

# ST. MARY'S CHURCH - PURLEY ON THAMES

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## 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)

6.00 p.m. Evening Worship (Service on 1st & 3rd Sundays only)

**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,

**9-8-7-6-5-4-3 .....and counting!**

No, this does not refer to the launch of a space probe, but to the approach of the Millenium. The year 2000 is only three years away! As a parish we ought to be having some preliminary ideas about what we shall do to celebrate this event. There is a lot of scope for a series of events throughout the year 2000, organised by the different groups within the Parish of Purley, but it would be good if these were co-ordinated to avoid unnecessary duplication. We have a number of centres in the parish, e.g. Schools, Memorial Hall, Social Clubs, Barn and Church. With a bit of imagination the Millenium year could be very interesting. That is to say nothing of a more lasting activity!

We all tend to think there is plenty of time left when we are thinking ahead, but all too often, we allow this to become a reason for inactivity and then suddenly time has run out and events overtake us. It would be a great pity if this were to be the case for Purley in connection with this once in a lifetime opportunity for a community celebration.

Two years ago I wrote a piece in this magazine suggesting that we ought to be thinking about the Millenium. I am not seeking to organise what we may do, but only one person contacted me following that article. More recently I have heard of some other ideas and in all probability there are lots of others floating around in people's minds. If there are people who are willing to get involved in planning something, they ought to get together in the not-too-distant future. Nationwide the Millenium is meant to be a Christian celebration in the first place, and I am sure St. Mary's will want to contribute towards

this.

The Church Hall would be available as a meeting place if anyone wanted to have a get-together to pool ideas. It would need to be booked so if anyone cares to contact me, I will arrange it.

But back to the present and the year ahead of us. None of us knows what it will bring, but there are plenty of hopes and fears around - locally, nationally and throughout the world. For all of us in one way or another, life will change, and for a time we may be thrown off balance. It is important to have a solid foundation -something which will remain unmoved even though all else seems to be heaving and shifting around us. The coming of Jesus Christ provides that foundation. He puts us in touch with God and gives the certainty that He is in control even when we can't make head or tail of what is happening. My prayer for you in this coming year is that you may experience "*the peace of God which passes all understanding.*"

## **PARISH REGISTERS**

### **Baptism**

17th November Sarah Louise Furness

### **Funeral**

21st November William Cyril Powell, aged 79 years (Cremation)

## **TO LET**

Holiday Apartment in Dartmouth, South Devon. Sleeps 4 (2 bedrooms), Lounge, Kitchen/Breakfast Room, 2 Bathrooms.

Glorious sea views. 1 minute level walk to town. Sorry no pets/smokers/children under 9.

Available March - October.

Telephone 418715 for further information.

## **WHAT HAPPENS TO THE MONEY?**

You may wonder what St. Mary's Church does with the money it receives during the course of the year. The aim of the PCC is to give away as much as the church spends on itself. At the moment we are not at that point, but each year we try to move nearer to it. Last year we gave away over 30% of our expenditure.

### **Charitable Giving 1996**

	£
South American Mission Society	
4,900	
Church Pastoral Aid Society	800
Berks Clergy Charity	125
Reading Churches Drop-in Centre	400
Samaritans	100
Pangbourne and District Volunteer Centre	75
Denefield School Scripture Union Group	50
All Churches Together Pangbourne and District	60
Churches Media Trust	100
Causeway	200
Purley C/E Infants School	250
Schools Outreach	250
<b>Total</b>	
<b>7,310</b>	

*Budget for Opportunity* Project 1996  
for Christian Community Action  
6,003

**Grand Total**  
**13,313**

In addition to the above, we have also given during the year to the following:

Children's Aid Direct  
Diocese of Matabeleland (Zimbabwe)

979  
350

Rector



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

With reference to the Rector's letter in the December issue commenting on my article, I would like to point out that nowhere did I mention that the go ahead had been given to renovate the bells. Also I have confirmed my facts regarding the offer to contact the Lottery Fund.

Whilst I must accept the Rector's statement that Lottery money has not been formally discussed by the PCC, there does seem to be a lack of communication with the other members, in that where he mentions that should this project be approved, "*no doubt the question of Lottery Money will be raised*", but in the letter by Barry Brown the appeal for funds would be launched with the clear statement that "*as a matter of principle Lottery money would not be sought?*"

He also mentions that it would certainly seem double standards if the church were to seek to benefit from the proceeds of the Lottery. How then does this matter of principle and double standards relate to the statement in the National Press on 18th October that, "*Historic Churches were counting their blessings yesterday after netting a £20 million Lottery grant. This cash will help meet the cost of essential building work and repairs to stained glass windows, organs and bells.*"

Finally, regarding Mr. Bennett's letter that those interested in the bells should contribute, in reply to Brendan's request to the public in magazine and local paper and on local radio, only one reply has been received.

Les Jamieson

Dear Editor,

Bells are causing much contention,  
To ring or not to ring - that's the question,  
Before moves are made to have them rung,  
Residents of Purley must give tongue.  
Do they want their peace being shattered  
By eager ringers? - This really matters.  
This question we must surely ask  
Before considering such a task:-  
"Is it worth at such a cost  
To find their peace is truly lost?"  
A few replies - BELLS - YES or NO

Will show St. Mary's the way to go!!

Edith Gilleland

## A QUESTION OF BELIEF

To believe or not, a question to ask,  
Is life a never ending task,  
Through light and dark to make one's mark,  
With a true face worn beneath a mask,  
Real quality of life a desire for all,  
Tempered by frustration we can befall,  
Thoughts left unspoken, deeds but a token,  
And memories fading beyond recall,  
But one can make a case for life's other side,  
Look back on achievements with humble pride,  
Of loving and giving and a life worth living,  
Being open with nothing to hide,  
For though the world's in torment with worry and fear,  
Just think of the people that one holds dear,  
Compassion and love with help from above,  
Can make one's life so much brighter and clear.

T.W. Hughes

## PURLEY MEMORIAL HALL ACTIVITIES FOR THE COMING MONTH

8th Jan	7.30 p.m.	Women's Institute
16th Jan	2.15 - 4.00 p.m.	Health Visitor Clinic
19th Jan	8.00 p.m.	Horticultural Society Meeting - "Planning a Small Garden" with Mr. G. Ace
6th February	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.E. Hutchings  
Secretary (843809)

## "A CHRISTMAS MEMORY"

I thought I'd write this little rhyme,  
to bring to you this Christmas time.  
We've had our presents and mince pies  
have our waistbands changed a size?  
Slippers, books, games and toys,  
Santa's good to girls and boys!  
Underneath the tree looks bare  
all those new socks - which should I wear?  
Tins of biscuits, jars of sweets  
all that food - too much to eat.  
"No more turkey" I hear you shout  
But what is it really all about?  
He was born to Mary in a stable  
No comfy cot or pretty cradle  
Jesus is God's only son  
We must remember what He's done  
He came into the world to show  
the only way that we should go.  
We have the Bible, His word to read  
His Holy Spirit sows the seed.  
The Holy Trinity 3 in 1  
God the Father, The Spirit and God the Son.

Janet Jordan

## TO LET

1 Bedroomed apartment (sleeps 4) in the Algarve. One week from 22nd February 1997  
- £235. For further information, contact 842942.

## 1st CALL FOR WEDDINGS

Bargain dresses, new, once worn and tailormade, plus accessories, shoe dyeing, dry  
cleaning and hat hire.

Please phone Ruth Paul on 842755.

## **PURLEYTOTS**

Welcome back to the Spring term.

We are busy with new ideas each week on the craft table. I am often surprised how creative the children are. They love the experience of safely working with paint, glitter, paper, crayons and play dough.

The book corner is full of seasonal stories and the playhouse and dressing up box are always popular. We have larger sit-on toys, trampoline and slide, whilst the puzzle table has different puzzles and games each week. We have a comfortable baby area for those not yet walking and mums can have fun too.

If you have not visited PurleyTots yet, please pop into the church hall. We are open on two mornings and one afternoon:

Tuesdays and Wednesdays	9.45 - 11.15 a.m.
Wednesdays	1.15 - 2.45 p.m.

We cater for all children aged between 0 - 3 years.

Please drop in for a friendly, relaxing time.

Annie Thorpe,  
Chairman

## **DENEFIELD SCHOOL - A Grant Maintained Technology College**

Cleaners required to join our team of 12 part-time cleaners. Previous experience desirable but not essential. Salary - £2,988 per annum. 15 hours per week - 3.10 -6.10 p.m. daily. Please contact the school for further details and an application form:

Denefield School, Long Lane, Tilehurst, Reading RG31 6XY  
Tel: 0118 941 3458 Fax: 0118 945 2847

## **WOMEN'S INSTITUTE**

Oh, come on now Sylvia! Just because the bee man in November was so very entertaining, your know our friend Daisy is not an Ex-member, she is the only founder member left, and that is why she is Honorary, and her name is Nicholls, not Nicholson, and I dare say she will forgive you one day! (Sylvia was so horrified to find she'd got it wrong, that she asked me to give her a good public slap on the wrist so Daisy will know she's sorry - who'd be President?!).

Further to that, plans have changed for the January meeting on Wednesday, 8th January, 7.30 p.m. at the Memorial Hall - it will be a Games Evening like last year's, with a Blind Auction instead of the Bring and Buy Stall. The Competition will still be "Your Favourite Christmas Card".

Happy New Year!

Sybil Pryor

## **AMERICAN LINE DANCING**

St. Mary's is holding an American Line Dancing Evening on Saturday, 25th January. Everyone is welcome. Tickets are priced at £1.50 for adults and 75p per child. A ploughman's supper is included in the price of the tickets. Please bring your own liquid beverages. (There will be fruit squash available). Tickets will be available after the New Year from Annett's newsagents (Purley Rise), after services at St. Mary's from me, and at Lunch Pot from Abi Stinson.

Liane Southam

## **LUNCH POT**

"Happy New Year" to all our customers!

If you didn't make it to Lunch Pot in 1996, then why not make a New Year's Resolution

which is a pleasure to keep, and come along in 1997. Great food, great company - in fact, a great way to spend each Thursday lunch time, 12 noon - 1.00 p.m., in St. Mary's.

If you would like someone to go with, or need a lift, then ring me on 413197.

Nicki Woodward

I would like to thank everyone for helping to cover our Christmas tree with gold and silver offerings. As it was only the middle of December when I wrote this, I am unable to let you know the total sum. I will, of course, include this in the February issue of Purley Parish News.

This month's theme for the homeless families of Kosova and Bosnia (not forgetting Rwanda etc. etc.) is any **drinking chocolate** or **malted drink** which can be made with boiled water (not anything where milk is required).

The box for collecting these items will be in the usual place in the entrance porch to St. Mary's Church. Mollie Bridge and I are very willing to collect these items from your home if this is more convenient. Just ring either of us on 426722 or 625760.

Sheila Adnett

This month sees the welcome return of some gardening advice which I hope will be the first of a regular series of gardening articles.

## **GARDENING CORNER**

### **Fuchsias - from a Victoria passion to a modern day favourite**

The fuchsia is my personal favourite as I grow at least 50 different varieties in all shapes and forms. Everyone is familiar with this summer flowering plant, but you may not be aware of its past history or how this South American plant came to be such a firm favourite in this country.

The Fuchsia was originally discovered by a French Jesuit Monk, Pere Charles, in the late 1600's in the mountains of the Dominican Republic and he named the plant after a Doctor Fuchs, a famous German doctor and botanist.

The history of how the Fuchsia came to Europe following its discovery is somewhat vague. It is known that the first specimens were sold by the nursery firm of Lee and Kennedy, although how they obtained the plants is a mystery.

By 1848 there were no less than 520 species in cultivation. The Victorians continued to expand the number of varieties and, by the start of this century, Fuchsias were being grown on a scale that will probably never be seen again. The decline in the fuchsia started during World War I when it was ousted from the greenhouses and conservatories by the more mundane tomato. This was less labour intensive to care for and offered a greater return. The end of the war did not see a renewal of interest in the Fuchsia. In fact, it was not until the 1930's that any sort of interest was regenerated in the Fuchsia. During this period of inactivity, many of the original varieties were lost. However, some such as "Ballet Girl", "Display" and "Mrs. Rundle" still survive.

Today, the Fuchsia has rightly regained considerable popularity. However, the hybridist is now concentrating his efforts on foliage colour as well as the breeding of the more commercially viable new or unusual flower colours. The flame coloured foliage of "Autumnale" and the various variegated forms of established favourites like "Swingtime" and "Marinka" are good examples of this trend. The ultimate goal is either the yellow or the true blue Fuchsia, both of which have eluded gardeners since hybridization began.

### **Cultivation:**

Unless you buy hardy varieties, all Fuchsias will perish in the British winter if left outside. There is a substantial range of such hardy varieties but they tend to be less ornamental than their tender cousins.

All varieties, however, will flourish outside in tubs or in bedding schemes during the summer. At the end of the season you can either discard the plants and buy new next year or take cuttings in July/August and over-winter in a frost free greenhouse.

Fuchsias will grow in any proprietary peat based or peat free compost but will benefit from this being slightly on the acid side. A watering with sequesterone once a month will achieve this sufficiently well in most cases. Regular weekly feeding with a high potash based plant food will promote healthy flower growth on sturdy stems.

Fuchsias hate wet conditions. Allowing the compost to almost dry out and then giving a good soaking allowing excess to drain away is the best practice. Do not grow Fuchsias in containers that have no drainage holes because they will quickly rot at the roots and collapse into a sorry mess if you do. Plants may be trained into standards, bushes or

pyramid shapes by pinching out shoots regularly to the required shape. Pinching out the tips of shoots will also prevent the plant from becoming leggy and flower better. Standards can take several seasons to train to the required height and, therefore, greenhouse protection is essential for these.

### **Pests and Diseases:**

Whitefly - This sap-feeding pest is most active in the warm summer months. It excretes a sugary liquid called honeydew which makes the foliage sticky and encourages sooty moulds. It can be controlled by insecticides containing pyrethrum or permethrin. Several applications, at not more than 5 day intervals, are required to destroy the infestation. Sticky yellow traps strung above the plants are also a good deterrent. There is also a biological control available using a parasitic wasp, *Encarsia Formosa*, which can be obtained from good garden centres.

Red Spider Mite - This eight-legged mite lives on the underside of leaves causing bronze discoloration. The mite can be discouraged by regularly spraying the underside of leaves with water. Insecticides are largely ineffective but those containing bifenthrin or pirimiphos-methyl do offer some control. A predatory mite, *Phytoseiulus persimilis*, is available as a biological control.

Rust - This fungal disease can be devastating to a Fuchsia in a very short time. Complete defoliation can occur in a matter of days if not treated with such products as Nimrod-T or Dithane 945. The disease is usually first noticed as leaves begin to fall. Large pale blotches appear on the upper surfaces of leaves. Examination of the leaf reveals tiny, pale orange pustules. These are the spores of the fungus and they will spread to other nearby plants if the leaves are not removed and destroyed. It is best to isolate infected plants from other healthy ones. Willowherbs can also spread the rust spores. Therefore, removing any from the area will help control this disease.

Despite the problems listed above, and these are not exhaustive, the Fuchsia is a relatively simple plant to grow and can be very rewarding for the amateur gardener.

Its versatility in growing outdoors, in greenhouses, pots, containers and even as a houseplant, have made it a firm favourite. The variety of flower colours and growth habits have made it almost uniquely suitable for all types of display requirements.

As plants can be bought from nurseries for as little as 45p in mid-March to grow on for summer display, it is easy to build up a small collection quickly and cheaply.

Colin Graves

# FROM MY HISTORY NOTEBOOK

## Mrs. Moule and the Purley Scandal

When Mrs. Rebecca Moule became Headmistress of Purley Free School during the 1890's, she not only improved the discipline of the children, but also their educational standards. New books and materials were soon ordered to boost the poor equipment in use. For 12 years she was an efficient head, whilst her husband, Joseph Walter Moule, was employed by the Parish as Sexton. And then came her unexpected downfall; her daughter became pregnant and had to marry.

After the baby was born, the girl came back to live with her mother, but this proved too much for the Rector, the Rev. J.H. Dudley Matthews. He is described by a writer about three years after the event as "one of those nice, charitable Christian gentlemen", but he promptly "demanded that Mrs. Moule should turn her daughter out of doors for at least six months. The mother refused, her 'conduct' was brought to the notice of the school Managers by the holy man aforesaid, and she was dismissed her employment" without any opportunity to put her case before her employers.

In the furore that followed, a special meeting of the Berkshire County Council was called at the Assize Court in Reading on Saturday, 13th June 1908. Despite the demanded reinstatement of Mrs. Moule, the Council, on the casting vote of the Chairman, chose not to reverse the School Managers' decision. The whole case was widely reported in the newspapers and questions were even asked in Parliament -but still Mrs. Moule had to leave Purley.

It was suggested by the Council that the Education Committee should support any application that she might make for a post elsewhere, but there is no evidence to suggest that she ever worked as a teacher again.

In September 1908, Mrs. Moule and her family had gone to live in Farnham, and Purley settled down once again into its atmosphere of rural peace and tranquility .....

Jean Debney

(This article was first published in Purley Parish News in October 1982 and has been reproduced by kind permission of Jean Debney).

# PURLEY CRICKET CLUB

It only seems like yesterday that the cricket season ended (or so my wife keeps telling me!) but here we are into 1997 and thinking of a new cricket season.

As well as wishing you all the best for the New Year, the other reason for this article is to let you know what the Cricket Club is planning for the coming season.

## **Pre-Season Practice Nets:**

Beginning in March at both Bradfield College and Prospect School.

## **Adults Team:**

Two Saturday League Teams (in the Hewlett Packard Berkshire League) and **Two** Sunday Teams. Weekly club practice.

## **Colts:**

Weekly Colts practice and competitive games (including League games).

## **Charity Cricket Match against an Old England XI:**

On 22nd June 1997 have the honour of hosting a game against a team of ex-England players (Derek Underwood and Derek Randall have already overcome their understandable fear of facing the world renowned Purley team) and are confirmed as amongst our opponents on the day.

## **MORE DETAILS ON ALL THESE ITEMS WILL APPEAR NEARER THE SEASON!!!!**

If you are interested in participating in Purley Cricket Club in any way (Colts or Adults playing, umpiring, scoring or just watching), contact:

Martin Bishop on 427142 or Brian Smith on 843653

Martin Bishop



## **FIRE: WHAT TO DO!**

During a recent ecumenical gathering, a secretary rushed in, shouting, "*The building is on fire!*"

The METHODISTS gathered in the corner and prayed.

The BAPTISTS cried, "Where is the water?"

The QUAKERS quietly praised God for the blessings that fire brings.

The LUTHERANS posted a notice on the door declaring the fire was evil.

The ROMAN CATHOLICS passed the plate to cover the damage.

The JEWS posted symbols on the doors hoping the fire would pass.

The CONGREGATIONALISTS shouted, "Every person for him/herself!"

The FUNDAMENTALISTS proclaimed, "It's the vengeance of God!"

The ANGLICANS formed a procession and marched out.

The CHRISTIAN SCIENTISTS concluded that there was not a fire.

The PRESBYTERIANS appointed a chairperson who was to appoint a committee to look into the matter and make a written report.

*And the secretary grabbed the fire extinguisher and put the fire out.*

## **TO LET**

Luxury Holiday Home with 3 bedrooms to rent in Tenerife. Stunning views, 12 months sunshine, sea front complex on sandy beach. Ideal for children and babies. Please telephone 842755.

## **COTTAGE TO LET**

Country cottage Brittany/Normandy borders, self-catering, sleeps 5/7. Half-hour from Mont St. Michel, half-hour from St. Malo, one and a half hour's drive from Cherbourg.

Available May, June, July and September. Enquiries to Della Davies on 427919.

Founded in 1986, the remit of M.A.S. is to offer advice and information to members of the public on any medical or healthcare matter.

The following helplines are currently operated by M.A.S. nurses, many of whom are work injured and no longer employable in a clinical capacity.

General Medical Helpline 5 - 10 p.m. Monday to Friday  
0181 994 9874 covers all general medical queries: how to change your GP; explanation of operations and surgical procedures; folic acid supplements; Mother & Baby; insomnia; piles; cosmetic surgery.

Midland's Line 6 - 10 p.m. Monday to Friday  
01543 492192 Nurses are 'on line' to help with problems related to Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD); Irritable Bowel Syndrome (IBS) and Migraine.

Men's Health Helpline 6 - 10 p.m. Monday to Friday  
0181 995 4448 Enquiries related to male health; genetic disorders; prostate problems; genito-urinary; cancers; cardiac; STD's; menopause; sports injuries; impotence; etc.

F.S.I.D. Helpline On behalf of F.S.I.D., MAS operates an evening  
0171 235 1721 and weekend cover service to facilitate a 24-hour helpline.

## LAUGHLINES

"But what are the stars?" I asked as my class of six and seven-year-olds discussed our new project.

One girl  
without  
"Holes in  
the light shines through."  
God's  
replied  
hesitation,  
carpet where

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## PURLEY PARISH NEWS

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Tel: 843070

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

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.

**This magazine is published on the first Saturday of each month (except August) and the subscription Price is £3.00 for eleven issues.** 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, 4th January**. All copy for the February issue must reach me by 15th January and the magazine will be published on **Saturday, 1st February**.

Editor