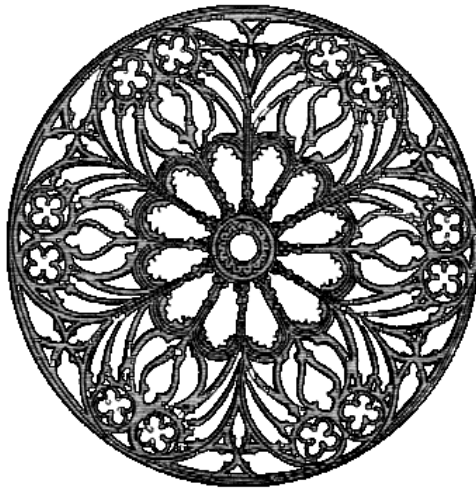


**The Parish Magazine of
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and Whitchurch Hill**



March 2003

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

Dear People of the Parish,

There is a very fine Welsh hymn with both rousing words and an equally rousing tune, and the great hymn starts with these words: *Guide me O thou great redeemer, pilgrim through this barren land.*

The writer saw himself as a pilgrim in the time of the great Exodus. Anyone who takes part in the adventure called the Christian Faith must always see himself, or herself, as a pilgrim. One who is always willing to be led.

*Guide me O thou great redeemer,
Pilgrim through this barren land.*

We do not live in a barren land but we are living through barren times. We live in a world that seems to feel a present sense of fear for the future. A fear of another terrorist attack. A fear that we may be entering into a second Gulf War.

There are other things that make this seem like a barren time. The nation is far from at ease with itself. If you have to live on savings and investments as a retired person then you have seen the value of your sources of income decline for a whole year.

If we search for good news in the media there is only barrenness. And at present in the world of politics we are living not through a phoney war but a time of phoney peace, and people, like children, are unsettled. Somebody once wrote these very simple words: 'All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is that in bad times good men do nothing.'

Somehow we need to remember the titles of the three great war-time films, that some of us will remember from World War 2, that told us something of the lives of the men who were fighting. The first was about the Army and called *The Way Ahead*, the second was about the Navy and called *In*

Which We Serve, and the third about the RAF called *The Way To The Stars*.

Two of them were about journeys, to find a way ahead, to find that better world. But the second title was not original, it came as a quotation from the prayer book. It comes from the Form of Prayer to be used at sea and these are the words of the prayer:

Be pleased to receive into thy almighty and most gracious protection the person of us thy servants and the fleet in which we serve.

It is not 'in which we serve' but 'the fleet in which we serve'. So we must think of ourselves still as pilgrims on a journey, if not on the way to the stars at least on the way ahead. And we travel together, if not in 'the fleet in which we serve' but at least in the church in which we serve.

But we do need the pilgrim's vision, who had in his heart the vision of the greatness of God:

*I am weak but thou art might,
Hold me with thy powerful hand.*

He also had the concept of direction:

*Let the fiery cloudy pillar
Lead me all my journey through.*

And at the end there was this sense of redemptive salvation:

*When I tread the verge of Jordan
Bid my anxious fears subside.
Death of death and hell's destruction
Land me safe on Canaan's side.*

We are going into Lent and going into the time of Christ's Passion and these are to be great times to exercise our Faith, as the children of God and each and all members of Christ's church.

With my best wishes to you all,
Peter Jefford

NOTICES FROM THE PARISH REGISTER

Cremation

**On Monday, February 17th at Reading
Crematorium, Frederick Alun Jones, aged 95
years, of Wells House, Eastfield Lane.**

Burial of Ashes

**On Friday, February 21st, at St Mary's, Frederick
Alun Jones of Wells House, Eastfield Lane.**

*Rest eternal grant unto him: may light perpetual
shine upon him.*



Looking Ahead—dates for your diary

2 services for ASH WEDNESDAY, March 5th

Langtree Team Ministry Eucharist at 7.30 pm for all the parishes at
SS Peter and Paul Checkendon.

All Churches Together

Joint service 8 p.m. St Mary's, Purley.

Lent Lunches from 5th March see page 12

All Churches Together Lent Groups from March 9th—see page 8

Mother's Day Family Service Sunday March 30th 4 p.m. St Marys

April

Licensing Service for Reverend Doctor Peter Steddon on Monday
28th April, 7.30 pm St Mary's.

PCC AGM Sunday 27th April after Evensong 6 pm St Mary's

May

Bar-B-Q for Peter Jefford's Farewell on Sunday 18th May, 12
noon, Goring Heath Parish Hall.

<h1>Englefield</h1> <p>Tel : 0118 9304898</p>	
 <p>Open : Mon-Sat 9-5pm (Sundays 10-4pm May & June)</p>	
<h2>GARDEN CENTRE</h2>	
<p><u>Mother's Day</u> <u>March 30th</u></p>	
<p>Planted baskets and bowls</p> <p>Gifts</p> <p>Pots and containers</p>	 <p>Primroses, pansies</p> <p>Fruit Trees</p> <p>Seed Potatoes</p> <p>Seeds</p> <p>Roses here from Mid Feb</p>
<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>

A reply to Kevin Davies' letter in the February edition

Dear Editor

I'd like to reinforce the Team Rector's plea to reduce speed when driving through the village.

Last April, on the outskirts of Yattendon, a young motorist pulled out in front of me without warning. The head-on collision that resulted wrote off both cars. If I'd been exceeding the 30 mph speed limit, one or both of us could have been killed or seriously injured.

The average person weighs about 10 stone; the average car weighs about a ton. In a collision, there's no contest.

The solution: the slower you're moving, the more time you've got to react to the unexpected.

Or, as Kevin put it so succinctly: slow down.

Yours faithfully

Peter Mottley

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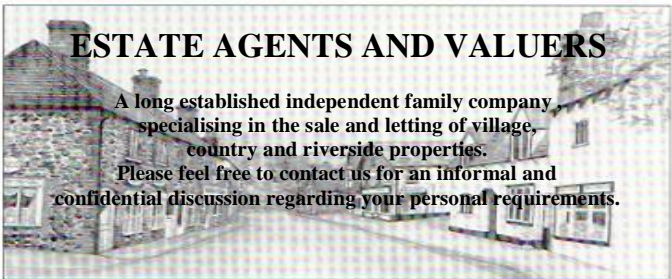
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Tania is a friendly, qualified teacher running classes in Goring/Streatley, Whitchurch Hill, Pangbourne and Reading Morning, afternoon and evening classes weekdays and weekends.

Please call **0118 984 4310** for details and to book lessons

All Churches together in Pangbourne and District are running **Lent Groups** commencing the week beginning March 9th. The material used will be based on the national campaign Face Values and will discuss such issues as: trust in public life, the value of human life, marriage and the family, forgiveness. If you would like to join one of these groups and have not had a form to fill in please contact Geraldine (9844959) or Tanya (9843069)



WHITCHURCH PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

The Annual General Meeting
will be held in St Mary's Church
on 27th April.

The meeting will commence with Evensong at 6pm
Nominations for election to the Council should be made in writing to Wendy Ferguson, 21 Swanston Field, Whitchurch.

REVEREND DOCTOR PETER STEDDON

I am delighted to report that, following the recent interview process, the Reverend Doctor Peter Steddon has been appointed as the House for Duty Priest for the parish of St Mary's and St John's.

Bishop Colin of Dorchester will officiate at the Licensing Service to be held at St Mary's at 7.30 pm on Monday 28th April, after which there will be a reception in the Rectory when parishioners will get an opportunity to meet our new priest.

It is however sad that we will be losing Father Peter Jefford who has served us so kindly and so thoughtfully since the retirement of Richard Hughes. I am sure he will be greatly missed but he will always be welcome back here. To this end we will be hosting a Bar-B-Q lunch in his honour at Goring Heath Parish Hall on Sunday 18th May at 12 noon.

It would be only too appropriate to send Peter off with a farewell gift and anyone wishing to contribute to this should send their donations to Rob Plumb, Uplands Cottage, Whitchurch. It would also be useful to know, for catering purposes, if you intend to come to the Bar-B-Q. Please let Jo Adams know on 984 3362.

Alan Matthews
Church Warden

Mothers' Day Family Service

**The next family service will be on Mothers' Day
March 30th**

We hope lots of people will come to St Mary's at 4 pm and enjoy sharing in a short, informal service where we thank God for mothers and enjoy being family together.

Children's Page

The story of David

Chapter 2 Born to be King

David was the youngest in his family. No one thought he was important...

...except – God did!

God had plans for David that no one could have imagined. And the plans started working out like this:

One day a very important person arrived in David's village. It was Samuel – the prophet of God. Everyone knew that Samuel listened to God and did what God told him. But they were all a little bit afraid of him too. He was very close to God. And that might be a bit scary. So they did what Samuel told them.

This time Samuel said he wanted a special church service and all the people were to come. He specially invited David's dad and told him to bring all his sons.

What Samuel knew, because God had told him, but the people of the village didn't because God hadn't told them, was that he had come to choose the man who was going to be the next king of Israel. But God hadn't told Samuel who it was. He only knew it would be one of Jesse's sons.

So when Samuel saw David's oldest brother – Eliab – he felt sure this was the man God had chosen. Eliab was tall and strong. He was good looking too with bright brown eyes and a friendly smile. It must be Eliab.

But God said, 'No, not this one.' Samuel was disappointed. Eliab looked perfect for a king. He'd look splendid in a purple cloak and with a crown on his head. 'People judge people by what they look like,' God told him, 'but I look at what is in their hearts. Eliab isn't the one.'

So Samuel looked at David's next brother. Abinadab. He was tall

and strong and very clever. ‘This must be the one,’ Samuel thought. But God said, ‘No, not this one either.’

So along came Shammah, son number three. ‘No, this isn’t the one.’

The same happened with sons four, five, six and seven. They were all fine strong, handsome young men, but Samuel knew God hadn’t chosen any of them. Now he was confused. God had definitely told him it would be one of Jesse’s sons. He’d seen them all and none was the right one.

‘Do you have any more sons?’ Samuel asked Jesse, sounding puzzled.

‘Oh yes, there’s the youngest, David. He is out looking after the sheep. But he’s only a lad.’

‘Send for him. We can’t start till he’s here,’ Samuel said.

So Jesse sent for his youngest son. When David arrived Samuel saw a healthy good-looking boy with a happy face and a friendly smile. ‘This is the one,’ God told Samuel. ‘Get up and pour oil on his head. He will be the next king.’ So Samuel poured oil on David’s head as a sign that God had chosen him to be the next king.

What a change – from shepherd boy to king! But David would have lots of adventures before he did become king.

He must have been very surprised mustn’t he? He was used to the older ones doing things, and now it seemed that he had something exciting to look forward to. Sometimes it feels like that for us too. Everyone else seems to be cleverer, more sporty, better looking, or just plain older. But, just as God had something planned especially for David he has something planned just for you. And finding out what God has planned for your life is actually the most exciting adventure of all – even if it isn’t to make you a king!

Geraldine Witcher

L E N T L U N C H E S 2 0 0 3

We hope you will come along to one or more of the Lent lunches being held in the Parish. This year a proportion of the money raised will be donated to two charities, one local and one international: Resource (Reading Mental Health Resource Centre) and Water Aid.

A phone call beforehand to the host would be appreciated to get an idea of numbers – but it's fine just to turn up between 12.30 and 2.00 pm.

This year lunches will take place as follows:

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| Wed 5 March | The Coach House, Whitchurch
Nigel and Barbara Grove 984 2993 |
| Wed 12 March | Windings, Whitchurch Hill
Harvey and Jo Adams 984 3362 |
| Wed 19 March | Coombe Lodge, Hartslock Bridleway,
Dalby and Lesley Landen 984 2414 |
| Wed 26 March | Uplands Cottage, Whitchurch
Rob and Jenny Plumb 984 4838 |
| Wed 2 April | The Peach House, High Street, Whitchurch
(opposite Rectory)
David and Susan Lee 984 2866 |
| Wed 9 April | Keepers Cottage, Whitchurch Hill
(down lane beside Goring Heath Parish Hall)
David and Ann Wilson 984 4620 |

Many thanks to those who have offered to hold lunches in their homes

PURLEY HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Talks

The talk on 19th March will be given by Mr. Bob Aggiss - one of the 'greenest finger' gardeners in Berkshire, with a wealth of knowledge on many gardening topics. Do come to hear what is sure to be a very informative talk and pick up tips on how to get the best results from your house and conservatory plants.

Trading

The Trading Store is open every Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. until 11 a.m. Membership of Purley Horticultural Society, costing only £1 for a year, is tremendous value; not only can you buy items at the Store at lower prices than most other sources, but also you can make further savings on purchases at Collins of Pangbourne, BSB Garden Machinery, Sulham Lane (repairs, servicing and new mowers), Phone 9843601, Englefield Garden Centre (9304898), Glenvale Nursery, Bradfield Southend (9744006) and Newington Gardens, Newington on the A329 road, north of Shillingford (01865-400533). Please remember to show your membership card at the start of any transaction, as tills have to be set to deduct discount in some outlets.

Spring Show

This will be held in Purley Memorial Hall, Glebe Road on Saturday, 5th April. The Show will be open to members of the public from 2.30 p.m. until 4 p.m. Even if you are unable to enter, please come along to support the participants. Schedules will be available at the Trading Store from late February.

Plant Sale

We wish to ensure that there will be a wide choice of plants available at the Sale on 17 May to satisfy your needs. If there are any species you would particularly like to buy, please let us know and give us some idea of the quantity.

Marion Dabbs
9422349

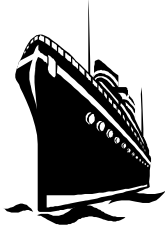
Friends of St John's Dinner—25th January

Our third Annual Dinner was the resounding success and the wonderful value which we have come to expect. Catering by Jo and Harvey Adams, expertly assisted on the night by Ingrid Dreweattt, Committee Member, and devoted friends Pauline and Alan, was excellent. In the interests of health and hygiene Jo steadfastly refused to get the prawns for the cocktail out of the fridge until all fifty-six diners were sitting down, so cool and professional she is! We thank Lucy and James Norman for their generosity; they provided organic Hardwick beef for the goulash, and what's more, I can recommend their wonderful organic beef sausages as well, try them! We are very grateful also to our Parish Hall Manager, Caroline Brooks, and County Catering for the generous loan of cutlery without charge. And Ingrid's decorations completed the dressing of the tables very effectively.

We had a rare opportunity to hear a vintage Stanley Holloway monologue as an after-dinner treat, and thank Hilda Tarsnane most warmly for energetically and fluently entertaining us so late in the evening with a splendid 'Albert and the Lion'. The raffle was as ever popular with the punters and raised the amazing sum of £172. Our fund-raising at the moment focuses on the church porch doors, now faced to keep birds out with rather gruesome wire mesh, and soon to be replaced.

Many thanks to all who supported this congenial occasion which so effectively brightens up a dark patch of the winter, and to those who organised and helped. Next year's date will shortly be available for your diaries!

Kate Giles,
Hon Secretary.



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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 suematt@waitrose.com

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More Misprints

The pastor would appreciate it if the ladies of the congregation would lend him their electric girdles for the pancake breakfast next Sunday morning.

The Low Self Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7 pm. Please use the back door.

This evening at 7 pm there will be a hymn sing in the park across from the church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin.

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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>

Mothers Union

Rotherfield Branch will be meeting on Tuesday, March 18th. at 2.30 p.m. We will be beginning with the Spring Service in All Saints Church at Peppard followed by the AGM in the adjoining Peppard Parish Room.

The annual Diocesan service to mark Lady Day is in Christchurch Cathedral in Oxford on Tuesday, March 25th. at 11.00 a.m.

Our Prayer Group will continue to meet monthly at Abbots Lodge, this month on Thursday, March 20th. If anyone would like to attend but needs transport please phone me on 01491 680288 for a lift.

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Jo Adams, Windings, Goring Heath Road, Whitchurch Hill
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Vergers:

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St John's	Pat Turner	984 4200

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0118 984 4838

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0118 984 3946

Captain of the Bellringers:

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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
01491 680252

Services for

March

2nd March, The Sunday Next before Lent

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

9th March, The First Sunday of Lent

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

16th March, The Second Sunday of Lent

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

23rd March, The Third Sunday of Lent

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

30th March, The Fourth Sunday of Lent Mothering Sunday

St John's	8 a.m.	The Holy Communion
St Mary's	10 a.m.	Matins
St Mary's	4 p.m.	Family Service