

ST. MARY'S CHURCH - PURLEY ON THAMES

**

SUNDAY SERVICES FOR FEBRUARY

See page 4 for full details.

RECTOR Rev. Roger B. Howell,
The Rectory,
1 Westridge Avenue,
Purley on Thames
Tel: 941 7727

CURATE Rev. Brendan Bailey,
10 Knowsley Road,
Tilehurst
Tel: 945 1411

READERS Jean Rothery Wally Watkivs
Tel: 984 3625 Tel: 942 6170

CHURCHWARDENS Jackie Benstead David Jordan
Tel: 942 9116 Tel: 941 5994

CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR **CHURCH HIRINGS**
Sally Robertson Liane Southam
Tel: 962 5978 Tel: 942 8243

BAPTISMS Enquiries about baptism should be made to the Rector (941 7727)

WEDDINGS Enquiries about weddings should be made to Jackie Benstead (942 9116)

FUNERALS Enquiries about funerals should be made to the Rector (941 7727)

Dear Friends,

Perhaps the most frequently misquoted part of the Bible is this:

"..... Money is the root of all evil..."

It is true that the Bible says something like this, but when we look at what it actually says, we find what is often quoted is quite different from what is said. You can find this reference to money in the New Testament - 1 Timothy 6 v 10:

"For the *love* of money is a source of all kinds of evil."

It is debatable as to who might love money more - those who have plenty of it, or those who have little. But whoever loves money, lays themselves open to many other things which can so easily ensnare and spoil a life, as well as making it a misery for others in the family or further afield. Winning the National Lottery might be the dream of many, but even with the remote possibility of doing so, there might well be a major disappointment in store. There are too many examples of people's lives and relationships which have been ruined by the onset of material wealth.

Now this is not an attack on money. We all have it, and need it to live, but the tendency

is never very far away to think that it can provide the answer to all of life's problems. Hardly a day passes without mention on TV news and in the newspapers of a financial crisis in one part of the world or another. At the time of writing, it is Indonesia and Hong Kong. We know that trouble in one part of the world has many knock-on effects in the financial markets of other countries too. Money is a very volatile commodity. Necessary it is, but as a solid foundation for life, it is totally unreliable. The New Testament refers to riches (and, of course, they are relative) as *uncertain*. The Stock Markets are up and down daily like a yo-yo. In a few moments millions of pounds can be wiped off the value of Shares! Money is very attractive, but it can never deliver what we might be tempted to believe.

Everyone needs a foundation in life. God Himself is that solid rock for which we were made. He is utterly faithful and we can depend upon him at all times and for all things. He knows what is happening when the bottom drops out of our world and we are left deflated and disappointed. The Bible is full of promises from God. Here is one of them:

"... I will never leave you; I will never abandon you."

Let us be bold then, and say, "The Lord is my helper, I will not be afraid."

What can anyone do to me?"

NEW ARCHDEACON OF BERKSHIRE

Mike Hill, who has been the Archdeacon of Berkshire for the past seven years, has been appointed as the next Bishop of Buckingham. His consecration will take place in Southwark Cathedral on Thursday, 19th March.

His successor as Archdeacon will be the present Vicar of Gerrard's Cross, Canon Norman Russell.

CONFIRMATION SERVICE

Several members of St. Mary's Church will be confirmed by the Bishop of Reading on

Sunday, 22nd February at St. James the Less, Pangbourne.

SUNDAY SERVICES FOR FEBRUARY

1st Feb. 9.30 a.m. Family Worship
11.15 p.m. Morning Worship
6.00 p.m. Holy Communion

8th Feb. 9.30 a.m. Family Worship
11.15 a.m. Holy Communion

15th Feb. 9.30 a.m. Holy Communion
11.15 a.m. Morning Worship
6.00 p.m. Evening Worship

22nd Feb. 9.30 a.m. Family Worship
11.15 a.m. Holy Communion

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

This will be held at St. Mary's Church on Wednesday, 1st April at 8.00 p.m. (This is not a joke!). Anyone is welcome to attend this meeting, but you have to be on the Electoral Roll in order to take part in any voting.

Revision of the Church Electoral Roll

During February the Electoral Roll (Official Church membership list) will be revised. This revision will end on Sunday, 22nd February. Application forms for enrolment are available from the church.

ASH WEDNESDAY AND LENT

Ash Wednesday (the start of Lent) is on 25th February. There will be a service of Holy Communion in church at 8.00 p.m.

This year during Lent there is an opportunity to take part in a series of inter-church study groups. If you would like to come to one of these groups, please give your name to the

Rector.

JUBILEE 2000 COALITION

This worldwide campaign for the cancellation of Third World debt continues to gather momentum in many countries. It needs massive support - not just in feelings, for that does not change anything - but in actual involvement.

On Saturday, 31st January there is to be a **Debtcutters Day** at St. Andrew's Church, High Wycombe, 10 am - 4 pm. The main speaker will be **Ann Pettifor, Director of Jubilee 2000 Coalition**. There will be a variety of workshops:

- *G7 Summit - Birmingham May 16th
- *Using the Media
- *Writing to Politicians
- *Prayers and Poems - bring ideas

Further information from the Rector

SOUTH AMERICAN MISSION SOCIETY

St. Mary's Church has been linked to the work of the Anglican Church in Paraguay for a number of years now and on February 7 - 8th we shall be welcoming our link missionary Andy Lines to Purley. He and his wife and 3 children have been working in South America for the past seven years. They are home on leave until the end of February. Only Andy will be with us for the weekend but there is an opportunity to meet him then.

Saturday, 7th February, 7.30 p.m. at the Rectory

Sunday, 8th February, 9.30 a.m. and 11.15 a.m. at the Church

All are welcome!

BIBLE COME TO LIFE EXHIBITION

For many years a unique exhibition has been touring the country to help people see and understand the world of the Bible. This exhibition is organised by *The Church's Ministry to Jewish People (CMJ)* - an Anglican Missionary Society.

From February 28th to March 4th, the exhibition is being staged at Beaconsfield Parish Church. If anyone is interested to visit it, contact the Rector and we will arrange some transport over there. This is an excellent opportunity to see authentic items from Israel together with people dressed in costumes of Jesus' time.

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

The Women's World Day of Prayer is celebrated worldwide on the first Friday every March. Christians in 182 countries are involved, each country taking its turn to provide the basic framework for a service of worship that is translated into more than 70 languages and used around the world as the earth turns full circle.

Christians gathering in local churches on Friday, 6th March will form links in a chain of prayer stretching around the world. It begins with dawn over Tonga, Fiji and New Zealand in the East, and finishes at sunset on St. Lawrence Island off the coast of Alaska in the West. Our nearest service will be held in St. James the Less, Pangbourne at 2.30 p.m. where Margaret Davey, a local Anglican Lay Reader, is this year's guest speaker. All are welcome to the service and following tea.

Christian women in the island of Madagascar in the Indian Ocean have prepared this year's order of service which will be used throughout the world. Their theme is based on the parable of The Good Samaritan, and challenges us with the question "Who is My Neighbour?"

Even before Christianity brought the message "Love your neighbour" to Madagascar, personal relationships and responsibilities were very important to the Malagasy people. "Fihavanana" is their word to describe the bond which exists between human beings. This wonderful island with its unique wildlife has had an unsettled time since it gained independence from France in 1960. It suffers periodically from either devastating cyclones or prolonged drought. At such times the inhabitants turn for help to neighbours, fellow citizens from other parts of the island, or relief agencies from overseas. Good Samaritans always turn up, and are constantly needed to help tackle Madagascar's serious environmental problems which threaten plants, animals and even local tribal people with extinction. Not only can we pray for them, informed prayer should lead if possible to prayerful action.

The Women's World Day of Prayer is a Christian movement, interdenominational but neither interfaith nor feminist. Everyone is invited to the services - men, women and children too.

Sue Simonds

01635 578510

P.S.If anyone needs transport to the above service at St. James the Less, please contact Janet Foskett on 984 1499.

LUNCH POT

The Spring term is now firmly underway and we are still offering jacket potatoes with a range of fillings and delicious homemade soups. Our termly meeting will be on Monday, 9th February, 8 p.m. at the Church. Please do come along with ideas and points of view.

This month we will be celebrating St. Valentine's Day on Thursday, 12th February by raffling a box of homemade truffles. A perfect valentine's gift to present to your loved one or to enjoy yourself! In addition, our Valentine's menu will include Casanova Slices, Honey Heart Biscuits and Romantic Italian Risotto.

Lunch Pot will not be open during half-term week, Thursday 19th February. Instead school age children (5 - 7 years) can join in the fun and activities of St. Mary's Holiday Club which will be held on both Thursday and Friday of half-term week. Contact Jackie Benstead on 942 9116 for further details.

Don't forget, Lunch Pot meets at St. Mary's Church every Thursday in term-time between 11.45 a.m. and 1.00 p.m. Lunch Pot is open to all and we provide a warm and friendly atmosphere in which you can enjoy a wholesome lunch. If you don't want to come on your own, then ask a friend to come too. We look forward to seeing you.

Dates for your diary:

Monday, 9th February	-	Lunch Pot meeting, 8 p.m. Church Hall
Thursday, 12th February	-	St. Valentine's Day Lunch
Thursday, 19th February	-	Half-term opening for Holiday Club - free love heart sweets for all children

Abi Stinson

BARGAIN CORNER

HR-D225EKJVC single head video recorder with infra red remote control. Needs recording heads re-aligned. Will accept **£75.00 o.n.o.**

Tel: 954 2855

I am delighted to tell you that our huge Christmas card at St. Mary's during the month of December was fully covered with our messages of love and donations reached the sum of £300.96. Thank you to everyone who contributed and I have now taken the card with the money to Children's Aid Direct. It is being put on the next lorry to Albania and I am sure that all the children who see this will be thrilled to know that they are thought of and loved by us who are so privileged to live in a safe and happy environment with food on the table and toys to play with.

Your continued support with **EDUCATIONAL ITEMS AND TOYS** would be greatly appreciated during the coming weeks. The usual box will be in the entrance porch at St. Mary's but, of course, Mollie Bridge or I would be very willing to collect these on your behalf at any time. Please ring me on 962 5760 or Mollie Bridge on 942 6722.

Sheila Adnett

Pre-Season Indoor Nets

Pre-Season Indoor Nets have been arranged to commence at 8 p.m. on Sunday, 22nd March at the excellent Bradfield College Sports Complex and will run until the start of the season.

If you are interested in participating in the Cricket Club in any way (Colts, Adults playing, Umpiring, Scoring or just watching), new members are always welcome!

Please contact:

Martin Bishop (942 7142) or Brian Smith (984 3653)

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

While I sympathise with Mrs. J. Brown's plea for the Beech Road cemetery proposal to go ahead (ref. her letter - January issue), I cannot support her views.

The reasons why this area of land adjacent to Beech Road is most unsuitable as a graveyard were fully expressed by parishioners at the Special Meeting, and agreed by a clear majority when a vote was taken.

The "NIMBY" attitude of these people against the siting of the graveyard is rather an unfair accusation by Mrs. Brown. What, I wonder, would be the reaction of those people in favour of the graveyard if the land was designated instead for, say, new homes for people or extended recreational activities? Would they then become NIMBY's?

No, we do not want Beech Road to become known as Cemetery Junction. Think of the residents at the junction where the funeral processions will turn in close proximity to their access. Finally, and this is not fully realised by many, this proposed graveyard is not connected in any way with St. Mary's Parish Church, Purley - it is nowhere within sight of the church and would simply be a council burial ground, the use of which may not be solely for the parishioners of Purley.

Yours sincerely,
Mrs. M.M. Robinson

PURLEY MEMORIAL HALL ACTIVITIES FOR THE COMING MONTH

11th February	7.30 p.m.Women's Institute
18th February	7.45 p.m.Horticultural Society A.G.M.

Mrs. J.E. Hutchings
Hon.Secretary (984 3809)

KEEP FIT CLASS

A safe, enjoyable, effective exercise class takes place every Wednesday, 7.30 - 8.30 p.m. at Long Lane Primary School. Something different every week. Any queries please

phone Andrea Turner on 01491 825910.

The Spring Term has begun well, with all our new children settling in nicely.

Purley Playgroup is a warm and friendly place for children to start to socialise. It is the first step in helping children to begin their education, without their Mum and Dad, for a few hours a day. Parents and Grandparents are very welcome; in fact, each child has a Rota Day when an adult, who is close to him or her, helps during the session.

This is a special time where a parent can enjoy the atmosphere and actively join in the workings of the Playgroup. The child is always proud when it is their carer's turn to stay. It also means that the child has the special privilege of handing round the snack at milk time.

Whilst we continue with the theme of the Alphabet, there are other ongoing projects which will enhance the children's knowledge. One planned project is to put together a scrapbook and Geography box to teach the children about different parts of the country and the rest of the world.

If you have any maps, postcards, souvenirs etc. which could be donated to the Playgroup, we would be very grateful.

Please contact the Supervisor, Mrs. Sue Slade on 941 0778, with anything you would like to donate to help the children learn about the world. Mrs. Slade can also advise about putting new children on the waiting list.

Calendar of Events

14th February	-	Half-Term
23rd February	-	New Term starts
4th April	-	End of Term

SCRABBLE

Pangbourne Scrabble players now meet in the Dorman Room at St. Bernadette's Church in Pangbourne. As this gives us better accommodation, we are looking for more players of all levels. We are certainly not in the championship league but enjoy a light-hearted challenge. We meet alternate Thursday afternoons from 1.00 -3.00 p.m. For further details, please telephone me on 984 2341.

Susan Laishley

PURLEY DANCE SCHOOL

Classes are held at Purley Memorial Hall on Tuesdays and Saturdays. Children are regularly entered for ISTD exams, and perform in a show once every 18 months, which is very low key with the element on fun! I am starting a new Pre-primary class (4-6 year olds) on a Saturday morning. This will leave vacancies in the Tiny Tot class - should

you require any further information, please contact me on 984 1499.

Janet Foskett LISTD
Registered Teacher

DISTRICT NOTES

It was very heartening to read the letter in last month's magazine about the burial ground.

It reflects the sentiments of many, many people in Purley who have taken the trouble to contact me and other Parish Councillors on the issue. Equally it has been very sad to listen to some of the accusations and abuse which has been heaped upon Parish Councillors and myself by people who seem to have no idea as to how representative democracy works in this country.

There are many activities which need to be managed on behalf of a community and we have a thoroughly democratic method of electing them. Once they have been elected, they take on a considerable responsibility to act in the best interests of the community at large. Parish Councillors get no money for this although as District Councillors we do receive small payments which typically add up to around £1,000 -£2,000 a year.

In most cases the work councillors do is of scant interest to the bulk of the population but occasionally issues arise which affect individual residents and chief among these issues are those to do with Planning Applications. The law provides for consultation on such issues and specifies how that consultation should take place. What it does not do is to confer on members of the public the right to take part in the decision making process. Decisions are taken by councillors based usually on far more detailed information than is generally available to the public at large. Also in taking decisions councillors have to abide with very strict legal constraints.

The consultation process enables individuals to express their views and put forward their arguments either for or against a particular course of action. When taking a decision, the councillors have to give due weight to those arguments.

In regard to the particular issue of the burial ground, we have been made painfully aware of the distress that has been caused by the churchyard being full. When we attempted to extend the graveyard to the south, we were faced with a torrent of opposition and, although we did not necessarily agree with all the points made, there was little doubt that several of the arguments against the site had considerable technical content and, therefore, had to be given a lot of weight. Eventually, of course, that project was abandoned and we turned to look at other sites in the village.

The technical arguments against the churchyard extension effectively ruled out consideration of any sites north of the railway. In practical terms, however, only one site was available, i.e. the land owner was prepared to sell and that was the site behind Beech Road. The Parish Council went ahead and obtained planning permission and have proceeded to acquire the land at a price fixed by the District Valuer. During the latter process a Parish Meeting was called which voted to advise the Parish Council that the project should be abandoned. When the council came to consider the matter, we could find no argument put forward by the protestors which had any weight at all. The nearest any counter argument came to having any weight was a claim by an adjoining property owner that the burial ground would reduce the value of his property. All the other arguments boiled down to "I don't like it" or "I don't think it's suitable". It was for these reasons that the District Council took no notice when granting planning permission and the Parish Council took no notice when deciding to go ahead.

The conduct of certain individuals and the venom that was expended on Parish Councillors trying hard to do their best in the interests of the community at large leads me to wonder whether it would not be in their best interests and that of the parish if they were to choose to move away from a situation which they obviously find distasteful - I could only echo "good riddance".

John Chapman

THE ARTHRITIS & RHEUMATISM COUNCIL

Anne Bolam has retired as Chairman of the Pangbourne & District Committee and her place is being taken by Anne Rowell (984 3005). Roger Darch has joined the Committee which will convene on 3rd February.

£145.98 was raised by selling Christmas cards at The Link in Tilehurst.

Pamela James, Branch Secretary

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

For our December meeting the Committee Members decked the hall with holly and greenery which set the mood for a Christmas buffet. It's amazing how so few people can provide so many mouthwatering dishes - gorgeous. Entertainment was provided by the Riparians - a group of players who performed a "Who-dun-it". We chatted to the

players, questioned and cajoled them, in an effort to discover who committed the crime! All good stuff. Special thanks goes to Ann Chapman who accompanied us on the piano and guided us through our favourite carols!

The January meeting started by greeting birthday members with a posy, then we settled down to matters arising.

One of our regular members, Liz Ingram, has moved from the district. This lady had much to offer, was very active in our group and, yes, we'll miss her - our appreciation will be forwarded.

The Women's Institute run the annual horticultural show and this year's theme is "Blue Moon". We have always tried to encourage our children/grandchildren to enter and the theme for the under-12-old is always in keeping with their age group. The affair is quite harmless and great fun. More than anything, we love the children's entries so perhaps this year more of you will participate - why not have a try?

We didn't have a speaker in January so it wasn't too difficult for us to entertain ourselves - "Balderdash" was the name of the game. Many of us left much wiser knowing the meanings of odd sounding words but, of course, the fun and laughter comes from concocting fanciful meanings to words to bluff the other team.

The Flower Competition was won by Betty Dawkins, with Shirley Lewis in second place.

The Competition "My Favourite Christmas Decoration" was won by Sylvia Conquest, with Shirley Lewis second.

This month the meeting will be on Wednesday, 11th February, 7.30 p.m. at Purley Memorial Hall, when our own President, Sybil Pryor, will give the talk "The Hat" - Garden Party, there will be a Food and Drink Stall and the competition will be "A Hat". Visitors are welcome.

Must go - "Got to trim me Titfer"!

Sylvia Conquest

CHRIS WILCOX

I am sure the people of Purley were saddened to hear recently of the death of Chris Wilcox who, for many years, assisted his wife Joan in the editing and publication of Purley Parish News. Together they worked diligently to ensure this magazine appeared

on time each month - and without the luxury of the word processor I have today! I am sure everyone who knew Chris will want to join with me in sending our deepest sympathy to Joan at this sad time.

Editor

Set out below are the recorded Crime Figures for the months of November and December:

<u>Type of Offence</u>	<u>November</u>	<u>December</u>
Burglary - Dwelling	6	5
Burglary - Non Dwelling	1	1
Theft (including shoplifting)	2	1
Theft from Motor Vehicle	6	2
Theft of Motor Vehicle	1	2
Theft of Cycle	1	1
Criminal Damage	3	4
Violent Crime	1	0
Arson	1	0
Indecency (on female)	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
	<u>22</u>	<u>16</u>

Well, I hope the New Year finds you all well and that you had a happy Christmas.

Last month two persons were arrested who were suspected of committing offences in my area. Since the arrest of those two, there have been no more reported dwelling burglaries on the area. Although not conclusive proof of guilt, it does indicate a certain involvement. Officers have interviewed them, and will do so again, in an effort to clear up any outstanding offences.

Damage remains at a fairly constant level. There is no pattern to the offences and are sporadic in both time and location. On New Year's Day I personally had to re-right four grit bins which had been humorously tipped over. I then proceeded to shovel all the grit back into the bins. It was good exercise, but very annoying. Oh, how I laughed!

Vehicle crime has taken a bit of a downward turn which is good news and I hope this trend continues.

With the schools now back, I can see a drop in the reports of youngsters being, for the want of a better expression, a pain in the neck. There is no question that three weeks can be a long time to entertain the little darlings, even over the Christmas period.

I have started up a surgery in St. Mary's Church Hall each Thursday 11.30 a.m. - 1.30 p.m., to coincide with the Lunch Pot. Therefore, if anyone wishes to speak to me between these times, I shall be available on the following dates over the next two months:-

5th Feb., 12th, Feb., 5th March, 12th March and 19th March.

Finally, I would like to wish you all a prosperous New Year and hope that in the months ahead we can all help to reduce the crime even further.

PC M Welford

PURLEY HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

As I write this, it does not feel like Spring (Brrrr) but it will soon be time to start nurturing our entries for the Spring Show (Saturday, 4th April) - the schedules will be out soon at the Trading Store. The Newsletter will be issued shortly including an order form for seed potatoes and onion sets, and details for ordering seeds at a discount.

Events coming up include:

- | | |
|---------------------------|---|
| Wed. 18th February | -The AGM, followed by talk on Butterflies by Barry Collett.
NOTE - AGM starts at 7.45pm |
| Wed. 18th March | - Evening Talk - to be arranged. |
| Sat. 4th April | -Spring Flower Show. Well worth a visit, even if you don't feel up to competing. |
| Wed. 15th April | -Saville Gardens by Mr. Len Critchlow. |
| Sat. 16th May | -Plant Sale in the Memorial Hall car park. |

All the talks are at the Purley Memorial Hall at 8.00 p.m. (except the AGM which starts at 7.45 pm). See you there! The Trading Store re-opens on Saturday, 7th February. If you have any queries about the Society, please call me on 624457.

Anne Stockley, Secretary

LONG LANE PRIMARY SCHOOL

For someone who has enough trouble coping with the changes to the Reading area telephone code, imagine my blood pressure as yet another major change is announced to the National Curriculum! For the past 10 (yes ten) years, schools up and down the land have had to face the undoubted challenge of dealing with significant changes to the taught curriculum, often without an appropriate injection of resources to fund the changes effectively. Clearly some of the changes have been necessary and welcome as they have had the effect of making the curriculum more manageable.

At school we have invested heavily in teaching resources to enable the children to accurately follow the set curriculum and teachers have used many hours refining and improving the schemes of work that form the basis of each subject. Some subjects will now be relegated to the back burner and this is regrettable as the key skills of language development can be taught THROUGH other subjects. I hope the "experts" have got it right as the changes take hold.

Let me make clear that I am all in favour of raising standards and that the basic skills should be the focus for us. We make no apology for sitting children in rows, having a subject specific timetable that means that each lesson has a clear focus, or allowing teachers the freedom to actually teach the children as a class. The thought of having to take apart our successful curriculum structure to organise yet another does concern me, particularly as we already exceed the recommended teaching hours for the basic subjects of maths and English and exceed the percentage of children who should reach the benchmark of Level 4 in maths, science and English by the time they leave primary school.

The changes announced today (14.01.98) come into effect in September but come the year 2000 the curriculum could all change again, but then again why should the telephone

code be the only thing to change as regularly as I change the paint on my garage door!

A.T. Kuhles,
Headteacher

FROM MY HISTORY NOTEBOOK

A Riot at the Red Lyon

On 13th November 1774 John Sherman, a labourer of Purley, was caught poaching and arrested by William Southby, a servant (probably the game-keeper) to Philip Worlidge, Esq. of Purley. Twenty-five year old John was accused of the illegal possession of a gun and of planting a wire snare to kill and destroy game. As no Magistrate was immediately available to deal with the offence, the prisoner was taken for the night to John Emmons, the victualler's house called the Red Lyon in Purley, where he arrived at 6 o'clock in the evening. There he was placed under the care of Thomas Heath the Tithingman (probably the deputy constable for the parish) and Benjamin Jerum, a labourer, both of Purley.

Only a privileged few were allowed to possess guns and shoot game and increasingly during the 18th century landlords employed gamekeepers to protect their property and shooting rights. This social privilege was much resented, especially by the rural labourer who poached rabbits etc. to supplement his meagre diet and in a close community he could be fairly certain of sympathetic support from his neighbours.

During the course of the evening, a group of friends came into the Red Lyon. It is not known if any ale was consumed but between the hours of 11 and 12 midnight they "began to make a riot by dancing etc." In addition to the prisoner, at least five other people were involved; they were the landlord's wife, Elizabeth Emmons aged 45, their daughter Lucy aged 18 and the wife of Richard Wellman, Thomas Newberry aged 23, a footman to Rev. Benjamin Skinner, Rector of Purley, George Newberry aged about 44 and Thomas' father a cordwainer, and Jemmy Martin aged 18 also a cordwainer. All lived in the village.

In the evening rough and tumble, someone put out the candle and would not allow it to be relit. Thomas Heath immediately placed himself in front of the closed door in order to prevent the prisoner escaping, but Elizabeth Emmons insisted upon opening it and pushed Heath aside; whereupon John Sherman promptly escaped into the night

Two days later, Thomas Heath and Benjamin Jerum made a statement before two local Justices and accused the five participants in this "riot" who were all committed to appear at the next Quarter Sessions on a surety of £40 each

But, like many another story that appears in the records, the immediate outcome of this event is not known; the case does not appear in the next Sessions records and it is not known if John Sherman was recaptured. However, what is known for certain is that he ended his days in Purley, receiving Parish Relief of 3s 6d (17.5p) each week plus some wood for his fire. More than half a century after this brush with authority, he died at the ripe old age of 79 in April 1829, and the Parish bore the cost of £2 3s 5d (£2.17p) for his funeral.

Jean Debney

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

PURLEY BARN YOUTH CLUB

For Young People Aged 10 - 16

From a survey conducted in the Summer with members and young people, it appeared that Sunday evening at the Barn was not good - all that homework that had been piling up had to be done sometime!! Consequently, in October, after consultation with the Parish Council, we changed the Youth Club night to Friday from 7.00 - 9.30 p.m.

So, where are all the young people who said they would support a Club on Friday night? They have certainly not been coming to the Barn. Well, the venue is available for you, the young people of Purley from 7.00 - 9.30 p.m. on Fridays. Anyone can come along, provided you are between the ages of 10 and 16. You can meet friends, listen to music, help to plan and take part in a termly programme of activities and projects. The choice is yours. Antony Sharma McClachlan is the Youth leader who has planned a new programme for 1998. So why not give it a try? Make a resolution now and let's make the Youth Club a great opportunity for great things to happen in Purley for young people.

And if there are any volunteers out there who would like to help out with Youth Club on a Friday night, Antony would be glad of your support. Please phone the Pangbourne Youth and Community Centre on 984 3162 and ask to speak to Judy, the Youth and Community Worker at the Centre.

Programme for 1998 until Easter:

Friday, 6th Feb. 5-a-Side Football
Friday, 13th Feb. Unlucky Volley Ball Night
Half-term week Members Choice
Friday, 27th Feb. Badge-making Night. Make a badge of your choice
Friday, 6th Mar. Bicycle Maintenance

Friday, 13th Mar. Making Kites

Friday, 20th Mar. Kite Flying on Purley Rec

Friday, 27th Mar. Ice Skating Trip to Bracknell

Judy Lambley

GARDENER'S CORNER

This month I am going to look at some oriental vegetables to grow in the garden this year and set out a brief reminder of the seasonal garden tasks to be getting on with to get the garden ready for Spring.

Most oriental vegetables tend to be fast growing and, therefore, will produce a crop far quicker than their western equivalents. For this reason many are used as catch crops after Spring sown vegetables have been harvested in mid-Summer. Being quick growing, they soon cover the beds and, therefore, smother weeds. This fast growth, however, needs moisture and nutrients in the soil and most varieties will benefit from some kind of mulch of either organic material or plastic film. A top dressing of either Nitro-chalk or dried blood will also help the crops, especially when following other crops which are heavy feeders.

Good soil preparation is essential to grow good crops. After clearing the earlier crop, the ground should be forked over lightly and a base dressing of a balanced fertiliser, such as Growmore or blood, fish and bone, at a rate of 2oz per square yard. The plants can either be sown in situ or raised in modules. The module system economises on seed and produces strong plants which establish quickly.

Caterpillars and other pests can be a problem but growing the crop under fine nets supported by hoops will keep out most of these insects. It will also keep out many slugs.

Chinese cabbage

There are 3 basic sorts of Chinese cabbage. The Michili type such as the fluffy top Ruffles, the barrel-headed type like Harmony or Kasumi, and the older varieties like Nagaoka. Ruffles has been bred for British conditions and performed well in recent trials at Wisley. It can be ready for harvesting in just 10 weeks. Both Dobies and Suttons stock the seed for this F1 variety.

Pak Choi

This plant is closely related to Chinese cabbage but is smaller and does not form a compact head. It often matures in just six or seven weeks and is, therefore, an ideal catch crop. It also responds well to the cut and come again regime. Although there are many types of Pak Choi, most seed merchants will sell seed just as "Pak Choi" and you generally won't know which variety you are getting. Seed may be obtained from either

Suttons or Fothergills.

Now, at this point I am going to leave the garden just for a moment and enter the kitchen for a heartfelt plea. If you want to enjoy these crops, then DON'T JUST BOIL THEM! The best way of cooking Chinese cabbage or Pak Choi is either to steam or stir fry them. They are also good raw in salads when they are young and tender. Right, back to the garden.

Oriental bunching onions

These larger non-bulbing green onions, very closely related to Welsh onions, are widely available. The varieties "Ishikuro" and "Hikari" can be sown in late Spring to be used as spring onions and then again in Summer to stand the Winter. They should be grown 1" apart in rows spaced at 1ft. intervals. The Summer sowing can be spaced much wider and the onions earthed up like leeks to blanch the stems. They are very weather resistant and also do not seem to be affected by white rot or downey mildew. Seed may be obtained from either Suttons or Fothergills.

Other Oriental crops

There are many other varieties you may wish to try such as:-

Chop Suey (Chrysanthemum greens) - which have a distinct tangy flavour which are good in salads or stir fries.

Mizuna - tender leaves with a crispy mild flavour and endive-like hearts.

Stem lettuce - grown for its thick stem and not its bitter tasting leaves. The stem can be sliced like radish in salads or cooked in stir fries.

Mooli radish - these have become a familiar sight in supermarkets. They can be sown in late Summer to stand all Winter. They do, however, need a lot of water when growing. They are also very susceptible to cabbage root fly and the use of fine nets to protect the crop is the best way of ensuring that the plants thrive. The new F1 variety "Mantanghong" has cerise flesh inside which makes a colourful addition to salads.

All these varieties are available from Fothergills except the stem lettuce which can only be obtained from more specialist sources. I hope you enjoy trying a few of these more unusual vegetables.

Other jobs to do in the garden this month:-

Lawns - aerate and scarify in dry conditions. Apply lawn sand and treat moss as required.

Roses - complete the planting of new bushes. If conditions are unsuitable, then heel the

plants in temporarily. Support plants loosened by Winter gales.

Hardy herbaceous plants - clear dead tops if not done already. Top dress established borders with fertiliser, using John Innes base, hoof and horn, or other similar fertiliser.

Dahlias - examine stored tubers and plunge them in a bucket of tepid water overnight if they have shrivelled. Cut away any portions of tubers that have rotted and dust cuts with flowers of sulphur.

Seed beds - plan annual bedding schemes. Lightly fork beds and work in bonemeal.

Greenhouses and Frames - move dormant fuschias on to the staging and spray with water to encourage new growth. Sow seeds of tomatoes for planting in a cool greenhouse in April. Keep watering to a minimum and ventilate freely on mild days.

Happy Gardening!

Colin Graves

PANGBOURNE MEDICAL PRACTICE

View from the Boathouse Surgery

Eyes

We thought it would be interesting to mention an eye condition we commonly see at the Boathouse. Ophthalmology (medical speciality concerned with eyes) is a rapidly expanding speciality and there are many interesting technological changes occurring.

Cataracts

Cataracts are a common visual problem in the elderly and they lead to visual impairment. The incidence of cataracts increases with age, the amount of vision loss is generally monitored by the optician, and when this is significant, referral is made by the GP to the hospital specialist. Improved surgical techniques and anaesthetics have meant that there is no age limit for the surgery. The vast majority of operations are performed under local anaesthetic, so even if the patient's general health is not good, they can still be operated on, often as a Day Case, with no overnight stay in hospital. The patient must be able to walk with little or no help and have someone at home who can look after them and take them to hospital. They must have no major illness within six months of the proposed surgery and have normal blood pressure.

Phacoemulsification is a new surgical technique for removing cataracts. A tiny incision is made in the eye and the hard part of the lens' `emulsified', or softened within the eye and then sucked out. This technique is widely used locally and, with new ultra-ocular lenses, has greatly improved cataract surgery.

More information on other eye conditions next month - Ed.

LAUGHLINES

Child to teacher: "Adam was the luckiest man in the world."

Teacher: "Why was that?"

Child: "Because he was born a man and didn't have to go to school."

"For those of you that have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs."

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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Editor