

Englefield Parish News

February - March 2020



The Parish of St Mark's, Englefield

Rector

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St Mark's Church website:

www.stmarksenglefield.org.uk

Englefield Parish Council website:

www.englefieldpc.org.uk

Front cover: *Thank you to Five a Day Market Garden for this photograph of daffodils flowering last year, a cheerful reminder that spring is on its way.*

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

2020. A great year for opticians for whom 20/20 vision is perfect clarity of sight. A great theme for promotional campaigns: *Forbes* asks “Does Your Goal Setting Have 2020 Vision?”; *property developers* make market predictions for 2020; *Oprah Winfrey* is bringing her 2020 Vision “wellness tour” to Australia - “tickets will not be cheap”; *Mercy Ships’* vision is to bring sight and free healthcare by deploying hospital ships to some of the poorest countries. *Personally*, how clear is your vision?

When I was at university I had the privilege of living with William Nagenda who was first invited to England following involvement in the East Africa Revival. On one occasion William asked the writer Roy Hession, “What is your vision?” Roy remembers, “William waited for me to tell him what *my* vision was. I had been many years in the Lord's service before revival touched my heart, but my answer betrayed the fact that I had not understood what a true vision was. I said, ‘I suppose I have got three visions: I have this vision for evangelism; now I am working in a society distributing the Scriptures, and I have a vision for revival.’ William was troubled over this answer. ‘Brother,’ he said, ‘you have not really seen the way yet. A vision for evangelism, a vision for Scripture, and a vision for revival - how terrible! There is only *one* vision, and that is Jesus.’”

But how can one have a vision of Jesus? We do not see with the eyes in our head, because He is not here physically, but with the “eyes of our heart”. Although we have not seen him, we love Him. We see “the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.” Jesus himself spoke of two kinds of seeing: one kind is seeing with physical eyes, the other is with spiritual eyes. When we see with our spiritual eyes, we see the truth, beauty and value of Jesus Christ for what they really are. A blind person may see Christ more clearly than many who have eyes.

Fanny Crosby wrote so many hymns (about 9,000!) that she used pen names lest the hymnals be filled with her name above all others. The remarkable thing about her was that she was blind and thankful for it: “if at birth I had been able to make one petition, it would have been that I was born blind,” she said, “because when I get to heaven, the first face that shall gladden my sight will be that of my Saviour.”

Richard of Chichester wrote a well-known prayer (popularised in *Godspell*) - join us in praying for 2020 vision:

Day by day, dear Lord, of thee three things I pray: to see thee more clearly, love thee more dearly, follow thee more nearly, day by day.

Nick and Harriet

Diary: February - March

Sunday 2nd February
 Sunday 9th February
 Weds 12th February

Sunday 16th February
 Sunday 23rd February
 Tuesday 25th February

Weds 26th February
 Sunday 1st March
 Friday 6th March
 Sunday 8th March

Sunday 15th March
 Tuesday 17th March
 Sunday 22nd March

Monday 23rd March
 Sunday 29th March
 Sunday 5th April

Thursday 9th April
 Friday 10th April
 Sunday 12th April

Mondays 3rd and 17th February and 2nd and 16th March

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 Lent Course: this will start on Ash Wednesday and will be based on the daily devotional *To Seek and to Save - Daily Reflections on the Road to the Cross* by Sinclair B Ferguson. This book will also provide the basis for the services at St Mark's on Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. Please ask Nick Wynne-Jones if you would like more details and a copy of the book.

St Mark's PCC meetings: 23rd March, 22nd June, APCM on Monday 20th April. The next Englefield Parish Council meeting is on Tuesday 17th March at 6.30pm at the Estate Office - all parishioners are welcome to attend.

Holy Communion, 10.30 at St Mark's

Holy Communion, 10.30 at St Mark's

Let's Talk Theology: Reflections on the Creative Christ in Art, details in church

Holy Communion, 10.30 at St Mark's

Holy Communion, 10.30 at St Mark's

Deanery lecture: Love is his meaning: understanding the teachings of Jesus, by Regius Professor Keith Ward, 7.30pm at Bradfield College, see page 7 for full details

Ash Wednesday evening service at St Mark's

Holy Communion, 10.30 at St Mark's

World Day of Prayer, see opposite for details

Holy Communion, 10.30 at St Mark's

Concert by Enharmonic Choir, 7pm in the Long Gallery, Englefield House, details page 22

Holy Communion, 10.30 at St Mark's

Parish Council meeting, 6.30pm

Mothering Sunday family service, with posies for mums, 10.30 at St Mark's

PCC meeting, 6.30pm at St Mark's

Holy Communion, 10.30 at St Mark's

Palm Sunday Holy Communion, 10.30 at St Mark's

Maundy Thursday evening service at St Mark's

Good Friday Hour at the Cross at St Mark's

Easter Sunday family service 10.30 at St Mark's with Easter egg hunt for the children

Congratulations

To Luke and Chloe Wade on the birth of baby Harper May, on Sunday 29th December.

To Nicholas and Eleanor Boddy on the birth of Olivia Tregarthen, on Sunday 17th November, a granddaughter for Adrian and Dee.

Baptism

Jack Charles Holbrook-Bull, on Sunday 19th January.

Wednesday coffee

The Wednesday coffee mornings at the Village Tea Rooms have restarted after the Christmas break. Everyone is warmly welcome to come along every Wednesday from 10am to 11am for coffee, tea and homemade biscuits.

World Day of Prayer

The annual World Day of Prayer is on Friday 6th March this year. The theme is 'Rise! Take up your Bed and Walk' and the service, which will be celebrated over 24 hours by churches across the globe, has been prepared by Christian women of Zimbabwe. Our local service will be held at St Mary's Church, Burghfield, at 2pm, followed by refreshments and everyone is warmly invited to attend.





A first for St Mark's Church when it doubled as the polling station for voters in Englefield at the General Election on 12th December.

Thank you

A big thank you to everyone who helped make Christmas so special at St Mark's. Behind the scenes there are so many kind volunteers who decorate the church (including the trees), provide the candles, supervise the lighting for evening services, do the printing, sing in the choir, clean, make Christingles, mince pies and mulled wine, and serve as sacristans, sidesmen, readers, administrators - thank you to all!

RIP

John Collins who died on 12th December and whose funeral was held at West Berkshire Crematorium on Monday 6th January. Our thoughts are with Carol, Karen, Anita and all the family.

Linda Nash who died in early December and whose funeral was held on 30th December at St Mark's Church.

Chris, Margaret Stevens' sister, who died on Christmas Eve and whose funeral was held at Reading Crematorium on 13th January.

Love is his meaning

The next **Deanery lecture** will be given by Keith Ward, emeritus Regius Professor of Divinity at Christ Church Oxford, who will speak on *Love is his Meaning: understanding the Teaching of Jesus*, on **Tuesday 25th February** at 7.30pm in the music school at Bradfield College. Professor Ward is one of the leading Christian thinkers in the Anglican Church today. The event is open to all and it is hoped as many people as possible will be able to attend.

Greetings from Tanzania

A Christmas message from Archbishop Donald and Gladys Mtetemela

Shalom! I write to wish you of blessed Christmas and a happy New Year. We celebrate with you the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. We rejoice at his coming because we believe that He is the only hope of this world. To know him in our lives is to be assured, not just of our present life, but our future life too. We thank you for the way you have generously shared with us the love of our Saviour. We pray that, we too, will commit our lives and service, to sharing this love with others. Kindly accept these greetings from us! It has been great and real joy to know you as our family member in the Lord.

Mungu awabariki sana (God bless you indeed). Thank you!

Archbishop Donald & Gladys Mtetemela

Christmas giving

The collections in church over the Christmas period were for three charities chosen by the PCC. These were Parents and Children Together (PACT), a local charity which helps vulnerable families across Reading and Berkshire; Christians Against Poverty, a national charity which works alongside local churches to bring hope and life-changing freedom to thousands of families crippled by crisis debt; and Embrace the Middle East, an international charity which helps people of all faiths and none to build lives and communities in the Middle East, transformed by the compassion of Christ, through healthcare, education and community development projects. Including gift aid, around £2,000 was raised which will be divided equally between the three. Thank you to everyone for your generosity.

Ron Marillier, Treasurer to the PCC

From the bell tower

We ended the decade with a successful peal rung by a visiting band on Tuesday 31st December. Attempting a peal is something far beyond my ability and as such I have much admiration. A full peal takes about three hours and it is the bell ringers equivalent to climbing a mountain or running a marathon. The bells are rung continuously in over 5,000 different sequences on six or more bells which cannot be repeated. It is a team effort to ring your best requiring both concentration and stamina. Not all attempts are successful. Ringers do not read music as they ring, they learn the pattern of a named sequence (or method) off by heart. Some patterns are simple and others are complex. To complete a full pattern once, can take about 10 minutes, but variations are called out by the conductor which then extends the period of ringing from anything from 10 minutes to up to three hours. Such like ringing a quarter peal which takes about 45 minutes.

A bell ringer can start learning the patterns and progress to longer and more difficult methods. I enjoy bell ringing as you can learn the simpler methods and improve at your own pace to more complicated and longer ones. Each new method is a challenge to learn and in a practice evening we would ring at least four or five different methods. Improving as a team and completing a method with no mistakes is a sense of achievement like any other ringer completing a full peal or a runner running a marathon. There are many different methods to learn which makes bell ringing a life learning hobby. If you would like to know more about bell ringing please contact me at janinealston@hotmail.com.

Janine Alston

APCM and electoral roll

The annual revision of the electoral roll will be taking place during February and March. If you are already on the roll you need not do anything further. If you are a regular worshipper and wish to be entered on the roll please complete an application form and return it to the Electoral Roll Officer, Susan Smith, or the Revd Nick Wynne-Jones. Forms are available from them or in church. Their contact details are on the inside of the front cover. The revision closes on Sunday 22nd March and the new roll will be displayed in church from Sunday 29th March.

The APCM will be held on Monday 20th April where the churchwardens and PCC members will be elected. This year there will be fresh elections for Deanery Synod representatives who serve a three year term. Full details will be on the church noticeboards and on the Sunday bulletins over the coming weeks.

Penny Savage, Secretary to the PCC

Love Is His Meaning

Understanding the teaching of Jesus



A talk by Professor Keith Ward



Professor Keith Ward has been an academic virtually all his working life, teaching philosophy, theology and religious studies at various times. Most recently he was Professorial Research Fellow at Heythrop College, London and formerly was Regius Professor of Divinity at the University of Oxford. He is a priest of the Church of England, a fellow of the British Academy and one of the world's most distinguished theologians.

Tuesday 25th February – 7:30pm
at The Music Room,
Bradfield College

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



Spiritual Development Group BRADFIELD DEANERY

Publicity Officer – Gordon Patterson – gnpatterson@btconnect.com



Seeking volunteers for VE Day

When VE Day dawns on Friday 8th May it will be 75 years since the guns fell silent at the end of the war in Europe. Years of carnage and destruction had come to an end and millions of people took to the streets and pubs to celebrate peace, mourn their loved ones and to hope for the future.

Friday 8th May 2020 has been designated by the Government as a Bank Holiday to enable as many towns, parishes, district, community and other organisations to join in the VE Day 75 celebrations to pay tribute to those millions at home and abroad who gave so much to ensure we all enjoy the freedom we share today. See <https://www.veday75.org/> for more

detail. With a view to commemorating VE Day 75 in Englefield with a “bring and share” lunch or tea party and some entertainment, offers of help are sought from local residents. The Englefield Estate has offered to assist with the loan of a marquee and other facilities but help is needed to organise the event. If you are able to help please contact Parish Clerk, Nia Rands at clerk.inglefieldpc@outlook.com or on 07725 171223.

Englefield Parish Council

Part-time roles at TMC

We often need help with covering receptionist shifts with regard to annual leave and sickness. We are therefore looking for individuals, preferably with receptionist experience, who may like to be on our books so that we can contact you and offer you ad-hoc shifts, often at short notice. Training will be provided. If you are interested please email a covering letter and CV to Lisa Smith, rccg.tmc@nhs.net.

Lisa Smith, Practice Manager

Save the date

The Berkshire Churches Trust Englefield lecture is on Monday 20th April this year. The speaker is Oliver Everett, the Queen's Librarian, and it will be held in the Long Gallery, drinks at 7pm, talk at 7.30pm. Tickets are available from secretary@berkschurchestrust.org.uk.

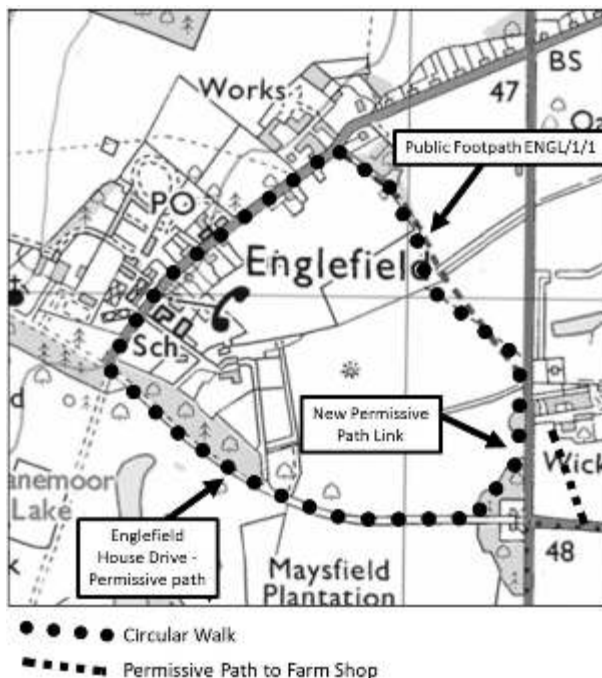
New circular footpath link open

The Estate has opened a new section of footpath to connect public footpath ENGL/1/1 (which begins opposite the Estate Yard and runs south to Wickcroft Farm) with the main drive to Englefield House.

This new section of permissive path not only creates a new 1.2 mile circular walking route from the village but also provides access to a safer crossing point on the A340 at the Lodge Gates, rather than the existing public footpath. The plan shows the circular route, with the new section of path running south from the existing public footpath crossing point opposite Wickcroft Farm. Existing permissive paths then provide links to the Farm Shop and Theale.

The Estate is very grateful to Simon Strang of Wickcroft Farm for his assistance in making this possible. The link is a permissive route and may be closed on occasions to allow for maintenance. Due to the very wet winter the path is a little muddy in places and care is required on uneven ground. We hope local residents will enjoy the opportunity to walk this route and please be sure to keep your dog under close control and clean up after it. A larger scale map and details of other routes around Englefield may be found here: <https://englefieldpc.org.uk/community/>

Englefield Estate Office



Thank you

At the end of a horrid 2019, Graham, and I wish to thank everyone who had sent cards, e-mails, texts, by phone, visited, stopped me in the street or church and gave me hugs, and those who have included us in their prayers. Oh the strength of prayer, even over the phone, and collectively, no matter how small, the power of healing!! How that has worked!!

I had my knee replacement op on Wednesday 15th January, came home on Sat 18th, again thank you for the cards, flowers, phone calls, texts, and popping in with great kindness shown.

We were able to sit in Sir William's Memorial Garden at the RBH on numerous occasions and this calming, peaceful place with its scented bushes, colourful flowers, carefully arranged seating making it a private place to have a picnic, coffee, talk, think or cry. This spot, with the goldfish that allow the children to watch and follow in the stream-like water feature, is so uplifting. An amazing idyllic oasis. Thanks to the Benyon family, this area was and still is appreciated by us and so many, and will be for future generations.

Liz Reeves

NCC needs your help

Thanks to the wonderful generosity of the local community, the new Greenham Trust wing and a CT scanner at West Berkshire Community Hospital are now fully functional. Newbury Cancer Care now wants to enhance services to help people with cancer at all stages. We would welcome contact from anyone who has had treatment for cancer, to advise us of gaps in the support that they experienced, so that we may develop our provision to better help those affected.

We would also welcome offers of support whether it be by becoming a Trustee, a volunteer driver or arranging an event to raise funds - please contact Helen Milroy at office@newburycancercare.org or phone 01635 31542 if you can help.

NCC continues to support people in the whole of West Berkshire. It maintains the four Rainbow Rooms in the community hospital, provides transport from volunteer drivers, supports physiotherapy, counselling, complementary therapy and can give grants in cases of hardship and also supports education programmes for doctors, nurses and allied professionals Further information is available on the website: <https://www.newburycancercare.org.uk>.

News from Rushall Farm



On the shortest day last year the birds began to sing at dawn and again at dusk. Two weeks later some hazel catkins were fully out and honeysuckle leaves were green. Mosses and lichens around the base of woodland trees were alive and vibrant, while a whole range of fungi survived to decorate rotting timber in an array of bright colours nestled in beds of fallen leaves.

Meanwhile I have lost our dog Phoebe again in the woods. She is a Collie cross Labrador and is one year old so there is no shortage of energy. She is not interested in sheep and pheasants but squirrels are different and a muntjac is there for the chase. We always had collies as working dogs. My first one, Anne from Arborfield, was fully trained. We had 170 gimmers in what was the original College golf course. A conscientious master carefully put electric fences around the three tees but the sheep ignored his efforts and they happily spent the nights on his mown grass, leaving plenty of evidence. My boss at the time, John Cumber, was so impressed when at the command “come bye” Anne would sweep the 25 acres, gathering the flock across the stream into a race for his inspection.

A couple of collies later I bought Honey from a Ron Foreacre, who lived in Leg of Mutton Road, Glastonbury. He grazed his sheep around the Tor and it was there that Honey’s mother demonstrated her skills and drank a cup of tea from Ron’s mug. Progress with Honey was not as good as expected. Sometimes my “come byes” were meant to be “aways” and I reverted to shouting words clearly not understood by the dog. So together we went on a six week course with Taffy, an Agricultural Training Board approved sheep dog trainer. Progress was rather slow and on the last day Taffy, who was Welsh and very short, looked up at me and with these condemning words said, “There’s nothing wrong with the dog”. Dog-wise things went downhill at that point. But we had started feeding our ewes on a home mix of ground organic beans and oats in yellow builders buckets. At the sight of one of these a baa would go up that food was at hand and to a sheep they would all come running up to me. A yellow bucket meant a change was about to happen. It could be time to take off a hot fleece, wean those pesky lambs, a change of air and scenery or winter housing when it was wet and cold. And I was in front leading my sheep like that strong biblical picture of Psalm 23, “The Lord is my shepherd, I have everything I need”. Which reminds me, “Where is my dog?”

John Bishop



From Englefield Primary School

The Autumn term seems a distant memory now but we still have some events from before Christmas to tell you about.

Our choir members plus two additional dancers joined a group of over 300 school children to perform 'All the King's Men' at The Hexagon. The choir made a stunning sound and our children displayed perfect concert etiquette. A particular well done to Charles, Alistair and Izzy for their solos.

The Year 5/6 children spent an afternoon in the science centre at Bradfield College. They each made a speaker out of paper which, when attached with copper wire to an amplifier and computer, produced sound. They also had a tour to the eco-roof which is very environment-friendly; the solar panels on the roof power their underfloor heating.



Our Year 5/6 pupils then gave a stunning performance at the West Berks Schools' Carol Service at Douai Abbey on Weds 4th December. About 10 local schools took part and we had two readers plus our performance of *Child in a Manger Born*. I know the parents who attended felt very proud of our children and a couple of other headteachers commented on how well they sang, one saying that they sounded like a church choir.



Well done to the 14 children who sang carols to a group of adults with learning disabilities at Purley Park Trust. The audience thoroughly enjoyed the singing and joined in with great enthusiasm, both singing and playing percussion. It was a really powerful experience for the children as well to find that people from all walks of life can get joy from music.



We were all thoroughly entertained by the performance of *Christmas Counts* given by Mrs Sheppard's and Mrs Carney's classes. The children spoke, acted and sang with confidence and expression and the story had a good mix of funny and serious so we came away thinking of the wonder of Christmas.

Our annual candle-lit carol service in St Mark's is always a highlight of the school year. Every child in the school had the chance to perform, with many doing readings and solo performances too. The ambience created by the candles and organ set us up perfectly for an evening of music and prayer, sometimes rousing, often peaceful and poignant. Thank you to everyone, including Reverend Nick, who made this such a special event. Some of our children also joined the St Mark's congregation to sing at their annual carol-service; being an active partner in our local community is so important to us.

Well done to the PTA committee for organising such a fun Christmas Fayre in the midst of the building works next door. The final total raised was **£1500** which will be put to important updates in our ICT equipment.

This year, we are once again entering a project in the Dorothy Morley Conservation Award. This is a local competition with cash prizes with the aim of improving the environment. This time we are planning to move our school towards a position where we use no single use plastic. This will be quite a challenge so please let us know of any ideas you have to help us.

We are so delighted that we are having more offers of help in school from local residents and members of the church congregation. Some are coming in to help with reading whilst others have offered their own special knowledge and skills, in areas such as history, to enhance the pupils' learning in the classroom. Please don't hesitate to get in touch if you think you have a talent or time to offer.

We've had great news from last year's Summer Flower Show and School Fete committee – the final figure for the school is an amazing £2,500 which will be put towards more laptops for the pupils to use in the classrooms. We are all going to challenge ourselves to beat this amount next year so please put the date in your diaries now and come along and support us...it really is a super afternoon of community fun. This year the event will be held on the school field on **Saturday 11th July** from 2pm until 4.30pm.

Hilary Latimer, Headteacher





News from Five a Day

Volunteers will be back in the Five a Day Market Garden from the first week of February. They're getting the veg-growing beds ready, and discussing which varieties of potatoes, tomatoes, beans, courgettes and squashes to grow this year – do we go for taste, colour, shape or try a new variety we've not grown before!

We're always keen to hear from people who live in Englefield and surrounding villages who would like to come along and spend a few hours gardening – no experience needed. In March we're holding 'taster' sessions for people who are considering volunteering with us. These sessions on Wednesday 4th and Friday 6th March from 10am to 1pm will give potential volunteers a chance to join in our activities, meet other gardening volunteers and enjoy a sociable time in the garden. Just turn up, there's no need to book.

Winter is a great time for gardens. A winter-flowering cherry tree has been centre stage in the garden, flowering from November onwards and providing nectar for bumblebees that emerged from hibernation on sunny days. Some plants like dahlias 'go to sleep' deep in the soil so their tubers ripen and then feed the plant's new growth in spring to bring us showy colourful blooms during summer.

Rhubarb which we eat as a fruit, but is technically a vegetable, is also relishing the frosty days and nights of mid-January. There are pink buds ready to push out from the dark crowns, but they need frosts to produce the best stalks!

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



The Sunday Club at St Mark's making cookies on Epiphany Sunday

From the Old Fire Station Nursery



After a great lead up to Christmas and a nice week break we welcomed our families back to the nursery and preschool on January 2nd 2020. We would like to thank the primary school for inviting us to the Christmas school production, it was amazing seeing some old faces now up on stage.



A huge thankyou to Englefield Estate for the use of the Long Gallery for our annual Christmas party, our biggest yet, and Theale church for welcoming us in to discuss the story of Jesus with the use of a very special puppet. We also enjoyed a fabulous pantomime trip in December to watch Sleeping Beauty at the Corn Exchange in Newbury.

The children have already enjoyed exploring the village and as the seasons are beginning to change we have enjoyed counting the sheep and making observations of new plants growing in the fields surrounding the nursery. Along with this we have also planned our annual visit to Rushall Farm which was enjoyed by our children and parents last year.

We continue to offer spaces for children three months and above with spaces filling up fast on most of our days. We offer funded and non funded places, either term time only or throughout the full year. We were recently graded a GOOD in our last OFSTED inspection after being one of the first settings in West Berkshire to be inspected under the new framework. Please do get in contact if you would like any more information and would like to come and visit us for a showaround.

Sophie Bienen

(sophie@theoldfirestationnursery.co.uk 0118 9306981)

Thanks from Aldworth's Bazaar

THANK YOU to all who supported Aldworth Saturday Market's Christmas Bazaar. Over £1,000 was taken for the four charities supported – an amazingly generous amount! Aldworth's community-run Saturday Market opens weekly, 9.30 to 12.00 in Aldworth village hall. Details from 01635 578090 or check out the Facebook page.

Date	Sidesmen	Old Testament	New Testament	Gospel
February 2nd Presentation of Christ BCP	Elizabeth Benyon Melanie Townsend		Paula Fenwick Hebrews 2:14-end	Peter Haig Luke 2:22-40
February 9th 3rd Sunday before Lent	Paula Fenwick Dianne Graham	Linda Price Isaiah 58:1-9a	Penny Savage 1 Corinthians 2:1-12	Gloria Sleep Matthew 5:13-20
February 16th 2nd Sunday before Lent	Liz Marillier Gloria Sleep	Kahlen Spaulding Genesis 1: 1 – 2:3	Richard Benyon Romans 8:18-25	Aldo Guiducci Matthew 6:25-end
February 23rd Sunday next before Lent	Peter and Catherine Haig	Dee Boddy Exodus 24:12-end	Mike Kimber 2 Peter 1:16-end	Ann Stone Matthew 17:1-9
February 26th Ash Wednesday	Harriet Wynne-Jones	Liz Marillier	Melanie Townsend	Ron Marillier
March 1st 1st Sunday of Lent BCP	Elizabeth Benyon Melanie Townsend		Dianne Graham Romans 5:12-19	Melanie Townsend Matthew 4:1-11
March 8th 2nd Sunday of Lent	Doris Edwards Dinah Perkins	Miles Edgar Genesis 12:1-4a	Hugh Boulter Romans 4:1-5; 13-17	Stephanie Gibbons John 3:1-17
March 15th 3rd Sunday of Lent	Paula Fenwick Linda Price	Dinah Perkins Exodus 17:1-7	Torquil MJ Romans 5:1-11	Carol Boulter John 4:5-42
March 22nd Mothering Sunday	David and Stephanie Gibbons	Liz Marillier 1 Samuel 1:20-end	Carole Ford 1 Corinthians 1:3-7	Catherine Haig Luke 2:33-35
March 29th 5th Sunday of Lent	Liz Marillier Gloria Sleep	David Gibbons Ezekiel 37:1-14	Paula Fenwick Romans 8:6-11	Aldo Guiducci John 11:1-45
April 5th Palm Sunday BCP	Peter and Catherine Haig	Ron Marillier	Ronan O'Sullivan	Ann Stone
April 9th Maundy Thursday	Dinah Perkins		Elizabeth Benyon	Torquil MJ
April 10th Good Friday	Paula Fenwick		Harriet Wynne-Jones	Hugh Boulter
April 12th Easter Sunday	Peter and Denny Hollands	Penny Savage Acts 10: 34-43	Torquil MJ Colossians 3: 1-4	Carol Boulter John 20: 1-18

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 web. We will have any notices for the pew sheet or announcements to be made in church. For prayer requests, please contact

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

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

What's in a name?

The origin of place names makes for a fascinating study that is often complicated by changes in received spelling and pronunciation over the years, resulting in many a red herring like “Inglefield”. The blame for this we might lay at the door of educated middle-class people unfamiliar with the local traditions and dialect, particularly in the 19th century, who thought they were merely correcting the defective pronunciation and spelling of the yokels. In early days the peasants didn't go in much for writing things down, so names, and everything else, were passed on by word of mouth in the locally-distinctive dialect and accent and when their educated betters came to write things down that education told against them and led them to make all sorts of unjustified assumptions. The peasant poet John Clare (1793-1864) even though he did manage to get his poems published nevertheless suffered from editors who “corrected” his idiosyncratic spelling. The Ordnance Survey map makers and census enumerators also helped the “educated” versions gain official recognition.

“Mayridge” (and sometimes “May Ridge” these days) was certainly being written that way by the Rector in the parish magazines of the 1890s although the Ordnance Survey map of 1883 still has the original form “Mare Ridge” (and “Mareridge” for the farm). Mary Sharp in her 1892 history of the parish of Ufton says this area of high ground “*bore in the early days the name of Marrugge or Marrige*” and suggests that it may come from a local word “mere-ridge” still then used locally to describe the low turf banks that used to divide the different portions of the common meadows – the farm is named as “Mearidge” in the tithe survey of 1844. The 1900 edition of the OS map, however, has “May Ridge” (and “Mayridge” for the farm) despite the fact that the local pronunciation “Mareridge” was common in the 1960s, and still hasn't completely died out.

The name of Mareridge for the farm in any case dates only from the 19th century, for the original farm here was called Sulhamstead Farm and was apparently enclosed from part of the Sulhamstead common field in the late 17th or early 18th century, certainly before 1762. So names do change anyway, even without the “corrective” efforts of those who know better, particularly when landowners or other circumstances change.

Nearby Wigmore Lane is an example. It was previously called Garrett's Lane and led to the Fishery situated within an area of osier beds known as “Garrett's”. The change from Garrett's to Wigmore for the lane may be attributed to the fact that sometime in the 1880s James Wigmore, a local builder, built himself a house called Bath Cottage in Garrett's Lane (still so called in 1891) at the end nearest the Fishery and founded the eponymous company that had its yard there until relatively recently. House and yard are still there, actually, though both now derelict..

This name change probably had a knock-on effect for the small wood not far away is known as “Bushy Wigmore”. This, at the junction of the road from Parker’s Corner with the A340 Pangbourne Road, was originally “Widemoor Wood”, as on the OS map of 1883, but was sometimes given as “Widmoor Wood”. From this it was but a short journey to “Wigmore Wood” on the map of 1913 and this is probably another example of somebody knowing better and erroneously associating the name of this wood with the nearby road because of the proximity and the almost identical spelling and pronunciation.

“Wimbleton’s” at least is an example of the original name still in use, or rather returned to use having been given as “Wimbledon” in the past. The translation from Wimbleton to Wimbledon probably followed the same process that affected the London suburb where the tennis is played and, until they were moved to Bisley in 1890, the rifle matches used to take place. Newspaper reports of the rifle meetings in the 1860s have the venue as “Wimbleton Common” (Wombling activities suspended for the duration, presumably). A Mr Wimbleton owned land in the Englefield common field towards the end of the 17th century and there exist leases of Wimbletons (sic) dating back to 1670, though the name seems to have been changed to Park Farm by 1737. “Wimbledon” seems to have been the common spelling throughout the 19th century but the census of 1911 has “Wimbleton” and the OS map of 1913 “Wimbletons”.

Parker’s Corner has suffered no such liberties with spelling or pronunciation, but it has changed its location, albeit only by a couple of hundred yards. The original corner was not the junction of Bostock Lane and Common Hill where we now place it but further up the hill where there was a sharp double bend, which is now marked by the edge of the small copse. The name “Parker’s” is often supposed to derive from the occupation of park keeper and has been associated with the house of one who looked after the deer park. That is unlikely in this case because there was a Parker’s Farm with land in the vicinity in 1771 and Thomas Parker was listed as an inhabitant of the parish in 1695 long before the new deer park south of Englefield House was created after about 1802, at which time the corner was straightened out to be as it is now. In the mid to late 19th century there was a farmhouse listed here, unfortunately not named but tenanted from at least 1856 until his death in 1875 by Abraham Parsons, a farmer of between 30 and 40 acres.

Richard Smith



This photograph, taken about 40 years ago, shows the team of volunteers who helped stitch the kneelers for St Mark's. A copy is on display in the church - how many can you name? Answers will be printed next month!

Bradfield Young Farmers

Happy New Year from everyone at Bradfield Young Farmers. We cannot move forward into 2020 without mentioning our great success at the end of 2019. BYF planted 420 saplings on the edge of Englefield village as part of a national initiative by Young Farmers Clubs to help fight climate change. With hard work and enthusiasm all 420 samplings were planted with laughter and before dark! December also included a Christmas party and a Christmas Quiz Night at Mile House Farm with six quiz teams showing exceptional Christmas knowledge, all decorated in tinsel and Christmas jumpers, answering the most serious of Christmas questions like... which popular Christmas beverage is known as milk punch? And it is not sherry!!

Already in 2020 we have achieved so much, with indoor football and the Public Speaking competition which BYF entered with enthusiasm and with amazing results. Public Speaking embraces lifelong skills in a fun and friendly environment. We have a magnificent year ahead of us including the annual Berkshire Country Fayre, date to be announced, local, regional and national competitions, and weekly fun.

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

Reflections on 2019

From the report to the Parish Council for January 2020 from Cllr Ross Mackinnon (West Berkshire Council, Bradfield Ward). The full version of this report can be found on the Parish Council website <http://englefieldpc.org.uk>

Happy New Year! Following the 2018 Local Government Boundary Commission review of West Berkshire wards, the district elections last May saw a reduction in council seats from 54 to 43, and changes to the number of councillors representing wards in some parts of the district. One consequence has been to reduce the membership on some committees, and change some advisory groups and panels. These changes, alongside the necessary representation on outside bodies, mean that all members have the opportunity to be close to the delivery of WBC services. I sit on the Executive as portfolio holder for Finance, Property and Commissioning. As a member of the Executive I also sit on the Budget, Operations and Corporate Programme Boards as well as attending the Strategy Board and Senior Management Seminar. I am a member of the Joint Consultative Panel which facilitates discussion between senior management, members and trade unions. I am also on the Eastern Area Planning Committee.

December was been a busy period within the Council timetable, complicated by the calling of the General Election which utilised a considerable amount of Council strategic resource. 2020 looks equally demanding with a very full forward plan. As we move towards to the second year of this session of Council, many of the 2019 Conservative Manifesto pledges are being translated into strategy consultations and delivery plans. The budget for the coming year, whilst still under pressure, has been considerably less painful to build in comparison to previous years – for the first time in a long while WBC will not have to consult externally on service reductions or changes. Rather, with announcements about additional funding for Adult and Children’s Social Care, and Education, proposed changes to the budget have avoided major savings.

The environment was probably the most talked about issue in 2019 and this will also be a very significant topic going in to 2020 and beyond. The Climate Conference in October was the first stage in a series of conversations relating to the Council’s response to the declaration of a climate emergency. We can expect this conversation to continue as we will all need to play our part in delivering the route to carbon zero over the coming decades. This district, like many others, also has issues of the delivering the right housing solutions for people of all ages, as well as caring for our growing elderly populations and vulnerable residents. Having said this, West Berkshire is a vibrant and economically active area within a beautiful location, with excellent transport links and very strong employment. All these things make West Berkshire a place to be proud of and we can all look forward to 2020 positively.

Ross Mackinnon

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Reflections

Thoughts for the week

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

From that time on Jesus began to preach, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near” (Matthew 4 v 17)

There is an interesting contrast between Jesus’ words and the experiences recorded in the Bible of people encountering manifestations of the kingdom of heaven. In both the Old and New Testaments, whenever people see visions of heavenly beings their response is one of terror (eg Isaiah 6:5, Revelation 1:17). Clearly in such moments, an awareness of our sin and unworthiness arises that is so strong, it drives us to hopeless fear. How comforting that Jesus should tell us to “repent”, rather than “despair” that the kingdom of God has drawn near! Rather than the judgement we should expect, Jesus’ message from the outset is that there is hope for restoration – that there is the possibility of redemption, of repentance (literally turning away from our old way of life), and the promise of new life in the kingdom of heaven. We would do well to listen to his call and seek to live lives of repentance, while there is still time.



“I saw the Spirit come down from heaven as a dove and remain on him...[God] told me ‘the man on whom you see the Spirit come down and remain is the one who will baptise with the Holy Spirit’.” (John 1 v32, 33b)

John’s recognition of Jesus’ identity was confirmed at Jesus’ baptism, when John saw the Holy Spirit descend on Jesus in the form of a dove. The act of baptism is an important one, in which Jesus identifies with God’s people and marks the beginning of his ministry. For God’s people today, baptism remains an important part of their spiritual development, in which the water

symbolises the cleansing from sin and rebirth into new life. We should note that there is a deeper truth that underlies this symbolism; as John testifies, it is Jesus who baptises with the Holy Spirit, and actually brings this new life. While affirming the importance of the act of baptism, we also recognise the greater importance of Jesus filling us with the Holy Spirit to enable us to live as his people.

Getting hot in Madagascar

Toliara is getting very hot and humid, we have had our first cyclone through of the season which mercifully hit the other coast just dumping a lot of rain here, so the whole town is awash or calf deep in mud. Meanwhile the surreal sight of fake snow-clad Christmas trees can be seen in various roadside shacks while we all sweat in the sun. I have started teaching, and have a great group of ten young people training for the priesthood or to be evangelists. They have a wealth of experience and lots of enthusiasm, but very little education. So it's a matter of assuming nothing and starting from basics, all of which is great fun and their faith is deeply inspiring. The classroom is dark and hot, so we normally abandon it and teach out under the shade of one of the thorn trees, with the obligatory white board propped up on stones. There are a number of local clergy who are helping with teaching, and I have a very good translator, who does a great job of getting me to explain theology in plain English. The diocese is very new and quite precarious lacking a solid leadership base and money. The churches are in the poorest communities and so getting new leaders trained up takes time as the educational level is so low. I am hoping to set up an educational fund for the diocese to help with those needs, so do be in touch if you would like to contribute to that. Also the diocese is encouraging the parishes to twin with parishes in Europe, the UK and the USA so do let me know if your parish might be interested. More than money or resources the people I meet are scared they have been forgotten by the rest of the world. So most importantly do pray for this remote corner of a country where the rest of the world only remembers its environmental riches and forgets that many people live here in abject poverty.

Daily life is an adventure, we have got a charcoal stove as it is much cheaper than the gas bottles, and does not heat up the house (it also gives everything that slightly camp fire taste). The streets of Toliara are an experience in themselves with bustling stalls selling the most random things, including tables of used nuts and bolts and other engineering parts all laid out in size order. In this humid heat there is just not the energy for worrying on top of daily life, and Malagasies take a very laidback attitude to tomorrow. While I often find that attitude frustrating I'm starting to think I need to learn some of it from them. One of the truths of our lives here is that things are not what we expected. The problems we worried about before getting here have generally turned out not to be issues, and the things that are issues I often failed to predict. Which leads me to think, why do I get so afraid of all these things that have not happened? Plan and prepare, yes, but I seem to spend a lot of energy worrying. When I am right it does not prepare me, and when I'm wrong it misleads me. So maybe we need to hear the voice of the angel to Mary: 'Do not be afraid'.

Adam, Beth, Joseph, Hannah and Benjamin Boulter
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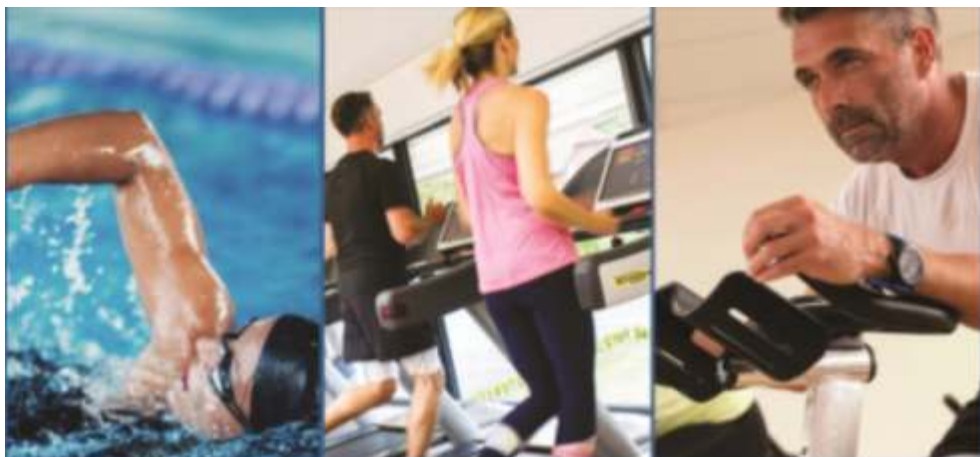
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