

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 (please note this service does **not** take place on the first Sunday of the month)

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,

For many people August tends to be a slack month, but as far as news items are concerned, there was no shortage of material. One matter which hit the headlines was the question of whether it was right for the abortion of a twin to take place. The discussion was all rather academic for we discovered that the operation had, in fact, *already* taken place - some weeks before!

An article appeared in The Times written by Libby Purves in which she asked the question, "When did we start to see this as less than sacrosanct?" A day or so later a letter appeared in that newspaper in response to her question. It was brief and to the point "*..... I suggest it was when we decided it was a bit of bad luck and not a gift of God.*"

The arguments have continued about this matter. Some have said that this is a different matter from the general question of termination of pregnancy, because of the special relationship and bond between twins, whilst others have maintained that there is no difference at all between this and all the other abortions which take place. I am not quite sure what view Libby Purves took about this important matter, but she was clearly very concerned that we have got to this point in the nation where thousands of little lives are snuffed out, for what appear to be not very substantial reasons.

It is not only in this matter of abortion where we should be asking some probing

questions. There are other matters too - not least the whole business of sentencing policy. Car-drivers who cause the death of others are often given what appear to be very light sentences - I saw one report recently of a man who caused the deaths of three people, and he got a 3 months jail sentence! It seems that offences against property matter more than injury to people.

How did we get to where we are as a country in these things? It certainly did not all happen overnight. In fact the process of change took place over many years. Things altered almost imperceptibly, and before we realised it, a wholesale shift had taken place!

We do need to stop and look around (inside too!) and ask how we got to this point. The person who answered Libby Purves' question got it right. We are, where we are today in our society, because we think we know better than God, that our own bright ideas are superior to His perfect plan and that it doesn't really matter anyway!

Long ago a man who lived close to God wrote this:

"They exchanged the truth of God for a life, and worshipped and served created things rather than the Creator" (St. Paul - Letter to the Romans Ch. 1 verse 25 - New Testament). The whole letter, written in the first century, has much to say to us in the twentieth.

HARVEST FESTIVAL SERVICES

Sunday, 29th September

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| 8.00 a.m. | Holy Communion |
| 9.30 a.m. | Harvest Praise |
| 4.30 p.m. | Harvest Tea (followed by auction of produce) |
| 6.30 p.m. | Thanksgiving Service |

ALL ARE WELCOME!

PARISH REGISTERS

Baptisms

21st July Emma Leonard
 Sean Stinson
 Jordan Blake
 Abigail Paterson

18th August Sarah Maciw
 Joseph Davies

Weddings

22nd June Stephen Jones and Samantha Simons

29th June Neale Hayter and Emma Clark

27th July Richard Ashfield and Victoria Sergent
 Matthew Finch and Linda Fagg

10th August Colin Eaton and Wendy Turner

Funerals

28th June Raymond Nicholls, aged 56 years

17th July Walter Windmill, aged 82 years (cremation)

29th July Phyllis Rawlins, aged 78 years (ashes)

BISHOP OF READING TO RETIRE

Bishop John will be retiring at the end of November this year. There will be a special

farewell service on Friday, 29th November at St. Mary's Butts in Reading at 8.00 p.m.

RESOURCES DAY

Tuesday, 10th September at Church House, North Hinksey, Oxford. There will be a whole range of Christian Teaching/Training Resources on display - they can be purchased, hired or borrowed.

Further information from the Rector.

NEW PRIEST-IN-CHARGE AT PANGBOURNE

Rev. John Staples from Old Windsor will be licensed by the Bishop of Reading as Priest-in-Charge of Pangbourne, Sulham and Tidmarsh on 9th October at 8.00 p.m.

QUIET DAY

St. Mary's Church is having a Quiet Day on Saturday, 5th October at St. Stephen's Church Centre, Upper Basildon. It will be led by Rev. Anne Hibbert from the Church Pastoral-Aid Society. Further information is available from the Rector.

COMMUNITY MEMORIAL SERVICE

The annual Community Memorial Service will be held on Sunday, 13th October at St. Mary's Church at 3.30 p.m. Invitations to all bereaved families will be sent out in the next week or so, but all are welcome to share in this service of commemoration.

LUNCH POT

We re-open on Thursday, 5th September, 12 noon - 1.00 p.m. at St. Mary's Church with our warming homemade soups, jacket potatoes and yummy cakes.

There have been many "sold" signs around the village during the summer - if you are new to the area why not give Lunchpot a try. Enjoy a very reasonably priced lunch in a friendly atmosphere. It's an excellent place to make new friends. We have a mixed age-range from babies to OAP's. If you would like someone to go with, or require a lift, then ring me on 413197. With the dull days of winter ahead, Lunchpot makes a welcome bright spot during the week. See you soon.

THE BELLS OF ST. MARY'S (Continued)

You might remember that a few months ago Claire Pearson wrote about her experiences as a trainee bell-ringer based at the tower at St. James the Less in Pangbourne. Well, now the secret is out, I am learning too! The reason for this is fairly simple - my wife Lucy's family have had a long history of ringing. It's easier to join them than beat them.

However, there is another side to my learning the ancient art of church bell ringing. As I'm sure most of you will be aware, the bells at St. Mary's are not in a fit state to be rung properly. Indeed they have been in a poor state of maintenance for many years. Before I arrived in the Parish in 1994, the Rector had asked the tower captain at Pangbourne to ascertain whether the bell installation was safe. The report that the Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers produced suggested several possibilities. Firstly, to do nothing. Secondly, to do some restoration work, simply to keep things the way they are. Thirdly, to do the basic minimum to return the bells to full circle ringing. The final option was to undertake a full scale rehang of the bells.

This was the position when we arrived in Purley. Roger had asked me to take on the investigation of the bells as I had some experience of them. I was charged to find out how much these possible options might cost. Finally, after much to-ing and fro-ing on the part of several architects and surveyors as well as a firm of bell-hangers (who would actually do the restoration work), we are now in a position to know what the cost implications are.

It seems that to take the bells out of the tower, remove the frame and replace it with a modern metal one, to replace the various fittings and retune and replace the bells and to bring everything in the ringing chamber up to scratch would cost about £34,000. This seems like a colossal sum, but there are a variety of charities who would be willing to give financial support to the restoration process. Bell-ringing charities would give about a third of the cost. There are other groups who would possibly give similar amounts. However, there would be no point in starting the process unless we at St. Mary's had the total support of the Parish as a whole.

As yet we don't know what the effect of restoring the bells would have on the fabric of the tower. It may well be that there would need to be some structural work done. But with the end of the century approaching, the concept of having the bells able to ring out

to celebrate the beginning of the new Millennium is an attractive one.

But what do you think? Have you thought about the idea at all. This is one of those very typical English activities that has marked the landscape for centuries. But what about Purley - would you support the restoration of the bells at St. Mary's? Such support would be essential for the project. But it would need to be financial as well as in principle. The Parish Council and the people of Purley were unstinting in their support of the restoration of the Church Clock a few years ago. What about the bells? Please drop me a line with your views to my home address. There will be more about the bells in a later edition.

Brendan Bailey, Curate of Purley
10 Knowsley Road, Tilehurst RG31 6FA

ALL CHURCHES TOGETHER IN PANGBOURNE & DISTRICT - "SLEEP OUT"

During Lent, several people from different churches came together to think about the subject "Building Bridges". One bridge it was felt needed to be built was that between rich and poor and the idea came that we could all work together to raise money by sponsorship and also raise awareness of the causes leading to poverty and homelessness in Reading especially. Thus the idea of a "Sleep Out" was born.

The "Sleep Out" will take place on 25th October from 9.00 p.m. to 6.00 a.m. at St. Bernadette's car park. There will be 30 cardboard box "vacancies" and sleepers (aged 16+) are invited to spend a few hours (if not the whole night) inside the makeshift dwellings.

If you are interested in taking part, either as a "sleeper" or a helper, please contact Valerie Baldwin on 843660.

LUNCH CLUB FOR MOTHERS AND TODDLERS

12.30 p.m. to 2.00 p.m. Wednesdays during term time at the Dorman Room, St. Bernadette's. Helpers are always needed to serve refreshments and to play with the children. Please contact Valerie Baldwin if you are interested.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Due to the large, but most welcome, number of articles submitted this month, "From My History Notebook" and "The London to Saigon Motor Challenge" take a short break.

shall I come to you? or a bit of both! All ideas welcome.

Sybil Pryor (843589)

NEIGHBOURHOOD NOTES

This will sadly be my last contribution to your Parish Magazine. I'm leaving the area for another posting within Thames Valley Police.

My replacement has been hand picked; he is Pc 3236 Welford and I will officially be handing over to him on Monday, 9th September 1996. I can, of course, still be contacted until that time.

I would like to express my thanks to all of you who have supported me in my role as your Area Beat Officer and wish you the very best for the future.

After my departure, Pc Welford can be contacted at Pangbourne Police Station on 536605 where messages can be left for him. Please be gentle with him!

Area Beat Officer
Wpc 4355 Rachael Mylum

PURLEY ON THAMES ALLOTMENTS

There will be a small number of plots available for rent this coming Autumn. At least one half plot (rent £4.00 p.a.) and two full plots (rent £7.50 p.a.) will be available. If anyone is interested please contact John Chapman on Reading 426999. **NB.** reduction for over-60's.

VOLUNTEER READING HELP

Volunteer Reading Help is a national charity which links volunteers from the local community with children aged 6 - 11 who teachers feel would benefit from one to one help. Each volunteer works with the same three children individually, for half an hour each, twice a week, in a local primary school. They talk, read, play games and help build each child's confidence and interest in books.

How you could help

- *Do you have time to spare?
- *Do you like children?
- *Do you enjoy reading?
- *Do you have plenty of patience?

Can you commit yourself to

- *Attending a short training course?
- *Giving two hours twice a week in term time?
- *Working as a volunteer for at least a year?

No formal qualifications are needed; training will be given.

Volunteers give their time to each child in a way no teacher can ever hope or be expected to do. They include people aged 18 - 80 from all cultures and backgrounds.

To become a Volunteer Reading Helper, please ring or write to:

Sonia Churchill,
Volunteer Reading Help,
The Teachers' Centre,
Cranbury Road, Reading, Berkshire RG3 2TS
Tel: 560463

BARGAIN CORNER

For sale - 30 Bradstone Riven paving slabs 18" x 18". Good condition. **£10.00**. Buyer collects.

Whilst on holiday near the lake,
More time with God I did take,
Always rushing, always busy,
Getting myself in a tizzy,
With God's beauty all around,
I'd like to share of some I found.

Warm sunshine and a gentle breeze,
The birds are singing in the trees,
Fluffy clouds, white and grey,
The windy footpath, shows the way,
I came across a gate and stile,
How His beauty makes me smile.
The woolly lambs, a friendly face,
It's all mine by God's grace.
The stones and rocks and babbling brook,
I see His beauty where I look.
Stepping stones and foxgloves tall,
Thank you Lord, you gave it all.

Janet Jordan

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

After reading Trevor Cotton's letter "Summer Sound of Purley" in the July edition of the Magazine, I felt I had to add a little bit of Old Purley and, if he had been in at the beginning of the Purley Park Estate in the 1930's, the noises coming over the weekends would not only be mowers, but there would have been a collection of hammers, saws, chisels, and other carpentry noises, where families were busy building their wooden bungalows for holiday and weekend get aways.

Some of the huts were very pretty with people's own ideas.

The noises on Sundays were so great that the Vicar of that time requested that would everybody refrain from hammering during the time of the Services, and I must say that all and sundry complied with his wishes and there was 2 hours respite every Sunday.

Ah, Happy Days of my Youth.

Yours sincerely,

Sybil Titlow (nee Spinks)

PURLEY MEMORIAL HALL ACTIVITIES FOR THE COMING MONTH

5th Sept.	2.15 - 4.00 p.m.	Health Visitor Clinic (held in the Annexe)
5th Sept.		Polling - County Elections
7th Sept.	2.30 - 4.00 p.m.	Horticultural Society "Late Summer Show"
9th Sept.		Purley Pre-School Playgroup begins
11th Sept.	7.30 p.m.	Women's Institute
12th Sept.		Thames Valley Artists Group begins
19th Sept.	2.15 - 4.00 p.m.	Health Visitor Clinic
21st Sept.		Barn Dance (tickets available from 845404)
3rd Oct.	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.

Mrs. J. Hutchings, Hon. Secretary

PURLEY PARK PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION

Purley Park Property Owners Association (PPOA) held a Stars and Stripes party on Saturday, 6th July at St. Mary's Church.

Approximately 63 residents and friends danced the evening away to the big band sounds, country and western and rock and roll music.

Best Female costume was won outright by Marie Bennett as the Statue of Liberty and Best Male costume went to Trevor Cotton as a Yankie Doodle Dandy.

With a supper and raffle, the evening was a great success.

PPOA will be holding their first Craft Fair at St. Mary's Church on Saturday, 9th November. There are still a few tables vacant. If you have a craft and are interested in renting a table at a small fee, please contact Mrs. Taylor on 429531 as soon as possible.

FORTHCOMING CONCERTS AT DOUAI ABBEY

Sunday, 8th September at 7.30 p.m.: James Bowman (counter-tenor) and Canzona (two violins, viola da gamba, organ and theorbo) perform Jubilate Domino. Tickets £10 (£8 concessions and £30 family tickets) available from Fr Oliver Holt at Douai (cheques payable to "Douai Abbey Church Appeal").

Saturday, 5th October at 7.30 p.m.: West Berks Music Centre - The Cromwell Strings and Girls' Choir - give a concert including Pergolesi's Stabat Mater. Tickets £5 (£3 concessions and £10 family tickets).

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.

THE BRITISH CATHEDRALS TOUR OF CITY OF PEACE

Adrian Snell with David Fitzgerald - saxophones and woodwinds, Frank van Essen - percussion and violin, Marlou van Essen as Eva Pickova, and choir.

Tuesday, 15th October, Oxford Town Hall, 7.30 p.m. Doors open at 7.00 p.m. Tickets £8 and £10 from St. Andrew's Bookshops, St. Ebbe's and St. Clement's Oxford, Reading and Witney St. Helen's Church Office, Abingdon; The King's Church Shop, Chesham;

Robert Gatward Jewellers, Thame. Or by post from 16 Broad Close, Barford St. Michael, Banbury OX15 0RW (please enclose SAE and make cheques payable to "City of Peace Concert").

PURLEY (BERKS) TENNIS CLUB

The resurfacing of the courts was finished by the beginning of July - more or less on schedule. We had a tennis evening and barbecue a few weeks later, when the Chairman of Purley Parish Council duly elected the courts "open". We are very grateful to the Parish Council for financing the shortfall so that this project could go ahead - the bulk of the money having come from the Foundation for Sport and Arts - and hope that this amenity will be appreciated and used by many members of the community for many years to come.

The club tournaments are being held on Saturday, 7th September (junior members, 1.00 p.m. start) and 14th September (adult members, 10.00 a.m. start). The AGM will be held during the skittles evening on Saturday, 19th October. For more information please contact me on 843932 or Jenny Davies on 625925.

May we remind non-members that the fee for use of the courts is currently £1 per hour per person, payable please to 7 Nursery Gardens, or to an adult member at the courts.

Jane Perugia

PURLEYTOTS

Welcome all children under three!

PurleyTots re-opens on Tuesday, 3rd September 1996. The Tuesday and Wednesday morning sessions are from 9.45 - 11.15 a.m. The afternoon session is on Wednesdays from 1.15 - 2.45 p.m. We meet in St. Mary's Church in Purley and everyone is invited to join in. It is a nice place to go with young children. We provide a wide variety of toys, books and puzzles, including a range of larger toys such as a trampoline, see-saw etc.

As the days get colder and wetter, PurleyTots provides a safe, warm environment where children can exercise their minds and bodies. It's a friendly place for parents too.

We have an annual farm visit and this year it will take place on the morning of Friday, 13th September. For further details, please call in at one of the PurleyTots sessions. Also, on Saturday, 5th October, 2.00 - 3.00 p.m. we will be holding our Autumn Sale at

St. Mary's Church. We look forward to seeing you there.

Annie Thorpe, Chairman

PROJECT PURLEY

The first meeting of the Autumn Programme will take place at The Gatehouse, Purley Lane, commencing at 8.00 p.m. Jean Debney will give a talk on "The Storer Family".

We extend a warm welcome to all residents who would like to know the history and background to our ancient village. This is an ideal opportunity to hear about the family who built Purley Park Mansion, now Purley Park Trust. Just come along on the evening or, if you prefer, ring 844682 or 413223 in advance.

The summer social event was a barbecue held at "The Mimosas" on July 19th which was enjoyed by members and guests. A delicious meal was set in the garden, and the culinary contributions of our members was 5 Star. The weather was perfect and the hum of conversation and convivial company went on until well after dark. Our thanks to all who contributed to a successful occasion.

Rita Denman,
Meetings Secretary

ROTARY CLUB OF PANGBOURNE

Another Growth Year for Pangbourne Rotary

Membership of The Rotary Club of Pangbourne grew by 25% last year and support was given to various charities via 25 individual projects. Funds raised totalled about £7,000.

Speaking of the plans for 1996/97, President John Clare said, "Whilst fund raising is an important part of our activity, fellowship among our members is central to our success and we seek to achieve this by having friendly but purposeful meetings, usually including talks on wide ranging, interesting topics.

"For 1996/97 we are setting ourselves the difficult target of a further 20% increase in membership and we would like to hear from men who may be interested in finding out more about our activities. Our Secretary is Harry Lloyd who can be reached on 842820.

"This year we mainly want to help the disabled - young and old - and to focus on local

charities."

POSTCARD FROM TRENCREEK FARM

Arrive to a warm welcome. Explore the site. "If you're having one of those days, take it to Jesus" above the washing machines - good place eh!? Several similar phrases in prominent places. Note advert for Sunday service in the barn.

Sunday

Barn filled to bursting. Lively singing and a wonderful atmosphere with campers from all parts of the British Isles plus Holland and Pakistan. Sit next to someone who tells me he's Roman Catholic - a completely different way of praising God but he feels "lifted up" by the experience. Students from Bournemouth Bible College run the service and tell us of a children's club they run each weekday morning.

9 a.m. Monday

The barn looks busy as children arrive for the "Down on the Farm" club. Start off with a lively hymn with plenty of actions. Some children are chosen to act out a parable. A quiz afterwards relating to the story and it's meaning proves it has sunk in - full marks to both teams. Lots more fun learning about Jesus before another lively hymn - must find where this one comes from to use at St. Mary's. Children relate to the students well. They realise it's "cool" to tell people they love Jesus. Leave the barn knowing God will be with us today. Head for the beach. It's going to be a great week.

Wish you were here!

Nicki

P.S. If you would like details of camping, caravanning or mobile home holidays at Trencreek Farm, Cornwall, please ask Nicki Woodward.

PURLEY CRAFT FAIR - SATURDAY, 12th OCTOBER, 2.15 - 5.00 p.m. - PURLEY MEMORIAL HALL

Come and meet old friends and new at the Craft Fair on 12th October. Come and buy something beautiful for yourself or a friend; we expect to have some interesting crafts there. Come and have a nice cup of tea and a cake carefully made by our scouts and cubs. Just come and spend a pleasant afternoon with us - it's good to have a chat with the neighbours we haven't seen for ages!

If you would like to hire a stall (usual price - £7.50), contact Sylvia Conquest (411936) or myself (422437). Proceeds will go to Home Farm Trust and Reading Family Aid. Liz Holton

THE ARTHRITIS & RHEUMATISM COUNCIL

Pangbourne & District Branch are having a Jubilee Celebration (1936 - 1996) on Friday, 11th October at 7.30 p.m. in Pangbourne Village Hall.

Dr. J. David, Rheumatologist, Battle Hospital, Reading is speaking about his work, followed by Mr. Bob Barsby and musicians from Pangbourne College.

Tickets are £5.50 to include wine and light refreshments and are available from Sheila Aris (427721), Anne Bolam (421020), Pam James (843511) or Rosemary Wigmore (843112).

PURLEY HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

The Summer Show is on **7th September**. The schedules are available from the Trading Store. Last entries by Wednesday, 4th September. You might be surprised by what you can enter. For example, 1 vase of garden flowers; Flowering pot plant; 6 tomatoes; Lemon Sponge cake; and plenty more. If you have never exhibited before, then Jimmy Armstrong, one of the show organisers, would be happy to answer any queries you might have (421645). Whether you enter ten classes, or just one, it's taking part that counts.

The show is open to the public from 2.30 - 4.00 p.m., so come along and have a look even if you don't enter, and maybe you'll feel encouraged to enter next year? Presentation of prizes will be at 3.30 p.m.

The Trading Store is open every Saturday and Sunday until November from 10 - 11 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.

We have arranged with Newington Nurseries (at Newington, near Stadhampton) and Glenvale Nurseries (Hungerford Lane, Bradfield South End) for a 10% discount for Horticultural Society members. For Newington Nurseries this is on plants only. Please note that the membership card must be produced before the purchase is rung into the till.

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

Anne Stockley, Secretary

DISTRICT NOTES

The Pangbourne and District Volunteer Centre raised well over £1,000 from donations of out of date travel tokens - Purley's contribution was about half of this so thank you all very much indeed to those who responded to the appeal. While on the subject of travel tokens, I felt it might be worth explaining how the scheme stands in law as there have been a lot of very misleading statements made about the Newbury token scheme.

The 1985 Transport Act allowed Local Authorities to provide travel assistance to the disabled and pensioners, hence it applies only to men over 65 and women over 60 if not disabled - and the European Court has confirmed that this is OK. Any schemes have to be even handed between residents and between operators and LAs were forbidden to use the scheme to provide hidden subsidies to particular transport operators. In Reading's case, they operate a free bus pass but have to pay money to any bus operators in the town who wants to join the scheme. Most of the smaller operators like Chiltern Queens just get a nominal sum as they carry very few pass holding passengers but when Reading Mainline came along it cost the Borough Council a lot of money. Such a scheme can work well in a tight urban area as the maximum journey opportunity is not very great and the area is reasonably well covered by a single bus company.

In Newbury District's case the situation is completely different. For a start many areas have only a very limited bus service and many have no services at all. Then the District stretches from the Reading fringes to well beyond Hungerford and has about 25 bus operators so each would want a very large sum of money to provide the free service (or even a half price service) as individual journeys could cost several pounds and would have to be available to all residents of the District. Policing and administering such a pass scheme would be very costly and time consuming and would be very uneven and inefficient in terms of benefit to residents. You are just not allowed to have one scheme that operates in one part of the district only and another scheme that operates differently in another part of the District.

The scheme Newbury opted for is one which gives out travel tokens which have a cash value and which are accepted on buses, trains, taxis, Readibus, post buses and volunteer car schemes. It is thus very flexible and all an operator needs to do is register and then present any tokens which they have taken in lieu of fares to get a cash refund. Added to

which the area of usage includes both Newbury District and Reading Borough and we often get complaints that Newbury residents are favoured because their tokens are taken on Readibus whereas Reading residents' bus passes are not. I have always pressed for an increase in the value of the tokens given out but the scheme is very popular and only on the urban fringes of Reading do we find people who want to get the Reading bus pass - and still remain in Newbury District with its lower Council tax rates.

You will be aware of the County Council election on September 5th - do please make sure you get out and vote.

There have been many accusations about Newbury Council housing homeless families in Purley who cause annoyance to neighbours. However, they are all untrue - Newbury does not have any houses in Purley for the homeless and has never placed any such families here. Neither, in fact, do Sovereign Housing or any of the other Housing Associations which operate in the area. All that Newbury do in the area is to administer the Housing Benefits scheme which applies equally to Housing Association tenants and private tenants. By the way, if you suspect someone of any form of Social Security fraud, then why not call the national hot-line so that the matter can be properly investigated, because people who do defraud the system are costing the rest of us a lot of money. The number is 0500 500 777.

At long last the future of the County Council has been settled. It will be abolished on 31st March 1998. There will be elections for the Newbury Unitary Authority on 1st May 1997 when Purley will have two Councillors (jointly with Sulham and Tidmarsh). Between May 1997 and March 1998 the functions of the County Council will be gradually handed over and we have established a number of service panels to plan for the takeover. I am serving on the Cultural Services Panel as well as the overall Re-organisation Committee. Thankfully the County Council are now co-operating with us on these matters.

As part of the process, a consultation is underway about the name of the new authority. Three options are being considered: Newbury Unitary Council, West Berkshire Council, and Newbury and West Berkshire Council. It is complicated by the creation of a Newbury Town Council at the same time and we are anxious that there is no confusion with the names, hence my preference for West Berkshire. The consultation will be coming to you with the letter asking you to confirm your details for the Electoral Register. However, the matter will be decided by the new Council after the May 1997 elections.

I hope that by now everyone has received their waste paper collection bin and are putting

their waste paper out. I was still getting complaints in July but hope the matter has now been finally sorted out. Let me know please if there is still a problem.

At this time of the year I have to remind people to make sure their overhanging branches are well cut back so that the footpaths are not obstructed. In particular make sure that there is at least 8 feet clearance above the footpath as a bit of rain can easily make branches sag and it is not very pleasant to get a faceful of wet leaves as you walk along a footpath.

John Chapman
Newbury District Councillor, Purley Ward

PURLEY PARK PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION

Invite you to join us at our

"HOE-DOWN"

Saturday, 19th October 1996

7.30 - 11.30 p.m.

at Pangbourne Working Mens Club

Barn Dancing - Line Dancing - Square
Dancing - Round Dancing

Buffet provided - all for only £5.00

Raffles and costume prizes

Invite open to all Purley residents and

friends.

Telephone 429531/421590 to reserve your tickets.

PURLEY BARN YOUTH CLUB

The first six months of the new Open Youth Club at Purley Barn culminated in a successful barbecue on Sunday, 11th July.

Inevitably with any new venture there can be teething problems. It was distinctly cold and ever wet at the Barn for the first two months. But, not to be thwarted in our new enterprise, the Youth Leader, Pat Gibbs, and I bused the young people to the Dolphin Centre at Pangbourne and held the Youth Club there.

We now have a steady membership and the young people are already planning the programme for Autumn 1996. This is likely to include canoeing, go-karting and skating and a camping weekend away as well as our Open Club Nights.

Thanks to a grant from Purley Parish Council, we have been able to provide much needed equipment. We are always looking for volunteer helpers either on a regular basis or on a rota system so that we can provide a really good and varied programme for the young people of Purley. Currently younger members enjoy a session of organised games, while the older members run the tuck shop/coffee bar, with adult leadership.

We hold competitions and often need extra help here so, if you feel you have something to offer young people in Purley, please come along. The Youth Club is open from 6 - 8.30 p.m. every Sunday during term time.

Please note: We restart on Sunday, 8th September. If you would like more information about the Youth Club, please contact Judy Lambley, Youth and Community Worker, at The Dolphin Centre, tel. 843162.

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

A warm evening opened our meeting in July, and listening to the minutes we learned that a coffee morning was held in the picturesque garden of The Old Rectory and, along with a small profit, made to swell the funds, a grand time was had by all. Thank you for your efforts.

It's always pleasing to view slides on a projector of a country or island which you have not as yet visited and so it was when Mrs. Fricker visited us to give her impressions of Cyprus. Useful really, because you don't have to sort out the foreign currency - worry about air pockets - or get screwed up about have you purchased the correct sun block. Mrs. Fricker "painlessly" guided us through the motions of visiting this pleasant wine growing island where the British still own 90 sq. miles of garrison and 68% of the population own their own houses. Young men still observe the two year National Service and students evacuate for the unknown. Cyprus means the promised land and it is where Archbishop Makarios was born and lived. Richard the Lionheart was married there (a long way to travel with your confetti wouldn't you think!), Leonardo bought lace there and I wonder if he tasted the Turkish delight? Of course, there are always the historic castles, all steeped in details from the past. I feel the lady must have been impressed by the island as she would like to return, especially to the area inhabited by the Turks.

The flower table looked like a mini Chelsea Flower Show. I'm glad I didn't have to choose the winner. First was Shirley Lewis with a deep purple coloured Surfinia, Barbara Mercer with a Ragusa Rose tied second with Ella Petrie with a startling Yellow Daisy.

The competition "Bring a Holiday Souvenir" was won by Angela Edwards with a silk picture and Ella Petrie was second with a bell from Devon. I wonder what happy memories come racing back.

The next meeting is on 11th September, 7.30 p.m. at the Memorial Hall. The speaker will give an account on Goodwin Sands disasters. (He should visit my home - plenty there). The flower competition will be A Fresh Flower Arrangement and the sales table will be fresh produce.

Hope you have all had a happy holiday. N.B. By the way, should you visit Cyprus, Desdemona came to a very sticky end there - so ladies please remember, do be careful where you drop your hankie!

Sylvia Conquest

PURLEY CRICKET CLUB

The Saturday 1st team, having made their customary slow start to the season in the League, have consolidated their position and look to retain Berkshire League Division 1 status for next year.

The Saturday 2nd team have progressed through the season in style and go into the last few games with a 15 point lead in their division; promotion to the 2nd XI Premier Division looks likely.

The Sunday team have played competitive and enjoyable friendlies against local village sides and have achieved some creditable results.

Annual Charity Cricket Match

This year the event took place on Sunday, 14th July starting at 2.30 p.m. Purley Cricket Club lost to Purley Jubilee Football Club and a highly enjoyable day was capped off with a barbecue, disco and raffle. Proceeds from the day have been donated to two charities; The Windmill Respite Scheme and Hearing Dogs for the Deaf.

Junior (Colts) Cricket

Colts evenings have been very encouraging, so much so that we are looking to run at least one competitive side (possibly under 13) next year in the Berkshire Colts League; look out for progress and more information in future editions of this magazine.

Club Practice Evenings

During the season, Club Practice takes place on Thursday evenings (6.30 - 8.00 p.m.) at our home ground.

History of Cricket in Purley

A member of the club is looking out for old photos, scorebooks, memories and mementoes of cricket in Purley and the Cricket Club; if you possess any of these items or know of old players, please contact Martin Bishop. (Any items will be copied and returned).

Fixtures for September

Saturday	31st Aug v Stratfield Turgis (1st XI League)	Home 1.30 p.m.
"	31st Aug v Wraysbury (2nd XI League)	Away 1.30 p.m.
Sunday	1st Sept v Yattendon & Frilsham (Friendly)	Away 2.00 p.m.
Sunday	8th Sept v Woolhampton (Friendly)	Home 2.00 p.m.

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

Martin Bishop on 427142 or Brian Smith on 843653

KENNET VALLEY COUNTRYSIDE PROJECT LAUNCH

The Pang Valley Countryside Project (PVCP) has proved such a success that a second countryside Project is being launched in the Kennet Valley. The new Project Officer, Sally Wallington, is already contacting landowners and working on exciting new projects in the Kennet Valley.

The Kennet Valley Countryside Project (KVCP) will follow the proven methods of the PVCP; working with landowners and farmers to encourage environmentally responsible farming, directly involving the local community in the management of the project and getting volunteers and farmers to work together to achieve tangible results "on the ground".

To keep you informed about the work of the Pang Valley Countryside Project and of the aims and objectives of the Kennet Valley Countryside Project, we are holding an open meeting. This will be held at The Long Gallery, Englefield House near Theale on Tuesday, 22nd October at 7.00 p.m.

The timetable is as follows:

7.00 p.m. A welcoming glass of wine and an opportunity to view the displays and education pack

7.30 p.m. Opening address from Richard Benyon (Chairman, PVCP)

The future of farming - Sir Richard Body MP

Countryside Management - Why is it needed and what can it achieve - Sally

Wallington/Ed Cooper (project officers)

9.00 p.m. Closing summary - Alec Seccombe (Chairman, KVCP)

You will be able to view and try the computer based education packs developed by the PVCP, the John Simonds Trust and the Environment Agency.

Both Projects are funded by partnerships of Local Authorities, Parish Councils, Government Agencies, charitable trusts and this evening provides farmers, landowners and the general public with the opportunity to influence and direct the Projects. Please come along and let us know what issues are of concern to you. We look forward to meeting you and hearing your views.

Ed Cooper, Project Officer

For the 1996/97 season, Purley Jubilee Football Club will be running the following teams:-

Under 11's	Manager, Robbie Stephens	Tel. 453419
Under 13's	Manager, John Fletcher	Tel. 416528
Under 14's	Manager, Brian Horsnell	Tel. 424448
Men's Team	Manager, Tony Page-Smith	Tel. 615548

We also hope to have a U10s/U11s group that will hold regular training sessions on Saturday mornings with a view to playing friendly matches during the season. Please contact Lorraine Nolan on 843970 for further information.

All our teams play and train at the Recreation Ground, Beech Road, Purley. If you would like to play for any of our teams or get involved with "Your local Football Club", either contact the appropriate team manager or our Club Secretary, Jayne Careless, on 843988.

Richard Farrow

RELATE

Relate in Newbury is looking for someone to act as Chairperson. If you have experience in the voluntary sector, an interest in counselling and the work of Relate, they would be very pleased to hear from you.

Community Council for Berkshire

PANGBOURNE PRIMARY SCHOOL

One of the most exciting, yet poignant times of year is the end of the Summer Term, when the oldest pupils in the school get ready to transfer to Secondary School. The S.A.T.S. are successfully completed the results have been sent out and the children congratulated on how good they are, places in selective Grammar Schools or Independent Schools have been won and visits have been made to various local Comprehensive Schools. What comes next? Well, in Pangbourne's case, along with sports, galas and fund-raising events, came the Year 6 production! This year saw the Pirates of Penzance go from first rehearsal to an amazingly confident and exciting performance in just over 3 weeks - most amateur operatic societies take 6 months!

There were 50 pupils in Year 6 this year, and not one of them would even consider opting out of singing and dancing to do "props", costumes or other backstage chores. We had to ask younger children to take these on. All 50 acted as pirates, girls or policemen, learned words, songs and movements with enthusiasm, humour and dedication. The main characters were played by youngsters who could hardly wait for the first performance.

Parents and visitors alike thoroughly enjoyed the evening - a touch of magic in the coming together in a team effort of teacher and of children who have spent six or seven years here. The sad part was seeing them leave and saying goodbye to another group of young people who albeit have had a great effect on our lives.

Fortunately there is always the next generation. What shall we do next year?

Pam Hillier-Brook, Headteacher

EDITOR'S POSTBAG

I received the following letter from Phyllis Rawlins during July; sadly, since writing this letter, Phyllis has died. Ed.

"To Iris Naylor,

I can only write to you via the Parish Magazine. Thank you for your letter about Westbury Lane. There is no right of way to the river down the lane, these are private fields.

I had lived in Purley all my life until 9 years ago and I too am sad to see the lane fast disappearing from the village we have both known."

PRAYER FOR TOURISTS

Heavenly Father, look down on us, your humble tourist servants, who are doomed to travel this earth, taking photographs, mailing postcards, buying souvenirs and walking around in drip-dry underwear.

We beseech You, Oh Lord, to see that our plane is not hi-jacked, our luggage is not lost and our overweight baggage goes unnoticed. Protect us from surly and unscrupulous taxi drivers, avaricious porters and unlicensed English-speaking guides.

Give us this day divine guidance in the selection of our hotels, that we may find our reservations honoured, our rooms made up and the hot water running from the correct tap if at all. We pray that the telephone works, that the operator speaks our tongue and that there is no telegram waiting from our children which would force us to cancel the rest of the trip.

Lead us, Dear Lord, to good inexpensive restaurants where the food is superb, the waiters friendly and the wine included in the price of the meal. Give us the wisdom to tip correctly in currencies we do not understand. Forgive us for undertipping out of ignorance and overtipping out of fear. Make the natives love us for what we are and not for what they can screw out of us.

Grant us the strength to visit the museums, cathedrals, palaces and castles listed as "**musts**" in guidebooks, and if per chance we skip an historic monument to take a nap after lunch, have mercy on us, for our flesh is weak.

For husbands only - Dear God, keep our wives from shopping sprees and protect them from bargains which they neither need nor can afford. Lead them not into temptation for they know not what they do.

For wives only - Almighty Father, keep our husbands from looking at foreign women and comparing them with us. Save them from making fools of themselves in cafes and

nightclubs. Above all, please do not forgive them their trespasses for they know exactly what they do.

Together - And when our voyage is over and we return to our loved ones, grant us the favour of finding a willing audience for our movies and a sympathetic ear for our stories, so that our lives as tourists shall not have been in vain.

Amen

Submitted by Maureen & Wally Watkins who found it in Bruges.

LAUGHLINES

An old woman said she had gone to the Salvation Army as a child. During a Sunday school outing she had slipped down a steep embankment and her shoe fell apart. "I must be the only person in the world to go to the Salvation Army and lose my sole!" she joked.

A little boy told by his mother that he might go on a picnic she had previously forbidden, sighed "It's too late Mummy, I've already prayed for rain."

Some boys stopped to collect conkers on the way to church. As a result, they were late and they entered the church just as the congregation were singing the first hymn: "See the conquering heroes come."

PURLEY PARISH NEWS

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I welcome contributions from anyone to this magazine, particularly on local issues and events. Please note, however, I reserve the right to edit contributions to suit space availability. Comments and opinions expressed in this magazine do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editor or the P.C.C. of St. Mary's Church, Purley on Thames - sponsors of Purley Parish News.

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