

October - November 2018

Englefield Parish News



The Parish of St Mark's, Englefield

Resident Priest

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Front cover: *The Englefield garden team at the opening of the Englefield Garden, created in memory of Sir William Benyon at the Royal Berkshire Hospital. See page 18.*

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

How's it going to end? By the time you read this you will know who killed the Home Secretary – or not? That is one of many intriguing questions left hanging till the end of *Bodyguard*, BBC's record-breaking TV drama which has become compulsive viewing for at least 10.4 million viewers and has provoked lively speculation. The pace is compelling, the plot complex and the acting convincing – more so than the appalling incident of the Russian 'tourists' (aka GRU secret service assassins) who came to see our 'famous Salisbury Cathedral' but returned to Russia early because of the snow. Their story was so bizarre that it has been suggested they were talking in code! With two such stories running almost concurrently, and with presenters such as Andrew Marr and Laura Kuenssberg involved in both, the distinction between fiction and fact could be blurred in an age of fake news.

Both, perhaps, have this in common: a disturbing sense of corruption in high places where the truth and trust are the victims. Lurking in the shadows are those who influence events and lives apart from the democratic process. Terror and tragedy threaten from the opening scene with a fundamentalist suicide-bomber encountered by a traumatised war veteran. We can take refuge from these recognisable scenarios, knowing *Bodyguard* is fiction, and yet One crime writer has said, 'Whodunits are mirrors, reflecting the anxieties of our times.' The philosopher Alan Watts observed, however, that, 'Our age is no more insecure than any other. Poverty, disease, war, change, and death are nothing new' – indeed, they are characteristics of our world and history. He goes on to say that our anxiety is rooted in the feeling that there is 'no future, no hope'. This is what fiction cannot give us.

This is what the last book of the Bible, Revelation, provides. Written to encourage Christians going through turbulent times, it takes us through the sweep of history, then and now: through conflicts (just see the news), famine (take note of Tearfund's relief work on page 22) and persecution (already 1 million Christians have been killed this century). Unlike fiction where we do not know the end until the final chapter, this book invites us behind the scenes to see that we are not at the mercy of impersonal fate but that there at the hub of history is the living God who loves us and is working out his good purposes through Christ. With this confidence we can face the future with the certain hope he gives to all who trust in him. Through all life's circumstances, God's people have proved that the Lord is faithful, as he promised 'he will strengthen you and guard you' - He is The Bodyguard!

Under His protection

Nick and Harriet

Diary: October - November

Monday 1 st October	Fish and Chips supper at the Social Club, 8pm <i>please pre-book with Tony by Friday 28th (07802 479952)</i>
Saturday 6 th October	Bingo at the Social Club
Sunday 7 th October	Harvest Thanksgiving , 10.30 at St Mark's, family communion service with the Word Puppets, followed by light refreshments, see page 8 and below for details
Tuesday 9 th October	Darts, Games Social at the Social Club, 8pm
Sunday 14 th October	Holy Communion , 10.30 at St Mark's
Weds 17 th October	Open Day at Englefield School, 9.15 - 11.30am, call the school office to book 0118 9302337
Sunday 21 st October	Holy Communion , 10.30 at St Mark's
Sunday 28 th October	Holy Communion , 10.30 at St Mark's
Saturday 3 rd November	Bingo at the Social Club
Sunday 4 th November	Holy Communion , 10.30 at St Mark's Service of Thanksgiving for Loved Ones , 6pm at Holy Trinity, Theale
Monday 5 th November	Fish and Chips supper at the Social Club, 8pm, <i>please pre-book with Tony by Friday 2nd (07802 479952)</i>
Sunday 11 th November	Remembrance Sunday service , 10.30 at St Mark's with the act of Remembrance and two minute silence at 11am Battle's Over lighting of a beacon in the Park, ringing the bells for peace see page 7 for details
Tuesday 13 th November	Darts, Games Social at the Social Club, 8pm
Sunday 18 th November	Holy Communion , 10.30 St Mark's.
Sunday 25 th November	Holy Communion , 10.30 at St Mark's
Saturday 2 nd December	1 st Sunday of Advent Holy Communion , 10.30 at St Mark's

Mondays 1st and 15th October and 5th and 19th November

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.



St Mark's Harvest offering

The offering at the Harvest Thanksgiving at St Mark's this year will go to Tearfund's united emergency appeal for the people of Burundi and Myanmar. Please see pages 22 and 23 to learn more about the situation in these countries and what Tearfund is doing to help.

Congratulations

To Natalie Attoe and Jonathan Ramcharan married at St Mark's on Saturday 29th July.

To Philip and Georgie Shaw on the birth of their daughter, Margot Eliza Weedon, on August 3rd.

To Tom Archer, son of David and Gwen, and Tamara Curtis who were married in Birmingham on Saturday 4th August.

To Sophie Double and Stephen Pain, married at St Mark's on Saturday 18th August.

To Dan Schieber, son of Simone at Mayridge Cottages, and his sailing partner Matt Burge who won the 2018 Gul Fireball World Championship, beating 99 other contenders in the competition held in Carnac, France, in August.

RIP

David Grimwade who died on 18th August. The funeral was held on Tuesday 28th August followed by a memorial service at St Mary's Church, Mortimer. Our thoughts are with his daughter Jane and all the family.

Les Prickett who died on 29th August. His funeral was held on 19th September. Les worked as forester on the Estate for 38 years before retiring in 2012. His funeral cortege started by taking the same route he walked to work from his home in Mortimer West End to the forestry yard each day. His legacy caring for the Estate's woodlands will be evident for many years to come and our thoughts are with his wife, Eileen, and family.

Beacons and bells

The 100th anniversary of the end of the First World War falls on a Sunday this year and, as well as the usual Remembrance Sunday service at St Mark's - with the act of Remembrance, the two minute silence and the Last Post - there will also be a special event that evening. Englefield is participating in the nationwide 'Battle's Over' tribute to those who died in the war and those who supported the war effort at home. A beacon will be lit in the Deer Park and the bells will be rung for peace. There are more details on page 7 - please put it in your diary - all welcome.

Retirement

Bishop Andrew has announced that he is retiring as Bishop of Reading next spring. He writes:

I turn 65 and will have served as Bishop of Reading for eight happy, fruitful years. It seems like a very good time to retire and to move on to the next stage in life. As I begin to plan for retirement I feel a deep sense of gratitude. It has been such a joy to ordain deacons and priests and see them grow and move on, and to have had the privilege of baptising and confirming so many.

We have also made some great parish appointments, adding to a strong team of clergy and laity. The Royal County of Berkshire is a very beautiful, special and diverse place, with so much going on, and we have many good friends here. I have much to thank God for, and I pray regularly for all of you.

My diocesan responsibilities have also taken me to the heart of vital issues for today's Church - safeguarding the vulnerable and leading in mission. They and my work with the Mothers Union have also kept me connected to the worldwide Church.

Looking back, we have achieved a great deal and I am so grateful to the Archdeacon of Berkshire, the Ven. Olivia Graham and my wonderful area team colleagues for their support, wisdom and friendship.

The last few years have not been without pain and heartache, but that is the cost of pastoral ministry, as we share in God's costly, abundant, generous love.

It will be hard to leave, but there is still lots to do and ample time for us to say our farewells. I am planning to spend a few days in each Deanery in the lead up to Easter and my last official engagement as Bishop of Reading will be on Easter Sunday. A farewell service is planned for Wednesday 1 May in Reading Minster. Many of you have, we know, been praying for Janice and me over the years. Please continue to pray for us as we begin to look forward to what God has for us next. With prayers and all good wishes,

Bishop Andrew Proud

Farewell

The congregation of Holy Trinity, Theale said farewell to Ann and Peter Templeman at a Harvest Social, held on Friday 28th September at Theale Green School. Their final service at Holy Trinity is Harvest Festival on Sunday 30th September and they are now planning the move to their new parish in Much Hoole St Michael, near Preston, in the Diocese of Blackburn. We wish them all the best for the move and in their ministry in the future.

Ride+Stride around Reading

Saturday 8th September was perfect weather for walking and we set off from English Martyrs RC Church in Tilehurst at 10am. My guide was the Chair of the Berkshire Churches Trust, Peter Durrant, who not only knew his way round Reading but was a wonderful fund of information about every church we visited. We walked about eight miles and went to 15 churches in all. Highlights for me were Holy Trinity on the Oxford Road where we found a Romanian mass in progress, Christ Church at the top of Kendrick Road, a stunning example of the Victorian architect Henry Woodyer's work, and St James RC Church by the Forbury Gardens which was the first church designed by Pugin. Peter has put together a Reading Church Walk on the BCT website www.berkschurchestrust.org.uk, which takes in 11 of the churches we visited and I highly recommend it as a fascinating look at the amazing church heritage right here on our doorstep.

At the end of it all, the total raised for the Berkshire Churches Trust was over £900 which is fantastic. Thank you all so much.

Catherine Haig

Cleaners needed

If you have a couple of hours to spare every six to eight weeks, please consider joining the cleaning rota for St Mark's. We would be delighted to welcome new volunteers to join the wonderful team who keep the church so clean all year round. If you can help please email saffyosullivan@gmail.com. Thank you!

Books and resources

Our church website now has a Christian Books & Resources page which you can visit for some useful suggestions for reading and it has great offers on good books, do visit the new page. The link is in the left-hand side menu bar: <http://www.stmarksenglefield.org.uk/>.

From this link you can visit the Good Book Company to have a browse and buy if you wish. There are often special offers and also a wide range of books at discounted prices. Enjoy!

Nick Wynne-Jones

Fundraising for the Little Princess Trust

My daughter, Josie, is going to donate her hair to the Little Princess Trust, a charity that provides real hair wigs free of charge to children and young people who have sadly lost their own hair due to cancer treatment and other illnesses.

Each wig costs roughly £350 to make, which is the amount Josie would like to try to raise, on top of donating her hair.

We hope you are able to support her, donations of any size will be very gratefully received. You can give via <https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/GillianPinkhardt>

Gillian Pinkhardt

RBH annual Soapbox Challenge

On Saturday 8th September, 12 amateur drivers raced their soapbox dream machines, of all shapes and sizes, down the drive past Englefield House. Each hand-made soapbox made it to the start line before charging off on three adrenalin charged, kamikaze speed timed runs, fuelled by nothing but sheer courage, the force of gravity and perhaps some luck!

The teams were cheered on by over 1,800 people who came to watch the driving antics. Entries included teams from companies such as Porsche, Mattel and Veolia as well as individual Senior and Junior drivers. The event raised over £6,200 for the Royal Berkshire Hospital – a fantastic achievement. If you missed all the action then take a look at the albums on the Royal Berks facebook page and also on the BBC website.





On 11th November 2018, the United Kingdom and its friends overseas will mark the day 100 years ago when the guns fell silent at the end of the First World War

The Englefield Estate, St Mark's Church and the Parish Council are joining together to remember the fallen of World War One through the lighting of a beacon and ringing the bells for peace. After darkness has fallen, more than 1,000 Beacons of Light will be lit throughout the United Kingdom, Channel Islands, Isle of Man and UK Overseas Territories, with the first of these beacons being lit at Westminster Abbey, London.

The event will also commemorate the huge army of men and women on the home front who, often in dangerous and exhausting conditions, underpinned the war effort - keeping the wheels of industry turning and bringing home the harvests. The beacons will symbolise the light of hope that emerged from the darkness of war.

**Remembrance Sunday 11th November
Service of Remembrance**

10.30am at St Mark's

with the 'Last Post' and Two Minute Silence

*"When you go home, tell them of us and say,
For your tomorrow, we gave our today"*

All residents of Englefield Parish and Primary School families are also invited to the lighting of the beacon:

6.30pm – Meet at the Englefield Social Club and walk to the beacon site in the Deer Park

6.45pm – Start of Commemoration

7.30pm – Englefield Social Club - open to all

St Mark's Church Englefield

Harvest Thanksgiving 7th October - 10.30am

Family Communion Service

**Non-perishable food items
for PACT will be collected**



Light refreshments after the service



**The
Word
Puppets
and**

**You will be very welcome
at St Mark's.**

For more information and contact
details please see our website:
www.stmarksenglefield.org.uk

**Englefield School
Choir**

New opportunities

Cobbs at Englefield is recruiting. Did you know we are rebuilding a shop in the barns opposite our current farm shop? This exciting new venture will have a farm shop, butchery, delicatessen and café along with new career opportunities in these departments. We would like to invite you along to meet our team, learn more about our Cobbs family, what we do and the career opportunities we have available to you. Either call us on 0118 930 4064 or just drop in and have a chat.

The Cobbs at Englefield team

News from the Tower

Over the summer we have had some visiting bands and a couple of training courses for bell ringers. A group of bell ringers from St Andrew's in Clewer, parish of Windsor, very much enjoyed their visit in May and a group in July, from St Margaret's in Wareham, West Sussex. In August we welcomed the students and tutors for the annual Bradfield Ringing Course. This is a four-day residential course held at Bradfield College. It provides tuition for a wide range of abilities and they get the chance to ring at different local towers. There were also a couple of successful quarter peals in April and March.

The Englefield band will be participating in the celebrations to mark the 100th anniversary of the end of the First World War. Across the UK, many thousands of bell ringers at more than 3,000 towers will join this international initiative. The British and German governments have appealed to communities across the world to ring their church, military and other bells in unison on Armistice Day to remember all those who lost their lives.

We welcome anyone to call or come up and see us in the tower on Tuesday evenings between 7pm and 8pm. Bell ringing can be learnt at any age, it provides gentle exercise and increases agility.

Janine Alston (07740 183087)

Train closures

The next closure of the train line is between October 8th and 11th, inclusive, and the good news is that this is the last one. Work is ahead of schedule and GWR and Network Rail have said that the November daytime closure is no longer needed though there may be work early in the morning or late at night so check before you travel.



Success for the Herefords

The Englefield Herefords have had an excellent show season. The senior classes were led by Englefield Richard, the bull, and Englefield Zoe II with her calf Englefield Zoe VI. Both animals were winners in the four shows we have been to this year. Richard was reserve champion at Surrey Show, at the South of England Show he was 1st but lost out to Zoe II as she was breed champion.

At Romsey Show Richard was 1st but Zoe was 2nd in her class. At the Royal Berkshire show Richard was 1st and local breed champion and won a cup, and Zoe and her calf also had a 1st. There were other 2nd and 3rd prizes over the season but these two beautiful animals did so well.

Terry Perkins



Autumn at the Garden Centre

Wow what a summer we've have had and as I write this we are due to have another week of temperatures in the mid-20s and we're in the middle of September. This has made growing conditions interesting to say the least, but our team of People We Support and the staff team have been hard at work pricking out and potting up all of our autumn bedding for you. We have lots of individual colours of pansies and violas coming along nicely. We also have mini cyclamen bursting into bloom and our wallflowers are all grown from seed and ready to be dug - you can't get fresher than that. Then as the season moves along our poinsettias and Christmas trees will be ready from December 1st. We look forward to seeing you over the coming weeks.

Austin Crabbe, Garden Centre Manager

News from Rushall Farm



Many of you know that the chalk face on the corner of Scratchface Lane past Rushall Farm is a Regionally Important Geological Site (RIGS). What is less known is that during the 60's the very deep hole which was the chalk pit was filled with town refuse. Children are fascinated by the high iridium dust you can see as evidence of the time the huge meteorite hit the earth 66 million years ago and the mass extinction that followed including the non-avian dinosaurs. They love smashing flints and finding pockets of sea sand in the wall of white soft chalk. But amongst this display of the very ancient, and littered around, is an empty plastic bottle of Squeezy detergent, the arm of an old doll, tiny jars which held fish paste and various bits of elastic, underwear and stockings. It is a good teaching point that 'what we throw away doesn't actually go away'. We were digging a soakaway a few years back and amongst other stuff the Daily Mirror appeared, none the worse for its years underground, and complete with pictures of Harold Wilson and George Brown. Today I found a plastic bag which said 'Sylvan Glent Desiccated Coconut, Empire Produced, one shilling and tuppence, 8oz NET WEIGHT'.

Is this the real root of the problem for those in power today? No pounds, shillings and pence, no ounces, pounds, stones, hundredweights and real tons. But worst of all, no Empire. How can children possibly be nimble in maths without the contortions of Imperial measurements or know where anywhere in the world is when there is so little left that is still pink...?

In his new book *Reimagining Britain*, Archbishop Justin Welby sets out to identify the values that will enable us to reimagine, and to enact, a more hopeful future for our country. He draws on Britain's history and its Christian tradition to identify this country's foundational values, and the building blocks necessary to implement them in a post Brexit, multicultural society. He explores the areas in which values are translated into action, including the traditional three of health (especially public and mental health, and social care), housing and education. To these he adds family, the environment, economics and finance; peace-building and international development; immigration and integration. He looks particularly at the role of faith groups in enabling and contributing to a fairer future.

'Bigger than politics broader than religion - a timely and inspiring read that requires response.'

John Bishop



News from Five a Day

As we move into cooler weather we can take a welcome breather from watering. Now we are busy collecting in the final crops. We have a fabulous growth of tomatoes – where some of our vegetables like the lettuce didn't like the hot weather the tomatoes loved it - must be their Mediterranean ancestry.

As autumn approaches and as the vegetable crops complete, we now start the job of clearing out all the beds from this year and preparing for next year. Our volunteers will be spending most of their time over the next few weeks weeding, digging and pruning. We also have some extensive work to do on the soft fruit area and hence the large pile of manure near our front gate, courtesy of the Estate.

Autumn doesn't see the end of our activities. As well as our courses in October, we have our annual Pumpkintastic workshops on Saturday 27th that month, so we are busy harvesting our pumpkins ready for then. In November we will be having garden willow crafts and felting workshops and then in December our Christmas wreath workshops. So, if you are interested in any of these please look out on our noticeboard, our website or Facebook for the details.

One item of very good news we had this month is our go ahead to start a second session of the Thyme Together group. These groups support older people with memory problems and their carers, giving them a chance to socialise and enjoy some gardening. If you know of anyone who is over 65 and would like to spend a couple of hours a week doing some gardening and enjoying tea, with homemade cake, then please contact me on yvonne@fiveaday.org.uk.

One visit we hadn't expected in September was a lady who walked in looking for decorations for her daughter's wedding at Englefield church. We are so pleased that the wedding decorations will now include many of our squash and sedum flowers, it makes us feel so much part of the local community.

Although we are getting close to the end of the produce season we still have those Mediterranean tomatoes, herbs, runner beans, chard, apples and pears available to buy so please do pop along to the garden, or visit the garden centre opposite.

Yvonne Redgrave, www.fiveaday.org.uk

Filming at Englefield

September saw another Bollywood film crew descend on the Englefield Estate with the filming of 'Badnaam'.

The story centres on a middle-class Indian girl from Southall, framed for a crime she didn't commit, who has the opportunity to turn her life around by becoming a secret agent. However, her past comes back to haunt her and she has to run from the very organisation she thought she could trust.

Filming took place all over the house and grounds, including some very exciting police chases along the driveway. Luckily the real police force were carrying out their regular dog training in the polo fields so were able to keep an eye on things.

Book bindery

Bracadale Books is a new venture for Susannah McBain, based at Maidenhatch. She has worked as a trained bookbinder and paper conservator for many years but has recently set up her own website. She specialises in the restoration and conservation of all types of books, from historic fine bindings to favourite old paperbacks, using traditional hand-binding techniques that have been used for centuries. She will also create quality new bindings for any occasion such as photo albums, commemorative albums, game books and visitors' books which can be personalised with lettering or embossed designs. She can also bind any collection of magazines, journals, family volumes into books of a design of your choosing and has bound back issues of the Englefield Parish News for the archive for many years!

www.bracadalebooks.com



Run for Five a Day

Yvonne Redgrave has entered the StepUp4Good run on October 14th and would be delighted if anyone would like to sponsor her. Donations will be match funded by the Greenham Trust which will enable over 400 children from Scouting and Guiding groups in Berkshire to come to Five a Day to learn about where food comes from and how to grow their own. You can give via this link:

<https://app.thegoodexchange.com/project/12074/five-a-day-market-garden/kids-go-green-2018>

A plea from the Parish Council: use of bins

The Parish Council would like to politely request that the commercial bins situated at the gates of Englefield Primary School are not used to dispose of dog waste, or other rubbish, as these are for use by the school only. There are alternatives elsewhere along the village street.

Many thanks for your cooperation.

Nia Rands, Clerk to the Parish Council

Padworth recycling centre

The West Berkshire Council recycling centre at Padworth will now accept general waste as well as recycling. You need to show your permit and opening times are Monday to Friday 12.30pm to 6pm, Saturday and Sunday 8am to 6pm. There is more information on www.westberks.gov.uk.



Bradfield Young Farmers

A few of our more adventurous members were involved in a fabulous day of watersports at Theale lakes with Outdoor Academy in August. The rafting challenge to build and race their own rafts turned into a 'boys versus girls' affair! The boys, it seems, have a lot to learn about teamwork and working together

to achieve a result – the girls winning hands down with their superior togetherness! Hopefully the lesson will have sunk in for the new competitions season that looms. As we start the new membership year, we will be reviewing and acknowledging the achievements of our members over the last 12 months at the Club AGM at the beginning of October.

To find out more contact sonia.walters2@btinternet.com or find BYFC on Facebook.

Volunteers please

Englefield Primary School would welcome volunteers to come in at convenient but regular times to help children 1:1 with their reading. Anyone interested please call into the School or ring Claire in the office on 0118 9302337.

From the archive: the Produce Show

The Produce Show now takes place in early summer, as reported in the last issue, but from the time it was first held in 1870 until it went into a somewhat lengthy abeyance at the start of the First World War, it was an autumn show, in September, and incorporated into a long day of celebration for Harvest Home.

Mr King from Chalkpit Farm had been in the habit of giving prizes to people from that part of the parish for the best cultivated gardens and vegetables and at the Harvest Home in 1869 Mr Benyon announced his intention to extend this practice to the whole parish. The first show was held on Thursday 29th September the following year, somewhat later than intended because Mr and Mrs Benyon had been delayed in their return from holiday in Switzerland by the need to take a longer route home in consequence of the Franco-Prussian War then raging. The show was, in Mr Benyon's opinion 'a capital show, and all the more meritorious remembering the extreme drought during the summer'.

In 1870 the day started with a service in the church, appropriately decorated for the occasion, after which Mrs Benyon distributed clothes and packets of tea to the labourers and their wives. At twelve o'clock a procession, headed by a brass band, made its way to the Long Gallery where a hearty meal of roast and boiled mutton and beef, followed by plum pudding, was served.

Tea was served to the children at three o'clock while the men had beer and tobacco in a marquee, the vegetables being exhibited in an adjacent tent. Afterwards there were games and sports in the park presided over by Mrs Benyon, who distributed prizes to the winners. At five o'clock the wives of the estate tenants were entertained to tea by Mr Blake, the butler, and Mrs Clark, the housekeeper, and the day concluded with a dance in the Long Gallery.

The show remained exclusively for vegetables and the best kept garden up to 1913, with prizes awarded in three divisions: labourers, mechanics and garden labourers. In the later years children had classes for wild flowers and a collection of queen wasps, with separate prizes for boys and girls, and there was a single household class for cooked potatoes. The date seems never to have been set too far in advance, dependent as it was on the harvest, and sometimes less than a month's notice was given. As in the first year, reports often mention the good showing *despite the weather* of varying sorts. In 1907 the celebrations and produce show were cancelled on account of the very poor harvest and only the church service was held. In some years the church service was held on Sunday and the Harvest Home and Show on a day later in the week. In 1897 after the death of Mr Benyon all but the church service was cancelled and would be again from September 1914 onwards.

Richard Smith

Date	Sidesmen	Old Testament	New Testament	Gospel
October 7th HARVEST FESTIVAL FAMILY SERVICE	Richard and Sue Smith		Victoria Fishburn 1 Timothy 2:1-7	Stephanie Gibbons Matthew 6:25-33
October 14th 20th Sunday after Trinity	David and Stephanie Gibbons	Ron Marillier Amos 5: 6-7, 10-15	Ronan O'Sullivan Hebrews 4: 12-16	Aldo Guiducci Mark 10: 17-31
October 21st 21st Sunday after Trinity	Ian and Penny Savage	Peter Hollands Isaiah 53:4-end	Mike Kimber Hebrews 5:1-10	Carol Boulter Mark 10:35-45
October 28th 22nd Sunday after Trinity	Paula Fenwick Linda Price	Elizabeth Benyon Jeremiah 31:7-9	Dee Boddy Hebrews 7:23-end	Penny Savage Mark 10:46-end
November 4th All Saints' Day BCP	Doris Edwards Dianne Graham		Catherine Haig Hebrews 9:11-14	Ron Marillier Mark 12:28-34
November 11th REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY	Terry and Dinah Perkins	Don Barton Jonah 3:1-5,10	Richard Smith Hebrews 9:24-end	Hugh Boulter Mark 1:14-20
November 18th 2nd Sunday before Advent	Richard and Sue Smith	Ian Savage Daniel 12.1-3	Linda Price Hebrews 10.11-14 [15-18]19-25	Gloria Sleep Mark 13.1-8
November 25th Sunday before Advent Christ the King	Peter and Denny Hollands	Sue Smith Daniel 7.9-10, 13-14	Liz Marillier Revelation 1.4b-8	Ann Stone John 18.33-37
December 2nd Advent Sunday BCP	Ronan and Saffy O'Sullivan		Dee Boddy tbc	Victoria Fishburn tbc
December 9th 2nd Sunday of Advent	Paula Fenwick Linda Price	Peter Hollands tbc	Don Barton tbc	Elizabeth Benyon tbc
December 16th 3rd Sunday of Advent	Doris Edwards Dianne Graham	Catherine Haig tbc	Ian Savage tbc	Saffy O'Sullivan tbc

If you are unavailable for any duty on the rota, please try to find a swap, or otherwise contact Saffy O'Sullivan on 01453 711111, website, www.stmarksenglefield.org.uk/rota, or in the church porch. Please let Penny Savage know if you have any notes on 0118 9302731, and the intercessor will include your request on the following Sunday.

Intercessions	Sacristan	Administrators	Sunday Club	Cleaners
BCP	Penny Norris	Carol Boulter Saffy O'Sullivan	Penny Savage Alice Johnson	Paula Fenwick Carole Ford
Dudley Fishburn	Sue Smith	Dudley Fishburn Melanie Townsend	Carolyn Ahanchian Gillian Pinkhardt	Gill Barton Dianne Graham
Ron Marillier	Dee Boddy	Peter Haig Dinah Perkins	Susannah McBain Alice Johnson	John and Liz McKean
Aldo Guiducci	Dinah Perkins	Gill Barton Denny Hollands	Melissa Bennett Catherine Haig	Elizabeth Benyon Melanie Townsend
BCP	Catherine Haig	Peter Haig Penny Savage	Zoe Benyon Sara Guiducci	Paula Fenwick Linda Price
Catherine Haig	Penny Savage	Carol Boulter Dudley Fishburn	Liz McKean Liz Reeves	Doris Edwards Dinah Perkins
Carol Boulter	Penny Norris	Terry and Dinah Perkins	Andrea Kean Denny Hollands	Gill Barton Dianne Graham
Stephanie Gibbons	Sue Smith	Torquil MJ Saffy O'Sullivan	Penny Savage Alice Johnson	John and Liz McKean
BCP	Dinah Perkins	Gill Barton Melanie Townsend	Carolyn Ahanchian Sara Guiducci	Paula Fenwick Linda Price
Ron Marillier	Dee Boddy	Denny Hollands Peter Haig	Tiffany Ebrey Catherine Haig	Doris Edwards Dinah Perkins
Dinah Perkins	Catherine Haig	Dudley Fishburn Penny Savage	Susannah McBain Liz Reeves	Elizabeth Benyon Melanie Townsend

01 825996 or 07799 060949. For diary planning for future Sundays, an up-to-date rota can always be found on the notices for the pew sheet or announcements to be made in church. For prayer requests, please contact Dinah Perkins



The Englefield Garden

As many of you will already know, work has been going on over the past four years to create a garden at the Royal Berkshire Hospital in memory of Sir William Benyon. This summer it finally happened and many members of the family, together with representatives from the RBH and the RBH Charity, plus the contractors, artists and the Englefield garden team who were all involved, gathered for a formal opening on Thursday 6th September.

The courtyard, at the south end of the hospital site, has been transformed into a green oasis for patients, families, visitors and staff. Jen Benyon undertook the design, incorporating raised wooden flowerbeds and evergreen archways with lots of places to sit, and Mary Riall oversaw the project, working closely with Trust Chair Graham Sims, CEO Steve McManus, Charity Director Ian Thomson, and the teams from Deacon & Jones and 360 Commercial Environments, to get the garden built.

The original pool now has a water feature and a striking five-piece sculpture of a diving figure created by Sophie Dickens whose studio was in De Beauvoir Town in Hackney. The plants include wild strawberries, aromatic evergreens and perennials, to ensure year-round vibrancy, and some of the plants and pebbles were specially brought from places that Sir William loved. The memorial stone was carved by Lois Anderson, also from De Beauvoir. Jen's aim, in her words, was 'to create a space where people could get a cup of tea from the café,

then sit outside unobserved, where they could have some seclusion, greenery and peacefulness; somewhere to have a quiet moment.'



The garden was funded by the Englefield Charitable Trust, commemorating its 50th anniversary this year, in partnership with the Royal Berks Charity.



'There But Not There'

This campaign aims to place a representative silhouette of a World War One soldier on all local war memorials around the country. The transparent, aluminium silhouettes will be in place in time for Remembrance 2018, the centenary commemoration of the end of the 1914-1918 First World War.

This project aims to Commemorate, Educate and Heal: commemorate those who died in the First World War through the installation of the silhouettes; to educate all generations, particularly today's younger generation, born nearly 100 years after the outbreak of the war, to understand what led to the deaths of 888,246 British and Commonwealth service personnel; and to heal today's veterans who are suffering from the mental and physical wounds of their service by raising substantial funds through sales of these Tommies.

Funds raised will contribute directly to the work carried out by There But Not There beneficiary charities and the Tommies and their commemorative packaging are being made by the Royal British Legion Industries, appropriately, by ex-service veterans.

A Tommy has been purchased for Englefield and, as the village war memorial is inside St Mark's, the figure will be sited somewhere nearby.

Memories of 'Aunt Joan'

Years ago, Joan Dunn or 'Nannie' as we all knew her, asked us if she could bring three young children from London to Englefield during the school holidays. This idea came through the Children's Country Holiday Fund, a charity which arranged for children from inner city slums to spend time with families living in the countryside. Three small girls, Eileen and two sisters, Judy and Debbie, duly joined our family for several summers in their school holidays and the children all became good friends. Sadly, as they grew older, we lost touch with them, until an email came from Eileen. She had seen the announcement of Sir William's death in the newspaper and sent her love to us with happy memories of him and the family and hopes that we might meet again. This summer she and her daughter came back to Englefield; it was an emotional visit for us all. Eileen had so many memories of Joan, our family, Jan Fletcher and the ponies, the church, Mrs Plumb, Mrs Partridge, Mr Large, Violet and many more. She has written down her memories for us in which she says that 'Aunt Joan' literally changed the course of her life and her dreams; teaching her to read and write being perhaps the best gift of all. It was a very special reunion after so many years and all due to Joan's initial act of kindness.

Elizabeth Benyon

A new term at the School

Starting back after the long summer break can be a bit daunting at first...new classroom, new friends, new teacher...but I am delighted to say that everyone has bounced back into school and settled really quickly, even our 16 new children in our Foundation class...well done to them! We have also welcomed a new member of staff: Miss Stuart has quickly become a member of our Englefield family and is teaching the Year 3/4 class.

We have already been busy. We have a group of children visiting Rushall Farm each week doing adventurous activities such as a river study, feeding alpacas and dissecting owl pellets. Our Year 6 children recently spent an exciting team-building day at Pangbourne College, facing their challenges with enormous courage and overcoming their fears. Years 5 and 6 also went to Bradfield College for a science afternoon...we had a great time investigating maggots' preferences and making loud speakers. The cookies were excellent too! Mrs Watts took some of our bee-keepers to do a presentation to the Newbury Beekeepers which gave them a great opportunity to share their knowledge. We have voted for our school councillors, our house captains, sports ambassadors and buddies so we are now in a good place to plan an exciting year for the whole school.



I am delighted to announce that our breakfast and after-school clubs are up and running. We now come into school to the delicious smell of buttered toast courtesy of 'Early Birds' and leave with the sound of laughter coming from the 'Barn Owls' room. These are both great additions to our school. We are also thankful for the daytime help provided by some of our parents. We are always looking for extra reading help as the children really benefit from reading to an adult 1:1 so if anyone would be interested in coming in for an hour or so on a regular basis, please call Claire in the school office (930 2337) and she can help to get you started.

We are holding our annual open morning on Wednesday 17th October so if you know anyone who might be interested in securing a place for their child for next September, please let them know and they can contact the school office. Still to come before half term: Bassistry Arts (a bass and drums duo who get us all into the beat!), our TLC morning (when parents come into school to help tidy up the outdoors etc), Year 5/6 will be visiting Hughenden as part of their work on WWII, Year 6 children will be developing their road confidence by taking part in a Bikeability course, and we will be celebrating Harvest Festival at St Mark's.

Hilary Latimer

Events in Aldworth

Saturday 13th October Barn Dance by The Aldbrickham Band in the Village Hall, RG8 9SE. 7.30pm seated dinner, 8.30pm dancing shoes please! £20 including a chilli from Mrs B's Kitchen, cash bar. Tickets from events@aldworthvillage.org.

The regular Saturday Market, which celebrated its 16th birthday in September, takes place every Saturday morning in the Village Hall, with vegetables and other produce, cakes and bread, newspapers and sweets (bread and newspapers must be pre-ordered). Contact 01635 578 090 for more information or visit our Facebook page.

We have an Aldworth events mailing list. If you would like to be notified a handful of times a year when we're advertising one-off events such as a barn dance, comedy night, race night or a concert in the church, please email events@aldworthvillage.org with 'Events Yes Please' as the subject line (we won't share your email address with anyone else). We are also on Facebook, so you can like/follow our Facebook page [@aldworthevents](https://www.facebook.com/aldworthevents). Thank you for your support with events we run in our village to keep our treasured facilities maintained to a good standard,

Ali (07796 855 315)

West Berkshire Countryside Society

WBCS events continue on Tuesdays and Saturdays throughout the autumn, offering opportunities to come out on practical tasks, learn new skills, meet new people and, above all, enjoy yourself. The tasks usually begin around 10am and finish by 3pm but you are very welcome to come for as much time as you wish to give during these hours. Please wear suitable footwear and clothing, and bring a packed lunch if you are coming for the full day. Hot drinks are usually provided mid-morning, as are the necessary tools. See <http://www.westberkscountryside.org.uk/> for more details.

Advance notice: carol services

December 4th: Charlie Waller Memorial Trust Carol Service at Bradfield College Chapel with Bradfield College and Elstree School choirs, 7.30pm. Tickets £25 from <https://www.cwmt.org.uk/shop>.

December 6th: Mary Hare School for Deaf children Candlelit Carol Service at St Mark's Church, Englefield, 6.30pm. Tickets from www.maryhare.org.uk.

December 16th: Carols by Candlelight at St Mark's, 6pm, followed by mince pies and mulled wine.

Harvest Festival is more relevant than ever. The UN has warned that at current rates of degradation, the world's topsoil could be gone within 60 years. *Tearfund* is a UK Christian relief and development agency, established 50 years ago and now working in 50 countries, with a primary focus on supporting those in poverty and providing disaster relief for disadvantaged communities. This support is offered regardless of race or religious affiliation and is provided largely through local churches and other Christian partner organisations around the world, to ensure giving reaches its target with minimal overheads.



Children in Gitega Province, Burundi

Burundi, in East Africa, is one of the poorest nations in the world. The mostly rural population are almost entirely reliant on agriculture for their income. However, over-exploitation of the land has resulted in soil infertility, leading to widespread food shortages. Climate change and political instability have only made the situation worse, with many families fleeing to neighbouring countries. Burundi's economy is crumbling, sparked by a political crisis, and food prices have rocketed, leading to severe levels of hunger and malnutrition. In partnership with the local church and partner organisations, *Tearfund* are opening feeding centres across Burundi to tackle chronic malnutrition among the poorest people. Those attending these centres will learn how to prepare food, as well as receive hygiene and sanitation training.



Myanmar Refugee shelters

Myanmar is the largest country in mainland Southeast Asia, bordered by India, China, Laos and Thailand. It's an incredibly diverse nation, with opposing factions often causing sectarian violence. Last year saw the exodus of hundreds of thousands of the Rohingya people to neighbouring Bangladesh where exhausted families were trying to survive in the most basic of conditions – many without shelter or clean water. They face the continued threat and reality of rains, mudslides, poor sanitation, the spread of disease, and are reliant on food distributions. *Tearfund's* Rohingya appeal has reached over 100,000 people providing them with shelter kits, improved water and sanitation, essential emergency medical care and psychosocial counselling for both adults and children to bring healing to the wounds they are bearing from the trauma they have endured.



These two situations, afflicted by the opposites of drought and deluge, and both producing disease, have given rise to two emergency appeals for Burundi and the Myanmar Refugees. **Our giving this Harvest time** will be for this united Emergency Appeal.

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Reflections

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.

'Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you' (James 4 v 7)

There is an interesting tension in the way the Bible talks about the devil. It makes clear that he is a real agent, a spiritual power who stands opposed to God's purposes and God's people, and we are given clear warnings about him in Scripture. At the same time, the Bible makes clear that the devil's power has been decisively broken by Jesus' finished work on the cross. Though he remains a dangerous adversary (eg 1 Peter 5:8), the devil is powerless against those who resist him who are trusting in Jesus. The promise given in James is that as we submit ourselves to God and resist the devil, so the devil will flee from us. Our resistance must be an active choice on our part, but in so doing we have assurance that Jesus' power will prevail over him every time. The key lies in our resistance being rooted in submission to God; it is only in his strength that we can overcome the enemy

'Anyone who is never at fault in what they say is perfect, able to keep their whole body in check' (James 3 v 2b)

What we say is a good barometer for how we are doing in terms of living a righteous life. In this chapter, James makes the point that our words reflect our character, and provide insight into the way our hearts are leaning. What we say matters a great deal; his comparison between the tongue and the rudder of ship or a bit in a horse's mouth shows what enormous power our speech has, and puts the lie to that old expression, 'sticks and stones may break my bones but words can never hurt me'. If we want a fair assessment of whether we are living a godly life, it would be worth replaying some of our recent conversations and seeing what we find. Do our words build up and show love to others, or do they betray selfishness and self-promotion at the expense of others?

'What good is it, my brother and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds. Can such faith save them?' (James 2 v 14)

A superficial reading of the letters of Paul and the book of James might suggest that they are in opposition: Paul says that salvation is through faith, while James seems to

suggest salvation hinges on deeds. A fuller reading of James shows how this perceived difference is not actually what is being said: James is anxious to show that deeds are the natural output of faith. A person's beliefs are manifested by their actions in the same way that a tree's nature is shown by its fruit. James is not arguing that we are saved by our deeds; rather, that our good deeds are evidence of our saving faith. If we have no deeds, it is not that we are not doing enough to be saved (which would be completely at odds with the gospel message of God's grace); rather, it is evidence that our faith is not real (v17). Do the deeds of our lives demonstrate a saving faith, or are we in danger of deluding ourselves that we have faith when all the evidence is to the contrary?

'Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.' (James 1 v 22)

The book of James is a deeply practical one, and details many aspects of what it means to live a holy life. This verse is a key part of his message, and it addresses a danger that faces many of us. It can be very easy to listen to the Bible's teaching, and agree with what is being taught – but then go away from church and live life as if we hadn't heard it. James warns that if we do that, we are deceiving ourselves. True faith, says James, will always result in a changed life. This is the same thing Jesus speaks of when he says that we can tell a tree by its fruit. Our works don't save us (God's grace does that) but they do reveal our faith. The reality is that if we are not doing what the word says, our faith is not real; we are deceiving ourselves. It can be helpful every so often to take stock of our lives and ask ourselves the question: Am I doing what the word says?



I was there!

Back in July there were three days when Englefield shared the deer park with thousands of people. No working out which train or tube to catch, or will I get the last stopper to Theale station. I have only to walk across the road and 'I Was There'.

It took five days of all kind of lorries, carrying all kinds of equipment, for three open air concerts. It was a very hot five days and the dust clouds were mighty big, some of the lorries had trouble getting through the park gates, and I thought that they just might join me in my lounge (but skill won the moment).

Madness was my first show, adorned in my black hat and my black glasses, so let the show begin. Suggs was worried about the silver in the Mansion, he needn't have, it's safe. They sang the favourites, we danced and sang with them and so enjoyed ourselves. Lightning Seeds sang Three Lions, and the pride we had in our young, maybe inexperienced team brought us all together, singing loud and strong in unison.

I didn't attend Saturday's concert, but I heard that Michael Ball was amazing, so maybe next year he can come again. But SIR TOM!!!! Now would I, could I, should I throw any lingerie? I am a bigger girl now and the thought of suffocating Sir Tom? NO, I shall decline. Don't want to give Englefield a bad name. He did us proud. He sang the old songs and we joined in. He sang his new song, we danced, just great. He thought he could buy the Mansion. Sorry Sir Tom, it's not for sale.

Mr Carson, the discount came too late for me, as I bought the tickets as soon as they went on sale, so next year give Englefield people the code first when you know about the shows, please. I thoroughly enjoyed the whole of the weekend. I was proud to share my village with so many. I was thrilled to have the concerts on my doorstep. Hopefully this will be a yearly event, but just make sure we have exactly the same weather as this year. If you would like a list of artists I would like to see In The Park, don't hesitate to contact me!

Liz Reeves



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