

ST. MARY'S CHURCH - PURLEY ON THAMES

**

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

HONORARY CURATE Rev. Jean Rothery,
"Oaklea", Tidmarsh Road,
Tidmarsh
Tel: 984 3625

READER Wally Watkivs
Tel: 942 6170

CHURCHWARDENS Jackie Benstead
Tel: 942 9116

David Jordan
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,

This will very likely be my last opportunity to write the letter section of the Parish Magazine. It seems that time has flown past since my wife and I arrived in the Parish of Purley in 1994. In some ways it feels like we have been here only for a couple of years and yet in others like we have never lived anywhere else. We certainly think that we have been made to feel very welcome in the local community. It is still amusing to bump into those who ask if we have settled in yet!

The last four years have seen us involved in many different activities, especially in St. Mary's. For me, a particular highlight has been the opportunity to work with many of the local youngsters throughout the parish. This has ranged from the highly organised to the very informal; from taking assemblies at Denefield School and running holiday clubs to chatting with those who hang around the church. I have learned a tremendous amount from them and enjoyed discovering their enthusiasm and concerns.

As the only Curate in this part of West Berkshire, at least until last summer, I have been privileged to help with services further afield. I think that I have now been in every Anglican Church in the deanery, which covers as far away as Aldworth and Ashampstead, Wasing and Brimpton, Burghfield and Mortimer and out to Woolhampton. In many cases, the church communities, although small, are in good heart, which bodes well for the future.

I will be leaving at about Eastertime to take up responsibility for four churches in rural Oxfordshire. I will be the Rector of the United Benefice of Nettlebed with Bix and Highmoor. This covers an area which stretches from just outside Henley, halfway to Wallingford in one direction and from Rotherfield Peppard towards Watlington. The population of the benefice is about 2000 people and is in the midst of lovely countryside. I will also have some involvement in the Sue Ryder Home in Nettlebed called Joyce Grove which used to be the home of James Bond author Ian Fleming.

We will miss living in Purley and especially the people who have made us feel welcome. However, since Nettlebed is only 20 miles away, I am sure that we will make several return visits to St. Mary's and to friends in the area.

No doubt the Parish, and the part of Tilehurst which it encompasses, will continue to grow and develop. However, it is important for the development to include adequate care for those who are most vulnerable in the community; the elderly and housebound, those with special needs, and the young. It is a responsibility for all, not simply the Government or local authority. Our lives are intimately tied up with those that we live and work with. Whether we like it or not we are all interdependent and need the help and support of friends and neighbours.

The Church is meant to be a community of men and women centred on Jesus Christ, living for the needs of others. If our communities are to survive at all, we need to have the welfare of all our neighbours at heart as well.

With all best wishes,

ST. MARY'S WEEK-END HOUSEPARTY

This will take place from Friday, 7th May until Sunday, 9th May this year. Once again we shall be going to the Winchester Diocesan Retreat House at Alresford, 7 miles from Winchester itself. The house is an old Rectory - Mary Sumner of Mother's Union fame once lived there! It is set in some beautiful countryside with many interesting things to do for people with a variety of different tastes - e.g. A Steam Railway (Watercress Line), Watercress farms, National Trust House, and historic Winchester etc.

Further information and booking forms are available from the Rector.

SUNDAY SERVICES FOR FEBRUARY

7th Feb.	9.30 a.m.	Family Worship
	11.15 a.m.	Morning Worship
	6.00 p.m.	Holy Communion
14th Feb.	9.30 a.m.	Family Worship
	11.15 a.m.	Holy Communion
21st Feb.	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
	11.15 a.m.	Morning Worship
	6.00 p.m.	Evening Worship
28th Feb.	9.30 a.m.	Family Worship
	11.15 a.m.	Holy Communion

VISIT OF THE ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY

There is an opportunity to meet the Archbishop of Canterbury when he visits Reading in March.

Wednesday, 3rd March at 7.30 p.m. A lecture by the Archbishop followed by questions and discussion. All are welcome at St. Mary the Butts, Reading.

ASH WEDNESDAY

Wednesday, 17th February marks the beginning of Lent. There will be a service of Holy Communion at St. Mary's at 10.30 a.m.

PARISH REGISTERS

Funerals

6th January Anne Alice Lewis, aged 79 years (Cremation)

CAR PARKING AT ST. MARY'S CHURCH

There have been a number of complaints recently from those who live near the church about visitors to the church parking their cars across driveways and gates. This is not only very annoying to residents, but could be highly inconvenient and cause appointments to be missed.

If you bring a car to the church - whether for a service on Sundays, a function in the hall or a visit to the graveyard - please make sure you do not park in front of someone's driveway, or in front of the Marina gates (there are 2 houses in the grounds whose owners need to be able to get in and out!).

Roger Howell, Rector

MESSAGE FOR THE MILLENNIUM

This is the title of a 1999 Lent Book, written by David Winter.

"Each day he looks at a different aspect of the teaching of Jesus - honesty, poverty, humility etc. For each day there is a printed Bible passage, comment and prayer or reflection." Approaching the Millennium, there is no better way to think about why Jesus, from whose birth the calendar is dated, has so influenced the course of human history, than to examine what He taught.

Message for the Millennium is available from St. Andrew's Bookshop, London Street, Reading (Tel. 957 6078).

ON THE MOVE!

Brendan Bailey has been Curate in the parish since December 1994. The time has come for him to move on to his next appointment and we offer our congratulations as he takes up the job of being Rector of Nettlebed with Bix and Highmoor. The date of his Institution and Induction has been fixed for Tuesday, 4th May at Nettlebed. Brendan's last Sunday at St. Mary's will be Sunday, 28th March and he will be preaching his farewell sermons at all services.

Rector

THANK YOU

My family and I wish to thank everyone for the kind words of sympathy and the donations to the British Heart Foundation received on the death of my husband, Albert. He will be sadly missed by all of us, especially our grandchildren.

I am, very sincerely, Ivy Hassall and Family

SITUATION VACANT : CHURCH CLEANER

St. Mary's Church is currently without a cleaner. If you have 6 hours a week to spare and would like to earn £120 per month, this could be the job for you. The hours can be worked when you find it most convenient (as long as there are no other activities in the Church at that time), though some hours need to be spent at the beginning of the week and some towards the end. The job is essentially cleaning and tidying the church and hall to the standard expected by those who hire the hall each week.

ALTERNATIVELY, if you could spare a few hours occasionally and would like to volunteer to be on a church cleaning rota, this could be the job for you. If we cannot find a full-time cleaner, we will need a rota of volunteers to keep the church clean.

If you would like to know more about either possibility, please contact me on 962 5978. This is an equal opportunities position.

Sally Robertson

PANGBOURNE PYRAMID PROJECT (Reg. Charity No. 1072713)

All Churches Together Millennium Project

The Task Group has arranged a public meeting in Pangbourne Village Hall on Tuesday, 23rd February at 7.30 p.m. to give residents the opportunity to share their views and concerns.

Sheila (Poppy) Dixon,
for the Task Group

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER - FRIDAY, 5th MARCH

The theme this year is "God's Tender Touch" and has been prepared by the women of Venezuela. Our speaker this year will be the Revd. Gill Jackson.

The service this year will be held at **St. Luke's Roman Catholic Church, Theale**. The time of the service is **2.30 p.m.** Should you require transport to the service, or require further details, please contact me on 945 4916.

Please note, my new Grade III ballet class at Purley Memorial Hall is held on Tuesday **evenings** and not Tuesday mornings as stated in the January edition of Purley Parish News.

Janet Foskett

Crusaders is a Christian organisation which supports youth groups all over the country. There are over thirty crusader groups in the Thames Valley area alone. We run a Crusader group in the Adventure Dolphin Centre, Whitchurch Road, Pangbourne from 6.15 - 7.30 p.m. and is for boys and girls between the ages of 9 and 11.

We offer various organised activities such as crafts, cooking, football, rounders and the opportunity to just run around and go wild. Because Crusaders is a national organisation there are various regional and national events we attend such as football competitions, mountainbike rides and various holidays.

We are currently looking for new members. We do not charge a yearly membership, just 50p per evening. We meet every Friday during the school term, so feel free to give it a try even if it's only for one evening; we would love to meet you.

If you would like to chat to a leader, you can contact Paul on 984 1460 or Sally on 962 5978.

SAVE THE CHILDREN FUND

Spring Clothes Sale

There will be a sale of Spring and Summer clothes and accessories at Breedon's Court, Breedon's Hill, Tidmarsh Road, Pangbourne on Wednesday, 10th March from 9.30 a.m. - 4.00 p.m. Entry is free, coffee will be served, and there will be a raffle. Ample parking is available. Come and update your summer wardrobe in comfort!

Penny Billyeald

OLD TYME MUSIC HALL

18th, 19th and 20th MARCH 1999

8.30 p.m.

ST. MARY'S CHURCH HALL, PURLEY ON THAMES

Put these dates in your diary

For details of how to get your tickets,
see next month's Purley Parish News

IN AID OF THE BELLS AND CHURCH RESTORATION APPEAL

HOLIDAY APARTMENT TO LET

Our apartment is on Menorca, the quieter of the Balearic Islands. The island is beautiful and unspoilt. The apartment is centrally located in well established gardens. It sleeps five and is well equipped. There is a large swimming pool. It is on the lower floor with only one apartment above. If you would like more details and photos, please call me on 0966 44 81 45 or fax 0118 984 4564.

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

At the January meeting we amused ourselves (and each other!) with a Blind Auction - gift wrapped parcels, unknown contents (unwanted Christmas gifts?), brilliant auctioneer - a huge amount of money was raised, and someone got a brand new very sophisticated, or at any rate, idiot-proof Japanese camera for £2.50 - what about that for a lucky start to 1999? Our President had been to Denman College for a Music for Fun Course, which she said was super - and she can't wait to go again (the W.I. has a Bursary scheme which helps with expenses - who next?).

The Flower of the Month was Sybil Pryor's Chinese wintersweet, with Kath Hodge's blue (with cold?) pansy in second place. There were raffle prizes and a bit of Bring and Buy to round us off!! Good fun.

Our next meeting will be 7.30 p.m. on Wednesday, 10th February at the Memorial Hall. Nominations for the next Committee need to be in by this meeting and in Purley you must ask her if she is prepared to stand (some institutes just stick them up!!). The speaker will be Mr. Callan on English Silver, and the competition will be "A Silver Spoon". The stall is a gift wrapped in silver paper - we didn't get those sock-suspenders in the Blind Auction this year - maybe they'll show up in February!

Sybil Pryor

PURLEY HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

It's time to start thinking about your entries to the Spring Flower Show (Saturday, 10th 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 17 Feb.AGM (at 7.45) followed (at 8.30) by a talk from Mr. Ben Viljoen on "The Wilders in Sulham Valley"

Wed 17 Mar."Flora and Fauna of the Rockies" by Mr. V.J. Scott

Sat 10 Apr.Spring Flower Show - always worth a visit even if you don't enter anything - but why not think about entering this year?

Wed 21 Apr."How to win with Houseplants" by Mr. Harry Townsend

Sat 15 MayPlant Sale in the Memorial Hall car park

All the talks are at the Purley Memorial Hall at 8.00 pm (except the AGM which starts at 7.45). See you there! The Trading Store re-opens on Saturday, 6th February. If you have any queries about the Society, please call me on 962 4457.

Anne Stockley, Secretary

PURLEY ON THAMES PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council has been approached by the Purley Park Residents Association who wish to transfer to the Council the responsibilities for the unmade roads held by the Trust, viz Oak Tree Walk, The Short, Park Walk, part of Calley's Alley and Wintringham Way, and part of Wintringham Way joining River Gardens and the roadway in River Gardens.

The Council has been assured by its solicitors that any change of ownership would not affect the rights of the frontagers and has agreed to the takeover in principle. However, before any legal transactions are conducted, the Council has agreed to communicate with the frontagers on the matter.

Details of the proposed service reviews by West Berkshire Council were considered by the Parish Council who strongly objected to a 20% reduction in the concessionary fares scheme; it also opposed the cessation of the School Crossing Service but appreciated the reinstatement of the free special collection service. Final decisions on these proposals are awaited.

A meeting was held with Councillors from Tilehurst Parish Council at which the possibility of the residents of the Westwood Ward of Tilehurst, which lies in the ecclesiastical parish of St. Mary's, being allowed the same burial rights as Purley residents if they wished to be interred in the new burial ground. This would involve Tilehurst Parish Council making a contribution towards the capital cost of the new burial ground. However, due to financial restraints, Tilehurst Parish Council have stated that it is unable to make any contribution in the 1999/2000 financial year but will further consider the matter in 2000/2001.

The Council has received and adopted the accounts for the period ended 31st March 1998 and any parishioner requiring further information or a copy of the accounts should contact the Clerk. The Council has received a further resignation from a councillor, Mr. Peter Farrow. The casual vacancy will be advertised shortly.

R.D. Fullbrook

DISTRICT NOTES

West Berkshire learned of its financial settlement in December and it does not make good reading for our Council Tax payers. There are three numbers which are crucial; first, the Standard Spending Assessment which has gone from £102.3M (in 1998/9) to £106.2M for 1999/2000. This is the amount which the government believes we should spend. Second, the Capping Limit which has gone from £111.2M to £115.1M - this is the amount which the Council is allowed to spend - and third, the government grant which remains at £73.3M. In order to maintain services at their present level, the Council would have needed to spend £123.6M. This is based upon the present spend of £111M plus inflation plus all the new statutory responsibilities imposed on the Council. The net result is that the Council must find savings of some £8.5M. Assuming this can be done, the Council Tax payer will still be faced with a 9% rise in Council Tax.

The allowed increases in spending are not evenly distributed. We will be allowed to spend 5.78% more on Education, 0.54% on Social Services, 1% on Highways, 3.14% on other services, 2.39% on the Fire service and a reduction of 10.21% for capital financing. This compares with an assumed 4.5% rate of inflation for council services (not the same as the consumer price index). Thus only education will see a real increase next year.

In order to determine how the £8.5M savings are to be achieved, the Council officers have done a very thorough review of everything the Council does. From this review a number of potential savings have been identified. These have been placed in 6 categories: Efficiency (i.e. doing the same things better)(£2.3M), Minor impact (£1.71M), Significant impact (£946K), Moderate impact (£667K), Severe impact (£2.1M) and not recommended (£4.57M). A simple sum will indicate that some inroads into the "Not recommended" category are going to be necessary and some very painful choices will have to be made.

At one time the Council had very healthy balances in the bank (around £48M) and ran a capital programme for projects which either made or saved money. In recent years, however, money has been spent on projects like swimming pools, the Corn Exchange, and cycleways which either require large subsidies or incur maintenance costs (none of these projects came our way you will notice). The net result is that we are left with only £3M and, instead of earning interest, we now look like having to pay interest.

My request for traffic calming on Hazel Road has been turned down because the officers feel there is no problem(!); nevertheless I am not giving up on this one, but do appeal to

motorists from Skerritt Way, Marshall Close and the end of Hazel Road to take great care along the straight stretch passing Purley Park and before the bend.

The Council is working on a strategic lorry network for the District. In the first draft they had ignored Reading and all the lorry movements it originates, but now they have taken it on board. However, I am concerned about the volume of heavy traffic on the A329.

John Chapman,
West Berkshire Councillor, Purley, Sulham and Tidmarsh Ward

PROJECT PURLEY

The next meeting of Project Purley will be held at the Parish Office, Beech Road Recreation Ground on Friday, 19th February at 8.00 p.m. The speaker will be Jean Debney who will give a talk on The History and Meaning of your Surname.

On Friday evening, December 11th members met at The Gatehouse where a warm welcome awaited us. The Christmas Social evening has become part of the seasonal festivities. The buffet provided by members was mouth-watering and the mulled wine gave a mellow ambience to the evening. Members were able to relax and catch up on events and each other's news. To round off the evening, another dip into the games box transported us to the 1930's when we settled down to a family game. "Name the Fish" was an early version of the television show "Catch Phrase" and we all tried to "say what we saw" from the small illustrations. The illustration of "herring" was a lady's hand bearing a ring - we all thought that the modern interpretation of "fish fingers" was much more apt!

Rita Denman

PANGBOURNE MEDICAL PRACTICE

The new NHS and how it will affect General Practice

PCGs or Primary Care Groups are an important part of the Government's "New NHS" and they start in April 1999. Groups of General Practices will be put together across the country; the groupings are largely geographically based and every General Practice must be a member of a PCG. Pangbourne Medical Practice will be part of the Reading Thames PCG. This will consist of 14 Practices looking after 124,041 patients. Each PCG will have a governing board composed as follows:-

*(7) GPs

*Nurse (1 District Nurse and 1 Midwife)

*Lay member

*Non-executive director of the Health Authority

*Social Service representatives (in our case one from Reading and one from West Berkshire)

This system will replace Fundholding and the current arrangements for non-fundholding Practices. The PCGs will control a budget which will cover:-

*Prescribing (all drugs and medicines prescribed in General Practice)

*Hospital and Community Services (In-patients, Out-patients etc.)

*The cost of running General Practices themselves including staff and premises

The PCGs will act as a sub-Committee of the Health Authority and, therefore, we will still be answerable to the Health Authority. The PCGs will also be involved in the new concept of Clinical Governance. The Government definition of Clinical Governance is:-

"A framework through which the NHS organisations are accountable for continuously improving the quality of their service and safeguarding high standards of care by creating an environment in which excellence care will flourish."

In essence this means that we have to provide a high standard of care for our patients, try to improve the standard of care and demonstrate that we are doing this. There are four areas which have been decided at Government level should have particular attention and these are:-

- * Antibiotic prescribing
- * Cancer Service
- * Mental Health Services
- * Coronary Heart Disease

Each PCG has to choose one of these and demonstrate that it is working to improve this for their patients.

The PCGs also have to choose a topic of particular local importance - acronyms abound in the new NHS and these local initiatives are called HiMPs or Health improvement Plans. It is hard to believe but HiMPs will be monitored by an organisation called CHiMPs!!

The Reading Thames PCG has chosen two areas to concentrate on and these are teenage conception and accidents in the elderly. An organisation will be set up called NICE

(National Institute for Clinical Effectiveness). The idea of this organisation is to make life easier for GPs by drawing up national standards and guidelines.

Another very major change for General Practice will be the increased use of computers and a revolution in Information Technology. Everyone's medical record will be entirely computerised and patient records will be available 24 hours a day. All GPs will be connected to the NHS net and this will be used to make appointments, referrals and for GPs to receive results and letters from hospitals. These new targets for improving IT in General Practice should all be achieved by 2005!

As you can see, there will be many changes and opportunities in General Practice. We hope to build on the past and continue our local physiotherapy, dermatology, clinical psychology and ENT clinics in Pangbourne. This has, at least, been guaranteed to continue for the first six months of PCGs.

We hope to continue other services such as ambulatory blood pressure monitoring, minor accident work, minor surgery and hormone implants within the Practice and may well be able to expand on such services.

The new system will mean local practices will have to work co-operatively to improve services for all their patients. We will have to look much more closely at what we are doing and why we do it to ensure the best service for our patients. There will be a much greater use of Information Technology and the Government eventually wants all General Practice to be fully computerised to make the paper records we currently use redundant.

We do have some concerns that we may lose some clinical and managerial autonomy. Dr. Michael Powell is on the Reading Thames PCG Board having had many years developing his expertise as a member of BIPP (the General Practice group that are currently part of).

We all await events!

A Potted History of Purley Lodge

The first question people ask when they hear you are tracing the history of your house is, of course "How old is it?" This is the very question I can't answer. In John Rocque's Survey of Berkshire in 1761, the map showing Purley has a "blob" of the right shape in the right place, so I can only assume it was built in its present form shortly before that. A few years later, on 20th May 1776, the Reading Mercury had the following advertisement of a house to let in Purley:-

"A well built sashed brick house in good repair containing 2 parlours, a butlers pantry and kitchen on the ground floor with a brew house adjoining. Three bed chambers, a dressing room, one light and two other closets on the first floor, two bed chambers and others for servants on the attick story, a wine vault and good cellars"

This is certainly Purley Lodge as it matches the interior at that time exactly, and there is no other house in Purley it could have been.

It is possible that there was a much older house on the same site. There are some ancient timbers and flint walls in the cellars that could well be several hundred years earlier. The papers of Reading Abbey mention a house in Purley in the middle ages, and the finding of a very old holy water stoop buried in the walls of the cellar give sonic credence to it being there, but as yet there is no proof.

The earliest known inhabitant was John George Liebenrood who paid his rent and taxes for Purley Lodge during the 1780's and died here in 1795 and is buried at St. Mary's Church along with his wife Ann, a local heiress.

John George was a Saxon merchant who appears to have moved here from London shortly before his wife died in 1772. With no children of his own, he left the house and quite a large amount of land in Purley to his nephew, John Engleberts Zigenbein on the basis that he take the name Liebenrood.

John Engleberts, a wealthy man in his own right, lived here at Purley Lodge whilst he was having the much grander house in Prospect Park built, where he moved in the early years of the 19th century.

The house continued to be part of the Liebenrood estate through most of the mid-1800's with various noted tenants. In the 1840's Michael Blount lived here. I assume he would have been related to the Blounts at Mapledurham, but have yet to follow that byway.

He was followed by Major General Sir James Hope KCB who retired here from the East Norfolk 9th Regiment of Foot, after a glorious career in the Peninsular War.

In 1861, the Honourable Robert Boyle, Commander Royal Navy, moved in with his wife to commence their stay of 28 years. The third son of the third Earl of Shannon, the Boyles were related to the Wilders of Sulham and Purley Hall. Robert was the Commander of HMS Dolphin before qualifying as a steam commander in 1849, taking command of HMS Spy, one of the earliest steam ships in the Royal Navy. He was invalided out of the Royal Navy in 1855 and joined the coast guard for six years before retiring to Purley. He died here in 1883. It is one of his ship's bells that is mounted on the north wall of the house.

Jan Jones

This article was written by Jan shortly before she died just over a year ago. It reminds us of the great contribution she made to Project Purley over many years.

GARDENER'S CORNER

Last month's article on constructing new borders provoked a good deal of comment and many people have asked me to go one stage further and suggest planting schemes etc. Although I am happy to do this, many of the plants I suggest are bound to be selected using my own personal likes and dislikes which would probably exclude some of the reader's personal favourites.

To avoid this as much as possible, I have included some schemes from both professional and amateur gardeners. You can, of course, mix and match between the schemes but this will inevitably upset the balance of the planting unless you replace plants with those of a similar height, colour and habit. I have included schemes for various situations as we don't all have sunny and relatively moist areas in which to place new borders.

The first scheme is an old traditional one based on well-known perennials with a good colour balance.

Back Row: Delphinium (Blue), Helenium, Solidago, Michaelmas Daisies (Violet)

Middle Row: Coreopsis, Gallardia, Paeony, Pyrethrum and Sidalcea

Front Row: Trollius, White Pinks, Lychnis and Nepeta

You could also add Lavender if the border had an open end.

This border would give a good balance of summer colour but would be uninteresting at other times of the year unless you included bulbs for Spring colour etc.

The next two schemes are for an island bed with a long season of interest and a shady corner which is not too dry. The island scheme is ideal for the middle of a reasonably sunny lawn or in a gravel based, low maintenance area.

Island bed (approximately 9 sq.metres) for a sunny position and not too dry soil:-

Central Plant: Deschampsia caespitosa 'Golden Dew' x 5

Inner Ring: Festuca Glauca x 5, Heuchera micrantha 'Palace Purple' x 7, Hemerocallis 'Stella D'oro' x 7, Aster thomsonii 'Nanus' x 7

Outer Ring: Geranium 'Russell Pritchard' x 5, Polygonum affine 'Dimity' x 5 and Liriope Muscari x 7.

Shady Corner (approximately 5 sq.metres):-

Back Row: Rodgersia pinnata 'Superba' x 5

Middle Row: Brunnera macrophylla 'Hadspen Cream' x 3, Dicentra spectabilis 'Alba' x 3 and Euphorbia polychroma x 5

Front Row: Heucherella 'Bridget Bloom' x 5, Pulmonaria saccharata 'Highdown' x 3 and Hosta 'Blue moon' x 5.

The next scheme mixes annuals with perennials and bulbs.

Back Row: Onopordum acanthium (Scotch thistle), Oriental poppies, papaver somniferum (red opium poppies)

Middle Row: Digitalis purpurea (planted in front of the thistle to hide its gaunt stem), Bergenia cordifolia 'Purpurea', Monarda didyma 'Croftway pink', Paeony 'Sarah Bernhardt', and Dianthus 'Miss Sinkins'.

Front Row: Allium giganteum, Dicentra formosa, Viola tricolor and Ornithogalum narbonense.

This is a scheme which will give interest for all but the winter months. It has both colour and a variety of leaf shapes and textures which retain interest as the rest of the planting

comes in and out of season.

I am quite fond of dwarf conifers and this next scheme makes good use of them with dwarf shrubs and perennials to give a bed with all year round interest. This could be improved still further with a selection of low growing Spring bulbs; the scheme is designed for a bed of about 2.5 sq.metres. The conifers are planted as single plants but the perennials should be planted in groups of about three plants to give a good display. These can be thinned out as necessary as the conifers develop.

Back Row: Pinus contorta 'Spaans dwarf', Picea pungens 'Globosa' and Chamaecyparis obtusa 'Nana lutea'.

Middle Row: Berberis thunbergii 'Bagatelle', Artemisia schmidtiana 'Nana' and Geranium sanguineum 'Shepherds warning'.

Front Row: Campanula carpatica 'Blue Moonlight', and Juniperus communis 'Green carpet'

The final scheme uses both shrubs and perennials. The use of evergreens extends the period of interest here. The golden and black leaved grasses at the front are especially eye catching in winter. The design is based on a semi-circular border of 3 sq.metres in a lightly shaded area.

Back Row: Hydrangea paniculata 'Kyushu'

Upper Middle Row: Artemisia 'Pow castle' and Spirea japonica 'Golden princess'

Lower Middle Row: Lavender 'Hidcote' x 3 and Bergenia 'Bressingham Ruby'

Front Row: Acorus gramineus 'Ogon' x 5, Ophiopogon planiscapus 'Nigrescens' x 5 and Geranium cantabrigiense 'Cambridge' x 3.

Regrettably I cannot show these schemes diagrammatically due to lack of space but I hope these basic lists are of some assistance. If anyone would like planting diagrams for these schemes, I am happy to provide them provided you send an A4 stamped addressed envelope to the address below indicating which scheme(s) you are interested in. I must also include a small charge for paper and printing costs of 50p per scheme.

Happy Gardening,

Colin Graves

(You can contact me at my E-mail address: colin@graves.2.freemove.co.uk or at 2 The Hydes, Tilehurst RG31 6GD).

THAMES VALLEY POLICE

Set out below are the recorded Crime Figures for the month of December.

<u>Type of Offence</u>		<u>November</u>	<u>December</u>
Burglary - Dwelling		3	0
Attempted Burglary - Dwelling		3	1
Burglary - Other than in a Dwelling	4	2	
Theft (including shoplifting)		2	2
Theft from Motor Vehicle	7	10	
Theft or Unauthorised taking of Motor Vehicle (including attempts)		0	4
Theft or Unauthorised taking of Pedal Cycle	0	0	
Criminal Damage	9	6	
Arson		0	0
Indecency (on female)		0	0
Public Order Offences		<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>
		<u>29</u>	<u>25</u>

Well, the run up to Christmas was quite a busy period for all the areas covered from Pangbourne Police Station. All forms of burglary are down which is very good news. The only attempted burglary was committed by offenders trying to force the rear patio doors; although damage was caused to the back, it held firm, preventing entry. The non-dwelling burglaries were to a garage and a shop.

The vehicle crime again is of particular note. The thefts from vehicles were mainly early hours and eight of them occurred between the 17th and 28th of December. The attempted thefts of vehicles were across the area and all during the hours of darkness. On one occasion, offenders were disturbed and made off in another vehicle. Subsequently, persons were arrested for another incident, but it is strongly believed that they were responsible for at least one other offence in the area.

Various items of property were stolen, including Christmas presents and wallets, golf clubs and computers. Please remember that a vehicle is not a secure environment in which to keep items of property and certainly not where items of value are concerned. Damage is slightly down, but remains at a fairly constant level. There is no pattern to damage being caused and remains indiscriminate.

Well, as you know, my colleague will be taking over the area on 25th January. As such, this will be the last Newsletter penned by myself. I would like to wish you all well and express my thanks for all the support and encouragement you have given me. PC 3236 Welford, Par

LAUGHLINES

Q:What do you call a three-legged donkey?

A: A wonkey

Q:How did you find your steak, sir?

A:Quite easily - I moved this chip aside and there it was.

There's a peanut sitting on the railway track,
His heart is all a-flutter
The train comes roaring round the bend
Toot! Toot! - peanut butter

PURLEY PARISH NEWS

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I welcome contributions from anyone to this magazine, particularly on local issues and events. Contributions can either be delivered in writing or by e-mail. 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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This month's magazine is published on **Saturday, 6th February**. All copy for the March issue must reach me by 15th February and the magazine will be published on Saturday, 6th March.

Editor