

PURLEY PARISH NEWS

FEBRUARY 2008

And now these three remain:



faith



hope



love

But the greatest of these is love.

1 Corinthians 13:13

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35P

For the Church & Community of
PURLEY ON THAMES



ST. MARY THE VIRGIN PURLEY ON THAMES

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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 LOCAL MINISTER

By the time you read this, it will be over a year since a group of us at St Mary's joined forces with members of All Saints Upper Bucklebury to start *Meet Monday*, a Christian group for adults with learning disabilities. There were already three such groups meeting in Reading. We felt led to start a group for those who find it more difficult to get transport into Reading in the evenings, and we meet on two Mondays every month at Upper Bucklebury.



Our members currently come from Beenham, Chapel Row, Pangbourne and Theale. Just like church, not every member is able to come every week, but they make it very clear that they enjoy it when they are able to come – I hope the same can be said about church!

Meet Monday is affiliated to Causeway Prospects, a nationwide Christian charity based in Reading, which exists to support such groups. It provides training courses together with resources for both leaders and adults with learning disabilities. Perhaps most importantly, however, it provides a framework which it calls the Principles of Personal Value (PPV).

There is too much material in PPV to describe it in detail here. The fundamental hope of PPV, however, is that we should all be valued for our abilities, not our disabilities, appreciated for what we can do, not what we can't. Wouldn't it be great if PPV was the norm in our schools and in our workplaces!

As they get to know adults with learning disabilities and start to see the person rather than the handicap, it's all too easy for some people to fall into the trap of saying "Isn't she special?" Yes, she is, but so are we all. As we gaze upon a newborn baby, it is easy to believe that he is special to God. Sometimes gazing upon the toddler having a tantrum, walking on eggshells around the teenager before midday, or listening for the umpteenth time to the story told by the pensioner it is more difficult to believe that they are special to God. But they are. You are. I am. Each one of us is.

It is just over a month ago that we celebrated Christmas. In the life of Jesus, Christmas is the easy part to celebrate. There are carols and candles, mince pies and mulled wine. We picture the newborn baby and listen again to the story of the miraculous events that surrounded his birth. This year the church was full for some services - standing room only.

But the story of Jesus doesn't end with his birth – that is just the beginning. In a few days we will start the 40-day journey of Lent, at the end of which we will remember the death of Jesus. Today we like to control pain. In these days, the Romans were experts in inflicting pain, and they had perfected crucifixion as a way of inflicting pain right up to the moment of death itself. Good Friday has its songs too, but they are in a completely different vein to the carols at Christmas.

But in the story of Jesus, death was not the end. On Easter Sunday the nature of our songs changes again, as we celebrate that the disciples found the tomb was empty and encountered the risen Jesus. In an instant, their despair was turned to hope.



2008 will be a year of change at St Mary's. Roger Howell will retire after 17 years as Rector here. In these 17 years he has constantly sought to bring us a message of hope. Throughout 2008 the theme of much of what we do at St Mary's will be just that – Hope. And it is our hope that you will come and share in us much as possible with us at St Mary's in 2008, and that through doing so, you will discover for yourself the hope that Jesus brings.

in our villages, towns & cities

Andrew

PARISH REGISTER

FUNERAL

3 Jan Thomas Frederick (Dick) Presland Aged 88 years (cremation)

CHURCH SERVICES

3 February	9.30am	Family Worship
	11.15am	Holy Communion
	6.00pm	Holy Communion with prayer for healing
6 February	8.00pm	Ash Wednesday Communion Service
10 February	9.30am	Family Worship
	11.15am	Holy Communion
17 February	9.30am	Family Communion
	11.15am	Morning Worship
	6.00pm	Evening Worship
24 February	9.30am	Family Worship
	11.15am	Holy Communion
2 March	9.30am	Family Worship
	11.15am	Holy Communion
	6.00pm	Holy Communion
9 March	9.30am	Family Worship
	11.15am	Holy Communion with prayer for healing

W A M

YOUNG PEOPLE WITH A MISSION TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

As we begin a new year in WAM, we send our slightly older members back to their universities with our love and prayers. It is great to see them growing into wonderful adults. We congratulate David who has been appointed President of Christian Union at his University. We know he will *make a difference* with his passion and enthusiasm. We also send our blessings with Nat who begins four-month's voluntary work in Vancouver, Canada as a full-time Youth Leader at Hillside Church. As the only female leader, she will be in charge of the girls, as well as organising weekly events and socials for the whole, 40-strong youth group. She will assist the Youth Pastor by taking bible studies, and conducting valuable one-to-one teaching sessions with the youngsters. We trust that what she has learned here at St Mary's will set her in good stead as she supports the youth in their walk with Jesus, and in their daily lives. Please keep these two Purley young adults in your prayers.

If you came to the Crib Service on Christmas Eve you will have seen David and Nat, along with other WAM members, as they acted out a different *Toy Story* to put across the Christmas message. WAM members also helped with the entertainment at the Senior Citizen's Party.

Apart from exploring their faith as they learn more about God in their group on a Sunday morning, WAM meets twice a month, following a lively social calendar! Last term they bowled and ate burgers; played games and dunked fruit in chocolate fondue; watched a DVD with guest youngsters from Tilehurst Methodist Church, and devoured several pizzas and even held a Craft Evening where they made Nativity scenes – out of gingerbread! Yes! Food continues to be a popular addition to all WAM socials! It was, therefore, with great enthusiasm that we accepted an invitation from the Tilehurst Methodist youth group to join in with their New Year Party. We had great fun playing party games and eating party food (including jelly and ice cream!), before joining in their Contemporary Worship evening which included songs chosen by WAM.

We feel it is good for our youngsters to join with other Church youth groups from time to time to see that there are many other youngsters just like them who think it is *cool* to be a Christian. When putting together this term's Social Calendar from ideas put forward by the youngsters, we have included a visit to St Laurence Church in Reading to join in a lively service with the youth there. We will also be attempting Sno-Tubing for the first time. We will hurtle down the ski slopes in Bracknell on large inflatable tubes! It's described as *fast, furious and fun*. Sounds like a description of our wonderful youngsters at WAM!

Nicki Woodward

PRICE INCREASE

The PCC at St Mary's church has approved an increase in the price for the Purley Parish News for 2008, to 40p an issue (or £4 for an annual subscription). This will take effect from the April edition, when annual subscriptions become due. This is the first increase in about six years. Advertising rates will also be revised.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Springtime In The Garden at Cherry Acre This popular event for all the family will be held this year on Friday 4 April, 11am–4pm, and on Sunday 6 April, 1.30–5pm.

Village Walk followed by Soup & Cakes – an event for all the community. Celebrate St George in England's green and pleasant land. Sunday 27 April, 2pm or 3pm according to length of walk you choose to do.

Full details for these two events will be in next month's publication, and on posters around the village.

Meanwhile, pop the dates on your new family calendar! Any queries to Nicki Woodward 984 2112, nicki@cherryacre.com

Purley Puppets



**St Mary's Church
Fridays 7pm to 8pm**

Purley Puppets has been going since March 2006. We meet each Friday in term time at St Mary's church from 7pm until 8pm. Anyone from aged 8 upwards is welcome to come and join us.

Our aim is to develop a professional and committed group of puppeteers who perform in a variety of productions, with a Christian theme.

We have a committed team of adult leaders who do their best to ensure that each session is fun as well as stretching. Each child works

towards a Purley Puppets Award Scheme, which includes points for commitment, performance, scriptwriting etc.

The highlights of our 2007 autumn term were our performances at the Victorian Village Fayre, where we put on a (hopefully humorous) Punch and Judy show (oh yes we did...) and our second performance at the Purley Farmers Market.

A typical session includes:

- Welcome and light refreshment with drinks
- Introduction to the puppets
- Puppet exercises
- A choice of performing a song or a sketch
- Performing to the rest of the group followed by prayer and home

We would love to see some new faces. Our sessions are free, so come and say hello to the Purley Puppets. If you would like to join us or just know more, please speak to Sally Robertson on 962 5978 or Debbie Corrigan on 945 1895

PURLEY HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY



TRADING

The Trading Store reopens on Saturday, 2 February and will remain open every Saturday and Sunday between 10am and 11am until the last Sunday in October. Subscriptions for 2008 are now due and are still only £1.50 for a year. These can be renewed at the Trading Shed or the AGM on 21 February. Suttons Seeds catalogues and potato order forms are available at the Shed.

COACH TRIPS

We are hoping to organize several coach trips this summer and details will be available at the AGM.

SPRING SHOW

This will be held on Saturday, 5 April in Purley Memorial Hall. Schedules will be available at the Trading Shed in late February.

AGM AND GARDEN TALK 20 FEBRUARY 2008

Following a successful, albeit damp, year for the Society; the AGM will review the year but importantly guide the Committee on the way forward for the New Year. The attendance of as many members as possible for these discussions would be much appreciated.

Following the resignation of two Committee members, the Society is looking for members who would like to serve on the Committee to preserve, foster and encourage gardening in Purley. Would any member who wishes to be nominated please contact John Murphy, Secretary on 941 9185.

PURLEY HALL AND OTHER LANDSCAPES

After the AGM, the society welcomes back Ben Viljoen for the evening's talk.

Ben will be talking about Purley Hall and will explore the relationship between it and Studley Royal, the landscape garden next to Fountains Abbey in Yorkshire and also about the, once famous but now sadly forgotten and neglected, garden at Hackfall, also in Yorkshire.

Ben is a member of the Garden History Society and studied landscape gardening at Reading University.

The AGM will be held in the Memorial Hall, Glebe Road at 7.45pm and the doors are open from 7.30pm.

All residents of Purley and Neighbouring Parishes are welcome

Marion Dabbs
942 2349



PANGBOURNE SINGS BACH PASSION, BAROQUE-STYLE!

Pangbourne Choral Society will celebrate another exciting season of the very best choral music on Sunday 24 February at 7.30pm in the Falklands Islands Chapel, Pangbourne College, under their Music Director, Jonathan Brown.

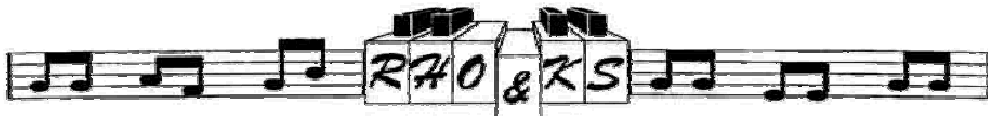
Following his successful and highly acclaimed first season, Jonathan is guiding PCS towards another exceptional performance – this time, Bach's Saint John Passion, sung in German and performed with original baroque instruments by the Chameleon Arts Baroque Orchestra, who also marked their debut with PCS last season. The Choir will also receive invaluable guidance from David Hill, Choral Director of the BBC Singers and The Bach Choir at a special Workshop in January

PCS Chairman Ken Whitehead comments: 'Jonathan has done a great job in taking this Choral Society to new heights. Performing the St John Passion as close to the original as possible is typical of his approach, and the reason why so many people have told me that listening to PCS performances is even more of a pleasure with each succeeding year'.

We are delighted to welcome the eminent soloists singing with us in this performance: Christopher Watson (as the Evangelist), Stewart Conley-Harper (Counter-tenor), James Atherton (Tenor), Carys Lane and Giles Underwood. Stewart and James are making their second appearances with PCS. Jonathan will conduct the Chameleon Arts Baroque Orchestra (appearing by arrangement with Chameleon Arts Management).

Tickets (£11 including programme) are available from Premier Pet Store Pangbourne, or (with cheque to 'PCS' and SAE) by post from PCS Tickets, Lower Hitch, Whitchurch Hill, Reading, RG8 7NU. Early booking is advised as Pangbourne Choral Society concerts are in high demand and usually sell out fast.

Further information can be obtained from <http://www.pangbournechoral.org.uk>, pchoralsoc@googlemail.com or by calling Tony Maynard on 01635 200354



READING HOME ORGAN & KEYBOARD SOCIETY

Our next concert will be on 12 February at 8pm in Tidmarsh Village Hall, Pangbourne Road, Reading RG8 8ES. Our guest artist is Michael Wooldridge a well-known player on the electronic organ circuit. It promises to be a very interesting and enjoyable evening of music for all tastes. Everyone is welcome.

Entrance fee, including refreshments, is £5.50 for visitors or £3.50 for members.

Further information from Molly West on Reading 942 7062

The Reading Phoenix Choir, considered one of the finest amateur choirs in the UK, has invited the Willink School to perform with them in a charity concert for the Alzheimer's Society West Berkshire. The Concert will take place on the evening of Saturday 1 March 2008 at St Nicolas Church in Newbury, a popular venue that plays host to many classical concerts throughout the year.

Reading Phoenix Choir is a 50 strong, mixed voice choir, directed by Norman Morris. It has members of all backgrounds and ages, with musical experience ranging from music degrees/diplomas to average sight readers, all sharing a love of choral music. Phoenix does not sing the "works" but explores the whole range of a cappella music, early and contemporary, sacred and secular, serious and light. They are prizewinners in all the major choral competitions.

The concert aims to involve the local community to raise funds for the West Berkshire branch of the Alzheimer's Society, especially its *Singing for the Brain* programme. The Reading Phoenix Choir have kindly donated their performance in aid of this cause for which some of its members volunteer. Conductor Norman Morris leads two Singing for the Brain groups.

The event will include musical pieces from the Jazz Band and Choir made up of students attending the Willink School in Burghfield Common. Gavin Hurley, the Willink's Head of Creative Arts, has initiated great improvements to the standard of music taught at the school. The School's successful performance of the Little Shop of Horrors and most recently, Grease, revealed enormous talents in the pupils.

Chreanne Montgomery-Smith, Alzheimer's Support and Development worker for West Berkshire, is passionate about the use of singing and its effect on people with dementia and carers. The Singing for the Brain founded by Chreanne has seen amazing benefits in participants and the number of groups running has been steadily increasing over the past few years. "We are so grateful to the Phoenix Choir and to Willink School for donating their time and expertise to us. Raising money through a musical event is incredibly relevant to the work we do; helping people with dementia and their families have an enjoyable and stimulating life through social therapeutic activity."

Tickets will be available from The Corn Exchange Newbury 01635 522733 or www.cornexchangenew.com

CHILDREN'S SOCIETY BOXES

This year's combined collection of charity collection boxes from around the village resulted in £172 being sent to The Children's Society. Thank you to all those who contributed and Syb Pryor for co-ordinating the gathering of boxes.

PROJECT PURLEY

The most popular Project Purley meetings are those categorised as "Members' Own." In previous years these have included members reminiscing about their schooldays, heirlooms and, in some cases, wartime experiences. On Friday, 11 January twenty-two devotees gathered together in The Barn to talk about their hobbies and interests.

Chairman, John Chapman, had asked those people willing to speak to allocate themselves to one of five groups: collecting, research, arts and crafts, indoor games and outdoor pursuits, with a time limit of five minutes per speaker. Members could also, of course, bring items to display and discuss.

David Downs began the proceedings by showing a small selection of the many original cartoons he has collected, including one in which he himself featured and which appeared in *The Times* some years ago. David explained that he enjoys cartoons because they combine the two beautiful elements of art and humour, and that while some of the leading cartoonists guard their work quite jealously, others are quite willing to sell originals for modest prices or even donations to charity.

Ben Viljoen collects antique books, but fears the age of the printed and bound book is fading due to the advance of the internet, whilst Catherine Sampson was keen to explain her fascination with hats. It began when she was aged just two and started wearing her grandfather's trilby hat, which she still possesses. She also showed a couple of her favourite hats which are from Borneo, and made all of us chuckle when she said that the only way she could bring a collection of six hats back through Customs was to wear them all at the same time.

Jean Debney made a brief mention of the cigarette cards and postcards she has accumulated, then it was Bernard Venners' turn to introduce the section on research. He collects militaria and pre-1945 vehicles and caught everyone's attention by asking us to identify a headlamp masker used during the World War Two blackouts to avoid traffic accidents. Bernard has acquired a number of veteran military vehicles over the years and drove one ancient ambulance on the London to Brighton run. His expertise and collection have led to him being involved in several film and television productions, such as *Secret Army*, *Longitude* and *Pearl Harbour*.

Jean Debney also contributed to this section, talking about her research into family history, a subject she has investigated since the age of seventeen. John Chapman is well known for his research into the Royal Berkshire Regiment and its predecessors, and Ben Viljoen also spoke in this section about local gardens. His intention is to set up an historic gardens trust in Berkshire.

The arts and crafts section was led by Edna Bint. She became hooked on stained glass ten years ago when she studied pictures of a leaded lantern. The lead became too heavy for her hands to work so she now uses copper foil. Edna, who also does stone carving, had brought a colourful selection of her stained glass creations. She also repairs stained glass, is happy to teach others, and is only too willing to accept commissions! The two other contributors to arts and crafts

were John Chapman, who is working on a needlepoint map of Berkshire and Ann Betts, whose skills lie in embroidery and tapestry stitching.

The West Berkshire Scrabble Club is led by Ian and Elizabeth Burn, so Ian told us about his favourite indoor game. It has its origin in the game Lexiko, which was invented by Alfred Mosher Butts in the New York depression of the 1930s. In 1947 he went into partnership with James Brunot to market the game. It was renamed Scrabble, and there are 300 Scrabble clubs in the United Kingdom alone. There is a standard dictionary used for the game, and major leagues and tournaments take place, including the annual West Berkshire event in The Barn, which last year raised £752 for charity. The club is always looking for new members, so anyone interested is welcome to contact Ian or Elizabeth. Incidentally, Elizabeth is also interested in garden design and is happy to offer advice to any member looking for guidance.

The Purley Pathfinders walking group is run and organised by Nicki Woodward. Nicki is not a Project Purley member, but received high praise from Ann Betts, a regular walker and who, as such, fitted into the outdoor pursuits part of the evening. The Pathfinders meet every week during school term time and walks are graded to suit all ages; the theme for walks in 2008 is *Village Life*. There are usually four outings a year, and the timetable for each generally includes a walk, a picnic lunch, a guided tour and a cream tea. The group, which also organises social evenings, always seems to be lucky with the weather. The number walking varies between thirty and fifty and, like Ann, they all pay tribute to Nicki's enthusiasm and sheer hard work. However, it was while she was out walking near Westbury Lane with her dog, Dougall, that Ann found the Neolithic projectile point which attracted so much attention last year.

On the same theme of travel, Rick Jones told us about *Wurdler*, the canal boat which he once owned, and how he and friends found boating an enjoyable and safe form of transport which was popular until it was overtaken by rail travel.

By now the clock showed 9.30 p.m., time for coffee, general chit-chat and the opportunity to look more closely at the items on display. It had been an intriguing evening, and should Project Purley ever find itself short of a speaker, I feel sure that any one of the meeting's contributors would have more than enough information and artefacts to entertain an audience for an evening.

The next meeting of Project Purley will be held in The Barn, Goosecroft Lane, off Beech Road on Friday 15 February commencing at 8pm. The speaker will be Corrie Starling who is the assistant miller at Mapledurham Mill.

David Downs

LOCK CAFÉ

Mapledurham lock's café will be open Good Friday, Saturday, Easter Sunday and Easter Monday, and then at weekends thereafter. See you there!

Pray for Purley

The answer is: 16!

Pray for Purley is an opportunity for Christians who are Purley residents (or should that be Purley residents who are Christians) - from any church, not just St Mary's - to come together to meet and encourage each other, and to pray about those matters that concern us as people who live in Purley.

We met in January to review the future of this group, as recent meetings have had rather low attendance. There were 16 of us (although apologies had been received from others) and the answer was a resounding "Continue!" - but with a few changes as previous timings were not always suitable for many.

The following dates/formats were agreed:

Saturday 16 February at 8am (including breakfast)

Sunday 16 March at 7.30pm

Wednesday 16 April at 10.30am

Friday 16 May at 8pm (including fish & chips)

All are welcome to any or all of the above meetings, which take place at St Mary's (to whom we say Thank you for allowing us to use your facilities).

You don't have to be a member of St Mary's - or even a regular churchgoer - to come and pray, and if you'd rather not pray out loud, that's OK.

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; or you can hand prayer requests in at the Farmers' Market. 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

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*

VILLAGE LUNCH

AN EVENT FOR ALL THE COMMUNITY!

Friday 15 February from 12 noon

February is a short month (even with the extra day!) but it can drag on a bit as we await the forthcoming springtime. To add a touch of sparkle to the month, why not join fellow members of the community for lunch? Invite neighbours and friends along and let's put a bit of 'Spring' in our step in February!

There will be a choice of food with soups, jacket potatoes, cakes and drinks.
There will also be a raffle.

Tickets for lunch will cost just £5 adults / £2.50 child

Lunch will be held in St Mary's Church Hall, and proceeds will be donated to the church. Buy or reserve yours by contacting Nicki Woodward 984 2112, nicki@cherryacre.com , or collect from Cherry Acre, Purley Village.

MESSAGE FROM HOME FARM

This is the 25th winter we have spent at Home Farm and it is of no surprise to us that it is raining. When we have enough rain, or rather when this side of the Cotswolds has enough rain, within two days our river meadows are flooded. They have done so most years since we have been here, and have done so for countless centuries and I am sure they will continue to do so for many years to come.

Now don't get me wrong, I am certainly not belittling the horrific time experienced in West Berkshire last July. The official report now agrees that the torrential downpour on that Friday caused flash floods simply because the volume of water heading downhill towards the river was too great for the brooks, culverts and drains to cope with. Some folk blame building within the flood plain, but it is the new developments on top of the hills that create just as many problems.

Take Long Lane for example; the large houses to the West of the lane, with their orchards and pony paddocks, were able to absorb large amounts of rainfall. Nowadays the new developments must have 90% metalled surfaces, which send cascades of water out onto Long Lane itself and surprise, surprise the drains can't cope.

When the press phoned last week for my comments on the weather (obviously hoping for another doom and gloom headline!), I replied by saying its January, it rains in January! – And February! – as the proverb goes, *If in February there be no rain, 'tis neither good for hay nor grain.*

Tim Metcalfe



PURLEY PLAYERS

2007 was a very good year for Purley Players. Our first production of the year was in April when we performed our first comedy play called *He's in the Cupboard!* This was very well received and greatly enjoyed by audience and cast alike.

September saw our annual Murder Mystery/Dining Evening and such was its success that we had to open the box office early to accommodate all those who were clamouring for tickets.

We held two Quiz Nights which were packed out and, again, much enjoyed by all who attended.

With the funds raised by these events we were able to donate £500 to BIBS which is the charity supporting Buscot Ward at The Royal Berks. Our money went towards the purchase of a special pump which releases minuscule amounts of drugs to tiny premature babies. In addition to this, we were delighted to be able to make a contribution of £500 to St Mary's Church towards the replacement of their gas main and future boiler replacement. St Mary's is where PP started life.

As I write this, we are now looking forward to our pantomime, Dick Whittington. Here again, we are treading new ground as, for the first time, we have about 25 local children taking part. Our tickets for all three nights were sold out before Christmas.

Please watch this Magazine and our website for details of our Spring Production when we are trying our hand at a farce entitled *Don't get your Vicars in a Twist*.

Of course, none of this would have been possible without you, our faithful audience, who come to our productions, enjoy yourselves and give us great encouragement. A big thank you to you all.

Jean Chudleigh
Hon Secretary
www.purleyplayers.co.uk

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 JUBILEE FOOTBALL CLUB

Purley Jubilee Football Club started up in 1977 (the year of the Queen's Silver Jubilee – hence the name) and has grown from running a few teams to the point where we run 13 teams for all ages from Under-7s (Year 2) through to Under-14s (Year 9). Our teams play in 7-a-side leagues from Under-7 through to Under-11 with games played on a Saturday morning. From Under-12 onwards, they switch to 11-a-side and these games are played on Saturday morning or Sunday depending on the age group and league.

We also run a Development Squad for Reception and Year 1 children to start them on their footballing careers. The Development Squad sessions are run on a Sunday morning from 10-11am on the lower field at the recreation ground at Goosecroft Lane (off Beech Road).

New players are always very welcome at the Development Squad sessions on Sunday morning or perhaps you would like to join one of our existing teams. We don't currently run any girls' teams, but girls can play in boys' teams up to and including Under-11.

If you would like to know more about playing football with Purley Jubilee, please ring Andy Perryman on 943 1047 or visit our website at www.purleyjubilee.co.uk.

ADVENTURE DOLPHIN

I'd like to introduce myself as the new Youth Worker within the North East Area Team of West Berkshire based in Adventure Dolphin Centre, Pangbourne. Just because I am based in Pangbourne please do not think that that is the only area that I will be working in! I am hoping to and am already taking steps to set up a youth provision within Purley. This will be for young people aged between 13 and 19 years of age. On 25 January I joined the Neighbourhood Wardens walking around the area. Hopefully this will become more regular so that I can meet and get to know some of the young people of Purley.

I am also very keen to hear your views on what you would like to do as a young person in Purley. On 18 February between 1pm and 4pm we will be in the Church Hall at St Mary's for fun and games including (hopefully!) SUMO SUITS! This is a great opportunity to have some fun, meet new people and get your opinions heard.

I am also looking for anyone to volunteer to help with running a youth group and am interested in hearing from you. Ideally you would have experience of working with young people aged 13-19 years of age. You would also be available and committed to working one evening a week.

If you are interested in volunteering or you are a young person with some ideas that you'd like to share with me please call me at Adventure Dolphin on 984 3162.

Looking forward to hearing from you, Caroline Fossey.

PURLEY PATHFINDERS

A WALKING GROUP FOR LADIES

After excessive indulgencies over the Christmas holiday it was good to be back in our boots in an attempt to put things right! Despite a rainy start to the morning the rain stopped and the sky brightened as we began our walk through one of the town's precious green oasis, Prospect Park. We entered the Rookery, now much cleared after having had many trees down in winds over recent years. Now good clear paths gave us access to this pleasant copse which took us round into one of the green open spaces of the park. Grand old trees are dotted around amongst many newly planted ones, many dedicated to lost loved ones. It seemed a lovely way to be remembered, ensuring there will be fine specimen trees here to be enjoyed by future generations. We passed another lovely memorial – the sculpture of a dog, in memory of one a park keeper.



We made our way down between rhododendron bushes to the pond. The 'Friends of Prospect Park' have transformed this area into a haven for wildlife, and several ducks paddled on the clear water. From across the wide green open space we gained a good view of the imposing Mansion House. After more exploration of the park we headed for the newly refurbished interior of the mansion. Through the windows we enjoyed the view across to East Reading as we tucked in to a New Year Celebratory lunch.

Passing fields of alpaca we began our walk above Whitchurch-on-Thames. We climbed up through a band of trees to emerge alongside The Baulk. We could see how this house with its turrets and spires had been mistaken for a church by a young couple years ago. Having made their way across the valley, hoping to be wed, they were sadly 'balked' upon finding a private dwelling. Hence the name, so rumour has it! We wandered through Bottom Wood, and, after several days of rain, we delighted in the sunshine glinting between the bare branches of the trees. Emerging onto the viewpoint we were greeted by the outstanding view which never ceases to take aback, no matter how many times this walk is done. Using valuable 'compass readings', such as the Whitchurch Toll Bridge to the West, the Tilehurst Water Tower to the South, and the Wind Turbine alongside junction 11 to the East, we scanned the wide view to pick out familiar landmarks. We searched the village for outlines of our homes in Purley on Thames, and noted the ever widening River Thames, swollen after a week of heavy rainfall. Down the hillside, we joined the bridleway and headed for Mapledurham. Gulls shone like white 'V's' in the sunlight as they circled the arable fields beside us. Once in the village we read the names of the old cottages as we passed. Each tells a story of times gone by – 'The Forge' dated 1691, 'The Boyv' and 'The Almshouses' to name a few. It was easy to imagine

life in Mapledurham in the past for, apart from a few motor cars parked, the village remains much unchanged. As we stood to look over at The Mill, its frontage reminded us of the fascia on a film set rather than that of a fully working water mill. Indeed the Mapledurham estate has been the location for several films as depicted on a poster in the church porch. Leaving this peaceful spot we made our way back along the bridleway into the Hardwick estate. We watched the horses galloping around their fields, spooked perhaps by the hunting horn sounding forth from the woodland above. Now and then we caught sight of the red of a hunter's jacket. Perhaps it is true, as reported in a newspaper recently, that hunting is



more popular since it was banned! We passed the ice-houses of Hardwick House, and the Hardwick Stables, and soon we were back at our cars to end our exhilarating walk over the river.

Our theme for 2008 is Village Life. In the next few weeks we will be exploring the delights of the villages of Sonning Common, Moulsoford, Woolhampton, Midgham and Ecchinswell. Watch this space!

Nicki Woodward
nicki@cherryacre.com - 984 2112



Mozart Requiem

Friday 14 March, St Catherine's Church, Tilehurst
Saturday 15 March, St Mary's Church, Burghfield

Performances start at 8pm

Tickets: £5 for Adults/£4 for Senior Citizens & Children
obtainable in advance by telephoning: 983 3049

PURLEY ON THAMES PARISH COUNCIL



The Farmers Market will continue to be held, throughout 2008, in the Barn at the Goosecroft Recreation Ground (off Beech Road opposite the Post Office and Merit Tyres) on the second Saturday morning of each month. If you are able to walk to this, please do so to leave the limited parking space for those less able.

Thanks to those who left their Christmas trees for recycling by the Community Furniture Project, which were collected on 14 January. We hope to continue with this facility on an annual basis.

West Berkshire Council has published the timetable for the local visits of the Mobile Library which will be in the area at the times shown below on 8 & 29 February, 11 April, 2 & 23 May, 13 June and 4 July.

Orchard Close	1.10 to 1.30 pm
Memorial Hall	1.35 to 1.50 pm
Hazel Road	2.00 to 2.30 pm
Purley Church	2.50 to 4.00 pm

Now that the West Berkshire Neighbourhood Wardens are at full strength, they have been able to raise their level of activity in the area under the control of Allan, the new senior warden. Together with Shirley, David, Ahmed and Jenni he is available to assist with any quality of life issues you may have. Please speak to them whilst they are out on patrol or contact them by email westberkswardens@sovereign.org.uk or telephone 945 5286

Thames Valley Police advise us that the level of crime fell in Purley and other local parishes in the last few months. However, this has been spoilt by a surge in criminal damage to both public and private property and anti-social behaviour in the first few weeks of 2008. This is being targeted by the Neighbourhood Police together with the Community Support Officers and the Wardens but they need your assistance to catch the culprits. As well as using the Wardens please report any incidents, at the time, on the Police non-emergency telephone number 0845 8 505 505. These calls are all logged and reported back locally, which will enable additional resources to be able to target the hot spots. Please report events yourself and do not leave it to others. Action can only be taken if things are known about and not everything is getting reported. If a serious offence is happening, of course use the 999 emergency number if needed.

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

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

As I write this, we are once again in the midst of flooding conditions. It seems spooky that my warning in December has become only too true in January. The Parish Council and other agencies are monitoring water levels and providing support to vulnerable residents, properties and infrastructure. We have again enacted our emergency plan, with West Berkshire and the Environment Agency,

who are both fully in attendance here, and generally the situation is well under control. Residents are appreciative of the responsive support that they are receiving, but are clearly also apprehensive about what may happen over the next week or so.

There have been some issues, even within a plan that works well, which the Council will want to resolve in the aftermath of the emergency. These are mainly matters of communication, and I will report in a future column on how these will be improved further.

Turning from a very immediate crisis, the Council is also dealing with our response to a long-term concern – planning and development. We run a working party who meet weekly to review and comment upon individual planning applications. We do not possess the power of approval or rejection, but can present a village viewpoint to the Planning Authority.

At this time, we are looking further forward at how we want the planners and developers to act in future development proposals – from individual house extensions up to groups of new houses, and commercial applications. Our response forms part of WBC's strategy for housing, which in turn is incorporated into the South East plan submitted to Government. The consultation documents and our response can be viewed at the Parish Office by application to the Clerk. In summary, we have committed several key principles to govern planning decisions:

- protect character of village, and particularly the northern boundary;
- restrict incursion into the AONB;
- maintain the strategic gap between Purley and Pangbourne;
- avoid development on the flood plain.

We hope that you will agree with these principles, designed to retain the character of where we all live, without being too NIMBY about it all.

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

Purley on Thames Parish Council

Parish Office

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

www.purleyonthames.net

WEST BERKS SCRABBLE® CLUB



On 13 January, The Barn in Beech Road was the venue for the 8th annual West Berks Scrabble Tournament.

86 participants attended the event coming from as far afield as Wales, Rutland, Southend and the South Coast.

The players were split into 3 divisions, according to ability.

In the A division, Ed Rossiter from the Southampton Club was triumphant, winning all 6 games. Similarly, in division B,

Marion Kirk from the Cirencester 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 Trish Cooper from the (Bracknell based) East Berks 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 Trish Cooper. Both this trophy and the overall winner's trophy were kindly sponsored by Fujitsu Services.

Trophies were presented by Ms Chreanne Montgomery Smith representing the Newbury branch of the Alzheimer's Society.

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 home made cakes during the afternoon interval, the tournament was able to provide a donation of £605.37 to the Alzheimer's Society.

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 984 5045.

FAMILY FOODY FUN ART & CRAFT

Join in the fun on 9 April 2008 any time from 10am to noon at Denefield School, Long Lane, Tilehurst, Reading. Come along to this food themed activity. Make a picture using pasta shapes and win a prize! This free drop in session is being run by the Family Information Service (FIS). The activity is suitable for parents and carers with children aged under 11. All materials are provided. It is also an opportunity to find out how your family can benefit from the FIS. They have a wealth of information available! Contact Sue Guy for further details or simply pop in!



MANAGEMENT OPPORTUNITY

Kool Club, the after school club based at Denefield School is looking for a Deputy Manager. This After School Club provides a safe and fun environment for 5-13 year old children to socialise, play and participate in a variety of activities after school until 6pm each evening. Activities include a quiet corner for homework, as well as art and craft, board games, outdoor activities and much more! Children are collected from each school by walking bus. The Club also offers holiday care, from Monday to Friday from 8am-6pm when a broader range of activities is available. If anyone is interested, please ring Cheryl Paxford on 07773 340113 or email koolclub@hotmail.co.uk.

For more information about inspire4life 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*

FREE INSULATION FOR OVER 70s

100% grant funded loft and cavity wall insulation is now available to all residents aged 70 years and above. This offer, which became available earlier this year, is made irrespective of your income and savings and whether or not you are in receipt of benefits. In fact, the only requirement is proof of age and name and address.

For most households, insulating has never made better financial sense. Following the autumn's record oil prices and surging wholesale gas and electricity prices, insulation could be our last best defence against rising energy bills in 2008.

All homeowners and private tenants qualify for discounted loft and cavity wall insulation. Fully insulating your home could easily reduce your fuel bills by £100 a year. The payback time is typically short and the long-term financial and environmental benefits are high.

For more information, contact Energy Efficiency Advice Centre on 0800 512 012.

DEADLINES AND DELIVERIES

Due to other commitments during February, the March 2008 issue of this magazine will be a week later than normal. Hopefully this will also give our contributors more time, in the short month, to prepare their submissions.

At the Purley Parish News, we would welcome your help as contributors, distributors, assistant editors, or in any other capacity. We are particularly short of distributors, so if you could spare some time to deliver a few magazines each month, please contact Steve Corrigan on 945 1895.

Please note that the preparation and delivery of this magazine is done on a voluntary basis – there are no salaried members of staff.

Editor

PUZZLING TIMES

I have to admit, I'm not known for being trendy. So, you may not be surprised to learn that it's taken me about three years longer than everyone else to get hooked on Sudoku! I really couldn't see what excitement there could possibly be in mental arithmetic!

Here are two for you to try. The one on the left is meant to be easy, whilst the one on the right is rated as hard. For more Sudoku puzzles, you can visit www.sudokopuzz.com, where you can even try their *fiendish* rated puzzles!

If you've never tried one, the rules are quite simple: each 3x3 grid must contain the numbers 1 to 9; each row and each column must also contain the numbers 1 to 9.

					6	3		
			5	8		7		
3	5	1				9		
6			3		7		5	
	1						3	
	8		9		5			2
		2				4	8	1
		7		5	4			
		9	6					

7			6					
9		4		1	2			3
	8	1	9					
						9	5	
5		8				3		2
	6	7						
					6	5	1	
3			4	8		7		6
					9			4

Good Luck!

Editor

CHECK YOUR SPENDING

IT'S A MATTER OF LIFE AND DEBT

According to statistics from Credit Action, 18% of adults in the UK have £10,000 or more of unsecured debt. The Church of England has released a 10-point debt checklist to coincide with the launch of a new section of their website, called Matter of Life and Debt, dedicated to helping people escape from debt problems - and containing sound advice, real-life case studies, useful resources, and helpful prayers.

"If a household can say 'yes' to any of the statements on the checklist [below], it may be on the verge of encountering serious debt issues, and should carefully consider taking some of the advice included in the pages of Matter of Life and Debt," says the Church of England's National Stewardship and Resources Officer, John Preston, who put together the Post Christmas Debt Check, and co-authored Matter of Life and Debt.

"If a household can say 'yes' to three or more of the warning signs," he continues, "it would be well advised to talk to a debt counselling service, such as the ones we link to online."

Designed to make consumers think again about how much they spend, the Post Christmas Debt Check includes checklist items such as 'this month you will need to use one credit card to pay off another card' and 'you often feel anxious about money, in particular, how much you owe'.

See the Matter of Life and Debt pages at www.cofe.anglican.org/debt.

POST CHRISTMAS DEBT CHECK - TICK AS APPROPRIATE

- You need to get an extra credit card or to increase the spending limit on your current credit cards...
- You tried to get a higher credit limit on your cards recently, and have had your application turned down...
- You will only be able to pay the minimum on your credit cards this month...
- This month you will need to use one credit card to pay off another card...
- You can't face adding up your total debt, because it scares you...
- You are keeping the cost of Christmas, or your total debts, hidden from your partner or your family...
- You often feel anxious about money, in particular, how much you owe...
- You used to have savings, but they've gradually disappeared...
- This month you're having to use credit cards for things you normally pay for with cash...
- You've checked your credit card statement from a year ago - and you owe more now than you did then...