

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: 417727

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

READERS Jean Rothery Wally Watkivs
Tel: 843625 Tel: 426170

CHURCHWARDENS Mary Barrett David Jordan
Tel: 842166 Tel: 415994

CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR

Jackie Benstead
Tel: 429116

CHURCH HIRINGS

Liane Southam
Tel: 428243

BAPTISMS Enquiries about baptism should be made to the Rector (417727)

WEDDINGS Enquiries about weddings should be made to Jackie Benstead (429116)

FUNERALS Enquiries about funerals should be made to the Rector (417727)

Dear Friends,

WATER

It has been a long hot summer and, at the time of writing, the temperature is building up again and promises to be in the upper eighties or higher before the week is out!

The grass is as brown as I've seen it for many years and some of the garden shrubs look very sorry for themselves. My runner beans have been very poor and it looks as though vegetables and fruit are going to be expensive this autumn.

For much of the time we like to think we are independent and more or less self sufficient, but this dry period has made me reflect on the fact that, although we can produce so many wonderful things, we are still very dependent on the basic need for life - water! We need rain pretty urgently and we've heard many moans and groans about water restrictions in some parts of the country.

But our situation is nothing compared to that experienced by many in other parts of the world. A few weeks ago we had a visit from Mark and Patience Nyathi from Zimbabwe (Mark drives the truck in his Parish - the size of Wales! - which St. Mary's provided a couple of years ago). They have had no rain for the last five years!

Real drought is a severe problem for thousands today and our present difficulties should make us realise just how dependent we are - not on the water companies to deliver, but upon God, the Source and Sustainer of life.

FREEDOM

We have all seen and read of the events in former Yugoslavia. The news items are familiar and predictable each day. It is a tragic situation and there seems no end in sight. Like me, you may have felt helpless and confused about the conflict. But one thing we certainly should be thinking about is our freedom here. There may be many things we would like to see changed in our community and throughout the country, but we are so privileged! With so many having lost homes and families and all they have, we should be so grateful for the security we have and the freedom we enjoy.

SORROW

Many of you will have come close to personal sorrow over the past year - with the death of a member of your family or close friend. Bereavement brings the need for a massive adjustment in daily life for those who are left. There are no short cuts and, although people experience similar things, the journey through bereavement is very personal and only you know how the loss is affecting you.

For the last two years we have held a *Community Memorial Service* at St. Mary's. On each occasion the church has been packed with relatives and friends and just about everyone has stayed for refreshments afterwards. This year the Service will be on **Sunday, 8th October at 3.00 p.m.** and I would like to invite you to come and join us. No matter what our situation is in life, death is a great leveller and we all stand in need of help. We all feel our weakness and loneliness. I pray that this service may be a source of comfort and help and I look forward to seeing you there.

With best wishes,

SUNDAY, 1ST OCTOBER

Our Curate, Brendan Bailey, is to be ordained Priest on October 1st at 10.30 a.m. at the Parish Church of Easthampstead.

The Service arrangements for this Sunday will be as follows:-

There will be no morning services at St. Mary's.

6.30 p.m. Holy Communion (followed by refreshments).

Rector

THE BAPTISM OF INFANTS

Infants are baptised in the Church of England on the basis of certain undertakings made by parents. It is important that parents enquiring about this service should know what these undertakings are. For this reason we run a *Preparation Course* before a baptism takes place.

All enquiries about baptism should be made to the Rector (417727) who will be pleased to provide all the information needed.

Depending on the number of enquiries we receive at any one time, it can be several weeks or longer between the initial enquiry and the arranging of the *Preparation Course* meetings. We only have certain Sundays in the year set aside for baptisms and these services take place at 9.30 a.m.

It will help if parents interested in the possibility of a baptism for their child enquire early please.

Roger Howell
(Rector)

PANGBOURNE & DISTRICT ALL CHURCHES TOGETHER

The annual Songs of Praise service will be held on Sunday, 15th October at 6.00 p.m. at

St. James the Less Parish Church.

HARVEST FESTIVAL SERVICES

Sunday, 24th September

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion

9.30 a.m. Harvest Gift Service

ALL ARE WELCOME!

COMMUNITY MEMORIAL SERVICE

The annual Community Memorial Service will be held this year on **Sunday, 8th October at 3.00 p.m.**

The Speaker will be Rev. Hugh Ellis from Bradfield.

Invitations are being sent to all in the parish who have had family funerals at St. Mary's or at Reading Crematorium over the past year or so but, if you have attended a funeral elsewhere, you will be most welcome.

Refreshments will be available following the service.

Further information from the Rector (417727).

ST. MARY'S BOAT BARBECUE - 9th SEPTEMBER

Boats will be leaving Mapledurham Lock from 6.00 p.m. at 20-minute intervals or thereabouts.

Don't forget to bring something to sit on, a warm jumper, food to barbecue, drinks and eating irons etc. and a

TORCH

it will be dark by 9.00 p.m. when we start our romantic cruise back to Purley.

Contact Pearsons on 843070 or Becketts on 844893.

PARISH REGISTERS

Baptisms

18th June	Stefan Courtney Miles
13th August	George Martin O'Connor-Cooper

Weddings

22nd June	Andrew Garratt and Sarah Davis
24th June	Philip Harris and Angela Darby
29th July	Daniel Hayes and Andrea Crisp
5th August	Andrew Stephens and Diane Leigh
12th August	Matthew Shaw and Wendy Scott
	Guy Topham and Deborah Smith

Funerals

21st July	Barbara Blake aged 71 years (Ashes)
26th July	Alan Fox aged 59 years (Cremation)
27th July	Norman Skelton aged 80 years
31st July	Mary Fazakerly aged 74 years (Ashes)

FLOWER GUILD

On 31st December 1995 I will stand down as organiser of the Flower Guild. Unfortunately no-one in the Guild has enough spare time to take on any more work, so we are looking for a co-ordinator, without whom the Guild will not be able to continue in any regular form. We are a friendly 'bunch', anxious to carry on, but in need of someone to 'arrange' us.

I am sure there is someone out there with the ability and some new ideas to keep us 'blooming'. After 5 years organising I am beginning to 'wilt', so come on someone - if

you like flowers and think you might like co-ordinating them, and us, please get in touch with me on 415597.

Annette Townsend

THE ARK CLUB

During the week of 31st July until 4th August, St. Mary's Church was buzzing. From 9.30 a.m. until 3.30 p.m., children between the ages of 8 and 12 years were actively learning about Noah and the Great Flood. There were stories, singing, drawing and painting, kite making and mask making, cooking of ship's biscuits and the making of plaster of Paris plaques; also the art of looking at our surroundings and how to draw and photograph them.

There were many highlights to the week; the children will not quickly forget the Dynamic Dave as he led us all in the aerobics sessions, or Christine's Ship Biscuits. Personally, watching the children's faces as they listened attentively to the stories, and the mischievous grins as they yet again tied the Curate's shoe laces together, was an absolute delight.

Brendan and I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to the 65 children who made our week so much fun, and the other 22 church members who `worked' and `played' so hard to make it all possible.

I've been asked by a number of children and parents when another such week might take place. My only reply at the moment can be "Watch this space!"

Jackie Benstead and Brendan Bailey

WANTED

..... for the Reading Drop-In Centre - Men's underpants and socks.

Please place in box next to library shelf in St. Mary's Church or contact Mary Barrett on 842166.

FOR SALE

'Bell' children's cycle helmet, hardly used, in new condition. Colours green, yellow and blue.

£15.00 (Half price)

Tel: 429630

PURLEY SCHOOL OF DANCE

Please note that from September the venue for all classes will be:-

Purley Memorial Hall, Glebe Road, Purley

Should you require any further information, then please contact me on 842542

Janet Foskett, LISTD
Registered Teacher

TEA DANCES

The tea dances at Pangbourne Working Men's Club and Institute, Whitchurch Road, in spite of the very hot weather, continue to flourish with their pleasant atmosphere of dancing to the live music of 'NIGHT SCENE'. You need not be a 'dancer' to come in and enjoy a chat with a cup of tea or coffee and the tasteful music and company.

The dances are held regularly on alternate Tuesdays from 3.00 till 5.30 p.m. and are booked ahead on 5th and 19th September, 3rd and 17th October and on through the Winter.

Cost is £2.50. Enquiries to 421000.

A. Cullen

PANGBOURNE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Car Boot Sale - Sunday, 24th September at 2.00 p.m.

Admission 20p. Refreshments available.

Sellers: £ 5.00 per car
 £10.00 per van

Sellers may set up from 1.30 p.m.

Sharon Herring

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

There was a fun meeting in August, but no regular meeting.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, 13th September at 7.30 p.m. in the Memorial Hall, when the evening will be devoted to Apples; apple games, your favourite apple recipes, please, and the competition is an Apple Model. There will also be a Fresh Produce Staff - more apples?

Sybil Pryor

PURLEY HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

The Summer Show is on **9th September**. The schedules are available from The Trading Store. Last entries by the 6th September. You might be surprised by what you can enter (for example, 1 vase of foliage/flowers from trees or shrubs; flowering begonia; 6 tomatoes; Madeira cake - and plenty more). If you have never exhibited before, then Jimmy Armstrong (421645), one of the show organisers, would be happy to answer any queries you might have. Whether you enter ten classes, or just one, it's just taking part that counts.

Presentation of prizes at the Summer Show will be at 4.00 p.m. and not at 3.30 p.m. as stated in the schedule.

The Trading Store is open every Saturday and Sunday until November from 10.00 - 11.00 a.m.

The Society ticket, that gives a 30% discount on admission to Wisley Gardens, may be used by any member. Usually, very little notice is required to borrow the ticket. Please contact me for details. If you have any queries about the Society, I can be contacted on 624457 (NOTE - change of phone number).

Anne Stockley, Secretary

THEALE GREEN SCHOOL - PAST STUDENTS REUNION

We are planning a reunion for the Spring Term 1996 for students who joined the school in 1971, taking CSE's and 'O' Levels in 1976. If you were one of these past students or you know the whereabouts of any, please get in touch with:-

Kim Fuller (nee Page) on 842695 (eves) or Jane Cobb on 418060 (eves)

The annual Autumn Fair held by Pangbourne and District Branch of Save the Children will take place this year on **Saturday, 14th October** at Pangbourne Primary School. As well as Save the Children Christmas cards, wrapping paper and catalogue items, there will be cakes, a white elephant stall, raffles and many other stalls. Contributions to any of the stalls will be welcomed, either on the day or on Friday, 13th October between 3.15 and 4.00 p.m. at the school. Do come along and make an early start on your Christmas shopping!

Knitted Blankets and Tops

Save the Children is enormously grateful to the people who knit tops and blankets. In the last ten years our Branch has made 703 blankets and 105 knitted tops. However, for some time the demand for knitted goods overseas has been in decline. In recent years the nature of S.C.F.'s work has changed, and the emphasis is now on long term training of the local population in health care, agriculture and teaching. We do not make the best use of highly skilled staff if they are diverted from this vital work into receiving, storing and distributing knitted goods. S.C.F. Headquarters has thought carefully about the situation and discussed it with a range of volunteers and staff, and they have come to the conclusion that the production of knitted items should be phased out.

We hope that as loyal supporters of the Fund you will appreciate that this change is unavoidable, and that you will share our aim to make the fullest possible use of S.C.F.'s resources. Once again, thank you very much indeed for your support.

Penny Billyeald (Hon.Sec.)

PURLEY SCOTTISH DANCING CLUB

The Purley Scottish Dancing Club meets every Monday at 7.45 p.m. in St. Joseph's

Church Hall, Park Lane, Tilehurst. For further information, please ring me on 268757.

Carol Woodward
Secretary

PURLEY MEMORIAL HALL ACTIVITIES FOR THE COMING MONTH

7th Sept.	2.15 - 4.00 p.m.	Health Visitor Clinic
8th Sept.	10.00 - 11.30 a.m.	NEW CLASS - Diet & Fitness Class (enquiries 01865 858101)
9th Sept.		Horticultural Society Late Summer Show
18th Sept.		Adult Education Classes begin this week
21st Sept.	2.15 - 4.00 p.m.	Health Visitor Clinic
5th Oct.	2.15 - 4.00 p.m.	Health Visitor Clinic
7th Oct.	2.00 - 5.00 p.m.	Craft Fair

Upholstery Classes are held on Thursday evenings - enquiries welcome on 843740.

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.

Mrs. J.E. Hutchings (843809)

New Horizons for Parents

Newbury College is working with local Primary Schools to offer a new FREE course to help parents **discover their true potential**. We can give parents the chance to make a fresh start and build on their existing skills and experience. You will work in a friendly, supportive group. There is a five week introduction course. After this you can join follow-up course which will be held locally.

For further information, contact either the Headteacher at your local Primary School or Carol Lewin on 01635 37000, ext. 215/217.

PURLEY CRAFT FAIR

Saturday, 7th October, 2 - 5 p.m. - Purley Memorial Hall

It's not long to go now until the next Craft Fair, and we hope to see as many of our old friends as possible who have supported us so well in previous years. For those new to the area, we organise this annual event because we enjoy making crafts and because we like to see, and buy, different and unusual things (especially at this time of year with Christmas just around the corner). We try to have a good mixture of crafts - some who have been before, and some new ones. The crafts we have booked so far include pottery, jewellery, cakes, cosmetics, light bulbs. Light bulbs? What can that be? Come and see!

The craft people all pay for their stalls, and any money made will be given to MENCAP and Reading Family Aid. Most people know what MENCAP does. Reading Family Aid, which is not so well known, aims to help some of Reading's most hard up families, both with treats and necessities.

The local Cubs and Scouts support us very well by providing delicious refreshments and by popping invitations to this event through your letter boxes. One way or another, a lot of people work very hard to make the Craft Fair a success, and we think it is an enjoyable local event. Please support us once again - come and have a nice cup of tea and a good afternoon with us.

Liz Holton (422437)

Sylvia Conquest (411936)

PANGBOURNE COLLEGE CHORAL SOCIETY

Pangbourne College Choral Society, well known for its enthusiastic performances, is looking for new members. This coming year we are intending to learn two major works, Bach's Christmas Oratorio, Parts 1 and 2, to be performed in December, and Haydn's Creation, to be performed in March. We rehearse on Tuesday evenings in the Music School, Pangbourne College, from 8.00 to 9.30 p.m. No audition is needed.

If you would like to give it a try, why not come along to our first rehearsal on Tuesday, 12th September, or if you would like to talk about it, you can ring our Director of Music, Bob Barsby, on 843277, or talk to any existing member.

Pauline Garrett, Secretary

PANGBOURNE PRIMARY SCHOOL

We were very fortunate this year that all our outdoor events of the Summer Term were able to proceed as planned. The French children from Houdan Primary School spent a very happy few days here, and were very generously entertained by the families of our Year 6 children. Much "Franglais" and many gestures were used and many tears were shed when the French children left, swearing undying friendships with their correspondents.

Sports days for Infants and Juniors were a great success and the athletics team entered in the area sports acquitted itself extremely well and, although no overall winner is ever declared, a great many rosettes came back to school.

The school swimming team entered the Newbury District Swimming Gala and I am delighted to say retained the overall winners shield, as did the Under-12 Girls' trophy. Katherine Ayres is to be congratulated on winning the trophy for individual performance. I hope that all our pupils have had a thoroughly enjoyable holiday.

Pam Hillier-Brook, Headteacher

PURLEYTOTS

May I, through the pages of this magazine, express thanks on behalf of all PurleyTots and their parents, to Vicky and Tim Metcalfe of Home Farm, Purley.

Over the last 10 years, Vicky and Tim have invited many children, members of the PurleyTots mother and toddler group, to their farm for one of the highlights of the year, The Farm Trip. Recently Vicky and Tim exceeded even their generous standards of hospitality by hosting the PurleyTots' 10th Birthday Party on 2nd July. We had use of their fields for the day, of hay bales for the assault course, of their entire family to help set out and clear up, of Vicky's mum who made two wonderful birthday cakes and, regrettably, of their cowsheds when, halfway through the party, the weather broke its two-week dry run with a vengeance!

So thanks very much Vicky and Tim for your community spirit - something we don't often hear about nowadays, and please don't move away for at least 11 years so that we can come to celebrate PurleyTots' coming of age.

Sandra Fulwell,

PURLEY CRICKET CLUB

Fixtures for September:

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.
Sunday	10th September v Woolhampton (Friendly)	Home 2.00 p.m.
Sunday	17th September v Shiplake (Friendly)	Away 2.00 p.m.

Charity Cricket Match - 16th July 1995

Purley Cricket Club played Purley Jubilee Football Club in the annual Charity Cricket Match. The Cricket Club won a very close game and £215 was raised for the Special Care Baby Unit (Buscot Ward) at the Royal Berkshire Hospital.

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

COMMUNITY COUNCIL FOR BERKSHIRE

Carenews

Sarah Ward is the rural community care worker for the CCB and here she points to a range of organisations and schemes which can offer help. Sarah can be contacted on 01488 657424.

The Relatives Association offers support and information to those with relatives in residential or nursing care. They operate support groups for relatives and also offer an opportunity to influence the type and standard of care provision. A small steering group has been formed to look at the possibility of setting up a branch in West Berkshire. If you would be interested in taking part in this or knowing more about the Relatives Association, please contact Mo Brickwood, Thatcham and Downland Social Services on 01635 46545.

The Jumbo Toy Library lends toys to children with special needs to help stimulate their development. The library is open on the third Friday of each month between 1.00 and 3.00 p.m. at the Thatcham Childrens Centre. They are in need of volunteers to help at the centre and also toys. If you can help, please contact Daphne Angell on 01488 682610.

Cruse bereavement care are running a course on Understanding Bereavement between September and November. The course is aimed at widening the understanding of the general public about aspects of bereavement. For further details phone 01488 638611 (6 - 9 p.m.). A new booklet on bereavement has been produced by Help the Aged. Copies can be obtained from Help the Aged, St. James Walk, London EC1R 0BE, tel. no. 0171 253 0253.

Arthritis Care, which meets on the second Monday in the month at Stockcross Village Hall, is in urgent need of more drivers to bring people to their afternoon.

If you have a few hours to spare, please contact Lorna Reeves on 01635 41700, or Sue Jackson on 01635 255063.

CHILDREN'S INTERNATIONAL AID

Children's International Aid was started by London Ambulance officer Peter Kingsley-Ducane for all children in the world wherever the need is created (including our own children here). Your help is vital - without it, the charity cannot survive. Its aim is to bring practical help to those in need. You've seen the advert on TV - "Give a man a fish and he'll feed his family for a day, but give him the means to fish and he'll feed his family for a lifetime". On this premise we try to provide help. Tons of food, clothing and medical supplies have already been sent and this is ongoing, but we believe in helping people to help themselves. Therefore, in the forefront of any aid offered, is the need to provide three particular types of need - MONEY, MEDICINE AND VEGETABLE SEEDS.

At the moment in Russia, chronically sick children, dying from the effects of radiation following the disaster at Chernobyl, are abandoned daily. Babies born horribly deformed are left on the streets or in homes. Left to rot in cots that become too small for them, with no stimulation, left to lie in urine and faeces on filthy sheets. Some tied to cots because of epileptic fits causing them damage, and too few carers to cope. Some unlawfully killed and disposed of rather than be a burden to their families. The charity is hoping to supply pain killers in the form of aspirin, paracetamol, etc. to help relieve pain and suffering. The charity has the means to buy wholesale drugs which save money, so money collected is the greatest help. If you can pledge to give either a small regular amount or a one-off contribution to buy packets of aspirin, paracetamol etc., this will be of help.

The other request is for vegetable seeds. On one charity mission, Peter came across a small remote village. People were starving, the ground was hard and dry through lack of rain, there was little drinking water as streams and wells had dried up. He gave food and clothes parcels and a few packets of vegetable seeds. On returning, he found the villagers had grown enough vegetables to feed themselves and sell the surplus. Seeds saved from the vegetables were re-grown to produce more food. The difference those packets of seed made had to be seen to be believed. The dull, vacant expression was replaced with hope in their eyes.

Please can you buy vegetable seeds on your next shopping trip, or arrange a collection at work or through the children at school. Arrange amongst yourselves to make group collections so that the villagers of Purley on Thames will be remembered for their kindness and love. Or provide money so that seeds can be bought wholesale. Please contact local helper, **Mrs. Roni Hellier on 01734 451530**, for further information or

with offers of help. Thank you all so much.

FROM MY HISTORY NOTEBOOK

"Our Anne Hyde"

The Royal Wedding this month (July 1981) of Prince Charles and Lady Diana Spencer has prompted the media to discover that the last English bride of a future English King was Anne Hyde who married James II whilst he was still in exile on the Continent. She bore him two daughters, Queen Mary and Queen Anne. This Anne Hyde was the daughter, by his second wife, of Edward Hyde who later became Lord Chancellor and the 1st Earl of Clarendon. It was Edward Hyde's first wife who was "Our Anne Hyde" and whose memorial is in the church.

Our Anne Hyde had a short and tragic life. Born early in the 17th century, the daughter of Sir George Ayliffe of Grittenham, Wiltshire, and Ann (nee St. John) she was married during the winter of 1632 to Edward Hyde, then 23 years old, and the son of Henry Hyde of Dinton, Wiltshire. Six months later, the new pregnant Anne and her husband were travelling to Wiltshire when she was taken ill with smallpox. Tradition says that she was taken to her relative's house, Hyde Hall (now Purley Hall) where she died on 2nd July 1632 aged 20, giving birth to a stillborn child. It is also possible that she could have been taken to St. John's Farm, near Purley Church, which belonged to her mother's relatives. Anne was buried in the Chancel at Purley and her elaborate memorial depicts her lying stiff and recumbent, her head resting on a skull and holding her child wrapped in swaddling clothes. Above the inscription are the arms of Hyde, Ayliffe and St. John. At first this memorial was set "into the south wall of the east window" of the old chancel; later it seems to have been moved on to the north wall of the chancel, and in 1870 it was moved into its present position hidden away on the south wall inside the tower.

Although apparently alone in the tower, Anne is surrounded by the memorials and gifts of her mother's relatives and ancestors. On her left is a large grey slab with an almost illegible inscription in Latin - this is an early 16th century memorial to the Iwardbys and St. Johns. Of the six bells in the tower, three are almost certainly the gifts of the St. John family (two are dated 1629 and the third 1635) who were then Lords of the Manor of Purley Magna. The coat of arms on the north exterior wall of the tower dated 1626 are thought to be those of John St. John (Anne's Uncle) who lost three of his sons in the King's service during the Civil War. The St. John family were in possession of the Manor for nearly 300 years; it was subsequently sold to Anthony Morris Storer(I) and Purley Park was built about 1800.

Jean Debney

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

NEWBURY COLLEGE

Brush up your English/Maths

Do you want to -

*improve your job prospects?

*help your children?

*return to study?

*gain a qualification?

*improve your reading, writing, spelling or everyday maths?

Newbury College can help you. We run daytime and evening classes in English and Maths in Newbury, Thatcham, Theale and Burghfield Common. All our groups are small and friendly and you will get individual help. You will be able to choose what you want to learn. You can work towards qualifications in these classes.

Classes are **FREE** and you can join at any time.

For further information, contact Linda Fergusson on 01635 37000, ext. 270.

MONDAY	Long Lane Primary School	6.00 - 7.30 p.m. 7.30 - 9.00 p.m.
FRIDAY	Purley Memorial Hall	10.00 - 11.30 a.m.
	*NEW CLASS STARTING 8 SEPTEMBER	

Other classes held in Cholsey and Wallingford. For further information, contact ALEX on 01865 858101.

COMMUNITY COUNCIL FOR BERKSHIRE

Newbury Shopmobility

Shopmobility is a rapidly growing network of locally based wheelchair loan centres. It provides scooters as well as powered and manual wheelchairs for people with mobility difficulties, for use on shopping, business and leisure trips in town centres.

The first Shopmobility Scheme opened in Newbury this August. It operates from the Northbrook Multi-Storey Car Park, which is accessed via West Street and Pembroke Road. The scheme will be open from Tuesday to Saturday 10.00 a.m. -4.00 p.m.

The scheme is largely funded by Newbury District Council but is run by Newbury Volunteer Bureau. The service is free but any donations will be gratefully received. Those wishing to use the service should, wherever possible, book the wheelchair or scooter in advance.

Anyone interested in helping with the scheme - carrying shopping, staffing the office, pushing a wheelchair or helping a person with disabilities to transfer from their car to a scooter - should ring Jeremy Proud, co-ordinator, on 01635 523854.

Incapacity Benefit

Incapacity benefit has replaced Sickness and Disability benefit. It is taxable and is subject to stricter tests. Anyone wanting help making a claim or seeking information about exemptions from the new tests is invited to contact their local Citizens Advice Bureau.

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

A young boy complained to his father that most of the church hymns were boring to him - too far behind the times, tiresome tunes and meaningless words. His father put an end to the discussion by saying, "If you think you can write better hymns, then why don't you?"

The boy went to his room and wrote his first hymn. The year was 1690, the teenager was Isaac Watts. "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" and "Joy to the World" are among almost 350 hymns written by him. Feeling bored? Let the world remember you for 300 years!

THE TRIP OF A LIFETIME - THE LONDON TO

SAIGON MOTOR CHALLENGE 1992 - PART 15

After a short break, we resume the continuing story of Nan and Stewart Scotchbrook's Motor Challenge:-

CHINA

SUNDAY, 6TH SEPTEMBER 1992 - SEMAN HOTEL, KASHGAR

We woke this morning to what we hoped would be one of the jewels of the journey - Kashgar Market. However, before we were allowed to go to the market we had to have our driving instruction, that is to say a lecture lasting about half an hour. The lecture consisted mainly of instructions like "when the light goes red, stop, when it goes green, you may drive on" but there were one or two extras, e.g. when the light is red you are still allowed to turn right and no-one must drive in sandals! He did say, however, that if an orange light is showing and other people are driving across it, you may drive as well and it was very difficult I must say to hide the sniggers but we have been well warned we are guests in this country and it would pay hands down to co-operate fully and be well mannered throughout.

We then were given our Chinese driving licences and Chinese car number plates which we screwed or stuck on. This is because China does not recognise any international driving arrangements. We then went and had our cars filled up, all in convoy. It seems that wherever we go we are going to have to have a convoy of at least 5 escorts. The leader is a Mr. Chu and he is accompanied by somebody who has told us to call him Dan, who is a security man in military uniform. We have been told that these are the two that we have to be particularly nice to. I hope that it won't prove too difficult, particularly as the elder of them, Mr. Chu, does not appear to have much of a sense of humour. Having said that, we all acknowledged he must be quite a special chap because he was amongst the first Chinese to climb Everest from the Chinese side. Having refuelled, put on our number plates and had our driving lesson we were then allowed to have lunch which I must say was absolutely delicious, particularly after the Russian food which, although there was always plenty of it, in fact far too much, by and large it was not delicious. Today the lunch certainly was.

We then were bused out to Kashgar Market, the famous market and left to our own devices for 5 hours. Evidently there are two Kashgar markets both equally famous but the one we went to was a sort of bazaar type market.

Stewart and I found the bazaar which is actually in Kashgar totally and completely fascinating, the sights, the smells, the sounds, all riveting and all totally different from anything we had ever come across before. I must say, though, that although it didn't pall, slowly, slowly, a tiny little piece of disappointment began to creep in because until we eventually tracked them down there was nothing we wanted to buy apart from carpets. The variety of artisans was enormous, we saw teeth being made because, as I have mentioned already, there were lots of gold teeth about; we saw jewellery being made but it really was pretty trashy stuff. We saw saucepans being hammered out; we saw wood being turned; we saw shop after shop with what I would call Chairman Mao caps; there was meat being roasted; kebabs for sale; bread being baked in underground ovens and amongst all this a very crowded street with three wheeled taxis capable of seating about 8 people; endless donkey carts and bicycles and all either ringing their bells or honking their horns and generally adding to the whole vibrant atmosphere.

All of us commented today on the difference between Russia, and I mean Russia, and China, atmosphere, just the general liveliness of the population. We had great fun, Stewart and I, haggling for what we understood to be a sort of horse rug. It has got pouches either end and then the flat bit in the middle where you actually sit.

We came back in one of those three wheeled whatever they are contraptions and it really was a little bit like being on an Irish jaunting cart, why the thing didn't tip over I'll never know.

It might be worth just a brief note here about Kashgar. As the guide book says, it is like a giant oasis, 1,290 metres above sea level and like Timbuctoo is one of those fabled cities that everyone seems to know about but no one seems to get to. A thousand years ago it was the key centre on the Silk Road and Marco Polo passed through as did Peter Fleming, the travel writer. Fleming, in fact, came in 1935 and I suspect it was a rather more romantic city than it is today. About 200,000 people live here, the vast majority being the Uigars. Despite their majority, in fact, it is the Han Chinese that rule the place to an extent, we understand, there are even plain clothes Han policemen around to make sure law and order is obeyed. They had serious riots here in April 1990, borders were closed, all ex-pats and foreigners were evacuated and the final number of dead will probably never be known apart from the Chinese authorities themselves.

(To be continued)

Stewart and Nan Scotchbrook

PURLEY PARISH NEWS

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

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

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

This month's magazine is published on **Saturday, 2nd September 1995**. All copy for
the October issue must reach me by **15th September** and the magazine will be published
on **Saturday, 30th September 1995**.

Editor

LAUGHLINES

The teacher was exploring the children's notion of God. She asked, "Tommy, who is
God?" Six year old Tommy furrowed his brows and thought for a moment or two about
the question. Suddenly he brightened, and with a smile said: "I think God is the man who
saved the Queen".

Once upon a time there were three vicars having coffee together. During
conversation, they discover that all their churches had been infested with bats.

"Once I got so cross," says one of them. "I borrowed a shotgun and fired at the creatures.
It made some holes in the roof, but did nothing to the bats."

"I tried catching them," says the second. "Then I drove fifty miles before releasing them
- but they beat me back to the church."

"I haven't had any more problems," says the third. "What did you do?" ask the others,
amazed. "I simply baptised them and confirmed them," replies the third vicar. "I haven't
seen them since."