

PURLEY PARISH NEWS

JANUARY 2008



Proverbs 19
21 Many are the plans in a
man's heart,
but it is the LORD's
purpose that prevails.

35P

For the Church & Community of
PURLEY ON THAMES



ST. MARY THE VIRGIN PURLEY ON THAMES

www.stmaryspurley.org.uk

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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.

We welcome all contributions to this magazine, particularly on local issues and events. Copy can be delivered either in writing or by email. Please note however, we reserve the right to edit contributions to suit space availability and to maintain consistency of style (font etc).

Most common computer file formats are accepted, with the notable exception of Microsoft Publisher – sorry! When sending articles containing images, you may need to send the images separately, to avoid file size limits.

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FROM THE RECTOR

Dear friends,

I would like to wish you all a peaceful New Year!

Retirement in April is approaching rapidly for me, so this year sees the start of my last few months as Rector of Purley. The Parochial Church Council will be producing a Parish Profile in due course, in preparation for finding my successor, but there is likely to be a lengthy gap before he/she arrives in the parish. There will be more news about this as and when it becomes available.



I wonder what sort of a year the past twelve months have been for you. For many it will have been a year of sadness with the death of a loved one. Others will have endured prolonged illness and perhaps a stay in hospital. Those of you who live down near the river will not forget July in a hurry when the flood alert was on and you prepared for the worst. It will have been bad enough for any amount of water to have got into homes, but thankfully, the situation was nowhere near as bad as it could have been. After repeated mentions of Purley on Thames on national TV news reports, many may have located us for the first time. A small number of people chose to leave their homes and spend a night or two at the Barn in Beech Road where the staff from West Berkshire Council looked after them well. The Council probably get lots of complaints, but on this occasion, they deserved some praise for their well-organised emergency plans. For some in the community the past year will have been a time of great happiness – perhaps a marriage, or birth of a child or grandchild, or some other memorable and joyful event.

Whatever memories you may have of 2007, all of us have a blank canvas before us. Plans may have been made for holidays in the UK or in far-off places, but the truth is we do not know what lies ahead. Arrangements made may well find fulfilment, but in all probability, there will be some disappointments to face and some situations will not turn out as we hoped. For some, events may happen which turn their world upside down.

Sometimes opponents of the Christian Faith say we are only concerned with "pie in the sky when you die". It is true that Christianity does have much to say about the future, but it is also the case that its message is about the present. One of the assurances it brings is this: whatever changes come our way, whatever disappointments or temptations we may face, God remains faithful and will always be there. Nothing can separate us from His love in Jesus Christ. The anchor He provides holds firm amidst the storms of life. One minute the sea may be calm, and the next the waves are threatening to overwhelm us, so that we sink beneath their power. Here is a timeless truth to which to cling:

"I will never leave you; I will never abandon you." (Hebrews 13 verse 5)

May you know the comfort of these words in the coming months.

Roger Howell

PARISH REGISTERS

FUNERALS

3 Dec	William McMordie (Cremation)
4 Dec	Eva Purver aged 90 years (Cremation)

LINKS WITH THE WORK OF THE WIDER CHURCH

For many years now, St Mary's Church has sought to foster and extend links with the work of God's Church in this country and throughout the world. At the moment, our main contacts are:

THE REVD MARK NYATHI

Mark and his wife Patience work in Tsholotsho, Zimbabwe. Their parish is vast and apparently about the size of Wales! We have provided money for the purchase of two pick-up trucks that enable them to visit the people they are serving. Mark has suffered from Diabetes but copes well after having had both legs amputated. If you have read the newspapers you will know that the situation in which they minister is very difficult – rampant inflation and the Z\$ virtually worthless.

PAT BLANCHARD

Pat works with the South American Mission Society in Peru, South America. Pat is a deacon and serves a church in a poor area of Lima, the Capital City. She does a lot of work with young people, and is involved in projects that help to provide a small income for residents of the community. She has worked in South America for many years now, and has visited St Mary's Church on several occasions.

THE MARYLEBONE PROJECT

This is a project for the support of homeless women in London, and is situated near Edgware Road Tube Station. It is run by the Church Army – an Anglican mission agency – and seeks to provide emergency accommodation for women seeking refuge. A group of young people and others from St Mary's have visited the project to see their work first-hand.

BARNABAS FUND

This provides financial support and help in other ways to Christians who live in mainly-Muslim countries where their lives are frequently made very difficult because of harassment and other forms of persecution. The amazing thing is that in these situations Christian witness and testimony is vibrant and the church is growing. Often there is discrimination against Christians in these countries; jobs are hard to find, churches are destroyed and simple justice is denied to them.

CHURCH SERVICES

6 January	9.30am	Family Worship
	11.15am	Holy Communion
	6.00pm	Holy Communion
13 January	9.30am	Family Worship
	11.15am	Holy Communion
20 January	9.30am	Family Communion
	11.15am	Morning Worship
	6.00pm	Evening Worship
27 January	9.30am	Family Worship
	11.15am	Holy Communion

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

The Annual United Service for All Churches Together during this week of prayer for Christian unity will take place on Sunday 20 January at 3pm at St. Bernadette's Church, Pangbourne, with refreshments afterwards. All are welcome.



PURLEY PLAYERS

Present

DICK WHITTINGTON

on 1st, 2nd & 3rd (matinee) February 2008

Evening Performances: 7.30pm, Matinee 2.00pm

at The Barn, Goosecroft Lane, Purley on Thames

Tickets £8 and £6 (concessions)
cash bar at the evening performances
ice creams and soft drinks at the matinee

Tickets from:
Suzanne Harper on 0118 941 5244 or
Anne Bolland on 0118 941 3259
www.purleyplayers.co.uk

PURLEY HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY



TALKS

On Wednesday, 21 November Gwen Barton gave us a very entertaining talk and slide show about her visit to Brazil. As this was our last meeting before Christmas, warm mine pies were supplied at the tea and coffee break.

A.G.M.

The 30th Annual General Meeting will be held in the Purley Memorial Hall on Wednesday, 20 February 2008 commencing at 7.45pm. It will be followed by a talk by Ben Viljeon on *Purley Hall and other Landscapes*. Members are reminded that any nomination for election as an officer or Committee Member must be made in writing to the Secretary, Mr J. Murphy, 6 Hazel Road, Purley on Thames, RG8 8BB by 13 February.

TRADING

The Trading Store will reopen at 10am on Saturday, 2 February and thereafter will be open each Saturday and Sunday between 10am and 11am. If you would like to order Suttons Seeds through the Society, please contact Margaret Rolfe on 941 7247 for catalogues.

SPRING SHOW

This will take place on Saturday, 5 April 2008, in Purley Memorial Hall.

Finally a Happy New Year to everyone.

Marion Dabbs
942 2349

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

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

Across: 7 COLOUR, 8 SHEKEL, 9 PAGE, 10 PHARISEE, 11 CENTURY, 13 EARTH, 15 TABOR, 17 SEVENTY, 20 CAESAREA, 21 PRAY, 22 WINNOW, 23 OLIVES

Down: 1 VOYAGE, 2 ROME, 3 PREPARE, 4 USUAL, 5 DEDICATE, 6 DESERT, 12 THOUSAND, 14 LEBANON, 16 ARABIA, 18 TRAVEL, 19 BROWN, 21 PAIR

PROJECT PURLEY

THE COTTAGES OF PURLEY

Rita Denman delivered the last in the series of repeated Millennium lectures at our meeting on the 16 November.

She began by setting the scene and mood of Purley past by showing a series of slides taken from old photographs and then took a look at individual cottages. Purley was a rural riverside village, which was bound to the farming cycle and the Christian calendar. The Norman census of 1086, known as the Domesday Book, records two manors, Purley Magna and Purley Parva.

The Speed map of Reading dated 1610 indicates a thoroughfare out of Reading named Pangbourne Lane. On the outskirts of Purley a track ran off Pangbourne Lane, about where the pill box is now, winding down the hill towards the church and manor house of Purley Magna which stood with its farm buildings in the area of the present marina. The track then turned west and continued through the straggling line of cottages and onwards to link up with Westbury, Purley La Hyde (now known as Purley Hall), and Pangbourne. Generally speaking, the cottages belonging to Purley Magna were at the east end and those belonging to Purley Parva were at the western end, although there was by no means a tidy boundary between the two manors. The school logbook names the track through the village as The Street. It is possible that it ran the whole length of the village and in the 1970s the residents around the school requested that part of the road be renamed Purley Village to preserve the name.

From 1086 until the late 1700s very little changed. Round about 1793 the manor of Purley Magna was sold to Anthony Morris Storer who built a new farm on what is now the A329. At that time, the great barn now situated off Goosecroft Lane was transferred from its original site near the river to the new farm, which was named Belle Isle. The barn was subsequently moved in 1995 from Belle Isle, by that time known as Trenthams, to its present location.

Cottages built pre 1600 surviving today would have been the more substantial dwellings of a craftsman or yeoman. It is therefore unlikely that our oldest Purley cottages date from earlier than 1600.

Rita went on to describe the cottages that had existed in Purley. The gardener at Purley Park had a cottage that was situated about where the end of The Short now is. It was designed in 1863 by Joseph Morris, the architect of Purley Village School. In 1881, it was inhabited by Samuel Mortimer, Head Gardener and his family. The cottage was demolished when the land was eventually developed in the 1970s.

Home Farm was where Farm Close is now. It was a 16th century building with 18th century re-facing and additions.

The thatched cottage called Yew Tree cottage on the main road was built around 1786. In the 1930s, Yew Tree Farm was a dairy farm. The cows were milked by hand and the milk delivered by churn to the whole of the area. The farm was eventually sold and the deeds of Yew Tree Cottage date only from 1979.

Lichfield Cottage was at one time used as a parish house, but is well known as being where the first Purley post office was set up. Much later, the post office was transferred across the road to The Garden House, now demolished, and finally moved to the Purley Rise Stores.

There were four wells along the main road and, before the Nursery Gardens area was built, there was a pair of semi-detached cottages where the boundary wall of Nursery gardens is now. They were called Well Cottages and were a pair of tile roofed one-up and one-down dwellings with lean-to kitchens attached. According to a resident in the 1920s, the well situated in front of the cottages had a decaying lid and wobbly windlass. It was said to be 110ft to the water, which was wound up in a 4-gallon bucket. Well Cottages were demolished in 1938.

Purley Lodge Cottage in the Village was occupied by the gardener for Purley Lodge and was built in the late 19th century. The site of a well has been found and the remains of the privy at the end of the garden

Lower Cottages were on the south side of Purley Lane and The Street. The site measured just over one quarter of an acre with a gravel pit to the south. In 1793 it was reported that the cottage was empty and almost down. A reference in 1839 described the site as a plantation and a pit and by June 1841, a pair of brick and tile cottages had been built. Each had a living room, a scullery and pantry downstairs with three bedrooms above and at the back, store and coalhouses, an earth closet, a well for water and a large garden. These cottages continued in habitation until the late 1960s and, when they were demolished, Star and Let Gable were built.

Jasmine Cottage, which bears a plaque denoting it is a building of special architectural and historic interest, appears to have been built in the mid 17th century. A 19th century addition was made to the east end of the cottage when it was divided into two dwellings and became known as 1 and 2 Jasmine Cottages. A past tenant discovered a musket and sword or foil buried in the garden.

Rita was particularly excited to show an old picture of the cottage that stood where her own house, The Mimosas, now stands. John Chapman had found this quite by chance. Jean Debney, had discovered information about the holding and copyhold of the land dating back to the 1600s. Recently, however, Jean made an amazing discovery when she unearthed the following document: *1380 – 14 May Lease with warranty from Reginald Malyns, knight to John Carpenter of Purley Magna and Lucy his wife, and Reymund their son of a cottage with curtilage adjoining and seven acres of arable and half an acre of meadow land called Poneyslond, lying in Purley Parva next land of Katherine Ylberd in the east. The document is dated at Purle, Monday after Pentecot, 3 Richard III.* It is very rare to find a document of this great age.

The cottage, which is next door to Mimosas was a tied cottage to Westbury Farm. It has undergone extensive restoration in recent years when it was discovered that the cottage had been built of recycled timbers and bricks. Rita is very grateful to the current owners for allowing her to photograph the restoration as it progressed.

Ivy Cottage is described as 17th century with an early 18th century addition to the north. It was originally built as a small farmhouse and later divided into two dwellings. It was returned to being one residence in 1976.

Hemington – the history of this cottage, which stands next to the school, can be traced back to around 1733. In the 1800s the cottage was divided into two, one half being occupied by the school mistress. The cottage was eventually returned to being one dwelling and has recently been extended.

Rita included in her talk many interesting stories about the old inhabitants of the cottages and showed a selection of slides of old photographs. She painted for us a fascinating picture of Purley as it was long ago; we were all thrilled to hear the history of the few remaining cottages and sad to learn what has been lost to the village. It was a most enjoyable and informative evening and I am sure we all went away feeling we had learnt a great deal about the history of our village.

Ann Betts

CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Society's Christmas party was held on the evening of Friday, 7 December at the usual venue of The Gatehouse and proved to be one of the most enjoyable of recent years. Rick and Val Jones made us as welcome as ever at their home. Resplendent with Christmas decorations it was the perfect refuge on an extremely chill night and the number of members attending – thirty in total, including some late arrivals – meant that the house was filled comfortably without being overcrowded.

The festivities followed the traditional form, with Cliff and Jean first to arrive in order to prepare the mulled wine, which would greet each guest as they stepped inside. Next came Marion, Millie and David to set up the quiz, which would later occupy everyone's brains for a good hour and a half.

When all the members were present and neatly settled into the chairs and sofas spaced around the sitting room, Chairman John welcomed everyone, once again thanking our hosts for their generous hospitality. Treasurer, Ben, explained that there would be a modest charge for the mulled wine and Secretary, Tony, announced the programme for the coming months.

A superb buffet had been prepared with each of those attending bringing their own contribution to share and guests were able to eat, mingle and chat during the early part of the evening. Topics covered included the building development in and around our village, the very successful Women's Institute dinner held at the Thames Valley University the previous evening, the Purley Players' pantomime due to take place on February 1st, 2nd and 3rd, the continuing success of the Farmers' Market and the number of goals Reading would concede to Liverpool the following afternoon (estimates ranged from two to ten but, in the event, Reading won 3-1).

As soon as stomachs were full or were being filled, it was time for the dreaded quiz. Devised by your writer, the challenge was to find the names of 42 English, Scottish or Welsh football clubs hidden around the downstairs part of the house and then to fit those names into blank spaces in a seafaring story. Many of the

clues were phonetic, e.g. "the CREWE did in fact WREXHAM furniture," and "the sea AYR suited my MOTHERWELL as she had not had a holiday FORFAR too long." The hardest clue to find was the one blu-tacked to the underside of the toilet seat in the bathroom.

The quiz proved to be popular as it kept everyone on their toes, literally as well as metaphorically and when the whistle went for full-time, it was found that the winners were Warren and Jan Page. As a team, they had 39 correct answers, a splendid effort which earned them the prize of a bottle of wine.

Then it was back to the festivities of eating, drinking and conversation, together with the occasional exchange of Christmas cards and family plans for the holiday season. It was such a happy evening that the time passed very quickly and it was time to depart and return to our homes almost before we realised the lateness of the hour. The strength and attraction of Project Purley lie in the special emphasis on fun as well as research shared by members, something on which we could cheerfully reflect as we said goodbye to Rick and Val and stepped out into the biting cold night.

David Downs

The next meeting of Project Purley will be held in The Barn on Friday, 11 January starting at 8pm. Please note that this is the second Friday of the month and not the third Friday, which is our normal date. At this meeting, our members will be talking about their hobbies, but of course, as usual, non-members are welcome to attend.



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.

Sat 5 January 9am-noon

Hosehill Lake LNR Hedgerow Maintenance

Come along and burn off a couple of mince pies by helping to restore a hedgerow alongside the lake. Meet 9am at the green gate opposite the Fox and Hounds Pub, Sunnyside, Station Road, Theale. Grid ref: SU 650 697.

Tue 8 January

Paices Wood Scrub clearance

Come along and help to maintain the character of the amphibian area by coppicing willow and birch scrub in and around the numerous wet ditches and scrapes. Meet 10am at Paices Wood Country Parkland (through Young's Industrial Estate). Grid ref: SU 586 638

Sun 13 January**Heathland Management**

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.

Fri/Sat 18/19 January**Hampstead Norreys Hedgelaying**

Come and have a go at hedgelaying a challenging hedge in the picturesque Pang Valley. Clive Leeke will be on hand to help develop and improve your hedgelaying skills. Meet off Forge Hill NGR 535 759. Please call 930 5336 to book a place. This course has been funded through the NWD AONB.

Tue 22 January**Snelmore Coppicing**

Help rejuvenate the hazel woodlands surrounding Snelmore SSSI at this new site. Meet at 10am at SU 462 718. Turn off the B4494, at the north end of Snelmore Common, take the gravel track marked by red and white post. Don't fork right down the track.

Tue 29 January**Rushall Manor Farm Coppicing**

Come and help cut binders and stakes for hedgelaying and maintain Rushall Manor Farms Bluebell Woods. New volunteers are particularly welcome on this event. Meet at Black Barn, Rushall Manor Farm* at 10am.

Sat 2 February**Leckhampstead Common Coppicing 10am**

This is a new site in the NWD AONB. We will be helping Leckhampstead Parish members coppice hazel and cutting stakes and binders for the hedgelaying event. Meet at the northern end of Leckhampstead Common (Grovepit Green). SU 438 773. Turn off the B4494 onto the byway at SU 439 777.

Sun 10 February**The Malt House, West Woodhay Hedge laying**

Come and enjoy the hospitality of the owners and contribute to your local environment by helping to plant up new hedgerows in this delightful corner of the NWD AONB. Refreshments provided. Meet at 10am at The Malt House SU 396 638 or call the Project Office for directions

Sat 9 February**Heathland Management**

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 0118 971 4830.

Wed 13 February**Paices Wood Coppicing**

The woodland at Paices Wood is in need of some sympathetic management. Come and join the Reading CROW group and help to restore these beautiful woodlands. Meet 10am at Paices Wood Country Parkland (through Young's Industrial Estate). Grid ref: SU 586 638. Please note this task is on a WEDNESDAY.

Sat 16 February 9am-noon**Hosehill Lake LNR Scrub Bashing**

Come along and help to conserve this beautiful site by cutting scrub from an area of meadow. Meet 9am at the green gate opposite the Fox and Hounds Pub, Sunnyside, Station Road, Theale. Grid ref: SU 650 697

Tue 19 February**Easton Meadows SSSI Welford Estate Lambourn
Scrub Management**

Come and help manage the special remnant wetlands next to the River Lambourn by clearing back willow and hawthorn scrub. Baked potatoes provided! Wellies are recommended. Meet at 10am off Rood Hill SU 418 723

Fri 22 February 1pm-4pm

Hosehill Lake LNR

Half-term Activity Tiny Trees and Toasted Cheese

A relaxed informal conservation task for the family to help remove small bushes and trees from an area of meadow. A small bonfire will offer the opportunity to toast a marshmallow or two and maybe some other campfire delights. Children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult and booking is essential. Meet at the green gate opposite the Fox and Hounds Pub, Sunnyside, Station Road, Theale. Grid ref: SU 650 697. Contact the Project Office to book your place 930 5336.

Fri/Sat 22/23 February

Poplar Farm, Cold Ash Hedgelaying 10am

Come and have a go at the traditional skill of hedgelaying. Clive Leeke will be on hand to teach and improve your hedgelaying skills. Please call 930 5336 to book a place. A small charge will be made to cover some of the costs either £10 or £5 per day (concessions incl. Friends / Cold Ash Parish members)

Sat 1 March 9.30am

Hedgelaying Competition Pangfield Farm

Enter or come and watch the North Wessex Downs AONB Hedgelaying competition at Pangfield Farm, Stanford Dingley. For those who want to practice their newly acquired hedgelaying skills there are various classes. Refreshment will be available. Entry into the competition is £3. From 9.30am, parking available.

To register interest for the above events please contact The PKLVCP tel. 930 5336 or email pang.kennet@fwag.org.uk

Sat 8 March

Pangfield Farm Hedgelaying

Come and practice your hedgelaying skills in the picturesque Pang Valley. Meet at 10am at the gateway opposite Pangfield Farm SU 566 716. Please contact the Project office to book your place 930 5336

Sun 9 March

Heathland Management

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.

Tue 11 March

Paices Wood Coppicing 10am

Come along and enjoy a final day's coppicing before the period for winter tasks ends and the woodland springs into life. Meet 10am at Paices Wood Country Parkland (through Young's Industrial Estate). Grid ref: SU 586 638

Sat/Sun 15/16 March 11am-6pm

Rushall Farm Lambing Open Days

Come and see the first lambs of the season at Rushall Farm, Bradfield*. The farm will be open from 11am to 6pm all proceeds go towards the Reading Multiple Sclerosis Society.

Sat 15 March

Shaw, Newbury RESCUE

Come and help clear litter from the River Lambourn in Newbury as part of the national Rivers and Environmental Spaces Clean-Up Event. Meet on bridge in Walton Way off Turnpike Road at 10am. Tea and coffee will be provided.

Tue 18 March 10.30am

**The Woolhampton Lakes of the old Gravel Workings
South of the Kennet & Avon Canal - Distance 3 miles**

Meet at the car park adjoining the Row Barge Public House just south of the A4 and the Kennet & Avon Canal in Woolhampton (SU 572 664), where there are a limited number of public parking spaces. Car sharing where possible would be helpful. A short walk lead by Ray Clayton round the various lakes created by gravel extraction between Woolhampton and Brimpton, with NO stiles. A great area for wildlife with birds in and out of the water so bring binoculars to get a closer view. There could be standing water on the route so wearing sturdy boots or wellies is advisable. No dogs please. Book your place by phoning 930 5336

Pray for Purley a new beginning?

Do you want to see God's blessing in Purley?

Christians in Purley from a number of different churches have been meeting regularly over the past few years to *Pray for Purley* but we are wondering whether the current arrangements should continue.

On **Saturday 19 January at 7.30pm** we are inviting all praying Christians who live in Purley to a *prayer social* at St Mary's church; come and meet fellow believers over light refreshments, and share your views without any obligation. Please *spread the news!*

It would be helpful to know if you were intending to come (to assist in planning the catering) but do feel free to just turn up on the night.

For more information, please contact either of us below

Nan Craig Tel: 942 8266 4 St Mary's Avenue nan.craig@btinternet.com

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

Thank you for voting for Purley's Favourite Christmas Carol

The top 10 carols were

- 10 Joy to the world
- 9 Ding dong merrily on high
- 8 We three Kings of Orient are
- 7 Once in Royal David's city
- 6 O little town of Bethlehem
- 5 It came upon a midnight clear
- 4 Hark the herald
- 3 O Come all ye faithful
- 2 Good King Wenceslas
- 1 In the bleak midwinter

You raised £227.11 for St. Mary's Church



BARN DANCE

**St Mary's Church,
Purley**

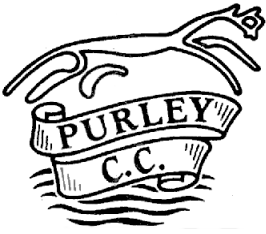
**Saturday 26th JANUARY
7.30 P.M. – 10.00 P.M.**

**INCLUDES FOOD, HOWEVER,
Please bring own drinks/glass!**

TICKETS £6 ADULT/£4 CHILD

CONTACT JACKIE DAVIES, TEL: 0118 941 3641

PROCEEDS TO ST MARY THE VIRGIN CHURCH, PURLEY



PURLEY ON THAMES CRICKET CLUB PRE-SEASON TRAINING 2008

Indoor pre season training for all age groups (from 6 years to Adults) for 2008 commences in February.

Starters (aged 6/7/8) are again being offered an *Introduction to cricket* course, based on the principles of long-term athlete development and basic

introductory cricket skills on Sunday afternoons from 2-3pm at Little Heath School from 3 February–13 April, £20 in advance.

Under 9 sessions run on Sunday afternoons from 3-4.30pm at Little Heath School from 3 February–13 April, £22.50 in advance.

Under 11 sessions run on Sunday afternoons from 4.30–6pm at Little Heath School from 3 February–13 April, £25.00 in advance.

Under 13 sessions run on Sunday evenings from 6–7.30pm at Little Heath School from 3 February–13 April, £25.00 in advance.

Under 15 sessions will run on Sunday evenings from 7.30–9pm at Little Heath School from 3 February–13 April, £25.00 in advance.

Under 17 sessions are currently being arranged but the venue has yet to be decided. Adults will have indoor training, from Wednesday 6 February through to 26 March at Bradfield College Sports Complex.

For full details please contact Martin Bishop (for Juniors – 945 3117) or Chris Allen (for Adults – 961 5974)

EPIPHANY SPOT THE DIFFERENCE (CAN YOU FIND ALL 10?)



STORY SACKS

First and third Fridays of each month during term time from 9.15-10.15am at Denefield Day Nursery, Denefield School, Long Lane. First one in 2008 on Friday 4 January. A story time loan scheme for families with under 5s. Each bag contains books, toys and ideas for family fun activities - ideal for parents, carers and grandparents!

Come along with your child and relax in the child friendly environment. Your child will enjoy listening to the storyteller at 9.45am. Have a cup of coffee and relax! Small registration fee applies, but just turn up and make friends!

FAMILY ART & CRAFT COURSE

18-22 February 2008 (half term) 10am-noon at Denefield Day Nursery, Long Lane. These free daily family sessions are great for those wishing to learn some art & craft. During the first hour, adults are shown how to make the handicrafts while their children are entertained nearby. For the second hour, the adults help their child create the various items.

Guaranteed messy and fun! All materials provided. One child in Years 4-5 per adult only. Free childcare is available for younger/older siblings for the duration of the course, thanks to a grant from West Berkshire Council. Only 10 places available so register with Sue Guy now.

Closing date: 11 February 2008.

For more information or to register for an activity, please contact Sue Guy.

*Sue Guy, Extended Schools Manager
Inspire4Life, Tilehurst & Purley Cluster
www.inspire4life.org.uk 972 8978
sguy@denefield.org.uk*

PURLEY PATHFINDERS A WALKING GROUP FOR LADIES

Sunshine beating off the threat of rain combined to form a vivid rainbow. Beginning in the field beside us, its arc stretched across to the *pot of gold* within a golden copse. What a wonderful start to our walk from Brimpton Common. The River Enborne meandered in to join us and we crossed over its fast flowing water, courtesy of recent heavy rainfall. A buzzard sat on a gate on the lookout for food, while smaller birds had no such hardship as they devoured the bounty provided by pretty berried hedges. Passing a small collection of properties, we glanced behind us to admire their far-reaching view away to Cottington Hill and Watership Down. Infront, on the hilltop, we spotted Brimpton Church, and we climbed towards it, gaining an even better view over the North Hampshire countryside. The Kennet Valley stretched out before us. We made our way deep into these beautiful surroundings, soon to walk beside one of its lakes. We continued into part of the Wasing Estate, stopping off at the church of St Nicholas, adjacent to Wasing Place. Built for the Mount family, the house has

now been rebuilt after a fire, although the stable block is the original. We were interested to hear that Sir William Mount is the great grandfather of Tory Leader, David Cameron. We took time to look inside the church, which holds just 80 people. Exquisite yellow stained-glass windows are mostly dedicated to members of the Mount family. With Christmastime fast approaching, it was lovely to spot a sweet donkey peering in through one of the windows. Outside we entered his field and he followed us to the other side, no doubt glad of the company. A wooded path, bright with the berries of holly and spindleberry, took us back to Brimpton Common where we enjoyed lunch in The Pineapple.

Cottington Hill mast can be seen for miles, and, as in the last walk, it could be clearly seen as we began our next walk, this time in Upper Basildon. Along a lane we passed the site of one of the village wells. This one dates from the 1940s and its 300 feet depth is now sealed. Leaving some fine properties behind, woodland strips led us out into open fields with panoramic views across the Hampshire hills. Orange carpeted paths took us to the edge of Ashampstead Common, and on to Burnt Hill where we passed the former home of yachtswoman, Tracy Edwards. From Burnt Hill, our route took us beside the burnt orange of Ashampstead Woods, glowing in the sunshine. In the blue sky above us, a red kite was being harassed by several crows. Passing through the former pick-your-own farm at Yattendon, we noted the historic water trough – useful now that the farm is dedicated to the breeding of horses. Soon we were seated in the cosy Red Lion for lunch.

The arrival of December saw us doing our annual *Turkey & Tinsel* walk, which involved a pleasant walk in East Reading around Arborfield. Afterwards, at the welcoming Henry's Street Garden Centre, we pulled crackers, and tucked into a festive lunch. After the *Turkey* there was time for the *Tinsel* as we soaked up the festive atmosphere in the World of Christmas area.

Our walks for 2007 ended with our local Winter Wonderland Walk, this year through Sulham Woods. Back at St Mary's Church, we gathered for the shared lunch. As usual, the tables groaned under the weight of the wonderful spread, while the air took on the distinctive festive aroma of mulled wine! Over tea and Christmas cake we listened, and laughed, to three poems written and performed by one of our walkers, Marjy. The themes for these were The Nativity Play, Christmas Cards, and Christmas according to a turkey! This turkey knew it was just a vicious rumour that his end would come at Christmas. Why else would magazines be full of *Ideas of things to do with your turkey after Christmas Day!* The Purley Pathfinders Choir entertained us with two carols before inviting us all to join in with two fun, and energetic, Christmas songs with actions! Feeling happily festive, we made our way home to complete our Christmas preparations as another wonderful year of walks came to a close.

The theme for 2008 will be *Village Life* and already some great walks and trips have been planned. I look forward to sharing them with you through the pages of this magazine. It just leaves me to wish all Parish News readers a very Happy New Year!

Nicki Woodward
nicki@cherryacre.com – 984 2112

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.

THAMES VALLEY POLICE ON THE BEAT



During November, some of the crimes I have been investigating include criminal damages, thefts of motor vehicles and drink driving. I also seized numerous fireworks across my area in the run up to Bonfire Night and on the day itself.

I have been very busy holding public meetings across my Neighbourhoods and would first of all thank the residents of Bradfield Southend for attending the meeting on 19 November.

The main cause for concern was speeding on most roads around the village and this has been adopted as a priority by the Neighbourhood Action Group and we will look at ways of combating it.

On 20 November I held a public meeting in Mortimer and again the main issue for residents was speeding, especially along the three main roads, West End Road, Victoria Road and The Street. As with Bradfield Southend this will be taken to the local Neighbourhood Action Group.

Lastly, but by no means least on 22 November I held a meeting in Beenham. The main cause for concern was speeding on all the roads leading into the village and this has been adopted as a priority by the Neighbourhood Action Group and we will look at ways of combating it.

With all the above priorities there are no quick and easy solutions and the issue of speeding has been around for some time. Your local Neighbourhood Action Group will look at long-term solutions but this means that they will take a long time to resolve so it might appear as if nothing is being done but that is most definitely not the case. I would also like to thank all the residents that turned up at all the above meetings.

The residents of Pangbourne and Theale will be interested to know that both towns will, in the not-too-distant future, be having CCTV systems installed and hopefully this will lead to a reduction in crime and also make residents feel safer when out and about.

I was recently at Theale Green School where I played the role of a job interviewer so that the pupils could get used to being in that sort of situation,

and I was pleasantly surprised as to how polite and intelligent all the pupils I met were and they were a credit to the school.

For those of you that live in the smaller parishes hopefully you have seen your Police Community Support Officers out and about more. This will be a regular occurrence and if you would like to know when they are in your village, I would ask that you look on the Thames Valley Police website or your parish notice boards.

For the residents of Pangbourne, there has recently been an increase in crime and anti-social behaviour around the Horseshoe Road and Kennedy Drive area. Patrols have been increased and I have no doubt that the offenders are local youths. If you have a son and they are out during the early hours of the morning please ask yourself, and them, what they are doing.

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*

PURLEY WI

IT'S PARTY TIME

December was upon us again and it was P-A-R-T-Y time, so we decided on a Tramps Supper theme. Instead of dressing up like last year (glitter, razzle and dazzle), we decided to dress down. Not difficult really, you just root out your hubby's old painting suit, your down at heel boots and put on a grubby face. Then add some atmosphere by providing newspaper tablecloths, fish and chips and apple tart. Three musicians, including a caller, provided the music for a barn dance. You can just imagine can't you, us strutting our unknown quantities up and down the decorated Memorial Hall, mostly in the wrong direction; doesn't matter, the caller is not looking, anyway it's P-A-R-T-Y time.

We had a winner for the best-dressed tramp. The best-dressed *male tramp* was Joan Pierce – we did think she was a member's husband, not a member – well done.

We were happy to entertain members from neighbouring WIs – it wouldn't be the same without them and, then, all the way from Windsor our own County Chairman, Wendy Robinson. Thank you for joining us, please come again.

Next month's meeting will be held and organised by members on Wednesday, 9 January with a 7.30pm kick-off at Purley Memorial Hall, Glebe Road, Purley on Thames. Visitors welcome.

FARMERS' MARKET

Did you make a trip to the December Farmers' Market and wasn't it lovely? All those fresh vegetables, mouth watering joints of meat, sausage rolls, free mince pies from the W.I. tea bar and tempting and different craft gifts just waiting to be tucked into that stocking. All this and Christmas carols, what a warm and lovely feeling it sent out. Remember to support your village – it belongs to you.

THANK YOU

Haven't been too well recently, so this is my golden opportunity to convey my appreciation to those who have propped me up. My W.I. *family* have been behind me, also my ex Purley neighbours. Thank you for the cards, flowers and spiritual support. I need it!

Pam Ayres appeared as the guest speaker at the Hexagon for the W.I.'s Annual County Meeting in September. This I missed – wasn't happy wrapped up in me NHS nightie at the Royal Berks once again – so set to, to do my own thing. Remember it's P A R T Y time:

SURGICALLY ENHANCED (WITH APOLOGIES TO PAM AYRES)

New potatoes are my joy, but to keep them down is my ploy.
"I don't feel well" – Please help me was my request.
"Thank you ambulance man, I don't feel at my best."
Have you experienced an ambulance ride?
Don't challenge it, you'll think you've died!
To R.B.H. again I stay, with five other ladies in my bay
We exchange our problems, like you do.
Like are your motions passing through?
Then it's a cannula, difficult to secure
With about four young medics over me to pour.
It's needles, blood pressure and plasters galore.
So many pin pricks, I feel quite sore.
It's off to the toilet; boy do I run.
I did ask for a commode, but in time it didn't come.
Inhalers and jabs – it's part of the scene.
I'm waiting for Mr Darcy, but as yet he hasn't been.
Now on clear fluids, my weight should drop
So tell him when passing, please do stop.
So annoyed to Pam Ayres, I didn't come
But my reward was a nice young male doctor
With his finger up me you know where!

Sylvia Conquest
941 1936

1ST PURLEY AND PANGBOURNE SCOUT GROUP



As I am sure many of you, as ex-Scouts or relatives of Scouts will know, 2007 has been the one hundredth anniversary of the start of the Scouting movement by Baden Powell. All over the world Scout Groups have marked the occasion with celebrations of many sorts and 1st P&P have not been left out.

The year was kicked off early by the Cubs as they let off 100 balloons at their last meeting of 2006. This was soon followed by the Scout Troop undertaking *Challenge 100*, which was to complete 100 team building exercises in their Patrols within 100 minutes! Our youngest members, the Beaver Scouts, were not left out as they too spent a 100-up evening completing 100 tasks from saying hello in 10 languages to undertaking 10 physical pursuits.

Later in the year, many of us attended the District Centenary Family Camp. This was held in a large field near Ufton Nervet on the Spring Bank Holiday Weekend. When we arrived an impressive sight met us as hundreds of Scouts from all over Pang Valley were camping and many displayed large flags and archways formed from expertly whittled and lashed poles around traditional scouts Niger tents. There were all sorts of activities to take part in including rock climbing, rifle shooting, blindfold trail, obstacle races, map reading and a hike. Unfortunately, the weather was against us and as the campfire started to glow and the songs were sung with gusto the rain came down. We survived the night and attempted to fill the next day with fire-lighting (yes it can be done in the rain but only by a Scout in the know) and cooking camp doughnuts. But, when the evening barn dance had to be abandoned so that all hands could be directed to holding down the gazebo, and one tent flew away never to be seen again, we really had to call the whole character building event to a close.

Luckily a couple of months later the sun shone for our main fund raising event, the Pangbourne Fete, where we supplied gallons of tea and heaps of bacon butties to participants and punters alike. The next morning the Scouts were centre stage again for the *Worship in the Willows* service, which was dedicated to Scouting's centenary.

In July many Beavers took part in the *District Beaver 100 Up Event* where they were able to scale a climbing tower, decorate biscuits, create fruit kebabs, paint a mug and play various games with Beavers from other Colonies.

Scouting's Sunrise was an international event in which all Scouts, young and old, around the world renewed their Promise at 8am local time on 1 August. 1st P&P could be seen in Pangbourne high street where they cooked themselves some breakfast as well as publicly renewing their promise.

Being Scouts, the children were not put off by their earlier dousing and many took part in the Centenary Challenge Camp at Cray's Pond in September. Scouts and Cubs worked together all weekend in teams completing another set of 100 tasks as varied as singing the National Anthem to cooking a pancake, making and wearing a paper hat for the duration to navigating their way around a 5km hike... something for everyone.

In October, 1st P&P were again on show in Pangbourne as they created and entered models of the *Three Little Pigs*, dressed in the uniforms of the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts in the *Scarecrow Trail* and were judged to be the best entry. As the winning entry, the 3 pigs can currently be seen at Beale Park who sponsored the event.

Live 07 was a national celebration of all the work put in by the Leaders and their Groups over the year and was held at the O2 Arena dome, London, in November. We sent a large contingent to watch the show, which included musical numbers from Gang shows, Scouts racing over an obstacle course on bikes and in canoes. It was hosted by Blue Peter's Peter Duncan who is currently the Chief Scout. Despite problems with the sound system, we enjoyed an impressive show.

Throughout the year a special set of badges have been presented to the Scouts for taking part in various events. The final badge was the *Bring a Friend* badge which members of 1st P&P earned at the *Centenary Celebration Event*. Representatives from all the Sections gave short presentations about the events they had taken part in throughout the year and these were followed by an evening of bingo, during which we raised money for an African Youth Group. This event was very well attended and a huge success, in no small way because of the influence and drive of our new Group Scout Leader. In August, after many years of sterling service and due to other commitments, Ron Spencer stepped down from the role of GSL and it was taken up by Suzanne Stout. Suzanne has many plans to take 1st P&P from its current healthy and active state to even greater heights and has already made her influence felt in many positive ways across the Group.



PURLEY ON THAMES PARISH COUNCIL

As no election was called, following the posting of the statutory notice, West Berkshire Council gave the Parish Council powers to co-opt to fill the casual vacancy caused by the recent resignation of Tim Whitaker. They agreed to invite Anne Bolland to participate from the next meeting, which is scheduled for 24 January. Anyone else who would consider serving on the Parish Council in the future is still invited to contact the office for further information.



The parking proposals are expected to be advertised by West Berkshire Council during this month and information will be placed on both the website and notice boards when this is done. At this time, we will also make the drawings available for inspection at the Council Office, Post Office and the Village Shop in Colyton Way. Any comments on the proposals should then be made to WBC direct.

We have been able to arrange the Christmas tree recycling facility again and trees may be left at the designated drop off point at the far end of the burial ground car park at the Goosecroft Recreation Ground off Beech Road. As these will be collected early on the Monday morning they must be left by Sunday 13 January evening at the latest. However please avoid dropping them off during the usual Farmers Market on 12 January due to the limited access. Trees may be left from 6 January onwards but should only be left in the marked area and not left beyond the dates shown above.

Despite a late hiccup I am pleased to report that the Annual Return for 2006/2007 was given unqualified approval by the external auditors and the statutory notice indicating this has already been posted on the notice boards and on the documents page of our website. Copies of the Annual Return are also on the website and available from the office on request. More detailed information is included in the Annual Accounts for year ending 31 March 2007 which are again available as shown above. Brief details from the return are below for information.

£	Year ending	
	31.3.2006	31.3.2007
Balances b/fwd.	79,310	103,798
+ Annual precept	65,000	66,612
+ Other receipts	56,691	75,824
- Staff costs	18,599	21,364
- Loan interest	Nil	Nil
- Other payments	78,604	102,830
= Balance c/fwd.	103,798	122,040
Total cash & investments	93,819	108,645
Total fixed assets	981,097	993,922
Total borrowings	Nil	Nil

Again may I wish you all a happy new year for 2008.

Brian J. Smith, Clerk to Purley on Thames Parish Council

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

A wish for a safe and happy new year in 2008 from Purley on Thames Parish Council.

I would like to welcome new Councillor, Anne Bolland, who has joined us, occupying the vacancy recently left. Also best wishes to Paul Combes, who has taken over as chairman of the Highways and Footpaths Committee.

1. Talking of footpaths, we have recently been looking at the paths in the village to raise the standard of maintenance. Even though they look fairly good at present, some have been difficult to use at times, because the maintenance responsibility has not been clear. The Parish owns some small pieces of land adjacent to footpaths, especially in the area around Pikeshaw, which need more active management, and we have decided to commit some modest funds to keep them in a good state for users. We have also established contacts with West Berkshire Council (WBC) to help with other paths not managed by Purley.

2. The major land assets of the village are the two recreation grounds, though we think that more recreation space is required as the village grows, and lifestyle evolves. It looks increasingly likely that we will not be able to build the ill-fated cycle track at Bucknell's Meadow, because of flood plain restrictions, and may need to find a new site in the lower village to accommodate that.

3. Land use and cost was one of the difficult factors affecting the Tilehurst Learning Campus project. As you may have seen in press reports, the project as originally conceived cannot proceed. Instead, WBC are looking at a scaled-down scheme, not involving Long Lane Primary, but rebuilding Denefield on its present footprint and co-locating with Brookfields School. I think that this option will be preferred by many people in Purley, especially if it can preserve the swimming pool complex in the plan. This reduced project involves less housing development, and less requirement for more land for playing space, and should be more manageable. However, it still will need extra Government funding, which is not guaranteed. As ever, watch this space!

4. Goosecroft Recreation Ground houses the Purley Sports and Social Club, which is supported by the Council for the services it provides and its encouragement of the sports clubs. I am sad and angry to report that the club has suffered badly from break-ins over the past year, two very recently where considerable damage has been caused to club and Parish property. Yet again, we will have to spend your money to protect buildings and equipment from crime and vandalism.

5. On a brighter note, the Farmers' Market goes from strength to strength. In spite of appalling weather, the December market was packed with local people buying and socialising. The atmosphere was enhanced with carol singing by the church *choir* – many thanks to them. Thanks also to the WI, who provide the refreshments at the market all year round, which adds greatly to the experience. The mince pies were greatly appreciated by the councillors manning the car park!

6. Don't forget the Christmas tree re-cycling at the Goosecroft Ground up to 13 January. Please look out for details of times and location on the web site, and notices around the village.

Rick Jones, Chairman - 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

Neighbourhood Wardens: 945 5286
westberks.wardens@sovereign.org.uk
www.sovereign.org.uk/wardens

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