

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,

WHATEVER NEXT!

Hardly a day passes without the newspapers or TV news programmes carrying a report of some horrific act carried out either by an individual or group of people against someone else. We hear of the discovery of mass graves in Rwanda where people have been hacked to death and hastily buried. We know of terrible atrocities on all sides in the conflict in former Yugoslavia. Nearer home, there was a recent incident in which a young teenage boy was accused of raping a 5-year-old girl! A 93-year-old lady was attacked and raped in a churchyard! Many people wonder what on earth the world is coming to!

On the other hand, frequently we hear of wonderful advances in all kinds of areas which have great benefits for our society, but the age-old problem still goes on - we can't live together for very long before there is tension, argument and conflict. What's the answer to all this?

There is no **simple** answer. Life is complex, and the difficulties we have in living together have many sides to them. But to suppose that we have it within ourselves to

solve these problems, is to make the biggest mistake of all! The main problem is not outside in the environment, but **inside!** We are the problem - each one of us.

We are often out of sorts with ourselves, with others and although it is rarely recognised, we are also out of a right relationship with God, and this is the prime cause of the situation we see around us today! To ignore God; to think He is superfluous, is to open the floodgates for all kinds of destructive behaviour. There are, of course, other factors to be considered, but it is a serious mistake to think that if we get these things right, e.g. working and living conditions, life will be better. It may be "better" for a short time, but it won't be long before the deep-seated problem within us breaks out again, causing renewed disruption.

Yes, we do live in a wonderfully "advanced" world, but God who made it for us actually knows better than we do what is for our good. To ignore the Maker's instructions is a recipe for disaster. Do we not have enough disasters around us today to make us think about the root cause of them? So long as we think we can manage on our own, there will sadly be others.

We need the mercy of God in our lives to enable us to live as He wants - for our own good and for the well-being of others. The wonderful thing is that God longs to give us what we need - **if only we will acknowledge our need and turn back to Him.**

COMMUNITY MEMORIAL SERVICE

On **Sunday, 8th October at 3.00 p.m.** we have our third annual Community Memorial Service. This event provides an opportunity for friends and relatives to remember the lives of loved ones with thanksgiving. For the past two years, the church has been full on this occasion and I hope the same will happen again this year. The service is primarily for those who have been bereaved in the last year or so, but all are welcome. It will last for about 45 minutes and there are refreshments afterwards in the hall. Further details are available from the Rector.

THE HANDS OF FRIENDSHIP

The Hands of Friendship will be holding a Bring and Buy Sale from 2 - 4 p.m. on the

WANTED

To rent - garage in the Long Lane area near to Denefield School. Please telephone 421528.

LONG LANE PRIMARY SCHOOL

By the time you read this article, we will be a month into the new school year, a year which heralds the introduction of the revised National Curriculum. Children at our school will not experience any appreciable change in their curriculum as we had taken the decision to phase in the "new curriculum" last year. The revised orders end a period of great uncertainty and have enabled us to plan the children's curriculum with much greater confidence than over the past FIVE years! I only hope we are left to get on with the job now! I am pleased that we will be able to include both French Studies to our juniors and Health Education to all our children, in addition to the so-called "entitlement curriculum" set out in the National Curriculum. The school also continues to offer a wide range of after school activities, ranging from an art club, three recorder groups and the School Band, to football, netball and table-tennis. I am grateful to both the staff and a number of willing parents for running these clubs which add to the breadth of experience we can offer the children at our school.

Over the summer we have had quite a lot of work done on the building with a number of doors/windows being replaced with double glazed UPVC. There is still no firm news regarding our bid to have extra accommodation placed at the school; the only certainty is that we desperately need the extra classroom! The Local Education Authority are still deciding where to place these so-called "modular" classrooms.

The school continues to support the locally based charity "Feed the Children" and we have planned another "Harvest of Hope" to support needy children in Albania and those caught up in the war in the former Yugoslavia. This year we are asking the children to collect items together that will be put in a special pack and given to these needy children.

If you would like to help us, the Harvest date is set for 2.15 p.m. on Wednesday, 18th October and we are collecting soap, flannels, toothbrushes and paste, colouring books, crayons, pencils, brushes and combs, notebooks, tennis balls and sweets. Please bring any of these items into school before our harvest. If you would like to come to hear more about the work of the charity, do contact me.

A.T. Kuhles, Headteacher

BARGAIN CORNER

For sale - two Bickerton folding bicycles, 3-speed Sturmey-Archer gears, lamps, carrying and storage bags which double as pannier bags.

£99.00 each

Tel: 842989

"TEA DANCES"

The tea dances at Pangbourne Working Men's Club and Institute continue to take place every two weeks. Rosewood Hall, where the dances are held, was recently refurbished and is well appointed with comfortable seating, mellow lighting, good dance floor etc., all lending itself to the ideal setting for a tea dance.

Dancing is 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 biscuit and the tasteful music and company.

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

The cost is £2.50. Enquiries to 421000.

A. Cullen

ART AND CRAFT EXHIBITION

Thames Valley Artists' 4th Annual Exhibition will be held at Purley Memorial Hall on Saturday, 28th October, 10.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m., and Sunday, 29th October, 9.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m. Come and look at our wide variety of original paintings and crafts for sale at reasonable prices. We are all local artists and craft people. Admission is **FREE** and refreshments will be available.

Maggy Pickard

BARGAIN CORNER

For sale - Secondhand kitchen units, 2 double carcasses, 3 single carcasses, 4 wall cupboards, 3 doors, some tops - all doors solid oak - **£325 o.n.o.**

Seven 6'6" x 2'6" Sapele doors and fittings and hinges)

One 6'6" x 2'0" Sapele door and fittings and hinges) **£70**

Garden shed - 5'0" W x 3'0" D x 6'6" H - **£35**

Tel: 417580 after 6.30 p.m.

PURLEY CRICKET CLUB

A full report of the 1995 season will appear in next month's issue of Purley Parish News.

If you are interested in participating in the Cricket Club in any way next season, either come along to any advertised event or contact

Paul Neal on 41 7957 or Martin Bishop on 427142

PURLEY CRAFT FAIR

SATURDAY, 7th OCTOBER - 2.00 - 5.00 p.m. AT PURLEY MEMORIAL HALL

Make sure you join us on the 7th October! We have some lovely crafts to see and buy. There will be old friends and new ones to meet; and the Scouts and Cubs are providing us with refreshments once again - so come hungry!

We are looking forward to seeing you again.

Liz Holton (422431)

Sylvia Conquest (411936)

THE SATURDAY MORNING ORCHESTRA

The Saturday Morning Orchestra, established in 1971, rehearses at the Beansheaf Community Centre in Calcot, Reading on Saturday mornings in term time. An annual highlight is a residential weekend at Ufton Court.

The orchestra's programme is normally chosen to allow the exploration of a varied repertoire in a friendly workshop environment. Concerts are given occasionally in aid of charity.

The orchestra, which has around 40 members, has vacancies for string and brass players. For further information, contact the conductor, Raymond Jones, at 42 Grosvenor Road, Caversham (tel: 472094).

PURLEY MEMORIAL HALL ACTIVITIES FOR THE COMING MONTH

5th Oct.	2.15 - 4.00 p.m.	Health Visitor Clinic
7th Oct.	2.00 - 5.00 p.m.	Craft Fair
11th Oct.	7.30 p.m.	Women's Institute
19th Oct.	2.15 - 4.00 p.m.	Health Visitor Clinic
26th Oct.		A.G.M. Hall Management Committee
28th Oct.	10.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m.	Art Exhibition
29th Oct.	9.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m.	Art Exhibition
2nd Nov.	2.15 - 4.00 p.m.	Health Visitor Clinic

Upholstery classes are held in the Annexe on Thursday evenings, 7.30 - 9.30 p.m. Ring 843740 for details. **New Diet and Keep Fit class on Fridays 10.00 - 11.30 a.m.**

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, Hon.Sec. (843809)

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

At the September meeting it was Apples all the way! Different sorts of apples to be named, delicious unfamiliar recipes to be tasted - an apple loaf, apple wine and an apply lemon curd tart particularly good. Guess the number of apples, guess the weight etc.; you name it, we did it! Kath Hodge won first prize with her apple caterpillar, and Angela Edwards second with a very stony lump. A greenish apple donkey (?) came third, contributed by Rosemary King, who has also invited us to take tea with her in the Mayor's Parlour, she being the current Mayoress of Reading.

Plans were made for a Fund Raising Car Boot Sale, and for providing W.I. teas to visitors. The Horticultural Society Autumn Show had been much enjoyed; Shirley Jones won the W.I. Cup with her baking; Carol McGill and Ann Betts got firsts for flowers and photography, and Sybil Pryor won the Homecraft Salver with a pottery casserole. Didn't we do well!? Poor Vi Watts - her husband won all the big pots. I wonder who will polish them? Our next meeting is on Wednesday, 11th October at 7.30 p.m. in the Memorial Hall, when Kate Vincent will talk about the National Rivers Authority. There will be a game instead of a competition, but there will be the usual Flower of the Month competition and A Green/Blue Stall. Visitors welcome!

Sybil Pryor

PURLEY HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

The Late Summer Show has been and gone, and with it the summer! This means that our season of monthly evening talks starts again. The talks are held on the third Wednesday in each month (except November and December) until April. I hope you find something of interest.

The first talk on House Plant Care and Propagation is on **Wednesday, 18th October** at 8.00 p.m. in Purley Memorial Hall.

Don't forget the Social Evening on Wednesday, 15th November. Tickets will be on sale soon.

The Cup Winners at the Summer Show were:

Purley WI Cup (for most points in Cookery and Handicraft sections)	-	Mrs. S. Lewis
Purley Homecrafts Salver (for best exhibit in Cookery and Handicraft sections)	-	Miss S. Pryor
Purley Home and Garden Bowl (for best exhibit in Flower and Floral Art sections)	-	Mr. R. Watts
PHS Perpetual Cup (for most points in Veg, Fruit, Flower and Floral Art sections)	-	Mr. R. Watts
RHS Banksian Medal (for the most prize money in Veg, Fruit and Flower sections)	-	Mr. R. Watts
Reg Ayers Memorial Trophy (for the most points gained over the two shows)	-	Mr. R. Watts

Our congratulations to the winners and to all who took part.

The Trading Store is open on Saturday and Sunday mornings from 10 - 11 a.m. until November 26th.

If you have any queries about the Society, I can be contacted on 624457.

Anne Stockley,
Secretary

I have been selected to work on the Burglary Investigation Unit for three months until the middle of December. The department is based at Pangbourne Police Station and targets active criminals responsible for house burglaries in the Pangbourne Police area. I will, therefore, not be performing my normal uniform role in and around Purley. However, the area will not go uncovered but be policed by different officers until my return.

Whilst on the unit, I will be maintaining a keen interest in the area and will not always be absent from it. I can still be contacted at Pangbourne Police Station on 536605 and will be happy to discuss any problems or enquiries that you may have. Pc 2576 Holt will also have responsibility for the area over the next three months and can also be contacted at Pangbourne.

Wpc 4355 Rachael Mylum, Area Beat Officer, Thames Valley Police

PANGBOURNE VALLEY PLAYGROUP

Fundraising for the Pangbourne Valley Playgroup new premises project is ready to begin with two events planned for October:

WINE TASTING EVENING organised in conjunction with The Wine Rack of Pangbourne, to be held at Pangbourne Primary School on Friday, 6th October, starting at 8 p.m. Tickets now on sale at The Wine Rack priced at £5.00 each. Please join us to sample a large selection of affordable wines for Christmas. An ideal way to relax and start the weekend. Bargain wines and discount available for wines purchased at this event.

CRAFT FAYRE at Pangbourne Primary School on Saturday, 28th October from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. A selection of local craftsmen and women, offering pottery/jewellery/preserves/paintings etc. Perhaps you will find those unusual Christmas gifts for friends and family that you have been searching for.

All profits go to the Pangbourne Valley Playgroup New Premises Fund.

SCHOOL LAUNCH APPEAL FOR COMMUNITY PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE

St. Andrew's School at Buckhold, Pangbourne has just announced plans for an appeal to build a £600,000 "state of the art" Performing Arts Centre.

The new building will provide ideal, and much needed, facilities for theatrical, musical, dance and conference pursuits, as well as a wealth of other uses, for the children of the school and the local Berkshire Community.

The school is launching an appeal for funds from its parents, the local business community, many local and national trusts and foundations which support the arts, and the provision of community facilities such as this will offer.

The Performing Arts Centre will feature a substantial auditorium capable of seating nearly 400 people, retractable seating, music teaching and practice rooms, a foyer/front of house facility and provision for a bar. It will also cater as for the disabled with ample, specially designed, toilet facilities. There will be a flexible stage area, scene dock and sound and lighting equipment as well as the provision of an extra car parking area.

St. Andrew's School is situated near Pangbourne in the heart of the Berkshire countryside. It nestles within 56 acres of grounds, formerly owned by the Watney brewing family, and dates from 1885. Its acreage incorporates extensive playing fields, tennis courts, a small golf course and woodland.

The school itself is co-educational and prides itself on providing a happy, caring environment for its 240 pupils ranging in age from 7 - 13 years with a pre-prep department for youngsters aged 4 - 7 years.

The school believes wholeheartedly that the provision of a new Performing Arts Centre will greatly enhance the cultural life of both school and local communities, appealing to local groups involved in amateur dramatics, choral and orchestral pursuits, theatre and so on. For its children it will also help provide tuition for essential "life skills" such as public speaking, debating and presentation, as well as the theatrical and music facilities it currently lacks.

For more information about the project, please contact Angela Perry on 01295 730477 or Doreen Young at St. Andrew's School on 01734 744276.

PURLEY (BERKS) TENNIS CLUB

These are the results of the 1995 club tournaments:

Men's Singles	Winner	Steve Turner
	Runner-up	Finbar Cahill
Men's Doubles	Winners	Steve Turner & Jeremy Kuhles
	Runners-up	Dave Reber & Peter Perugia
Ladies' Singles	Winner	Noreen Bedford
	Runner-up	Lesley Charlesworth
Ladies' Doubles	Winners	Noreen Bedford & Sheila Kuhles
	Runners-up	Lesley Charlesworth & Maureen Statham
Mixed Doubles	Winners	Jane Perugia & Dave Reber
	Runners-up	Lesley Charlesworth & Tim Kuhles
Boys' over 12	Winner	Jeremy Kuhles
	Runner-up	Paul Strudley
Boys' under 12	Winner	Jonathan Kuhles
	Runner-up	Paul Reber
Girls' over 12	Winner	Katy Anne Perugia
Girls' under 12	Winner	Kim Turner

Runner-up

Sarah Charlesworth

Jane Perugia

THE ARTHRITIS & RHEUMATISM COUNCIL

Pangbourne and District Branch

On Thursday, 9th November, 10.00 a.m. - 12 noon, a coffee morning and Bring and Buy Sale will be held in the Dorman Rooms, St. Bernadette's R.C. Church, Horseshoe Road, Pangbourne. Admission will be 40p and includes coffee and biscuits. Christmas cards and gifts, home-made cakes, bric-a-brac, and books will be on sale. There will also be a raffle. The Committee would be very grateful to accept gifts for any of these stalls and will be happy to collect them before the day! Please telephone Anne Bolam - Chairman (421020), Sheila Aris - Vice Chairman (427721) or Rosemary Wigmore - Membership Secretary (843112).

1996 is the 25th Anniversary of the Founding of the Pangbourne Branch of ARC and the 60th Anniversary of the Founding of the Society. If any local organisation would like to adopt Arthritis Research for their charity next year, please contact any of the committee members for details.

Anne Bolam

PANGBOURNE PRIMARY SCHOOL

FIREWORK DISPLAY - SATURDAY, 4th NOVEMBER, 7 p.m.

Bonfire will be lit at 6.30 p.m. Tickets available from Pangbourne Primary School, Percy Stone Ltd. or Purley Rise Stores, and are priced:- Adults £2.00, Children 5 -11 years £1.50, Under 5's free.

Refreshments will be available.

Sharon Herring,

PANGBOURNE ROTARY CLUB

The Rotary Club of Pangbourne has just completed another successful year by providing help to the local community in a variety of ways as well as giving its members the benefits of fellowship with regular, interesting and lively meetings.

About £7,000 has been raised for charity during the course of 1994/95 and this has been achieved by organising a series of events which were thoroughly enjoyed by those taking part. Among them were a Mountain Bike Challenge at Rushall Farm (the next will be held at Ufton Nervet on 15th October) with eight categories of riders, attracting about 300 entrants; the well established Golf Day at Goring & Streatley Golf Club and a Bowl-a-Thon (10-in bowling event). Among a number of charities to benefit from these events were the Wessex Childrens Hospice, MIND and the Berkshire Young Musicians Trust.

Activities organised and manned for schoolchildren were a Youth Speaks Competition for public speaking; Team Spirit, run in conjunction with Reading Education Business Partnership, was aimed at providing students with an enjoyable introduction to working in a team; one to one guidance was given to pupils in preparation for job interviews; and members helped to look after a group of handicapped children on a day out.

At the other end of the age range, the annual Christmas Lunch was again held for senior members of the community at Pangbourne Village Hall.

Rotary International, as its name implies, is a worldwide organisation and Pangbourne has well established links with a German Club at Dinkelsbuhl in Bavaria and a series of exchange visits have been made over the past few years. Numerous individual visits have been made by Pangbourne members to foreign clubs and visitors frequently visit the Club on Monday evenings.

Members meet at The George Hotel, Pangbourne, 7.30 p.m. for 8.00 p.m. on Monday evenings, for a meal and to listen to a speaker. Topics are diverse and have ranged through tourism, nutrition, newspaper editors, foreign countries' customs to a practical demonstration by a watercolour artist.

Further information can be obtained from The Secretary, Harry Lloyd, on 842820.

FROM THE EDITOR'S POSTBAG

Dear Editor,

Proposed Extension of the graveyard at St. Mary's

Anyone driving through Purley on Thames will be only too aware of the hotchpotch building development and wonder how or who has been making the planning decisions. Most people are unaware that two of the most beautiful parts of Purley on Thames are hidden - the river (which is one of the loveliest parts of the Thames) and the beautiful Norman Church of St. Mary's, which was once situated at the end of an avenue of trees in a quiet sleepy lane. Now it seems that the church, with its well proportioned graveyard, curtained with a thick and luscious greenery of shrubs and trees, is under threat. The people who are supposed to be representing us - our Parish Council - have decided that, as the graveyard at St. Mary's is nearly full, it should be extended; the thick wall of greenery that surrounds the graveyard will go and the few large trees will remain in a graveyard half an acre larger than at present.

I am aware that we should provide burial facilities and I appreciate that, if there is not enough room in the Parish, it costs four times as much to be buried in Reading. One local person declared that there just isn't anywhere else and, when I mentioned the high ground near the allotments, she agreed that that would be a preferable place and she didn't really want the graveyard extended.

During the 60's responsibility for burials passed from the Home Office to the local Environmental Health Officers. One recommendation by the Home Office to the Environmental Health Officers was that a graveyard should never be where the permanent water table is within 2.3 metres of ground levels! It is a well known local fact that graves dug in the winter at St. Mary's contain water. The reason why the National Rivers Authority have objected to the extension of the graveyard is on the grounds of water pollution.

A small graveyard situated on high ground overlooking the beautiful scenery of the river and Chiltern Hills beyond would, I am sure, be a preferable alternative.

If you feel as strongly as I do and want some more information or would like to help stop the extension, please `phone me on 452291.

Jenifer Jones

The Editor would welcome further correspondence on this subject - but please keep your letters as brief as possible.

FROM MY HISTORY NOTEBOOK

Holidays at Home - circa 1880

A hundred years ago, the annual fortnight's holiday was a luxury for a few wealthy families. The mass of the population worked six days a week all year round (that is, if work was available), and the level of their wages left little or no margin for holiday expenditure.

Christmas Day and Good Friday had long been public holidays and, in 1871, the August Bank Holiday Monday was introduced - but few were able to take advantage of it because holidays without pay were not always welcome. Ten years later the Mistress recorded in the Purley School Log Book (1 Aug 1881) that "attendance (was) not quite so good on account of the Bank Holiday". Purley children had about 7 - 9 weeks annual holiday from school; one or two weeks at Christmas and Easter, and 4 - 6 weeks Harvest (summer) holiday. By contrast, the public schools, e.g. Eton, had 14 - 16 weeks holiday. Purley also had several half or whole days off - such holidays were granted by "kind permission of the Rector" who controlled the school. On these occasions the children might be given a tea treat by the Rector's wife, Mrs. Travers, or some other kind person.

The long summer holidays were definitely "working holidays", for the children were expected to work alongside their parents in the fields. If the harvest was late, the school might not break up until as late as 15th August, and could be extended for up to six weeks holiday. When the harvest was in, a tea was given to all the parishioners by Mrs. Storer, and the children were given a half-day holiday to attend. During June and July there were frequent references in the Log Book to children absent from school "owing to their mothers being out haying".

Sometimes people took the day off to attend a local event, such as the horse and cattle fair held in Reading every September. When the market was over, there was a two-day pleasure fair, and the School recorded a "small attendance as many children (were) taken

to the fair".

Robert Stone, the miller from Pangbourne, wrote in his diary of a visit he made one evening to a Band of Hope and Temperance Fete held in Purley Hall grounds (Wed. 28th June 1871). The fete commenced around midday and visitors arrived by special train to Pangbourne, in vans from Coley, Caversham etc. Cricket, archery and football were played in the afternoon, followed by tea, bread and butter and cake. The adults ate in a large tent, and the children sat outside on the grass. When Robert Stone had finished his day's work, he arrived in time to hear the "musical entertainment and temperance addresses" - but he does not appear to have taken part in the dancing or playing of "kiss-in-the-ring" which the Berkshire Chronicle mentions.

On the whole, I think our ancestors enjoyed their infrequent leisure activities - also, there was no media to tell them what they might be missing!

Jean Debney

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

As you will be aware, there is continuing suffering of innocent children throughout the world.

We, via Feed the Children, want to help in any way, however small, to reduce this terrible hardship.

MONTHLY THEME

We thought one way of alleviating these problems would be to have a monthly theme (e.g. this month, October, **children's shoes for BOSNIA** - with the new school term there should be plenty of out-grown ones!!). If you have any shoes, either leave them in the box marked **SHOES** in the entrance porch of St. Mary's, Purley or, if you would like one of us to collect them, ring Sheila Adnett on 421194 or Mollie Bridge on 426722.

Watch this space for next month's theme

THE TRIP OF A LIFETIME - THE LONDON TO SAIGON MOTOR CHALLENGE 1992 - PART 16

MONDAY, 7TH SEPTEMBER 1992 - SEMAN HOTEL, KASHGAR

Although it is 8.50 a.m. and seems quite late to us, Kashgar is obviously just surfacing. Several women sweeping the streets with besams, one or two of them wearing dust masks. I am not at all surprised because it really is an incredibly dusty place. We are working on Beijing time but possibly local time is different as Beijing is thousands of miles to the East.

It is quite interesting to compare going out of Kashgar in a convoy behind a sort of, what looks like to me, police van with being led in and out of cities or towns in Russia. In Russia we really were swept along with great authority, lights flashing, horns hooting and the police, if necessary, on a loud speaker telling people, we imagine, to jolly well clear out of the way. The people of Kashgar are very different and yet, having said that, twice yesterday we saw the police remonstrating with two apparent law breakers.

Now by 9.15 am we are well and truly out of Kashgar on our way to Hotan in the Taklimakan Desert with the Kunlun Shan Mountains on our right.

Now I think we have seen everything, we saw a continuous stream of donkey carts and owners, some laden with sacks of stuff, some with several people on, but now a donkey cart we thought was riderless finding its own way. In fact, it wasn't riderless but it was finding its own way, the driver was flat out in the back sound asleep - a very strange sight. The Turkish influence and, therefore, Islamic influence is still everywhere to be seen. The men with their (skull) caps, some round, some with four corners, many of them with beards and the women and girls with their heads covered. Not only heads covered but quite frequently faces as well with dreary, drab brown stoles or scarves covering them back and front and I really do feel terribly sorry for them.

At a rough reckoning we guess that about 10% of the people are barefoot whether they are riding a donkey cart or just on foot. However, the ones on the bicycles do seem fairly posh. Frequently you see the man riding and the woman sitting side saddle on the back with her high heeled shoes and both of them in, what would appear to be, their "Sunday, going to meeting outfits".

(To be continued)

Stewart and Nan Scotchbrook

PURLEY PARISH NEWS

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This month's magazine is published on **Saturday, 30th September 1995**. All copy for
the November issue must reach me by **15th October** and the magazine will be published
on **Saturday, 4th November 1995**.

Editor

LAUGHLINES