

Englefield Parish News

June - July 2020



The Parish of St Mark's, Englefield

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Englefield Parish Council website:

www.englefieldpc.org.uk

Front cover: *Andy and Laura Allen outside the Village Stores, see the article on page 10.*

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

Christians can sometimes seem out of touch with the real world. Ascension Day may reinforce that impression and, celebrated mid-week (21st May), it can be overlooked - but marks the culmination of Christ's work on earth and its continuation in the world by his followers. As Christ was taken up into heaven¹ the disciples may have seemed to have their 'heads in the clouds' but in fact their lives were truly 'down to earth'.

The Earth is the Lord's; he is King, but we've tried to wear the crown with disastrous results. The *coronavirus* is a fitting reminder of this, aptly named because, microscopically, its surface appears covered with structures like a '*corona*' – Latin for 'crown'. In fact, all of our problems flow from our attempts to wear the crown that belongs to God alone. We all act like little gods, with our own crowns. The *coronavirus* reminds us of the disease, disaster and death which result when the crown is usurped. The virus of human sin and consequent suffering are pandemic but have been ignored or avoided until *coronavirus* rampaged across the globe. Now we cannot ignore it, nor the big questions about life and death which it prompts: "*Pain is God's megaphone to rouse a deaf world.*"²

The *coronavirus* raises questions which have plagued people throughout history. In Jesus' time the headlines might have been about a gruesome massacre of worshippers or a fatal building accident (both recorded in Luke's Gospel 13 v1-5). The news hasn't changed that much. People asked Jesus about these incidents, with implicit questions about human responsibility or divine retribution, moral evils and natural disasters or diseases. Jesus responded, calling them and us to consider our priorities and values. He calls for repentance - not for superficial changes, but radical realignment of life.

This global pandemic takes away our freedom, our finances, and even our future. The suffering and sorrow we see around us all go back to our basic rebellion against God. Because of his great love, God did not leave us to suffer the consequences of our foolish rebellion; He acted to save us. He sent his own Son into our world as the man, Jesus of Nazareth, who wore a crown of thorns as he went to the cross to suffer in our place. He died so we might be forgiven and follow him to receive the crown of life. The disciples were told that Jesus will return as God's appointed judge of the world to whom we must be prepared to give account. Therefore, in the words of the current slogan: "Stay alert!" Don't stand looking up to heaven but, with feet firmly on the ground, take the good news of Christ throughout the world, witnessing to the living hope made possible through the resurrection of Jesus - now crowned as King of kings.

Staying alert!

Nick and Harriet

¹ The account of Christ's Ascension is in the Bible: Gospel of Luke 24.45-53, Acts 1.8-11; ² C. S. Lewis

Here to help: local contacts

Englefield Estate Office	0118 930 2504 office@englefield.co.uk
Englefield Estate Yard	0118 930 2538 maintenance@englefield.co.uk
Englefield Stores	0118 930 2479
Cobbs Farm Shop	0118 930 4064 englefieldshop@cobbsfarmshops.co.uk
Theale Medical Centre	0118 930 3081
NHS online coronavirus service	111.nhs.uk/covid-19 or call 111
Royal Berkshire Hospital	0118 322 5111
West Berks Community Hospital	01635 273300
Theale Pharmacy	0118 930 2542 Monday to Friday 09.00-18.00 Sat 09.00-13.00 (closed Sunday and Bank Holiday)
Lloyds Pharmacy (Calcot)	0118 938 2265 Monday to Friday 08.30-21.00 Sat 08.00-20.00, Sun 10.00-16.00 Bank Holiday hours vary
NHS dentist Dentalcare	0118 984 5894 - Pangbourne
West Berkshire Council	01635 551111 Out of hours emergency 01635 42161 www.westberks.gov.uk/
Englefield Parish Council	www.englefieldpc.org.uk/
Theale Parish Council	www.thealeparishcouncil.gov.uk
Englefield Primary School	0118 9302 337 www.englefieldprimary.co.uk
Police	101 or 999 (for emergencies)
Utility suppliers	Electricity - SSEN 0800 072 7282 Oil - Ford Fuels 0148 872 829 Gas - National Grid 0800 111 999 Water - Thames Water 0800714 614 Drainage - Total Drainage 0118 9421140
West Berkshire Community Support Hub: guidance for residents and businesses and for individuals wanting support or offering to volunteer 01635 503579 https://info.westberks.gov.uk/coronavirus-communityhub	
BBC Radio Berkshire – community support groups – Covid-19 Hub #makeadifference; Reading Care 07380 248606 open 08.00-20.00 email berks_covid_help@outlook.com.	

St Mark's online

Since lockdown started, St Mark's has held its weekly services via Zoom which have proved increasingly popular. Starting at 10am with Sunday Club for the children, the main service begins at 10.45am. This broadly follows the usual format with two readings, a reflection, prayer and music and lasts about 45 minutes. If you would like to join in, please send an email to office@stmarksenglefield.org.uk confirming your name and email address and you will then receive the weekly church news bulletin and log-in details.

This was the response from one household: *'Thank you so much for the wonderful Good Friday service. We have never experienced such a service. The Church was truly brought into our homes... We have not been able to go to church because of covid-19, just as the devil wanted. But, the Church has come to the people!'*



Congratulations

To Verity and Daniel Walker on the birth of Venetia Rosemary Ida, born on Sunday 2nd February.

To Harry Benyon and Sarah Procter on their engagement.

To Fiona Seaman on her 90th birthday on Monday 18th May.

RIP

Hazel Pocock who died on Saturday 16th May. Her funeral is at Sparsholt on Monday 1st June, to be followed by a memorial service at Englefield at a future date.

Welcome

A warm welcome to Amanda and Ian Thacker, who are now based at Englefield House where Amanda has joined the team as housekeeper.



New High Sheriff for Berkshire

On 2nd April I was sworn in as High Sheriff of the Royal County of Berkshire. Usually this is done at the Crown Court in Reading but as there is nothing usual about this year I was sworn in at my kitchen table in Ufton Nervet in full uniform via Zoom in front of Chris Juden, Chairman of the Berkshire Bench, the Under Sheriff plus friends and family. It is an honour and a privilege to be given the opportunity to serve my home county of Berkshire where I have lived and worked almost my entire life.

The Office of High Sheriff is the oldest Royal appointment, with each county in England and Wales having an appointed High Sheriff. Their history and tradition goes back to before the Norman Conquest when the original 'Shire Reeves' were Royal officials appointed to enforce the King's interests in a county, in particular the collection of revenues and the enforcement of law and order.

The modern day High Sheriff has a very different role and function but nonetheless can play an important role in our 21st century society. The Office is independent and non-political and is well placed to bring together a wide range of people within the county community.

The primary role of the High Sheriff today is to represent the monarch in the county in all things to do with justice and law enforcement. This is extended to supporting the emergency services and the voluntary sector. In addition, the High Sheriff often has a theme to their year. Prior to the covid-19 crisis this was supporting all those working to prevent our vulnerable children being excluded from school and the relentless downward spiral towards prison that too often follows. However, I am currently focussed on supporting and encouraging our Berkshire heroes, so often unrecognised, who are going the extra mile to help those in need during and after this crisis. In our local area alone it has been heart warming. From neighbourhood volunteer schemes set up almost overnight, to local shops getting produce to those in need plus kind individuals supporting their neighbours with everything from dog walking to collecting medicines or even just a friendly phone call.

At present I am largely confined to social media, phone calls and letters but look forward to getting around the county when lockdown is over. If you know of any Berkshire Heroes who you would like recognised I would love to know about them.

Mary Riall

E: maryriall@berkshighsheriff.com

Tn: @highsheriffberks In: berkshighsheriff

Church giving during lockdown

We are grateful to all those who faithfully support the ministry of St Mark's in many ways. During the current exceptional circumstances while the church building is closed, it has not been possible to receive the offerings of those who give via our plate collections and contactless giving when they come to church. While this continues, our church finances will be affected; we are already running at a small deficit of income over expenditure and will continue to monitor the situation. We recognise that our members wish to continue to support our ministry through Christian stewardship and would like to recommend options which will enable them to continue to give:

1. THE PARISH GIVING SCHEME (PGS) You can give monthly, quarterly or annual donations via direct debit. If you choose this, please ask me for an application form with instructions.
2. STANDING ORDER through your bank account, where you can give monthly donations. If you choose this method and if you are a taxpayer and are able to, we would ask you to come on to the Gift Aid scheme. I can send you the forms.
3. OTHER GIVING You can send me a cheque from time to time made out to PCC of Englefield with your offering.

We are also looking at other ways of giving online, and as we get information, we will let you know.

Please let me know if you would like further information or clarification.
With best wishes

*Ron Marillier, Treasurer, on behalf of the Parochial Church Council
treasurer.stmarkschurch@gmail.com*

Thank you

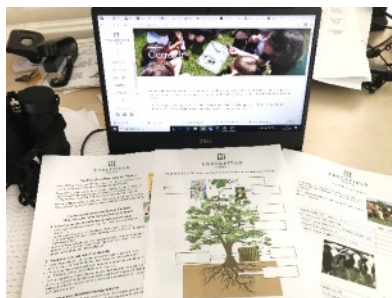
I would like to thank all the congregation at St Mark's for the lovely flowers and greetings that I received on my 90th birthday. Although I no longer drive and therefore cannot attend church when it finally opens again, I still feel very much part of it and now listen on the telephone to the present services. Thank you again.

Fiona Seaman

Estate news

During the covid-19 restrictions, our teams have done a fantastic job of adapting to the challenges of running the Estate under very different circumstances. Our primary focus during this challenging period continues to be ensuring that our staff and their families are safe. However, where possible, we have

continued the vast majority of our all-important routine work and we have also been involved in a range of initiatives supporting our local businesses and community through this difficult period too.



The Estate Yard team has continued to provide essential maintenance service, albeit with significant adaptations to the way things are done. Shortages of some materials has been a struggle, resulting in the need to source new suppliers and utilise click and collect services. The forestry team has continued to work through the lockdown period but has faced a series of challenges, including tree shelters being delayed in transit for over 3 weeks in numerous locations between Spain and Mortimer West End. When they finally arrived, we were able to complete the season's tree planting programme.

Sadly, due to covid-19, the Englefield Schools Days in June have been cancelled but will be back in 2021. However, Liz Mattison, Community & Education Officer, has been busy providing alternative information and activities, for children and adults by creating a new Outreach page on the Estate website with a series of activity sheets that members of the public can download and use at home, covering forestry, farming, wildlife and creativity in the garden*. New content is added every couple of weeks and we've had very good feedback through social media. Never daunted, International Dawn Chorus day found Liz out in the woods at 5am, recording bird song for social media which has had 4,000 views of the resulting video and soundtrack.

Since 'lockdown' began some nine weeks ago, the Estate and House office teams have been working from home but the power of modern technology has enabled us to maintain business as usual in a way which would simply not have been possible 10 years ago. However, we know that being apart from colleagues, whether it's just 2 metres or 20 miles, and dealing with new situations, including individual family circumstances, has made this period challenging for us all and I'm sure we're all feeling lockdown fatigue or 'Zoomed out' at times. Aside from routine work, we have kept in contact with each other through WhatsApp groups and the odd quiz with prizes ranging from Prosecco to toilet roll!

The Estate is not immune from the financial impact of this crisis but we are working closely with our business and residential tenants in order get through this period to our mutual long-term benefit when the eventual recovery comes. We are very fortunate to have dedicated people working across the Estate and are proud that we're upholding the Estate's long history of supporting people in need, very often in quiet ways which most people won't notice, but also in other more obvious ways such as the Englefield Charitable Trust donating to an emergency fund for residents of West Berkshire.

We're continuing to follow Government advice and before making any changes to our current working arrangements we will carefully review our plans to ensure continued safe working across the Estate.

Edward Crookes, Estates Director

*(*see page 25 for Bird Watching from your Window activity sheet)*



Englefield turned out in (socially distanced) force to see piper Alastair Graham-Campbell processing down the Street on a gloriously sunny VE Day.



VE 75

Although plans for a VE 75 celebration in Englefield had to be cancelled, St Mark's held an online service of reflection, remembrance and thanksgiving. This is the address given by Christopher Fenwick, MBE:

During the war, my grandfather ran two department stores, one in Newcastle, the other in London's West End. The one in Newcastle was unscathed, but that in Bond Street was bombed out one midnight in 1941. Grandfather, asleep in the basement, survived. Never mind, the postman arrived at 8 o'clock. The shop was open by noon. That was the way it was.

Grandfather was a great supporter of the war. At its end he wrote a Victory Day message to the members of staff capturing some of the drama: 'We were STUNNED by the news of Victory in Europe. The horrors and tortures that we have ESCAPED are beyond our imagination.' His words 'stunned' and 'escaped' brought a poignancy that all could share on the day.

But it was the FINALITY of the event that brought it home, inciting Churchill, in all truth, to declare, 'In our long history, we have NEVER seen a greater day than this.' Of all the wartime anniversaries, this is the most important. The result was in no doubt. He had lived through it all. In 1890 Kaiser Bill dismissed his Chancellor, Bismarck, and began to build a navy to rival Britain's. All Europe came to be in fear of German intention and, to a greater or lesser degree, remained so for the 65 years until the V-E Day that we celebrate today.

Frustrated and fought to a starving armistice in 1918, within two years, Germany was publicly recruiting officers for the next time. When Hitler came to power, he had the foundations to build upon and did so. An ill-judged, forced and vindictive Treaty of Versailles only helped his cause.

This time, France was conquered. The British Army escaped at Dunkirk but won the Battle of Britain in the air. Germany turned away to march south to Greece then east into Russia. Who was to stop Germany putting all Europe under its heel? Why, Britain, of course, with its remarkable talent for alliance. After all, Wellington had beaten Napoleon when half his army at Waterloo spoke German!

The war, itself, was both nationally and for the soldiers, sailors and airmen who had to fight it personally, terrifying, many having to face the daily threat of death by that nightfall for weeks on end. This is to say nothing of the women who had to sort their family at home or move away for war work; 200 of Grandfather's staff were uprooted in this way. War stressed the little individual and the large army Or nation equally. Think of the Poles.

A friend of mine, fighting in Normandy after D-Day, told me how, crawling

through a cornfield, he parted stalks to come face to face with a German SS Gefreiter or Corporal. Realising their mutual wish to return home safely, they found a way to crawl away from each other and live another day.

Joe Michelson, my colleague, marched and fought for five years with the Green Howards regiment, finally reaching the Elbe to meet the Russians. Heartbroken he was to see young lads come to the front for those last two or three days and be killed.

We can do without these ghastly moments, and nightmares.

To some degree we have. Germany was crushed and its cities ruined. Yet we have enjoyed 75 years of near peace in Europe after suffering 65 years of German aggression. Beneath this have been the Christian values of Forgiveness, Magnanimity in Victory and Good will in Peace. Fine examples of this were the Marshall Plan to invest in the recovery of war-torn Europe, not least in Germany, and the lowering of international trade barriers, processes much led by British Foreign Secretary, Ernest Bevin.

It is possible to believe that, with God's help after centuries of only briefly interrupted warfare, the last 75 years have shown us a more peaceful Christendom. For that too, we may wish to celebrate today and deserve to do so.

The world has become a better place. It is unfair not to say so. This has been with God's help for which our King George VI long led our prayers. After a thousand years of only briefly interrupted warfare the last 75 years have pointed us to a peaceful Christendom. It was as big as that. Rejoice!



*Chris Fenwick, standing on the right, embarking with 40
Commando Royal Marines for the Suez invasion 1956.*



Well-deserved recognition for Andy and Laura

The Village Stores featured in an article in the *Newbury Weekly News* on May 14th which highlighted the pivotal role that the Allen family has played during the current crisis. The article covered all that Laura, Andy and Jake have been doing from delivering groceries and collecting prescriptions to doing odd jobs and checking in with neighbours who might need help. Andy was quoted: ‘When lockdown came into place, we realised

that there were many people in the village who were self-isolating and might not have family nearby to help them, so we offered to deliver. The uptake has been great and we’re now taking calls at all hours of the day with requests of what people need and we’re taking everything straight to their doorstep...I didn’t think that at 54-years-old that I’d be back doing a paper round, but that’s what I’m doing some days now!’

Edward Crookes, Chairman of Englefield Parish Council, spoke for everyone in Englefield when he said: ‘As someone who lives in the village, it’s evident that Andy, Laura and their family are playing a crucial role in this community and managed to quickly and successfully adapt their business to meet the needs of many people who are having to stay at home during this difficult time. On behalf of everyone in the village, we would like to say a very big thank you for an exceptional service.’

Andy and Laura also featured in the photograph above, posted on Instagram by Mary Riall, High Sheriff of Berkshire, who nominated them as #berkshireheroes for all they are doing.

(Pictured below, Gloria, Nick and Eva enjoying the sunshine and celebrations on VE Day.)



News from Rushall Farm



It is really significant news when you hear that Yattendon Estates have only just finished drilling on over 5,000 acres and it is the 5th May. There is a saying in farming that the difference between a good and bad farmer is one week.

Usually spring planting is completed by the end of March but with an exceptionally wet autumn and winter very little got done and the land subsequently has taken a long time to dry out. So, the spring crops are drilled and several cuckoos locally have noisily proclaimed that it is 'cuckoo barley' ie you might get a crop but you might not.

Meanwhile, in the natural world, things proceed very much as normal. A full moon lights the sky every 29 days. As the bluebells recede, bracken with new fronds unfurling from the base rapidly cast a blanket over the woodland floor. Yesterday a badger came and dug for bugs in our lawn. The same thing happened this time last year. Does it keep a diary? And the yellows of flowering buttercup, dandelion, yellow archangel give way to the whites of cow parsley, garlic mustard and shepherd's purse and then on to the blues of forget-me-not, corn flower, the pinks of foxgloves and crimson red of poppy on uncut verges. It always seems windy when horse chestnut trees are in flower with their magnificent blooms, while the oak sheds its dirty spent flowers and supports caterpillars hanging on thin threads to feed new broods of blue tits.

Solomon wrote in Ecclesiastes

'There is a time for everything,
and a season for every activity under the heavens: a time to be born and a time to die,
a time to plant and a time to uproot, a time to kill and a time to heal,
a time to tear down and a time to build, a time to weep and a time to laugh,
a time to mourn and a time to dance, a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them,
a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing, a time to search and a time to give up,
a time to keep and a time to throw away, a time to tear and a time to mend,
a time to be silent and a time to speak, a time to love and a time to hate,
a time for war and a time for peace.'

Maybe this time, however hard, is OK then, given the wisdom that a new season always comes!

John Bishop

The churchyard cross

In this time of tribulation our attention is drawn to the cross in the churchyard, prominent to the left of the doorway. Many churchyards have crosses, often war memorials, but this one was erected in 1894 to '*commemorate the outbreak of illness last year ... to commemorate the memory of some called to rest, as well as our thankfulness to God for many merciful recoveries and spared lives*'.

The illness was measles, followed by scarlet fever, which broke out amongst the village children in October 1893, ironically coinciding with a series of six lectures on 'sick nursing' arranged by Mrs Benyon. The final lecture was on children's diseases, including measles, and the number of people attending was reduced from the usual 50 to about 30 owing to the start of the epidemic.

With 36 children absent and four others evidently sickening, the school was closed on October 12th, initially for 10 days in the hope that this would prevent any further spread of the disease. However, when the children returned on October 23rd it was found that seven fresh cases had occurred during the two previous days so the closure was extended until October 26th, at which point the school was closed by order of the sanitary authority. The school remained closed for a total of three months and did not reopen until the start of the new term on January 3rd.

Four of the schoolchildren died from the disease: Margaret and William Eyles from number 3 in the Street and Jesse and Cecil Povey from Malthouse Farm. James Winchcomb* from the Lodge Gates, father of Bertha and gardener to the Hon Lodovick Bligh MFH who was at that time renting the Rectory, also died, said by his daughter to be from the same cause. The Rector, a bachelor, was residing at the recently built 'Parsonage' (number 8/9 in the Street).



The inscription on the cross also mentions an outbreak of disease in 1890. This was influenza, which ran through the village in the winter of that year. Although no deaths are known to have been attributed to the disease many were laid low by it, including Mr and Mrs Benyon.

The cross was designed by Edward Swinfen Harris FRIBA, a distinguished architect from Stony Stratford and the cost

was met from special collections taken at both services in church on Sunday 4th March 1894. These raised a total of £131-10-2½ (nearly £11,000 today and in 1890 representing over a year's wage for a skilled worker according to the National Archives). Early in 1893 Mr Harris had decorated the interior walls of the church and designed a new super-frontal for the altar. In 1896 he added a new vestry to St Mary's, Mortimer for Mr Benyon. The great majority of Harris's work was in north Buckinghamshire and it may be that the commissions at Englefield came because he was personally known to the Rector, the Rev Arthur Heigham, who had previously had the living at Newport Pagnell.

After paying £110 for the cross and £16-14-2 to Mr Harris for the design, the balance of £4-16-1 was handed to Mr Benyon who used it in part payment for a new oak gate (also designed by Mr Harris) for the west entrance to the churchyard; the remaining cost he met himself. This gate has since been replaced by a new one.

The lych gate was also designed by Harris and paid for by Mr Benyon. Both were dedicated at morning service on Sunday 4th November 1894.

As further evidence that the present (at time of writing) school closures are by no means unprecedented, Englefield school was also closed twice in the winter of 1917/18: between 19th November and 10th December 1917 and 30th January to 4th March 1918, owing to epidemics of chicken pox, measles and whooping cough. There is, however, no apparent evidence that the famous Spanish 'flu pandemic later in 1918 affected Englefield, other than the death of Tom Nash in France four days before the Armistice. He had been home on leave to marry Daisy Hazell in September.

Richard Smith

** More evidence of 'editorial gentrification' (Feb/Mar Parish News): the name is often given an unwarranted final 'e', including on Bertha Winchcomb's headstone. All the official birth, marriage and death records show it as it is here; as does the 1911 census return, the first to be completed by the head of household personally rather than by a district census enumerator. Bertha Winchcomb's mother was née Horne, another local name that seems to get a final 'e', or not, on an apparently random basis, including in two separate records of the same event: the marriage of Mary Horn(e) to William Edwards at St Mark's in 1665, one with an 'e' and one without.*





News from Five a Day

Thank you so much for the warm welcome I have received in the village during my first two months at Five a Day Market Garden. It's been a difficult time for everyone, and lockdown due to covid-19 is still affecting us. We've completed detailed risk assessments so that we can welcome the return of volunteers, both regular and new, to help me in the garden. Rhubarb is the first crop to be harvested this year with Andy and Laura at

Englefield Stores very kindly enabling us to sell bundles, with useful recipe leaflets too. Thank you to everyone who has bought rhubarb. Our next crop will be broad beans in June, so look out for bags of beans in the Stores and Garden Centre when it re-opens. All our produce is harvested and prepared for sale by people wearing gloves. A dragonfly nymph and adult were spotted by one of our volunteers while they were pulling rhubarb early one morning! It's a Broad-bodied chaser that had freshly emerged from its larval stage. Our wildlife pond is alive with animals such as pond snails, water boatmen and damselflies. I spotted a toad when digging the potato beds. We've planted three varieties of seed potatoes bought from Englefield Garden Centre before the lockdown. They're growing well and will give us a good harvest of salad and maincrop potatoes. Every cloud has a silver lining! Although covid-19 restrictions mean that some older volunteers are staying home, it's been a pleasure to welcome new volunteers who are furloughed from their work. Some have brought their children too; everyone is helping to keep on top of the sowing, weeding, mowing and watering during the exceptionally fine weather. I'd like to extend a huge 'Thank You' to our regular and new volunteers. We are following government guidelines on hand-washing, wearing protection such as gloves, and socially-distance with a limited number of people in the garden at any one time. If you would like to volunteer or visit the garden please contact me on sophie@fiveaday.org.uk. Thank you.

*Sophie Axford, Five a Day Market Garden
Development Officer*



From the Old Fire Station Nursery



It's a very strange time here at The Old Fire Station as it is for all mainly because we made the decision to keep everyone home and safe. We have however stayed in contact with all of our families either via video calls with the children, emails, our closed Facebook group which often features stories and rhymes and most recently a personalised letter and colouring sheet was posted to each of the children.



Although it has been different with families being at home we have also had some great messages from parents who are noticing new songs, phrases and road safety awareness, One parent asked, 'When did you learn that?' and the reply was, 'We learnt that at The Fire Station'. We cannot wait to get back to what may be a new normal for a while and to explore this wonderful village that we are so lucky to be located in.

We would like to thank all of those who are on the front line and to those staying home to keep themselves and loved ones safe.

Sophie Bieny

sophie@theoldfirestationnursery.co.uk



VE Day in Englefield: the piper warming up by the church noticeboard, bedecked for the occasion, and then setting off down the Street from Appleton's Corner.

St Mark's rota for online services

Date	New Testament reading	Gospel reading	Prayers
31st May Pentecost	Dinah Perkins Acts 2:1-8; 11b-21	Gloria Sleep John 7:37-39	Melanie Townsend
7th June Trinity Sunday BCP	Kahlen Spaulding 2 Corinthians 13:11-end	Peter Haig Matthew 28:16-20	Harriet Wynne-Jones
14th June 1 st Sunday after Trinity	Denny Hollands Romans 5:1-8	Penny Savage Matthew 9:35-10:8	Carol Boulter
21st June 2nd Sunday after Trinity	Paula Fenwick Romans 6:1b-11	Dudley Fishburn Matthew 10:24-39	Ron Marillier
28th June 3rd Sunday after Trinity	Dee Boddy Romans 6:12-end	Torquil MJ Matthew 10:40-end	Stephanie Gibbons
5th July 4th Sunday after Trinity BCP	Mike Kimber Romans 7:15-25a	Annie Stone Matthew 11:16-19; 25-end	Dudley Fishburn
12th July 5th Sunday after Trinity	Gill Barton Romans 8:1-11	Aldo Guiducci Matthew 13:1-9; 18-23	Saffy O'Sullivan
19th July 6th Sunday after Trinity	Denny Hollands Romans 8:12-25	Harriet Wynne-Jones Matthew 13:24-30; 36-43	Catherine Haig
26th July 7th Sunday after Trinity	Linda Price Romans 8:26-end	Gloria Sleep Matthew 13:31-33; 44-52	Melanie Townsend

Readings for these services may change according to the sermon series we are following; in such cases, the reader for the week will be sent the correct reading at the beginning of the preceding week. If you are unavailable please try and find a swap or contact Saffy O'Sullivan on 01491 825996 or 07799 060949. Please let Nick Wynne-Jones know if you have any prayer requests or notices for the weekly church bulletin.

50 years!

Terry and I moved to Mayridge Farm Cottages on 1st May 1970. Our son was born a month later and our daughter two years later, both were born at no.58.



Although we are now retired we have very happy memories and have lived very busy lives. Terry came as herd manager to an eclectic mix of cattle who were found to have brucellosis which is contagious abortion, consequently they were sold within a month of us being here. Three months later a new milking parlour was built and the buildings were sterilised. In that September a lovely herd of pedigree Guernsey cows came to Mayridge and their delicious rich creamy milk provided cream and butter for Englefield House. As the decade went on it had become less fashionable and lucrative to have creamy milk so the Guernseys were sold and were replaced by Holstein Friesian cows to produce higher yields and less fatty milk. These stayed until Terry was 65 when they were sold. Shortly after a new beef enterprise was started. A new skill for Terry to undertake but he did so with great success and the cattle have won many cups and prizes at agricultural shows over the last 11 years.

Terry is fully retired now and we often reflect on all these years at Englefield and the many changes we have seen. All the cottages were occupied by estate workers or old retainers when we came here and as they gradually passed on the houses were rented to others beyond the village. There were many great characters around in these early days and the pace of life much slower. We have made many friends in and outside the village over the years and feel so fortunate to live in such a beautiful area of Berkshire and are so thankful to be so well looked after by the Benyon family.

During our lives we have never experienced anything like this covid-19 pandemic, but we have been looked after by wonderful neighbours and Andy and Laura who have gone the extra mile to keep our larders stocked. It is impossible to express how grateful we are that thus far we are all safe by the grace of God. Social media keeps us in touch with family and friends and church family.

We did not get to celebrate this last 50 years with family and friends as we had hoped but maybe next year we can celebrate 51 years and give thanks for the many blessings in our lives.

Dinah Perkins

Parish Council update

Englefield Parish Council would like to express sincere thanks to Simon Strang for his 15 years of loyal service to the Council following his recent resignation. We will be looking to fill the vacancy of Councillor in the coming months, so please do contact the Clerk to the Council, Nia Rands, if you would like to know more about the role.

We held our first remote meeting of the Council during May as a result of the current covid-19 restrictions. Unfortunately, due to the current social distancing guidelines, it was necessary to cancel the planned Annual Parish Assembly, however we will keep this under review and hold it later in the year if at all possible.

Meetings will continue to be held remotely during this period but we still welcome members of the parish who would like to 'attend' virtually. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 29th July at 6.30pm.

All updates and notices can be found on our website so please do check it for updates, particularly during this time. If there is anything in particular that you would find useful to be included on the website please feel free to contact Nia.

Nia Rands, Clerk to the Council

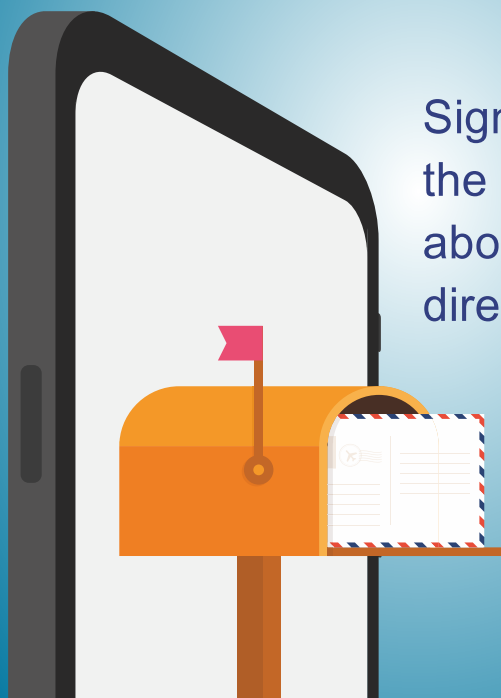
Flower Show cancelled

With great regret, the committee has decided to cancel the Englefield Village Fete and Flower Show for this year. Postponing to a date in the autumn was discussed but, given the current uncertainties, in the end we felt there was no alternative. We as a committee are so disappointed and very much hope to be back in 2021.



Stay Connected

During COVID19 we want to stay connected with you. That's why we're introducing a new e-bulletin to keep you informed about the latest information, advice and support available from West Berkshire Council.



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www.westberks.gov.uk/ebulletinsubscribe



West Berkshire
COUNCIL



From Englefield Primary School

'Sowing the Seeds for a Flourishing Future'

Like everyone in the past few months, Englefield School's families and staff have been in lockdown and all staying safe at home. We have been welcoming key worker children in, but as you can imagine with just a handful of children and staff, school is exceptionally quiet and all the smiling faces are sorely missed.

School staff have been working extremely hard at home to ensure that the children continue learning and stay in contact not only with the teachers but also each other. In these strange times, the wellbeing of the children is at the forefront of all our minds and keeping the children feeling part of the school community is vital for them. The children have daily lesson plans sent to them with a variety of learning. They have weekly class catch ups via video meetings and the older children have been able to participate in small group work, talking to each other using a variety of technologies. A highlight for the children is Mrs Latimer's daily video assemblies that even include singing.

Like all of Englefield, we felt the disappointment that we could not all join together to celebrate VE Day, however we asked our families to send us in pictures of how they celebrated together at home. We have a wonderful collection which we are going to put together in a collage to remember the time of celebration while we were all apart.

As you will have seen in the news, the Government plans on reopening schools on 1st June for Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 children. Currently school staff are working hard to get the school ready for the children, ensuring that they are kept safe. As you can imagine this creates many different challenges that we have never faced before, but we are confident that we will be ready and we are all looking forward to seeing the children again. We do not know when we can welcome other year groups back so for now they will continue their online learning at home. We hope everyone is keeping well and safe and we look forward to a time we can start to see friends of Englefield School again.

Claire Bushnell

Shopping at Cobbs

Cobbs Farm Shop is now open again on Sundays from 10am to 4pm. The shop has stayed open throughout lockdown supplying its usual range of fresh fruit and veg, meat and deli and frozen products. See <https://www.cobbsfarmshops.co.uk/> for more details, including its click and collect service.

Recycling centres reopen

The sites at Newtown Road and Padworth have reopened subject to certain restrictions. Residents are urged only to visit the sites if waste cannot be safely stored at home and booking is compulsory. You can book online here: <https://citizen.westberks.gov.uk/clickandtip>.

It is also worth checking travel times and any restrictions in place before you go. Please arrive at your allocated time and not any earlier, and be aware that there may be delays accessing the site and possibly queues of waiting vehicles.

All access into the Padworth Recycling Centre should be from the A4 so that bookings and permits can be checked on arrival. You will need your permit, or ID and proof of West Berkshire address with you, plus a copy of your booking confirmation - either a print out or on your phone. Only bring what you can physically carry as there is a one person per car restriction and staff cannot help unload. Under exceptional circumstances only, and at the sole discretion of site staff, two people may be allowed to leave the vehicle to dispose of the waste eg if they are removing a heavy or bulky waste item.

There are still plenty of appointments available over the coming weeks.

Thank you from CCA

Thank you for your continued support both in prayer and financially. All our shops are still temporarily closed but our Support Centre and emergency van have been very busy, and we are now running low on stock of some basic items. Unfortunately we don't have the space to take other items but for now this is what we desperately need: double bed bases and mattresses, small dining tables and chairs, single wardrobes, chests of drawers. To donate, please email response@ccam.org.uk.

One person summed up her experience with CCA as follows: 'I was taken aback by how quickly everybody acted. Everyone whom I spoke to from the Support Centre Manager to the Warehouse Manager and the delivery team was highly professional. The service was quick and I could not believe the quick turnaround; from the initial request, the action taken and then the delivery of all the furniture...What struck me the most was how kind everyone is. They were professional, patient, and caring. They bent over backwards to help and there was a high level of commitment and assurance. For these people it is a vocation and not just a job.'

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.

Then Jesus came to them and said, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations’. (Matthew 28 v 18-19a)

The authentic Christian faith is not about passively receiving forgiveness and other blessings from God, but rather about actively obeying Christ. Our faith is supposed to overflow in fulfilling God’s saving purposes for others and our world.

In this final section of Matthew’s gospel, we see Jesus claim unique, ultimate authority over the whole of creation. This is an assurance to his disciples, then and now, that when we go out to share the good news we are not going in our own authority but in the authority of the King of kings. We have good news, in fact the best news ever, so we must not keep it to ourselves but share it with others, since it is only through hearing that people can believe and be saved (Romans 10 v 14-17). Yet this is something many find intimidating, either through fear of being inadequate, losing reputation, or being rejected. What is liberating is to realise that God wants to use each one of us and work with our own personality and style, whether we are naturally loud or quiet, extrovert or introvert.

Finally, we should note that Jesus’ command is for his people to make disciples, not converts. Evangelism – sharing the good news – is not about seeing people be converted and stopping there, but about encouraging and nurturing people to grow up into Christian maturity. Earlier, in the parable of the sower in Matthew 13, Jesus teaches about the importance of the gospel message being understood and changing lives, rather than just being heard superficially. Our concern should be not just to share the good news, but to see it produce a crop – a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown (Matthew 13 v 8).



After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God.’(Acts 1 v 3)

Why was there such a long period, 40 days, between Jesus’ resurrection and his ascension? There are at least two reasons given to us by Luke as he closes his first book (Luke) and begins his second (Acts).

The first reason is proof. The resurrection was such a momentous event, and so unexpected by everybody, that many struggled to believe it had really taken place (indeed, many still do today). The truth that Jesus has bodily risen from the dead is so important, so foundational to the gospel message, that Jesus spent time with his disciples over a period to confirm to them the reality of what they had seen and were experiencing.

The second reason follows on from this: preparation. Jesus spoke with them about the kingdom, preparing them to take on the mantle of being his ambassadors in the world. Luke explains in the opening verses of Acts that Jesus’ earthly life as reported in Luke’s gospel was what Jesus ‘began to do and teach’ (Acts 1:1). He continued to work and teach through the lives of his followers, and took pains to complete their ‘training programme’ before he was taken up to heaven.

Jesus is alive, and continues to work in the world through his church, even today.

‘I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours. All I have is yours, and all you have is mine. And glory has come to me through them.’ (John 17 v 9-10)

In his prayers before he is arrested, Jesus prays for two things: his glorification (which comes through his work on the cross and subsequent resurrection), and his followers. These two things are linked together; the glory that Jesus has been given by the Father comes to him through his followers, whose very existence displays the magnificent and infinite grace God has poured out through his son.

It is noteworthy that Jesus here prays for his followers – both the disciples with him in the garden (v9), and those who will follow down through the centuries (v20) – and not the world. Although all men and women are God’s creation, and under Jesus’ authority, it is only those who know Jesus who are granted eternal life by him (v2,3). We too should pray for our brothers and sisters in the church, so that the world may believe in Jesus.

A lockdown challenge!

Can you find the names of 20 books of the Bible hidden in the paragraph below?

I once made a remark about the hidden books of the Bible (merely by a fluke). It kept people looking so hard for the facts and for others it was an easy revelation. My friend Matt – he was a puzzle fan – was in a jam, especially since the name of the books were not capitalised, but the truth finally struck home to numbers of readers. To others it was a real job. I want it to be a most fascinating few moments for you. Yes, there will be some really easy ones to spot. Others may require the help of a couple of senior judges to help them. I will quickly admit it usually takes an ordained cleric to find one of them, and there will be loud lamentations when it is found. Anna Humble says she brews a pot of China tea in order to concentrate better but still plays the banjo, electric guitar and drums at Westward Ho - seaside views and all - to help calm her mind. See how you can compete. Relax now and get thinking!

*With thanks to Carol Boulter
(Answers are on the church website)*

Bradfield Young Farmers

Abruptly on 16th March following the Government announcement Young Farmers clubs were suspended. Future events, competitions, shows, activities and of course socializing has stopped, without a return date. All doom and gloom! But not at Bradfield Young Farmers. Our dedicated leaders and enthusiastic members have gone virtual with weekly challenges and even a lambing evening from Amners Farm streamed to the club. The 'Isolation Bake Off' was a huge success although early panic buying had meant that flour was as 'scarce as hens' teeth' (Teri Muggeridge, 2020, Yattendon village shop). The club challenges have also included a red, white, and blue 'make or bake' for the VE day celebrations and a photography competition. Everything from chickens to frogs were snapped. Thanks to Chris of Blueline Photography who took the time to judge over 40 entries. The club has walked, run and cycled over 80 miles to cover the equivalent of the round journey to visit all the Berkshire YF clubs, and finally the next challenge is on... The pumpkin seeds have arrived, and the competition is on for the largest pumpkin to grow in the Berkshire Young Farmers! GO BRADFIELD!! Happy planting and WATERING EVERY DAY! The community of Bradfield Young Farmers is still thriving even if we are all stuck at home – Take care everyone, stay in and wash those hands!

Sonia Walters sonia.walters2@btinternet.com

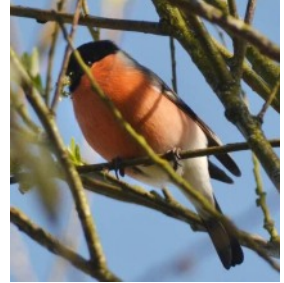


ENGLEFIELD ESTATE

Bird Watching from your Window

Find that old pair of binoculars and pull up a chair to the window. Once you're settled and looking out, chances are you'll soon begin to spot flashes of movement outside. 620 species of bird have been identified in the UK, and some of those live and breed near you. By studying size, shape, colour and habits you'll be able to figure out what they are and how many you can see.

If the weather is warm enough you can open your window and hone the skill of bird identification by call. This can be tricky but is hugely rewarding. There are shy birds hidden in thick trees and hedges you wouldn't know were there without hearing them. It's also easier to tell what the small brown blur in the distance is if you recognise its song or alarm call!



How Long to Watch?

We often get stiff and uncomfortable if we sit still for too long, but birdwatching does reward patience. Try starting off with a 20-minute spell of turning off the telly, putting the phone on silent and just watching the world outside. After this you can add a little longer if you want to (the RSPB's annual Big Garden Bird Watch lasts for one hour).

Another thing to try is birdwatching at different times of the day. Do you see different species from the same vantage point? Most birds are very active during the early morning, and this is a good time to practice your identification by call (wrap up warm!). Hawks and falcons can be spotted in the early afternoon. Late afternoon, evening, and night time are best for nocturnal species like owls.

Bird Identification



Bear in mind the main facets of bird identification: size and shape, colour, behaviour and habitat. Judge the size of new birds against birds you already know and look at their outline. Long tail or short? Broad or slender beak? After you've identified the size and shape, observe how it flies.

The RSPB online bird identifier is a handy tool listing 408 species of birds found in the UK: <https://www.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/wildlife-guides/identify-a-bird/>

For kids the RSPB provide a great survey sheet to fill in, complete with pictures of species they might see in the garden: <https://www.rspb.org.uk/globalassets/downloads/kids--schools/big-schools-birdwatch-downloads/ages-7-11--counting-sheet.pdf>

You can find free resources for identifying bird calls on the internet, such as British-birdsongs.uk: <https://www.british-birdsongs.uk/alphabetical/> and nowadays you can even experiment with free phone Apps that use the phone's microphone to listen to a call and attempt identification for you.

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What do PPG members do? We suggest ideas for improvements and speak up about how services are organised or managed. We're the voice of all Theale patients.

How does the PPG work? Our PPG includes 12 patients/carers, the GP practice manager, senior administrator and a GP (currently Dr Brooke).

How does the PPG include my views? If you have any issues or suggestions you'd like to raise, please get in touch: ppg.tmc@nhs.net. Your email will be treated confidentially: we won't tell anyone else your name if it is discussed at a meeting. Please note: we don't deal with clinical issues or individual patient complaints.

Can I become a PPG member? We would very much like some younger members (16 – 40), so if you're interested in joining the PPG, please email ppg.tmc@nhs.net.



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