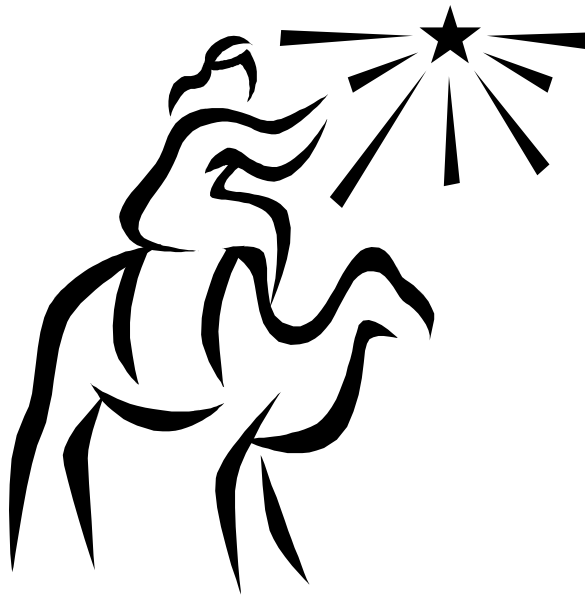


**The Parish Magazine of
Whitchurch-on-Thames
and Whitchurch Hill**



January 2003

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**A Letter for January 2003
from the Reverend Father Peter Jefford**

Dear People of the Parish,

I hope that you have all enjoyed a happy Christmas.
May I now wish you all a happy New Year.

This new year of 2003 comes to us with a great deal of challenge. I am reminded of the vision of the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse for each is to come by as a spectre of doom.

One on his horse is the spectre of war, and there is now the real prospect of another conflict in the Gulf. The Second Horseman is the spectre of Famine and there is famine again in Ethiopia and in Southern Africa. The Third is the spectre of plague and there is both a plague of Aids and Malaria through Central and Southern Africa. And the last horseman is the spectre of death. Death is the result of human hate and revenge and seems a weekly headline in our newspapers. So the Four Horsemen go riding by.

But a very long time ago in this same world of hate and poverty and disease and war another journey was made. Three men set off from Isfahan along the great Silk Road in Southern Persia to go to the northwest, but they set off on camels. We call these three travellers the Three Magi, the Three Wise Men, and in this month of January we celebrate this festival in church on Sunday January 5th, the Feast of the Holy Epiphany.

For many years I taught children in schools about the Epiphany and they always seemed to love and to understand it, for it is about real and tangible things: a new star in the night sky, a great journey mostly in the dark, the camels that took them there, and the three gifts that the Magi brought with them.

Each gift was both a symbol and the nature of the child: the gift of gold for the King of Kings, the incense for a

priest for holy worship, and the myrrh for a martyr for one who is to die for truth.

But perhaps in the end their greatest gift was one you could not see or touch. I speak here of their shared gift of wisdom. Think of what their wisdom had them become! Men of learning, men of courage, men of resolution, men who would not be tricked or deceived, men of reverence and humility. And so the list goes on.

What the world needs today is more of the same wisdom. Real wisdom and not just cleverness. Wisdom for the leaders of the nations. Wisdom for the new Archbishop, Rowan Williams. Wisdom for me, a priest. Wisdom for all the people of God. For if we can find wisdom together then perhaps as well we might find peace together.

Happy New Year.

With my best wishes to you all,
Peter Jefford



FAMILY SERVICE

January 12th

St Mary's

4 pm



NOTICES FROM THE PARISH REGISTER

Baptism

On Sunday, November 24th at St John's, Michaela Danielle, the daughter of Terence and Katherine Driscoll of Boleyn Cottage, Hill Bottom.

On Sunday, December 1st at St Mary's, Ben Harry Elsome, the son of Nicholas Elsome and Heidi Yarnell of 24 Manor Road.



House for Duty Priest for Whitchurch

I am delighted to inform you that the Bishop has agreed that the house for duty priest to be appointed to Whitchurch and Whitchurch Hill may be designated "Team Missioner". The appointment will be for seven years, and as well as being parochially based in Whitchurch, the Missioner will be available to share his or her skills in helping churches across the Team who wish to grow in mission and outreach. The job profile is now completed, and we are in a position to begin advertising in mid January. The interviews will be held at the end of February, which means that if we are able to appoint someone they are likely to be in post by mid summer 2003.

This is a very exciting new post, and I am confident that God has a special person ready to take the ministry in Whitchurch forwards, and to help us all in the Team work more effectively at sharing our faith with our friends.

Kevin Davies

[This notice originally appeared in The Langtree Team Ministry Notice Sheet, copies of which are available in the churches]

The Whitchurch PCC met with Bishop Colin and Kevin in December to discuss the parish profile which will give applicants an idea of what we are like and looking for.

<h1>Englefield</h1> <p>Tel : 0118 9304898</p> <p>Open : Mon-Sat 9-5pm</p>  <p>GARDEN CENTRE</p>	
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<p>Where we are</p> <p>We are 3 miles from junction 12 of the M4. Englefield village is signposted off the A340 Theale to Pangbourne road.</p>	<p>Who we are</p> <p>Englefield Garden Centre is part of TACT, a charity providing training & therapy to people with learning disabilities</p>

ALL CHURCHES TOGETHER

This year it is the turn of our parish to host the **Joint Service** for local congregations in the **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**.

It will take place at **St Mary's on Sunday January 19th at 3 pm.**

Our own Team Rector, Rev. Kevin Davies, is coming to preach and we shall bear witness to our common faith with people from the parishes of Pangbourne with Tidmarsh and Sulham, St Mary's Purley, the R.C. Church of St Bernadette, Pangbourne College and individual members of the Tilehurst Free Church.

Tea and cake will be served at the end of the service.

Do come and help us make this a memorable occasion to show our neighbours that we are an active and welcoming church.

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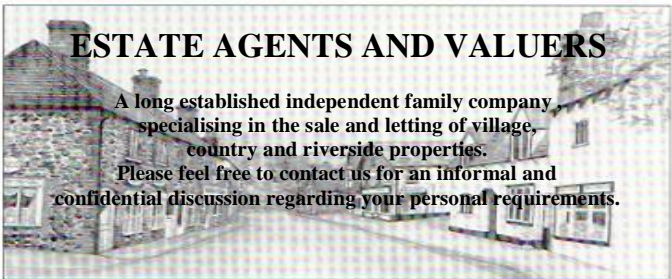
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Karen L Phillips, D.O.

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- Improved coordination
- Better balance
- Relaxation
- Improved immune system
- Stronger, more flexible spine
- Boosted self esteem

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Virtually anyone can benefit from Pilates especially:

- Stressed out mums looking to relax and recover their figure
- Sportspeople who want to avoid injury/prolong their sporting career and anyone who wants to enhance their performance in a particular sport be it golf, cricket, tennis, rowing etc.
- Deskworkers who may have postural problems/ back and joint pain
- People rehabilitating from accidents or injuries - many

(Continued on page 12)

WADS Pantomime 2003

“Beauty & the Beast”

By Eric Fowler

produced by Peter Saunders

Friday 24th Jan 7.30pm. Saturday 25th Jan 2.15pm & 7.30pm

Friday 31st Jan 7.30pm. Saturday 1st Feb 2.15pm & 7.30pm

Woodcote Village Hall

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Children's Page

The lost sheep

Once upon a time Jesus told a story -
A shepherd was counting his sheep one by one.
The night was coming soon and the darkness was
descending.
He wanted them safe home before the closing day was done.

One, two, three as they ran into the sheep pen,
Ten, eleven, twelve, and then a dozen more.
Thirty-three, sixty, seventy and eighty,
Just twenty more, then I can close the door.

'Come along my pretties, eighty-eight and all your buddies,
Get yourselves in quickly and we'll be just fine.
There's no one else arriving, unless I am mistaken
Someone must be lost, I've only counted ninety-nine!'

So just to make sure and to make it very certain,
He went into the sheep pen and he counted once again.
From one to ninety-nine, he just couldn't make a hundred
So he set out very sadly in the darkness and the rain.

'I know that I must find her, she'll be lost and she'll be
frightened,
She could even die of fear in the dark somewhere alone.
There are wolves and bears and foxes, there are vultures too,
and eagles
I've got to get her back; she's not safe here on her own.

So all through the night the shepherd kept on looking,
Seeking for his lost sheep on the dark and stony hill.
He searched among the brambles, by the river, on the
mountain.
'I don't know where she is, but I'll find her, yes I will!'

At last in the distance he heard a feeble bleating
His heart leapt with joy and he ran towards the sound.
At last he could see her, dirty, tangled and exhausted
But the shepherd 's heart was singing for his precious lamb
was found.

He threw his arms around her and he picked her up so gently,
As he turned to take her home again, this is what he said,
'I'm so very glad I found you, it was worth all the searching,
You are very special to me,' and he stroked her weary head.

Back through the night – through the stormy, windy darkness,
He carried the lost sheep, who was safe and lost no more,
Down from the mountain and across the deep river
And he didn't put her down till they reached the sheep pen
door.

Just as they arrived, in the east the dawn was breaking,
Another day beginning and the sheep was no more lost.
'Remember' said the shepherd, as she settled in the sheep
pen,
'I'll always come and find you, no matter what the cost.'

And later on that morning when the sun was rising higher,
He went and called his friends, and said 'Gather all around,
We're going to have a party, for there's lots to celebrate,
My little lonely frightened sheep was lost but now she's
found.'

Once upon a time Jesus told a story,
He said, ' God, like the shepherd, loves a party too.
When the lost are found and rescued and brought safely in
the kingdom,
Then they all rejoice in heaven and they have a real good
'do!'

Geraldine Witcher

PURLEY HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Talks

We will not be holding a meeting in January 2003, but the A.G.M. of the Society will be held on Wednesday, 19th February, starting at 7.45 p.m. in Purley Memorial Hall. After the official business has been completed there will be an illustrated talk by Mr. Ben Viljoen on "Fragments of the Garden History of Purley".

Trading

The Trading Store is now closed and will re-open on Saturday, 1st February at 10 a.m.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all our members a very happy New Year and happy gardening in 2003.

Marion Dabbs
9422349



Keep Fit by Tapping!

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friendly atmosphere.

Do join us every Tuesday at Whitchurch Village Hall
8:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

For further details contact
Barbara George on 01491 681755

Hardwick Estate

The woodlands at Hardwick, part of the Estate owned by Sir Julian Rose, have been judged overall winner of the Chiltern Woodland Award, presented by the Chilterns Conservation Board.

The award recognizes the outstanding management of the woodlands, in terms of silviculture, wildlife habitat, and public access. Tim Sheldon, who has worked in the woods at Hardwick for over twenty-five years, and Martin Giles, of Wessex Woodland Management, attended the award ceremony at Aylesbury.

The recent completion of a new drying shed / saw-mill, constructed by Tim using Hardwick's own resources, has enabled the Estate to diversify into air-drying timber for specialist markets, thus benefiting local wood-turners, boat-builders, and sculptors. In addition to supplying firewood to local residents, Tim recently offered homegrown Christmas trees for sale, with free local delivery.

Sir Julian Rose said "I am delighted with these awards. [includes the Organic Food Awards for organic beef produced by Theresa Whittle, Ranger Organics Ltd, as reported in the December magazine]. They reflect the Estate's long term policy of promoting ecologically sensitive management practices and locally raised organic food."

Tim Sheldon, Tel: 01491 680 945, or 0797 489 4671

Martin Giles, Wessex Woodland Management

Tel: 01635 254 805, Fax: 01635 254 483

wessexwoodland@aol.com

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Please submit all copy for the next month's magazine by the 20th. I look forward to receiving your news, views, letters, etc. This magazine appears in the Church section on the village web site, see: www.whitchurchonthames.com

Sue Matthews

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Candlemas, 2nd February, is a traditional Christian festival that commemorates the ritual purification of Mary 40 days after the birth of her son. It also marks the presentation of the infant Jesus in the temple.

Candlemas is also a cross quarter day, halfway between the winter solstice and the spring equinox and was originally a pagan festival taken over by Christianity. The pagan ritual was for people to light all the lamps and candles in their dwelling to welcome the return of the sun. Christians then used that day to bless the year's supply of candles for the church and called the day Candlemas. Christians were observing Candlemas in Jerusalem as early as the 4th century AD. By the middle of the 5th century, candles were lit on this day to symbolize that Jesus Christ was the light, the truth and the way.

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<p>Whitchurch Theatre Club ...takes you to plays and concerts about once a month; matinees & evenings, London & provinces. If interested, contact Mrs Diana Marriott, 23 Hillside, Hardwick Road Whitchurch-on-Thames RG8 7HL Tel: 0118 984 4582</p>	<p><i>Chiltern Domestic Appliances</i> Guaranteed repairs and servicing for Hoo- ver, Hotpoint, Zanussi, Ben- dix, Indesit & all major brands. Washing ma- chines, tumble dryers and dishwashers. Low call out fee and prompt atten- tion. Tel: 01491 681526</p>

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White Elephant	£119.56
Cakes	£98.95
Gourmet Food	£89.80
Teas	£12.50
Raffle	£61.00
Guess the weight of the cake	£25.00
Jewellery	£20.00
Decorations	£38.30
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>£558.61</u>

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01865 760593

Churchwardens:

Alan Matthews, Ashdown, Duchess Close
0118 984 4489
Jo Adams, Windings, Goring Heath Road, Whitchurch Hill
0118 984 3362

Vergers:

St Mary's	Eiluned Jones	984 4839
St John's	Pat Turner	984 4200

Honorary Secretary:

Wendy Ferguson, 21 Swanston Field.
0118 984 1262

Organist and Choirmaster:

Julian Oxley, Applecroft, Upper Basildon, RG8 8NT
01491 671415

Honorary Treasurer:

Robert Plumb, Uplands Cottage.
0118 984 4838

Assistant Treasurer:

Tony Voysey, Mow Cop, High Street.
0118 984 3946

Captain of the Bellringers:

Stephanie May, 0118 957 2596

Editor, Parish Magazine

Sue Matthews, Ashdown, Duchess Close
0118 984 4489 or email: suematt@waitrose.com

Team Rector:

Reverend Kevin Davies
The Rectory, Checkendon, RG8 0SR
0118 968 0252

Services for

January

5th January, The Second Sunday of Christmas The Epiphany

St John's	8 a.m.	The Holy Communion
St Mary's	10 a.m.	Parish Communion

12th January, The First Sunday of Epiphany

St Mary's	8 a.m.	The Holy Communion
St John's	9.30 a.m.	Parish Communion
St Mary's	<i>4 p.m.</i>	<i>Family Service</i>

19th January, The Second Sunday of Epiphany

St John's	8 a.m.	The Holy Communion
St Mary's	10 a.m.	Parish Communion
St Mary's	<i>3 p.m.</i>	<i>All Churches Together</i>

26th January, The Third Sunday of Epiphany

St Mary's	8 a.m.	The Holy Communion
St John's	10 a.m.	Parish Communion
St Mary's	6 p.m.	Evening Prayers

2nd February, The presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas)

St John's	8 a.m.	The Holy Communion
St Mary's	10 a.m.	Parish Communion