing ribbons with added messages which referred (sometimes sadly) to the Campaign. Others had tassels, nibbling rabbits, even a football theme, so whatever the size cup- A.B.C. or even half, every cup was appropriately filled. I tell you folk – September Newbury Show will be definitely worth a visit. See you there.

COMPETITIONS

Flower of the month	1 st Dorothy Viljeon and Margaret Martin 2 nd Betty Hunter
Herbal posy	1 st Edna Bint 2 nd Sylvia Conquest

The flower and herbal posy tables were so colourful that it appeared we had produced our own mini Chelsea Flower Show. Don't you think it looked good, Ladies?

A weekend at Denman College was won by Stella Peedell – she can choose whichever subject she would like – lucky lady.

Next month's speaker will be Catherine Butcher with a talk entitled *Daughter of the Regiment*. The competition is War Medals and the Stall, books and videos. The meeting will be held at Purley Memorial Hall, Glebe road, Purley on Thames on Wednesday, 12 July starting at 7.30pm. Visitors welcome.

DON'T FORGET – 2ND SATURDAY OF THE MONTH
"MEAT – YOUR – MATES- AT – THE – MARKET- AGAIN!"

Sylvia Conquest
941 1936

PURLEY INFANT SCHOOL SUMMER FAYRE AND AUCTION **SATURDAY 15 JULY – GATES OPEN 12.00**

Auction items include

*An Escorted Family trip to Binfield Heath Polo Club to watch a match
with the opportunity to meet the Players and Horses*

A Day at Newbury Races Car Valet from Sonning Common Garage

A Signed Football from the newly promoted Reading Football Club

Others Attractions include

Bar and Barbecue	Cake Sale	Refreshments
Tombolas	Lucky Dips	Coconut Shy Raffle

Entrance £1 per adult (lucky ticket prize) accompanied children free



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.

For further details or booking of any the events, please contact the Project Office. *The Black Barn at Rushall Manor Farm is situated off Back Lane, between Stanford Dingley and Bradfield. Take the gravel track north off Back Lane to the west of Scratchface Lane. Grid ref. SU 583723.

FRIENDS' DIARY

Thu 6 July 7.30pm

Pang Valley Cons. Vol. AGM Bucklebury Memorial Hall

Come and join the Pang Valley Conservation Volunteers for their AGM at Bucklebury Memorial Hall, followed by a talk on botanical archaeology and the importance of veteran trees to our landscape heritage by Dick Greenaway

Sun 9 July 10.30am

Butterfly Walk

Paices Wood

Join us for a relaxed guided walk around Paices Wood focusing on butterflies. We should hopefully see a few since about 40 species of Britain's 55 resident butterflies can be seen in woodland. Meet 10.30am at Paices Wood Country Parkland (through Young's Industrial Estate) Grid ref: SU 586 638

Tue 11 July

Pathway maintenance

Marsh Meadows

Help to clear grass cuttings from the pathways at Marsh Meadows. Meet outside Co-op Welcome store at 10am Grid ref: SU 525 680

Thu 13 July 8.30-10pm

Nightjars and Glow-worms

Bucklebury Common

Join BHCG leader Tim Culley for a late evening walk looking at heathland restoration and some of the specialised wildlife associated with the habitat, including Nightjars and Glow worms. Stout footwear is necessary. Meet at Angel's Corner, by the Scout Hut on Bucklebury Common at 8.30pm Grid ref: SU 550 688.

Sun 16 July 1pm

Mills, Mounts & Water Meadows Lw. Lambourn Valley

Come and explore part of the Lower Lambourn Valley in the company with Dick Greenaway. About 4.5 miles (7.5 km) some of which will be soggy hills and stiles. Meet at The Watermill Theatre car park at 1pm. Dogs on leads only please (landowner's requirement). Limited car parking spaces, car sharing advisable, booking essential. Suggested £2 per car donation to save the Watermill Theatre fund. Contact the Project Office to book your place 930 5336.

Tue 18 July

Footpath Work

Bucklebury

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.

Thu 20 July 8.30-10pm Nightjars and Glow-worms Bucklebury Common
Join BHCG leader Tim Culley for a late evening walk looking at heathland restoration and some of the specialised wildlife associated with the habitat, including Nightjars and Glow worms. Stout footwear is necessary. Meet at Angel's Corner, by the Scout Hut on Bucklebury Common at 8.30pm Grid ref: SU 550 688.

Thu 27 July Tools Maintenance & BBQ Englefield
All the hard work we put in through the year puts a strain on our tools! We will be working at our tool store to repair those broken handles and sharpen those worn blades. We will also be having a BBQ (please bring your own food) so why not join us to find out more about what we do? Meet at the Old Estate Office, Englefield Road, Theale, from 10am onwards.

Sat 29 July 10am-3pm Open Day Paices Wood
Come along to discover what Paices Wood has to offer, there will be: guided walks, fishing tuition, pond dipping, building wildlife homes, BBQ. Drop in anytime and leave when you like. At Paices Wood Country Parkland (through Young's Industrial Estate). Grid ref: SU 586 638.

Tue 1 Aug Meadow Management Pangbourne
We will be clearing ragwort from Sulham Meadows SSSI, so that this important site can be grazed. Meet at Black Barn, Rushall Manor Farm* at 10am or phone the Project office for details of meeting on site.

Tue 8 Aug Meadow Management Leyfield Meadow
Come and help Dick Greenaway cut and clear the bracken invading this flower rich grassland. Meet at Ashampstead Common car park at 10am Grid ref: SU 587 751

Wed 9 Aug 1-3pm Wildlife Exploration Hosehill Lake
Come mini-beast hunting and pond dipping and discover what lives at Hosehill Lake LNR. An adult must accompany all children. Meet at the Fox & Hounds Pub, Station Road, Theale. Grid ref: SU 650 697

Tue 15 Aug Grassland management Ashampstead Common
Come and help Dick Greenaway maintain the glades and grassland in this beautiful woodland. Meet at Ashampstead Common car park at 10am Grid ref: SU 587 751)

Wed 16 Aug 2pm Wildlife Homes Turnpike Meadow
Come and build a home for ladybirds or bees to spend the winter. An adult must accompany all children. Meet at 2pm outside the Riverside Community Centre. Grid ref: SU 485 678

Mon 28 Aug 9.30am-2pm Nature Walk Rushall Manor Farm
Organise your own charity sponsorship, sponsor the Projects or merely come and walk a course starting from this superb location and enjoy a nature quiz on the way. Start at the Black Barn at any time between 9.30am-2pm. Quiz sheets will be provided for a 1 mile and 5 mile course. Tea, coffee, cakes and BBQ will be available. Entry £3 per family; all proceeds will go to The Pang, Kennet and Lambourn Valleys Countryside Projects. Well behaved dogs welcome. Further information if required from the Project Office.

Tue 29 Aug Meadow Management Turnpike Meadow
Help to rake up the cuttings from the wildflower meadow in Turnpike, set alongside the River Lambourn. Meet outside the Riverside Community Centre at 10am Grid ref: SU 485 678

Tue 5 Sept Grassland management Ashampstead Common
Come and help Dick Greenaway maintain our veteran tree halos. Meet at Ashampstead Common car park at 10am Grid ref: SU 587 751

Sun 10 Sept**Heathland Management****Bucklebury Common**

For all tasks meet at Angel's Corner, by the Scout Hut on Bucklebury Common (Grid ref. SU 550 688) at 10am. Contact Tim Culley for more details on 971 4830.

Sat 16 Sept 10am-2pm**Meadow Management****Hosehill Lake**

Come along and help to rake up grass cuttings from the East Meadow, which is cut once the wildflowers have finished flowering and seeding. Meet at the Fox & Hounds Pub, Station Road, Theale. Grid ref: SU 650 697

Sat/Sun 16/17 Sept**Royal County of Berkshire Show****Newbury**

Come and visit the Projects stand in the Countryside Area at the Royal County of Berkshire Show. This year there will be an opportunity for you to have your say on the River Lambourn Restoration Project. Jason Ball of the Barn Owl Conservation Network, Murray Maclean (grower of hedgerow trees and shrubs), and the John Simonds Trust will be sharing our stand so come along and see what we are up to.

Sun 24 Sept 11am**Chasing the White Hart****Ashampstead**

Join Dick Greenaway for a 6 mile (8.5 km) walk from Ashampstead village through woods and across fields past World War II remains for a pub lunch at the White Hart in Hampstead Norreys. Returning to Ashampstead after lunch. There is a very steep hill on this walk. Well behaved dogs welcome. Meet at the village hall in Ashampstead at 11am Grid ref: SU 5645 7685. Booking is important for this walk so that the pub is prepared for us.

HELP WANTED

Do you have a passion for the countryside and enjoy telling others about it. If so please contact the Project office as we need new walk leaders for our very successful walks programme. All necessary training will be provided. So if you have some hidden walks that you would like to share with other members please do not hesitate to contact us at the Project office 930 5336

NOTELETS FOR SALE

The 'Friends' Photo competition notelets are available from the Project Office: £2 for a pack of 4, or £5 for 3 packs.



Mon 31 July

Tue 19 September

Mon 30 October

Tue 12 December

Join Christians in Purley from many churches as we come together to give thanks to God for our village, and to pray -

for individuals, families, schools, groups, activities etc. We start at 8pm and are finished by 9pm.

Sally Robertson – 962 5978 – sally.a.robertson@ntlworld.com –
Melyn Colyton Way (on the corner next to the shop)

Chris Rayers 942 1880 – c.rayers@talk21.com – 9 Allison Gardens

PLEASE SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL POST OFFICE



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 9.30am to 11.30am. 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 ½ 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.

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 either Steve Corrigan or Les Jamieson.

This edition published	Next edition copy deadline	Next edition published
1 July 2006	19 August 2006	2 September 2006

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