

ST. MARY'S CHURCH - PURLEY ON THAMES

**

SUNDAY SERVICES FOR THE COMING MONTH

See page 4 for full details.

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Tel: 941 7727

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READERS Jean Rothery Wally Watkivs
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CHURCHWARDENS Jackie Benstead David Jordan
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CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR & CHURCH HIRINGS Sally Robertson
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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,

Rector attacks parents

When the Rector recently wrote in this magazine about the churchyard, he seemed to have stirred up local comment. He was very keen to let people know what the churchyard is used for under cover of darkness. I'm sure that what he said would be echoed by many who live near the church. However, what he was saying seemed to have been blown up by the media. It can't be very often that the Parish magazine makes the pages of the local papers.

One of the comments made to us by residents has been concerned with the number of youngsters hanging around the church. It would appear that these youngsters have nothing better to do with their time each evening. Over the course of the past few years we have come to know many of those who are regulars by the lych gate. I am saddened by the comments made by several of them. They would rather be out of their homes than inside.

We say often that young people do not know how to make their own entertainment these days. I'm sure that when we were their age there were plenty of things to do in the evenings; for example, youth clubs and even homework. But nowadays almost

immediately after school youngsters seem to be out and about. Yet they are reluctant to make the effort to take part in some of the activities that are available. Not that many go to the youth club at the Barn, or to Scouts/Guides/Cubs/Brownies. There aren't that many who come to Club 2000 (for 8-11 year-olds) at St. Mary's on the 3rd Saturday of the month. It would appear to be more interesting to hang out near the local shops even to late in the evening.

If we can encourage them to take part in the activities that are available, then the young people will be open to a whole range of different possibilities. Not all will be thrilling all-action events. But there will be occasions when they will be challenged in lots of different areas of their lives. However, they need our support if they are to take advantage of these opportunities.

We owe it to our young people to help and encourage them to grab at every opportunity that comes their way. If they do they will begin to make the best of the rest of their lives.

With best wishes,

PURLEY TENNIS CLUB

Match Report

Ladies Veterans played three matches winning two and losing one.

Ladies Berkshire League played two matches, winning one and losing one. Newbury League played three, winning one and losing two.

Summer Family Play Evening - Friday 24th July

Please assemble at 6.00 p.m. for a family tennis evening followed by a barbecue. Bring your own meat to cook; rolls and squash provided.

Tournaments

Please note that the Junior Tournament will take place on 6th September (13th if wet). The Senior Tournament will be held on 19th September (20th if wet). Please assemble for 10.00 a.m. if you wish to play.

Anne Brown

SUNDAY SERVICES FOR JULY

5th July	9.30 a.m.	Family Worship
	11.15 a.m.	Morning Worship
	6.00 p.m.	Holy Communion
12th July	9.30 a.m.	Family Worship
	11.15 a.m.	Holy Communion
19th July	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
	11.15 a.m.	Morning Worship
	6.00 p.m.	Evening Worship
26th July	9.30 a.m.	Family Worship
	11.15 a.m.	Holy Communion

BRADFIELD DEANERY NEWS

Deanery Service at Aldermaston

On Tuesday, 21st July at 8.00 p.m. there will be a united service for the churches of Bradfield Deanery at Aldermaston Parish Church, with refreshments to follow in the school. This is an opportunity for the members and friends of the 22 parishes in our Deanery to get to know one another a little better, and to share in worship together.

Bradfield Deanery consists of the following parishes:- Aldermaston, Wasing and Brimpton, Basildon, Aldworth and Ashampstead, Bradfield and Stanford Dingley, Burghfield, Mortimer, Mortimer West End and Padworth, Pangbourne, Sulham and Tidmarsh, Purley, Sulhamstead and Ufton Nervet, Theale and Englefield, Woolhampton, Midgham and Beenham.

Deanery Youth Work Facilitator

All the parishes in the Deanery have been aware for a long time that our contacts with young people are, on the whole, not very good. Throughout the country there is an alarming statistic that 85% of children and young people have *no* contact with the Christian Church at all!

In the light of this situation, the Deanery has recently appointed a Youth Work Facilitator

whose task will be to work with youth leaders in the parishes, encouraging them and training them, so that they can be more effective in their work with young people in their local situation. Mark Berry will start his work with us hopefully in September. He is currently employed as a Youth Worker in the parish of Christ Church, Chislehurst, Kent. There will be a special service of commissioning in the early autumn and details of this will appear nearer the time.

CHIEVELEY FLOWER FESTIVAL

"It's a Miracle" - 1st, 2nd and 3rd August

Miraculous goings-on will be happening at Chieveley Church this summer when the theme for the biennial flower festival will be "It's a Miracle". Miracles sacred and secular will be interpreted in flowers. The displays will focus on familiar Bible stories, ranging from the transformation of water into wine to the raising of Lazarus, as well as exploring the wonders of the universe and the miracles of modern technology.

A team of bell ringers will open the festival and throughout the three days there will be live music in the church. There will be an exhibition of work by a local artist, a produce stall as well as coffees, teas and light refreshments at the church. Ploughman's lunches will be served in the vicarage garden. The festival proceeds will go to the church fabric fund.

One of the highlights of the weekend will be the Festival Evensong at 6.30 on Sunday when the guest preacher will be The Rev Roger Clayton-Jones, Chaplain of St. Mary's School, Wantage.

The festival will be open: 10.00 until 6.00 on Saturday
11.00 until 5.30 on Sunday
and 10.00 until 5.00 on Monday

Chieveley lies just off the A34 a mile north of Junction 13 of the M4.

For further information please contact Festival Organiser, Mrs. June Butcher, on 01635 248994 or Festival Press Officer, Mrs. Mary Evans, on 01635 247677.

PARISH REGISTERS

Wedding

30th May Horst Pegutter and Rachael Price

MAKING A CHAIN TO BREAK A CHAIN

What were you doing at 3.00 p.m. on Saturday, 16th May 1998? However you were occupied, I would suggest that you will not remember it as long as I will remember what I was doing! For the first time in my life and I am now in the "third age", I was on a demonstration holding hands with others round the centre of Birmingham, shouting and waving at cars, lorries and buses. You may well ask "Had she taken leave of her senses?" I think not.

I was part of a crowd variously estimated as 40,000 - 70,000 who had gone to Birmingham on Cup Final Day (and there were football fans among us) to present a petition to the G8 Summit leaders regarding the relief of third world debt to celebrate the millennium, otherwise known as the "Jubilee 2000" campaign.

Our group organised by Pangbourne All Churches Together travelled by a Reading Transport double decker, not to be recommended for motorway travel on a hot day, and I was one of only two people from St. Mary's. On our arrival we made our way to the Bull Ring Centre and ended up in a large city church, St. Martin's I believe, to stand squashed up at the back listening to speakers. At the first break we managed to get into the centre aisle and sit on kneelers leaning against the ends of the pews. The second break enabled us to get seats so we could then eat our lunch while still listening to the speakers, and what speakers they were: Bill Cash M.P., Bernie Grant M.P., Rodney Bickerstaff, the General Secretary of UNISON, the director of Tear Fund, a woman from Jubilee 2000, India, the Finance Minister of Guyana, Baroness Shirley Williams, the Director of Jubilee 2000 Coalition and Clare Short, the Secretary of State for International Development. They were all most appreciated. After this meeting, we had to hurry to find our places in the chain and make two minutes of noise from 3.00 p.m., and we did.

It was a wonderful day, the demonstrators included many races, all age groups, the able and the less able but all with one aim to relieve the plight of our brothers and sisters in the third world. We were a friendly and jolly crowd.

One picture that remains with me is of a queue at a "Mr. Whippy" van in the market just off the Bull Ring; a mixture of local people and demonstrators waiting with a bishop in his purple shirt at the back of the queue. Birmingham will have to wait a while for such a day!

However, one thing we would ask. Do not forget Jubilee 200, we still need an answer, so

this cause should be part of both our private and corporate prayers. Finally, how many people have you seen wearing chains recently?

Maureen Watkivs

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

Purley Park Fete - Saturday, 8th August at 2.00 p.m.

Purley Park Trust this year celebrates its 50th Anniversary as part of the Purley Community. Once again Members of the Sovereign Order of St. John of Jerusalem are organising the annual Fete so make a date, come and join us for an enjoyable afternoon in delightful surroundings.

Should any local organisations wish to take part and help to make this anniversary year a more enjoyable event, please contact:

Christine Nowell on 984 5694 (evenings) or
Rosemarie Stone on 01491 613599

for further details on availability of stall space.

PURLEY MEMORIAL HALL ACTIVITIES FOR THE COMING MONTH

8th July 7.30 p.m. Women's Institute

The Committee hope that all hirers will enjoy a well earned break in August and come back refreshed in September.

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

THAMES VALE SINGERS

"Not Just Joseph"

Thames Vale Singers present their summer concert on Friday, 17th July at Pangbourne Village Hall and on Saturday, 18th July at the Methodist Church Hall, Tilehurst. Both concerts start at 8.00 p.m.

As the title implies, we are not only singing "Joseph and His Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat" but also a selection from "Les Miserables". Tickets priced £4.50, concessions £3.50. Accompanied children are admitted free. Tickets can be obtained

from Choir members or by telephoning Sybil Titlow on 984 5404 or Wally Watkivs on 942 6170.

Save the Children Fund Week

Thanks to all the people in Pangbourne and the surrounding district who helped us collect donations, and to those who dropped donations into collecting tins. Together we managed to raise just over £3,580 during Save the Children Week.

When you think that just eight pounds could pay to bring a group of parents in Liberia, West Africa, to a Save the Children centre to look for their lost and displaced little ones, then you realise how far the money raised will go.

Thank you again for your support during Save the Children's major fundraising week of the year.

Penny Billyeald
Hon. Secretary, Pangbourne & District Branch

PURLEY HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Don't forget the Summer Show is on 12th September. The schedules are available from the Trading Store. It's very easy to enter, and plenty of help is available if you have any queries about your entries. Go on, have a go this year!

Our social calendar starts again on Wednesday, 21st October with a talk on Bbont conservation in Berkshire.

The Trading Store is open every Saturday and Sunday from 10.00 - 11.00 and is situated at the end of the Memorial Hall car park.

If you have any queries about the Society, please call me on 962 4457.

Anne Stockley
Secretary

PURLEY ON THAMES PARISH COUNCIL

At the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held recently, Mr. A.R. Marshall was elected Chairman of the Council for the 17th consecutive year, and Mr. J. Southall was elected as Vice Chairman. The Standing Committees were constituted with Mr. Peter Farrow as Chairman of the Recreation Committee, Mr. Peter Mason as Chairman of Highways & Footpaths Committee, Mr. J. Chapman as Chairman of the Barn Committee and Mr. A.R. Marshall as Chairman of the Planning Committee. The Council fixed eleven full Council meetings for the year ending 30th May 1999, with committees to meet on a quarterly basis. Representatives were nominated to serve on the various local organisations.

The Chairman reported that the Parish Council was to be consulted on the rate of future discharges by AWE into the River Thames. A recent small incident had occurred which had caused no risk as it was below the permitted limits, but there was to be a prosecution by the Health and Safety Executive.

West Berkshire Council had responded to the Parish Council's query on the introduction of a charge of £13.50 for special collections of refuse with the statement that the charge was necessary on "economic grounds".

A meeting had taken place with Planning Officers on the matter of fencing and landscaping of the proposed Burial Ground and agreement had been reached subject to the approval of the Scutt Trust. Arrangements were in hand for the re-alignment of the boundary fences.

The Council regretted having to defer two applications from worthy organisations for financial assistance by way of grant, but agreed to abide by its policy of considering such applications in January of each year. Local Organisations are reminded of this policy.

The Council has urged Babbie to cut back the hedgerow and clear the footpath on the A329 between Pangbourne and Purley on Thames. This work will, hopefully, take place shortly. The Council also wishes to remind house/land owners to cut back hedges and shrubs which abut pavements and footpaths, to keep them clear for pedestrian use.

The Council has urged Thames Valley Police to take action on indiscriminate parking by parents at both the local schools. Action was taken recently at Long Lane School and the Council has again pressed Pangbourne Police to remedy the very dangerous parking on the bend in Purley Lane/Purley Village.

R.D. Fullbrook

DISTRICT NOTES

There will be a summer playscheme again this year. It will run from Monday, 27th July to Friday, 14th August for children aged 5 to 11 years. There will be schemes at Denefield School and the Dolphin Centre in Pangbourne. Registration this year is by postal application only as places are limited and, by the time you read this, applications will have closed. However, there is a need for adult helpers and the next training day is on 11th July. If you think you might be able to help, please call Di Peplar on 01635 519385 and volunteer your services; there may be a few children's places left as well.

I was very upset at the proposal to charge £13.50 for the special refuse collection service as I think it will be counter-productive. However, the public amenity tip at Paices Hill, Aldermaston is still free if you can get your rubbish there. We have also had lots of complaints about the Biffa men not giving back householders' own recycling boxes and I am trying to get this sorted.

The police were active recently outside Long Lane School in enforcing parking regulations. Can I remind you it is illegal to park within 20 feet of a junction and where you obstruct someone's driveway. It is also very dangerous to try to reverse or do u-turns at the junction with Highfield Road so please do not do silly things which endanger the children.

Thames Water are offering to install water meters free at the moment. For most people in Purley this is likely to save them money so why not take them up on their offer. Phone 0645 200 800 for further information.

Have you thought about joining the West Berkshire Community Panel to provide feedback and comment on Council services? What it involves is filling in a short questionnaire occasionally or answering questions over the telephone. You can also send in comments by e-mail. If you are interested, call the Corporate Policy Unit on 01635 519568.

John Chapman
West Berkshire Councillor, Purley Ward

DENEFIELD SCHOOL

Awards for Brain Power

How is your maths? If five pings and five pongs are worth the same as two pongs and eleven pings, how many pings is a pong worth?

Back in April some of the school's brightest mathematicians in Years 7 and 8 took part in a national competition - the UK Junior Mathematical Challenge. Designed to identify pupils with a natural flair for the subject, the test posed problems of logic and spatial visualisation, as well as pure arithmetic. Try this question for size:

Five children, Z, A, B, C and D are playing a game using a set of ten cards numbered from 1 to 10. They are each dealt two cards, obtaining the following totals: Z=4, A=11, B=12, C=13 and D=15. Who has the card number 9?

Answer: **A, B, C, D or E**: Can't be sure'

As in previous years, our pupils did extremely well. Karam Bales in Year 8 gained a Gold Award, while two pupils in Year 7 and six in Year 8 secured a Silver Award! Bronze certificates were gained by ten of our Year 7 pupils and thirteen in Year 8.

What is especially interesting to me is to see how this sort of a test can throw up unexpected names: some of the pupils who might not stand out in normal class situations - who are certainly bright, yet never come top in the usual topic tests.

It is a reminder that we all have unique strengths - specific circumstances in which we can thrive - some of which may not always be evident. How pleasing it is, though, to see someone soar, when conditions are suddenly in their favour!

..... You want answers? OK: a pong is worth two pings, and we cannot know who has the 9 (any of A, C or D might have it)!

Dave Smith

PURLEY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Our speaker last month, Mrs. Julie Hurst, works in the Education Department of the Ashmolean Museum which is attached to Oxford University. The museum is 70 years older than the British Museum and was named after the founder who also founded the Royal Society in 1683.

The business started as a result of a neighbour John Tradescant (from the plant *tradescantia* fame); he arrived with twelve cartloads of treasured relics. Included were, and we were shown slides of, a blue glass from Kent dated 600 A.D. and a 7" bronze figure from the 1st century. A rarity was a glass engraved in English (not commonplace then) which was presented to Alfred the Great; he being an educated man, appreciated such a gift.

The lady gives one hour tours to children and, according to her, thank you letters for her efforts are not in vain and to us were highly amusing!

The Flower Table (a sight for sore eyes this month) was won by Lee Hall and Florrie Hughes, and the Competition, "An Unusual Relic" was won by Jean Smith with Carol MacGill in second place.

This month's speaker will be Mr. David Glover on "Life in Old Japan", the Competition will be "Garden a Saucer" and there will be a Book Stall.

The meeting will take place on Wednesday, 8th July, 7.30 p.m. at the Memorial Hall. Visitors welcome.

Sylvia Conquest

P.S. After our meeting we were reminded that some members of the Pangbourne Police have committed themselves to cycling from John O'Groats to Lands End, the charity being MacMillan Nurses. A collection of £35 was made, so we hope this helps towards some puncture outfits! So, "On Your Bike, Lads - You're Doing a Grand Job!"

Anthony Gilbert Storer's (AGS) red leather letter book provides a unique opportunity to glimpse a brief period of his life between 31st July 1809, when he arrived at his mansion house at Purley Park, Berkshire for the sake of his wife's health and their return to Jamaica on 3rd April 1810 "for a month or two". In addition to poor grammar and punctuation, the handwriting of the 58 copy letters is difficult to decipher; they deal mainly with the management of his West Indian estates, but other family matters are also mentioned.

AGS (1782 - 1818) had inherited his estate from his uncle, Anthony Morris Storer I, in 1799. Many fortunes were made from sugar and rum in the eighteenth century, but the dramatic fall in prices after the Battle of Trafalgar in 1805 and the abolition of the slave trade in 1807 meant ruin for many plantationers. In addition, much of his estate was controlled by his uncle, Lord Carysford (John Joshua Probyn) as executor of his father's will. By 1809 it is evident that AGS was in a state of near bankruptcy; he owed £6,000, the value of his total estates, to his agents, Messrs. C. & Wm. Armstrong of Clements Lane, London and many of his letters contain many excuses why he cannot pay off his debts just at the moment but will do so "very soon"!!

His mother, who lived in a "grace-and-favour" apartment at Hampton Court until her death in 1808, managed to maintain her lifestyle by borrowing money. There are several letters where AGS is unable or unwilling to settle these loans and, on 4th August 1809, he wrote to Edward Sherwood of Purley Farm refusing to repay a £150 loan plus 4 years' interest of £30.

There are many long letters of instruction to his managers in Jamaica, who are also his attorneys; John Goodwin at Belleisle, Archibald Weir at The Wharf and Mr. Richardson of Frome. These relate to harvesting the cane, exporting the sugar, rum and "log wood", fobbing off claims for payment of debts, managing the negroes, some of whom are named, and general estate management.

In July 1809 he wrote that "I lost my poor little boy about a month after we sailed" [from Jamaica]. This refers to his second child, who died on 11th June aged 7 months 15 days. In October he wrote again announcing that the baby's body pickled in rum would soon be arriving on Captain Sowden's ship. Two slaves, "Phillip & Janett" were to dress and place him in a cedar and lead coffin at The Wharf when a 10-gun salute was to be fired. After spending a day in Belleisle House, the negro slaves were to have a holiday and, wearing "scarves and hat bands", attend the ceremony and prayers when the coffin was put in the family vault next to his sister.

The money required for their day to day living expenses was controlled by Messrs.

Armstrong. His letters contain petitions for advances and, despite promises to economise, in September he took delivery of a gig from Robert Giles, the coach maker, and then ordered a landau lined with blue "mor" and leather with patent axles to be delivered within two months at a maximum cost of £300 for his wife's use. The same month he wrote to Messrs. Marsh Deane Westbrook & C (bankers of Reading) "to pay £200 to 'Reanolds'"; probably George Reynolds of Purley, who received £25 a year under the will of his master, Anthony Morris Storer I, in 1799.

Captain Sowden, on whose ship they had sailed to England, had retained some of their "cloaths" in the docks and, in September, AGS asked Messrs. Armstrongs for an advance to purchase replacements. Next month he drew £150 on them to "purchase many things for the little stranger" with a promise not to draw any more. After a gap between 30th November and 18th December 1809 he wrote that "Mrs. Storer and my little one are doing as well as possible". This refers to their eldest surviving child, Elizabeth Fanny, born at Purley Park on December 3rd and baptised at Purley the following January, who was the evident reason for the family's brief return to England.

Jean Debney

PURLEY TOTS (MOTHER AND TODDLER GROUP)

We are a friendly group of children and mums who get together on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings from 9.45 to 11.15 a.m. Mums can partake in a chat over a cup of tea/coffee whilst the children play. We have a range of activities set up to encourage learning through play, social skills and, of course, to have fun!!

The church hall is filled with toys to promote physical activity including a slide, a trampoline, small bikes, seesaw and boat rocker as well as a fully equipped wendy house - enough to exhaust both mums and 'Tots'! We also have books and a craft table for more traditional learning. In the coming weeks we'll be making mobiles, aeroplanes and picture collages. An area is also set aside for our younger (less mobile) members with soft mats and lots of teddies, toys, rattles and activity centres.

A big thank you to the Mums who helped with our staff at Pangbourne Fete back in June, raising money for outings and new toys. Our toddler's playground (particularly the mini roller coaster) was very popular and the weather held out nicely for a busy afternoon. All the children enjoyed themselves and I think the Mums did too. The term ends on 22nd July.

If you would like more information, please contact Debbie Hayward on 942 3237.

Nicky Garratt

Set out below are the recorded Crime Figures for the month of May:

<u>Type of Offence</u>	<u>April</u>	<u>May</u>
Burglary - Dwelling	0	1
Attempted Burglary - Dwelling	0	0
Burglary - Other than in a Dwelling	1	2
Theft (including shoplifting)	2	4
Theft from a Motor Vehicle	3	4
Theft or Unauthorised taking of Motor Vehicle	3	0
Theft or Unauthorised taking of Pedal Cycle	1	2
Criminal Damage	2	1

Violent Crime	0	1
Arson	0	0
Indecency (on female)	1	0
Public Order Offences	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>
	<u>13</u>	<u>16</u>

Well, having remained relatively stable for a couple of months, the figures are starting to take an upward turn.

The most noted increase in crime is in the area of theft. The items stolen are fairly diverse, but have included garden ornaments. One can only guess that maybe our previous green fingered thief has now added some ornaments to his, or her, ever expanding garden. All the offences took place overnight and under cover of darkness.

Thefts of vehicles have reduced, but thefts from vehicles again have increased. Again, the spread of offences are across the area as a whole, and all took place during night time. If you are aware of people hanging around at night near to vehicles and you are unhappy about them, please all the Police. If you actually see a crime being committed, or think that one is about to be committed, phone the Police immediately, using 999. Stay on the telephone and give as much information as possible to the Control Room at Reading Police Station.

If it transpires that Police attend and stop check persons and they have not done anything wrong, we will do no more than chat to them. You will not be wasting Officers' time. Even if no offences are disclosed, we can gather valuable intelligence.

Although the criminal damage has been reduced, there has been a marked increase recently which will be reflected in the June figures. It appears that a spate of damage to walls has taken place both in Tilehurst and Purley. The damage is believe to be mainly caused by people kicking the walls over. The question is "Why?" Are people so bored at night that they have to indulge in such moronic behaviour? This kind of damage is nothing more than pathetic, and those responsible defy description.

The type of offence I have described can only be detected through being witnessed. As it is very unlikely that anybody is going to kick a wall over, or similar, in the presence of a Police Officer, it is, therefore, vital that suspicious persons and incidents are reported at the time.

Once again, thank you for your help and support.

GARDENER'S CORNER

Unless you are a committed gardener with plenty of spare time on your hands, then you are, like me, always interested in time saving measures. As the summer is once again with us, the thought of warm sunny days, barbecues and sun bathing are probably uppermost in your mind rather than the hard work of digging and weeding. One way to reduce this work is mulching which will suppress weeds and hold moisture in the soil. However, most mulches are not particularly ornamental and you may prefer to use groundcover planting instead. Using such plants has the added benefit that they will grow where mulches are less effective, such as on awkward banks or slopes.

There is, of course, a disadvantage as well. Until your plants touch and intertwine the soil between the plants will still be prone to the very weeds you are trying to smother. However, over several seasons it will prove a good investment in both time and effort. Once established, the plants will provide natural shade which prevents the soil from being baked dry by the sun and the leaf fall will give a natural mulch. There are many herbaceous plants, such as 'Lamium' or 'Centaurea', which will provide excellent ground cover but these tend to be low growing and are probably best used in small spaces or in those awkward areas in front of shrubs. If you want something taller, then there are a range of shrubs which will provide a longlasting solution.

If shrubs are required to grow over 5ft, then the best choice is an evergreen variety which will give you colour all year round. You might choose Aucuba which will give a dense rounded bush and will produce red berries if a female variety such as Longifolia is grown along with the normal, more attractive, male plants. The Mexican Orange blossom, *Choisya ternata*, is also a good choice. This plant has aromatic leaves and scented white flowers. Other possibilities are *Cistus cyprus*, Hebe's such as "Great Orme" or "Marjorie" and the Japanese snowball tree, *Viburnum plicatum tomentosum*.

If you want something smaller, then there is a larger range of low growing shrubs available which are ideally suited to this purpose. Heathers and heaths are a good choice depending on your soil type. If you lack an acid soil, then choose the heaths, or Erica's,

such as "Springwood White" or "Winter Beauty". A selection of varieties will give you colour for most of the year.

Genets is another good shrub forming dense hummocks with chrome yellow flowers in June. This shrub will tolerate poor, dry soils once established. Lavender is not the most weed smothering shrub. However, if clipped regularly each March, then this will keep it low and as dense as possible. If a ground hugger is required, then *Cotoneaster dammeri* is ideal as it will grow to a maximum of 1ft in height and will rapidly cover banks or vacant areas with its natural prostrate habit.

Other shrubs such as *Berberis stenophylla* "Prostrata" or *Euonymus fortunei*, *Gaultheria procumbens*, *Hypericum calycinum* (Rose of Sharon) and *Viburnum davidii* are equally suitable.

Other jobs to do in the garden this month include:

Lawns - Aerate the lawn surface if it becomes compacted and water when slackening growth indicates a water shortage. Remember it is best to water well once a week than several times lightly. The water usage is the same but the lighter watering is next to useless.

Roses - Deadhead regularly. Spray with systemic insecticide against aphids and also spray against black spot and mildew. Once the first flush of blooms is over, feed with a proprietary rose fertiliser.

Hardy Herbaceous Plants - Continue cutting back early flowering plants to within 3" of the soil level after flowering. *Salvia Superba* and its varieties will often produce a second crop if cut back severely just before flowering has finished. Hardy geraniums can also be treated in this manner to produce a second flush of flowers.

Greenhouses and Frames - Continue to give special attention to damping down in hot weather to keep a humid atmosphere. Control aphids with a systemic insecticide. Both tomatoes and cucumbers should be cropping now if sown early. If a mass of white roots appear on the soil surface, apply a dressing of well-rotted compost about 2" deep.

Trees and Shrubs - Aphids and other pests can breed on shrubs and become a source of infestation on more susceptible plants. Avoid this with a periodic spraying with insecticide.

Vegetables - Complete leek planting this month if not done in June. Swedes can be sown by the middle of the month. Late Brussel sprouts, winter cabbage and sprouting broccoli can also be planted out. If you have room, late sowings of round-seeded peas and globe beetroot can be made now which will mature in October.

General Tasks - Between now and the Autumn is the best time to get those constructional or maintenance jobs done. If you're painting fences near plants, make sure you use one of the water based products that will not harm your plants.

Happy Gardening,
Colin Graves

PURLEY CRICKET CLUB

Fixtures for July

Saturday	4th July v Farley Hill (1st XI League)	Home
"	4th July v Farley Hill (2nd XI League)	Away
Sunday	5th July v Britwell Salome (1st XI Friendly)	Home+
"	5th July v Silchester (2nd XI Friendly)	Away
Tuesday	9th July v R.U.E.S.C.(Business Houses League)	Away
Saturday	11th July v Reading Allstars (1st XI League)	Away
"	11th July v Binfield (2nd XI League)	Home
Sunday	12th July v Finchampstead 3rds (1st XI Friendly)	Away+
"	12th July v Moulsham (2nd XI Friendly)	Home
Wednesday	15th July v Victory (Business Houses League)	Away
Saturday	18th July v Emmbrook (1st XI League)	Home
"	18th July v Emmbrook (2nd XI League)	Away
Sunday	19th July v Woodcote (1st XI Friendly)	Away
"	19th July v Lower Earley (2nd XI Friendly)	Home+
Wednesday	22nd July v Signals (Business Houses League)	Away*
Saturday	25th July v Pinkneys Green (1st XI League)	Away
"	25th July v Pinkneys Green (2nd XI League)	Home
Sunday	26th July v Mortimer (1st XI Friendly)	Away
"	26th July v Earley St. Peter (2nd XI Friendly)	Home
Wednesday	29th July v Foster Wheeler (Business Houses League)	Home*

Fixtures for August

Saturday	1st August v Yateley (1st XI League)	Away
"	1st August v Yateley (2nd XI League)	Home
Sunday	2nd August v Wraysbury (1st XI Friendly)	Away+
"	2nd August v Warfield (2nd XI Friendly)	Home
Saturday	8th August v Sandhurst (1st XI League)	Home
"	8th August v Sandhurst (2nd XI League)	Away
Sunday	9th August v Oddfellows (1st XI Friendly)	Away
"	9th August v Spencers Wood (2nd XI Friendly)	Home
Saturday	15th August v Frimley (1st XI League)	Away

"	15th August v Frimley (2nd XI League)	Home
Sunday	16th August v Whitchurch (1st XI Friendly)	Home
"	16th August v Bucklebury (2nd XI Friendly)	Away
Saturday	22nd August v West Ilsley (1st XI League)	Home 1.30pm
"	22nd August v Ibis Mapledurham (2nd XI League)	Away 1.30pm
Sunday	23rd August v Newbury (1st XI Friendly)	Away
"	23rd August v Aldermaston (2nd XI Friendly)	Home
Saturday	29th August v Goring (1st XI League)	Away 1.30pm
"	29th August v Stratfield Turgis (2nd XI League)	Home 1.30pm
Sunday	30th August v Stratfield Turgis (1st XI Friendly)	Home+
"	30th August v Welford Park (2nd XI Friendly)	Away

All Saturday fixtures begin at 2.00 p.m., unless otherwise stated. Sunday fixtures marked with a cross begin at 2.00 p.m., all others at 2.30 p.m. The Business Houses League games commence at 6.15 p.m. and * denotes artificial wickets (no spikes).

If you are interested in participating in the Cricket Club in any way (Colts, Adults playing, Umpiring, Scoring or just watching) come along to any advertised event or contact us on the telephone numbers below; new members are always welcome.

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

BERKSHIRE MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS TREATMENT CENTRE - OPEN GARDENS WEEKEND

Several months ago the above charitable event was advertised in the Purley Parish News. It is being held to raise funds for the BMSTC relocation appeal. This charitable organisation provides treatment, help and support to MS sufferers throughout Berkshire. They are trying to raise funds to enable them to move from their present location in Caversham to a new site off the Oxford Road. Please try to support this worthwhile charity by visiting one or more of the following gardens which will be open over the weekend of the 11th and 12th July as indicated. Thank you for your support. Please telephone the BMSTC during office hours on 948 2072 or Colin Graves on 954 2955.

2 The Hydes, Tilehurst (Sunday 2-6 pm) - Unusually large suburban garden. Fuchsias, patio and pergola, herbaceous borders, fruit and vegetables. Teas and toilet available. Disabled access to main garden but not vegetable garden. Admission £1.00; 50p for children.

Old Rectory Cottage Garden, Tidmarsh (Sunday 2-6pm) - 2-acre cottage and wild garden, river and lake. Featured on TV and in gardening books. Admission £2.00.

157 Silverdale Road, Earley (Sunday 2-6pm) - Colour co-ordinated planting with island beds and pond. Penstemons. Teas and plant sales. Disabled access. Admission 50p.

5 Kelburne Close, Winnersh (Sunday 2-6pm) - One third of an acre garden of shrubs and herbaceous borders. Teas and good disabled access. Admission by donation.

Farley Hill Place Gardens, Farley Hill, Reading (Sunday 2-6pm) - 5-acre Victorian walled garden. Admission £1.50; 50p for children.

4-8 Elvendon Road, Goring on Thames (3 gardens) (Sunday 2-6pm) - Summer bedding, shrubs and mixed borders. Gazebo, pergolas, mature fruit and ornamental trees. Teas, plant and terracotta pot sales. Admission £2.00; £1.00 for children/OAP's. No dogs.

4 Milldown Avenue, Goring on Thames (Sunday 2.30 - 6pm) - Town garden with patio area. Shrubs and herbaceous plants. Teas. Admission £1.50 to include tea and cake. Toilet.

69 Outlands Road, Shinfield (Saturday 2-6 pm) - Town garden with open plan front garden with shrub borders. Rear garden features pergola, pond and ornamental borders. Toilets, teas, disabled access by arrangement.

We have had a lovely time this summer at the Playgroup. Wednesday 17th June was Sports Day. We held a variety of races, including some for the grown-ups! There was also a cake competition, stalls and a raffle. This is always a very enjoyable event,

whatever the weather.

Recently, all children took part in a sponsored bounce. Each child bounced on the trampoline for one minute and was sponsored per bounce. They will receive a certificate as a record of their achievement. All money collected, which is about £150, went towards the cost of our outing this month which was on the 2nd July. We took the children to Well Place Zoo at Ipsden. The coach ride was almost as exciting as the Zoo. There were lots of birds and animals to look at and to feed. We had a picnic lunch and then spent some time in the play area, all supervised by staff and some mums. A good time was had by all.

The sessions for children aged 4+ have additional activities each week. To illustrate this, this term's work is:

Week of Theme for all children

June 1st Growing sunflowers
June 8th Growing cress & planting veg.
June 15th Cooking
June 22nd Colours and shapes
June 29th Transport
July 6th Outing
July 13th Seaside

4+ Session activities

Make a clay model
Painting the models
Sports picture
Spinning tops
Outing
Fish
Treasure hunt

Our term finishes on Friday 17th July and we re-start on Monday 7th September. We hope you enjoy the summer holidays. For more information about the Playgroup or to put your child's name on the waiting list, please contact Sue Slade on 941 0778.

Annie Thorpe & Sue Slade

THE BELLS OF ST. MARY'S (and other necessary works)

As I'm sure most residents of Purley now know, our Parish Church is in need of urgent

major repair. In his letter in last month's Purley News, the Rector listed the works needed and briefly outlined the principles of covenanted giving and gift aid. This, I know, was explained in detail at the General Meeting on 10th June.

In addition to this means of raising the money, a Fund Raising Committee has been formed to co-ordinate a programme of fund raising events which we hope will not only raise cash but will be fun into the bargain.

We intend to launch the fund raising in October 1998 with a Gift Weekend. During that weekend the Church (which will have been beautifully decorated by the Flower Guild to look its best) will be open to enable those who wish to give a gift to do so. Refreshments will also be provided. Everyone in Purley will be given full details of this later on.

At the same time, we will be launching The 100 Club. This involves groups of people running their own events undertaking to raise at least £100. Various ideas come to mind including a fashion show, musical evening, Talents Auction, garden parties, coffee mornings and many, many more - we rely on your imaginations!

The Fund Raising Committee are: Jean Chudleigh (984 2563); Marjorie Butler (941 8856); Roger Kennedy (942 6972) and Pam Jamieson (941 4338).

PLEASE: Speak to the Fund Raising Committee **BEFORE** you go ahead with an event, in order to arrange an appropriate date to be allocated in the Fund Raising Diary. We are anxious to achieve a balanced Programme of Events. We also may be able to help with hints and possible contacts. Or, of course, speak to the Rector who will let us know.

We are planning a STAR Event in Spring/Summer 1999. This will be a Grand Ball. Details later.

So, please get your imaginations going - we look forward to hearing from you soon.

Wouldn't it be great to have the bells ringing by the Millennium?

Jean Chudleigh

LAUGHLINES

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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 941 2342. This month's magazine is published on **Saturday, 4th July**. All copy for the **September** issue must reach me by 15th August and the magazine will be published on **Saturday, 5th September**.

Editor