

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)

6.00 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,

As you read this, the election campaign will be well underway. Perhaps you have already been visited by agents from one or other of the political parties or received campaign literature. Perhaps you're fed up with the idea of an election anyway. There seems to have been talk of a general election for most of the last eighteen months.

No doubt many people will try to chase your vote, especially if you are completely undecided about which way to turn. Rest assured that each of the candidates will do their utmost to persuade you to vote for them.

So which way to vote. It would be very wrong of me to say vote for one party or another. It would be an abuse of the privilege of writing this message. But the task of choosing the party to lead the country is a crucial one. It is a responsibility for us all to consider carefully and then to act on our consciences. The right to vote at an election is a right which has not been available to many of us for all that long. It is important to use that right responsibly.

There are many issues which need to be considered - the economy, education, health and employment to name but a few. But the over-riding question to ask is that of the intention of the candidates to seek justice for all, mercy for those who need it, help those who ask and freedom for those who are oppressed. That is the mandate that Jesus would want us to look for in a Parliamentary representative.

Christians have very different views between themselves as to which party to vote for. Some will vote for the three main parties while others will opt for one of the lesser ones. Whichever way you decide to cast your vote at the beginning of May, it will be important

to understand the policies of the main parties and where the candidates stand on a whole range of issues.

There will be opportunities to question the candidates themselves at various meetings held throughout the campaign. But if you are keen to find out about their views, why not write to them. Their addresses will be readily available.

Voting is a serious issue and it is our responsibility to cast our vote after careful consideration. It would be very easy to vote without thinking, especially for new voters. But it seems clear to me that the results of our decisions will affect more than simply the next five years. The new government will be the one to lead Britain at the beginning of the new millennium. That will bring fresh challenges and possibilities. We all need to think very carefully about those opportunities and to make a responsible choice for it will affect us all.

With very best wishes,

Brendan Bailey

BISHOP OF READING

The new Bishop of Reading will be consecrated in Southwark Cathedral on Thursday, 1st May. He will be living at Tidmarsh and there is an opportunity to meet him on Ascension Day (8th May) at St. James the Less, Pangbourne when the Bradfield Deanery will be sharing together in a service of Holy communion at 8.00 p.m.

PARISH REGISTERS

Funerals

Andrew Findlay, aged 87 years (formerly of Long Lane)

26th February Nora Lee, aged 82 years (Ashes)

12th March Charles Weeden (Ashes)

19th March Arthur Thomas Barringer, aged 76 years (Ashes)

£13.19s 6¹/₂d becomes £1,333,000!

How do you make such a small sum into this?

Answer - sell Christian books over a period of 40 years!

In March 1957 St. Andrew's Bookshop, as it was later to be known, sold books to the value of £13.19s 6¹/₂d from a small table in the chiropodist's shop in Great Missenden, Buckinghamshire. Today there are eight branches throughout the three counties of the Oxford Diocese (Berks, Bucks and Oxon) selling Christian literature worth around £1.3m.

The business grew steadily, expanding into the shop next door, but then disaster struck. In a devastating fire in 1978, the shop and stock were all but destroyed. But as is often the case, God brings good out of very unpromising situations and just nine months after the fire, the shop was not only up and running again, but was re-designed and fitted out in a much improved way.

Today there are branches in Great Missenden, Maidenhead, Wolverton, Oxford(2), Witney and, most recently, Wokingham, as well as Reading.

The Reading branch is in London Street and is well worth a visit for Christian books, Bibles, greetings cards, music cassettes and CD's etc. Parking is available just outside the front door too! You will find the staff helpful and friendly - always ready to provide assistance in choosing books.

Rector

During February, The Salvation Army made its annual Red Shield door-to-door collection in Reading and surrounding areas. In Purley, a total of £577 was raised and I would like to say thank you to all the people living in the area for their kindness and generosity. The money is already being used to help the neediest in our society. Using this money and over £40,000 raised in other areas of Berkshire, shelter is being provided for the homeless, a family environment is provided for deprived children, separate

families are being reunited and comfort is being provided for people in distress. The need is continually growing. Thank you to all the people that have helped to provide a future for such people with such desperate needs. Bernard Smith, Red Shield Appeal Co-ordinator

Oxford Diocesan Board for Social Responsibility

The Oxford Diocesan Law and Order Group recently discussed the topic of volunteers within Thames Valley Police, namely the Special Constabulary. The discussion was initiated by Brian Shenton, the Vicar of St. Mary's, Reading and Chaplain of Reading Police Station.

Thames Valley Police is currently mounting a major campaign to increase its number of volunteer policemen and women. Alan Buckingham, Chief Officer of the Special Constabulary in the Thames Valley, said: "*We are looking for a special kind of person to increase the effectiveness of the Special Constabulary and to be part of its continuing development.*"

Thames Valley Police want to reflect the wide mix of people living in our communities. Men and women who become special constables are required to exercise the same dignity, tact and patience as regular officers, and selection of the right person is of great importance. We have a tremendous job to do, and it would be hard to find any form of community service which gives so much interest, excitement and variety."

To be eligible, applicants must be either a British citizen, a Commonwealth citizen whose stay in the United Kingdom is not restricted, or a citizen of the Irish Republic. They must also be of good character, physically fit and aged between 18 and a half and 50 years of age. People who are interested in finding out more should contact their local police station or contact the Special Constabulary Recruiting Officer, Thames Valley Police Headquarters, Kidlington, Oxon OX5 2NX, telephone 01865 846551 for an application form.

The Oxford Diocesan Law and Order Group is a joint agency group representing the Oxford Diocese, Thames Valley Police, Magistrates, Probation and Prison Services. The group seeks to encourage people in the diocese to take an active part in law and order issues. If there are any issues or comments you would wish to raise with the group, please contact the Chairman, Canon Richard Kingsbury, St. Peters Rectory, Church road, Caversham, Reading RG4 7AD.

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

At the recent Annual Parochial Church Meeting, the following were elected:-

Churchwardens	-	David Jordan and Jackie Benstead
PCC Representatives	-	Roger Kennedy and Pam Jamieson

The PCC is made up of the following people:-

Rev. Roger Howell	Rev. Brendan Bailey
Lucy Bailey	Maureen Watkivs
Jean Rothery	Wally Watkivs
Jean Howell	Andrew Mackie
David Jordan (Synod Rep)	Jackie Benstead (Synod Rep)
Jean Chudleigh	Marjorie Butler
Liane Southam	Barry Brown
Pam Jamieson	Roger Kennedy
Mollie Bridge	Edith Gilliland
David Bolam	David Davies

If you are concerned about any matter of church life at any time, please speak with any of the above people.

LUNCH POT

It has been a busy month at Lunchpot but great fun! On 6th March all ladies were treated to free teas to go with the Mothering Sunday themed cakes. Also, their names went in to a draw for a basket of Spring Flowers. On 13th March we supported the Red Nose Appeal with helpers and customers sporting red noses! Each customer was handed a joke to share with their table (quite a few laughs amongst the groans!). Again, the food suited the theme - quiche with red noses (cherry tomatoes), red-nosed cake (cherry), red-nosed brownies (red Smartie-topped!) and, of course, a clown cake. The children enjoyed clown lolly biscuits. Money for these went to Comic Relief, along with donations for drinks, and the proceeds from Clown Face Painting. In all it was a fun packed lunch which raised £31.40 for Comic Relief. Thanks to everyone for joining in with the spirit of things!

We will be back from our Easter break with the new Spring/Summer menu - lovely salads etc., on Thursday, 17th April at the usual time 12 noon - 1.00 p.m. Will you be

there? Everyone is welcome. If you would like someone to go with, or need a lift, please ring me on 413197.

Nicki Woodward

MISSIONARY WORK WITH REFUGEES IN AFRICA

Thursday, 24th April - St. Mary's Church, Purley

Mrs. Elizabeth Moore, a nurse, will be speaking about her work in Burundi and Rwanda at 1.15 p.m. She will be having lunch at Lunchpot from 12 noon and hopes to meet people informally. People are invited to have lunch if they wish, where proceeds of the cups of tea will go to help in her vital work.

Anne Bolam

PURLEY ON THAMES ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The Annual Parish Assembly will be held at the Memorial Hall, Glebe Road on Wednesday, 23rd April at 8.00 p.m.

All electors of the parish are welcome.

This is the opportunity for you to hear reports from your Parish Council and your local Councillors on the Berkshire County Council (this will be the last opportunity to hear a report from BCC) and Newbury District Council. You are also given the opportunity to ask questions of the Parish, District and County Councillors.

It is hoped that there will be reports from local schools, the Memorial Hall and Pangbourne and District Volunteer Centre.

I look forward to seeing you on the 23rd April.

Reg Marshall,
Chairman, Purley on Thames Parish Council

PURLEY ON THAMES PARISH COUNCIL

Use of the Beech Road Tennis Courts

Now that the courts have been re-surfaced, we would like to publicise the conditions for their use and care. Annual membership of the Purley (Berks) Tennis Club entitles members to use the courts at all times. However, one court is to be available to parishioners who are non-members upon payment of a fee, as long as that court is not needed for official club sessions. The fee for 1997 is £2 per person per hour and it is payable to the Tennis Club. The courts are for the exclusive use of tennis players and under no circumstances may they be used for any other purpose. In order to protect the new surface, please ensure appropriate footwear is worn.

Peter Farrow
Chairman, Recreation Committee
Purley on Thames Parish Council

WINDMILL RESPITE SCHEME

We have recently trained some new companions who are looking forward to having their own clients. If you are caring for someone affected by Alzheimer's disease or any other dementia and you would like help, please telephone me on 410207. Our area extends from the Newbury/Thatcham borders to the parts of Tilehurst that pays their Council Tax to Newbury.

We do not charge for this service. At the moment, our funding comes from Berkshire Social Services and fundraising. We are grateful to Purley Cricket Club who are including us in their charity "Old England" match on 22nd June.

We are slowly building up a reminiscence and activity library that carers and Windmill Respite companions can borrow from. As you can imagine, this is not an easy task without extra funding. Long Lane Primary School have come to our rescue and are going to make us some coloured dominoes. Thanks to all the staff there, and special thanks to Ron who was volunteered by the Headmaster to cut all the wood - thanks Ron! If anyone has any old photographs/postcards or small household articles that we could use as memory joggers to help people with dementia, then please let us know. Although people with this disease may not be able to learn new skills, they can relearn old ones quite successfully with the right type of help.

The Windmill Alzheimer's Disease Society support group in Mortimer is always happy to welcome new people. We meet on the fourth Thursday of each month at Windmill Court, Mortimer. Transport can be arranged. We are looking forward to a trip to Millets Farm and Garden Centre this month.

It's good to hear that our "sister project", SatCare, has been given the go-ahead to expand their day care. They will be open on Saturdays and Sundays from 9.30 a.m. - 4.00 p.m. at Walnut Close, Thatcham. They cover the same area as Windmill Respite and Mary would be happy to talk to you if you would like more details. Her telephone number is 01488 608258.

Mary and I both have answerphones; please don't let this put you off. We will always ring back as soon as we can.

Jan Trethewey (410207)

DISTRICT NOTES

It is looking increasingly likely that the elections for the new Unitary Authority will be held on the same day as the General Election - 1st May. You should note that, if you will be away on that day, you must make application for a proxy or postal vote by Monday, 14th April; if you have been taken ill, you have until 23rd April. This time Purley will have two councillors on the new authority so you will need to exercise two votes, not just one.

Readibus has been improving the service in Purley and are now appealing for money to buy a new bus. The bus has been ordered but, at the time of writing, over £5,500 is still to be raised. If you can spare a donation, however small, please send it to Peter Absolom, General Manager, Readibus, Cradock Road, Reading RG2 0JX. Thank you in advance. The bus will be handed over officially by the Mayor of Reading on the 19th April.

A new Youth Leader for Purley has been appointed and the Barn Youth Club will be relaunched shortly. They are always in need of extra assistance so if you can help, please contact Judy Lambley at the Dolphin Centre in Pangbourne on 843162.

The results of the radiation survey of the District were published in February. The reports makes interesting reading. The principal conclusions are a) that there was no nuclear incident at Greenham; the soil samples taken all across the district are consistent and show very low levels of contamination; a nuclear incident would have produced a measurable increase along a trail determined by wind patterns, b) the background radiation is substantially lower in the district than in most other parts of Europe and man-made radiation from weapons testing and local nuclear establishments is very small compared with the natural background.

By now you will have had your community charge bill but, for the record, the figures for Band D are:-

	Purley	Tilehurst	Pangbourne
	£	£	£
County	495.44	495.44	495.44
District	69.55	69.55	69.55
Parish	22.17	30.95	24.16

Police	52.79	52.79	52.79
Total	639.95	648.73	641.94

Purley had 39 Band A properties, 41 in Band B, 170 in Band C, 336 in Band D, 417 in Band E, 416 in Band F, 120 in Band G and 5 in Band H for a total of 1544 or an equivalent of 1762 Band D properties.

John Chapman,
Newbury District Councillor, Purley Ward

ROTARY CLUB OF PANGBOURNE

Senior Citizens Party

Nearly eighty senior citizens attended the seventh annual party organised by the Rotary Club of Pangbourne on Saturday, 8th February. Present were groups from Pangbourne OAP Club, the Silver Threads, residents of Pages Gardens, Goring Heath Almshouses and the Friendship Club.

After a welcoming drink, afternoon tea was provided and, among the entertainers, were the Pangbourne Silver Band, Kelly Jenkins, a young singer who is studying at the Italia Conte Academy and last, but not least, Mr. Geoffrey Harrison of The Ridge, Basildon who at 99 next month, gave a stirring rendition of Burlington Bertie of Bow.

Rotary members provided prizes and thirteen Pangbourne businesses generously contributed further gifts and each guest received a bag of gifts to take away.

Charity gets £5,000 from Ten Pin Bowling event

In total over £5,000 was raised from the all day event organised by the Rotary Club of Pangbourne on Saturday, 22nd February at the Lakeside Superbowl, Thatcham.

About 300 bowlers took part in the event and players were able to raise funds for their own chosen charity in addition to the funds raised by Pangbourne Rotary from entry fees.

The amount raised by Rotary will go to MENCAP (30%), Wessex Children's Hospice (30%), with the balance going to other charities Pangbourne Rotary support.

Prizes were given for the first and second teams and for the top scoring female and male players. The team winners were Horncastle Ford and they will receive a valuable voucher very generously donated by The Royal Oak, Yattendon for dinner for the team

of six.

John Clare

PURLEY CRICKET CLUB

Purley Cricket Club will be running 4 adult teams this year (2 Saturday XIs in the Hewlett Packard Berkshire League and 2 Sunday XIs playing friendly fixtures).

Following last year's encouraging response, competitive cricket will be offered for our Juniors at various ages as well as the regular coaching (by fully qualified coaches) sessions on Tuesday evenings throughout the season.

Pre-Season Indoor Cricket Nets

Indoor "nets" at Bradfield College Sports Complex will be held as follows:

Wednesday Evenings 8 pm - 9 pm on April 2, 9, 16 and 23

Regular Sunday Lunchtime Nets have also been arranged at Prospect School as follows:

Sunday Lunchtimes 1 pm to 2 pm on April 6, 13 and 20

Existing and prospective members all welcome.

If you are interested in participating in the Cricket Club in any way (Colts or Adults playing, umpiring, scoring or just watching), new members are always welcome!!; please contact:

Martin Bishop (427142) or Brian Smith (843653)

Martin Bishop

Charity Cricket Match

Jim Parks (The Old England Manager) has already selected the strong squad shown opposite and, in order to maximise the charitable proceeds for this attractive fixture, further commercial sponsors are still being sought and also raffle or lucky programme prizes. Advertisements in the match programme will be available and offers of assistance either before, or on the day, would be very much appreciated. Further details and information from Brian Smith (843653) or Martin Bishop (427142).

PURLEY TENNIS CLUB

The season has started, the evenings are lengthening already, time to dig out the racquets, join the club and start playing! If you aren't already.

Four main things to cover this month:

Membership:

This year's membership subscriptions are now due, once again astonishingly reasonable when you consider there are no court fees once you've joined:

Adults	£30.00
Students/Juniors/Senior Citizens	£12.00
Family Group (2 adults plus students and children)	£60.00

Members whose subscriptions are in by 30th April qualify for the Wimbledon ticket draw. Forms available from Jane or Trevor (see below).

Coaching:

The article in February's magazine promised details of coaching courses during the Easter holidays - there are two sessions organised:

Junior coaching clinic on Tuesday, 8th April, 10 am - 12 noon - £3.50 per person
"Taster" session for beginners, juniors and adults, Wednesday 9th April, 10 am. Come along and give it a go; we all have to start somewhere. Free!

Regular coaching for Juniors will also be available; the course starts on 22nd April and will run on Tuesday evenings from 5 - 6 pm each week, for 5 weeks - £12.50 per person. Coaching for adults will also be arranged once numbers are known.

We have an innovation this year - Ball Machine sessions! These will be available to adult and experience junior members; 4 Sunday afternoon sessions are booked, £5.00 per session. Please reserve places as demand will be high (20th April, 11th May, 8th June, 20th July). Note that all coaching prices quoted may vary slightly according to the response. Please contact Trevor or Jane to book coaching and make those reservations.

Jane Perugia	Secretary (incl. Membership)	843932
Trevor Plowman	Social Secretary/PR	419864

May Day Barbecue

The first social event of the year in January was such a success, despite the weather, we can't wait to put on the next one. Monday, 5th May, Bank Holiday, will see our first barbecue of the year in the late afternoon, rounding off an afternoon of tennis for all standards, and all ages; a family event. Come and make/meet friends over some friendly sport. Starting at 1.00, ending at dusk, bring some change for the raffle. We always have some decent prizes. And bring your own meat for the barbecue - salad, relishes etc. will be provided. No charge for this event!

Use by Non-members

The middle court is available to non-members when not needed for official tennis club sessions. The Parish Council has just approved an increase in the court fees, which are now £2 per person per hour, to be paid to the Membership Secretary above. This makes the membership subscription even better value!

PURLEY MEMORIAL HALL ACTIVITIES FOR THE COMING MONTH

9th April	7.30 p.m.	Women's Institute
12th April	2.30 p.m.	Horticultural Society "Spring Show". Well worth a visit, even if you don't compete.
16th April	8.00 p.m.	Horticultural Society Meeting. "Fuchsias" by George Bartlett
23rd April	8.00 p.m.	Parish Assembly

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)

CAR BOOT SALE

Denefield School 19th April and 10th May, 9.30 - 11.30 a.m. Gates unlocked at 8.30 a.m.

£3.00 per car. Vans £5.00. Admission 20p.

PURLEY C.C.(CONTROLLED) INFANT SCHOOL

Red Nose Day produced some very strange children and teachers in school, many with bright Red noses. It was a no-uniform day and each child prepared a joke to tell in a special assembly. The jokes were wonderful, punch-lines and joke endings forgotten, new ones were invented and lots of knock, knock, whose there? I wonder if you know when an astronaut has his lunch? So far we have raised £40.

We have purchased some large playground toys, including a bike and trailer for co-operative play. We have also ordered some picnic tables to increase the seating areas in the playground. Playtime is an important part of the school day. It is a time when friendships are made and games are played. Some children enjoy active noisy games and others prefer to sit and draw or play quietly. When children first start school, the playground can be rather overwhelming and they need quiet places. We have been able to buy this new equipment thanks to grants from both the Parish Council and the Church Council and also with a generous donation from our friends at Springs Farm. When budgets are tight, it is not always possible to spend resources on the playground. Children who play happily during break times return to their lessons refreshed and ready to work. On behalf of the children, THANK YOU again.

At the end of last term the Easter Bunny will again made an appearance. He visited the school and collected egg shaped cards made by the children. He then hid the cardboard eggs in the school grounds for the children to find. When each child found their own card, they were rewarded with a chocolate egg left at school by the Easter Bunny.

If you would like to visit the school or put your child's name on our admissions waiting list, please telephone 842384 and make an appointment.

Jeannette Goddard, Headteacher

LONG LANE PRIMARY SCHOOL

I am told that confession is good for the soul and I have to apologise for the fact that there has not been an article in the magazine for a couple of months - sorry! It is my firm intention to write each month to update you on what is going on in and around our school. I can only ask that you forgive my sin of omission.

We have gone through a very busy period, starting in December and, judging by the number of Post Its covering my desk, is set to continue. We were inspected by a team of OFSTED Inspectors before Christmas and some of you might have seen the press reports

of the inspection findings. The inspection is an exacting and demanding process and began 18 months ago when we first heard of our inspection. I am proud that the report reflects the commitment of all associated with the school and the fact that the parents have given overwhelming support for the progress that the school has been making in recent years.

One indicator of the inspectors' views of the school revolve around in the Key Issues which are those matters that should, as a result of the inspection, be addressed by the school. The inspectors gave five such issues and all are considered by them to be developmental in that they endorse the progress the school is making and basically are saying "Keep up the good work". We will continue to complete the long term planning that was already being reviewed as a result of the major revision made to the National Curriculum subjects in September 1996 and to develop the paperwork associated with new legislation surrounding provision for children with Special Education Needs.

I am pleased that as a school we meet all statutory requirements, and that the children have "sound attitudes to learning, are well motivated, attentive and sustain concentration". "Teachers know their pupils well, they regularly check, assess and record work covered. There is a good homework policy and the annual report to parents provides detailed information in a clear and unambiguous way. The social development of children is good and the school provides opportunities for them to take responsibilities around the school." The inspectors said that "Overall, the school provides a caring learning environment in which pupils feel secure, happy and make progress in learning and their personal development."

As a school we are committed to moving forwards and the inspection gives us the confidence that our approach and policies are on target and the report will help us to face the challenges posed by Unitary Authorities and the approach of the millennium with confidence.

A.T. Kuhles, Headteacher

DENEFIELD SCHOOL

Denefield is now accessible to the world via the World Wide Web. Our site has links to the school calendar, pictures of the school and pupils, a message from the Headmaster, and a map of the school area. Soon there will be information about the various departments containing pictures from field trips, student coursework, and other fun things. There will also be an area for students to display their own personal web pages that they will have created after learning HTML code.

Since the arrival of the Denefield web page, there have been positive comments from across the globe complimenting the page and the efforts of the creators. Even if you're not across the globe, but right here in England, you can find Denefield at:

<http://www.rmplc.co.uk/eduweb/sites/denefield/index.htm>

Other news - on Thursday, 6th February, seventy-five of our most able mathematicians took part in this year's challenge. Thirty-seven of them have been awarded certificates.

Hannah Sutcliffe has qualified to take part in this year's International Intermediate Invitational Mathematical Challenge, to be held on the 24th April.

Of other technological interest, the Year 11 Extra Studies group will be seeing a talk on substance abuse by scholar Dr. Robert Chapman of LaSalle University in Philadelphia, USA, without the aid of a VCR or aeroplane! Using the school's new video conferencing equipment in mid-April, the pupils and Dr. Chapman will be able to audio and visually communicate from the comfort of their own countries! The students will prepare for the class by first exploring his interactive web page learning about the ill effects of drinking and drug abuse:

<http://www.lasalle.edu/~chapman/homepage.htm>

R.M. Morley

PURLEY HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Our AGM in February ended another successful year for the Society. Your committee for the next year is:

Chairman:	Don Noble
Secretary:	Anne Stockley
Treasurer:	George Critchell
Trading Secretary:	Bob Hawkins
Show Organiser:	Jimmy Armstrong
Members:	Pat Brightwell, Marion Dabbs, John Murphy, Richard Watts, Terry Woodward, Gary Townsend (Co-opted)

George Critchell was elected President for life in recognition of his services to the

Society over many years.

The **Spring Flower Show** is on Saturday, 12th April. The last date for entries is Wednesday, 9th April, so you've still time to get your entries in! The show is open to the public from 2.30 p.m., so do come along - it's always a beautiful sight. If you need any advice on your entries, then please give me a call and we'll try to help.

Other events:

Wednesday, 16 Apr. Evening Talk - Fuchsias by Mr. Bartlett

Saturday, 17th May Plant sale, 9.00 a.m. in the Memorial Hall car park. If you have any special requests for plants, please let me know.

Sunday, 6th July Coach trip - Sudeley Castle and Gardens, and Broadway

Sudeley Castle, set against the beautiful backdrop of the Cotswold Hills, is widely regarded as one of England's most romantic castles. Steeped in history, and with royal connections spanning a thousand years, it is surrounded by seven beautiful gardens, each with their own timeless and tranquil charm. Centrepiece is the award-winning Queen's Garden, named after Katherine Parr. It abounds with hundreds of varieties of old fashioned roses interspersed with fragrant herbs. The castle apartments house an impressive collection of art treasures, antiques, and paintings by Turner, Rubins and Van Dyck. The castle church contains the marble tomb of Queen Katherine Parr, sixth wife of Henry VIII. Broadway, described as "England's best known village", its wide main street with 17th and 18th century houses will take you back in time to those coaching years. For further details, a description sheet and application form can be obtained from the trading store.

The Trading Store is open every Saturday and Sunday from 10 - 11 a.m. If you have any queries about the Society, please call me on 624457.

Anne Stockley, Secretary

SPRING SHOW - HOLIDAY TREAT!

Concern was expressed that, owing to lack of support, children's classes had been dropped from the Horticultural Society and Women's Institute shows in Purley. So this Spring Show, on Saturday, 12th April, we have two classes - No. 62 for children 7 and under, No. 63 for children 12 and under, in the Cookery and Handicraft section : subject "My Easter Day", a drawing or collage, maximum size A4 sheet. Entrance is FREE but an entry form (see overleaf) needs to be submitted by Wednesday, 9th April. The

schools will still be on holiday, so it's a home treat for the holidays - let's see how it goes.

Sybil Pryor

ENTRY FORM - 1997 SPRING SHOW

I wish to enter the following Classes and agree to comply with the Rules:

Class Number 62

Class Number 63

Name:Mr/Miss.....

Address:.....

Phone No:.....

This form must be received by Mr. J. Armstrong, 169 Long Lane, or Mr. D. Noble, 3 Barbara's Meadow, or Mr. J. Murphy, 6 Hazel Road, by **WEDNESDAY, 9th APRIL 1997**, or can be handed in at the Trading Store when open.

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

AGM's come and AGM's go, so it can be said ours was quite painless. Our new committee was formed and we renewed last year's programme with the reverence it deserved. So now we look forward to another eventful year.

The flower table was ablaze with colour and the winner was Kath Hodge with a Mini Red Tulip, second was Lee Hall with an outstanding Hyacinth, and third was Pam James with A Delicate Violet. Points throughout the year for the flower competition were finalised and guess who won. Of course, Sybil Pryor; who can compete with the magic of her garden. Well done, anyway. Remember she is still a challenge! The other competition which changes monthly was won by myself - what a thrill, having not won a cup before

- it was like receiving an Oscar. Thank you.

After presenting delicate birthday posies (aren't they a dream), we finished the evening with a silent auction. We bid for mystery parcels. This swelled our funds - plus our lungs with laughter as we opened boxes to unexpected contents (we were even more excited when we realised the comet Hale Bopp was hovering over Mapledurham).

Next month's speaker is Rosemary King who will give us details of last year for her as Mayoress. We will have a tin stall and the competition is entitled "Guess Who?" So bring along a photograph of yourself - if you dare!

Our next meeting is at Purley Memorial Hall, 7.30 p.m. on Wednesday, 9th April. Hope you can make it - all visitors welcome.

Sylvia Conquest
411936

HEALTHY HEARTS CAMPAIGN

Berkshire's Pharmacists have launched a Healthy Hearts Campaign in a bid to combat Coronary Heart Disease. In 1995 this disease claimed 1341 lives in Berkshire. An information leaflet has been produced by Berkshire Health Authority to make people aware of the factors which affect their health and ways in which they can help themselves to improve their quality of life.

The five main causes of heart disease are smoking, raised blood pressure, being overweight, lack of exercise and poor diet, all factors which can be reduced by making simple changes to one's lifestyle.

Leaflets can be found in all Pharmacists

Community Council for Berkshire

OWING TO LACK OF SPACE THIS MONTH, "FROM MY HISTORY NOTEBOOK" TAKES A SHORT BREAK

LAUGHLINES

A priest at a conference at Swanwick,
Was thick as a brick, quite moronwick.
"Are you ready," they cried,
"For the Spirit?" He sighed:
"Just make mine a large gin and tonwick."

The story is told of a young man whose father was hanged for murder. This young man is filling in a Life Insurance Proposal form. After the usual questions about his own health, and then hereditary conditions, came the question for information about the causes of death of his own parents. He answered, "Mother died of pneumonia. Father was taking part in a public function when the platform gave way."

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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This month's magazine is published on **Saturday, 5th April**. All copy for the May issue must reach me by 15th April and the magazine will be published on **Saturday, 3rd May**. Editor