

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 Jackie Benstead David Jordan
Tel: 429166 Tel: 415994

CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR Sally Robertson
Tel: 625978

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,

Do you have any financial debts?

The answer to this question is "yes" for every one of us. It may be a small amount such as cost of gas and electricity which we pay at the end of a Quarter, or it may be something much bigger - a car loan or a mortgage on a house. Many people do get into difficulties with debts, but for the most part we can manage them reasonably well. Before we take the loan out, we work out whether we can repay it over the specified period. But I wonder if you know about the situation in the Third World countries?

World Debt

The debts of the world's poorest countries are unmanageable and unrepayable!

- * **The world's poorest countries are paying £14,154,000,000 in debt repayments to the West each year!**
- * **Every person in the Third World owes about £250 to the West - *more than many earn in a whole year!***
- * **Each year the Third World pays the West *three times more* in debt repayments than it receives in aid!**

I am sure that when you see pictures of poverty in the poor countries - particularly of children - you feel for them in this dire situation. You wish it was different and you wonder what you could do to bring about any change. You may well feel as many do that the problems are so massive that there really is *nothing* you can do to alter the situation.

There is something you can do!

The major Christian Relief Agencies - Christian Aid, CAFOD and TEAR Fund are pooling their resources to mount a campaign - *Jubilee 2000 Charter* so that at the Millennium the debts of the Third World are cancelled.

I believe this would be a wonderful way to mark the Millennium, but if it is to have any chance of success, it needs a massive response. **It needs your personal response.** One thing the *Jubilee 2000 Charter* is asking for are the signatures of millions of people who are concerned about the problems of the Third World Debt. **You could be involved with this and I hope you will.** The petition which requires your signature is to be presented to the leaders of the richest countries - the world's biggest creditors - at the G7 Summit in 1999. The petition says this:

- * *We, the undersigned, believe that the start of the new millennium should be a time to give hope to the impoverished people of the world.*
- * *To make a fresh start, we believe it right to put behind us the mistakes made by both lenders and borrowers, and to cancel the backlog of unpayable debts of the most impoverished nations.*
- * *We call upon the leaders of lending nations to write off these debts by the year 2000. We ask them to take effective steps to prevent such high levels of debt building up again. We look for a new beginning to celebrate the millennium.*

What I would like to ask you to do is this - not just to add your signature to this petition, but to take a sheet (available from me) and fill it with signatures, and then return it to me. If you would like to help with this or want any further information about this project, please call me on 417727 and I will be glad to help.

Your concern is important, but your action is needed too - otherwise nothing will change!

P.S. If you would like your own information pack, you could contact this address: Jubilee 2000, PO Box 100, London SE1 7RT. Tel: 0171 620 4444, Ext. 2169. e-mail j2000@gn.apc.org.

PARISH REGISTERS

Funerals

7th April Paul Graham Joyce, aged 46 years (Cremation)
Edith Rose Windmill, aged 87 years (Cremation)

9th April Freda Georgina Walker, aged 84 years

Wedding

12th April Keith Edward Bartlett and Paula Jane Brown

SENIOR LINE - 0800 65 00 65

Senior Line is a free, national advice and information service for senior citizens, their relatives, carers and friends. You can ring **free** and in confidence on **0800 65 00 65**, between 10 am and 4 pm on a weekday to speak to a trained advice worker about welfare or disability benefits, residential/nursing care, access to health and social services, housing and other issues.

ASCENSION DAY

Thursday, 8th May is Ascension Day - the day when the Christian Church remembers the completed work of Jesus Christ and how He returned to be with His Father. There is a United Service for the Bradfield Deanery at 8.00 p.m. at St. James the Less, Pangbourne when we shall be welcoming the new Bishop of Reading. All are welcome!

QUIZ EVENING

Friday, 6th June at 7.15 p.m. at St. Mary's Church. All are welcome to come to this evening. We need to know numbers for catering so if you would like to come, please contact Gerry Hiscock on 418715 for tickets.

PARISH ADMINISTRATOR

For a number of years Jackie Benstead has served as our Parish Administrator - looking after the day to day running of the church which involves many different tasks. She has now retired and our new Administrator is Sally Robertson. Sally lives on the corner of Colyton Way and St. Mary's Avenue:

**Melyn,
Colyton Way,
Purley
Tel: 625978**

Rector

THE GENERAL ELECTION

The Election is over and we now know who will be running the country for the next few years. The Government has a difficult task to put it mildly - there are many and massive problems to be handled. Human wisdom, skill and resources are very important, but not enough! We need to honour God as a nation and seek His enabling. You may like to use this prayer:

Hear us, O Lord our God, as we pray for those who represent us in the Parliament of our nation and for those who serve in places of influence and authority. Amid all the pressures brought upon them may they follow your guidance and seek to do the thing that is right; that through them your will may be done for this nation, to the honour of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Rector

CHORAL EVENSONG

Sunday, 1st June at 6.30 p.m. at St. Mary's Sulhamstead. This service will be sung by the choir of Queen's College Oxford. All are welcome to attend.

MUSIC AT DOUAI - SPRING 1997

Thursday, 15th May at 7.30 p.m. - Newbury Spring Festival Organ Recital by

Matthew Owens - sub-organist of Manchester Cathedral. Tickets available from Newbury Spring Festival Box Office only - 01635 522733.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

I would like to express my thanks to everyone involved with our Easter celebrations at St. Mary's church.

The services and activities during the week to Easter Day must have taken a lot of organising, involving many people, in all sorts of ways.

I suspect we take all the work done behind the scenes for granted, not only at special festivals, but all year long. So to all who quietly and constantly contribute to the running of our church and its services, thank you all.

Annette Townsend

Dear Editor,

As a long term resident of Highfield Road, may I respond to John Chapman's remarks about the lack of street lighting in this road.

It would appear that the planning authorities were originally remiss in not specifying that street lighting be provided. A recent conversation with a former managerial employee of the developers went as follows: "*If the authorities want a road to 'adoptable specification', then we had to provide it and deposit a bond, and the same applied to street lighting*". Needless to say that this was a development of what was then a very country lane called Long Lane which, when it was upgraded, street lighting was provided at no cost to the inhabitants.

It also begs the fact that we have been paying Council Rates, Poll Tax, Council Tax for the last 39 years for street lighting that we may enjoy outside this road, but is certainly missing from our environment, but benefits other residents of Purley. What price safety!

Yours faithfully,
K.G. Frisby

BARGAIN CORNER

Teak folding table, as new, 57" x 33" down to 9" x 33" - **£85.00.**

Tel: 844285

LUNCH POT

The term ended on a jolly note. Firstly the Easter Bunny came with chocolates for the children, then there were the marvellous Easter-themed cakes (too good to cut really!), the Easter raffle with 10 lovely 'themed' prizes, and the Egg Colouring Competition which produced some wonderful artwork, rewarded with prizes for everyone.

By the time you read this, Lunch Pot will be well into the tempting summer menu - refreshing salads with a choice of accompaniments (cheese, ham, quiche, plaits, etc.). Filled jacket potatoes, hot dogs or filled rolls with crisps. Turn it into a real treat with a slice from our mouthwatering cakes and, if the weather turns hot, there's always ice cream and choc ices. Top this with large portions of chit-chat, friendship and fun, and it adds up to a wonderful time at Lunchpot, every Thursday during term-time, 12 noon - 1 p.m. at St. Mary's.

All ages are welcome - highchairs, toys and drawing available for young ones, so us older ones can enjoy ourselves too!

See you there.

Nicki Woodward

PURLEY PRE-SCHOOL PLAYGROUP IS 21 YEARS OLD

Purley Pre-School Playgroup was formed in 1975 although, for 10 years prior to that, it was combined with Westwood Farm until they were able to obtain their own premises.

We would like to end our 21st year with an "Open Afternoon" on Saturday, 28th June from 3.00 p.m. until 5.00 p.m. in the Memorial Hall. Any past and present staff/parents/children would be very welcome to pop in for a chat, reminisce and refreshments.

If you have any photographs etc. taken during your time at playgroup which you would be willing to lend us for a small exhibition, please contact Sue Slade on 410778.

B.B.O.N.T. Open Day - 18th May, 2 - 6 p.m. at Sulham House, courtesy of Mrs. Moon. Guided walks, teas, raffle. Stalls will include Plants, Books, Bric a Brac, B.B.O.N.T. Goods, Gifts and Produce.

Admission: Adults 50p

Senior Citizens/Children 25p

Free car park. NO DOGS PLEASE.

THE ARTHRITIS & RHEUMATISM COUNCIL

Homemade teas will be served at Little Bowden House, Yattendon Road, Pangbourne from 2.30 - 4.00 p.m., where the gardens are open to the public on **Sunday, 25th May** and **Sunday, 6th July**. The open-air swimming pool is open for a small charge on these days.

Anne Bolam

THE SOLDIERS, SAILORS, AIRMEN AND FAMILIES ASSOCIATION - FORCES HELP

Your representative can be reached at:

Brock Barracks, Oxford Road, Reading (Tel: 573393)

on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 a.m. - 12.30 p.m. Answerphone available at other times.

HOUSE TO LET - SOUTH OF FRANCE

Traditional Provencal-style house in a small village in Languedoc hills, wine-growing region, sleeps seven. Ten minutes from nearest town or Lac de Salagou for swimming and watersports, an hour's drive to Mediterranean, Montpellier etc. Available some weeks

in September or December. Enquiries to Liz Holton on 422437.

PURLEY HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

The Spring Flower Show took place in April - the warm spell of weather led to a lovely display of colour. This year's cup winners were:

Springs Farm Perpetual Cup - Mr. R. Watts

(awarded for most points in Flowers & Floral Arts Section)

Springs Farm Perpetual Cup - Mrs. S. Lewis

(awarded for most points in Cookery & Handicrafts Section)

Certificate for best vase of flowers - Mr. R. Watts

Certificate for best pot plant - Mrs. J. Fagan

The annual plant sale is on Saturday, 17th May starting at 9.30 a.m. in the Memorial Hall car park.

The annual coach excursion this year is on Sunday, 6th July to Sudeley Castle. Details and application forms are available from the Trading Store.

A ticket to allow entry to RHS Wisley at a 30% discount is available to members. Please contact me for details.

The Trading Store is open every Saturday and Sunday from 10.00 - 11.00 a.m. If you have any queries about the Society, please contact me on 624457.

Anne Stockley,
Secretary

PURLEY MEMORIAL HALL ACTIVITIES FOR THE COMING MONTH

14th May 7.30 p.m. Women's Institute

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)

PURLEY CRICKET CLUB

Purley Cricket Club will be running two Saturday XIs, in the Hewlett Packard Berkshire League, this season as well as two Sunday XIs and a developing Colts and Junior Section. New and old players will be welcome as would any potential umpires or scorers. Further details and information from Martin Bishop (427142) or Brian Smith (843653).

Fixtures for May

Saturday	3rd May v Stratfield Turgis (1st XI League)	Home
	3rd May v Stratfield Turgis (2nd XI League)	Away
Sunday	4th May v Thatcham 2nds (1st XI Friendly)	Away
	4th May v Yattendon & Frilsham (2nd XI Friendly)	Home
Saturday	10th May v Sonning (1st XI League)	Away
	10th May v Yateley (2nd XI League)	Home
Sunday	11th May v Tilehurst (1st XI Friendly)	Home
	11th May v Compton (2nd XI Friendly)	Away
Saturday	17th May v Ibis Mapledurham (1st XI League)	Home
	17th May v Ibis Mapledurham (2nd XI League)	Away
Sunday	18th May v Wallingford Arms (1st XI Friendly)	Away
	18th May v Bucklebury (2nd XI Friendly)	Home
Saturday	24th May v Holyport (1st XI League)	Away
	24th May v Wraybury (2nd XI League)	Home
Sunday	25th May v Sandhurst (1st XI Friendly)	Home
	25th May v Hawley (2nd XI Friendly)	Away
Saturday	31st May v Hawley (1st XI League)	Home
	31st May v Pinkneys Green (2nd XI League)	Away
Sunday	1st June v Farley Hill (1st XI Friendly)	Away (2.00 p.m.)

1st June v Stanford Dingley (2nd XI Friendly)

Home

All Saturday games start at 2.00 p.m. and Sunday games at 2.30 p.m. unless otherwise stated.

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

After visitors were welcomed and birthday posies were delivered, the meeting progressed through to our speaker, Rosemary King. Her talk gave us an account on being Mayoress during 1995/96. The theme "Get to the People or service to the town" gave them much to consider. Have you ever thought what it takes to be a Mayoress for a year? Rosemary accompanied her cousin and, with over 600 appearances, you must have dedication, enthusiasm and, above all, energy. Crawl to bed at 3.00 a.m., up at 7.00 a.m., then suddenly produce 100 sausage rolls at the drop of a hat is a tall order. Thanks to a hard working family behind her, such a task is a once in a lifetime.

Just follow through to some of the appearances which were made. You could be brushing shoulders with the royals, congratulating a lady on her 106th birthday, then be ready with change for the constant raffles. You'll be asked to start Reading Half Marathon or, on a steaming hot day, asked to play hockey. There were 402 charities that year; more now, of course. So plenty of requests here. There's the V.E. Remembrance Service before you attend another Ball. Have to be careful not to wear the same dress, and never wear peeked-toe shoes (tights do ladder), chase off to the home for the elderly, and don't dare miss anyone. Be there to open the children's fete at the Junior School. How they loved the chain of office - real majestic. There were church services to attend, sometimes in one day Church of England, a Catholic service, Jewish Synagogue, Hindu festival, or pop in to a mosque. Some visits were extremely sad, such as casualty department at the Royal Berkshire Hospital following a horrific road accident. Then a wander through to the youths at Reading Prison.

One of Rosemary's favourite visits was to Wembley for Reading's football play-off. Then there is Easter egg rolling and activities concerning Reading Twinning with Dusseldorf (50th Anniversary this year). Another thrill was to watch 9yr - 18yr-olds play and sing at the Royal Albert Hall, then get ready for a water festival (what a problem changing into the correct gear this must be!).

After listening and feeling completely exhausted, we felt congratulations were in order on how this tireless lady completed her term of office with only two days' leave from fatigue. Well done, Rosemary, you served your town well.

Next month is given to this year's resolutions - followed by a cheese and wine. I do feel if we reversed this programme, results could be far more forthcoming!

The flower competition was won by Shirley Lewis with a Bleeding Heart and second was Vi Watts with another Bleeding Heart.

In the competition "Guess Who", old photographs were produced and we were supposed to pair a photo with a member - sorry, I can't give you a winner, we became too hysterical with laughter. (A good game for a party!).

Our next meeting is at 7.30 p.m. at the Memorial Hall on Wednesday, 14th May. Visitors welcome.

Sylvia Conquest
411936

PANGBOURNE VALLEY PLAYGROUP

Join us at the beautiful riverside location of Pangbourne Meadows for

A BARN DANCE

with

POACHERS POCKET

on

FRIDAY, 6th JUNE at 7.30 p.m.

Tickets £7.50 (including supper) available from Percy Stone Ltd. or telephone Vic on 843269 or Amana on 842583 for further details.

Licensed bar available. Entrance by ticket only, so be sure to buy well in advance.

All proceeds to Pangbourne Valley Playgroup (Charity No. 1039967).

J. Davidson
Chairman (843196)

PURLEY (BERKS) TENNIS CLUB

Three quick reminders this month:

Subscriptions:

These are fairly pouring in, response to the new courts and excellent Spring weather is very encouraging. Remember to get your application in by the end of this month in order to qualify for the Wimbledon ticket draw. For the first time in six years we've entered a mixed team in the summer league - things are taking off.

Coaching:

Response to the coaching offered is at record levels for the Juniors, (we had a splendid turn-out for the "clinic" on 8th April), and adult coaching will also be available at the four ball-machine sessions which are new this year. Contact Jane or Trevor below to register interest for these, there are still places available.

Mayday barbecue:

NB I failed to stress this in the last magazine - this is open to non-members. You need to put this in your diaries! Monday 5th May, Bank Holiday, for our first barbecue of the year, following 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. Please bring your OWN MEAT for the barbecue - salad, relishes etc will be provided. No charge for this event!

Trevor Plowman

FROM MY HISTORY NOTEBOOK

The Reading/Oxford Road (A329) - Part 2

At first the Turnpikes enjoyed a period of prosperity - the "Golden Age of Coaching" as it is often referred to. This period of the late 18th and early 19th centuries has been immortalised in the writings of Charles Dickens and on countless Christmas cards today. But the advent of the railways spelt doom for the stage coaches and the turnpike trusts: Reading Station on the Great Western Railway was opened in 1840 and, within a couple of years, many of the coach companies in the town had gone out of business. Everyone, rich and poor, flocked to travel on the new cheaper and faster transport. In an attempt to attract more business, tolls on the Turnpike roads were reduced, but eventually all the Trusts went out of business.

Here are a few examples of the tolls collected at the Pangbourne Lane Gate when it was first opened and just before it finally closed:

	<u>1763</u>	<u>1871</u>
Coach and four horses	1/- (5p)	1/- (5p)
Gig with one horse	4d (2p)	3d (1.5p)
Wagon and two horses	8d (3.5p)	
Wagon with wheels less than 4.5" wide		6d (2.5p)
Wagon with wheels more than 6" wide		4d (2p)
Oxen, cows, cattle - per score	10d (4.5p)	6d (2.5p)
Calves, hogs, sheep - per score	10d (4.5p)	3d (1.5p)
Every vehicle moved or propelled by steam machinery or by any other power than animal power		

This last Toll is very interesting as it indicated the measure of financial penalty imposed on the adventurous, and it also anticipated the development of the internal combustion engine in Germany by about 14 years.

Despite all their efforts, the income of the Wallingford to Reading Turnpike Trust declined and by 1874 it was decided not to ask Parliament for a renewal of their Act. Their affairs were put in order and the Toll gates and Houses were sold off: a Mr. S. Adams of the Pond House (this Public House is still there by the Grovelands Road traffic lights), Oxford Road, Reading offered £10 for the materials of the Toll House at Pangbourne Lane Gate as well as the gate and posts themselves. For this sum he also had to remove everything himself after 12 midnight on 31st October. The Surveyor would then "level the ground and coat with gravel and put in proper order the land which will be added to the road on the removal of the Toll house". At the same time, it was also arranged for all the mileposts to be repainted. At their final meeting in Wallingford on 18th February 1875, the Trustees authorised the surplus funds and materials, which totalled £472, to be divided amongst the parishes along the route. Purley's share was £41.15s.5d (£41.77.5p) for 2,486 yards of road through the parish. The Turnpike Road then came under the jurisdiction of the Highways Board, the precursor of the County Council, in 1888.

The only surviving visual evidence today of our Turnpike Road is a set of 11 milestones, which are said to be one of the best preserved sets in this part of the country. They are all the same shape: semi-circular solids on square prisms, the tops of the stones being inclined planes. The distances to Reading, Wallingford and Oxford are shown in cut lettering painted black on a white background. Purley's milestone is on the south side of the road, in the grass bank outside Trenthams Ltd. Old maps indicate that it may have

once been positioned on the north side of the road. The milestone by the Roebuck has disappeared but there is one in Pangbourne on the left hand side near the first houses. Jean Debney
(This article was first published in Purley Parish News in January 1983 and has been reproduced by kind permission of Jean Debney).

LAUGHLINES

Why was the Egyptian schoolboy confused?

Because his Daddy was a Mummy!

What does the ocean say when it sees the shore?

Nothing. It just waves!

PURLEY PARISH NEWS

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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, 3rd May**. All copy for the June issue must reach me by 15th May and the magazine will be published on **Saturday, 31st May**.

Editor