

October - November 2019

Englefield Parish News



The Parish of St Mark's, Englefield

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www.stmarksenglefield.org.uk

Englefield Parish Council website:

www.englefieldpc.org.uk

Front cover: *Stone carving of the Five a Day logo by McAlister Hood with squashes harvested for the Reading Town Meal. See page 12 for more details.*

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

In January 1894 a four year old boy was rescued from the river in Passau – the city of three rivers (the Inn, Ilz and Danube) where we paused at St Stephen's splendid baroque cathedral, enthralled by the magnificent music of the largest church organ in the world (with 17974 pipes arranged in 5 sub-organs!). As the hymn puts it "loud organs his glory forth tell in deep tone..." – and how they did! Travelling on, God's glory was seen in the beauty of creation through which we passed on our way down the Danube: terraced vineyards, forested slopes, colourful houses and charming villages where spires pointed Godward above the trees.

It has been said that rivers have the power simultaneously to divide and connect people – a paradox embodied by the Danube which transported armies for conflict, traders for commerce and travellers for recreation. The river winds not only through ten countries with diverse cultures but centuries of history, enshrined in castles along the way or explained by our guides who lived through recent conflicts. And so we came to our final mooring at Budapest where, along the quayside was a long row of shoes – *'The Shoes on the Danube Promenade'* - a memorial to the Hungarian Jews who, in the winter of 1944-45, were massacred on the banks of the Danube. And what of that four year old boy rescued from the Passau river? Adolf Hitler. How would his rescuer feel as history unfolded? He didn't know the end from the beginning – and nor do we. What are we to make of it all? Beauty and barbarity. From this haunting memorial we crossed the river to the splendour of the neo-classical basilica, named for King Stephen, to hear a harpist, as the hymn puts it, "...sweet harp, the story of what He hath done". It is in the story "of what He hath done" that we have a framework for understanding the flow of history through the passage of another river.

Throughout the Bible narrative a river flows from Genesis to Revelation, even through barren wilderness wastes, from Eden to the new creation. There, in vivid language, the river of the water of life is pictured flowing from God's throne and the leaves of the tree of life are "for the healing of the nations". For a wounded world there is hope of restoration and redemption, a future in which barbarity is judged and beauty is triumphant. For a parched world, people dissatisfied by life and longing to quench their thirst, there is revival and refreshment to be found in *responding to God's invitation to drink the free gift of the water of life*. From creation to consummation it is the sovereign God who directs the river which does not meander at random but moves with purpose to His appointed end, giving life to all who drink.

Enjoying the river!

Nick and Harriet

Diary: October - November 2019

Sunday 29 th September	Harvest Festival , a special family service with the Word Puppets, 10.30 at St Mark's, followed by refreshments
Saturday 5 th October	Ufton Cycle Sportive , see page 24
Sunday 6 th October	Holy Communion , 10.30 at St Mark's
Tuesday 8 th October	Deanery SDG lecture Professor June Boyce-Tillman speaking on her latest book, <i>Freedom Song, Faith, Abuse, Music and Spirituality</i> , 8pm at Bradfield College (see page 15)
Wednesday 9 th October	Let's Talk Theology , new series on the Trinity, 7.45pm, St Mary's Sulhamstead, RG7 4ED
Sunday 13 th October	Holy Communion , 10.30 at St Mark's
Sunday 20 th October	Holy Communion , 10.30 at St Mark's
Sunday 27 th October	Holy Communion , 10.30 at St Mark's
Sunday 3 rd November	Holy Communion , 10.30 at St Mark's
Sunday 10 th November	Remembrance Sunday , service of Holy Communion 10.30 at St Mark's, with Act of Remembrance at 11am
Monday 11 th November	PCC meeting , 6.30pm at St Mark's
Weds 13 th November	Let's Talk Theology , series on the Trinity, 7.45pm, St Mary's Sulhamstead, RG7 4ED
Sunday 17 th November	Holy Communion , 10.30 at St Mark's
Saturday 23 rd November	Service of welcome , 3pm at Reading Minster, for the new Bishop of Reading, Olivia Graham
Sunday 24 th November	Holy Communion , 10.30 at St Mark's
Sunday 1 st December	First Sunday of Advent Holy Communion, 10.30 at St Mark's
Tuesday 3 rd December	The Charlie Waller Memorial Trust Bradfield carol service, more details on page 18

Mondays 7th and 21st October and 4th and 18th 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 PCC meetings for 2020 will be held on 27th January, 23rd March, 22nd June, with the APCM on 27th April 2020.

Congratulations

To Philipp Meindl and Olivia Drysdale married at St Mark's on Saturday 27th July.

To Grant Kemp and Laura Ashfield married at St Mark's on Friday 2nd August.

To Joseph Durie and Julia Lockyer Gibb married at St Mark's on Saturday 10th August.

To Duncan and Nia Rands on the birth of Rufus on Tuesday 27th August, a brother for Arlo.

To Jack and Liisa Fishburn on the birth of Otso John on Saturday 10th August, a grandson for Dudley and Victoria.

To Marcus Fishburn and Scarlett Clark on their recent engagement.

To Ben and Sarah Smith on the birth of Sebastian William Reed on July 30th, a brother for Charlotte and grandson for Richard and Sue Smith.

To Philip and Louise Young on the birth of Wilfred Arthur Robert on September 12th, a brother for Teddy and great-grandson for Ann Stone.

To Ray and Margeret Stevens who are celebrating their Golden Wedding anniversary on October 4th with a cruise around the Greek islands followed by a family lunch party on their return.

RIP

Michael Sheppard, who died on August 14th. His funeral was held at St Laurence's Church in Tidmarsh on Thursday 12th September and our thoughts are with Julia and all the family.

Baptism

Jacob Joseph Winston Scherer, baptised at St Mark's on Sunday 28th July.





Bishop's pilgrimage

When Bishop Steven came to Holy Trinity, Theale, for the induction of Rev Martin Davy, he was in the middle of a six-day pilgrimage round the churches of Berkshire. In all he visited 38 churches and the chaplaincy of Reading University, travelling by boat, bike and on foot. He prayed in every place for our Government and Parliament, for each community and church, and for Olivia Graham as she prepares for her consecration as Bishop of Reading. He took a photograph of the font in every church as a symbol of the renewal of all the ministry which flows into and out of the font, and he chalked the initials CMB on the doors as he left - 'may Christ bless this house' in Latin. He said the journey had transformed his view of Berkshire, enabling him to appreciate the beauty of the county in new ways and build a clearer picture of church life.

Raising funds for Berkshire churches

With little planning, a beautiful morning on Saturday 14th inspired Frieda and I to shadow Torquil's Berkshire Ride and Stride on our side of the Thames. We took full advantage of the amazing density of churches around Wallingford, and amassed nine beautiful Oxfordshire churches in a few hours after breakfast, with one token Berkshire church after lunch in Yattendon. Frieda did at times opt to take (even more) scenic routes and spent time enjoying biscuits offered, so did occasionally ride in her sling, but she certainly took more steps than her mother and very possibly than many of our fellow walkers.

My enormous thanks to our unfailingly generous St Mark's congregation, for all their contributions, of which half is donated directly to our church.

Saffy O'Sullivan

Less is more

The Harvest Festival offering at St Mark's this year is going to Tearfund's relief programme. Maggie Murphy from Tearfund spoke in church the week before and introduced the charity's theme Less is More. She described her personal experience of how Tearfund works to encourage people and communities to use what they have - turning what seems like very little in the way of skills and resources into something that transforms lives. You can find out more about the work the charity is doing at www.tearfund.org/less_is_more/.

Ride and Stride around the Deanery

I set off just after 10am on 14th September in perfect cycling conditions. My first port of call was St Peter's in Woolhampton where I met the redoubtable Stella Nesbit who, despite being over 90 years old, planned to see visitors on and off the premises throughout the day. Perhaps this was for safety reasons in that the most recent grant offered by the RBCT was for the re-building of the church spire which is on the verge of collapse, the bells having been removed. St Peter's was attended by the sons of several members of the St Mark's congregation (and those of other churches of course) as it is next door to Elstree School. As the boys had remarked, not to have removed the bells before they broke loose from their rotting mountings and fallen to the floor would have been a bit of a clanger!

I proceeded round the six churches in the Woolhampton benefice interrupting a christening at St Nicholas Wasing, then at St Mary's Aldermaston, where they were holding a heritage day, I had a good chat with Chris Newman, the Lay Chair of the Deanery, before being regaled by a historian who is writing a history of Aldermaston. He explained the wartime adventures of several members of the parish who had given their lives for our country.

Then I tackled Beenham Hill, switching the e-bike I had borrowed from 'eco' to 'turbo' for the first time, without which the ascent would not have been possible without getting off and pushing. After that, I went east on the A4 and had the satisfaction of overtaking a peloton moving at 20 mph having racked up nearly 30 in top gear! At Holy Trinity Theale, I had the pleasure of chatting to Margaret Elliott who reported how impressed she is by the energy and enthusiasm of the newly appointed Revd Martin Davy. Then on to St Mark's followed by four other churches covering a total distance of 33 miles. In order to get to as many churches in the Deanery as possible to thank them for their support and participation, I then switched to vehicular transport. Rather disappointingly, of the further 10 churches I got to, three were not participating despite being on the list of participating churches on the website (you know who you are). I arrived at St Mary's Sreatley at 7pm and, having travelled almost a hundred miles in total, my Ride and Stride day was done.

I cannot thank those who kindly sponsored me enough. If you have not yet settled your donation, either cash or a cheque made out to the Berkshire Churches Trust when we next meet would be greatly appreciated. If you have not yet donated and feel inclined to do so, it is not too late!

Torquil Montague-Johnstone



Englefield Primary School

Our new school year has started with a really positive feel around school. New classes have bonded and old friends have taken great delight in seeing each other after such a long break. We also welcomed back Pebbles, our school tortoise, who has been staying with various school families over the summer.



Our new pupils have been real stars. They are a confident bunch and have settled really quickly into life at Englefield; I think we can expect great things from them over the coming years.

As many of you are aware, we lost a number of pupils last year because of families relocating which has changed the feel of some of our classes. For a small school like ours, losing pupils during their primary years, for whatever reason, creates a bit of a void in their cohort. With only 16 children in each year, firm friendships are made which will last a lifetime but to benefit fully from these, pupils really need to be able to remain here until Year 6. Please remember that if you know someone in the area with older children who were hoping to bring their children to our school and be part of our happy, family community, please make sure they know that we may be able to accommodate them.



This year we have a worship group made up of 6 pupils from Years 5 and 6. They attended a worship workshop and have already started putting some new ideas into practice: objects for class prayer tables which can aid reflection, a new prayer table in the school hall, pupil-led whole-school assemblies, new responses to be said during our collective worship and matching purple cloths for our prayer tables. Hopefully these actions will help our pupils and staff to think even more deeply about our school's Christian values and how we can live them day to day.

Like last year, a small group of Year 5 and 6 pupils are spending some time at Rushall Farm. The activities they are doing are designed to build confidence, resilience, teamwork and leadership skills, all of which should have an impact on

their progress back in the classroom. Sandra Stone who leads our group is a real star and makes every session enjoyable, fun and informative...thank you to Rushall Farm for providing this wonderful resource.

Finally the PTA welcomed back all our families with a party after school. There was a lovely atmosphere and it gave our new families a chance to get to know us better. We also introduced our two new bears who were donated to the school by the Paterson family; they are made out of Englefield school uniform. We are holding a draw to see who can find their names...watch this space!



Please remember that you are always welcome to contact the school (930 2337) if you would like to come in for a visit or to help in any way.

Hilary Latimer, Headteacher

Fresh fish pop-up at Cobbs

Launching, appropriately, during National Seafood Week, Johnsons Pop-up Fishmongers will be at Cobbs Farm Shop every Wednesday from October 9th onwards, between 11am and 2pm. Johnsons Fish is a family-run business, based in Portsmouth since 1975, which prides itself on skill, knowledge and sustainably sourced fish - with fresh sea bass, Dover sole, brill, plaice and mackerel, amongst other fish usually available. Check out events at Cobbs - including pumpkin carving workshops over half term - on the website www.cobbsfarmshops.co.uk.



One year on!

I can't believe my shop has now been open almost a year! It has been lovely meeting so many new faces who have now become regular customers. Do pop in and say hello - we are at number 9 High Street in Theale. We will be having a Christmas shopping event in December, look out for more details soon!

Jane Harms

www.flowersfarminteriors.co.uk



Show successes for the Englefield Herefords

On a beautiful day in the grounds of Broadlands in Romsey on Saturday 14th September there were a large amount of cattle entries in this great country show. The Englefield Herefords were joined by a good number of others and did very well.



Englefield Georgia won the Heifer class and then went on to be breed champion winning a cup; Englefield Richard was 2nd in the bull class; Englefield Rachel 13th was 4th with her calf.; and Englefields Georgia and Rachel were 1st in the pairs and then 3rd in the interbreed pairs.



The Royal County of Berkshire Show the following weekend saw more prizes for the same animals, topped off with Terry Perkins receiving the trophy for the best Pedigree Beef Herd in the Newbury & District Agricultural Society's On Farm Competition - a fantastic way to round off Terry's nearly 50 year career as head herdsman at Englefield!

Silver award for the RBH garden

The Englefield Garden, created at the Royal Berkshire Hospital last year in memory of Sir William Benyon, was nominated by patients and visitors for Reading in Bloom 2019, winning a silver award in the staff wellbeing category.



New ways of giving at St Mark's

The PCC would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who attend our services at St Mark's for their faithfulness and generosity in giving, upon which the church depends for its maintenance and outreach activities. This note is to introduce two new ways of giving, the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) and contactless giving. We would encourage prioritising the PGS where individual circumstances permit as it makes it easier for the church to budget on the basis of direct debits, whilst both forms of giving make the recovery of gift aid by the Treasurer much easier.



The PGS is a modern, well recommended method of church giving, currently being used by 20 dioceses across the country and by over 20,000 people. It is a direct debit scheme, whereby donors can give whatever they are able to the church on a regular basis. St Mark's Church has recently registered on the PGS and some members of the congregation have already become registered donors.

The PCC is keen to encourage as many members of the congregation as possible to move to this way of giving to St Mark's. The principle advantage is that it reduces the administrative burden of claiming gift aid for each donation, as this is done on a collective basis through the diocese. It also provides an opportunity for those that may not have done so for a long time, to review the level of giving to keep pace with inflation (and to inflation proof it in the future).

The PGS has a gift aid facility, whereby taxpayers can gift aid their donations for the benefit of St Mark's Church (this is worth an additional 25% of the value of all such donations). It also has an inflation factor based on the RPI system, which is applied at the beginning of every year. This will ensure that future donations to St Mark's can keep pace with inflation, which will be a great help to the church. Donors can opt in or out of this inflation factor.

(continued overleaf)



Prayer stations in the Englefield Chapel, set up by Charlotte Hollands for Thy Kingdom Come, the Archbishop's call to prayer that took place earlier this year.

Donations are collected from donors regularly on the first of the month by direct debit, although donors can opt to give monthly, quarterly or annually. Donors have complete control of their giving, and can vary it up or down according to their circumstances. All it needs is a phone call or a letter to the PGS administrators.

To join the PGS, all you need to do is complete a simple form and post it to the Parish Giving Scheme. Once you have sent off your form, please do not cancel your existing standing order (if you have one) until you receive a welcome letter from the PGS. Also, please do let the Treasurer know that you have sent an application. Information brochures and application forms are available in church.

Since people are increasingly using their debit or credit cards to pay for goods and services, they are carrying less money on their person. Many people arriving in church are unable to donate as they would like to, simply because they do not have the cash on them. Churches are therefore making increasing use of contactless devices to enable people to donate in the same way as they would when they pay for a purchase in a supermarket. It is the way of the future. St Mark's has purchased a Goodbox Gbx contactless device which will provide a very simple, quick and easy way for people to make donations to the church. The device will be set at a nominal £3 donation, but you will be able to scroll up or down from £1 to a maximum of £30. The device will remain in church at all times and will be available at all services.

Both these new ways of giving will be purely voluntary. If you would prefer to continue giving cash in the plate, you are welcome to do so. If you have any questions please ask the Treasurer, the Rector or the Churchwardens.

Ron Marillier, Treasurer



The Crown is back

Fans of the Netflix blockbuster, *The Crown*, should put November 17th in their diaries. Series three will be available from that date and, as before, the scenes at Sandringham were shot in and around Englefield House. This series covers the years between the election of Harold

Wilson in 1964 and the Queen's Silver Jubilee in 1977. Olivia Colman takes on the role of Queen Elizabeth, with Tobias Menzies as Prince Philip and Helena Bonham Carter as Princess Margaret.

News from Rushall Farm



Today 18 mainly young people from the international accountancy firm Ernst & Young came to Rushall Manor for the day. They are encouraged to take two volunteering days each year as part of their contract. If everyone took up this opportunity the 500 strong work force based in Reading could contribute 1000 days into charitable projects in and around Berkshire.

We were the fortunate choice for their hard labour on this occasion. It was a chance to put the finishing touches to this stage of the Oaklands project, raking down and seeding with wildflowers around the newly converted building. Others tackled the area around the pond, vigorously swinging what was described by one as “a blade on the end of a piece of wood” (ie a slasher) to remove mountains of blackberry bushes and prune this year’s growth on the willows.

This was the third volunteer group we have had this week. Thatcham Green Gym did an amazing job on Monday trimming hedges and weeding paths, while on Tuesday the very focused West Berks Countryside Volunteers launched a sustained attack on the brambles in Rushall Copse which seem determined to invade this outstanding bluebell wood. The one sign uniting these groups is a large amount of wood smoke billowing across the Pang Valley as evidence that something is happening. But something else is also taking place. The folk coming enjoy the activity and exercise as they do the physical work. There is also the satisfaction of working together as a group, having conversations and standing back to admire the fruits of your labour. It might not be the Amazon rainforest that is being tackled but Rushall is a really old farm site surrounded by ancient woodland. It is interesting that when Peter Cuss from Bradfield College did a moth survey one night in July, he was amazed to find 109 different species, two of which were very rare. 50 would be a very good number normally so there is good progress here as a result of the work of the volunteers.

The other day one of our teaching staff arrived for work very upset, having just heard the latest government announcement. She felt frustrated and powerless like many. I asked her what she was doing today. As it happened, she was looking after six children from refugee families in Battersea and this was the start of a three-day camp. ‘There you are. What a wonderful opportunity you have to make a profound difference in those young people’s lives.’ It is just the same for those from Ernst & Young and the other volunteers because we can make a difference to the world we live in. And interestingly it also does us good.

John Bishop

News from Five a Day

The glorious colours of autumn begin with the glowing reds and oranges of ripening squashes. These are very popular because they're easy to grow, make tasty soups, roasts, mashes and can be stuffed with vegetables or meat to create a 'one pot meal'. We've grown more squashes than usual to give a couple of wheelbarrows-full to the Reading Town Meal, an annual community-run event on 28th September. Hundreds of vegetables grown on allotments and gardens across Reading were cooked up by Reading College students and served to everyone enjoying the family day in Forbury Gardens. Did you know that the word 'squash' is a short form of the Native American 'askutasquash', and three tablespoons of squash equals one portion of your '5-a-day'?

Five a Day is now part of the Reading Gardening for Health and Wellbeing Network which was launched in September. This is a collaboration of community gardens and horticultural therapy groups in the Greater Reading area. We're working together to promote our services and facilities so that more people will gain mental and physical benefits from gardening. The Network's Facebook page is <https://www.facebook.com/RGfHWN/>

This autumn we're hosting more than 600 primary schoolchildren from across Reading who are visiting on their Ella's Explorer days, learning where food comes from and how they can grow vegetables at home. These school trips, which are supported by the children's food company Ella's Kitchen, include visits to the John Simonds Trust at Rushall Farm at Bradfield to see how farm animals are reared.

During the spring and summer our gardening volunteers welcomed employees from Sage, the software accountancy firm. They made a big difference to the garden, helping remove large shrubs, build a compost heap, put a shady roof on a pergola as well as digging and weeding. Thank you to everyone from Sage – look forward to seeing you next year!



You may have noticed a stone carving of our Five a Day logo at the entrance to the garden. As you can see opposite (and on the front cover) this is the work of McAlister Hood who runs stone-carving workshops in his studio at Chalk Pit Farm on the Estate. If you're looking for unusual Christmas presents, why not gift a stone-carving day <https://mcalisterhood.artweb.com/>

Wendy Tobitt on behalf of the Five a Day Market Garden Committee

From the Old Fire Station

The past few months and the change of seasons have developed new interests from the children which we have been implementing into our weekly activities. We have spent time



discussing and looking closely at different vehicles. The children have been very fond of the tractors, forklifts and large lorries that have been present in the village most recently. We have been out picking blackberries which the children then used to bake homemade crumbles taking them home to enjoy. We have seen lots of caterpillars recently which has supported the children's interests and learning surrounding life cycles of different animals.



Bert our holiday bear has been on some great adventures with the children over the summer holidays and has recently come back from Ireland and is looking forward to spending more time outside the setting with the children and their families.

We have recently had our OFSTED inspection which we are very proud of and it will be ready to view in the next week. We have had some new children from the village and local community that have joined us over the past few weeks and have settled in so well.

If you are looking for a nursery or preschool place and would be interested in coming to look around please do get in contact either by calling 0118 9306981 or emailing sophie@theoldfirestationnursery.co.uk.



Sophie Bieny, Manager

Cancer care calendar

This stunning photograph of St Mark's was taken by Paul Sievers and features as the May image of the Newbury & District Cancer Care calendar for 2020. This will be on sale soon at £6 per copy with all proceeds going to the charity. There will be a few copies available in church or contact the charity on 01635 31542.



Guidance on using fireworks

As we approach Bonfire Night, a reminder of the recommended steps to be taken to minimise issues that can be caused by fireworks:

- Advise neighbours and those in the vicinity in advance

- Make sure pets and other animals are safely away from fireworks and provide advance warning to those around you who have pets, horses and other livestock

- Use appropriate fireworks - when buying fireworks, avoid those designed to be extra noisy

- Avoid letting off fireworks in unsuitable wind and weather conditions - be aware of straw stacks etc

- Let off your fireworks away from enclosed spaces - noise bounces off buildings and smoke and pollution can build up in enclosed spaces

- Firework debris and litter can harm animals so pick it all up after it has cooled down and dispose of it safely and responsibly

- Please only use fireworks on traditional celebration dates

Freedom, Spirituality and Music

A Lived Experience



A talk by the Revd. Professor June Boyce-Tillman



Dr June Boyce-Tillman MBE is a prominent UK academic specialising in music, spirituality and theology, particularly women's roles in church music. She is Professor of Applied Music at the University of Winchester and is an ordained priest of the Church of England. Much of her scholarship has become influential in music education research, especially her use of ideas of well-being, liminality and ecology. June is series Editor of the Music and Spirituality series.

**Tuesday 8th October – 7:30pm
at The Music Room,
Bradfield College**

*Car Parking is available at Bradfield College Sports
Complex, RG7 6BZ*



Spiritual Development Group

BRADFIELD DEANERY

Date	Sidesmen	Old Testament	New Testament	Gospel
September 29th Harvest Festival	Gloria Sleep Liz Marillier	Hugh Boulter Jeremiah 32:1-3a; 6-15	Denny Hollands 1 Timothy 6:6-19	Ann Stone Luke 16:19-end
October 6th 16th after Trinity BCP	Elizabeth Benyon Melanie Townsend		David Gibbons Philippians 4:4-9	Ron Marillier John 6:25-35
October 13th 17th Sunday after Trinity	Paula Fenwick Linda Price	Carole Ford Jeremiah 29:1,4-7	Dianne Graham 2 Timothy 2:8-15	Torquil MJ Luke 17:11-19
October 20th 18th Sunday after Trinity	Peter and Catherine Haig	Dinah Perkins Jeremiah 31:27-34	Ronan O'Sullivan 2 Timothy 3:14 – 4:5	Hugh Boulter Luke 18:1-8
October 27th Last Sunday after Trinity	Doris Edwards Dinah Perkins	Paula Fenwick Joel 2:23-end	Kahlen Spaulding 2 Timothy 4:6-8;16-18	Peter Haig Luke 18:9-14
November 3rd 4th Sunday before Advent BCP	David and Stephanie Gibbons		Mike Kimber 2 Thessalonians 1	Saffy O'Sullivan Luke 19:1-10
November 10th Remembrance Sunday	Peter and Denny Hollands	Dee Boddy Job 19:23-27a	Penny Savage 2 Thessalonians 2:1-5; 13-end	Aldo Guiducci Luke 20:27-38
November 17th 2nd Sunday before Advent	Peter and Catherine Haig	Carole Ford Malachi 4:1-2a	Charlotte Hollands 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13	Stephanie Gibbons Luke 21:5-19
November 24th Christ the King	Elizabeth Benyon Melanie Townsend	Harriet WJ Jeremiah 23:1-6	Liz Marillier Colossians 1:11-20	Gloria Sleep Luke 23:33-43
December 1st Advent Sunday BCP	Paula Fenwick Linda Price		Penny Savage tbc	Peter Haig tbc
December 8th Second Sunday of Advent	Liz Marillier Gloria Sleep	Aldo Guiducci tbc	Ronan O'Sullivan tbc	Paula Fenwick tbc

If you are unavailable for any duty on the rota, please try to find a swap, or otherwise contact Saffy O'Sullivan or Montague-Johnstone. For diary planning for future Sundays, an up-to-date rota can always be found on the v
have any notices for the pew sheet or announcements to be made in church. For prayer requests, please con

Intercessions	Sacristan	Administrators	Sunday Club	Cleaners
Sunday Club	Dinah Perkins	Carol Boulter Melanie Townsend	Carolyn Ahanchian Sara Guiducci	Doris Edwards Dinah Perkins
BCP	Dee Boddy	Dudley Fishburn Dinah Perkins	Andrea Kean Saffy O'Sullivan	Saffy O'Sullivan Elisabeth Shelley
Harriet Wynne-Jones	Catherine Haig	Peter Haig Saffy O'Sullivan	Zoe Benyon Liz Reeves	Paula Fenwick Linda Price
Melanie Townsend	Penny Norris	Gill Barton Torquil MJ	Melissa Bennett Denny Hollands	Gill Barton Dianne Graham
Stephanie Gibbons	Sue Smith	Carol Boulter Denny Hollands	Susannah McBain Catherine Haig	Elizabeth Benyon Melanie Townsend
BCP	Dinah Perkins	Dinah Perkins Melanie Townsend	Carolyn Ahanchian Sara Guiducci	Doris Edwards Dinah Perkins
Carol Boulter	Dee Boddy	Saffy O'Sullivan Penny Savage	Andrea Kean Liz Reeves	Pete and Carole Ford
Ron Marillier	Catherine Haig	Peter Haig Torquil MJ	Zoe Benyon Denny Hollands	Paula Fenwick Linda Price
David Gibbons	Penny Norris	Gill Barton Denny Hollands	Melissa Bennett Sara Guiducci	Gill Barton Dianne Graham
BCP	Sue Smith	Carol Boulter Melanie Townsend	Susannah McBain Saffy O'Sullivan	Elizabeth Benyon Melanie Townsend
Hugh Boulter	Dinah Perkins	Dudley Fishburn Saffy O'Sullivan	Liz McKean Catherine Haig	Doris Edwards Dinah Perkins

on 01491 825996 or 07799 060949. All changes, please, must be made known to Saffy, Carol Boulter or Torquil
website, www.stmarksenglefield.org.uk/rota, or in the church porch. Please let Nick Wynne-Jones know if you
contact Dinah Perkins on 0118 9302731 and the intercessor will include your request on the following Sunday.

Farewell

Englefield is very sad to say goodbye to Anthea Laing who for many years has run her hugely successful upholstery workshop from the barn at Mayridge Farm and has loyally supported this magazine. She has now retired due to ill health and will be greatly missed by the community here as well as her customers and students. Her former assistant Natalie Wratten is taking over her work and will continue to use the workshop alongside colleague Philip Wellesley-Davies. We send our very best wishes to Anthea and her family.

Bradfield Young Farmers

Bradfield YFC members took part in their annual Club Camp in August and were blessed with good weather. Members from 10 to 20 years took part in the camp, which was based at Rushall Farm. The members set their own tents, cooked their own meals, washed up, made campfires for toasted marshmallows and took part in organized activities during the day. It was a tired bunch of members (and leaders) who greeted parents at the end with stories of cray fishing, bike rides, picnics, river races, tracking, den building, water fights, fire making, wrestling, tug of war and ice cream eating. It was great to see a group of members with such diverse ages come together, work together and have fun together. Big thank you to the John Simonds Trust, Outdoor Academy and of course Club leaders for making it all happen.

Bradfield YFC is again meeting weekly and with the Club AGM, Club challenges, including a mass tree planting project with Englefield Estate and some charity fundraisers looming it's sure to be another busy, frenetic and eventful year for the Club. *To find out more contact sonia.walters2@btinternet.com or find BYFC on Facebook.*

Save the date!

Tuesday 3rd December The Charlie Waller Memorial Trust Bradfield carol service, in the Chapel, Bradfield College, 7.30pm, with carols and readings and music from Bradfield College and Elstree Chapel choirs. Tickets on sale now at £25, www.cwmt.org.uk.

Update from the Hollands family

Duncan Hollands is one of two young people connected to St Mark's who have been training for ordination.



Thank you for your (weekly!) prayers. We feel honoured and privileged to have you pray for us so regularly and faithfully; and we're very aware that your prayers have been part of the way that God has strengthened and helped us over this past year. Thank you.

The second year of college has flown by. College-wise, things have been going well for me. I am still really enjoying the course and my grades have been what I hoped for. One real highlight was studying the book of Habakkuk. We studied it deeply in our Old Testament Biblical Studies module and then I preached on Habakkuk chapter three in our placement church as part of the homiletics module (the study and practice of preaching). It was a fantastic reminder of the compassion and justice of God, as well as the way that many of our questions, 'Lord where are you? Why don't you end the pain?', are perennial questions that believers all through the ages have wrestled with.

Our placement church, St Luke's West Hampstead, has been a joy. The congregation has been incredibly welcoming and it's been a delight getting to know them. Sometimes the distance (30-40 minute drive) and the traffic (Monday morning north circular for Beckie to get to the women's Bible study!) has been a bit of a hurdle, but we are glad that we've got stuck into the small groups, and have started building deeper relationships with people in the church family. Beckie leads the Sunday school for toddlers and I have helped out with the children's work and the odd bit of preaching or leading the service.

Our future plans have changed, in that rather than doing only three years, we are planning to stay for a fourth year, an MA. The main reasons are that others have suggested that I might be the sort of person that can serve the church well with further study, that I have a desire and giftedness for it, and that doing it while we are here at college (rather than moving somewhere else) is far more feasible than trying to move the family again later or studying from distance.

Phinn (3 and a half) and Theo (1 and a half) continue to grow and are a delight and a wonder. Some of their favourite things are: for Phinn, riding his bike around Oak Hill's grounds; for Theo, kicking footballs and having hugs. Much love from all four of us, with renewed thanks for your prayers.

Duncan Hollands



The way we lived then

Now that the Workmen's Club is being reverted, at least partially, to its earlier state, it is to be hoped that the reversion doesn't go too far.

Emily Cook came to Englefield in 1930 having spent all her 11 years up until then living in Army married quarters with her parents, first in Brock Barracks at Reading, then in Plymouth, Germany and finally Aldershot. Her father obtained the job as steward at the Club when he retired after 27 years with the Royal Berkshire Regiment – ironic, really, since he had originally run away from home to join the Army in 1904

in protest at being sent to help his grandfather run the Three Horseshoes pub at Benson.

Mr Cook started his new job on November 1st and Emily and her sister stayed at their grandparents' home, the Old Bull inn at Watlington for a week while he, his wife and son spent a week at Englefield being shown the ropes by Mr and Mrs James Claydon, the retiring steward and his wife. When she got to Englefield Emily was impressed by the large, imposing mansion set in lovely parkland with deer roaming and a large lake with mysterious islands and waterfowl of every description including beautiful swans and many Canada geese. This to her seemed like paradise. However...

Not so the cottage and the amenities, which she thought very primitive, to say the least. There were oil lamps, about 20 in all with eight above the billiard table alone. All had to be filled, have their wicks trimmed and the glasses washed and polished each day. The lavatory in 1930 was a wooden seat with large bucket beneath, situated in a boarded-off corner of one of the sheds. A slight improvement on the two-seater thunderbox at Watlington, she supposed. Should one be unwise enough to want to pay a visit after dark it meant putting on an overcoat, lighting the hurricane lamp and setting forth like Scott into the Antarctic. The real nightmare began when once enthroned, there would be all sorts of scuffles and squeaks and if the lamp happened to shine into the corners it would light up the horrible red eyes of rats.

Another hardship was the lack of a sink and water indoors; the water had to be fetched from an outside pump and the washing-up was done in a bowl on the table. This was a particular problem when there was a big function in the club. The New Year's Eve squire's dance, being free food and one free drink per person, attracted gate crashers from miles around and the room would be packed solid. Therefore, it meant keeping a steady flow of clean glasses and crockery. The kitchen range would be covered with

pots and kettles and each bowl of dirty water had to be taken outside and emptied on the garden. If it was frosty the pump would freeze up and each trip for clean water would mean taking a kettle of boiling water to throw on the pump first. Then the next time the thing would be solid again in spite of copious lagging and wrapping up.

Having a bath meant carrying buckets from the pump to fill the copper in the wash house, lighting the fire underneath and waiting for the water to warm. In the winter the galvanised iron bath, which normally hung on the wall of the shed, would be carried in and placed in front of the kitchen range, so it was more trips with the bucket to transfer the hot water. In the summer baths were taken in the washhouse and this was a less arduous task as it was a simple matter of bailing from the copper straight into the bath. In any event, the relaxing effect of the bath was immediately undone by the need to bail out the water onto the garden afterwards.

The oil lamps were later scrapped in favour of acetylene gas, made in an outhouse by a very large contraption into which troughs of carbide were inserted. Each morning the troughs would be full of a great white sludge, which gave off an extremely nasty smell and had to be emptied out and the troughs refilled with fresh lumps of carbide. The late '30s also saw the advent of the Elsan chemical closet, luxury indeed! It was installed in a small shed nearer to the house, which seemed to have been an outside larder at some time. It had a concrete floor, a small window and not so much as a mouse hole. Another plus was a lock and key to ensure privacy, sadly lacking before. Another improvement was a sink in the kitchen with an indoor pump. The sink was about three inches deep and the water was continually slopping over but on the plus side there was a waste pipe and drain outside.

The next step forward was electricity and the allowance was three lights and one power socket. As there were three rooms downstairs this would mean that candles were still needed upstairs, so Mr Cook paid the electrician to put a socket in each bedroom so they could have bedside lamps. He also bought a Baby Belling cooker for use in the summer, but the kitchen range was still used in the winter for warmth.

At the end of the war, using Italian POWs to dig the trenches, water was laid on to all the cottages in the village and a tap replaced the hand pump in the kitchen. Some cottages, including number 10, had until then relied on a well for their water. The other houses in the village had flush toilets and baths installed and a small annexe to the club was built, providing a ladies' cloakroom with flush toilet and a hand basin with cold tap. Men's toilet facilities were installed in the passage between the furnace and the coke store. However, this improvement didn't extend to the club living quarters until 1963.

Richard Smith

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.

I appeal to you for my son Onesimus, who became my son while I was in chains. Formerly he was useless to you, but now he has become useful both to you and to me. (Philemon v 10-11)

The affectionate reference to Onesimus is typical of the warm bond of love that existed between Paul and his converts, and speaks powerfully of what God's grace had done in Paul's life. As Saul of Tarsus, Paul was once a self-righteous Pharisee, the heir of Jewish exclusiveness. Here, we see him speaking not only about a Gentile, but a Gentile slave from the very dregs of society – as a son. Paul was clearly convicted in his heart of the truth he wrote to this church earlier: 'there is no Gentile or Jew, ... slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all' (Col 3:11). We should note however that these words are written in the context of the church – Paul is not saying this is true of all people, but rather that it is true of all believers in Jesus. Paul makes a pun here in v 11 ('Onesimus' literally means 'useful'), using it to show that Onesimus' new-found usefulness is brought about by his new-found faith. When men and women put their faith in Jesus, it radically transforms their relationships with those around them. Have we fully recognised this in those neighbours, work colleagues and relations who have been awakened by the Holy Spirit and brought into new life? Do we show new converts the same warm bond of love that Paul demonstrated with Onesimus?

They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces of bread and fish. The number of the men who had eaten was five thousand. (Mark 6 v 42-22)

The miracle of the feeding of the five thousand is familiar to many people, but this familiarity should not tempt us to gloss over it, or to skim our way through it. There is always a risk if we do this that we miss key pieces of the story, and so fail to unpack its meaning properly. Jesus wasn't in the habit of performing miracles to entertain the masses; every one of his miracles pointed to his identity as God's Messiah. Here we see an enormous crowd (probably larger than you think – consider that we are told there were five thousand men there; no mention is made of women or children) being fully fed from a couple of fish and five loaves of bread. Not only that, there is a huge amount of food left over. This is a picture of extravagant abundance; the message here is that Jesus is able to

provide far more than we need. He is not a miserly Messiah who grudgingly parts with the bare minimum required – he is an overwhelmingly generous giver who pours out his grace abundantly, giving us much more than we ever asked or imagined. When we repent and turn to him, we can approach him joyfully, not fearfully, knowing that he is willing and able to meet our deepest needs and satisfy us fully. Following Jesus does not mean missing out, as some mistakenly think that it does. Rather, as Jesus himself says in John 10:10 ‘I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full’.



Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything – all she had to live on. (Mark 12 v 43b-44)

‘All things come from you O God, and of your own do we give you’. What is the right amount for Christians to give to God’s ministry? This is a very sensitive issue, and one which can be tricky to raise from the pulpit without seeming either somewhat self-serving, or narrowly focused on a particular financial appeal of the day. But it is an important issue, one which we would do well to contemplate and humbly consider. For some, the Old Testament model of the tithe – 10% of one’s income – has been felt to be a good starting point. But it can only be a starting point, and should not be taken as a target (or even as a limit). The apostle Paul, speaking about giving, observes that ‘Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver’.

It has been commented that when reflecting on all the sins to which we are prone, greed is the one that people are least likely to ascribe to themselves. We seem to have a curious blindspot about it. The counterpart to greed is not poverty, but generosity. Generous giving is the great antidote to greed, and by the action of giving we demonstrate our reliance on God and his provision in our lives. After all, everything we have ultimately comes from him, so when we give we are really only returning to God that which is his (1 Chronicles 29:14). In the words of the Stuart Townend song, *Simple Living* - ‘Not what you give but what you keep, is what the King is counting’.



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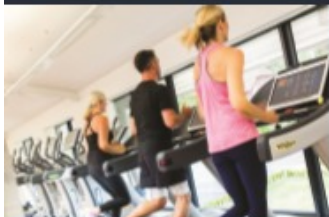


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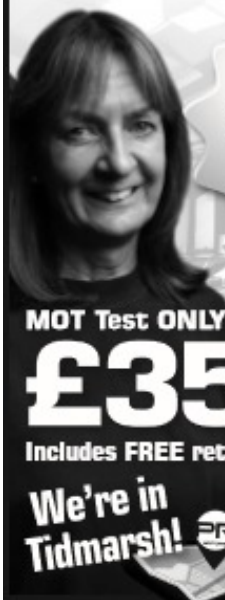


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