

ST. MARY'S CHURCH - PURLEY ON THAMES

**

SUNDAY SERVICES

See page 3 for full details.

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The Rectory,
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Purley on Thames
Tel: 417727

CURATE Rev. Brendan Bailey,
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READERS Jean Rothery Wally Watkivs
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CHURCHWARDENS Jackie Benstead David Jordan
Tel: 429116 Tel: 415994

CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR Sally Robertson
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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,

"We will remember them"

In a week's time we shall be keeping November 9th as Remembrance Sunday. There will be a silence at each of the two services that day. As usual we shall remember all those from the village, especially those who gave their lives for the sake of freedom and peace.

Many today think that we should forget about the two World Wars and move on. But I'm sure that the sacrifices made by so many people have had a profound effect on all of us. It is very easy to say that we make our own present and future. But our present situation is the product of past generations. We see the effects of the history and the deeds of our forebears.

The biblical concept of remembrance is much more than simply not forgetting what has gone before. When the Bible speaks of remembering, it means bringing the past to life and showing what meaning the past has for the present and the future. In Church we do this week by week as we gather together for the Communion Service when we remember the death and resurrection of Jesus. When we share in the bread and wine of Communion, we declare that Jesus' sacrifice has significance for us today.

We will all see something of the events in the Albert Hall, at the Cenotaph and at the various commemorations round the immediate areas. When we do so we are not simply

"remembering - not forgetting" the lives of those who died. Rather we are declaring to society as a whole that their sacrifice is important to us today. We are saying that their lives and deeds have made us who we are.

This is perhaps more important as the end of the global hostilities become more remote for many of us. Almost two generations have lived since the end of the war and those who fought in the two World Wars have died or become increasingly frail. In remembering, we remind them and ourselves that what they experienced is as important now as it was then.

In the last few years there has been a campaign to reintroduce the two minutes silence on the 11th November to commemorate the formal end of the wars. This is highly commendable because it helps society as a whole to focus on matters more important than making money or spending it. It is an opportunity to re-value the past and to endue it with contemporary meaning for each of us.

Wherever you are and whatever you are doing on November 11th, I would encourage you to stop and reflect on the sacrifice of those who fought and died to make us free. In doing so, we show that we appreciate what they have offered for us.

With best wishes in Christ,

PACT (Parents and Children Together)

PACT is an approved adoption agency and also has an active community team running projects in the Oxford Diocese. It is based in Bath Road, Reading and has two SPHERE drop-in centres, in Coley and Southcote, and a weekly surgery in Basingstoke Road, offering friendship, support and advice to parents with pre-school children who may feel lonely and isolated.

They are currently launching an appeal to help them re-equip the creches at their drop-in centres. If you can help either with fundraising or providing equipment or working as a volunteer, please contact Pam Jamieson, PCC Secretary, on 414338 for further information.

SUNDAY SERVICES FOR NOVEMBER

2nd Nov.	9.30 a.m.	Family Worship
	11.15 p.m.	Morning Worship
	6.00 p.m.	Holy Communion
9th Nov.	9.30 a.m.	Family Worship
	11.15 a.m.	Holy Communion
16th Nov.	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
	11.15 a.m.	Morning Worship
	6.00 p.m.	Evening Worship
23rd Nov.	9.30 a.m.	Family Worship
	11.15 a.m.	Holy Communion
30th Nov.	9.30 a.m.	Family Worship
	11.15 a.m.	Holy Communion

LUNCH POT

September and October have been busy months for Lunch Pot. Last month we celebrated Harvest in our own special way when tins of food were exchanged for a free cup of tea. Thank you to all those who contributed - our donation to St. Saviours Drop-In Centre was very much appreciated.

As I was chatting to a friend recently, she explained that she used to come to Lunch Pot with her children. Now that the children were all at school she said "it's just me". Well, you don't have to have pre-school children to take to Lunch Pot with you. There are other "just me's" to chat to and spend a pleasant hour enjoying good home-made food at reasonable prices. It certainly beats cooking for yourself! But don't take my word for it - why not come and see for yourself. You'll be sure of a warm welcome at Lunch Pot. Every Thursday in term time 11.45 a.m. - 1.00 p.m. at St. Mary's Church.

Abi Stinson

BARGAIN CORNER

Excellent Christmas present for computer games enthusiast

Super Nintendo games console with two controllers and 18 games, boxed and in immaculate condition.

£150.00

Tel: 844223 (evenings)

READING AREA COMMUNITY/POLICE CONSULTATIVE GROUP

Invite you to attend a public meeting and meet your local police

Are you worried about the rise in crime, vandalism, car theft, robbery, assault or drug/alcohol abuse. Concerned over parking, traffic or speeding? You are, then this is your opportunity to discuss these and any other related policing matters or difficulties which you may wish to identify.

The next meeting of the Consultative Group will be held on the evening of **Thursday, 27th November, in the main school hall, Long Lane Primary School, commencing at 7.30 p.m.**

There will be a period of **Public Question Time** which will enable you to voice your concerns over the policing of your area. The Area Commander for the Reading Police Area will be present at this meeting together with his local officers. Don't miss this chance of meeting your local police. Your views are important.

For further details, contact Oxford (01865) 846780.

THE ARTHRITIS & RHEUMATISM COUNCIL PANGBOURNE AND DISTRICT BRANCH

The Thames Vale Singers very kindly raised over £400 for the cause at their Autumn Concert.

Thursday, 6th November - Christmas Coffee Morning

Dorman Rooms, Horseshoe Road, Pangbourne, 10.00 a.m. - 12 noon. Cards, gifts, raffle.

Required commencing January 1998

Two Committee Members due to retirements and a house move! Committee meetings are held 2 - 3 times per year, during the afternoon. We welcome young family people and newly retired folk to this worthwhile voluntary work! For further details, please contact Anne Bolam on 421020 or Anne Rowell on 843005 - or come to our coffee morning to find out more!

The Autumn term has begun very well with all the new children settling in fast.

The children are having great fun with this term's theme of the alphabet. They are confidently gaining knowledge at every session whilst playing at the same time.

You may have seen the article which appeared in the local Midweek Chronicle recently. A photographer visited the Playgroup to take a picture of the children. The children enjoyed this and it gave us opportunities to discuss different areas of interest with them.

We have had wonderful weather this term so far, but it is changing now. Please remember to bring a coat to the Playgroup for your child to wear during break time. The Wendy House, bikes and other outdoor toys are much appreciated by the children. It is nice for them to use up some energy, whenever the weather permits an outdoor break.

The AGM was a big success. This could have been because it was accompanied by an excellent wine tasting event! Thank you to all those who took part and best wishes to the new Committee. A particular thank you goes to Sue and Debbie for all their work as Treasurer and Secretary.

Any parent is welcome to join the Committee. Please don't wait to be asked, the invitation is always open. If you are interested, please contact Sue Slade, the Supervisor, on 410778.

Sue can also assist you if you would like to put your child's name down on the waiting list, or just want to visit the Playgroup.

Date for Your Diary

6th December
(See Page 6)

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Christmas Fair at Purley Infant School

Annie Thorpe

PURLEY MEMORIAL HALL ACTIVITIES FOR THE COMING MONTH

9th November	3.00 p.m.	Remembrance Day Service
12th November	7.30 p.m.	Women's Institute
19th November	8.00 p.m.	Horticultural Society Annual Event

Mrs. J.E. Hutchings,
Hon. Secretary (843809)

PURLEY ON THAMES PARISH COUNCIL

At the Parish Council meeting held recently, it was reported that two of the new noticeboards recently installed in the parish had been vandalised and would need considerable repair. It was also reported that damage is being caused to the trees and paths in Pikeshaw which, as parishioners will be aware, is an amenity area for the benefit of all. The new bus shelter on the A329 at the top of New Hill was vandalised within four weeks of its installation with the consequence that the seat in the shelter had to be removed.

Since the cost of the repairs will have to be met from parish funds and thus the Purley ratepayers, it is in everyone's interest that parents and passers-by take appropriate action if they become aware of any damage being caused.

R.D. Fullbrook,
Clerk to the Council

PANGBOURNE W.I. MARKET

Please **do not** put your empty jam and pickle jars in the recycling box where they will be smashed up and power will then be needed to regenerate them again as something useful. Instead consider passing them to the **Pangbourne W.I. Market** where they will be recycled in a much better way by refilling with excellent home-made preserves for sale at the market. Currently, we have a severe shortage of jars for filling with jams and chutneys which utilise surplus fruit and vegetables available at this time of the year. Hence this produce is going to waste. We can only think that this dearth of jars has resulted from them being put in the recycling baskets because that's the easy thing to do. Please help us to reduce waste and make full use of what this planet (and a bit of hard work in the garden) gives us.

Any jars may be delivered to the market at Pangbourne Village Hall (by the car park) on

Friday mornings between 9 and 11 a.m. Alternatively, contact Vi Watts on 414400.
Thank you.

FROM MY HISTORY NOTEBOOK

Some Coroners' Inquests (Cont'd)

An Act of 1752 required Coroners to submit bills to the Quarter Sessions and these later included details of the name of the deceased person, cause of death and the verdict. It is these latter papers which survive among the mass of Quarter Session material for Berkshire. Unfortunately there is no longer proper index to these records and the documents themselves are often not easy to handle, being mostly stiff rolls of parchment which insist on noisily rolling themselves up again.

Some twenty years prior to Elizabeth Coles' death in 1814, two other Inquests were held in Purley. Again, no clues were given in the Burial Register and the reports were only found quite by chance whilst searching for other information in the Rolls. These Inquests relate to John Guttridge who died in 1792 and Francis Humphries who died in 1794. John Guttridge seems to have been ill for some time and it is not clear why it was felt necessary to hold an Inquest two days after his death on 5th December 1792. The Jury brought together on this occasion seems mostly to be composed of villagers and included John Burgess, Richard House, Richard Palmer, John Smith, John Carter, Francis Hains, Richard Millard, James Hamblin, James Emery, Benjamin Humphries, Benjamin Allum and Thomas Jerom. They duly made their enquiries and decided that, although John had been 'ailing and infirm' for some time, he had died by the 'Visitation of God in a natural way'; in other words, from his 'ailment and infirmity' and for no other reason. Two days later, on 9th December, he was buried in an unmarked grave in Purley.

On a Spring day in March two years later, ploughing was in progress and Francis Humphries was driving a team of horses. The sudden noise from a falling tree startled the horses and, in an effort to control them, Francis was thrown to the ground and the plough went over his head. Despite a fractured skull and injury to his brain, he lived for five days and died on the 15th March 1794. The Coroner's Court was convened the following day and again twelve local men were gathered together to form the jury. This time they included John Smith (foreman), William Lukeman, Benjamin Gerham, Richard Millard, Bernard Ballard, John Green, James Smith, Jonathan Braund, John Ilsley, Richard New, Richard Saunders and Joseph Goldring. Their verdict was that Francis had died 'accidentally, casually and by misfortune'; but this time no mention was made regarding the ownership or value of the horses or plough which had caused his death, as in the Inquest in 1814. As soon as the enquiry was completed, Francis was buried in the churchyard at Purley and, like John Guttridge, no stone marks his grave. Jean Debney

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

PURLEY HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

The society Social Evening is on **Wednesday, 19th November**. Tickets are available now from the Trading Store or any committee member, priced £3.50. This includes entertainment, food and wine. The entertainment this year will be the Sainsbury Singers doing a selection of songs. I look forward to seeing you there.

Dates for next year's diary:

21st January 'Safety in the Garden' by Mr. Parson

18th February AGM followed by 'Butterflies in the Garden' by Mr. B. Collett

18th March 'Preparing for Shows' by Mr. G. Talbot

15th April 'Saville Garden' by Mr. Len Critchlow

These all take place at 8.00 p.m. at Purley Memorial Hall (except the AGM which starts at 7.45 p.m.).

The Trading Store is open on Saturday and Sunday mornings from 10.00 - 11.00 until November 30th. It re-opens on Saturday, 7th February 1998. If any member is available to lend a hand in the Trading Store for an hour on a few Saturdays or Sundays during next year, then please let me know.

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

Anne Stockley, Secretary

SOME HOLY BLOOPERS FROM CHURCH BULLETINS

A merry heart doeth good like a medicine. The following are actual announcements taken from Church Bulletins:

1. This afternoon there will be a meeting in the South and North end of the church. Children will be baptised at both ends.
2. Tuesday at 4 p.m. there will be an ice cream social. All ladies giving milk, please come early.
3. Wednesday the "Ladies Liturgy Society" will meet. Mrs. Johnston will sing "Put me in

my little bed" accompanied by the pastor.

LONG LANE PRIMARY SCHOOL

There was a time when Harvest Festival involved raiding the jam cupboard or persuading a parent that they really didn't want to keep the prize marrow.

Families in our school were asked to bring in non-food items this year in response to an appeal made by our "chosen" charity "Children's Aid Direct". For the last five years we have held a Harvest of Hope in which we remember children in other parts of the world who are suffering the effects of war or dramatic political change. We have developed strong links with the charity and, in particular, their work in Albania.

This year we were asked to donate pencil cases with some basic equipment that could be used by children in Albanian schools and summer clothing for families in the West African country of Liberia. Once again the call was answered by our school community and we have a pile of over 150 pencil cases and a small mountain of plastic bags full of summer clothes.

During our Harvest of Hope service, the children contrasted conditions in a typical British classroom to those in a typical Albanian classroom. The visual contrast was stark and made all the more real by the efforts of the children in our drama club who were playing the part of British or Albanian children and asking questions of each side of the stage.

Together with the aid, children collected money to help with the transportation costs and many children did extra chores around the home to earn the £1 per pencil case that the charity were suggesting.

Once again I was heartened by the enthusiastic support given to this year's appeal and am glad that in some small way our children could be directly involved in helping others.

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Minutes, birthday posies, Christmas Dinner and a musical show underway, we settled to a 'warm' and cosy evening with our visitor, Ben Viljoen, who is Chairman of our local history group, Project Purley. Ben projected a somewhat theatrical performance, that of a Dickens one night stand and, armed with slides and books, took us back in time to learn about Purley's own scarlet lady, Frances Ann Hawes of Purley Hall. One hears of scandals but we were reminded that, at the delicate age of eighteen, she was widowed, her beloved handsome husband to whom she was devoted, Sir William Hamilton, dead and also their child. How, when you are accustomed to the luxury of life at court, and the cash flow is nil, very easy it is to slip into a 'convenient' marriage to a plain admirer from Paris. This didn't work for her but she was wooed by many, had a relationship and child by Sir Walter Shirley, but that child also died.

Off to Paris she charged, changed her identity and disappeared. Her husband caused another scandal by having an advert published in a national newspaper asking for her whereabouts. They did meet up, as she was 'found' in Southampton Street of all places. Eventually they did come together - but in a grave!

Points for the Spring and Summer Show was won by Shirley Lewis. Marion Dabbs won a Home and Garden Bowl for Best Dish of Fruit. Sylvia Conquest won a Silver Salva for Handicraft.

The Flower Competition was won by Jean Smith (a waxy specimen with a divine perfume), with Sybil Pryor, Betty Dackins and Vi Watts in joint second place.

The Competition of the Month, "The Tallest Sunflower" was won by Mollie Riddell (10'6"), and Jean Smith (9'6"). These monsters have got to be seen to be believed. How did we manoeuvre them into the hall you may ask? Well, that would be telling. Needless to say, plenty of laughs.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, 12th November at Purley Memorial Hall when our speaker will be Mrs. Beverley Hall on the Alexander Technique (body posture). Could get myself straightened out at last!

Visitors welcome.

Sylvia Conquest

THE ROTARY CLUB OF PANGBOURNE

CHARITY TEN-PIN BOWLATHON

**Saturday, 15th November from 10 a.m. - 7.00 p.m.
at the Lakeside Superbowl, Thatcham**

The Rotary Club of Pangbourne is holding a fundraising Ten-Pin Bowlathon at the Lakeside Superbowl, Thatcham.

The proceeds will be donated to **READING HOSPITAL CARDIAC DEPARTMENT** (for the purchase of life-saving and diagnostic equipment), **MIND** (the mental health charity) and to the **Pangbourne Rotary Charity Fund** which supports many Local Charities.

The first time this event was held, in February, it raised approximately £5,000 for local charities.

YOUR SUPPORT IS URGENTLY NEEDED!

This time the target is to raise £9,000. To do this, the number of teams entering will need to be increased from the 50 last time to 90-plus.

If you can raise a team(s) of 6 players or provide sponsorship for these good causes, please contact

Brian Jenkins,
Old Rectory Cottage,
Rectory Road,
Padworth RG7 4JD

Tel: 701701 (Business) or 701396 (Home)

There will be prizes for the highest score, runner-up, women's and men's highest score.

LAUGHLINES

Bishops wishing to tighten the communion discipline for unconfirmed children need, it appears, to be a little more explicit.

A relatively new bishop paying his first visit to a Midlands parish was utterly nonplussed by the Vicar's sacramental instructions. "Now bishop, you put the consecrated wafers in the middle and then a ring of unconsecrated wafers round the edge. The consecrated wafers are administered to adults with the words "The Body of Christ" - to which they reply "Amen", and the unconsecrated wafers we give to the children".

"And what" responded the perplexed bishop "are the suggested words of administration to the children?" "Oh" replied the Vicar "something like `nice to see you'". "To which, I suppose" the bishop retorted "the well trained child will respond, `to see you nice!'"

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.

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

Saturday, 6th December.

Editor