

PURLEY

CHASE CENTRE

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August 2010 Newsletter

Welcome to Purley Chase Centre Newsletter in which we will be keeping you up to date with what is happening here at the centre.

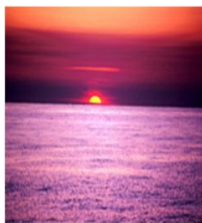
Events coming up over the next few months:



The way of an Angel
24th to 26th August



House of Colour
27th to 1st September



Going Home
10th to 12th September



Consider the Lillies
17th to 19th September

If you would like to receive copies of the most recent brochure for yourself or to pass onto friends then please let us know.

Hi everyone – Hope you are all enjoying the summer and those of you who attended Conference enjoyed your time together. Life at Purley has been busy with the sound of young people enjoying their camps and a big thank-you goes out to all those leaders who help at these events. If you would like a few days away don't forget you can always book in for a short break contact myself or Sally for details.

Love Anne

Are you a good gardener?

There is much talk in scripture about plants and pruning hooks. A plant such as a tree, vine or even a tomato plant *can represent* a person's mind. Trees which grow with smaller branches sprouting off bigger ones and so on, are like a *mind map* where a main concept will have offshoots which in turn will have their offshoots and so on, building up a complex framework. This conceptual framework is how we understand what life is about, what we believe to be true, and we live and act according to it. The fruits at the ends of the branches of trees, can be compared to the good works we do in our lives as a result of our beliefs.

Good gardeners recognise that some side shoots and branches will, if left to grow, actually hinder the production of fruit, and so they are cut off. If they are not removed, they sap vital energy from going to produce fruit, cut down light and air circulation and encourage pests and mildew. Something similar happens in the human mind if unhelpful thoughts and beliefs are not nipped in the bud. These useless mental side-shoots that we sometimes grow need to be intelligently identified and cut off as soon as possible if we are to be fully useful people. The mental 'pruning hooks' we use for this are certain types of true concepts which we can draw from scripture and use to persuade ourselves to drop useless avenues of thought: 'branches' which need cutting off or pruning. "The world is a garden, The Lord is its gardener, cherishing all, none neglected." (Sikhism, Adi Granth, Majh Ashtpadi, M.3, p. 118) "Every branch in me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch in me that does bear fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit." (John: Ch 15).

I wish you constructive thoughts and action on the subject.
Rev. David Gaffney