

# ST. MARY'S CHURCH - PURLEY ON THAMES

\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*

## SUNDAY SERVICES

9.30 a.m. First Worship - An informal service including All Age Teaching (creche provided)

11.15 a.m. Parish Communion

6.30 p.m. Evening Worship

**RECTOR** Rev. Roger B. Howell,  
The Rectory,  
1 Westridge Avenue,  
Purley on Thames  
Tel: Reading 417727

**CURATE** Rev. Brendan Bailey,  
10 Knowsley Road,  
Tilehurst  
Tel: Reading 451411

**READERS** Jean Rothery, Wally Watkivs,  
'Oaklea', 15 Fullbrook Crescent,  
Tidmarsh Tilehurst  
Tel: Pangbourne 843625 Tel: Reading 426170

**CHURCHWARDENS** Mary Barrett, Andrew Mackie,  
46 Beech Road, 52 Primrose Close,  
Purley on Thames Purley on Thames  
Tel: Pangbourne 842166 Tel: Reading 411786

## CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR

Jackie Benstead,  
18 Primrose Close,

## CHURCH HIRINGS

Liane Southam,  
27 Waterside Drive,

Purley on Thames  
Tel: Reading 429116

Purley on Thames  
Tel: Reading 428243  
**JULY 1995**

## LETTER FROM THE RECTOR

Dear Friends,

### **Is it, or isn't it?**

The Church of England has recently produced a report (another one!) on the subject of the family - "*Something to celebrate: Valuing families in Church and Society.*" Amongst its many recommendations is that the phrase "*living in sin*" should be abandoned. I don't know what you think about that, but this phrase has been used for many years in referring to a man and a woman who live together but who are not married to each other. Is this a *sin* or not? What do *you* think about this and its many related issues? I would be glad to hear your views.

"*Living in sin*" as a phrase descriptive of cohabiting couples, I would be happy to see dropped, **not** because I think this situation is a good thing, but because the words apply to **all** people in **all** situations! The concept of "*sin*" is almost totally missing in today's society, so it is not surprising that most people see absolutely nothing wrong in living together before marriage, or with no intention of ever getting married! The fact that most people do it (and by the year 2,000 it is thought that 4 out of 5 couples will cohabit before marriage) does not make it right. It may seem perfectly all right in human eyes, but then the primary reference point of "*sin*" is not to one another, but to **God!** Others can be, and often are harmed by our behaviour, but first and foremost it is God who is hurt by our

disregard for the laws He has given *for our own good*. As it was in the beginning so it is now - we think we know better than God, and that our choices have nothing to do with anyone else.

Our community is fairly typical - there is a high incidence of couples living together whilst not being married. What is our attitude towards them? Do we write them off as beyond the pale? Are they welcome at St. Mary's? My personal response to these kinds of questions is this: all are welcome, no matter what the situation is! Jesus Christ welcomed all kinds of people - often despised by others. He welcomed cheats, prostitutes, and adulterers. But in welcoming them, He did not condone their behaviour as if it really did not matter. He told them to change their ways ("repentance" is the Bible word for this).

I welcome everybody and anybody at the Parish Church, but that is not to say that I necessarily agree with their particular lifestyle! In the case of living together before or without marriage, I do not agree with this. I think this and a number of other things undermine stability in the family and we should not only be concerned at the effects this *might* have upon our country, but we should be very concerned about the widespread effects we can see around us **now!**

Let me attempt to dispel one particular myth about the baptism of children of those who are not married. It is **not** true that we do not baptise the children of couples who live together but are not married. But we think it is a perfectly fair question to ask during the course of baptism preparation that if those parents want a *Christian* service for the baby, then they should think very carefully about living a *Christian* lifestyle. The service requires parents to undertake to teach the child by their *example!*

### **Holiday time ahead**

As the summer holiday period draws near, I wish you all a restful break.

## **CHURCH SERVICES AT ST. MARY'S**

On the first Sunday in each month there is only one morning service at 9.30 a.m. On

Festival Sundays we also have only one morning service at 9.30 a.m., i.e. Harvest, Christmas, Easter and Pentecost (Whitsun).

During the summer, i.e. Sunday, July 23rd to Sunday, September 4th (inclusive), there will be no Evening Service at 6.30 p.m.

## **PARISH REGISTERS**

### **Baptisms**

11th June Christopher Ryan Hooper  
Jamie Allan Herbert

18th June Stefan Courtney Miles

### **Weddings**

20th May John Vousden and Joanne Sherrard

10th June Jamie Parr and Juliet Maskrey

## **REV. RAPHAEL HESS**

A year or so ago St. Mary's congregation gave a substantial sum of money to help Raphael with his studies at Kings College, London. After the completion of his course, he returned to Zimbabwe to work in Bulawayo. We have just received news that he and his family have now moved back to South Africa to work in Cape Town.

St. Mary's also provided several thousand pounds to buy a vehicle for use in the Diocese of Matabeleland. We hope to have a visit from the clergyman who uses this vehicle - on Sunday, 23rd July at both morning services.

Rector

## **PANGBOURNE ART GROUP**

Art lovers should know that the Pangbourne Art Group will have more than 200 paintings

and ceramics on view at their 1995 Exhibition. Admission is FREE but prepare to be tempted to buy an original by one of the local artists.

It takes place on Saturday, 29th July, 11.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m. and Sunday, 30th July, 10.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m. at the Community Centre, Pangbourne Meadows (by Whitchurch Bridge). Refreshments will be available.

# **THE ARK CLUB - ST. MARY'S CHURCH - 31st July to 4th August, 9.30 a.m. - 3.30 p.m.**

What's it all about? THE STORY OF NOAH

Mr. Noah, the Ark, animals 2 x 2, the rain came down - come and learn all about it.

What will happen? Songs, drama, crafts, workshops, games, stories, discussions and a lot, lot more.

Who will be there? Children aged 8 - 12 years with adults from St. Mary's Church.

What do they bring? £1 per day and a packed lunch.

Interested? If so, please register your child's name with Sara Lang, 7 Warbreck Drive, Tilehurst, tel. 417332.

It does not commit you to anything but gives us an idea how many children to expect.

## **THE LUNCH POT NEEDS HELP!**

As many of you will know - but for those who don't - the Lunchpot is run by a group of volunteer helpers who spend a few hours each week cooking preparing and serving a selection of dishes on Thursdays from 12 noon - 1.00 p.m. in the Church.

Many of these kind people have been helping for a number of years and now we have a situation whereby at least six of us find that, due to changing circumstances, we cannot commit to the Lunchpot next season.

Therefore, we need a group of people who will come in and carry on the good work from September. Ideally, a co-ordinator and at least six others. If we do not manage to get enough, then I'm afraid the Lunchpot will not be able to open in September.

If you would like to get involved, please contact me soon.

Irene White  
416744



# LONG LANE PRIMARY SCHOOL

This year is a very special one for football in Reading, not only at the adult professional level but also at school level.

The Reading Schools' Football Association celebrates its centenary and at primary level the climax to the season is the final of the BHS Cup. The competition attracted an original entry of more than 20 teams and to reach the final is no easy task.

Our school made its first appearance in the final on 25th May; the other finalists, Ranikhet, were winners of the competition three years ago.

Our team was well supported by parents and (rather noisy!) staff and there was great tension as well as excitement as the game was played.

I am really delighted to be able to tell you that our school team, managed by Mr. Blake, won 4 - 1 with a number of spectacular goals.

Not only am I proud that they won but, more importantly, I am proud of the way **in which they won** showing, as they did, team spirit, playing fairly and accepting the decisions of the match officials; an example that seems increasingly lacking in professional football. Both teams upheld the principles of the Reading Schools' Football Association and played in a way both schools can be proud of.

Both teams were presented with specially designed Centenary medals and the coveted shield that will bear the Long Lane name for the first, and we hope not the last, time.

As this is the last Parish Magazine of the academic year, I had better continue with other news!

Many of our children are out and about this term. Our Year 6 children are on a week's residential visit to the Ilfracombe area and Mr. Hambly and I took some of our Year 5 for an adventure/activity weekend in Shropshire. The children had the chance to try archery, fencing, climbing/abseiling, as well as some motorised sport.

I hope you have a good summer and I look forward to keeping you in touch when the Parish Magazine resumes in the Autumn.

A.T. Kuhles  
Headteacher

## **PANGBOURNE PRIMARY SCHOOL**

For many years now we have been anxious to ensure that the children who attend the school are aware that they are fortunate to have homes, families and food. They can - even if sometimes they don't feel like it - come to school and benefit from education. Many children throughout the world, sadly some of them in Great Britain, cannot take these things for granted.

Our pupils are learning to care about their world and what goes on in it, including poverty, war and injustice, and doing what they can to help alleviate some of this suffering through the Save the Children Fund.

Obviously they do not do this with any thought of praise or recognition, so imagine our amazement at the A.G.M. of the Pangbourne Branch of Save the Children when, following a presentation given by our pupils of S.C.F.'s work worldwide, the school was awarded the prestigious "Princess Anne Award" for outstanding service. This award is given to only two or three schools per year nationally, and awarded personally by the Princess Royal, who may well visit the school if she is in the area. Let us hope that when she does visit us we shall be able to assure her that our work for disadvantaged children is continuing more enthusiastically than ever.

Pam Hillier-Brook, Headteacher

## **PROJECT PURLEY**

The July meeting will be the Society's annual barbecue. Details from Rita Denman. There is no formal meeting in August but there will be a summer outing on the Watercress Line (The Mid Hants Railway). Details also from Rita Denman.

On Friday, 19th May, Clive Williams came to talk to us about the village of Basildon. Mr. Williams has done a great deal of research, travelling and interviewing folk connected with the village, and this culminated in the recent publication of a book on the subject. The start of his interest in the history of his village began when he dug up a Basildon brick, made in the 19th century. This led to talks about the brickworks and the high quality work that was produced there, and further to include some local history. Before long the interest had grown and information was being gathered from many areas outside Basildon. The informal talk and the Speaker's humour, together with the fascinating portable exhibition was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone.

Rita Denman, Hon.Sec.  
844682

## **PURLEY C. OF E. INFANT SCHOOL**

Our fundraising efforts this term have proved to be extremely rewarding. On June 10th we held our Summer Fete, the theme being "Carnival". The children wore bright summer clothes and sang a selection of Caribbean songs. They also performed the "Purley Infant School Rap!" Even the weather was kind and, thanks to the hard work of parents, teachers and helpers, we managed to raise over £500 on the day.

Our school fund is beginning to look healthy. The sponsored walk raised £830 so, together with the "Carnival", we raised the grand total of £1,350. Many thanks to everyone!

On June 7th we combined our Governors A.G.M. with a presentation for parents on "Early Reading Skills" by Diana Bentley. It was a lively and informative evening with Diana constantly reminding us of the importance of reading to our children from babyhood onward.

Other events to look forward to this term include "A Sports Afternoon" on Wednesday, 12th July, and a leavers assembly on Thursday, 20th July.

If you wish to visit the school and see us at work or if you would like to put your child's name on our admission list, please telephone 842384 for an appointment.

Jeannette Goddard  
Headteacher

## **PURLEY HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY**

Don't forget the Summer Show is on **9th September**. The schedules are available from the Trading Store.

The Trading Store is open every Saturday and Sunday from 10.00 - 11.00 and is situated at the end of the Memorial Hall Car Park.

If you have any queries about the Society, please call me on 420057.

Anne Stockley  
Secretary

## **PURLEY ON THAMES PARISH COUNCIL**

At the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council, five newly elected councillors joined the Council and there are now eleven members. There are still vacancies for two councillors and any person on the parish electoral roll who is interested in joining the Council should contact me.

The new Parish Council is as follows:-

Mr. A.R. Marshall  
Mr. J. Southall

Chairman  
Vice Chairman

Mrs. R. Denman, Mrs. M. French, Mrs. D. Rees, Mrs. P. Taylor, Mr. B. Ayling, Mr. J. Chapman, Mr. J. Colton, Mr. P. Farrow, Mr. J. Heslop.

Mr. J. Chapman has been elected Chairman of the Highways & Footpaths Committee and Mr. P. Farrow as Chairman of the Recreation Committee.

R.D. Fullbrook  
Parish Clerk

## **"TEA DANCES"**

The tea dances at Pangbourne Working Men's Club and Institute, Whitchurch Road, continue to grow in popularity with the friendly atmosphere of dancing to the live music of 'NIGHT SCENE' or having a chat with a cup of tea or coffee. You need not be a 'dancer' to come in and enjoy the tasteful music and company.

They are being held regularly on alternate Tuesdays, from 3.00 till 5.30 p.m., and dances are booked ahead for 11th July, 25th July, 8th August and 22nd August next and on through the Summer. Cost is £2.50.

Enquiries to 421000.

A. Cullen

The Pangbourne and District Branch of Save the Children Fund collected a total of £3,012.91 from house to house, station and street collections during Save the Children Fund Week at the beginning of May. Our thanks go to everyone who made a donation and, of course, to all who collected. Your support is very much appreciated.

The Pangbourne Branch of Barclays Bank have kindly agreed to display in the branch a Save the Children Fund collecting box for foreign coins of any denomination and type. If you have foreign coins you know you will never use, why not drop them in the box?

Penelope Billyeald,  
Secretary, Pangbourne & District Branch

## **WOMEN'S INSTITUTE**

At the June meeting, Eric Hartley from Whitchurch came to talk about walking, all over Great Britain and particularly about his recent ramble in South Island, New Zealand. We were inspired by beautiful photographs, and felt a definite need for very expensive Italian boots; no so sure about Kiwi men, who apparently wear thermal long johns with shorts over to do their walking.

Mrs. Noble, also from Whitchurch, who had been our delegate at Blackpool, told us how the voting had gone, and gave us some amusing side lights on the social side.

Plans were made for a Summer Supper on Wednesday, 9th August. Members should bring £3 to the July meeting if they'd like a ticket, so that the caterers can have some idea of numbers.

The Sandwich competition was won by Carol MacGill, and the Flower of Month was 1st Marion Dabbs and 2nd Sybil Pryor. Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, 12th July, 7.30 p.m. at the Memorial Hall, when Sue Brandon will get us All Buttoned Up, with her collection of button hooks. The competition is "A Sewing Kit in a Matchbox" and there will be a Bring and Buy stall. Visitors welcome!

Sybil Pryor

## **JUNE MYCROFT ADULT DANCING SCHOOL**

My congratulations to my daughter, Donna, who gained a Distinction for her Associate National Tap Dancing examination in April. This examination is a climax to years of study and dedication. Congratulations to other members who took exams in Tap Dancing and Dance and Exercise.

We had four Distinctions, 10 Honours and 4 Commended. Our Keep Fit/Disco classes are in the Gym at Battle Hospital, Abbey Building, on Tuesday and Thursday evenings and will continue through the summer. These classes are suitable for all ages and abilities, and exams are optional. If you would like more information regarding these classes or tap dancing for beginners to advanced, please ring me on 453161.

June Mycroft

## **COMMUNITY COUNCIL FOR BERKSHIRE**

**Mobility Advice and Vehicle Information Service** can offer practical advice on driving, car adaptations and car choice for people with disabilities, both as drivers and passengers. Information is available by letter or telephone on all aspects of transport and outdoor mobility. Information is free of charge. For further details, contact 01344 770456.

**Newbury College** are running basic skills courses for adults to help with reading, writing, spelling or everyday maths. You might want help with filling in forms, spelling for work at home or to be able to help your children. Groups are small and friendly and you will get individual help. The college is very interested in setting up courses in individual villages; if you would like to know more, contact Linda Fergusson 01635 37000, Ext. 270.

## **LETTER TO THE EDITOR**

Dear Editor,

May I just express my thoughts on the article by Geraint Cardy. I don't think "our David Evans" - young or old - was ever a "scruffy" rector - nor did most of us ever think Geraint was scruffy - just a modern thinking young man! I'm sure we are all happy that he has at last made the West End and congratulate him (and David and Diane) on his achievement.

Yours sincerely,  
Edith Gilliland

## **PURLEY MEMORIAL HALL**

## ACTIVITIES FOR JULY AND AUGUST

1st July	10 a.m. - 1.00 p.m.	Hemlines (nearly new sale)
6th July	2.15 - 4.00 p.m.	Health Visitor Clinic
12th July	7.30 p.m.	Women's Institute
20th July	2.15 - 4.00 p.m.	Health Visitor Clinic
3rd Aug.	2.15 - 4.00 p.m.	Health Visitor Clinic
17th Aug.	2.15 - 4.00 p.m.	Health Visitor Clinic
7th Sept.	2.15 - 4.00 p.m.	Health Visitor Clinic

**Each week during term time, Monday to Thursday, 9.15 - 11.45 a.m. : Purley Pre-School Playgroup. For further details, please telephone Sue Slade on 410778 or call in during one of the sessions.**

Most organisations/clubs close down for August; this goes give everyone a good chance to recuperate and for us to get maintenance jobs done.

**Advance Notice:** The Horticultural Society have their Late Summer Show on Saturday, 9th September. There will also be the Adult Education groups who use the Hall:-

	Mondays	Yoga for the Not-so-fit	1.30 - 3.30
	Tuesdays	Lip Reading	12.45 - 2.45 (Free
Class)	Wednesdays	Watercolour	2.00 - 4.00

For further details of the above classes, ring 01635 35353/37000, Ext. 207 and 215.

We hope that everyone will have a very pleasant holiday and see you back in September.

Mrs. J.E. Hutchings  
Hon.Sec. (843809)

## PURLEY CRICKET CLUB

### Fixtures for July:

Saturday	1st July v Broadmoor (1st XI League)	Away 2.00 p.m.
"	1st July v West Ilsley (2nd XI League)	Home 2.00 p.m.
Sunday	2nd July v Sulhampstead (Friendly)	Home 2.30 p.m.
Saturday	8th July v Farley Hill (1st XI League)	Home 2.00 p.m.
"	8th July v Sonning (2nd XI League)	Away 2.00 p.m.
Sunday	9th July v Silchester (Friendly)	Home 2.30 p.m.
Saturday	15th July v Holyport (1st XI League)	Home 2.00 p.m.
"	15th July v Binfield (2nd XI League)	Away 2.00 p.m.
Sunday	** 16th July Charity Game **	Home 2.30 p.m.
Saturday	22nd July v Pinkneys Green (1st XI League)	Away 2.00 p.m.
"	22nd July v Pinkneys Green (2nd XI League)	Home 2.00 p.m.
Sunday	23rd July v Woodcote (Friendly)	Home 2.30 p.m.
Saturday	29th July v Peppard (1st XI League)	Home 2.00 p.m.
"	29th July v Peppard (2nd XI League)	Away 2.00 p.m.
Sunday	30th July v Mortimer (Friendly)	Home 2.30 p.m.

### Fixtures for August:

Saturday	5th August v Braywood (1st XI League)	Away 2.00 p.m.
"	5th August v Frimley 3rd (2nd XI League)	Home 2.00 p.m.

Sunday	6th August v Sandhurst (Friendly)	Away 2.30 p.m.
Saturday	12th August v Theale (1st XI League)	Away 2.00 p.m.
"	12th August v Theale (2nd XI League)	Home 2.00 p.m.
Sunday	13th August v Hermitage (Friendly)	Away 2.30 p.m.
Saturday	19th August v Emmbrook (1st XI League)	Home 1.30 p.m.
"	19th August v Emmbrook (2nd XI League)	Away 1.30 p.m.
Sunday	20th August v Whitchurch (Friendly)	Home 2.30 p.m.
Saturday	26th August v Sandhurst (1st XI League)	Away 1.30 p.m.
"	26th August v Wraysbury (2nd XI League)	Home 1.30 p.m.
Sunday	27th August v Aldermaston (Friendly)	Away 2.30 p.m.
"	27th August v London Transport (Friendly)	Home 2.30 p.m.
Saturday	2nd September v Broadmoor (1st XI League)	Home 1.30 p.m.
"	2nd September v West Ilsley (2nd XI League)	Away 1.30 p.m.
Sunday	3rd September v Yattendon (Friendly)	Home 2.00 p.m.

Practice takes place on Thursday evenings from 6.30 p.m. at our home ground (The Recreation Ground, Beech Road).

If you are interested in participating in the Cricket Club in any way (playing, umpiring, scoring or watching), either come along to any advertised event or contact:

Paul Neal on 417957 or Martin Bishop on 427142

**\*\* CHARITY CRICKET MATCH - SUNDAY, 16th JULY \*\***

2.30 p.m. at Recreation Ground, Beech Road

Purley Cricket Club v Purley Jubilee Football Club

Barbecue, raffle and disco. All money raised will be donated to Buscot Children's Ward,

Royal Berkshire Hospital.

## **DENEFIELD SCHOOL**

Earlier this year we received planning permission from Newbury District Council for an all-weather, illuminated playing surface on our school grounds. Since some local people have expressed concern about the effect on them of such a facility, I thought parishioners might like to know the details of the scheme.

The surface will be 97m x 61m, i.e. suitable for hockey and other team sports such as netball, but a little too small for 11-a-side football. The pitch will be illuminated from four 15m towers, but the lights will be low intensity and downward focused so there will be little reflected or ambient light.

We will build a 2.5m (i.e. about 8 foot) bank on the Long Lane side of the pitch and quick growing conifers will be planted on the top of this bank and along the two shorter sides. This should create a sound and reflecting barrier and give a pleasing prospect from Long Lane. This new facility will not only improve a frequently water-logged, unusable part of our grounds but provide an additional facility for hire by local community groups. However, the pitch cannot be used on Sundays or after 9.30 p.m. on other days.

The precise location can be seen on the drawing but, if you have any concerns or queries, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

West Berkshire Housing Consortium require a **Family Support Worker in Tilehurst (£4.80 per hour)**.

We need someone to provide support for a young lady with acquired brain injury who lives at home with her family.

The successful applicant will be required to provide stimulation, and to support activities in the local community. Previous experience in care work should be an advantage, although training is available for reliable, conscientious and caring applicants.

You should be able to work 13.5 hours a week to the following pattern:

Monday:	6.00 - 9.00 p.m.
Wednesday:	7.00 - 9.00 p.m.
Saturday:	10.30 a.m. - 5.00 p.m.

These hours may change according to the family's needs, and it is essential that you have the use of a car whilst on duty.

For further details and an application form, please leave your details on our answering machine (01734 391498). If you would like to discuss the job, please ring Tracy Anderson, Anita Doyle or Becky Ansell on 01734 560313.

## **FROM MY HISTORY NOTEBOOK**

### **Bradfield Union 1835**

An Act of Parliament was passed in 1835 which removed the responsibility of relieving the poor by individual parishes and Purley became one of 27 parishes in the Union of Bradfield. The Board of Guardians met weekly to "control things" and Rev. Charles Manesty (Rector) and Mr. Edward Sherwood (farmer) represented Purley. In the ten years prior to this Act, the Poor Rates in Purley had varied from 3/- to 6/- in the £; after the Act, they fell at first to 6d in the £. (In the first year £129 of surplus Poor Rates was spent by Purley on no doubt essential repairs to the Church). This reduction was achieved by reducing or stopping relief wherever the Guardians thought that the poor could or should be able to support themselves, and thereby removed many anomalies and abuses of the old system. Before 1835, there were thirteen names regularly on the relief list, but the Guardians soon reduced this to three.

Three widows had been receiving small pensions weekly from Purley and suddenly found themselves destitute. They all lived outside the parish and it is possible they had left the parish to find a home when the death of their husbands no longer entitled them to their 'tied' accommodation. Widow Ford lived in Reading and was thought to be "capable of exerting herself"; but further investigation found that she was "ill with a dropsy and unable to do any work" and her weekly 2/- was restored. Widow Simmonds, aged 65, lived in Eton and returned briefly to Purley to collect her 2/- as she had no other means of support, but was allowed no more when she returned to Eton. A letter from Rev. King of Henley was written on behalf of Widow Ford "begging that she be allowed 2/6 a week at Henley" as "she is very poor and unable to support herself".

By this time, Richard New was nearly 70 years old but still had several children at home, the youngest only 5 years old. He had been receiving an extra 1/3 "for his family" but this was stopped as he was "in constant employ". He could earn 9/- a week as a labourer but was frequently ill; and then the Guardians allowed him only 2/- plus three gallon loaves (see below) and 2lbs bacon - and this was meant to satisfy six hungry mouths; of course, he may have been able to grow a few vegetables but I do not know for certain.

Later, one of his children, Michael New, when aged 18 years, was admitted to the Bradfield Workhouse as he had his leg taken off and a wooden leg ordered for him by the Guardians. Surprisingly he survived this ordeal without anaesthetic or modern drugs, and was still living in the Workhouse 5 years later, but one wonders what sort of life he was able to lead.

The improvement in the Poor Rates was only achieved by a reduction in the services given but, as can be seen, in terms of human suffering it was only gained at the expense of those perhaps least able to cope.

**FOOTNOTE:** A gallon loaf weighed about 9lbs. "Seconds" were supplied by a baker in Pangbourne. My modern large loaf weighs just less than 2lbs - so the News had about 4.5 - 5 large loaves a week, plus about 0.25lb bacon each day.

Jean Debney

*(This article was first published in Purley Parish News in June 1981 and has been reproduced by kind permission of Jean Debney).*

## LOTTERY MANIA

Our country looks set to become a nation of gamblers. It is said 1 in 3 adults will play the national lottery every week; 2 in 3 regularly; and 3 in 4 occasionally.

**History:** Lotteries on a large scale originated in Italy. In England the first public lottery was held in 1569. By 1709 private lotteries were suppressed. They were seen as a public nuisance. But Government lotteries continued until 1826. Christians were instrumental in their abolition.

**Wilberforce:** On 24th February 1807, after abolishing slavery, Wilberforce turned to Thornton and asked "Well, Henry what shall we abolish next?" The reply was "The Lottery, I think."

**Question:** What is a lottery? It is a form of gambling. The existence of a (national) lottery raises many questions. Here are ten:

[1] **Is it right to promote gambling?** Surely the answer is no. God wants us to depend upon him for all our needs (Matthew 5.23-24). He is the provider of our daily bread.

[2] **Is it right for the Government to promote gambling?** Again the answer is surely no. The job of those in authority is to punish 'wickedness and vice'. It is to maintain 'true religion and virtue' (Romans 13.1-7).

[3] **Is it right to promote superstition?** The National Lottery symbol (crossed-fingers) and the publicity posters (hand of fortune and lucky stars) encourage wrong attitudes. The message may be implicit. Nonetheless, it fosters an irrational belief in fate.

[4] **Is it right to promote a something-for-nothing mentality?** Some say the minimum stake is £1 so it's not something for nothing. But £1 is nothing in comparison to a £17.8m jackpot!

[5] **Is it right to promote greed?** God's Ten Words provide the answer. Number 10 is explicit: **You shall not covet.** The driving force that impels people to buy is the desire to have.

[6] **Is it right to promote wrong motives in giving?** We are not to give in the hope that we get (much more) in return.

[7] **Is it right to promote further financial hardship among the poor?** In the USA and Ireland lower income groups spend more than others on this form of gambling. Will the UK be different? We doubt it.

[8] **Is it right to promote false hopes?** National lotteries have two features. One, the enormous weekly pay-outs. And two, the long odds. A lottery is a very bad bet. Yet people play hoping to be the 1 in 14m person who wins.

[9] **Is it right to promote that which undermines Christian virtue?** Generosity and contentment are two casualties. Those who spend money on themselves don't have it to spend on others. Lotteries foster discontent.

[10] **Is it right to promote sleaze?** In other countries the pressure to raise lottery revenue has led to sleazy and aggressive marketing. Who says it won't here?

The economic, social and spiritual cost to our nation is too great. Like Wilberforce, Christians must work for its abolition.

## **PANGBOURNE COLLEGE GOES CO-ED**

After 75 years as a single sex boys' school, the College began admitting girls to its Sixth Form four years ago and is now extending its provision for girls throughout the 11 - 18 age range from September 1996.

"We were particularly impressed by the children we met who all seem to share a modest pride in themselves and their school, a politeness of manner, a sense of purpose and an enthusiastic attitude, which we encountered all too rarely elsewhere", writes David

Mitchell, prospective parent, following a visit to Pangbourne. The success of the unique Pangbourne product in parental terms is a structured building of values, self-confidence and belief which enables a child to develop to the limits of his or her own potential.

Parents of girls, as much as boys, value a school which prizes personal responsibility for one's own actions. A shortage of schools offering leadership training and academic opportunities in traditionally "boys" subjects which are not available at girls-only schools has led to a great need locally for a fully co-educational school of Pangbourne's stature.

ISIS (the Independent Schools Information Service) reports a national trend, stating that over the last five years (1989 - 94) the number of co-educational prep schools rose from 312 to 357 in response to demand. Time Devlin, formerly National Director of ISIS, would add to this that children, both boys and girls, who have been to a co-educational prep school tend to want co-education at secondary level and significantly the trend is towards final choice of school being pupil-choice. For families with both sons and daughters, there is clearly a convenience factor in one set of term dates, one school run and a discount for second and subsequent children.

But convenience alone cannot account for such a strong trend created by a group of parents who in these recessionary times sacrifice a great deal to secure the best possible future for their children. In spite of the success of single-sex schools in the league tables, there is a growing feeling among parents that there is a breed of little girl coming out of the increasingly co-educational prep schools that is robust in her lack of awe for the male gender. These are girls being prepared for a life managing men in a workplace without a glass ceiling. Co-education is an important preparation for working alongside both male and female colleagues at University and in subsequent careers.

Chairman of the Governors, Admiral Sir John Webster, announced the Board's decision, "We are confident that Pangbourne will be a better school for a healthy influx of girls."

Headmaster, Anthony Hudson, is enthusiastic about co-education, "The small number of girls who managed to persuade me that Pangbourne was the right school for them, have been a great asset to us. They have all been successful in achieving their ambitions for university and they have contributed fully to College life. I am delighted to be able to accept many more of them."

Charlotte Drake, one of the first female Old Pangbournians who is currently reading Music at Cardiff University, returned to her old school to congratulate the Headmaster on the decision to go fully co-educational, "I am so glad that more girls will have the chance that I had. I wish I could have gone to Pangbourne earlier."

Charlie Farrow,  
Marketing Manager/Registrar  
842101

## **PURLEY PARISH NEWS**

**EDITOR:**Pauline Manning, 5 Oak Tree Walk, Purley on Thames. Tel: Reading 429630

**ADVERTISING:**Claire Pearson, 'Letgable', Purley Village.  
Tel: Pangbourne 843070

**CIRCULATION:**Les Jamieson, 58a Wintringham Way, Purley on Thames. Tel:  
Reading 412342

**This magazine is published on the first Saturday of each month (except August).  
Subscription Price £4.00 for the period January 1995 - March 1996 inclusive.** If you  
are new to the area and would like to subscribe to Purley Parish News, please contact the  
Circulation Manager, Les Jamieson, on Rdg. 412342.

This month's magazine is published on **Saturday, 1st July 1995**. All copy for the  
September issue must reach me by **15th August** and the magazine will be published on  
**Saturday, 2nd September 1995**.

For readers going away on holiday, or those staying at home, I wish you a happy and  
pleasant summer.

Editor

## **LAUGHLINES**

Teacher: The sun gives a stronger light than the moon.

Pupil: But the moon is more sensible isn't it.

Teacher: How do you work that one out?

Pupil: Because the moon comes out at night when we need it, but the sun shines in  
broad daylight when a one eyed man could see without it!

