

# *Englefield Parish News*

June - July 2019



# *The Parish of St Mark's, Englefield*

## *Rector*

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**St Mark's Church website:**

[www.stmarksenglefield.org.uk](http://www.stmarksenglefield.org.uk)

**Englefield Parish Council website:**

[www.englefieldpc.org.uk](http://www.englefieldpc.org.uk)

**Front cover:** *Polo pony Victoria and her new-born foal Celestia - see page 7 for the story.*

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](mailto:catherinehaig@gmail.com) or handed in to Nick Wynne-Jones or to the Village Stores by the 20<sup>th</sup> of the preceding month.

# *From St Mark's House*

## *Dear friends*

"I am already dead, you cannot kill me." Pastor Sempangi had preached to over 7,000 people in his Ugandan town's football stadium an Easter message about the risen Lord, even though forbidden by the dictator Idi Amin. After the service, five of Amin's Secret Police followed Sempangi back to his church and closed the door behind them. Five rifles pointed at his face. "We are going to kill you for disobeying Amin's orders," said the captain. "If you have something to say, say it before you die." Sempangi, thinking of his lovely wife and little girl, began to shake. But the Lord gave him the courage to speak: "Do what you must," he said. "The Word of God says that in Christ I am already dead, and that my real life is hidden with Him in God. It is not my life that is in danger, but yours. I am alive in the risen Lord but you are still dead in your sins. May He spare you from eternal destruction."

The leader looked at Sempangi for a long time. Then he lowered his gun and said, "Will you pray for us?" He did. Those five officers made a commitment to Jesus Christ and began attending Sempangi's church. They also became his protectors rather than his aggressors. They used their positions to help church members whose lives were in danger, even helping several families escape from Uganda.

This remarkable story illustrates a truth from the biblical book of *Revelation* which we have been considering at St Mark's. Sempangi's encounter was in Easter 1973. In Easter 2019 a government interim report came just after murderous attacks on churches across Sri Lanka. It asserts that "In some regions, the level and nature of persecution is coming close to meeting the international definition of genocide, with Christians being the most persecuted religious group."

*Revelation* enables us to see that, behind the conflict and chaos which characterise affairs on earth, there is a spiritual adversary called "Satan, who leads the whole world astray." It seems hard to deny the truth of this, although people do, when one sees the deception and delusion unleashed in our world where absolute truth is denied and eternal values derided. Opposition, whether physical or philosophical, political or personal, has been the experience of Christians throughout the ages. *Revelation* shows these convulsions to be the throes of an enemy defeated by Christ who triumphed through the Cross, who lives for ever and one day will be hailed as King of kings. No wonder we are encouraged not to be anxious but to be alert, standing firm in our faith in solidarity with Jesus' followers world-wide, aware of the Devil's tactics but assured that he has no chance of winning when he confronts a heart like that of Kefa Sempangi, captured by the victorious love of Christ.

Keeping alert,

*Nick and Harriet*

# Diary: June - July 2019

Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> May

**Holy Communion**, 10.30 at St Mark's  
**Berkshire Country Fayre**, Englefield Park  
**Ascension Day**

Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> May

Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> June

Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> June

**Holy Communion**, 10.30 at St Mark's  
**Pentecost Holy Communion**, 10.30 at St Mark's

Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> June

**Let's Talk Theology**: 'How did we get the Bible? New Testament', 7.45pm, at St Mary's Sulhamstead, RG7 4ED

Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> and

Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> June

Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> June

**Countryside Days for Schools**

**Holy Communion**, 10.30 at St Mark's  
**Father's Day Family Church**, Holy Trinity Theale's informal service for families with children, 4pm at St Luke's

Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> June

Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> June

Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> and

Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> June

Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> June

Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> July

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> July

**Parish Council meeting**, 6.30pm, Estate office  
**Holy Communion**, 10.30 at St Mark's

**The Great British Food Festival** in the Park

**Holy Communion**, 10.30 at St Mark's

**Holy Communion**, 10.30 St Mark's

**Englefield Village Fete and Flower Show** at Englefield Primary School, from 2pm

**Holy Communion**, 10.30 at St Mark's

**Holy Communion**, 10.30 at St Mark's

**Holy Communion**, 10.30 at St Mark's

**Holy Communion**, 10.30 at St Mark's

Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> July

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> July

Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> July

Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> August

Mondays 3<sup>rd</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> June and 1<sup>st</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> July

**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 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays of every month. All welcome.

## *Afternoon Teas*

### *St Mary's Church, Aldworth*

Starting on 5<sup>th</sup> June and then every Wednesday in June,  
 July and August from 2.30 - 4.30pm

Delicious homemade cakes in the company of the Aldworth Giants

For further details and to book groups contact:

Gill Wilding 01635 578624 or gillwilding@hotmail.com

## *Congratulations*

To James and Kerry Holbrook Bull on the birth of Jack Charles on 10<sup>th</sup> April, a brother for Henry.

To Emily Strang and James Morris on the birth of Mia Esme on 25<sup>th</sup> March, a granddaughter for Simon and for Mandy and great granddaughter for Pam.

To Rowena and Mark Tolley on the birth of Caroline Emilia on March 23<sup>rd</sup>, a granddaughter for Linda and Roger Price.

To Chloe Toms and Luke Wade who were married at St Mark's on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May.

To Giles and Abi McKean on the birth of Milo on 16<sup>th</sup> April (Giles' birthday), a brother for Rosie and grandson for John and Liz.

## *Annual Parish Assembly*

The Annual Parish Assembly was held at Englefield Tea Rooms on 22<sup>nd</sup> May with good attendance from members of the public.

Reports were given by Edward Crookes, Chairman of the Parish Council, and Nia Rands, Clerk to the Parish Council. Sergeant Daniel Lond gave an overview of crime in the parish for the past 12 months and also an update on the new police station, which will see the neighbourhood policing team move from their current base at Pangbourne Police Station to the new base in Wigmore Lane, Theale. Current plans are that the new station will open in approximately a year's time. The neighbourhood policing team can be reached at:

[PangbourneNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk](mailto:PangbourneNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk), and any non-urgent crime can be reported on the Thames Valley Police website at:

<https://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/>.

Edward Crookes also gave an update on behalf of the Englefield Estate, including plans for the Englefield community venue following the closure of the Social Club at the end of last year (see page 7 of this issue for more details).

The Council would like to thank all members of the community who took the time to attend, as well as Laura and Andy for hosting. The next meeting of the Parish Council will take place on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> June at 6.30pm at Englefield Estate Office. All members of the Parish are welcome to attend. Please do check the website, [www.engefieldpc.org.uk](http://www.engefieldpc.org.uk), for updates relating to the Parish Council.

*Nia Rands, Clerk to the Parish Council*

## *Spring clean for St Mark's*

Church rota cleaners turned out in force on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> April, just before the Easter celebrations, to tackle a 'deep clean' at St Mark's Church. With marigolds aplenty, buckets, brooms and dusters at the ready, the clean began. Ronan O'Sullivan (particularly tall) tackled high level cobwebs, whilst a very content Frieda together with Saffy, swept out the pews. Plenty of polishing took place too and within two hours the church looked much refreshed.

With coffee and croissants at the finish there was general agreement that this event should take place again late autumn. With grateful thanks to everyone who helped.

*Saffy and Paula*



## *RIP*

Dave Fletcher who died on 15<sup>th</sup> April and whose funeral was held at West Berkshire Crematorium on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> May.

Jimmy Balsdon who died on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> May. Details of the funeral arrangements to be confirmed.

## *For your prayers*

You will remember from previous articles that two young people connected to St Mark's are training for ordination. One of them, Philip Young, finishes at Cambridge this summer and will be ordained at St Albans Abbey on 30<sup>th</sup> June. He and Louise, who is Ann Stone's granddaughter, will then move to a curacy near Bedford and Louise is expecting a brother or sister for Teddy in September.

## APCM

The Chairman of the PCC and Rector, the Revd Nick Wynne-Jones, welcomed everyone to St Mark's Church on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> April. The first item of business was to elect the Churchwardens for the year. Carol Boulter and Torquil Montague-Johnstone were nominated and unanimously elected. Peter Haig was thanked for his 21 years' service as Churchwarden.

The annual report and accounts for the year 2018 were received and approved. The Chairman thanked all those who had contributed reports and for their service. There were three vacancies for laity on the Council under the three-year retiring basis and those elected were: Gill Barton, Dinah Perkins and Penny Savage. Ron Marillier was co-opted and appointed Treasurer. Other appointments for the year were Penny Savage - Secretary, Sue Smith - Electoral Roll Officer, Susannah McBain - Safeguarding officer, Liz Marillier - Safeguarding Verifier. A total of 30 people were appointed as sidesmen. The new Electoral Roll was confirmed at 93 and the Chairman thanked Sue and Richard Smith for their efficient handling of the extra work this year. The Deanery Synod representatives continue as Hugh Boulter, David Gibbons and Torquil Montague-Johnstone. Elections to Deanery Synod will be held in 2020.

*Penny Savage, PCC Secretary*

## *Thy Kingdom come - a call to prayer*

From 31<sup>st</sup> May to 9<sup>th</sup> June St Mark's has set up a prayer room in the side chapel as a part of Thy Kingdom Come, a global prayer movement that invites Christians around the world to pray for more people to come to know Jesus. In these times that we're living

in, it seems more urgent than ever to place the troubles of our world into the hands of God, and to truly pray "Thy Kingdom Come". We have set up some prayer stations to help pray through specific needs, but feel free to come and use this space in any way that would draw you and others closer to the Lord. You'll be surprised how fast an hour can go by once you begin to pray!

*Charlotte Hollands*





# *Englefield Village Fete and Flower Show*

As the Flower Show continues its recent association with the Primary School and PTA we bring you a slight name change to the show and some new attractions to the event on **Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> July**. Tractor and trailer rides are sure to be a big hit with the children and ‘big children’ alike, and your favourite traditional stalls and band will of course be making a return. The PTA will be running their fabulous refreshments and for 2019 this will include a beer tent.

The class schedules will be emailed to those entrants who previously supplied details. Printed copies will be available from the usual village outlets by the time you read this. New for 2019 will be the introduction of prize rosettes for the children’s classes, which themselves will move closer to the exhibition tent. We hope to see lots of your produce and exhibits in the exhibition tent.

We would really like to see some of your amazing gardens entered in the Best Kept Garden; we know there are some great gardens out there! Please contact Mark Postles (07551 981587) or Sarah Fraser (07940 410611) by 10<sup>th</sup> June to enter yours. Details are in the schedule.

The Five a Day Market Garden will also be holding an Open Day so it’ll be well worth coming along and joining us at this fabulous village and community event.

Many thanks to all our volunteer committee and supporters without which we couldn’t run this event! Particular thanks to Englefield Estate and Davis Tate Estate Agents.

*Flower Show Committee*



*The produce table at Five a Day Market Garden at the Open Day in 2018.*



## *Englefield community venue update*

Following the very helpful feedback we received from our village survey at the end of January, we are now sharing our proposals for a new community venue to replace the former Social Club. Since January we have been undertaking building surveys and preparatory work on site. We have also commissioned an architect to produce designs for a refurbished meeting space for the village and other organisations.

We are now preparing an application for planning permission and would invite you to view the proposals by visiting [www.inglefieldvillage.co.uk](http://www.inglefieldvillage.co.uk). Once you have reviewed the proposals on the website, we would invite you to complete a short questionnaire and let us have any additional comments no later than Friday 7th June to inform a planning application to West Berkshire Council in the near future.

For those without access to the internet, hard copies of the proposals and questionnaire will be available at the Estate Office or Englefield Stores and should be returned to the Estate Office please. You can also let us have any comments by emailing [office@inglefield.co.uk](mailto:office@inglefield.co.uk).

*Edward Crookes, Estates Director*

## *Polo news*

You may have seen the beautiful new foal in the Old Rectory paddock who features on this month's cover. She was born on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May and both mother and daughter are doing well. Her paternity is a bit of a mystery as her mother, whose name is Victoria, is only four years old and polo mares are not usually put to stallions until they are six or seven so her pregnancy was a surprise. The foal has been named Celestia by the Fishburn grandchildren after the princess character in My Little Pony.

Pancho and Angie Marin Moreno are back in residence at The Brewhouse and the stables behind Partridge Gardens are occupied this year by ponies belonging to Howard Hipwood, James Emlyn and Carlos Ramallo. Practice chukkas have already started on the pitches in the Park and the 'home team' is proud to be playing this year on ponies all bred here in Englefield.

# God's Acre

Most of Britain's 20,000 churches have graveyards around them. These are seldom more than an acre or two. Put them all together, though, and their area would be as big as Exmoor National Park. Most of these graveyards, like their churches, are in the centre of communities or villages or towns. They are open to the public but seldom used as communal spaces for either quiet or play. For the most part they are neglected or shunned. Often they are either overgrown or mown and weed-killed with a precision of a golf course.

In Englefield we are lucky not to have this problem. St Mark's graveyard is maintained to be a perfect visual fit with the parkland around it and provides an ideal setting for our church. But it is to address the less loved cemeteries around the country that a charity called "God's Acre" has been created – and one of its Trustees is Catherine MacCarthy who grew up with her sister, Victoria Fishburn, in Englefield and was married in St Mark's.

"God's Acre" creates conservation plans that are appropriate to the setting of individual graveyards: not "one size fits all" but diverse and special. Some churches, for example, choose to adopt greater biodiversity in their surroundings, with long grasses, unusual wild flowers and a rich insect life. Other parishes prefer pleasant benches or children's climbing frames. And why not? Once a plan is agreed then – rather like our own 5-a-day market garden – volunteers come to help from across the local community. Indeed "God's Acre" has recently been given the Queen's Award for Volunteering as some thousands of people of all ages have risen to the challenge, working healthily outdoors and encouraging these spaces to be used for pleasure or reflection.

This is one more example of the Church adapting to new ideas that challenge conventional wisdom. Most graveyards are thought to be forbidding places, indeed often putting off people from entering the churches that should be their focal point. But make your cemetery a more welcoming place and it encourages not just wider community involvement within the parish but the use of an outdoors space at its heart. And that, of course, is how they so often were before the Victorian era made them sombre places where laughter could never be heard and every conversation had to be hushed.

*Dudley Fishburn*

*(More information is available at [www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk/](http://www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk/))*

# *Great British Food Festival comes to Englefield*



We are pleased to announce that the renowned Great British Food Festival will be at Englefield House on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> June and Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> June. A day packed with foodie fun, the Festival is the perfect day out for all the family. Now in its eighth year, the event is coming to the grounds of Englefield House for the first time this summer.

Great British Bake Off stars Howard Middleton and Briony May will be taking centre stage for the chef demos, providing top baking tips that helped them secure their 'Hollywood Handshakes' on the show. Budding home bakers who want to follow in their footsteps can enter the Festival's very own Cake Off (all Cake Off entrants get free entry to the Festival!).

Sample and buy produce from local and national suppliers in the artisan market - from chutneys to cheese, cakes to chilli - including some homemade products which you won't find on the shelves of the local supermarket. Or for the more competitive, there will be a host of competitions taking place on the challenge stage throughout the day. The Man (or woman) vs Food challenges always draw a crowd and 2019's competitions also include a 'Gin Off' and a 'Rum Off'.

In addition to all the foodie delights, the Festival's ever-popular craft tent will be packed full with local traders with all kinds of gifts and crafts, from cards to soft toys, soaps to confectionery. With live music and entertainment throughout the day, children's activities, inflatables and workshops too, the Great British Food Festival offers more than just culinary delights for one and all.

The Festival is open from 10am to 5pm each day and there is currently a discount of 10% on tickets, available from <https://greatbritishfoodfestival.com/englefield/>.

*Sarah Mosby, House and Event Administrator*

## *Water worried? Be water wise*

All being well, by the time you read it, this article will either follow or prompt a spell of plentiful rain. If not, concerns about another very dry year may be well founded, given our community's reliance on the Estate borehole to serve the majority of homes and farms in the parish.

Once again, the Environment Agency is advising that we have not received sufficient rainfall to recharge groundwater levels. The Thames area received just 54% of the long term average rainfall for April. This also means that our soils are drier than would be expected for the time of year, which is a concern for farmers' crops too. River flows also declined across the area, with the majority of sites recording below normal or even "notably low" monthly mean flows for the time of year.

We would again urge everyone in the parish to use water as carefully as possible please. If we all save a little bit of water now this could help avoid restrictions in the summer, given the limits upon the volume that can be abstracted from the borehole.

Advice on how to save water is available from various bodies such as the Environment Agency and [www.waterwise.org.uk/](http://www.waterwise.org.uk/). In particular, we would ask residents on the private water supply not to use sprinklers, to use hosepipes very sparingly whether washing cars, filling paddling pools or watering the garden. We would also encourage everyone to remember that water is a precious commodity that cannot be taken for granted anywhere but especially at Englefield. Thank you.

*The Englefield Estate Office*



### *This summer at Cobbs*

Dates for your diary at Cobbs at Englefield this summer include World Gin Day on June 8<sup>th</sup>, National Picnic Week from June 15<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup>, a special Sunday lunch for Father's Day on June 16<sup>th</sup> and World Chocolate Day on July 7<sup>th</sup>. You can find out more from the website [www.cobbsfarmshops.co.uk](http://www.cobbsfarmshops.co.uk).

The new terrace is now open for coffee and cake or for breakfast or lunch. Sunday lunches and afternoon teas can be booked by email [cafe@cobbsatenglefield.co.uk](mailto:cafe@cobbsatenglefield.co.uk).

# *News from Rushall Farm*



He sighed. I sighed, and we sipped our tea. “It isn’t right, they are cutting down the rain forests in Brazil. That’s like the lung of the world. Where are the international leaders to say we must stop destroying the world for our children?”

I was with Andreas Hempel who had come from Germany with his wife Val to Hillfoot Farm, at Chapel Row, 34 years ago. We had just shown 16 potential farmers from BCA around his anaerobic digester plant. Up to a few years ago his 120-hectare farm had been growing grass and maize to fatten 300 head of cattle, as well as wheat, barley and rye, and I do remember some lupins which went terribly wrong in our grain store on one occasion.

Andreas has always been open and generous in the way he farms, so it wasn’t long after he arrived that he headed up a syndicate to share machinery and labour for silage making. His loud voice, physical strength and stature coupled with exclusively German-built machinery made him a distinctive character in the Pang Valley.

In 2011 he had the foresight to invest nearly £1 million in a plant to produce electricity from his farm. Today there are no cattle BUT just a giant concrete cow in the middle of his yard. Each day he feeds it 8.5 tonnes of silage, being as careful to manage the nutritional balance as the best stock farmer. He grows the same mix of crops which through photosynthesis convert the energy of the sun and the carbon dioxide in the air to carbohydrates. These are all made into silage which is fed daily into a huge tank holding 2,000 cubic metres of liquid at 38/39°C. Microorganisms break down the digestate producing methane which is piped to a stationary engine driving a turbine. Andreas produces enough electricity to power half the homes in Bucklebury (ie 360 homes), and the 8.5 tonnes of spent digestate is pumped out daily into a storage tank and then spread on the land as fertiliser. He also produces waste heat to look after six homes, has plans for some greenhouses and is hoping to convert his tractors to methane.

Bucklebury is well on the way to being carbon neutral long before 2050 and, as for world leaders, there is one. She is Swedish. Her name is Greta Thunberg and she is 16 years old. We need to listen to what she says and take action.

*John Bishop*

## *News from Five a Day*

Squeals of delight when children discovered earthworms in the soil and beetles in the pond were ringing around Five a Day Market Garden during April and May. More than 400 schoolchildren visited the garden in five weeks! They were learning about where their food comes from, and how pollinators help to make fruit, vegetables and flowers.

We're grateful to organic food producer Ella's Kitchen for their continued support of the education programme, which enables many children from Reading and West Berkshire schools to have a day out with us and our co-hosts Rushall Farm at Bradfield. More children will be making after-school visits during June and July. Beavers, Brownies, Rainbows and Guides will be learning about growing vegetables and flowers to achieve their gardening badges.



Bunches of fresh rhubarb, the first produce of the year, have been flying off the table at Englefield Garden Centre where it is sold. There must be a lot of people enjoying crumble, chutney and cake! The warm spring meant that our currants and berries are coming along well, and we look forward to offering these for sale very soon. The early and salad potatoes survived the frosty nights in the middle of May, so we'll be harvesting those later in July. Our 'pop-up stall'

in the garden will be open on Wednesdays and Fridays from 10am to 3pm, as well as the table at the Garden Centre. All the produce is sown, planted, watered and harvested by volunteers.

The first week of June is National Volunteers Week, a time to celebrate our hard-working volunteers and recruit new ones! We're keen to hear from people who would like to give an hour or two of their spare time, especially with group visits. If you're interested, please contact [wendy@fiveaday.org.uk](mailto:wendy@fiveaday.org.uk).

We're looking forward to the Englefield Schools Days in June, and joining in the fun at the Englefield Village Fete and Flower Show on 13<sup>th</sup> July. This will be our Open Day, where we will sell produce and flowers from the garden and have refreshments, pond-dipping and other activities for the family to enjoy.

*Wendy Tobitt on behalf of the Five a Day Committee*

## *Out and about*

Here at The Old Fire Station Nursery we continue to offer places for babies, toddlers and pre-schoolers. You may have seen us exploring within the beautiful surroundings of the village or bumped into us further afield on our own blue minibus. We pride ourselves on offering children the greatest of opportunities whilst outside. Most recently we have enjoyed a visit to Theale library, feeding the ducks nearby the river in Pangbourne, a seasonal trip to the local farm to meet the new baby lambs and many picnics had in the nearby villages, just to name a few.



If you would like any information on availability or funded sessions or any job vacancies please do get in contact with us on 0118 9306981 or email us at [sophie@theoldfirestationnursery.co.uk](mailto:sophie@theoldfirestationnursery.co.uk).



## *Volunteer with WBCS*

The summer programme of events for the West Berkshire Countryside Society is now available on the website [www.westberkscountryside.org.uk](http://www.westberkscountryside.org.uk). Many of the task sites are ones worked on in previous years, several of them many times, and the results of the efforts year on year are proving very rewarding. We hope that you may find an hour or two to come along and see what goes on and/or participate in one or other of the walks that are included. In the meantime, we wish you a thoroughly enjoyable summer.

*Colin Layton*



## *David Fletcher 1940 – 2019*

Dave Fletcher passed away on April 15<sup>th</sup> at the Duchess of Kent Hospice in Reading with his family around him. Husband to Jan, father to Gordon and Megan and grandad to Chloe, Elin and Nia, he will be greatly missed. A long-time resident of Englefield Estate, having moved to Bournefield Farm in 1976 from the flat at the stables, he taught at Little Heath School for 36 years before retiring in 2000. He spent his retirement painting, umpiring hockey and gardening. A member of Reading Guild of Artists, he had a number of local exhibitions showing his work that often featured parts of Englefield and the Estate. One of his last paintings is shown below.

The family have been overwhelmed by the depth and warmth of messages they have received which have provided welcome support. A familiar sight in the garden and the yard at Bournefield and that is how he will hopefully be remembered.



## *New District Councillor*

Following the local elections on May 2<sup>nd</sup> Ross Mackinnon is the new representative of the Bradfield ward (which includes Englefield) on West Berkshire Council. His contact details which are also available on the West Berkshire website are: 17 Hanningtons Way, Burghfield Common, Reading RG7 3BE, 0118 983 3567 or 07538 872276, [ross.mackinnon1@westberks.gov.uk](mailto:ross.mackinnon1@westberks.gov.uk).

## *A good start to the season*

Well what a start to the season! The people we support and staff team have been so busy, pricking out, potting up and keeping the garden centre full of colour,. The weather has definitely played its part this year with good transitions from one season to the next, and we have had good light levels which have helped get the right balance of flowers and growth. We are now going into the time of year when we need to remember to feed and deadhead our plants, extremely important if we want to keep them flourishing for even longer. The best time to water is early morning and late evening so the plants benefit most. If you do this during the day there is a higher risk of scorching the leaves and evaporation.



*Austin Crabbe, Garden Centre Manager*

## *Filming at Englefield House*

Filming took place at Englefield House in mid May for the Spider-Man spin-off feature film 'Morbius'. Most of the scenes were filmed in the Long Gallery where the location was completely redecorated, although the gardens did double as a large park in New York.

The story involves Dr Michael Morbius, a chemist that is looking to cure himself of a rare blood disease and in the process of his experiments accidentally turns himself into a living vampire that feasts on human plasma. In various incarnations, vampires like Morbius were created by technology and not by supernatural means.

The cast consists of Oscar-winner Jared Leto as Dr Michael Morbius, Matt Smith (Doctor Who, Last Night Soho) as fellow vampire villain L, Adria Arjona (Triple Frontier) as Morbius' love interest and future villain Martine Bancroft, Tyrese Gibson (Fast and Furious franchise) as an FBI Agent, and Jared Harris (Benjamin Button, Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows, Mad Men) as Morbius' mentor. Morbius is one of many Spider-Man movies that Sony Pictures is developing as they also have Venom 2, Kraven The Hunter, Black Cat, Silver Sable, Silk, Jackpot, and Nightwatch in various stages at the studio.

*Peter Carson, House and Events Manager*

Date	Sidesmen	Old Testament	New Testament	Gospel
June 2nd 7 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter BCP	Dudley and Victoria Fishburn		Ann Stone Revelation 22:12-14;16-17; 20-end	Melanie Townsend John 17:20-end
June 9th Pentecost	Paula Fenwick Linda Price	Hugh Boulter Acts 2:1-21	Victoria Fishburn Romans 8:14-17	Richard Benyon John 14:8-17
June 16th Trinity Sunday	Liz Marillier Gloria Sleep	Paula Fenwick Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31	Carole Ford Romans 5:1-5	Stephanie Gibbons John 16:12-15
June 23rd 1st Sunday after Trinity	Doris Edwards Dinah Perkins	Torquil MJ 1 Kings 19:1-4,8-15a	Gill Barton Galatians 3:23-end	Carol Boulter Luke 8:26-39
June 30th 2nd Sunday after Trinity	Peter and Catherine Haig	Catherine Haig 2 Kings 2:1-2,6-14	Gloria Sleep Galatians 5:1,13-25	Aldo Guiducci Luke 9:51-end
July 7th 3rd Sunday after Trinity BCP	David and Stephanie Gibbons		Harriet Wynne-Jones Galatians 6:7-16	Melanie Townsend Luke 10:1-11, 16-20
July 14th 4th Sunday after Trinity	Elizabeth Benyon Melanie Townsend	Mike Kimber Deuteronomy 30: 9-14	Dee Boddy Colossians 1:1-14	Ann Stone Luke 10:25-37
July 21st 5th Sunday after Trinity	Paula Fenwick Linda Price	Dinah Perkins Genesis 18:1-10a	Elisabeth Shelley Colossians 1:15-28	Liz Marillier Luke 10:38-end
July 28th 6th Sunday after Trinity	Liz Marillier Gloria Sleep	Ron Marillier Hosea 1:2-10	Elizabeth Benyon Colossians 2:6-15	Linda Price Luke 11:1-13
August 4th 7th Sunday after Trinity BCP	Doris Edwards Dinah Perkins		Ronan O'Sullivan Colossians 3:1-11	Torquil MJ Luke 12:13-21
August 11th 8th Sunday after Trinity	David and Stephanie Gibbons	Anne Edgar Genesis 15:1-6	Dianne Graham Hebrews 11:1-3,8-16	Melanie Townsend Luke 12:32-40

If you are unavailable for any duty on the rota, please try to find a swap, or otherwise contact Saffy O'Sullivan. Saffy can always be found on the website, [www.stmarksenglefield.org.uk/rota](http://www.stmarksenglefield.org.uk/rota), or in the church porch. Please contact Saffy in church. For prayer requests, please contact Dinah Perkins on 0118 9302731 and the intercessor will inform you.

<b>Intercessions</b>	<b>Sacristan</b>	<b>Administrators</b>	<b>Sunday Club</b>	<b>Cleaners</b>
BCP	Penny Norris	Gill Barton Penny Savage	Susannah McBain Denny Hollands	Paula Fenwick Linda Price
Dinah Perkins	Sue Smith	Denny Hollands Torquil MJ	Andrea Kean Sara Guiducci	Elizabeth Benyon Melanie Townsend
Harriet Wynne-Jones	Dinah Perkins	Peter Haig Dinah Perkins	Melissa Bennett Saffy O'Sullivan	Doris Edwards Dinah Perkins
Stephanie Gibbons	Dee Boddy	Saffy O'Sullivan Melanie Townsend	Carolyn Ahanchian Liz Reeves	Pete and Carole Ford
Melanie Townsend	Penny Norris	Gill Barton Penny Savage	Liz McKean Sara Guiducci	John and Liz McKean
BCP	Catherine Haig	Carol Boulter Torquil MJ	Susannah McBain Catherine Haig	Paula Fenwick Linda Price
Carol Boulter	Sue Smith	Gill Barton Carol Boulter	Zoe Benyon Alice Johnson	Gill Barton Dianne Graham
Ron Marillier	Dinah Perkins	Peter Haig Melanie Townsend	Andrea Kean Liz Reeves	Elizabeth Benyon Melanie Townsend
Catherine Haig	Dee Boddy	Dudley Fishburn Dinah Perkins	Melissa Bennett Sara Guiducci	Pete and Carole Ford
BCP	Catherine Haig	Saffy O'Sullivan Penny Savage	No Sunday Club	Doris Edwards Dinah Perkins
Aldo Guiducci	Penny Norris	Dinah Perkins Torquil MJ	No Sunday Club	John and Liz McKean

Sullivan on 01491 825996 or 07799 060949. For diary planning for future Sundays, an up-to-date rota  
 let Nick Wynne-Jones know if you have any notices for the pew sheet or announcements to be made  
 include your request on the following Sunday.

## *Bradfield Young Farmers*

Since the last report our members have been busy in all manner of activities; the pre-show competitions held at BCA and surrounding farms took centre stage as Bradfield members took on the other Berkshire Clubs in Stock Judging, Fence Erecting, Cookery and Clay pigeon shooting. Despite a number of the competitions being run slightly differently to the way we are accustomed, the members shone and acquitted themselves superbly across all the various sections.

Wednesday meetings have seen the members practicing for the Country Fayre classes and prepping for the Co-operative Float which will be to a Disney theme this year. We've been on a visit to Amners Farm, to see how the Lambing Days there come together. Members saw twin lambs being born during the visit, although the five day old piglets and the chicks seemed to be the star attractions. A fabulous evening with a number of staff from the RBH paediatric ward and A&E Dept, was spent with members learning to plaster and suture. We heard some grim tales from A&E as well as learning about emergency first aid.

The Club was hard at work at Bradfield Mayfayre serving teas and coffees and a selection of homemade cakes, popular this year in the cold as was hot chocolate. We raised a fabulous amount of money for the Mayfayre and ultimately local causes. The Club has prepared for the competitions at the Berkshire Country Fayre at Englefield Park and will hopefully see the fruits of their labours and efforts at the Presentation evening that we are hosting the following weekend. We look forward to our summer programme and enjoying the summer evenings out and about in West Berkshire.

*To find out more contact [sonia.walters2@btinternet.com](mailto:sonia.walters2@btinternet.com) or find BYFC on Facebook.*

## *Save the date!*

Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> September: **Berkshire Churches Trust Ride and Stride** for Berkshire churches (see opposite for details).

Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> and Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> September: **Royal County of Berkshire Show.**

Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> September: **Harvest Festival** at St Mark's.

Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> October **Ufton Cycle Sportive**, 57 or 25 mile charity bike ride starting and finishing at Englefield (<https://uftoncourt.co.uk/cycleride/>).



Ride and Stride 2018 is now a pretty distant memory but, with the final results now in, it's worth pausing to take note of what we achieved, and to thank all those who helped us achieve it. Altogether some 75 riders and striders made 471 visits to 72 churches, and raised almost £19,000 for the Royal County of Berkshire Churches Trust – money that will go directly to helping keep the churches of our county in good repair. In 2017/18 the Trust paid out £31,000 in grants for church repairs and improvements, and the money raised through Ride and Stride made a vital contribution to this total. So thank you to all who took part, whether as Riders and Striders, as local organisers, as stewards on the day or as kind donors.

Ride and Stride is a great event. Nationally it raises over £1 million each year for our churches. But besides this, for those who take part it offers a splendid opportunity to see some of the wonderful churches of our county – churches built with love and in faith, with dedication and hard work, and with skill and artistry. Our task today is to maintain them with the same love and faith, and in the same manner.

Last year I walked with Catherine Haig through Reading. Some of the churches I had visited before, some were new to me, but all gave me cause to stop and stare and wonder. We started at the church of the English Martyrs in Tilehurst and ended (via Reading Abbey ruins and the church of St James) at St Peter's in Caversham, and altogether visited 16 churches. There were too many to describe here individually, but some stand out – the lofty interior of J P St Aubyn's All Saints, Downshire Square; the wonderful furnishings (including a Pugin screen) at Holy Trinity; the grandeur of the Minster; the classical restraint of St Mary Castle Street; the quietness of the burial ground behind the Friends' Meeting House in Church Street; the Victorian gothic masterpiece that is Henry Woodyer's Christ Church; and the magnificent series of stained glass windows by C E Kempe at St Luke's. It was a great way to spend a Saturday, and an inspiration to be reminded of the magnificent heritage we have in Berkshire.

Doubtless other participants could tell similar stories of experiences elsewhere in Berkshire. I am planning to explore another part of the county on September 14<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to take part, talk to your local organiser – or email [rideandstrideberks@gmail.com](mailto:rideandstrideberks@gmail.com). Whether you visit two churches or 20, I'm sure you will have a good day, and whether you raise £50 or £500, every penny will help our churches.

*Peter Durrant*  
*Chairman, Royal County of Berkshire Churches Trust*



## *Gardens leaflet*

A new leaflet on Englefield garden is now available which is designed to provide visitors with information on everything about the garden from its history to what plants and wildlife they can expect to see. It also includes a map of the highlights. It can be viewed and downloaded from the Estate website - go to [www.englefieldestate.co.uk](http://www.englefieldestate.co.uk) and follow the link to the Estate and then to Garden visits.

The garden continues to be open every Monday throughout the year, from 10am to 6pm April to October and from 10am to 4pm November to March.

## *The danger of amnesia?*

*(Taken from a daily devotional called Word for Today published by UCB)*

A spider dropped a single strand down from the rafter of an old barn and began to weave his web. Months went by and the web grew. Its elaborate maze caught flies, mosquitoes and other small insects, providing the spider with a rich diet. Eventually it became the envy of all the other spiders. Then one day the spider noticed a single strand stretching up into the rafters. "I wonder why it's there? It doesn't catch me any dinner." Concluding it was unnecessary, he climbed as high as he could and severed it. In that moment the entire web began to fall in upon itself, tumbling to the floor, taking the spider with it.

Could we as a people make that same mistake? Can a country spin a great web, then sever it? Can we grow so successful, so smug, so self-sufficient that we forget the strong strand that supports us? Could we look at our prosperity and respond not with gratitude, but with arrogance? Recent actions make us wonder. A movement to remove God from all public life is gaining momentum. An emboldened portion of our population stares at the strand of faith upon which our country hangs and asks: "Why is that there?" Are we forgetting the hand that holds us? We're not the first nation to suffer from amnesia. Israel did it too, and Moses warned them: "... Beware that in your plenty you do not forget the Lord your God and disobey His commands ... I assure you of this: If you ever forget the Lord your God ... you will certainly be destroyed." (Deuteronomy 8:11 & 19).



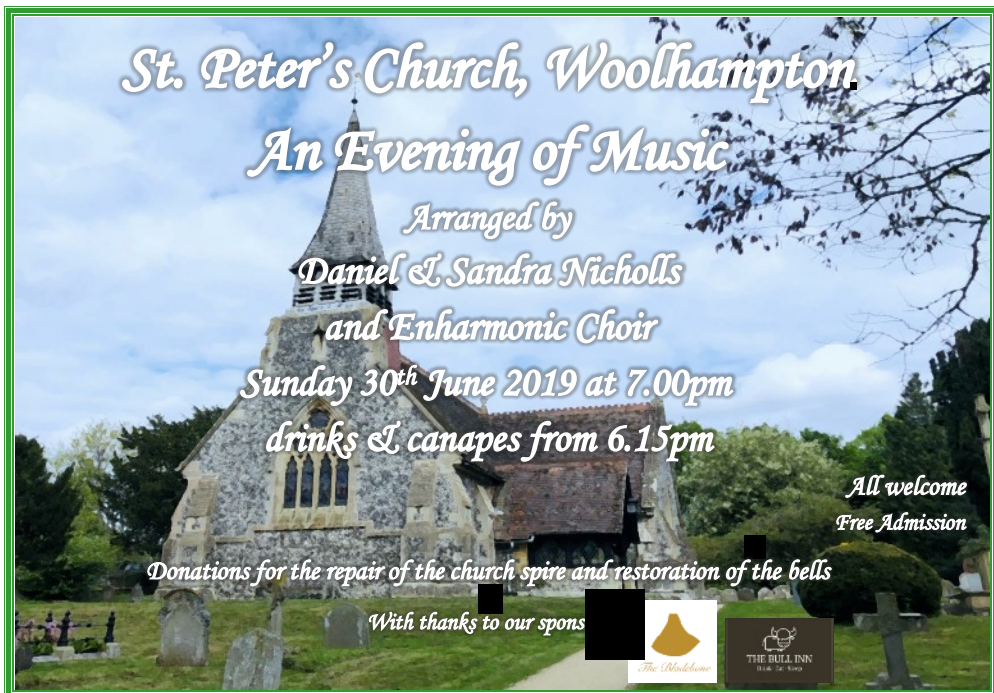
# Thank you

I am still reeling with the kind words and huge generosity of the St Mark's congregation to mark my retirement after 21 years as Churchwarden - a generosity I'm sure felt but not expressed in quite the same way to two of my predecessors (Catherine's father - 25 years, and Gill Barton's father - 26 years). They would have thought me a part-timer.

I spent a happy hour at Cotswold Outdoor (other outfitters are available) and have acquired top-of-the-range walking boots (so pleased to find a pair discounted!), a new backpack (to replace one over 30 years old), lighter walking poles and some merino under-shirts, all in time for our serious six-day Alpine trekking in June. I'm fully expecting to be approached with a Man-in-the-Mountains modelling contract.

We had a superb lunch at L'Ortolan which was a huge treat and, yes, we've already tucked in to some of the Macallan malt whisky. I am so grateful to everyone, but also for the privilege of being part of such a loving and generous community.

*Peter Haig*





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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.

**Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honour and glory and praise!  
(Revelation 5 v 12b)**

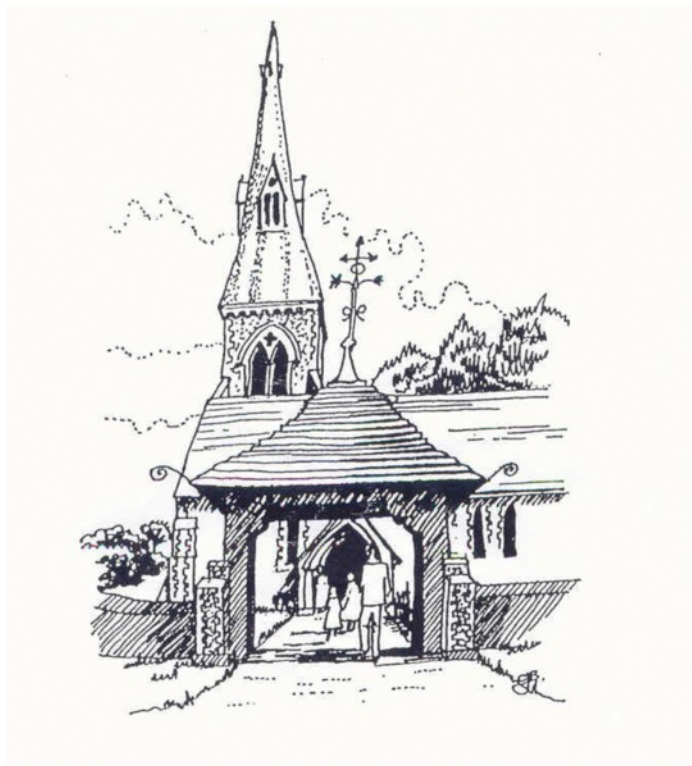
This passage is an extraordinary glimpse behind the curtain at what is going on in the throne room of heaven. We are presented with rank upon rank of the heavenly host, all focussed on the throne at the very centre of the universe. Standing in the very centre of this throne is the figure of the one to whom the whole of heaven bows in worship and adoration, singing endless songs of praise. Who is this figure? In the symbolic picture language that Revelation uses, we might expect it to be a lion or an eagle, a symbol of strength and power. Instead, we see “a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain” (v6). That the writer of Revelation sees in his vision a once-slain Lamb – a clear allusion to Jesus, crucified in weakness and humility – at the centre of all things should once again challenge us to think again about the meaning of true power and authority. The cross is eternally central to God’s purposes, and any attempt to move beyond it will simply result in moving away from it.

**They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb (Revelation 7 v 14b)**

The focus of John’s vision has shifted to earth, where he sees an enormous multitude drawn from every corner of the world. In case we are in any doubt that this multitude – a countless assembly – stands for all the followers of Jesus (the church), we are given two signposts relating to their white robes, a symbol of purity. Firstly, they have all washed their robes in the blood of the Lamb, demonstrating they have recognised their need for purification, and that the Lamb is the source of it. Secondly, that washing their robes in his blood has made them white. This metaphor is remarkable – the contrast between the normal intense red colour of blood and the resulting white robes shows that the blood here is significant. It is only through the shed blood of Jesus that purification from sin is possible, and that all the sins of all his people can be dealt with by Jesus’ work upon the cross.

**But woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has gone down to you! He is filled with fury, because he knows that his time is short. (Revelation 12 v 12)**

What has gone wrong with the world? Scripture is clear that human sin is at the root of the problem, and that human beings have moral accountability for much of the pain and suffering in the world. But throughout the Bible we also see a cosmic struggle being played out, between God and Satan, the devil. This passage makes the point that the devil causes strife and pain wherever he goes, and that he is active in the world at present. There is good news, however, and the book of Revelation shows how God's plan unfolds through history. Though malevolent and dangerous, we are reminded that the devil's time is short – his end has been determined by the sovereign power of God and he is powerless to prevent it. His rage in the present, though a source of suffering for many, will soon be over when his defeat is completed at Jesus' return.





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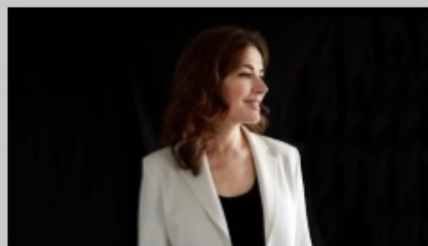


Adam is a former junior Doctor and author of the sensational number one bestselling book ***This is Going to Hurt***. Adam writes extensively for the media and television with credits including ***Mitchell & Webb*** and ***Mrs Brown's Boys***. He is an electrifying live performer and frequent voice on Radio 4.

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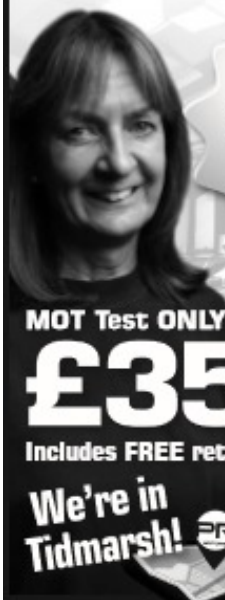
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