

# 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  
Email: rbh@bradean.demon.co.uk

### 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)

# LETTER FROM WALLY WATKIVS - READER

APRIL 1999

Dear Friends,

## *Letter from America*

Well not exactly from America, but thought about while we were there on holiday. We were having a meal with family in a restaurant called "Cracker Barrel". One of the relatives commented on how it had changed from the days when it was known as a stop for truckers with good substantial meals. Although the original small group of restaurants has now grown to a nationwide chain and has gone up-market, including having a gift shop, it hadn't lost sight of its origins. Although its menu had expanded, it still supplies good substantial country meals like Chicken 'n Dumplings and Meatloaf as well as the burgers one expects in America.

In a world where so many things come and go, it's good to know that some things still retain their original purpose and aim. Our church, the Christian church, is a case in point.

It has changed a lot over the past 2,000 years since Jesus preached and taught in what is now Israel and since a church was first established in Purley about 900 years ago. In all that time, the message of the church has remained the same - God, through His Son Jesus Christ, wants all people to know Him and to know forgiveness of their sins through the sacrifice made by His Son, Jesus, on the cross at Calvary which we remember at Easter.

In today's busy world, individual people often feel insignificant; they feel they can do nothing to influence events. This may seem to be the case if we think we have to do

everything alone, but we don't have to. There is God who knows our every need and thought, and there are our fellow human beings. Together there is much that we can do.

This church of ours here in Purley needs the help of everyone in Purley, not just those who come to church regularly to worship but everyone who lives in the parish. It has existed for nearly 900 years; it is part of our heritage, and now it urgently needs costly repairs. Don't think that the contribution you can make would be too small or insignificant. Every contribution to the work helps and is valued by God.

Please think about how you could help as you read the poem below which I found in a book I bought in America. It is by Edward Everett Hale.

I am only one,  
But still I am one.  
I cannot do everything,  
But still I can do something;  
And because I cannot do everything  
I will not refuse to do the something that I can.

Yours in fellowship,  
*Wally Watkivs*

## **GRAVE PROBLEM**

The Rector has received a request for help with the maintenance of two graves in the churchyard. If anyone is interested to do this job on an occasional basis, please contact Mrs. Griffin on 01989 566193.

## **WONDERING WHAT TO DO WITH YOUR WINDFALL?**

Someone suggested to me that if you are shortly to be in receipt of a windfall payment from the Halifax, why not consider giving part of it to St. Mary's Restoration Appeal? What a good idea! The Rector would be very pleased to hear from you.

## **EVER THOUGHT ABOUT VISITING THE HOLY LAND?**

You can turn that thought into reality in September 2001. The Diocese of Oxford is organising a trip to Israel, led by the Bishops of Reading and Buckingham. It is likely to cost in the region of £1,000. Further information is available from the Rector, or you can

read about it in the next edition of *The Door* (Diocesan Newspaper - free from the church).

## SUNDAY SERVICES FOR APRIL

4th April	10.30 a.m.	Family Communion
EASTER SUNDAY		
	6.00 p.m.	Evening Worship
11th April	9.30 a.m.	Family Worship
	11.15 a.m.	Holy Communion
18th April	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
	11.15 a.m.	Morning Worship
	6.00 p.m.	Evening Worship
25th April	9.30 a.m.	Family Worship
	11.15 a.m.	Holy Communion

## CHURCH GUIDE

A new edition of the Church Guide - *A History of the Parish Church of St. Mary the Virgin, Purley on Thames, Berkshire*, written by John Chapman in 1988, is now available. It costs £2 and can be obtained from the Rector (941 7727). Proceeds will go to the Restoration Fund.

## PARISH REGISTERS

### Baptism

28th February

Brooke Grace Lewis Shallow

## ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) will take place on Tuesday 20th April at 8.00 p.m. at St. Mary's Church. All are welcome to come, but only those on the Church Electoral Roll are eligible to vote. We shall be electing Churchwardens for the coming year, 3 Deanery Synod representatives, and 4 PCC members. There will be an update on

the Church Restoration Project, and we shall be thinking about our Millennium celebrations.

Rector

## **YOUNG ADULT PILGRIMAGE TO TAIZE**

The Bishop of Reading is leading a pilgrimage for 16 - 25 olds to Taize, a tiny village in central France. Dates: July 17 - 26. Cost: £160.

Taize is a unique Christian community near Cluny in central France, founded after the second World War as a place of reconciliation. It has become a place of particular importance to young people who every year come in their thousands from all over Europe, West and East, and the rest of the world, to stay for varying periods to experience a very special environment. During the summer period there can be as many as 7,000 people staying in Taize.

For more information and registration forms, contact the Rector on 941 7727.

I would like to make an appeal for members of the ex-service community to join the soldiers, sailors, airmen and families association and help us in its work to serve ex-services people in time of need.

Our volunteers are getting fewer and older and, unless we can bring new blood into our Division, inevitably it will wither and be unable to carry out its mission. Anyone interested in joining our ranks would be sure of a warm welcome.

Flight Lieutenant K.S. Tipping RAFVR  
Tel: 957 3393 (Tuesday and Thursday 1000 - 1200)

## **THAMES VALE SINGERS**

Thames Vale Singers are giving concerts of sacred music which includes Mozart's Mass in C, Vivaldi's Gloria and Handel's Zadok the Priest. The concerts are on Friday, 23rd April in St. James the Less Church in Pangbourne at 8.00 p.m. and at Tilehurst Methodist Church on Saturday, 24th April at 8.00 p.m. Admission to both concerts is free but there will be a retiring collection for church funds. For more information please contact Wally Watkivs on 942 6170.

## **KEEP YOUR CHURCHYARD TIDY!**

For many years Peter Harvie did a marvellous job keeping St. Mary's churchyard in perfect condition. Last year a rota of church members ensured the churchyard was respectable throughout the summer. Is there anyone out there who could volunteer to maintain the churchyard for this summer? A large mower is available for most of the grass cutting and there is a strimmer for round the graves. If you are at all interested, please contact Sally Robertson on 962 5978).

## **100 CLUB**

How about joining the 100 Club to help St. Mary's Church with the Restoration Project? The idea is that you organise an event to us to raise at least £100. We need your help to maintain this historic building and get the long-silent bells ringing again in time for the Millennium. Let us know what you are going to do please. SUPPORT OTHER 100 Club events as they happen!

Rector

## **RAISE AND PRAISE TEA - SUNDAY 25th APRIL, 4pm**

Come to choose and sing your favourite hymns and choruses, eat a yummy tea and raise money for the Restoration project at the same time. Tickets £2 (plus 'spending' money on the day) from Sally Robertson (962 5978).

## **HELP! I'M A PARENT .....**

This is the name of a Parenting course St. Mary's will be running during the Summer Term. It will be an opportunity to get together with other parents to discuss the highs and lows of parenting and to learn how to do it better. The course will last 7 weeks and, among the topics we'll be discussing, will be communicating with your children, accepting your children and disciplining your children. If you would like to know more, please contact Sally Robertson on 962 5978.

## **GIFT AID**

Gift Aid is a means whereby an individual can give money to a charity and, without extra cost to the donor, an extra £30 can be added to the gift for the benefit of the charity, from

the refund of Income Tax.

On March 19th a new system started - *Gift Aid 2000* by which donations of £100 or more can attract this tax refund. Any charity, including St. Mary's Church can benefit from this. Further information from the Rector, or watch out for the advertising campaign.



## **ALPHA COURSE**

We are intending to run another Alpha Course after Easter. Each meeting consists of a meal and a video, followed by questions. The course is open to anyone at all who would like to investigate Christianity. If you would like to find out more, please phone Sally Robertson on 962 5978.

## **CANCELLATION OF THIRD WORLD DEBTS**

Jubilee 2000 Coalition is gathering momentum in many countries. Last month you read the letter from the Bishop of Reading about this vital issue. There are now less than 300 days to the Millennium and the aim is that these unpayable debts which rob millions of hope and shackle them in unbreakable chains, will be written off.

This would be a memorable way to mark the Millennium and would leave a significant mark on the world. If you would like to have further information on Jubilee 2000 contact Simon Robertson on 962 5978 or Pam Slingsby (Christian Aid Rep.) on 961 5585.

## **GAME OF 2 HALVES**

Jonathan Edwards, Britain's triple jump world record-holder and Tearfund have launched a nationwide campaign to save lives through sport. *Game of 2 Halves* will unit children in Britain with children in developing countries, using sponsored events to raise money for sports initiatives overseas. Through sponsored football matches, tiddlywinks or simply as a sponsored walk, children in the UK will help fund projects overseas which will improve the healthcare, education and life prospects for young people in places like Kenya and Pakistan.







## **ALL CHURCHES TOGETHER - PANGBOURNE PYRAMID PROJECT (Reg. Charity No. 1072713)**

Reverend John Staples chaired an Open Meeting in Pangbourne Village Hall on 23rd February in his capacity as Chairman of the Pangbourne & District All Churches Together.

Presentations were given by:-

Miss Poppy Dixon, Chairman of the Pangbourne Pyramid Project, who described the background to the project, the reasons for making additional accommodation available, and the extra benefit of 24-hour warden cover, respite unit etc.

Mr. Terry Mitchell, Head of Housing at West Berkshire District Council, explained the strategy for all housing and that £800K per annum (20% of the budget) was allocated to special needs housing which includes care of the elderly. He said that if the Pages Gardens project was agreed to be part of the solution for the elderly in this area then the project had sufficient momentum to be considered in the bid process. If the project is prioritised and accepted, then West Berkshire would provide 50-60% of the necessary funding. The application for a bid is unlikely to be made until the year 2000/2001.

Mr. Christ Trigwell, West Berkshire Regional Director for Sovereign Housing Association, described the non-profit making Association and the approach to sheltered housing schemes of which they have 25. If the project was unable to go ahead, then Sovereign Housing would, at some future date, refurbish and upgrade Pages Gardens. This would probably result in fewer units being available.

Mr. Robert Corderoy, Supported Housing Manager for Sovereign Housing, outlined the way in which the existing tenants would be cared for during the rebuilding, including taking account of their needs in finding a temporary relocation. The intention is to submit a planning application in the Autumn of 1999, and then to apply for the necessary funding.

Topics raised during the question time included:-

1. Status of the Parish Council Millennium project. (Mrs. Peett explained that this had been delayed until the purchase of the land can be completed).
2. The Planning Application process, using the Playgroup building as an example. (Mrs. Peett and Susie Kemp explained the circumstances and that the Planning Department would be more vigilant in future).

- 3.The effect that a second storey building and increased facilities would have on the properties adjoining Pages Gardens in Reading Road and Horseshoe Road. (Mr. Trigwell said that Sovereign Housing had already taken note of the points raised and would discuss their proposed plans with the residents before submitting a Planning Application. He stated that this is a unique situation as normally the neighbours are not consulted until the formal planning process).
- 4.The future of Pages Gardens if the project does not go ahead. (Sovereign Housing would still expect to improve the facilities for the residents and would envisage Pages Gardens remaining as sheltered accommodation for the elderly).
- 5.Use of the funds already collected if the project is not completed. (Mrs. Blake explained that use of the funds is covered in the Constitution for the project, and if the charity is dissolved then the funds would go to local charities with similar objects).

In summary, West Berkshire and Sovereign Housing stated that the local momentum has focused their attention on the needs of the area and Pages Gardens, and it is the intention to apply for Planning permission in the Autumn of 1999. This would then enable a bid for funds to be made to the Housing Corporation and to West Berkshire in the year 2000/2001.

Poppy Dixon

## **DENEFIELD SCHOOL PTA**

There will be a Grand Car Boot Sale at Denefield School on **Saturday, 15th May**. Doors open at 8.30 a.m. Sellers £5.00 per car and Buyers 20p each. Refreshments and toilets will be available. All car parking on hardstanding.

## **SAVE THE CHILDREN FUND WEEK 1999**

This year Save the Children Fund week runs from Sunday, 25th April to Saturday, 1st May and the theme of this year's week is "Save the Children From Violence". The plight of thousands of children who are fighting in adults' wars will be highlighted. There are an estimated 300,000 child soldiers, some as young as seven, fighting today. Our collectors will be out and about during Save The Children Week. Please give as generously as you can to support our work with children who have been traumatised by war, hunger and poverty.

Penny Billyeald  
Hon.Secretary, Pangbourne & District Branch

## DISTRICT NOTES

The budget for 1999/2000 was finally settled in March and the pain is not as bad as we had feared. The total net spend finishes up at £123.7M. This will be financed by £4.8M from balances, £3.1 from interest, £36.8M from business rates, £35.2M from Government grant, about another £3M from other sources, leaving £40.7M to be found from the Council Tax. With a total of 55,250 Band D equivalent houses, this gives a Council Tax at Band D of £736.76. To this we must add the Parish precepts which are £24.62 for Purley, £29.81 for Pangbourne, £32.97 for Tilehurst and £6.17 for Tidmarsh with Sulham. Thus the total for Purley is £761.38. This compares with £868 for Reading. We must also add the Police precept of £56.53.

This reminds me that in my February article I inadvertently missed out a crucial piece of information. As I said a few years ago, we had healthy capital reserves of around £48M and these are now down to about £39M but the government allows us to spend only about £3M of these on capital schemes. We have also been a debt-free authority but in order to take advantage of certain government schemes we have to finance them from what are known as Supplemental Credit Approvals which requires borrowing. Such is the state of our capital financing that we are likely to have to take these up and hence pay interest.

Over the next few weeks there is to be a review of village speed limits. There will be consultation meetings for Sulham, Purley, Tilehurst, Pangbourne and Tidmarsh. The aim is to see how drivers can be made or encouraged to keep their speeds down to the 30 mph limit.

There was quite a bit in the local papers a few weeks back about the pipeline from Aldermaston. It might be helpful to spell out what the situation is. The pipeline has been in existence since the 1950s and brings waste water from Aldermaston to the Thames. This water contains very minute amounts of radioactive materials, far less in fact than one would get from bottled spring water. Recently when digging foundations at Aldermaston it was found that the ground water there was contaminated with tritium. Tritium is, in fact, an isotope of hydrogen and tritiated water is indistinguishable and inseparable from ordinary water. As they had to get rid of this water, some was pumped into a brook leading to the Kennet and some into the pipeline to Purley. The brook discharge was deemed unlawful as Aldermaston is a nuclear establishment and requires a special licence to discharge. So they had to increase the flow to Purley. This had the effect of flushing out sludge which had settled in the pipe since it was first installed. This was detected only because someone noticed that the amount of radioactivity coming out at the Thames was greater than the amount put in at Aldermaston. Although the levels are still way below the permitted levels, we would like to see the existing pipeline closed and removed

along with the sludge that has accumulated over the years. This still leaves the problem of water on the Aldermaston site and we are awaiting Hunting-Brae's plans for disposing of it and identifying and eradicating the source of the contamination. I would add that tritiated water poses no hazard whatever to public health. It acts exactly as ordinary water and, even if you drink it, it has passed through the body completely within 12 days, most goes through in a few hours, so there are no cumulative effects such as you get, for example, if you take in radioactive iodine.

A few months ago the existing day care centre for the elderly of our area had to close, so a temporary arrangement was made with Tilehurst Parish Council to use the Calcot Centre. I am pleased that the current budget contains £300,000 for a purpose-built centre, which we hope will be expanded on to provide a proper District office in the east.

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

## **PURLEY (BERKS) TENNIS CLUB**

The next big event at the Club is the Open Afternoon on Saturday, 10th April from 2.00 to 4.00 p.m. at which anyone who would like to play tennis is welcome; even those who have never played before. The Club is launching its new Ball Machine on the Open Afternoon, which is an attraction for both experienced players and beginners, to use and improve their techniques. Spectators are also welcome.

For more information, telephone: Jane Perugia on 984 3932  
Lesley Charlesworth on 941 5876

Club address: Purley (Berks) Tennis Club, Beech Road Recreation Ground, Purley.

## **WOMEN'S INSTITUTE**

The Annual Meeting to elect a new Committee ran smoothly with existing members more than happy to serve another year. It is at this time of the year our annual points are calculated and awards are presented to those having participated in the year's competitions. (May I add that points are gained by merely 'having a go' - rather than winning in a section).

Competition Cup -	First	-	Sylvia Conquest
	Second	-	Carole

MacGill

Third - Jean Smith

Flower Competition - Ruby Vase - Sybil Pryor  
Second - Sylvia

Conquest

Third - Kath Hodge

The Annual Council Meeting will be held at the Hexagon when Federation Officers will also be elected, finishing with the Speaker giving a talk on her own experience of "Around the World on a Bike". What energy. As much was required as we finished our own meeting with a Beetle Drive - that burnt up some calories I can tell you! The evening's flower competition was won by Betty Dawkins, with Sylvia Conquest in second place. This month we are hoping to run a Craft Evening. The competition will be "Three Homemade Biscuits" and there will be a Cake Stall. The meeting will be at 7.30 p.m. on Wednesday, 14th April at Purley Memorial Hall. Visitors welcome. **Don't forget the Horticultural Show - it's fun - really.**

Sylvia Conquest

## THAMES VALLEY POLICE

This is my second newsletter and I have included below some crime figures for the last two months on our Area. I have streamlined the crime categories to make for simpler reading.

### Crimes for 1st January - 28th February 1999

<u>Category</u>	<u>Purley</u>	<u>Tilehurst</u>
Thefts (including Auto Crime)	9	9
Criminal Damage	4	4
Burglaries (including Commercial)	2	2

N.B. It is purely coincidental that figures are identical.

Bicycles are still flavour of the month and are still a popular target amongst thieves. So, please lock them up or away.

Parking has been brought to my attention in both Areas. Please kindly refrain from parking on the pavements, new junctions or anywhere else that may be deemed a hazard

to other road users or pedestrians; you have been warned.

I am presently working with Sovereign Housing to clear the 'scrapyard' that has developed in the car park at the rear of St. Mary's Avenue, Purley. This car park is not being used for the purpose it was intended, so hopefully soon we will see the back of this problem.

There have been a number of incidents of theft and damage in and around the Areas; anyone with information concerning these crimes please contact me at Pangbourne Police Station.

It is my intention to deal with anti-social behaviour within the Areas, but I would add that the vigilance of the public is essential and incidents must be reported. Large groups of youths around The Colonnade, Overdown Road have recently been the cause of numerous complaints. I will be monitoring anti-social behaviour (with use of a camcorder, if the need arises) and home visits could result!

Best wishes,  
PC209 Limebear,  
Pangbourne

## **EQUIGAS**

Deregulation in the gas supply industry has led to lower prices for those who pay by direct debit, and has reduced the bills of some who pay quarterly. But the discounts offered to direct debit customers have to be paid for and, as a result, those who use pre-payment meters are having to pay proportionally more for their gas. As many pre-payment meter users are on low incomes or are single parent families, these discounts are hurting some of the most vulnerable people in our communities.

EBICo believes this is unfair. Its research shows that many direct debit customers would be prepared to give up their discount in order to eliminate this unfair practice. So EBICo has introduced a brand new concept - it has established an equitable tariff for domestic gas customers where everyone pays the same fair price for their gas regardless of payment method. EQUIGAS has also eliminated the standing charge that penalises small users, so all EQUIGAS customers only pay for the gas they use. Southern Electric Gas is supply the new EQUIGAS tariff, and you can get more information by calling their welcome line FREE on 0800 117 116, or by visiting our website - [www.ebico.co.uk](http://www.ebico.co.uk). The more people who sign up for EQUIGAS, the more we can reduce the cost of gas to single parent families and those on low incomes.

Philip Levermore,  
Chairman, EBICo Ltd.

## PURLEY HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Our AGM in February ended another successful year for the Society. Your Committee for the next year is:

Chairman:	Jimmy Armstrong
Secretary:	Anne Stockley
Treasurer:	George Critchell
Trading Secretary:	Bob Hawkins
Show Organiser:	Jimmy Armstrong
Members:	Pat Brightwell; Marion Dabbs; John Murphy; Richard Watts; John Devine; Don Noble (Co-opted)

The **Spring Flower Show** is on Saturday, 10th April. The last date for entries is Wednesday, 7th April, so you've still time to get your entries in! The show is open to the public from 2.30 p.m. so do come along - it's always a beautiful sight. If you need any advice on your entries, then please give me a call and we'll try to help. Other events:

**Wed. 21 Apr**-Evening Talk - "How to Win with Houseplants" by Harry Townsend

**Sat. 15 May**-Plant Sale, 9.00 a.m. in the Memorial Hall car park. If you have any special requests for plants, please let me know.

**Sun. 11 Jul**-Coach trip. Brook Cottage and Coughton Court. For further details, a description sheet and application form can be obtained from the Trading Store.

Brook Cottage, home of Mrs. Kathleen Hodges, is a lovely garden outstanding in its clever and attractive designs created from 1964. On a Northwest facing slope, the garden features terracing and levels, enclosures, and clever and varied use of water but, above all, a wonderful variety of planting associations carefully selected for colour and contrast of effect. Coughton Court, set in 25 acres, is a National Trust property built by, and still the home of, the Throckmorton Family. The house contains one of the best collections of portraits and memorabilia from early Tudor times. In mid-summer the walled garden is a stunning mass of roses and other flowers. There are also herbaceous borders, bog gardens, and riverside walks, two churches to visit, a Gun Powder Plot exhibition, and an exhibition of 19th Century children's clothes.

The Trading Store is open every Saturday and Sunday from 10.00 - 11.00 a.m. If you have any queries about the Society, please call me on 962 4457.

Anne Stockley, Secretary



## **PANGBOURNE MEDICAL PRACTICE**

### Childhood Depression

There has been some interest in the media recently about childhood depression and I have been asked to comment. We are all aware that children can go through periods of unhappiness in their lives, whether this is because of problems at school, with their friends, physical ill health, moving house or parental separation. There are many reasons why a child's usual equanimity can be affected and a temporary change in mood occur. Fortunately the natural resilience of childhood will allow the child to bounce back to normal, only needing the simple reassurance of parents or teachers.

However, childhood depression is not uncommon and may well be unrecognised by parents and under-diagnosed by doctors. There are important symptoms of true childhood depression which should lead to the children having their problem recognised and treated.

### Symptoms of childhood depression

Lack of capacity for fun; the child will cease to enjoy any of the activities that he or she previously enjoyed. It must, of course, be remembered that as children mature their interests will naturally change.

The child becomes socially withdrawn. Depressed children will often head for their bedrooms and not want to go out to play with friends, attend their usual clubs or mix with siblings.

The child will appear tearful, the child's mood may seem low and unhappy and he or she

may be irritable and bad tempered.

School work may deteriorate and teachers become concerned.

The child may develop physical symptoms of ill health. Appetite may be reduced and the child loses interest in food. The child's sleep may become disturbed, he or she may be unable to sleep or spend the night restlessly waking and being unable to get back to sleep. Bed wetting may start or the child may have nightmares. Some children will complain of headache or abdominal pains.

Recent research has demonstrated that treating depressed children with anti-depressants, including the newer drugs used in adult depression, are probably not that effective. It seems that cognitive behavioural therapy is a much more effective way of helping depressed children get better.

We are very fortunate at Pangbourne Surgery to have a Child Psychologist who works with us on Thursday morning and will see children who are referred to him with depression and other psychological problems.

## **PROJECT PURLEY**

To celebrate the new millennium, Project Purley are proposing that a commemorative plaque or inscribed stone be set up at some suitable location in Purley listing the names of the organisations in existence at the start of the new millennium.

We would welcome the comments of Purley Parish News readers about such a venture and any ideas for the location, form of inscription etc. Please write to Mr. Ben Viljoen, Chairman, Project Purley, Highveldt, 12 Beech Road, Purley on Thames RG8 8DS (email: [bx.rom@btinternet.com](mailto:bx.rom@btinternet.com)) with any helpful suggestions.

## **PANGBOURNE CARERS GROUP**

### Royal Visit to Rural Carers

Wednesday, 3rd March was a red letter day for four of our committee who were invited by the Princess Royal Carers Trust to attend a lunch in the presence of Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal at St. Luke's Church Hall in Theale. Each table of carers was treated to an equal and generous amount of her time but I am sure they all felt as I did that we could have talked for hours to such an interested and knowledgeable listener.

Anita Weare, Secretary







## LAUGHLINES

A Lancashire cheese, sold to subsidise church heating, has reached the dizzy heights of Mount Everest.

Canon Ron Greenall, who covers three months of church heating costs by weekly sales of the locally produced Dulay cheese and port in the back of his church, was stunned when the brother of a member of the congregation told him where he was taking the cheese.

"I just flogged him a cheese for £3.25 and then he told me he was going to take it up Everest. I've heard of cheeses being high before, but nothing like this," quipped the vicar.

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## PURLEY PARISH NEWS

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2342

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.

**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, 3rd April**. All copy for the May issue must reach me by 15th April and the magazine will be published on Saturday, 1st May.

Editor