

# ST. MARY'S CHURCH - PURLEY ON THAMES

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## SUNDAY SERVICES FOR THE COMING MONTH

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  
Tel: 962 5978

**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,

**Ordination of Jean Rothery**

On Sunday, 4th October Jean Rothery will be ordained as a Deacon in Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford. Owing to the limited space available, entry to this service is by ticket only, but we shall be having a service of welcome for Jean in the evening at 6.00 p.m. at St. Mary's to which all are invited to come.

Jean has been involved in the life of St. Mary's for many years and more recently as a Licensed Reader, i.e. appointed by the Bishop to lead worship and preach. For the past three years she has been part of the *St. Albans and Oxford Ministry Course (SAOMC)* preparing for Ordination. On Tuesday evening in term time she has been attending lectures in Oxford and writing essays. This, together with attendance at weekend courses and Summer School, has been a major commitment of time, energy and trust in God - the One who never calls without enabling. Now Jean looks forward to being ordained, and we to welcoming her as Honorary Curate in the parish.

**Community Memorial Service**

For the past five years or so we have held an annual *Community Memorial Service* for those who have been bereaved in the previous year, or more distantly. This year the service will be on Sunday, 11th October at 3.30 p.m. Personal invitations will be sent out

shortly, but all are welcome to come to this event.

### **Alpha Course**

In the middle of September there is to be a *Nationwide Alpha Initiative* and you will see in the papers, and on large billboards information about Alpha Courses. We shall be part of this initiative and during the autumn there will be an Alpha Course in the parish. Alpha Courses are designed for all kinds of different people who want to investigate some of the great questions of life which inevitably revolve around the spiritual dimension - i.e. God Himself! The Course is open to atheists, agnostics, the curious, the sceptics, and Christians who want to find out more about the Faith. In other words you are just the person it is designed for! Further information is available from the Rector (941 7727) or Sally Robertson (962 5978).

### **Restoration of the Bells and major maintenance work**

We have had a most encouraging start from the congregation in our appeal for new monies to fund the restoration of the bells, and other major items of maintenance on St. Mary's Church (see separate article by Graham Pearson). But we shall need help from a wider circle of interested people if we are to complete all the work which needs to be done. Further information will be available soon on how you can be involved in this project.

And finally, whether you have been away for a holiday, or stayed at home, I trust that you have been refreshed and feel ready to face the Autumn and, of course, not too far away ..... Christmas!

## **HARVEST FESTIVAL**

**Sunday, 27th September**

10.30 a.m.	Harvest Songs of Praise
12.30 p.m.	Harvest Lunch
6.00 p.m.	Holy Communion

This year we are asking for gifts of **non-perishable goods** which we can pass on to local groups who are involved with helping the homeless and others in need. If you would like to be involved with this, please bring your gifts to:

- \* the church on Saturday morning, 26th September
- \* any church member who lives near you
- \* the Rectory

## SUNDAY SERVICES FOR SEPTEMBER

6th Sept.	9.30 a.m.	Family Worship
	11.15 a.m.	Morning Worship
	6.00 p.m.	Holy Communion
13th Sept.	9.30 a.m.	Family Worship
	11.15 a.m.	Holy Communion
20th Sept.	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
	11.15 a.m.	Morning Worship
	6.00 p.m.	Evening Worship
27th Sept.	10.30 a.m.	<b>Harvest Songs of Praise</b>
	6.00 p.m.	Holy Communion

## PARISH REGISTERS

### Baptisms

28th April Alexander Charles Goodyear  
 26th July Thomas Frederick Corrigan  
 Robert William Haggis

### Weddings

20th June Marc Powell and Laura James  
 4th July Mark Wooldridge and Rachel Miciak

### Funeral

8th June Isabel Mabel Crook, aged 93 years

### Deanery Youth Work Facilitator

Mark Berry began his work as Bradfield Deanery Youth Work Facilitator on 1st September. There will be a service of Welcome and Commissioning at St. James the Less, Pangbourne on Thursday, 1st October at 8.00 p.m. Come and meet Mark and give him your support.

## **MUSIC AT DOUAI ABBEY**

**Saturday, 19th September at 7.45 p.m. - The Kandinsky String Quartet**

This quartet first visited Douai in July 1997 when they presented a programme which was enthusiastically received. This programme will include a Beethoven Quartet. Tickets from Music at Douai (971 5271) at £5 (Concessions £3), Family ticket £10.

## **BUILDING FUND SHARE SCHEME - HALF-WAY THERE!**

At the Extraordinary General Meeting held in the church on 10th June, St. Mary's church launched a Share Scheme to raise money for the various repairs to the church (the tower, the bells, the roof, the windows etc.) with a target of 200 shares each of £500. I am very pleased to say that we have now reached the half-way point in this appeal - thank you very much to all who have responded so generously.

Approximately 59% of the shares have been "lump sum" donations, which will be used directly to fund building work. The other 41% have been commitments to regular donations over a 50-month period, and these will be used to secure a loan from the diocese. It is also very gratifying that over 90% of the donations are "tax efficient" so we will be able to reclaim the tax back from the Inland Revenue - increasing the value of these donations by a further 30% (an extra £15,000 to our funds at no cost to anyone!).

These financial commitments mean that we will certainly be able to go ahead in 1999 with the first phases of the work:

Phase 1 -	the tower and bells
Phase 2 -	the windows
and/or Phase 3 -	the roof

but it is not enough to complete all the work - we still need those further 100 shares to be taken up. Can you help? Can you take a share? Remember, shares can be single donations or regular commitments (£10 each month for 50 months). But any donation is welcomed.

For further information, please contact the Rector, the Curate, the Churchwardens, the Treasurer, Barry Brown, or myself - any of whom will be pleased to discuss the details with you in the strictest confidence.

Graham Pearson

## **NEW NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM FOR THEALE**

On 12th October at 12.30 a new Neighbourhood Forum will be launched at Theale Green School for the Theale area. This Forum will enable those living and working in the area to meet and learn more about local services. It will also aim to explore ways local organisations can work closely together to resolve local concerns. If you would like to come along, please contact Sarah Ward, CCB's Community Care Worker, on 01488 657424.

## **BARGAIN CORNER**

Rollerblades, size 7 - mint condition - hardly used

**£20.00**

**Tel: 942 9630**

## **THE TRAVELS OF AN AMATEUR CHURCH ORGANIST**

During the past few months it has been my privilege to play for services in different churches in the area, which include Aldworth, St. Andrew's, Bradfield, Sulham and our own St. Mary's Church, Purley.

As I arrive at each church I feel very humble and it never ceases to amaze me to observe the small, silent army of volunteers working to keep the church buildings and churchyards in good order, freely giving of their time and money.

These churches have been here for centuries! Do we care whether they continue? How would we feel if we lost the attractive centrepiece in our villages for ever? No more weddings, christenings, and funerals in our village church!!

Many of us pay out for cars, televisions, washing machines etc. - these disintegrate within a short space of time! Please help us to preserve our own St. Mary's Purley! We need £130,000 for essential repairs.

The regular worshippers will be doing their utmost to raise funds - St. Mary's gets no Government help!

If we care about our British Heritage for future generations, all of us who live locally will need to give what we can.

Anne Bolam

## **PARISH CHURCH CHOIR**

St. Mary's Parish Church has recently set up a new choir. The choir sings at the 11.15

a.m. communion services on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month and at occasional services. We welcome new members of any age, including children, to come and join us. No singing experience necessary - just enthusiasm!

If you are interested, please telephone Tim Short on 951 1042 or come along to practise on a Thursday evening at 7.00 p.m. in the church.

## **THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND TODAY**

*Some recent statistics from the  
Church of England Statistics Unit*

### The Anglican Communion

The Church of England is part of the Anglican Communion which covers 160 countries world-wide.

### Church of England Diocese and Parishes

The Church of England has 44 diocese; 43 of these comprise 13,000 parishes (of which St. Mary's is one) which cover the whole of England, the Isle of Man, the Channel Islands, the Scilly Isles and a small part of Wales. The Diocese of Europe has clergy and congregations in the rest of Europe, Morocco, Turkey and the Asian countries of the former Soviet Union.

### Church Buildings

In the Church of England there are 16,000 churches of every size and date. 13,000 of these are listed buildings.

### The Church as Educator

In 1995 there were 4,614 primary and 204 secondary Church of England schools, each with a distinctive Christian-based ethos. They serve 731,000 primary pupils and 144,000 secondary pupils.

### Membership

In 1996 new electoral rolls (including ours in St. Mary's) were prepared as they are every six years. The number of people on the new rolls was 1,290,000.

### Clergy

On 31st December 1996 there were 108 Bishops, 108 Archdeacons, 161 Cathedral Clergy, 7,556 Vicars, 1,758 Assistant Curates, 1,914 Chaplains and Other Clergy and 2,039 Non-Stipendiary Clergy.

### The Future

With this tremendous network of churches and huge resource of people, *pray that God will renew, restore and reform the Church of England to spread the good news of Jesus throughout the land.*



## **PURLEY ON THAMES PARISH COUNCIL**

The plans for setting out and planting of the new Burial Ground at Beech Road have been approved by the Planning Authority and the Scutt Trust and tenders for the complete work on the land are being invited. Arrangements for the consecration of the Burial Ground are being made with the Bishop of Reading and the Oxford Diocese.

The Parish Council is taking part in discussions on plans for a cycle path from Pangbourne, through Purley on Thames to possibly link up with the existing path in Reading. The Parish Council is adamant that no proposals will be considered which might involve the closure of an existing footpath or involve the parish in any significant funding. As soon as details are available, all householders that are affected by this path will be consulted.

The District Council is applying for additional funding for rural bus services and the Parish Council has expressed a need for an afternoon bus from and to Pangbourne and Reading. The District Council is also considering methods of providing public information now that the mobile office has been discontinued. The District Council will also be making arrangements for the registration of births, deaths and marriages at a suitable location in the eastern end of West Berkshire.

The Parish Council has received a letter from a number of eleven-year-olds complaining at the lack of facilities at Bucknells Meadow. It has been agreed that, subject to the permission of the children's parents, the Council will meet with the children to discuss their proposals.

The Parish Council has been urging for Reading Transport to convert more of the "38" journeys to "39". Lack of passengers on these routes is the reason given by Reading Transport for not agreeing to this suggestion. There will, however, be an additional Mainline Service "D", details of which will be advertised. The Council will monitor the success or otherwise of this service.

The Council has sent a detailed letter of objection to the current proposals for development at Purley Park Trust. Any parishioner wishing for a copy of these objections should contact the Parish Office.

The Council considered a paper on "Communications" within the Parish and, whilst it was agreed that further communication was desirable, it was not clear just how this could be achieved. All the minutes of the Council and Committees are available for inspection

by interested parishioners and suggestions that details be delivered to each household were felt to be impracticable. The Council will continue to consider this matter.

The Council will be circulating a draft booklet to all voluntary groups in the Parish for them to itemise their arrangements for celebrating the Millennium. It is hoped to distribute copies of the final booklet around the Parish before Christmas 1999.

The Council entered the 1998 Berkshire Best Kept Village Competition and was pipped into second place in the 3000+ Group by Binfield Parish which scored 77.6% against Purley on Thames' 76.28%. This is the second occasion on which Purley on Thames has finished second.

There has been a resignation from the Parish Council from Mrs. Pru Taylor of Long Lane. The casual vacancy on the Council is being advertised and, if an election is not requested, the Council will fill the vacancy by co-option.

R.D. Fullbrook

## **PANGBOURNE AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY LUNCH**

The next Pangbourne and District Community Lunch will be held on Tuesday, 22nd September from 12.30 - 2.00 p.m. at the Dorman Rooms, St. Bernadettes Church, Pangbourne.

Anyone interested in the local Community or who works in a voluntary or professional capacity locally is welcome to come along.

Deborah Davies, Project Co-ordinator for the Leonard Cheshire Care at Home Service has agreed to come and talk about her work. During the coming year the Care at Home Service will be expanding into West Berkshire and will be providing high quality care for people with physical disabilities or mental health problems. It will also offer support to their families and carers.

Please encourage anyone else who might be interested to come along.

If you would like lunch, the cost will be £2.00 in cash on the day. Please let Mrs. Anne Stone, Flowers Court Coach House, Tidmarsh Road, Pangbourne know by the 18th September to facilitate catering arrangements.

Sarah Ward,  
Community Council for Berkshire

## **HOW MANY SHOPPING DAYS ARE THERE LEFT?**

As another, fairly painless way of raising money for the church repair fund, I am co-ordinating the ordering of goods from the Webb Ivory catalogue. At this time of the year the catalogue is heavily biased towards Christmas but there are plenty of other things on offer as well.

If you have not come across Webb Ivory before, it is a mail order catalogue of Christmas stationery and gifts but also includes birthday cards and many other items. On everything ordered the church is able to keep around 25% of the selling price so it is a good deal!

The next order will be sent off in late September; after that as and when necessary. If you want to see a catalogue, they will be available every Sunday between the two morning services or contact me direct on 942 6170.

If everyone who considers themselves members of St. Mary's Church, Purley was to buy at least one item, we would be able to make a good contribution to the repair fund.

Maureen Watkivs

## **PURLEY HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY**

The Summer Show is on 12th September. The schedules are available from the Trading Store; last entries by Wednesday, 9th September. The show is open to the public from 2.30 - 4.00 p.m., so come along and have a look even if you don't enter, and maybe you'll feel encouraged to enter next year? Presentation of prizes will be at 3.30 p.m.

One of the advantages of membership of our Society is use of the Trading Store. The store stocks a very, very wide range of gardening items, all at discounted prices. Certain items that we sell, such as grass seeds, Perlite, and various fertilisers, can be purchased by the pound or litre so you can get the amount you want. The Trading Store is open every Saturday and Sunday until November from 10.00 - 11.00 a.m.

The Society ticket, that gives a 30% discount on admission to Wisley Gardens, may be used by any member. Usually very little notice is required to borrow the ticket. Please contact me for details. If you have any queries about the Society, I can be contacted on 962 4457.

Anne Stockley,

# THE BELLS OF ST. MARY'S

## FUND RAISING LAUNCH

### GIFT WEEKEND - 17-18 OCTOBER

YOU ARE INVITED to come to St. Mary's over the two days of 17-18 October to see the Church beautifully decorated by the Flower Guild and enjoy morning coffee or afternoon tea. You will be able to study a display giving details of the proposed repair work and restoration work to the bells.

Of course, we hope you will want to make a contribution to the cost of the repairs either by cash gift there and then or by covenant or gift aid (there will be people at the Church who will be able to give advice in this respect).

The Church will be open from 10.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m. each day.

### THE 100 CLUB

This date will also mark the official launch of the **100 Club**. We invite you to run your own events undertaking to raise at least £100.

Please get your thinking caps on. To start you off, how about a fashion show; musical evening; talents auction (we already have one gift offer for this); garden parties; coffee mornings. **We rely on your imagination.**

**PLEASE** speak to a member of the Fund Raising Committee before you go ahead with your event to make sure you don't clash with anyone else.

Fund Raising Committee:

Jean Chudleigh (984 2563); Marjorie Butler (941 8856);

**PLEASE HELP**

Jean Chudleigh

**Stepping Back in Time**

A fascinating trip into local history is promised, along with the beautiful scenery of the Ashampstead area, at the Save The Children Sponsored Walk on Sunday, 27th September.

Five, ten and fifteen mile walks have been designed by local rambling expert Dick Greenaway. Dick, who lives in the area, has written detailed notes to accompany the routes, so walkers can find out more about the way they are walking.

Jenny Stroud, Chairman of the Pangbourne and District Branch, says "*walkers last year really enjoyed having Dick's notes, because they help you get so much more out of the day. It's amazing to think that part of the track is 900 years old; just think of the number of feet that have been along it!*"

Jenny adds: "*we hope to raise around £6,000 for underprivileged children in the UK and around the world. If you consider that £320 pays for one hour's flying time in delivering aid to South Sudan, you realise what a difference £6,000 could make. Or, if a walker gets £40 in sponsorship, it may not sound a lot but it would pay for a survival kit for a family in South Sudan, with essentials like plastic sheeting for shelter, cooking pots, fishing nets, mosquito nets and tools.*"

To register for the walk, call 01344 869173.

**Grand Clothing Sale**

Save the Children Fund is holding a grand sale of designer clothes and accessories on Wednesday, 7th October at Breedon's Court, Breedon's Hill, Tidmarsh Road, Pangbourne, from 9.30 a.m. - 4.00 p.m. Ample parking is available.

Come and have a cup of coffee, buy a raffle ticket and choose your winter wardrobe in comfort!

**Autumn Fair - Saturday, 10th October at Pangbourne Primary School, 10.00 am - 12 noon**

Christmas cards; presents; cake stall; white elephants; coffee; raffles. Shopping that puts children first!

Penny Billyeald, Hon.Secretary, Pangbourne & District Branch

## **PURLEY TENNIS CLUB**

### **Tournaments** (A reminder)

**Junior** - Sunday, 6th September, registration 10.00 a.m. (if wet, September 13th).

**Senior** - Scheduled for Saturday, 19th September. There are trophies to be won for both singles and doubles play. Please join in - a partner will be found for you!

**Summer Barbecue** and family tennis evening on 24th July was a great success. We were very fortunate with the weather and were able to play till dark. It was a pleasure to see so many children joining in.

### **Advance Notice - 17th October, Family Social Event and A.G.M.**

This will take place in the Barn; there will be games, including a beetle drive.

Anne Brown

## **PANGBOURNE ART GROUP**

We now have a few vacancies for new members and would welcome either beginners or more experienced artists. The new term started on Wednesday, 2nd September, 1.45 to 3.45 p.m., at the County River Centre opposite the Boathouse Surgery, Pangbourne. If anyone would like further information, please contact the Secretary, Frank Lewendon, on 942 0968.

## **BASIC SKILLS CLASSES FOR PARENTS AND FAMILY LITERACY GROUPS**

Brush up your English and Maths classes are provided in Newbury and in the surrounding villages at times convenient for parents. All our classes are free and students work towards qualifications. Parents are encouraged to work on tasks which will help themselves to help their children, if that is their aim. Newbury College has a creche for 2-5 year olds. Creches are also available at classes at Upper Bucklebury, St. Andrew's Church of England Primary School, Chaddleworth and Turnpike School, Newbury. We are always willing to work in partnership with schools, churches, family groups etc. to start a new class when a group of interested parents has been identified.

We also run a Families Learning Together programme for parents of young children who want to help their children develop the reading, writing and oral skills they will need for school. This is a free 10-week course and a creche is available.

For further information, contact Linda Fergusson, Basic Skills Section Leader, Newbury College, Oxford Road, Newbury, Berkshire RG14 1PQ, tel. 01635 37000, ext. 270.

We are looking forward to re-starting Playgroup on Monday, 7th September after the summer break.

Our existing group will be joined by several new children and their parents, and we extend a warm welcome to everyone.

A very important date in our diaries this term is for the Annual General Meeting which will be held on **Wednesday, 23rd September at 8.00 p.m.** in St. Mary's Church Hall. All existing families and those on the waiting list are welcome to attend. There will be refreshments and parking is free.

There will be a short report of the year's activities and the election of the new Committee. We also propose changing our name to **Purley Pre-School**. We feel it is more appropriate to our status as an Ofsted approved school of learning.

Please **do** come and see what we have been doing during the year. It is important that as many people as possible involved with the Playgroup come to the AGM.

### **Dates for your Diary**

Monday, 7th Sept.-	First day of term
Wednesday, 16th Sept.	- Committee meeting
Wednesday, 23rd Sept.	- Annual General Meeting
26th - 30th Oct.	- Half Term
Thursday, 17th Dec.	- End of Term

For more information about the Playgroup, or to put your child's name on the waiting list, please contact Sue Slade on 941 0778.

## **PURLEY MEMORIAL HALL**

### **ACTIVITIES FOR THE COMING MONTH**

7th Sept.		Playgroup term starts
9th Sept.	7.30 p.m.	Women's Institute
12th Sept.	2.30 - 4.00 p.m.	Horticultural Society "Late Summer Show"
14th Sept.		Adult Education classes start

A plaque is now sited in the out porch to commemorate the dead from the two World Wars. There will be no Service of Remembrance in the Hall.

Mrs. J.E. Hutchings

### **WOMEN'S INSTITUTE**

In July, with the usual matters attended to, we were happy to receive thanks from the Men and Maids of Kent who joined us again for a cream tea whilst travelling back home from their annual Berkshire visit. There was no meeting in August; pleased to say Jean Smith arranged a paella and wine Spanish evening in her garden.

As last year's musical performance by W.I. members was so successful, we decided to plan our December booking early for Bearwood College. Thought you'd care to be reminded that Daisy Nicholls who resides at The Stonehouse, Streatley, is more than happy to receive visitors. Sybil Pryor's annual coffee morning was well supported, and a trip around her garden is always a joy. We raised a handsome £52 which goes to the charity named The Association Countrywomen of the World Organisation.

A trip to Windsor Castle is being arranged and it is heartening to know how the treasures have been saved or restored since the fire. Members throughout the county gathered at Drury Lane Theatre to be guided backstage. This 80 ft.sq. stage houses such lighting, staging and effects that it is all quite breathtaking. As the guide quoted "Theatre is what we want you to believe".

Mr. Yana Glover, our speaker, spoke with great authority on old Japan. Going back to 1603, the country's leader was happy to remain isolated and independent from the outside world. They divided themselves into five clans which provided them with separate destinies. The people also grouped themselves into different classes of which it was impossible to move. Women were second or third citizens and their main purpose in life, from a very early age, was to obey, serve and please their mothers, sons, husbands and then mothers-in-law! Unfortunately for them, their position in society hasn't changed too dramatically! The competition, "Garden in a Saucer", was won by Carol MacGill with Rosemary King in second place. The Flower Table was won by Sybil Pryor and

Maureen Corke, and Kath Hodge and Shirley Lewis came second.

This month's meeting will be on Wednesday, 9th September, 7.30 p.m. at the Memorial Hall. The speaker is Mr. M. Channer - "Waterside Walk in Berkshire", and the competition will be "River or Local Views of Berkshire". There will be a fresh produce stall. Visitors always welcome.

Sylvia Conquest

## **GARDENER'S CORNER**

September is with us again and, despite the awful summer weather we've had, this month heralds the onset of Autumn once again. It is the time to take stock of the garden both in terms of what has done well over the summer and what needs to be moved indoors to be kept for another year.

Before I start on this month's tasks, can I just add a few lines of thanks to all those who supported the BMSTC "Open Gardens" weekend in July. Despite the weather, we had a reasonable turnout and £1,200+ was raised towards equipping the new Berkshire Multiple Sclerosis Centre. Congratulations to the two local raffle winners, Mrs. Bowker and Mrs. Dabbs. Needless to say, we are all delighted with this result and will be scheduling another similar event again next year. We hope to extend the attraction of the event by asking gardening clubs, societies and commercial organisations to participate by organising displays at the various gardens. Anyone who would like to come and demonstrate and sell garden related crafts will also be welcome.

If you didn't participate this year, perhaps you may consider doing so next year either by opening your garden (if you only have a small garden, then try to encourage a number of your neighbours to open as well; such groups of gardens are always popular with visitors) or by simply helping out at one of the larger garden sites. If you are at all interested or know somebody who might be, then please give me a ring on 954 2855. I can promise you a very rewarding weekend!

September is a good month to concentrate attention on the lawn. Established lawns can be raked and spiked to remove the mat of dead vegetation and so improve the penetration of air to the turf surface and the soil beneath. Seed can be sown to either repair bald patches or to produce new lawns. Spiking should be done with an ordinary fork, to a depth of at least 3.5 in. and at intervals of a few inches all over the lawn. Hollow-tined aerators are also very effective as they remove actual soil and, therefore, give good aeration. Slitting tines are also helpful as they cut the turf and break up the dead grass mat. This can be followed with a dressing of autumn lawn fertiliser. A top dressing of a

mixture of loam, peat and sand, worked in with a stiff brush, will also benefit the lawn.

For new lawns, seed is best sown early in the month. Application of a general fertiliser 10 days or so beforehand will help the grass to develop. Choose a day when the soil is moist and rain is likely to follow. Bald patches should be scratched up to form a seedbed and then sown with a mixture which matches the established lawn.

### **Jobs to do in the garden this month:**

Roses - Prune climbers and ramblers which only have one flush of colour. These will flower best the following year on new shoots produced this year. Where several new long flowering stems have grown from ground level, retain these and remove the older growth. If no new shoots have been produced, retain the strongest old wood and prune back the new side shoots to about 3 in. to promote new side shoots for next year's flowers. Continue to spray against aphids and black spot and mildew.

Hardy Herbaceous Plants - Continue cutting back flowering plants to within 3 in. of the soil level after flowering. Plan which plants require splitting up and replanting next month. Hardy Geraniums can produce a second flush of flowers if treated in this way.

Greenhouses and Frames - This is one of the most active months in the greenhouse as many plants can be raised from cuttings for next season. New young fuchsias, geraniums and pelargoniums are easily raised in this way. Towards the end of the month start to bring into the greenhouse any tender plants which have spent the summer in the garden and ensure your heating system is working in case of possible night frosts.

Trees and Shrubs - Prepare planting sites for new shrubs or evergreens which can be planted out at the end of this month. Work in some compost or manure and add 2-3oz of a slow release fertiliser to the soil.

Vegetables - Try a spring lettuce crop to overwinter without protection. Arctic King or Winter Density are suitable varieties. Protection from pigeons and birds is essential. If you have cloches, then a variety of crops can be grown for maturing in spring. Try Amsterdam forcing as a carrot crop as well as many varieties of lettuce, broad bean and spring cabbages.

General Tasks - Clear away any crops that have finished producing and add to the compost heap.

Happy Gardening, Colin Graves

## WHO'D HAVE A CONCUBINE?

Well, at least two of Purley's vicars did. For those who have led sheltered lives, a concubine is a cohabiting woman without the benefit of marriage lines. In the days when the clergy were supposed to be celibate, many of them had a concubine, everyone knew about it but turned a blind eye. Occasionally, however, a new bishop came along and decided to bring things back to order.

This seemed to happen in the 1390s in Purley just after John Waltham became Bishop of Salisbury. Each bishop was supposed to hold a visitation every three years at which the clergy had to present their credentials, the churchwardens had to prepare a report and all were subject to questioning by the bishop. In Bishop Waltham's Register there are copies of visitation reports for 1391 and 1394. For 1391 Pangbourne, Sulham and Tidmarsh are there but not Purley.

The answer seems to be tucked away at the back of the Register where cases are recorded of two different vicars being accused of concubinage. William Smyth (vicar 1387 - 1390) had, by the time of the 1391 visitation become Vicar of Chobham in Surrey, and hence outside the jurisdiction of Bishop Waltham. One can surmise that Isobel Seman had been named by William's successor, Thomas Bonelyth (vicar 1390 - 1391) and the matter referred to the bishop of Winchester. He no doubt took action against William and Isobel was kicked out. She would then have had to return to her own parish (Purley) as a destitute. Now she was within Bishop Waltham's jurisdiction and on 13th August 1394 she was summoned to the bishop's palace at Sonning and confessed that she had been William's concubine for 5 years and had had several sons by him, one of whom was still a babe in arms. As a penance, she was ordered to go around Reading market place on seven suitable market days to receive public punishment. She had to go around bare headed and bare footed wearing only her under-tunic with her hair hanging loose. She had to do the same around Purley on the next seven festival days.

The 1394 visitation seems to have caught Stephen atte Wall (vicar 1391 - 1405) who was still vicar and so came under bishop Waltham. The archdeacon was told on the 17th August 1394 to issue Stephen with a severe warning that his concubine Rose must leave Purley vicarage within three days. Stephen had confessed under oath that Rose had been his concubine but she was more of a housekeeper and he had not had intercourse with her

for six years. However, he was told in no uncertain terms that she must go and that there must be no improper meetings in suspicious places. He had to go to Sherborne in September 1394 to do his penance before the bishop.

The News of the World would have a field day with the 1391 reports. The reports for Newbury Deanery especially are full of accusations of adultery, fornication and malpractices. Stephen Albury of Thatcham was apparently paid 20s by John Chiseldon so that the latter could have intercourse with Stephen's wife, Marion. The vicar of Bucklebury was fined 6s 4d for the woman living with him whom he claimed was his sister. The vicar of Kintbury was accused of letting his beasts foul the churchyard and allowing William Alisander to remove 300 lbs of lead from the church roof. Henry Sutter of Breedon was accused of not attending church on a Sunday, rather he set up a stall outside the church to sell shoes at service times. John Huntingdon, the vicar of Basildon, was cited for committing adultery with Agnes Schepard and Emma Thresher, both of Basildon. Also Thomas Pye, vicar of Aldworth, was involved with Agnes Clerke of Basildon - a fascinating read!

John Chapman

## SELECTOURS

Short breaks - small groups - shared interests.

The Fugitive King (Charles II)

October 17th/18th

Burne-Jones Exhibition (Birmingham)

November 21st

Literary Portraits in Bath (Fanny Trollope on 'Both Sides of the Atlantic')

December 5th

For details of these and all our tours, phone 942 9665.

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

<u>Type of Offence</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>July</u>
Burglary - Dwelling	1	4
Attempted Burglary - Dwelling	0	0
Burglary - Other than a Dwelling	4	4
Theft (including shoplifting)	2	4
Theft from a Motor Vehicle	2	7
Theft or Unauthorised taking of Motor Vehicle	1	2
Theft or Unauthorised taking of Pedal Cycle	0	1
Criminal Damage	11	4
Violent Crime	2	1
Arson	0	0
Indecency (on female)	0	0
Public Order Offences	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>
	<b><u>25</u></b>	<b><u>27</u></b>

There was an upsurge last month and unfortunately things have not improved. Certainly where the Criminal Damage is concerned, there has been a marked decrease, which indicates that June was not typical and was unduly inflated by football.

There have, however, been a spot of garage burglaries which are occurring overnight. At the present time, the most common items stolen are power tools and very recently golf clubs, bags and accessories. Two of the burglaries were cleared up after an offender was caught in the Purley area. On the same night, some vehicles were broken into and it was initially felt that they were the work of the same person but, when investigated further, it became apparent that other unconnected offenders were involved.

Good information has been coming in from the public, which has resulted in stop checks

of known offenders and intelligence on vehicles being used. Also, because of people's suspicions of person or vehicles, offenders have been disturbed during the commission of crime, preventing the loss of property.

Because the holiday season is upon us, please keep your property secure. If going away, let a neighbour or relative know, cancel the milk and papers and try to avoid deliveries being left. Keep garages and sheds secure and consider the use of time switches. Most important though, if you know somebody is away and you are suspicious of persons or vehicles at their premises, note the details of descriptions and vehicle and call the police.

The 'Burglary Dwelling' also includes those burglaries committed to garages which are attached to a dwelling and have an integral door. The majority of actual dwelling breaks are still taking place during the daytime and breaks to sheds and outhouses are overnight.

The Theft from Vehicles has spread across the area from Tilehurst to Purley. The same pattern again emerges, which is the offence taking place during the hours of darkness and generally in the early hours of the morning.

There has been one offence of robbery to a shop which is currently being investigated by the CID department.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the people who attended my meeting recently at Long Lane School. I felt it was quite successful and there was good input from both sides. It is definitely something I will try to organise again and I thank you for your interest.

With regard to the Cycle Ride I will be taking part in this month, I must thank all those who have contributed to the fund. The money is coming in and we are hoping to exceed our projected total of £10,000; your support is much appreciated. If anybody feels they would like to sponsor us, then let us know and I will make the forms available to you.

Finally, I must ask that we all remain vigilant and I have no doubt we can get the crime figures down.

Until next month,  
Yours sincerely,  
PC3236 Welford

## **PURLEY TOTS (MOTHER AND TODDLER GROUP)**

For this year's summer outing we went to "The Active Toy Company" in Breedon - our mission was to test all the toys! Twenty-five children and their Mums drove in convoy to visit the show playground based at Langley Farm. The children had great fun playing on the magnificent array of equipment and toys before settling down to a picnic, followed by songs and games. Everyone had a marvellous time and even the weather held out for us!

As soon as the summer term ends we begin planning for our Autumn Fayre - one of our major fundraising events. We plan for it to be even bigger and better than last year! The date for your diaries is the 31st October - more details next month.

Purley Tots begins its autumn term on Tuesday, 8th and Wednesday, 9th September - where did the summer go? We welcome any new mums to join us at 9.45 a.m. on either day in the church hall for coffee and a chat.

For further information, please contact Debbie Hayward on 942 3237.

Nicky Garratt

## **FAMILIES TOGETHER**

Families Together is a new group for parents of children with a disability or special need. The group is run by parents for parents and it meets monthly at the Dingley Unit at Sandleford Hospital on a Friday between 10.00 a.m. and 12.30 p.m.

The group invites speakers such as the Parent Partnership and the CAB Carers Service, but it is chiefly about offering parents (and grandparents!) time to talk. The group has a creche staffed by professional child care workers.

For more information, contact Karen Hayward on 01635 38798 or Glen Newman on 01635 874369.

## **PURLEY BARN YOUTH CLUB**

The Youth Club of 16 members has had a varied activity based programme this summer. Three sessions of canoeing were followed by the Pangbourne Adventure Dolphin Regatta. Leanna Clarke excelled herself by coming third in her age group in the Marathon race. Congratulations Leanna!

We negotiated the use of the Purley Tennis Club courts for 3 sessions which proved a very popular option.

Our last evening consisted of a Rounders match followed by a barbecue.

The Club members now have the option of taking part in the Summer Holiday Programme arranged in conjunction with Adventure Dolphin Youth Clubs.

Five members received certificates for running the tuckshop successfully for a period of four weeks. These were:

Katie Leighton, Jenny Jordan, Sian Tayler and Leanna Clarke

Youth Club starts again on Friday, 7th September at 7.00 p.m. with a meeting to plan the programme until Christmas.

We have just heard that Antony, the part-time youth worker, has regretfully resigned due to family commitments, to take effect from this month so volunteers and helpers are now needed urgently because with more volunteers we can plan a more varied programme.

Youth Club is open to members only. Membership for the rest of the year costs £3.75!

Judith Lambley & Meg Layfield,  
Neighbourhood Youth & Community Workers

## **HOSTEL'S APPEAL FOR DOG FOOD**

An unusual charitable request has been made by St. Anne's Hostel for the homeless in Birmingham. They are asking for tinned dog food, feeding bowls and other dog accessories. This is not designed to be an insult to homeless people because, for the first time, they are offering accommodation to homeless dog owners, currently excluded from hostels in the city.

## **DENEFIELD SCHOOL**

### **Year 7 Guernsey Trip**

On Monday, 29th June, 123 Year 7 pupils set off on an 8-day trip to Guernsey. Camping in tents of four to six children, they took turns to complete the various domestic chores; preparing packed lunches, washing up, fetching water and so on.

Each day the pupils went off on a different tour with the rest of their tutor group; visiting the island museum and Castle Cornet, learning about the islanders' experiences during the Nazi occupation or simply enjoying a day on the beach! There is such a lot to see on Guernsey, from the lively town of St. Peter Port to the many Neolithic monuments that cover the island. Each tutor group was given a project to research, in addition to completing the work book which asks questions about many of the places visited.

Keeping diaries of their activities, our children gathered information relating to their specific projects, as well as reflecting generally on the experience of a week spent camping, in a large group, a long way from home. For many of the pupils, this was their first experience of being away from home for more than one night. It was a rich learning opportunity, where they came to appreciate the importance of tolerance, co-operation and the ability to organise themselves and to operate a little more independently; if they didn't remember to pack it, it didn't get packed!

As in previous years, the pupils' behaviour did the school credit and the trip passed off without unwelcome incident. The party arrived back at school on the following Monday, 6th July, to predictable rain and news of their country's defeat in the World Cup, but sporting impressive sun tans and bubbling enthusiastically about their various adventures over the previous week. If I am anything to go by, this brief show of remaining energy was soon followed by a lot of much-needed sleep.

Dave Smith

## **CELEBRATION 2000 - WRITE A PRAYER**

Secondary schools are being asked to submit prayers which celebrate the 2000th anniversary of the birth of Christ and the arrival of the third Millennium. The winning prayer will be used across the land on Saturday, 1st January 2000, in the short act of worship which follows church bells being rung.

Letters of invitation went out to schools this summer. Andrew Lloyd Webber, who founded the Open Churches Trust, will explain the plan which involves regional and national judging panels drawn from the churches. For details, write to: Open Churches Trust, 22 Tower Street, London WC2H 9NS, or telephone 0171 240 0880.



## LAUGHLINES

"Out, LBW," cried the umpire at the charity cricket match.

Disgruntled, the vicar shouldered his bat and walked towards the pavilion.

"You need glasses, giving me out like that," he grumbled, passing a man in a white coat.

"So do you," came the reply, "I'm selling ice-cream."

\*\*\*\*\*

"Come on Robin," said his mother, "finish your breakfast or you'll be late for church."

"I don't want to go to church," said Robin.

"But you must," said his mother.

"The Sunday School teachers hate me," said Robin.

"Even so ....." said his mother.

"The children, too, they hate me as well."

"You still have to go" said his mother.

"But why must I," wailed Robin.

"Well," said his mother, "for one thing you're 55 years old and for another, you're the vicar!"

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## 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 941 2342. This month's magazine is published on **Saturday, 5th September**. All copy for the **October** issue must reach me by 15th September and the magazine will be published on **Saturday, 3rd October**.

Editor