

PURLEY PARISH NEWS

FEBRUARY 2007

LENT

Lord God, by your word
fill me with a spirit of
repentance and forgiveness
a spirit of hope and trust,
a spirit of gratitude and Thanksgiving,
a spirit of love and servanthood,
a spirit of discipleship and commitment,
a spirit of obedience and humility.



35p

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 LOCAL MINISTER

It is no secret that I am a frequent user of the train service from Tilehurst; either to make the short journey to Reading or (too often for my liking) the longer journey into London. Even if you are not a frequent user of trains, the introduction in December of a completely new timetable is unlikely to have escaped your attention. Reaction to the changes has been such that one train operating company hit the news by bowing to public pressure – it reverted in January to the pre-December timetable. My impression is that there are many passengers at Tilehurst who wish that First Great Western would do likewise!



New Year, which we celebrated a month or so ago, is a time of year when traditionally we celebrate change, not least in making New Year resolutions. I get the impression that is one tradition, which is itself changing. At the first church service at St Mary's in January, only eight people in a reasonably full church admitted to having made a New Year resolution. That service also

illustrated why I gave up some years ago making resolutions on the first of January – less than a week into 2007, fewer than half of those who had made resolutions were still following them.

Change is difficult. If it's forced upon us, it takes us some time to get used to it. If it's self-imposed, we need to put real effort into ensuring it makes a lasting difference.

Self-change has one motivator – that things will be better after the change than before. And so we plan carefully how to embark on the change process, we control our environment to reduce the risk of being tempted to backslide; we manage our progress towards the change becoming permanent, or at least long lasting. But even once we've changed, the reaction of our friends (and sometimes ourselves) tends to be "Yes, but..." "Yes, you've lost the weight now, but you'll soon put it back on again", that kind of thing.

Just over a month ago, it was my privilege to lead for the first time one of the busiest of the Christmas services, where we share Communion together during the first hour of Christmas Day. It's a service attended by many who don't frequently attend St Mary's.

At the end of the service, I stood at the door to wish people "Happy Christmas" as they left. A number of visitors stopped to say a few words, and from these brief conversations, I came to realise what an inappropriate phrase that can be; that for many Christmas is a time of pain, a time of remembering the unwelcome change in their lives that the death of a loved one has brought.

The Bible tells us clearly that God changes things. The difference, between God's interventions and how we try to change, is that God can do things beyond our planning, our control, our management, our imagination. He can do things which defy the logic of "Yes, but..." and become more "Can you imagine, dare you imagine?" He did it for Abraham and Sarah, with the birth of Isaac when they were too old to have children. He did it for Zacchaeus, when Jesus called him down from the tree and transformed his lonely life. He does it for everyone who comes to know personally the love of Jesus. He can change the broken-hearted.

Perhaps as you are reading this you think it might be time for a change – not in diet, or exercise, or job, but in the more fundamental aspects of life. Or perhaps you haven't reached that decision yet, but would like to explore whether there might be some "Can you imagine?" that would be worth exploring. If so, come and talk to us. We would love to accompany you on your journey of exploration as best we can, to support you, to answer your questions. You can find the service times at St Mary's in this magazine, and the contact details of the clergy. Come and be open to change. We would love to meet you.

With warm Christian greetings,

Andrew

www.christianity.org.uk

ASH WEDNESDAY AND LENT

Ash Wednesday (21 Feb) marks the beginning of Lent. There will be a service of Holy Communion at 8pm in church. During the weeks of Lent, there will be a series of inter-church groups meeting to discuss some aspects of the Christian Faith and life. Further information about these is available from Mary Barrett (984 2166)

VISIT OF PAT BLANCHARD FROM PERU

St Mary's Mission Partner Pat Blanchard will be with us on Sunday 11 March. Pat has been home on leave since Christmas and we look forward to hearing about the work in which she has been involved in Peru. Last November Pat was ordained as a deacon. Further information from Pam Slingsby (Tel. 961 5585)

LOCAL TRADE – FAIR TRADE

Dear Sir,

In his January editorial, the Rector was right to draw our attention to the effects of our actions on others.

May I add two similar thoughts: when we need food that **cannot** be grown locally, we can help by choosing **Fairtrade products** and by leaving the car at home, using bus, train, cycle or walking.

If we doubt the effectiveness of this cumulatively of our individual actions, look at the effects of the people of the *Eastern Bloc* in getting rid of their autocratic regimes, which appeared to be unassailable.

*Yours sincerely,
David Bolam*

I would like to echo Roger and David's comments regarding the importance of both purchasing from local producers and Fairtrade. Our local farmer has also raised the issue of fair income for farmers in the UK, particularly dairy farmers, whose income is under much pressure through the competitive pricing of their products by the major supermarkets and the ever-expanding global market.

Climate Change and Global Poverty are two major issues that have attracted great interest from the public, celebrities, companies and politicians over recent years. To help combat climate change: buy locally. To help combat poverty: buy Fairtrade. If you can choose between the two, it is difficult, but as climate change affects everybody, local-first is the general principle.

A range of Fairtrade produce is available for sale at St Mary's church between the morning services (10.40am–11.10am approx), and after the evening service, on the first Sunday of each month. Please contact me for further information.

Editor



CHURCH SERVICES

4 Feb	9.30am	Family Worship
	11.15am	Holy Communion
	6.00pm	Holy Communion
11 Feb	9.30am	Family Worship
	11.15am	Holy Communion
21 Feb	8.00pm	Holy Communion
Ash Wednesday		
18 Feb	9.30am	Family Communion
	11.15am	Morning Worship
	6.00pm	Evening Worship
25 Feb	9.30am	Family Worship
	11.15am	Holy Communion
4 Mar	9.30am	Family Worship
	11.15am	Holy Communion
	6.00pm	Holy Communion



Mon 23 April	Mon 19 March
Tue 24 July	Mon 11 June
Tue 30 October	Mon 10 September
	Mon 10 December

Over the past couple of years Christians in Purley from many churches have come together regularly to give thanks to God for our village, and to pray - for individuals, families, schools, groups, activities, places and even the parish council and the councillors!

Do feel welcome to come along to St Mary's on the following dates - even if you haven't before, or aren't too sure about prayer. We start at 8pm and are finished by 9pm. If you can't manage it but want us to pray for you, or a situation you are concerned about, just drop us a note or an email.

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

UNITED UNDER GOD'S TENT

WOMEN ACROSS THE WORLD JOIN TOGETHER TO PRAY FOR ITS NEEDS

On Friday 2 March over 3 million people will be taking part in a Day of Prayer that circles the globe from the time the sun rises over the island of Tonga until it finally sets off the coast of the islands of Samoa.

The central act of worship this year is a service prepared by Christian women of Paraguay who will bring the needs of their country to us. Paraguay has had a turbulent history, marked by two major wars and military dictatorship, though since 1989 democracy has returned, enabling gradual progress to social and economic rights.

Each year's service is held in over 170 countries worldwide. In the British Isles alone, there will be well over 6,000 services in towns, cities and villages bringing together men, women and young people from every background and a very wide range of Christian traditions.

Pangbourne and District's services will be held on Friday 2 March in St Mary's Church, Purley on Thames at 11am when the Speaker will be Jane Sutton LLM from St Nicolas Church, Newbury, and in the evening at 8pm when the Vicar of Bucklebury, the Revd Eddie Marquez from Paraguay, will be our Speaker.

Refreshments will be served immediately after each service. St Mary's Church has excellent facilities and access for infirm and disabled people.

All are welcome, Men, Women and Children. Do come if you can, and bring a friend. For local information, call Sue Simonds on 01635 578510

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) for St Mary's Church will be held on Tuesday 24 April at 8pm in the church hall.

RENEWAL OF CHURCH ELECTORAL ROLL

In order to avoid a conflict with the elections for new Deanery Synod members in 2008, the process of completely renewing the parish Church Electoral Roll has been brought forward to this year. Therefore, **all** church members that wish to be on the roll will need to apply this year.

The formation of the Church Electoral Roll (official membership list) for St Mary's church will take place between Sunday 4 March and Sunday 1 April, during which time you need to submit your new application.

Application forms can be obtained from the Rector, your Electoral Roll officer (Matthew Slingsby – aka the editor of PPN), or you can download it from the Internet at <http://www.oxford.anglican.org/files/docs2/SG1.pdf>.

PURLEY ON THAMES PARISH COUNCIL



The next Farmers' Market will be held at the Barn on the 10 February 2007.

The Children's Information Centre has asked me to draw attention to their Family Information Service. More information available on www.childrensinfo.org or email enquiries@childrensinfo.org or by freephone 0800 328 9148.

West Berkshire Council has announced that travel tokens will be distributed at the start of the financial year in future so this year there will be an overlap period with the existing green tokens remaining valid until 31 July 2007. Further information will be circulated later in the year but we expect to open the Parish Office on 3, 4 & 12 April to assist distribution.

Throughout the next few months there is likely to be considerable publicity to encourage more candidates to stand for Parish & Town Council elections on 3 May. If you are considering this, you might like to attend, as an observer, one of our regular monthly meetings that are held in the Parish Office near the tennis courts at 7.30pm. Agenda are published on the website & notice boards. Scheduled dates are 22 February, 29 March & 26 April with the inaugural meeting of the newly elected Council on 17 May. Sub committee meetings of the Council are also open to the public and the following are scheduled at the same time & place:

Barn Management Committee	8 February
Recreation Committee	1 March
Highways & Footpaths Committee	15 March

These meetings provide an insight into the more detailed workings of the Council and, as an example, the Barn meeting will be considering an application to run a day nursery in the small hall. Anyone who is interested is invited to attend as this may provide an opportunity to comment, subject to permission of the Chairman of the meeting. Agendas will be sent to those who have already raised observations in case they wish to attend.

The Annual Parish Meeting in the Barn, open to all local residents and organisations, will be held earlier than usual this year, on Tuesday 17 April, to avoid a clash with possible elections.

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@purleyonpc.wanadoo.co.uk

www.purleyonthames.net

JANET FOSKETT SCHOOL OF DANCING

The children have had a busy year. All of them were in the 20th anniversary show in March, held at Pangbourne College – and the majority of them (those old enough) took Imperial Ballet exams in the autumn.

There are currently **no** vacancies in classes for the 2½ to 7 years old (tiny tot, pre-primary, primary ballet) but a few vacancies for 8+ to 18yrs. So if you have danced before and would like to attend class again I can accommodate you (at Whitchurch and Purley).

However, I am starting a waiting list for a new a Tiny Tot (2½ to 4) ballet class and a pre primary ballet class (4 to 6) on a Tuesday evening at St Mary's, Purley. Please phone if you are interested, or would like more details.

Boy's Ballet Class: I am receiving a lot of interest from boys wanting to attend ballet and would like to start a *boys only* class, as they need from an early age to build up more upper body strength. This will be for boys from 6+.

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. Should you be interested in joining either you would need 3 one-to-one sessions in order to learn the rudiments. I also have clients that have regular one-to-one sessions. Please contact me if you are interested.

*Janet Foskett
Dance and Pilates Teacher
01635 863891*

MESSAGE FROM HOME FARM

Just as many in our low-lying areas were becoming increasingly concerned by the possibility of flood damage, along came the gales, which created mayhem. Many large trees were brought down across the district leaving emergency services and council workers overstretched. Many insurance policies were quickly pulled out of bottom drawers, as the damage for some was huge. We lost trees and several large boughs that will keep the chainsaw running for days; that is once the ground dries up enough for us to get to them with the tractor. It is a shame we can't gather up all this wood and use it in the furnaces at Didcot; it seems such a waste.

This was not our only damage. Some of the farm buildings lost exterior cladding but most importantly, we lost a chimneystack off the bungalow. The mess it left including all the broken tiles was cleared that afternoon but sadly the television aerial was beyond repair. What a loss with the Irish being screened playing Llanelli this weekend!

I know I have gone on about it before, but congestion in all its guises raised its head again following the storms. On normal days, Pangbourne is solid in the mornings and evenings with the *Horseshoe Road* rat run being used by more and

more. Sadly buses have to keep to the main road and watch many cars leap frog them. This is not right and solutions are being sought. It is high on the priority list – watch this space!

Our bungalow has seen a few storms in its forty years. Our milking parlour was put into existing buildings 25 years ago, has been buffeted mercilessly and is showing its age. I could really do with something a bit younger on both counts but can't afford it. Just like being married really!

Tim Metcalfe

PURLEY HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

AGM

The Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held in Purley Memorial Hall on Wednesday, 21 February commencing at 7.45pm. After the official business has been completed, there will be a short break for tea and biscuits followed by an illustrated talk by Nancy Massie on *Birds of Uganda*. Any nominations for election as an officer or Committee Member must be made in writing to the Secretary, Mr. John Murphy, 6 Hazel Road, Purley-on-Thames, RG8 8BB by 14 February. If members would like to see the minutes from last year, please contact him on 941 9185. Please try and attend this meeting if possible.



TRADING

The Trading Store will reopen at 10am on Saturday, 3 February and thereafter will be open each Saturday and Sunday between 10am and 11am until the last Sunday in October. Membership subscriptions for 2007 are now due and at £1.50 for a year is tremendous value. You can buy items at the Store (in Purley Memorial Hall car park) at lower prices than most other sources and further savings can be made on garden purchases at Collins of Pangbourne, BSB Garden Machinery, Sulham Lane for new mowers, Englefield Garden Centre, Glenville Nursery, Bradfield Southend, and Newington Nurseries, Newington on the A329 road, north of Shillingford. Please remember to show your membership card at the start of the transaction, as tills have to be set to deduct discount in some outlets. Seed potato order forms and catalogues for Suttons seeds will be available at the Trading Store.

COACH TRIPS

We are hoping to organize a trip to Wisley in June to see the new greenhouse and possibly two other outings. A board will be circulated at the AGM for anyone interested to add their name.

SPRING SHOW

This will be held on Saturday, 14 April in Purley Memorial Hall. Schedules will be available at the Trading Shed in February

Marion Dabbs
942 2349

WEST BERKS SCRABBLE® CLUB



On 20 January, The Barn in Beech Road was the venue for the 7th annual West Berks Scrabble Tournament. 96 participants attended the event on a fine winter's day in marked contrast to the storms of the previous days. With competitors coming from as far afield as Exeter, Southend and the South Coast, not to mention a player from Amsterdam, it was nice not to have to worry about people being delayed through bad driving conditions.

The players were split into 3 divisions, according to ability. In the A division, Bob Berry from the London Scrabble League was triumphant, winning all 6 games. Similarly, in division C, Judy Young from the Basingstoke Club also won her 6 games. The C division was less clear-cut, with the top three players both having the same number of wins. In those circumstances, players are differentiated upon 'spread', which is the winning (or losing) margin and can be considered as similar to football's goal difference. Using this method, the eventual winner was Ann Golding from the Southend Club.

A trophy was also presented to the best player from the three participating Berkshire Scrabble Clubs, irrespective of the division in which they played. That was won by Fran Burling from the West Berks Club. Both this trophy and the overall winner's trophy were kindly sponsored by Fujitsu Services.

Trophies were presented by Mr Brian Pyle representing Headway Thames Valley.

All members of the West Berks Scrabble Club played some part in the day's proceedings, ensuring that the tournament went off without any hitches with competitors promising to come again next year and see some more of the local environment. With all administrative services being given free – including also a veritable banquet of homemade cakes during the afternoon interval – the tournament was able to provide a donation of £752.22 to Headway Thames Valley. Headway Thames Valley is a charity for people with brain injuries and their carers and operates out of Townlands Hospital in Henley.

The organisers would like to publicly thank those people who donated their time, their services, and raffle prizes, without which the tournament would not have been the success it was. Purley Parish Council, Mattel, Fujitsu Services and Astres Trophies of Tilehurst, all gave us their support.

The Club, which is Purley based and meets twice weekly, on Tuesday evenings and on Thursday afternoons, welcomes players of all standards, from beginners to experienced players. For further information, call Ian or Elizabeth Burn on 0118 984 5045.

PROJECT PURLEY CHRISTMAS PARTY

This year's party took place on Friday, 15 December at the usual venue of Rick and Val Jones's house, which was as welcoming and beautifully decorated as ever. Unfortunately, some of our members were ill, some had travelled to Scotland for a Birthday Party and some had other commitments so this meant that just twenty-one of the Society's regular clientele gathered for the annual bash.

Guests began to arrive from 7.45pm onwards and were greeted with a literally warm welcome of a glass of mulled wine. This was served by our Chair, John Chapman, assisted by Cliff Debney. Cliff certainly took the sartorial honours for the evening, as he was wearing a scarlet bow tie, plus a colourful Max Miller-style waistcoat (though fortunately Cliff was not telling any colourful Max Miller-style jokes).

Once the traditional postage saving exchange of Christmas cards had happened, Chairman John made a formal speech of welcome. After thanking Rick and Val for their hospitality once again, he mentioned the Christmas tree display at St Mary's Church, where Project Purley's excellent entry had been prepared by Rita Denman and Ben Viljoen. He also referred to the chancel window from St Mary's Church, which was removed when the Church was extended in 1983. John rescued it at the time and now twenty-three years later it has been reframed by Ben and returned to the Church as a permanent display. Although the glass in the window is Victorian, the sill dates from the twelfth century. The restoration of the window is another example of Project Purley's commitment to preserving the heritage of our village.

Formalities completed, conversation and chatter began among groups of three or four seated around the warm, comfortable lounge. Topics discussed included the morality or otherwise of reusing unfranked postage stamps (we all agreed it was wrong), the magical goings-on at the Purley W.I. Christmas party and the possibility of publishing a Project Purley book of poetry to raise money for charity.

Then it was down to the serious business of the evening, i.e. eating the buffet that had been contributed to by all present and finding the answers to the quiz. This year's quiz asked members to match a film title to a crossword-type clue (e.g. Sabu grown up = The Elephant Man, or Metro = The French Connection) and with twenty-nine titles to find from one hundred and ninety-six films, proved to be a real conversation killer. There were long periods of silence punctuated by occasional squeals of delight as someone suddenly found an answer, and for an hour or so, this became the quietest party of the festive season. As frustration grew, there were cries of "it's no good, I must have another sausage roll/mince pie/piece of cake/Thai fishcake," and a time limit of 9.45pm was introduced. When the answer sheets were marked and the scores added up, it was found that Catherine Sampson, with twenty-one correct answers, had been narrowly beaten by Annabel Mason, who found twenty-three. Annabel was presented with a bottle of Bucks Fizz as her prize.

The social aspect of the party resumed with everyone enjoying themselves as glasses were refilled and the food tables almost but not quite cleared. Festivities continued until about 11pm when guests began to drift away into the surprisingly mild evening air. As we left, we all reflected on two things – how fortunate we all are to have so many good friends and, also, how on earth can "coach ripped Holy Scripture" be the clue for "Tora! Tora! Tora!"

The next meeting of Project Purley will be held in The Barn, Goosecroft Lane off Beech Road, Purley on Thames on Friday, 16 February commencing at 8pm. The speaker will be Jean Debney on the subject of *Purley Through The Ages*.

David Downs

PURLEY WI

DECEMBER 2006

The evening of 13 December 2006 was important to Purley W.I. as we approached our 70th Birthday. For this special event, we decided on a BLING theme. An evening of posh frocks, tiaras (made last month), sequins, glittering jewellery and razzle dazzle. To provide more magic, we were entertained by a magician, Mr Keith Churcher, who right under our noses made cards disappear and without a magic wand. Much preparation, thought and planning went into the evening, and also without a magic wand. The Memorial Hall always lends itself to the festive feeling – helped along with plenty of holly and ivy. A mouth-watering supper was organised, surrounded by delightful flower arrangements. The whole setting was now fit for a queen. Everything was ready to receive our own members, members from neighbouring institutes and even the local press. Everyone arrived in radiant splendour; ladies, you did us proud and good for you for throwing yourselves so willingly into the spirit of the evening. You were all STARS.

We sincerely trust that the Purley W.I. ladies of the past feel happy with the way we have taken ourselves into the modern world, and have provided some kind of impact towards the welfare of society. We ended our evening by digging out a 1999 film, which we produced ourselves, featuring our version of the Roly-Poly's "singing and dancing" to *Hi Big Spender* and *Nobody Loves a Fairy When She's Forty*. I think it would be safe to say "don't ring us, we'll ring you!" AN UNFORGETTABLE EVENING.

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

We provided our own entry into this Festival, which was a novel idea with plenty of personal touches. All good fun, don't you think?

JANUARY 2007

Happy New Year. Hope the waistline hasn't increased too much, don't worry, once the rain has stopped you can walk it off. Could the editor please inform me if the hosepipe ban has been lifted, my car is filthy? [*Just yesterday, at time of editing! Shall I bring my car around to you; it could do with a good clean too? – Editor*]

lot of time at home, and so are aware of local problems more than maybe people who are away during the day. If you are part of such a group or organise one please contact me to arrange a visit.

Over the next couple of months, we are having targeted patrols with regards anti-social behaviour. On a Friday night shift recently, I took out a member of the Pangbourne Business Forum and a Parish Councillor on such a patrol in Pangbourne and the surrounding areas between 8pm and midnight and hopefully they observed for themselves what a pleasant and generally quiet area it is that you all live in. It was a dry mild night, after a week of rain and wind and so you would expect there to be a lot of youths about, but that just wasn't the case.

It goes to show that people should not be concerned that if they go out during the evening they will be a victim of crime, and in fact, if more people were out and about during the evening then what anti-social behaviour there is would decrease. Possibly part of peoples' concerns are that some footpaths aren't well lit and if this is the case then contact you local Parish Councillor to advise them.

In Purley, I am aware that motorbikes using Sulham Woods and the surrounding areas are an issue. It is difficult for us to catch them on the ground so I have managed to get the police helicopter crews to have it as one of their priorities, they already have videos of some offenders, and I am in the process of identifying and dealing with them. Whilst writing about Purley I would ask that people using the post office park with consideration of other road users, otherwise I might have to get my ticket book out!

In Tidmarsh, I am aware that there is a perception that the car park and woods near to the motorway are being used for inappropriate activity. However there have been no direct reports of such activity to Police in recent months and my patrols have backed this up. I would ask that local people feel free to utilise this area for everyday use and if you do come across such activity to notify Police and note down the registration numbers of any cars that are parked there at the time, if you feel safe to do so.

If you wish to contact me you can either send an email to matthew.allen@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk, call into Pangbourne Police Station, or phone 08458 505 505 (24 hour non-emergency no.) and leave a message for me. As ever if you see a crime in progress don't hesitate to dial 999 and ask for the Police.

*P.C. 5110 ALLEN
Pangbourne Police Station*

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN PLAYING FOOTBALL?



Purley Jubilee Under 13's (school year 7 or 8) are looking for new players to strengthen their squad.

Matches are played on Saturday mornings in the East Berks League Division 2.

Anybody interested should contact Ian on 07879 471651

POLICE CRACKDOWN ON VEHICLE CRIME

Police in West Berkshire are sending a warning to thieves with a crackdown on vehicle crime.

Operation Friday, which brought together resources from across the area, was a concerted effort to catch the criminals.

Using data from analysts, a trap car was placed in vehicle crime 'hotspots', at times when such crimes are most likely to occur.



Supt Chris Shead, LPA Commander for West Berkshire, said:

"Figures have shown that thefts of and from vehicles have increased by seven per cent, as well as an increase in damage to vehicles. This is obviously something that we want to address.

"We are targeting our resources at these hotspots in an intelligence-led operation, with the aim of disrupting criminal activity and catching offenders.

"We will be carrying out further operations in the coming months, so I warn thieves that we take vehicle crime very seriously and those caught could face a prison term."

This crackdown ties in with the 'virtually stolen' and Crimestoppers campaigns, which are aimed at making people aware of the dangers of leaving valuables in their cars.

Romy Freiburghaus, Crime Reduction Adviser for West Berkshire, said:

"It is very common for people to get out of their car and forget to secure valuable items such as sat navs and mobile phones.

"The aim of the Virtually Stolen campaign is to make people aware that they have left something valuable in their car and give them advice about how to make their car more secure, so that next time they think twice about leaving valuables in their car."

Mike Smith from Crimestoppers said, "In order to stop vehicles being broken into and the contents stolen we need to know who is committing the crime.

The Crimestoppers campaign is to encourage people to give specific details, which will then be passed, to the police for action. The main message is 'Car thieves want our valuables, don't make it easy for them'. It's easy to tell us who they are, just call 0800 555 111, you will not be asked your name and you need never speak to the police but your information is vital.

PLEASE SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL POST OFFICE

HOT UNIVERSITY RESEARCH!

Scientists from the Walker Institute at the University of Reading have shown how the temperature of continents could increase up to 80% faster than oceans as greenhouse gases increase – meaning extreme temperatures will be more likely in the future.

London summer temperatures could reach the 40s (>104°F) by 2050 according to climate models, meaning possible heat exhaustion for those struggling to work and serious health risks for the very young and the very old – could this mean a mass exodus from the capital during the summer months?

Scientists already know greenhouse gases are causing continents to warm up faster than oceans. For the first time, the Walker Institute study published this week, quantifies this effect and shows that 20 climate models all give similar results. The study predicts that future warming over land could be 40-80% faster than over the oceans. The results show we can expect more extreme temperatures – such as the European heat wave of summer 2003, which caused 35,000 deaths

"The fact that warming over land is more rapid than over sea is clearly important for climate impacts, since people live on land. Excessively high temperatures can cause a range of problems such as disruptions to train services due to rails buckling in the heat. In very hot weather people's health can also suffer," said Dr Rowan Sutton, from the Walker Institute at the University of Reading and lead author of the study.

The Walker Institute study compares the different speed of warming over land and sea for 20 climate models used in the IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) 4th Assessment Report, which is due out next month.

The fact that 20 models all show similar results increases confidence in the predictions. The model results are also similar to what has been observed over the last 50 years and this provides more evidence that global warming is already happening.

During the last 50 years, the continents have warmed twice as much as the oceans, so the study finds from observations. Warming has been greatest in winter over Europe, North America and Russia. In the tropics, the land and sea have warmed at a similar rate.

The faster warming over land is often assumed to be a simple consequence of the different capacity to take up heat between the ocean and the land, but this explanation is incomplete. The Walker Institute study explains that it is because the oceans are wet and the land is much drier.

Dr Sutton added, "Over the sea, warming increases the amount of evaporation and this removes heat from the surface. Hence, for a given average warming, the temperature will be lower than over land where there is much less water available for evaporation."



LONDON BRIDGES WALK – 24 JUNE 2007

Kidney Research UK

Funding research to save lives

Enjoy a great day of sight-seeing and support Kidney Research UK by walking eight of London's Bridges on Sunday 24 June 2007.

The London Bridges Walk starts and finishes at the newly refurbished Potters Fields Park on the south side of the Thames near Tower Bridge. Walkers will cross eight bridges between Tower Bridge and Westminster, including London and Millennium Bridges. Last year, over 650 people joined the procession, and for many it was their first introduction to the capital.

It costs £7.50 per person to take part and this price includes a goodie-filled backpack and a special event t-shirt. There is no minimum sponsorship required but walkers are encouraged to raise as much sponsorship as they can. We have a massive target of £100,000 this year – we need your help to reach it! Proceeds will be used to further the work of Kidney Research UK and help improve the lives of people living with kidney disease.

Kidney Research UK is the leading national charity funding research to save lives from kidney disease. The research we fund focuses on improved treatment, and ultimately a cure, for kidney disease. The charity is also dedicated to patient care and educational initiatives.

Over 3 million people in the UK will have their lives threatened by chronic kidney disease, so we need your help to give them a bright future.

Community Fundraising Manager, Helen Haynes, says, "The walk is a wonderful opportunity for a great day with friends and family in the world's greatest city. The route takes you past many historical sites along the Thames and offers great views of London.

"2007 marks the fourth year of this event and we are looking forward to making it the biggest and most exciting London Bridges Walk ever. Be a part of something special and make a real difference by helping us fund research to save lives!"

For more information or to take part in the London Bridges Walk please call Kidney Research UK on 08456 121226, email events@kidneyresearchuk.org or visit www.kidneyresearchuk.org.



PARKING IN READING

A private parking space in Reading town centre is available to rent. Please contact Suzanne on 942 3159 for details.

HOW DOES UK DEMOCRACY WORK?

This is an ambitious title and subject, and I won't do justice to all of it here. Politics and politicians have a tough time maintaining a good public image these days - little wonder with the news media eagerly pouncing upon every flaw. However, politicians need to be accountable to the people they serve, so should not complain about scrutiny. This is true at every level, even locally.

The Parish Council is not 'political' in the sense that party affiliations and personal political opinions do not enter into any of the activities of the Council. But the Government's stated aim is to devolve more power to local level, which means that the Parish Council will have greater responsibility and ability to positively affect people's lives.

In the last two years or so, we have:

- Actioned much of the Village Plan
- Had major impact on community safety, in conjunction with our partners, the Police and Wardens
- Kept residents far more informed, through the web site and other means
- Improved service delivery to Purley:
 - There is less litter
 - Highways and footpaths are now better maintained
 - Working with our District Councillors, our eastern area (of West Berkshire) now gets greater focus
- Influenced developments to make them more appropriate to the village character and street scene
- Conducted a continuous programme of upgrading recreation facilities

However, many of these tasks are only half done in our view, and we have a list of objectives that gets longer, in spite of much achievement. This is because there is more that we wish to do. Over recent years, the Council has developed an increasingly 'can do' attitude. However, the amount we 'can do' is limited, more by time than by anything else – we do not have enough councillors to spread the work around and get things done as quickly as we would like.

In early May this year, 2007, elections will take place for both District AND Parish Councils in the area. The election for the Parish Council will only be held if there are sufficient candidates, and today the Council is short of complement. Some Councillors may also take the opportunity to retire at this time. We therefore need some people to get involved in the Council and make democracy work here!

It IS possible to influence the way things work, and the positive way to do that is to join the Council team. It is a very good team, and it's not all serious!

Please contact Rick Jones (rick.jones@purleyonthames.net) or Brian Smith 984 4507 (clerk@purleypc.wanadoo.co.uk) to find out more.

Rick Jones
Chairman – Purley on Thames Parish Council

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 be delivered either 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 either Steve Corrigan or Les Jamieson.

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