

December 2017 - January 2018

Englefield Parish News



The Parish of St Mark's, Englefield

Resident Priest

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Front cover: *Christmas wreath from Englefield Garden Centre. See page 8 for more details of Christmas trees and other seasonal goodies on sale there during December..*

Englefield Parish News is published every two months and is now distributed free to all households in the parish of Englefield. Contributions are welcome and can be emailed to catherinehaig@gmail.com or handed in to Nick Wynne-Jones or to the Village Stores by the 20th of the preceding month.

From St Mark's House

Dear friends

Words are fascinating and fun. Especially when enjoying 'Balderdash', our family game at Christmas, where players have to fib or fabricate the meaning of real but unheard of words. The English language is rapidly growing and changing with new words added constantly. The Oxford Dictionary and others now select the word of the year. For 2016 it was 'post-truth' which could become 'one of the defining words of our time'. It goes well with 'alternative facts'. The ultimate 'Word of the Year' for 2017, according to Collins, is 'fake news' – 'false, often sensational, information disseminated under the guise of news reporting'. The children's word for this year is 'Trump' (we wonder why?) and they have improvised over 100 variations: *Trumplestiltskin* and *Trumpyness* are our favourites!

Considering the rich variety of the English language, historian Ian Mortimer writes that 'the only writer in the English language more influential than Shakespeare' was William Tyndale. In the Reformation's 500th anniversary year, we remember the revolutionary impact of Tyndale's Bible translation. He had vowed that he would teach 'a ploughboy to know the Bible as well as any bishop' and, with unforgettable words and phrases, he did so in a way that today is still direct and living. Up to 80% of the Authorised Version drew upon Tyndale and provided many striking proverbial phrases: 'Fight the good fight', 'The spirit is willing but the flesh is weak', 'Salt of the earth'. While words change, it is good to remember the Word which does not change and which communicates God's love: *'The worde was made flesshe and dwelt amonge vs and we sawe the glory of it as the glory of the only begotten sonne of ye father which worde was full of grace and verite [truth]'*. (John 1.5,14)

In an age of 'post-truth', the New Testament bears witness to truth that lasts for ever. The Christian faith proclaims what the philosopher Francis Schaeffer called 'true truth' of which we can be sure and on which we can rely in a sceptical world. In an age where 'fake news' seeks to mislead we have good news announced 2000 years ago to a group of shepherds on a hillside: *'Be not afrayed. For beholde I bringe you tydings of greate ioye ... for vnto you is borne this daye in the cite of David a saveoure which is Christ ye lorde.'* (Luke 2.10,11) Although the language has changed it still brings good news to people who need a Saviour to rescue us from our follies, failures and fears. This Christmas we hear again the message of the angels and can go into the New Year knowing that *'the lyght shyneth in the darcknes'* and leads those who walk by it into the paths of peace.

Happy Christmas and New Year

Nick and Harriet

Diary: December - January

Saturday 2 nd December	Englefield School Christmas Fayre , 12 - 3pm Theale Village Christmas Fair , Theale High Street, Nativity at the Falcon pub, 3 - 7pm Bingo 8pm at the Social Club
Sunday 3 rd December	Holy Communion , 10.30 at St Mark's
Monday 4 th December	Fish and Chips supper at the Social Club, 8pm, <i>please pre-book with Tony by Friday 1st (07802 479952)</i>
Wednesday 6 th December	Let's Talk Theology on the theological themes in the Epistles of St Paul, 8pm Parish Room, St Mary's Sulhamstead, RG7 4ED
Saturday 9 th December	Concert at Holy Trinity, Theale, 2.30pm, see p 22 Race Night 8pm at the Social Club
Sunday 10 th December	Holy Communion , 10.30 at St Mark's Messiah & More in One Hour , 7pm, at St Mark's, entrance free, refreshments, see page 19
Tuesday 12 th December	Darts, Games Social 8pm at the Social Club
Saturday 16 th December	Christmas Carols Sing Along at the Social Club
Sunday 17 th December	Holy Communion , 10.30 at St Mark's, with Nativity tableau for the children Carols by Candlelight , 6.30pm
Monday 18 th December	St Mark's Christmas Party , 3pm, details page 3
Thursday 21 st December	Pottenger Bequest distribution, see page 4
Sunday 24 th December	Holy Communion , 10.30 at St Mark's Christingle Service , 5pm at St Mark's Midnight Communion , 11.30pm at Holy Trinity Theale (choir sings round the tree from 11pm)
CHRISTMAS DAY	Family service with Carols and Holy Communion , 10.30am at St Mark's
Sunday 31 st December	Holy Communion , 10.30 at St Mark's
Saturday 6 th January	Bingo at the Social Club, 8pm
Sunday 7 th January	Holy Communion , 10.30 at St Mark's
Monday 8 th January	Fish and Chips supper at the Social Club, 8pm <i>please pre-book with Tony by Friday 5th (07802 479952)</i>
Tuesday 9 th January	Darts, Games Social at the Social Club, 8pm
Sunday 14 th January	Holy Communion , 10.30 at St Mark's
Sunday 21 st January	Holy Communion , 10.30 at St Mark's
Monday 22 nd January	PCC meeting , 6.30pm at the Social Club
Sunday 28 th January	Holy Communion , 10.30 at St Mark's

Mondays 4th and 18th December and 1st and 15th January

Time to Pray in the Englefield Chapel - an opportunity to meet for half an hour for quiet reflection and prayer - from 6pm till 6.30pm, usually on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of every month. All welcome.

Congratulations

To Peter and Wendy Wynne-Jones on the birth of Tobias on Friday 10th November, a first grandson for Nick and Harriet.



St Mark's Christmas Tea Party

On Monday 18th December the annual Christmas Tea Party will take place in the Church at 3.00pm. Please do come and join us for carols, cakes and Christmas treats. For more information and to let us know that you are coming please telephone 01635 269157.

Melanie Townsend

M4 closures

As part of continuing maintenance work to the bridges which carry the M4 over the B4009 Hampstead Norreys Road near Hermitage, Brocks Lane near Frilsham and Burnt Hill Road, there will be full closures of the M4 in both directions between junctions 12 and 13 on the following weekends (from 9pm Friday through to 5am Monday):

Friday 8 to Monday 11 December 2017

Friday 15 to Monday 18 December 2017

Friday 12 to Monday 15 January 2018

Friday 19 to Monday 22 January 2018 (contingency)

A diversion will be in place via the A4 (through Newbury, Thatcham and Woolhampton) but this will be extremely busy.

We would like to apologise in advance for any disruption caused by these closures; if you have any questions, or if you'd like you know about our work please contact us on 0300 123 5000 or email info@highwaysengland.co.uk. Or you can visit our website at www.highways.gov.uk/roads.

RIP

Lorraine Highley, mother of Denny Hollands and Gwen Archer, died on October 31st. A service of thanksgiving for her life was held on Friday 17th November at Stanford Dingley. Our thoughts are with her husband Ian and all the family.

Baptism

Jessica Aurelia Simpson, daughter of Justin and Annabel and granddaughter of David and Penny Norris, at St Mark's on Sunday 5th November.

Pottenger Bequest

Every year on December 21st - St Thomas' Day - the Pottenger Bequest is distributed around the village. This bequest of '40 shillings' was left by Richard Pottenger (you can see the commemorative board in the church) and now takes the form of loaves of bread. Little is known of Richard Pottenger but one theory is that he was born in Burfield [sic] in 1596 and died at Rockhayst in 1659 aged 59. He was married to Mary or Margaret Brown who was born Aberdeen in 1596 and died in 1632.

The Real Advent Calendar

The Real Advent Calendar is a great way to share the Christmas story. With the traditional format of 25 windows, each with a Fairtrade chocolate and a line about the Christmas story, it comes with a 24-page story and activity book. Orders have already been placed for this year from St Mark's but the website has more information: <https://meaningfulchocolate.co.uk/pages/real-advent-calendar>.



Bell ringing at Englefield

Church bells are traditionally associated with Christmas and for the bell ringers it is our busiest and most special time of year. We will be ringing the bells before the Carol Service and on Christmas Eve and the Christmas Day family service.

At Englefield we have two peals booked. Arthur Reeves will ring with a band on Saturday 23rd December to celebrate the life of his late father Andre Reeves. We were very grateful for Andre's kindness in helping with maintenance in the tower. In the New Year on Tuesday 2nd January, a local band are coming to Englefield to attempt a peal.

The summer has been an enjoyable one with several weddings this year including a special one in May with Royal attendance.

If you are looking for a different experience or challenge for 2018, we need new bell ringers to help take part in ringing the bells on Armistice Day 2018 to commemorate 100 years since the end of the First World War. This is a national recruitment drive backed by the Culture Secretary to train 1,400 new bell ringers. 1,400 is the number of bell ringers killed in the First World War.

On Tuesday 9th January, from 7–8pm, we welcome anyone to come along and find out more about bell ringing. If you cannot make it then pop in any Tuesday evening or contact Janine on 0118 9302427. Our practice evening is every Tuesday 7–8pm in the tower.

Wishing you a Merry Christmas, and we look forward to seeing you on Tuesday 9th January.

Mandy, Michael, Geoff, Patricia, Vince and Janine



Christmas at Fielders

As always, we are selling traditionally reared, award-winning turkeys from Peach Croft Farm. These turkeys are grown naturally and slowly to full maturity, free to roam in grassy paddocks and lush fields around the farm in Oxfordshire. We are now taking orders for Christmas meats, so why not avoid the last minute rush and order yours today!

We also have a huge selection of other meats available to order including free-range geese, chicken, cockerel, beef and pork, plus a selection of festive trimmings. Last orders should be placed by Saturday 16th December and collection dates are 22nd, 23rd and 24th December. Please call today to speak to a member of the team: 0118 930 4064.

Cobbs Farm Co, of which Fielders is a part, won Highly Commended in the Best Rural Food and Drink Business category in the Rural Business Awards announced in October. Many congratulations to all the team.



Farewell to Pam

Everyone in Englefield will be sad to hear that Pam Goddard is leaving the Five A Day market garden as she and her husband Cliff are moving to Northumberland to pursue their dream of living by the coast. Pam single-handedly set up the Five A Day in the village almost 10 years ago and since then it has grown to become an important part of Englefield life drawing in hundreds of people annually, whether they be volunteers, visitors or people buying

organic fruit and veg. Her work in community education has been outstanding, and she has run countless events, courses and workshops, reaching out to people across Berkshire and beyond. Readers of this magazine will miss her updates and her seasonal recipes. We wish Pam and Cliff all the best for their future.

Pam is running the London marathon next April in aid of Plantlife, the wild plant conservation charity. If you want to sponsor her you can give via her justgiving page: www.justgiving.com/fundraising/pam-goddard3.

The Crown is back

The second season of the acclaimed Netflix production, *The Crown*, is available now. The new episodes are released on Friday 8th December and, like the first series, star Claire Foy and Matt Smith. The story this time starts with the Suez Crisis and ends with the downfall of her third Prime Minister, Harold Macmillan, after a devastating scandal. As before, the scenes in and around Sandringham were filmed at Englefield.

Congratulations to Andrew

The Estate Office is delighted to report that Andrew Rowland has passed a key milestone in his professional career as a rural surveyor by passing his Assessment of Professional Competence. As a result, he is now a fully-fledged member of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS). Passing the APC proves that you're an expert in your field and the two-year process culminates in a daunting formal interview panel which is well known to be very rigorous. Well done Andrew from all of your colleagues.

Moves in The Street

The Kornelissen family have recently moved from Number 2 The Street to Number 26. Domenic and Tina Haynes moved from Number 31 at the end of October.

Present perfect

For original Christmas presents visit the Artisan Christmas Market at West Berkshire Museum in Newbury. The exhibition brings together local crafters and artisans accredited under the Open Studios scheme including potters, jewellers, printmakers, textile designers, a wood turner and a photographer. Prices range from £10 to £200. More information is available on www.westberkshireheritage.org/whats-on. Open until December 22nd.



Christmas at the Garden Centre

Christmas is fast approaching and it is certainly feeling festive at the garden centre. The People We Support are getting excited seeing all the fantastic Christmas items we have to offer, from Christmas gifts to chocolates, from Christmas trees to everybody's favourite the poinsettias. A little known fact is that the showy coloured leaves on poinsettias which are commonly believed to be the flower are actually coloured bracts (modified leaves). The flowers normally come out after Christmas and are yellow. You can keep them year after year and the way to get the leaves to change colour is by only letting them have natural light from when the clocks go back as false light stops them changing colour. We will be open up to Christmas Eve to give you that last-minute opportunity to pop in. We are also open between Boxing Day and New Year - why not check out our Facebook page for opening times.

Austin Crabbe, Garden Centre Manager

Police telephone numbers

For reference, there are alternatives to dialling 999 (unless it's an emergency). The telephone number for Thames Valley Police is 01865 841148; the non emergency number is 101 and the Crime Stoppers number is 0800 555111. You can also report a non-emergency crime or incident here: <https://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/contact-us/report-crime-or-incident/>.

Training for ordination

Two young people connected with St Mark's are currently training for ordination: Duncan Hollands, the son of Peter and Denny, and Phillip Young who is married to Ann Stone's granddaughter Louise. They have each written about what this involves and this month we publish Duncan's contribution:

Thank you so much for partnering with us while we're at Oak Hill Theological College in North London.

I (Duncan) had the final part of the Church of England selection process this summer and so I'm now being sponsored through college. I'm on a three-year scheme at Oak Hill learning Ancient Greek, Hebrew, doctrine and church history and good pastoral practice.



I grew up going to Englefield before drifting away from Christian things in the first few years of secondary school. However, a friend enticed me along to Soul Survivor where the fact that Jesus loved me (not just people, but me) hit me in a very big and different way. This led to me trying much more actively to follow Jesus at school, but with varying degrees of success.

Going up to uni in London was another key moment as I felt disillusioned with the Christian life and some of the charismatic things that I'd witnessed especially. Another friend inviting me along to St Helen's Bishopsgate in London was a wonderful answer to my parents' (and others'!) prayers, in that I was wonderfully reminded of the value of following Jesus and taught in a deeper way the sure foundation that the Scriptures give us.

After uni I worked and qualified as an accountant in London before doing two years on a church apprenticeship scheme, going through the Discernment Process with the C of E and then coming up to Oak Hill.

It surprised my accountancy colleagues when after four years of slogging away to pass our exams I said that I was leaving to study for ordination. 'More exams!' was the common response. From my point of view though, there couldn't be anything more worthwhile doing with the next 50 years than devoting myself to God's people. In 1000 years time I won't care what exam results I got, but I will be glad for every person that I've introduced to the eternal joy of knowing Jesus, and every person that I've helped to keep going with Him. As somebody with

some ability to teach it seemed a no-brainer to test the waters and switch from accountancy to a church apprenticeship and seek ordination.

Beckie grew up in a village called Culcheth nestled between Manchester and Liverpool. She attended the local C of E church, but found the Scripture Union beach mission in Nefyn, North Wales, to be the place where her spiritual faith really came alive.

She then came down to London and we first met at uni before getting to know each other while she was an apprentice at St Helen's and I was working as an accountant. We then married in 2012 and Phinn came along in 2015, followed by Theo in September 2017.

We still find that Jesus is the one who provides the deepest meaning, hope and joy in life. So much in life gives cause for grief; it is our greatest treasure to know the one who said, 'I am the resurrection and the life, whoever believes in me, though he die, shall live.' So it feels like a privilege to be training for a ministry that's all about introducing people to the hope that Jesus provides.

Duncan Hollands

From Theale Medical Centre

There is now a blood pressure machine in front of the reception desk for patients to take their own blood pressure without needing to see a nurse.

The new website is up and running and is easier to use and you can do a lot more on it. You can request sick notes, request or chase a referral, ask the GP or nurse a question, leave compliments and complaints and much more. Please go to www.thealemedicalcentre.com and let us know what you think.

The dispensary telephone line 0118 930 9002 is open from 8.30am to 11am and from 4pm to 6pm. Please call during these times if you have any queries or send your query via our website where you can also order repeat medication.

We will be closed over Christmas from Saturday 23rd to Tuesday 26th December, and over New Year from Saturday 30th December to Monday 1st January.

News from Rushall Farm



The appointment of Michael Gove as Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs was viewed with caution by the farming community. Previously as Justice Minister and before that Minister for Education, he is well remembered by anyone involved in schools, whether education authorities, governors, headteachers, staff, parents, even children. But it appears in this role in Whitehall 'Govey' is heralding in a new era for farmers.

Convinced of the imminent and wholesale destruction of our soils he announced, 'Countries can withstand coup d'état, wars and conflict, even leaving the EU, but no country can withstand the loss of its soil and fertility.' He added that we are 30-40 years away from the fundamental eradication of soil fertility and cannot continue with systems of farming which damage the earth with massive machinery and drench the soils with chemicals. No, he said, we need a new agriculture, promoting mixed farming practice, a tapestry of land use where farmers, their livestock and wildlife would thrive together. In addition, 11 million trees would be planted and effective soil monitoring restored. British agriculture will be great again, pioneering sustainable farming practices and so the envy of the world. (To consider that his statement had anything to do with the need to save £3 billion of subsidies would be unfair?)

For Stephen and his family farming Rushall Organic Farm with sheep, cattle, arable, woodland and conservation and all the educational work of the John Simonds Trust, government support is almost guaranteed in the future, so it's good news. Not quite in the same league as the good news which a previous generation of shepherds heard over 2000 years ago. That news dramatically changed the world:

'An angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them "Do not be afraid I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you; you will find the baby wrapped in clothes and lying in a manger". They went and found Christ and... The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which was just as they had been told.' (Luke 3 8-20).

John Bishop

Cards for Christians

The Post Office's heading for this Christmas season is 'There is a Christmas story in every parcel'. I can add even better to that phrase and say 'There is a story behind every Christmas card received by Christians in prison'. Have you sent or received a card yet either by post or e-mail to a person you don't know? That is exactly what a group of women from Englefield village and St Mark's Church did early in November when they gathered to address and send Christmas cards to persons in prison on every continent who suffer not for doing any wrong but for their beliefs, some in solitary confinement, victims of violence, intimidation, harassment and even facing execution. We wanted to let them know that they aren't forgotten and that we remember them as they journey through the valley of darkness facing injustice and oppression because of their faith in God. One prisoner in Cuba wrote, 'These letters mean so much to us. I know they are from people all over the world and when we hold these cards it is as if those who sent them are here in the cell with us.'

We believe that receiving a personal Christmas card reminds each recipient that someone, somewhere, cares about their suffering. If you would like to be part of those encouraging these strangers in foreign lands, please ask for information as to how to connect with them from me at St Mark's Church, Englefield, or email me on hwynnejones@hotmail.co.uk. It's never too late to show they are not forgotten.

Harriet Wynne-Jones

Kingdom Learning

Kingdom Learning: Experiential and Reflective Approaches to Christian Formation is the title of a new book by David Heywood (SCM Press 2017).

Bishop Steven Croft writes of this book: 'David Heywood is one of the Church of England's most distinctive and engaging writers on Christian formation. I warmly commend his new book.' More recently Bishop Steven has appointed David Heywood to a new post as Deputy Director of Mission so his views are likely to be at the forefront of Bishop Steven's vision for the Diocese.

I had the pleasure of working with David Heywood in setting up a course for ordinands at Cuddesdon Theological College on interfaith encounter. From the outset we agreed that we would not give lectures to the students.

but rather would seek to find out what their experience of those of other faiths was (if any) and then give them a range of experiences visiting mosques, gurdwaras, Hindu temples as well as different parishes and schools which were engaging in inter-faith work. Throughout the week we allowed plenty of time for group reflection in which the various issues which arose could be discussed and tentative answers explored.

It is this sort of method which David is proposing for parishes and deaneries in the Diocese. His starting point is a C of E report published earlier this year, 'Setting God's People free', which urges the Church to 'name and confront the culture of clericalism'. It is what David refers to as 'the Heroic Leadership model' where the clergy over perform and feel that they have to take the lead in everything while the laity become under used and passive.

To counter this trend, laity and clergy must be jointly involved in all aspects of church life. He points out that in St Paul's letters there is a vision of everyone having different gifts which are all mutually of benefit to the Christian community and all of which are to be used. Paul's letters are not addressed solely to the church leaders as such (cf 1 Corinthians 12. 4-13). Secondly, in whatever context we find ourselves, society is constantly changing and as Christians we have to engage with those changes in order to address the needs of our communities. In this the laity are invaluable because they can listen to what the secular world is saying outside the context of the Church. Thirdly we must be led by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit (eg Romans 8.12-16 and 1 Corinthians 2.9-13). Fourthly, leading on from this, we need to follow a virtue ethic rather than a rule based ethic. 'If you are led by the Spirit you are not subject to the law' and 'the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. There is no law against such things.' (Galatians 5.18 and 22-23).

To this list and in the modern context, Heywood would add honesty, humility, empathy, gratitude and intellectual virtues such as curiosity and critical thinking. The overall point he is trying to make is that if the Church is to grow it must enable all its members to become disciples in the image of Jesus himself. As the Diocesan banner headline has it: CALLED TO BE CHRIST-LIKE, Contemplative, Compassionate, Courageous.

Hugh Boulter

Date	Sidesmen	Old Testament	New Testament	Gospel
December 3 rd 1 st Sunday of Advent BCP	Ronan and Saffy O'Sullivan		Ann Stone 1 Corinthians 1:3-9	Saffy O'Sullivan Mark 13:24-37
December 10 th 2 nd Sunday of Advent	Richard and Sue Smith	Tony Collings Isaiah 40:1-11	Aldo Guiducci 2 Peter 3:8-15a	Peter Haig Mark 1:1-8
December 17 th 3 rd Sunday of Advent	Doris Edwards Diane Graham	Linda Price Isaiah 61:1-4; 8-end	David Gibbons 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24	Dee Boddy John 1:6-8; 19-28
December 24 th 4 th Sunday of Advent	Ronan and Saffy O'Sullivan	Dinah Perkins 2 Samuel 7:1-11; 16	Ronan O'Sullivan Romans 16:25-27	Elizabeth Benyon Luke 1:26-38
December 25 th Christmas Day	Liz Marillier Gloria Sleep	Carol Boulter Isaiah 52:7-10	Victoria Fishburn Hebrews 1:1-12	Peter Haig John 1:1-14
December 31 st 1 st Sunday of Christmas	Richard and Sue Smith	Ian Savage Isaiah 61:10 – 62:3	Aldo Guiducci Galatians 4:4-7	Richard Benyon Luke 2:15-21
January 7 th Epiphany BCP	Doris Edwards Diane Graham		David Gibbons Ephesians 3:1-12	Dee Boddy Matthew 2:1-12
January 14 th 2 nd Sunday of Epiphany	David and Stephanie Gibbons	Peter Haig 1 Samuel 3:1-10	Ann Edgar Revelation 5:1-10	Miles Edgar John 1:43-end
January 21 st 3 rd Sunday of Epiphany	Linda Price Liz Marillier	Ronan O'Sullivan Genesis 14:17-20	Mike Kimber Revelation 19:6-10	Hugh Boulter John 2:1-11
January 28 th 4 th Sunday of Epiphany	Terry and Dinah Perkins	Catherine Haig Malachi 3:1-5	Hugh Boulter Hebrews 2:14-end	Dudley Fishburn Luke 2:22-40
February 4 th 2 nd Sunday before Lent BCP	Linda Price Diane Graham	Dinah Perkins Proverbs 8:1; 22-31	Melanie Townsend Colossians 1:15-20	Richard Benyon John 1:1-14
February 11 th Sunday next before Lent	Richard and Sue Smith	Ann Stone 2 Kings 2:1-12	Aldo Guiducci 2 Corinthians 4:3-6	Dee Boddy Mark 9:2-9

If you are unavailable for any duty on the rota, please try to find a swap, or otherwise contact Saffy O'Sullivan on 01491 church. For prayer requests, please contact Dinah Perkins on 0118 9302731 and the intercessor will include your request

Intercessions	Sacristan	Administrators	Sunday Club	Cleaners
BCP	Catherine Haig	Peter Haig Dudley Fishburn	Penny Savage Denny Hollands	Doris Edwards Dinah Perkins
Richard Benyon	Penny Savage	Saffy O'Sullivan Torquil MJ	Tiffany Ebrey Liz Reeves	John and Liz McKean
Carol Boulter	Sue Smith	Denny Hollands Carol Boulter	Carolyn Ahanchian Sara Guiducci	Tony and Madeleine Palmer
Stephanie Gibbons	Dinah Perkins	Melanie Townsend Saffy O'Sullivan	No Sunday Club	Gill Barton Diane Graham
Catherine Haig	Penny Norris	Denny Hollands Peter Haig	No Sunday Club	Linda Price Harriet Wynne-Jones
David Gibbons	Denny Hollands	Dinah Perkins Torquil MJ	No Sunday Club	John and Liz McKean
BCP	Catherine Haig	Penny Savage Carol Boulter	Catherine Haig Alice Johnson	Tony and Madeleine Palmer
Hugh Boulter	Penny Savage	Peter Haig Torquil MJ	Susannah McBain Gillian Pinkhardt	Gill Barton Diane Graham
Saffy O'Sullivan	Sue Smith	Saffy O'Sullivan Dinah Perkins	Melissa Bennett Denny Hollands	Linda Price Harriet Wynne-Jones
Carol Boulter	Dinah Perkins	Gill Barton Terry Perkins	Zoe Benyon Liz Reeves	Elizabeth Benyon Melanie Townsend
BCP	Penny Norris	Dinah Perkins Melanie Townsend	Penny Savage Sara Guiducci	Sue Wetthey Carole Ford
Melanie Townsend	Denny Hollands	Torquil MJ Penny Savage	Tiffany Ebrey Alice Johnson	Doris Edwards Dinah Perkins

825996. Please let Penny Savage know if you have any notices for the pew sheet or announcements to be made in on the following Sunday.

Remembrance Day 2017

The speaker at St Mark's on Remembrance Day this year was Col Richard Sandy, He was British Defence Attache in Jordan and on retirement became Middle East Team Leader for Military Ministries International. He also serves on the Global Council of the United Bible Societies.



Remembrance Day is a day of mixed emotions for many. It is a sombre occasion when we remember those of our armed forces who died or suffered life-changing injuries as a result of conflict in the service of our country. The two minute silence gives us time not only to remember but also to reflect and give thanks for the freedoms and way of life we now enjoy, due to the sacrifice of previous generations.

Remembrance is so much more real and meaningful when we can identify a personal involvement. The following is a true story from the Second World War and powerfully shows what it means for someone to lay down their life for another. At the end of July 1941 in the Auschwitz concentration camp in Poland, a prisoner was found to be missing, as a result of a failed escape attempt. In order to deter any future attempts to escape, the Camp Commandant ordered ten prisoners, selected at random, to be executed. When Polish sergeant, Franciszek Gojowniczek was chosen, he broke down in tears crying out, 'How will my wife manage...'. At which point another prisoner stepped forward saying he was not married, he was a Catholic priest and he would take Gojowniczek's place. The guards accepted his offer and he and the other nine prisoners were summarily executed on 14th August 1941. That man's name was Maximilian Kolbe.

Franciszek Gojowniczek survived the war and was re-united with his wife. 41 years later on 10th October 1982 the death of Maximilian Kolbe was commemorated at a service in St Peter's Square, Rome, when Pope John Paul II canonised him a martyr. Among the crowd at that service was Franciszek Gojowniczek who said, 'As long as I have breath in my lungs, I consider it my duty to tell others of the heroic act of love by Maximilian Kolbe, who gave his life that I might live'. Franciszek Gojowniczek lived to the age of 94 and died in 1995. Remembrance for him was very real and he was forever thankful to the man who gave his life that he might live. I wonder how many times during his life did Franciszek Gojowniczek think 'What would Maximilian Kolbe think of the life I am living – would he have thought my life worthy of the sacrifice he made for me?'

There is someone who has made such a sacrifice for each one of us – his name is Jesus Christ. Jesus has such love for the world that He was willing to suffer a cruel death on a cross to pay the price for the sin that comes between us and a Holy God. Jesus' sacrifice enables us who believe to have our sins forgiven, enabling our relationship with God to be restored.

Jesus himself instituted a form of remembrance so we should not forget. The Lord Jesus asked His followers to meet together to break bread and drink wine 'in remembrance of Him', words used today in the Holy Communion service. Holy Communion gives us opportunity, not only to remember Jesus' sacrifice for each one of us but also to reflect on how we respond to His act of sacrificial love.

On this Remembrance Day let us not only remember with thanks those who have given their lives in the service of our country for the freedoms and way of life we enjoy, but also remember that Jesus Christ gave His life that we might have life in all its fullness as God intends for us, but more than simply remembering, will this provoke in us a response – a resolve to live a life worthy of the sacrifice Jesus made on our behalf.

Richard Sandy

Bradfield YFC

In October we held our Club AGM where we reviewed the last 12 months, presented our Club awards and elected a new committee. We were privileged to have Club President, Richard Benyon MP present the Club awards. The meeting was followed with our traditional Harvest buffet.

Our weekly meetings have consisted of a sport evening and a talk on Living with Diabetes, we visited Vicars Game and members had a go at sausage making. We made Guy Fawkes and burned them on Bonfire Night (minus any fireworks) and held our own 'Can't Cook Won't Cook' evening where members chose their own ingredients to create their own dishes and we taught various kitchen skills as they went along – there were no reports of food poisoning afterwards so we're measuring that as a successful evening! The glad rags went on as Bradfield members attended the Berkshire YFC Glitter Ball in Newbury. In the coming weeks we will be trampolining, taking part in UK Parliament week as well as a DEFRA discussion group on Agriculture post-Brexit and as Christmas nears we look forward to our annual Pantomime trip! Oh yes we will!

Bradfield YFC meets on a Wednesday evening. To find out more contact Club Leader Sonia Walters sonia.walters2@btinternet.com or find Bradfield Young Farmers on Facebook.



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~ CHRISTMAS EVE ~

SUNDAY 24TH DECEMBER

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~ CHRISTMAS DAY ~

Family Communion with Carols at 10.30am

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Thoughts for the week

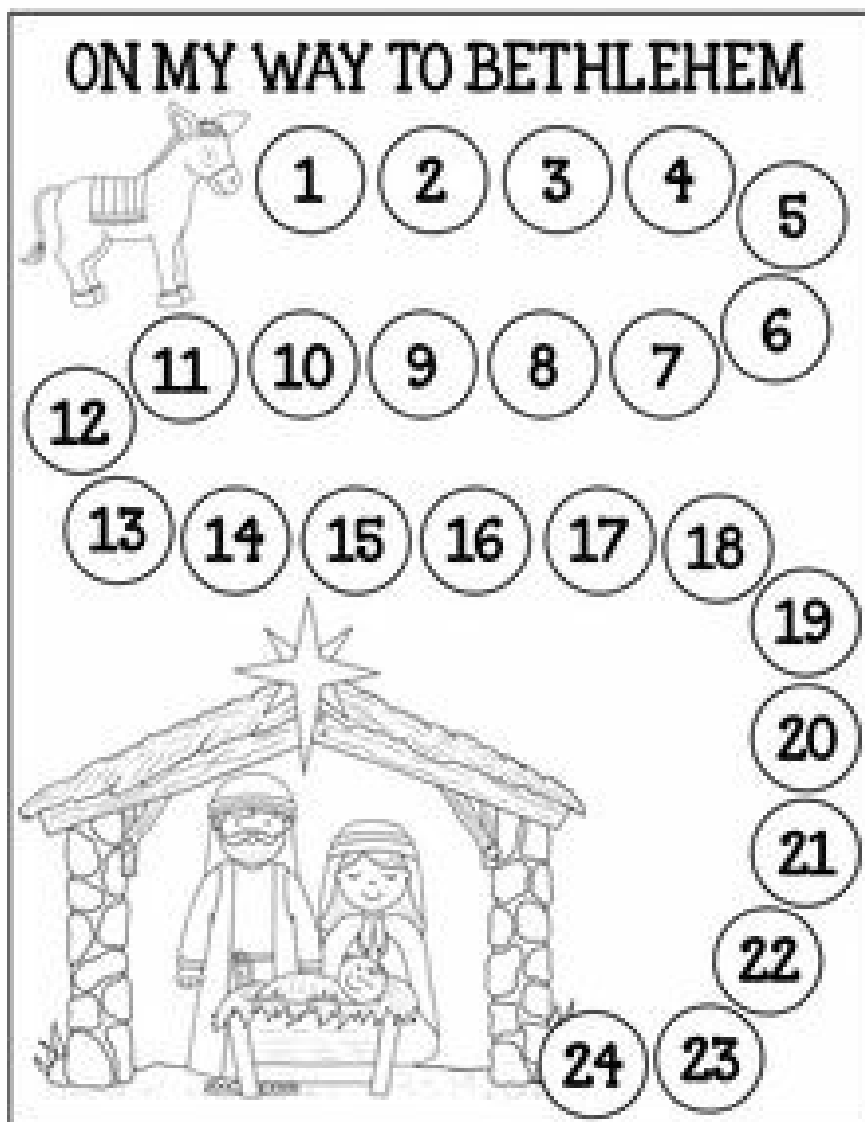
These reflections are just some of the short commentaries that are compiled by Aldo Guiducci each week on the readings in church. They are all available, week by week, on the pew sheets and on the church website.

‘In the last days...[the LORD] will judge between many peoples and will settle disputes for strong nations far and wide. They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore’ (Micah 4: 1a,3)

As we commemorate Remembrance Day, reflecting on the terrible loss of life in war, it is right that we should recognise the sacrifice made by so many for our sake. Many people through the years have given their lives for friends and loved ones back home, to safeguard their freedoms and way of life. But conflict keeps rearing its head in human affairs. Is there any hope that one day there will be an end to war? In these verses, we find such a hope – that one day, disputes will be judged by God himself, judgements which even the strong nations will accept without question. War will finally be over. In his next chapter, Micah begins to provide more detail about how this will be brought about: with a ruler coming out from Bethlehem. Ultimately, the Bible assures us that the end of war will be brought about by the final reconciliation between people and God, which has been enabled by the unique sacrifice of the Son of God on the cross.

‘Master,’ he said, ‘I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed.’ (Matthew 25:24)

What a contrast in attitude towards their master this servant shows compared to the others! Despite the master showing him great trust by giving him a bag of gold (sometimes confusingly called a talent, a unit of mass of around 59 kg), this man shirks his responsibility by burying it in the ground rather than putting it to use. When called to account, he then tries to blame his inaction on the master, by caricaturing him as an unreasonable taskmaster. The story does not end well for the lazy servant, with what has been given to him taken away, and he himself being cast away. Let’s make every effort not to be like this with the responsibilities the Lord has given us. God has entrusted us with his riches, revealed at the cross, and given us time to use them. If our view of God is wrong, it is likely to lead to wrong action too, which may have serious consequences in the final analysis.



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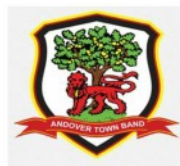
Sunday Club:

Countdown to Christmas with this Advent colouring page. When you get to number 17 come and join in the Nativity tableau at St Mark's Church at 10.30am on Sunday 17th December. And when you get to number 24 come to the Christingle Service on Christmas Eve. We look forward to seeing you there!

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