

ST. MARY'S CHURCH - PURLEY ON THAMES

**

SUNDAY SERVICES

See page 3 for full details.

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: 429116 Tel: 415994

CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR Sally Robertson
Tel: 625978

CHURCH HIRINGS Liane Southam
Tel: 428243

BAPTISMS Enquiries about baptism should be made to the Curate (451411)

WEDDINGS Enquiries about weddings should be made to Jackie Benstead
(429116)

FUNERALS Enquiries about funerals should be made to the Curate (451411)

Dear Friends,

Autumn is now upon us as we see the mist swirling in the river valley early in the morning. We can also see that the light is fading earlier in the evening. And, of course, with schools already back for a month and colleges starting, the summer seems to be some distance away. The pressure of time is relentless and certainly isn't helped by the arrival last month of Christmas decorations in the shops.

But it is always helpful to take time to stop and think of what has gone on over the summer as well as to look forward. This is where Harvest Festivals can be a great time of celebration.

For many of us today, the safe gathering of the harvest is less relevant than for our forebears. Although we have had a tradition of harvest celebrations at St. Mary's, our gifts have been becoming increasingly similar to those of an urban church. I remember as a child seeing harvest produce arrive in tins and grocery bags rather than baskets fresh from the fields.

There is though still the desire in a village community to give thanks to God for the gifts He has given. No matter how distant our own experience of cultivation may be, allotments aside, we still want to say thank you for what we have received.

I would like to suggest that we can also use our Harvest Festival as a time of anticipation as well as thanksgiving. I see our festival services as times of rededication too.

Rededication to God's purposes for our shared life as a community.

As a community, we cannot survive unless everyone plays their part to see growth and development. That often means quite hard work for all. So a time of reflection on what has been and looking forward to the future is appropriate.

The first Secretary General of the United Nations, Dag Hammarskjold, was a committed believer. His prayers for each stage of life was "*For what has been, `thanks!'; for what is ahead, `yes'.*"

May we be able to express thanksgiving to God for His gifts to us, and also dedicate our future to Him as well.

With love in Christ,

SUNDAY SERVICES FOR OCTOBER

5th Oct.	10.30 a.m.	Harvest Thanksgiving
	6.00 p.m.	Harvest Communion
12th Oct.	9.30 a.m.	Family Worship
	11.15 a.m.	Holy Communion
19th Oct.	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
	11.15 a.m.	Morning Worship
	6.00 p.m.	Evening Worship
26th Oct.	9.30 a.m.	Family Worship
	11.15 a.m.	Holy Communion
	3.00 p.m.	Community Memorial Service

PARISH REGISTERS

Marriages

30th August	Nicholas Philip Boole & Georgina Ellen Woolger
6th September	Simon Mark Jackson & Michelle Jane Patrick
20th September	Mark Damien Coop & Sara Jane Allen

Thanksgiving after a Civil Marriage

20th September	Simon Mitchell & Lesley Dyer
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Funerals

Lillian Ethel Gibbs, aged 96

HARVEST FESTIVAL - 5th OCTOBER

10.30 a.m.	Harvest Thanksgiving Service (no other morning services)
4.00 p.m.	Harvest Shared Tea
5.00 p.m.	Auction of harvest produce
6.00 p.m.	Harvest Communion Service

It has been suggested that non-perishable goods could be donated to the Drop-In Centre at St. Saviours in Reading. The fresh produce would be auctioned in aid of Children's Aid Direct.

COMMUNITY MEMORIAL SERVICE

This year's service will be held on **Sunday, 26th October at 3.00 p.m.** It will be followed, as usual, by tea. If any people would like to attend, they will be very welcome. Please contact the Curate (451411) if you would like an invitation or know of anyone who should be invited.

CHRISTMAS IS COMING

The Christmas Bazaar this year is to take place on **Saturday, 29th November.** We have set a PANTOMIME theme and look forward to imaginative and fun stalls. If you would like to man a stall or be involved with the Bazaar, please contact Jean Chudleigh (842563); Marjorie Butler (418856) or Roger Kennedy (426972) as soon as possible. **There will be prizes for the "Best Dressed" stalls.**

Jean Chudleigh

LUNCH POT

There's a definite feel of autumn in the air now and the evenings are drawing in. Lunch Pot can offer you a warming lunch of homemade soup, jacket potatoes and home-baked cakes each chilly Thursday at St. Mary's church hall, 11.45 a.m. - 1.00 p.m.

The new term started on 11th September with sausage rolls on the menu as the "special". We have a different savoury special each week, including the likes of pizza, chicken drumsticks, chilli and other mouth-watering delights.

On 2nd October Lunch Pot celebrated Harvest. Everyone who brought a tin of food got a cup of tea or coffee free of charge. All tins collected will be going to St. Saviours Christian Centre in Reading.

Lunch Pot will be holding its termly open meeting on Monday, 13th October at 8.00 p.m. at the church hall. If you would like to know how Lunch Pot is run, what our aims are or if you have any ideas to share, please come along.

If you can't come to the meeting, do come and see us on Thursday lunch times, 11.45 a.m. - 1.00 p.m. at the church hall.

Abi Stinson

THAMES VALLEY ARTISTS ART AND CRAFT EXHIBITION

We are holding our annual Art and Craft Exhibition at Purley Memorial Hall on Saturday, 1st November, 10.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m., and Sunday, 2nd November, 9.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m. There will be a wide variety of original paintings and craft items for sale produced by local artists. The work is of a high standard and is well worth a visit. Admission is free and refreshments will be available.

Maggy Pickard

PROJECT PURLEY

The next meeting will be held on Friday, 17th October. Denys Hutchings will present an evening of slides of Purley and vicinity. The venue is to be advised.

Rita Denman, Meetings Secretary

IN MEMORY OF DIANA, PRINCESS OF WALES

You gave your love to all ages and colours
and they in turn are returning all their love to you
May you both rest in peace together
Your boys will not be on their own
They have a world of people who love them.

You were like a beautiful rose
Blooming to make others happy
But just as you were flourishing and setting out new shoots,
getting established in your new position
You were cut hard back and died.

Carol MacGill

CHILDREN'S SOCIETY BOXES

I think I have a list of all the boxholders in the parish, and hope to get them all collected and emptied during November. If you have a box, and reason to think that I may not know about it, please ring me on 984 3589.

Sybil Pryor

PANGBOURNE & DISTRICT VOLUNTEER CENTRE

Bring and Buy Coffee Morning on **Thursday, 30th October, 10.30 a.m. - 12 noon at The Dorman Room, St. Bernadette's Church, Horseshoe Road, Pangbourne.** Cakes, jams, raffle etc. All welcome.

E.M. Mathews, Publicity Officer

ADULT DANCING

After another successful year, classes started again at the end of September. A new class will start at the Reading Adult College - Tap Dancing for Older People. Details will be found at the Wilson Road Centre.

Our Wednesday evening Tap Dancing class will continue. This is a mixed ability fun class; progress is guaranteed but no pressure to do medal tests. We still do our Dance and Exercise class at the Abbey Building Gym in Battle Hospital - we still buy equipment for the Physiotherapy Department. This class will be starting its 17th year at the hospital.

Congratulations to examination candidates this year in both Tap Dancing and Dance and Exercise.

June Mycroft

Congratulations to Purley Playgroup on their recent success in the Government inspections. The educational and social development of the children has been praised.

Purley Playgroup is a friendly and popular playgroup. It celebrated its 21st anniversary this year. They offer a wide range of activities which help children learn and develop through play.

Activities include learning from creative activities, books, drawing, painting, jigsaws, dressing-up, sand, water and home corner. The large physical equipment such as climbing frame and trampoline are greatly enjoyed. The current theme is the alphabet - the basis of all understanding.

At breaktime the children have the benefit of a large, secure outside area with grass and paths where children can run and use bikes.

The Playgroup meets at the Memorial Hall, Glebe Road for children aged 3,4 and 5. The sessions are held each morning 9.15 - 11.45 a.m. and one afternoon 1.00 - 3.30 p.m.

To put your child on the waiting list, please ring Sue Slade on 410778; please feel free to pop in and see us.

PURLEY HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

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

The first talk on 'Hardy Plants for the Small Garden' is on Wednesday, 15th October at 8.00 p.m. at the Memorial Hall.

Don't forget the Social Evening on Wednesday, 19th November. Tickets will be on sale soon.

The Cup Winners at the Summer Show were:

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

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

The Trading Store is open on Saturday and Sunday mornings, 10.00 - 11.00 until November 30th.

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

Anne Stockley,
Secretary

DISTRICT NOTES

Good news on the traffic front. Thanks primarily to an effort on the part of pupils at Denefield School, the Council has agreed to go out to consultation on a 30 mph speed limit for the whole of Long Lane. The double white lining extension on Purley Rise already seems to be having a positive effect and hopefully we shall soon have the 50 mph limit on the stretch between Beech Road and Sulham Lane. The principle of a 30 mph limit in all our villages has been accepted and, having seen it work successfully in Suffolk, I am sure it will be of benefit to West Berkshire.

At the time of writing, I have not been given the details of the new rail timetable but do not expect any significant changes.

One more success has been on the subject of Concessionary Fares. We have had a lot of confusion about what fare-band individuals are in and the result has been a lot of unfairness. Now I have managed to get agreement that from next July the whole of Purley will be in Band B with Reading as the designated centre.

Preliminary plans for the new library in Newbury have been agreed and the County Council has released money to get the project underway as soon as possible. This will form the headquarters for the library service for the new West Berkshire Authority.

A lot of organisations have been receiving funding from Berkshire County Council and, of course, this source will dry up from April next year. An agreement between all the new Unitary Authorities will ensure that equivalent funding will continue for the next two years and this will enable new arrangements to be made for the future. There will be a Voluntary Sector Conference at Newbury on Wednesday, 19th November and, if there are any organisations who would like further details, then please ring Paul Bodenham on 01635 519461.

Paul McMahan left the Council after 20 years service, the last 9 as Chief Executive.

Some will remember him as a resident of Cecil Aldin Drive when he was working for Berkshire County Council. He is hoping to take up writing so look out for his name on the best seller list.

Barry Fitzgerald has joined the Council as Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator, although he will be based at Newbury Police Station. If any of the Neighbourhood Watch committees want to contact him, then please ring 01235 776000. He would also be pleased to hear from anyone wanting to set up a Neighbourhood Watch.

John Chapman, Newbury District Councillor, Purley Ward

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Returning from our summer break, we were stunned by the tragic and sudden death of Diana, Princess of Wales. Members who travelled to London were astounded by the oceans of flowers. It was something to be seen to be believed. Our thoughts and hopes are with the families concerned.

Our guest speaker came from Burford where a Blue Cross Centre operates (Animal Charity). Mr. Jerry Serle discussed the positive side of the foundation and the service is the same as the TV vet programme, Animal Hospital, and has developed over the years. Their policy is never to destroy an animal but provide loving homes. Blue Cross started 100 years ago by six ladies and they formed the Dumb Friends League. The ladies campaigned purely for horses. Horses then were badly treated, poorly fed and were given heavy loads to deliver beyond their capability. In London Victoria the public responded well and the pharmacy operated throughout two World Wars.

World War I was overwhelmingly cruel to humans, also to animals, in appalling conditions. 3,000 horses were treated alongside enemy rescue dogs. World War II gave us the bombing with blitzed houses and this meant suffering family pets were hopefully rescued by volunteers.

What do they do today? Rescue animals from the elderly who no longer can afford or cope with their beloved companions, as well as animals from families who part company. FREE OF CHARGE they educate and train owners not to leave cigarette burns on their fluffy friends. Sad to say, cruelty to animals is on the increase. Unlike the RSPCA, they rely on public donations, so if you want to leave a little something in your dying Will and Testament, think who will benefit! An important factor is they guarantee to pair animals with appropriate owners. Horse protection is an important part of their business; in fact, no animal is turned away.

We always try to pair the competition with the speaker and so last month's was "An Animal made from Fruit or Veg". First was Shirley Lewis with a wicked looking dragon made from a cucumber, and second was Sylvia Conquest with a much more friendly mouse made from a pear (you see, Blue Peter does come in handy!). The Flower Competition was won by Carol MacGill with a dark blue gladioli, and second were Florrie Hughes and Kath Hughes with a begonia and white Japanese anemone.

The next meeting is on the 8th October, 7.30 p.m. at Purley Memorial Hall when the speaker will be Ben Viljoen on "The Story of Frances Ann Hawes of Purley Hall". Sylvia Conquest

PURLEY MEMORIAL HALL ACTIVITIES DURING OCTOBER

8th October	7.30 p.m.	Women's Institute
11th October	2.00 - 5.00 p.m.	Craft Fair
15th October	8.00 p.m.	Purley Horticultural Society - "Hardy Plants for the Small Garden"
23rd October	7.30 p.m.	Purley Memorial Hall A.G.M.
1st November	10.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m.	Thames Valley Artists Art & Craft Exhibition
2nd November	9.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m.	Thames Valley Artists Art & Craft Exhibition

Mrs. J.E. Hutchings
Secretary (843809)

DENEFIELD SCHOOL

Premises Staff Required

*** GROUNDS MAINTENANCE ASSISTANT ***

to keep the grounds litter free and assist with minor maintenance

Salary: £3,128 per annum (£4 per hour)

15 hours per week: 12 noon - 3 pm daily

*** CLEANER REQUIRED ***

to join team of 12 part-time cleaners. Previous experience desirable but not essential.

Salary: £3,128 per annum (£4 per hour)

15 hours per week: 3.10 pm - 6.10 pm daily

These jobs are offered separately or could be combined if desired.

Please fax, ring or write to 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

PURLEY C. OF E. INFANT SCHOOL

The Autumn term has started well at Purley School. The new children settled really quickly and are coping well with school life and routines. I am pleased to report that nobody cried on the first day! This year we have again been successful in our bid for a grant from the "Small Schools' Fund". Together with All Saints Infant School in Reading, we have been awarded £2,200 to help enhance the curriculum. In line with government initiatives, we are using the funds to support the teaching of sport and the arts. All the children are taking part in a series of short tennis lessons and later in the year we hope to organise visits to school from local artists. In the summer term we were visited by a group of poets who read well known poems and rhymes to the children and organised workshops, which encouraged the children to write their own verse. At Christmas they will make a return visit.

We continue to develop very close links with All Saints School which is a small Church of England (Controlled) Infant School very similar to us at Purley. The staff meet together to moderate work, share ideas and attend courses. Year 2 children will meet together when they take part in a geography exchange; they will visit each other's school, church and immediate area and then compare their findings.

Physical education is an important part of the school curriculum. We provide a range of lessons around the programmes of study for P.E. which include dance, games, use of small apparatus and gymnastics. At Purley School we do not have a hall. This is a major problem throughout the year but particularly when the weather is bad. Thanks to the kindness of Mr. Kuhles, we are able to use Long Lane Primary School hall for gymnastics which enables Purley children to receive their full entitlement to the National Curriculum for P.E. The governors at Purley School feel this situation is far from satisfactory and have recently approached the County Buildings Department for advice and help. As a result, we now have detailed plans for a new school hall and an estimate of costs but unfortunately no funding. We will continue to request funding from the new Unitary Authority and indeed from any other source willing to help provide funds.

During the week October 6th - 10th, Purley School will be taking part in a National Festival of Religious Education. We will be displaying some of our work at St. Mary's Church. Other events this term include Harvest Festival and a trip to London to visit the National Gallery.

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

Jeannette Goddard, Headteacher

LONG LANE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Happy new (school) year! The summer seemed to fly by in the fast lane again and before we knew it the term had started. This year is a landmark in the development of our school as it has grown so much over the past five years that we have the largest number of children on record supported by the largest number of teaching and non-teaching staff.

Over the summer break, the building was altered to create our ninth classroom. We welcomed 52 new children to the school as well as a new teacher, Miss Tattersfield, who joins our thriving infant department.

Despite now having 245 children on roll, the overall pupil/teacher ratio is very good and we believe that smaller classes are in the best interests of the children. As well as teaching the National Curriculum, we are also running ten after school clubs, ranging from Dance to School Band as well as Football and Netball.

As well as having more children, you may have noticed the new school badge proudly displayed on Royal Blue sweatshirts/cardigans. The governors agreed to the changes last year and the badge shows Long Lane Primary set at the bottom of Long Lane "between" Purley and Tilehurst and near to the River Thames. The badge was designed by Mr. Hambly, one of our teachers, and this addition to the "Dress Code" looks really smart and business-like and is proving popular with our children and their parents. The motto included in the badge is **"strive to succeed"** and sums up our expectations of all those working in the school.

As a school we believe that we can face the challenges presented by new government legislation and the changes as we enter West Berkshire Unitary Authority with

confidence. As Headteacher I am hoping that the changes will not mean even more of a paper mountain but that I can achieve a better balance between managing the school and actually teaching!

A.T. Kuhles,
Headteacher

***** DATE FOR YOUR DIARY *****

CRAFT FAIR - SATURDAY 11th OCTOBER, 2.00 - 5.00 p.m.

Purley Memorial Hall

Attractive goods awaiting to be Christmas wrapped. See you there over a cup of tea.

FROM MY HISTORY NOTEBOOK

Some Coroners' Inquests - A. Elizabeth Coles 1814

The office of Coroner is an ancient one that dates from the time of the Norman kings. Although they had other official duties, their main responsibility has always been to hold inquests in cases of sudden death. The survival of their records is patchy and references are often hidden among other records. In the 17th century, the Reading Burgesses held a weekly Court to try minor offences, and they often included an enquiry into local deaths; these transactions are recorded and were printed (unindexed) in the 19th century. The records for the higher court of Quarter Sessions in Berkshire survive from the early 18th century, all earlier documents having been destroyed in a fire a long time ago. Among these papers are Coroners' reports relating to all parts of the County.

Tucked between the pages of Purley's 19th century Burial Register was preserved an Original Coroner's warrant, dated 4th October 1814, to permit the burial of Elizabeth Coles "who now lies dead in your Parish". The relevant entry in the Register on the 5th October gives no clue how she died but noted that she came from Whitchurch, whereas the stone marking her burial place near the north wall of Purley Church Tower is more explicit. Armed with this information, I visited the County Record Office to make a search through the Quarter Sessions Rolls which is a long and rather grubby task, and I found the following information:

It was on the 2nd October 1814 that Elizabeth Coles, with two companions, was driving along the road leading to Purley. Suddenly, the black mare that was drawing their gig took fright and ran away. Elizabeth leapt out of the carriage and hit the ground with such force that from "one mortal blow and contusion on the head" she "then and there died". The Jury at the Inquest two days later brought in a verdict of accidental death caused,

they said, by the black mare which was said to be owned by John Simon, Esq. JP, of Whitchurch, and worth 30s (£1.50).

The report does not state where the Inquisition was held but lists the twelve "good and lawful men of the said county" who were chosen and sworn to make enquiries. They were William Willan (the Foreman), George Reynolds, Joseph Dean, John White, James Holmes, Michael Lukeman, William Evans, James Smith, Thomas Ruddle, Samuel and Charles Musgrove, and the Rector Charles Manesty. Several of these appear to be men of some standing connected with the village, and the numbers were made up from the villagers themselves.

The following day Elizabeth was buried and, despite some weathering on her monument, it is just possible to make out the inscription: "*Sacred to the memory of Elizabeth Coles/who was accidentally killed/on the 2nd of October 1814/aged 24 years/Watch therefore Reader*". There is also a footstone inscribed "E C 1814".

Jean Debney

(This article was first published in Purley Parish News in June 1983 and has been reproduced by kind permission of Jean Debney).

GARDENER'S CORNER

Since I started to write these articles, I have been approached several times to either come and identify plants or to give first hand advice on gardening problems. Now I would be the first to admit that I cannot always give a definitive answer before conducting a little research, but this is how we all learn more about our chosen hobby.

I, therefore, thought that it might be interesting if I asked you, the reader, to write to me with any gardening problems that you may have so that I could share both the problem and, hopefully, the answer with everyone else. Given the space restriction on this column, I will have to restrict those questions published to ones I consider to be of the greatest general interest but I will reply to everyone provided you send me a stamped addressed envelope with your question. If you would also like to comment on these articles or suggest future topics, then I would be delighted to consider any ideas that you have. I look forward to hearing from you.

October is often characterised by rain, wind and cloud but can also bring periods of fine

"Indian Summer" weather. It is during these periods that gardeners traditionally carry out Autumn digging to ensure that the coming frosts will break up the ground so that a fine tilth may be obtained for sowing crops in the Spring. New lawns may be laid and perennial borders revitalised by either planting new specimens or lifting and dividing old plants to form new more vigorous ones for next year's display. It is also the peak planting period to produce that vibrant spring bulb display that we all look forward to after the dark and gloomy winter months.

One of the most satisfying tasks this month is to lift and store Dahlia tubers for use again next year. Not only is this a good money saving idea but I have found that you can also store bedding Dahlias grown from seed this year to give another display for particularly no expense at all. It is best to wait until the first frosts have blackened the stems before lifting and drying the tubers. Take particular care not to damage the fleshy tubers. If you accidentally damage a tuber, then cut the damaged parts cleanly using a sharp knife and dust the cuts with flowers of sulphur. Remove all soil from around the tubers and hang upside down in a frost free place for about a week so that the sap, still in the stems, has time to dry out. Once the plants have dried out, you have a choice on how to store them. This depends on where you intend to keep them and how frost free this location is. If you provide a frost free shed or spare room, then it is best to use slightly moist peat in shallow boxes. The peat should just cover the tubers but not the crown of the plant (the point where the tubers join the stem). This where next year's growth will originate and it is vital that no rot occurs here. A further dusting of flowers of sulphur can be given as an extra precaution against this rot occurring. If the chosen location is a garage, for example, and cannot be guaranteed to be entirely frost free, then the tubers can be stored in dry horticultural vermiculite which has good insulating properties. Use deeper boxes for this method with a good layer of the vermiculite spread on the bottom of the box up to 1 ft thick. Place the tubers in the box and cover again with another deep layer of the vermiculite. Finally spread a thin sheet of polythene over the top.

Both methods require the tubers to be checked periodically. If the tubers appear shrunken, then either the peat should be moistened or the tubers should be placed in a bucket of tepid water for the night, dried and replaced in the vermiculite. In cold weather don't place the tubers in water where the temperature could drop below 50°F.

Other jobs to do in the garden this month:-

Roses - Prepare the ground thoroughly for new plants incorporating good garden compost of well rotted manure and a slow release fertiliser. Existing plants should still be sprayed against black spot. Gathering up and burning infected leaves will also prevent the spread of this fungal disease.

Hardy Herbaceous Plants - As I indicated in the introduction, this is the ideal time for

planting new perennials or dividing old plants. If the soil is a little dry, then plants should be puddled in with water to aid the plants in becoming established before the winter sets in.

Greenhouses and Frames - If you're over-wintering plants in a slightly heated greenhouse, then you can save on your electricity bills by insulating the house with bubble wrap polythene. This is available from all Garden Centres but you may find that you can get it cheaper from a stationery outlet such as Staples. This is also a good time to check that your heating system, whether electric, gas etc., is working and in good order.

Trees and Shrubs - Take hardwood cuttings of such shrubs as Aucuba, Buddleia davidii, Deutzia, Escallonia and Kerria. These cuttings should be about 1ft long having been cut with a sharp knife immediately below a leaf joint. They should then be plunged into sandy soil either in a cold frame or in the open.

Vegetables - Cut any remaining marrows and transfer to a frost free place for future use. Beetroot and maincrop carrots may also be lifted and stored now.

Happy Gardening,

Colin Graves, 2 The Hydes, Tilehurst, Reading RG31 6GD

PURLEY (BERKS) TENNIS CLUB

The time and effort we've put into the coaching and ball machine sessions this year has really paid off, both in terms of record membership, and the general quality of play.

The annual club tournaments for juniors and seniors were held on successive weekends in September. The junior tournaments were very well supported - a total of 15 took part in the various singles, and 10 came back the following day to play in the doubles. This competition was a particularly close-run event, with the outcome in the balance right to the end. The same is true of the Boys singles events, where U12 and O12 age categories were hotly contested, the decision resting on a single game. Final results:

Singles	Winner	Runner-up
Boys Under 8	Richard Gallagher	Iain Graham
Boys Under 12	Paul Reber	David Storer
Boys Over 12	Denis Pavlovic	Johnathan Kuhles

Girls	Catherine Ross	N/A
Junior Doubles	Johnathan and Jeremy Kuhles	Jointly, Catherine and Victoria Ross and Denis Pavlovic/Edward Perugia

Catherine was disappointed at having no competition in the singles, and looks forward to taking on all comers next year.

The Senior event the following weekend was also well attended, particularly in the afternoon when 8 pairs contested the Mixed Doubles. Those of us who played in both doubles events and the singles certainly felt a little creaky the next day. We were especially pleased that the competitions were so even this year, and several newcomers to tournament play surprised themselves with some good performances.

The day was nearly ruined by our finding one of the net posts broken clean through on our arrival. With some ingenuity we effected a repair, but it certainly delayed the start. Please report vandalism to the police.

Without any fiddling, bribery or corruption, our lady chairman made a clean sweep of the titles this year, just coming through in the final of the mixed doubles by 7-5, before it got too dark to play. The full results are:

Singles	Winner	Runner-up
Mens	Dave Reber	Ken Grindal
Ladies	Lesley Charlesworth	Noreen Bedford
Mens Doubles	Ken Grindal and Trevor Plowman	Geoff Davies and Martin Dickins
Ladies Doubles	Lesley Charlesworth and Mary Brooksbank	Victoria Ross and Maureen Statham
Mixed Doubles	Lesley Charlesworth and Dave Reber	Jane Perugia and Martin Dickins

Presentations of trophies to both winners and runners up will be made at the Skittles Evening and Club AGM at The Angel, Woolhampton, on Saturday, 18th October, 7.30 pm.

League Matches

The club runs 3 teams during the Autumn and Winter, 2 Ladies and 1 Mens. Anyone looking for match practice should contact Trevor Plowman 419864 or Jane Perugia 843932. The standard is not that high, so don't be afraid to give it a try.

THE SOUTH CHILTERN LIONS CLUB

The South Chiltern Lions are pleased to announce that this year is our 25th year of service to the local community including Purley. We, as a club, are most grateful to the residents of Purley on Thames for their support and generosity over the past twenty-five years. Your support has allowed us to give help and assistance in many ways, including the youth, physically and mentally impaired and those less fortunate than ourselves.

On 11th October, 8.00 p.m we will be holding a Wine and Cheese tasting at Pangbourne Village Hall. Tickets from The Wine Rack, Taylors and Pangbourne Delicatessen - £6.00.

We will be presenting a Charity Concert at Drake Hall, Pangbourne College on Saturday, 8th November at 8.00 p.m.

It will be a joint concert featuring the Thames Valley Chorus and the Pangbourne Silver Band; both very popular and successful on the local music scene.

The Thames Valley Chorus won the bronze medal at the National Barbershop Championship in May, and the Pangbourne Silver Band were promoted to Section 3 in the Regional Qualifying Group earlier this year.

An enjoyable and stimulating evening is promised to music lovers of all ages, guaranteed to banish any autumnal blues.

Proceeds will go to The South Chiltern Lions Club Charity Fund which is used to support many local good causes and charities.

Tickets are priced at £6 for adults, £4 for concessions (senior citizens and students) and are available from Lion Malcolm Smailes (424913) or Percy Stone Ltd., Pangbourne or Abacus Dental Studio, Theale.

We also need donations of various items in good condition, for our Christmas Fair. If you have toys, games, books, bric-a-brac etc., please contact me. We can also arrange collection.

John Christopher

LAUGHLINES

A Theological student had to write two essays - one on the Holy Spirit and the other on the Devil.

He tackled the one on the Holy Spirit first and found that it took up so much time that he was unable to start the second essay. In order to show that he had not forgotten it he wrote "I've no time for the Devil".

PURLEY PARISH NEWS

EDITOR:Pauline Manning, 5 Oak Tree Walk, Purley on Thames. Tel: 429630

ADVERTISING:Claire Pearson, 'Letgable', Purley Village.

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 October**. All copy for the November issue must reach me by 15th October and the magazine will be published on **Saturday, 1st November**.

Editor