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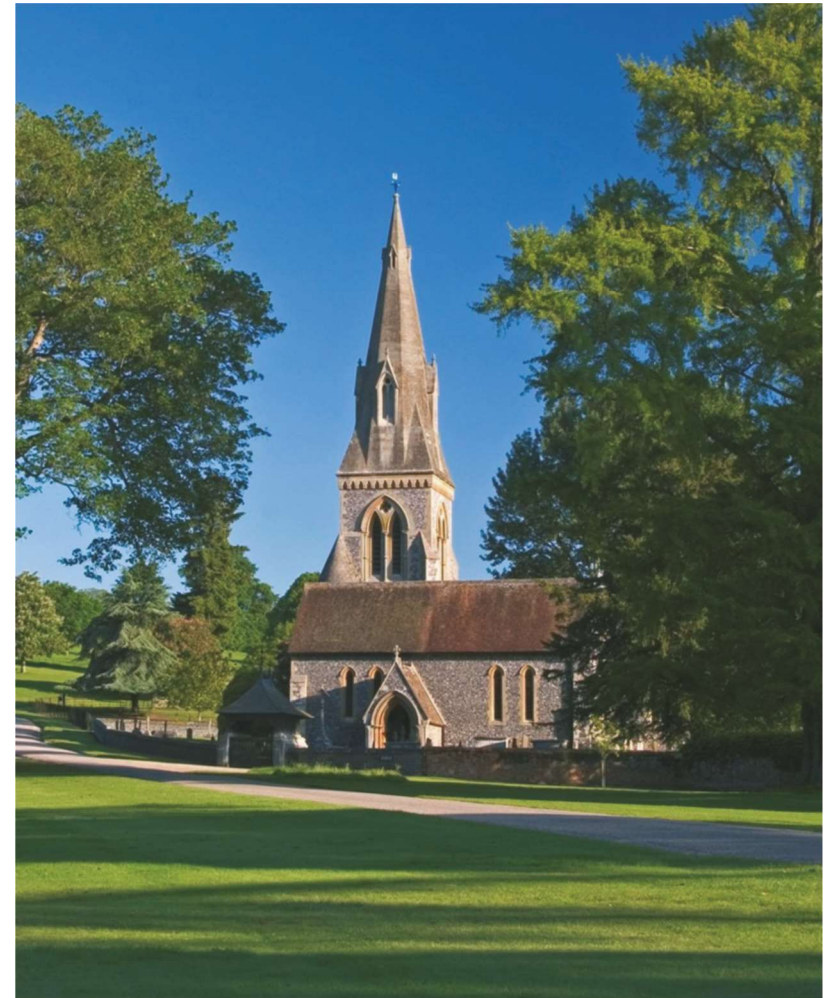
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Englefield Parish News

August - September 2020



The Parish of St Mark's, Englefield

Rector

The Reverend Nicholas Wynne-Jones nwwj@stmarksenglefield.org.uk
St Mark's House, Englefield, Reading RG7 5EP 0118 9303595

Churchwardens

Carol Boulter churchwarden@stmarksenglefield.org.uk 0118 9303182
Torquil Montague-Johnstone 0118 9713761

Child Protection Officer

Susannah McBain 07772 425133

Parochial Church Council

Secretary office@stmarksenglefield.org.uk
Penny Savage 0118 9410808
Treasurer treasurer@stmarksenglefield.org.uk
Ron Marillier 0118 9305152
Electional Roll Officer richard@transport-studies.org
Richard Smith 0118 9833258

Parish Council

Chairman edward.crookes@englefield.co.uk
Edward Crookes 0118 9302504
Clerk clerk.englefieldpc@outlook.com
Nia Rands 07725 171223

St Mark's Church website: www.stmarksenglefield.org.uk
Englefield Parish Council website: www.englefieldpc.org.uk

Front cover: *St Mark's Church in glorious summer sunshine photographed by Paul Sievers and featured in the 2020 Newbury & District Cancer Care calendar..*

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.



Theale Medical Centre Patient Participation Group

Your PPG is here to make services at Theale surgery better for everyone. We work with GPs and staff to improve services and the quality of care, to improve communication with patients, make sure the practice is accountable and responsive to patient needs and promote health and wellbeing.

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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To find out more, visit The Filling Station website or contact the Director, Rev Richard Fothergill 07835 263706 or 01225 832806.

thefillingstation.org.uk



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From St Mark's House

Dear friends

Rarely? Never! have we had such varied settings for church gatherings, from Swiss lakes to Western Isles – but all were virtual backgrounds in our Zoom meetings. The covid-19 pandemic has brought our lives closer to science fiction and has challenged us to explore and expand the ways we relate to other people when we can't be together. However, recordings of our voices and appearance are no substitute for who we are in person. We miss the human touch and presence and at times that has been at the most critical moments.

"The journey of recovery will be slower than our journey into lockdown", writes the Bishop of Oxford. "Lockdown has been difficult but has also brought new insights, opportunities and priorities to the surface. We are invited to look at our mission and reflect on what has been lost through the pandemic which we need to grieve, what has been reduced that we need to let go of, what has been reduced that we need to build up again, what has emerged that we need to respond to. We recognise that Church will need to change. But that change will emerge in a thousand different ways as locally we pay careful attention to the Spirit ... and seek to discern prayerfully and plan strategically the shape of the mission of the Church in each of our contexts." We are so thankful for those in our context who, working together, provide practical help, a listening ear and ongoing support in community, church and school.

Some of us have been reading '*5 Things to Pray in a Global Crisis*'. It so happens that this week the theme is *hope*. This also is the week that the UAE have just launched their Mars Mission, '*Hope*', so called because "it sends a message of optimism to millions" with international teams working in partnership. We can "face any challenge together" was Captain Sir Tom Moore's message that tapped into a national longing as is reflected in the overwhelming response to his inspiring achievement. Clearly the theme is timely, but it is also for all time - particularly as we encounter the turbulent waves of the pandemic's profound psychological and social effects.

"When Earth's last picture is painted," posed Rudyard Kipling, will it be of despair or hope? There is clearly a longing for "hope in a hopeless world". In the catacombs, caves and tunnels where persecuted Christians hid during the Roman persecutions, are apparently sixty-six drawings of anchors. Hope was their anchor during those stormy days. Like the anchor, hope fixes on what is out of sight and lays hold of the steadfast rock of God's promises.¹ The biblical prophet, Jeremiah, wrote², "my soul is downcast within me. Yet this I call to mind and therefore I have hope: Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail." Living in hope

Nick and Harriet

In the Bible: ¹ Hebrews 6:19; ² Lamentations 3:19-22

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/ www.englefieldpc.org.uk/ www.thealeparishcouncil.gov.uk
Englefield Parish Council	0118 9302 337
Theale Parish Council	www.englefieldprimary.co.uk
Englefield Primary School	101 or 999 (for emergencies)
Police	Electricity - SSEN 0800 072 7282
Utility suppliers	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.



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Services at St Mark's

St Mark's weekly online services via Zoom are continuing for the moment. 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, 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.

The church is now open for private prayer every weekday from around 11am to 4pm. Please follow the guidelines and sign in when you visit.

As restrictions are lifted, it is hoped that Sunday services and Monday evening Time to Pray will restart in the church. Please keep an eye on the bulletin for further information or ring Nick Wynne-Jones or the churchwardens.

Congratulations

To Angus and Ashlee Armstrong on the birth of Lochlan Ian James in South Carolina on July 9th, a grandson for Paula Fenwick.

To Georgiana Haig and Matthew Goldhill on their engagement.

RIP

Michael Lincoln who died on Friday 5th June, great-nephew and godson of Martha Midwinter.

Eva Davies who died on June 16th and whose funeral was held in the churchyard at St Mark's on Tuesday 7th July.

Hugh Boulter who died on Sunday 28th June and whose funeral will be held at St Mark's on August 20th.

Peter Fenwick OBE, brother of Christopher, whose funeral was held in London on Monday 20th July.

Englefield Village Fete & Flower Show

The Flower Show committee would like to invite you to enter the 'Best Kept Garden' Competition!

Many gardens have flourished under the lockdown restrictions and with no Flower Show classes in 2020, the committee have decided to run a belated "Best Kept Garden" class.

- All types of self-kept Gardens are considered.
- Judging is based on how the gardens are kept and maintained.
- Size doesn't matter, from the smallest courtyard to rolling acres.
- FREE Entry!

Judging to take place early to mid-September and appropriate Coronavirus restrictions, social distancing will be adhered to.



To enter, please contact:

Mark Postles (07551 981587)

Gordon Fletcher (07939 504145)

Chris Gittins efsentry@gmail.com


Closing date;

Monday 7th September 2020.

Garden Centre Vouchers and various prizes in kind for the winning entries. Results will be published in the Parish Magazine.

*This competition is open to those who live in the parishes of **Englefield, Sulhamstead and Ufton** (north of the railway), in **North Street** and the **Gravel Pit Cottages**. Those who are residents, in employment with or who are pensioners of The Englefield Estate. Those whose children are educated at Englefield School, and all staff. Those who are regular members of St Mark's Church, Englefield.*

*Please Note; Third party/ commercially maintained gardens are **NOT** eligible.*



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A personal remembrance of Hazel Pocock

With Hazel's death we have lost not only one of Englefield's most particular personalities but also a link to England's deep and distant rural past. Born in Yorkshire, Hazel was always rooted in the land, always surrounded by livestock and farming ways. Indeed, she came to Englefield more than 40 years ago to marry Jim Pocock, the lifelong herdsman on the Estate, dating from days when cattle were kept in the Park. Jim was a charming, gentle spirit, seeming old-fashioned even a generation ago. To see him and Hazel handle a herd together was like a scene from centuries past. Even in retirement they kept two Red Devon in our fields as pets.

Hazel pulled into the yard at The Old Rectory one day 35 years ago, glanced at Victoria and said: "Congratulations." "What for?" questioned Victoria. "On being pregnant." "But how do you know; I only told Dudley two days ago." And then came the immortal reply from Hazel; "Well, I've been looking a pregnant cows all my life." To be called a cow by Hazel was a rare compliment.

For a while Hazel helped at the school, in the days when it had a mere 30 pupils. One of them was a tall, skinny seven-year old boy, now my brother-in-law. The two formed a bond. The boy went on to Winchester and Oxford and then became a prominent Member of Parliament. Occasionally, when he returned to Englefield, he and Hazel would meet up for a gossip. Some years ago, when Hazel was well into her 70s, I met her in the Street. (No conversation with Hazel was ever brief: 15 minutes was the shortest allotted time for any exchange.) "I've just come back from Newbury," she said, stressing Newbury as if it were Berlin or Paris. "I went on the Gay Rights March there." "Why so?" I asked. "Well, I heard Nicholas on the BBC saying Gay Rights were important, so I went to support him."

Unfortunately in Hazel's latter years her mobility didn't allow her to do the things she loved to do or get out and about like she used to. Hazel was supported in those latter years by her goddaughter, Lyn Carter, and by Graham Rockall, along with lots of visits from Jim's son Richard and his wife Christine and always had Ned her beloved dog by her side.

Dudley Fishburn

New date for the APCM

Delayed due to the coronavirus pandemic, the APCM 2020 is planned for October 12th and the annual revision of the electoral roll will take place in September. Details will be published in the weekly bulletin and on the church noticeboard.

Penny Savage, Secretary to the PCC

Estate Yard planning application

Following feedback received at last summer's exhibition, sensitively drawn up proposals to convert underused buildings in the Englefield Estate Yard have been submitted to West Berkshire Council. The proposals have been prepared by architectural heritage specialists from ADAM Architecture and will provide a new Estate Office and other rural workspace in what was for generations the working hub of the Estate.

The Estate has traditionally provided employment opportunities, housing and social facilities for the village and wider community, and the Yard was the hub of the administrative and maintenance functions of the Estate. At its height, the Yard is estimated to have employed more than 100 people, although this had declined to around 50 by the 1950s. Use of the Yard has therefore expanded, evolved and declined over time as the requirements of the Estate evolved and working practices have changed. New offices and workshop space suitable for the maintenance team and a range of local businesses too will also create additional employment opportunities by reinvigorating what has historically been an important economic contributor to the parish and beyond.

The proposals to sensitively regenerate the yard, while respecting its history and heritage assets, have been drawn up following close consultation with Historic England and West Berkshire Council. The proposals include:

- Conversion of the old sawmill to a new Estate Office, bringing the management of the Estate into the heart of Englefield village;
- Conversion of the fire engine shed, tractor shed, carriage shed and main store to provide flexible new office and workshop space;
- The creation of a new, fit-for-purpose maintenance building at the rear of the yard to serve the needs of the Estate's tenants.

Historic elements of the sawmill such as the steam boiler and engines, and the flywheel, will be preserved and retained in-situ as features in the new Estate Office. The Estate has also put forward a proposal for a modest car park off The Street to serve the primary school as well as residents and visitors. A separate planning application for this new community facility, to the south of The Street, has also been submitted to West Berkshire Council.

Now that the applications have been submitted, West Berkshire Council will be seeking the views of the community. Members of the public will be able to view them in detail via the council's online planning portal, which can be found at: <https://info.westberks.gov.uk/planning> and may, if they wish, make their views known to the authority.

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If you would like to support the proposals, you can do so by emailing planapps@westberks.gov.uk. Please use the reference number 20/01425/COMIND for the Estate Yard and 20/01637/FUL for the car park in your email.

If you would like to ask us any further questions about the proposals, please do not hesitate to get in touch by emailing feedback@englefieldvillage.co.uk and we will do our best to respond as quickly as we can.

Edward Crookes, Estates Director

Englefield Parish Council update

Parish Council meetings will continue to be held as virtual meetings whilst covid-19 restrictions remain in place. Members of the parish are still welcome to 'attend' the meetings remotely. The link and password to join the meeting can be obtained from the Parish Clerk prior to the meeting.

The agenda for the meetings will continue to be published on the Parish Council website, as well as the Parish notice board in advance of the meeting. Whilst meetings are being held remotely, members of the public who wish to raise anything can do so with a written submission, which should be sent to the Clerk no later than midday two days prior to the meeting. Where possible these will be read out and discussed at the meeting.

Nia Rands, Clerk to the Council
clerk.englefielddpc@outlook.com

Cobbs Café

The café at Cobbs Farm Shop has now reopened for breakfast, lunch, hot and cold drinks and cakes. Lots of measures have been put in place to keep staff and customers safe and you can either eat in or take away. Opening hours are slightly reduced at the moment but it is hoped to go back to seven days a week as soon as possible. Current hours are Monday closed, Tuesday to Saturday 9am to 3.30pm, Sunday 10am to 3.30pm.

Eva Davies RIP

Eva Davies, who was a well-known and much-loved Englefield resident died, aged 93, on June 16th. Hers was an unusual life. Eva was born in Trieste, Italy, in 1927. She was the love-child of an Austrian Count and his young Hungarian governess. She was adopted by the doctor that delivered her; Giuseppe Gramenuda and his wife Lydia were unable to have children themselves. Eva always claimed she had 'blue blood' and she certainly looked the part, always taking care of her appearance and, even in old age, often wearing a large straw hat at a jaunty angle.

As the daughter of an affluent doctor, Eva enjoyed a privileged childhood, travelling widely in Europe or even flying to Buenos Aires, often with her nanny, Maria. Eva's childhood was spent in Trieste until the threat of war became imminent and Giuseppe moved his family to a seaside villa in Opatija; which these days is part of Croatia. He hoped this idyllic setting would offer a sanctuary for his family. This was not to be. One day Giuseppe went to the aid of a resistance fighter only to be shot to death by the Gestapo in front of his teenage daughter and wife. Eva spoke with great sadness of the impact of war. She carried deep scars with her from that time throughout her life. And in later life would exclaim that Englefield was the most peaceful place in the world: "Look, no riots, no soldiers, no political rallies, just the Flower Show," she would say with a twinkle.

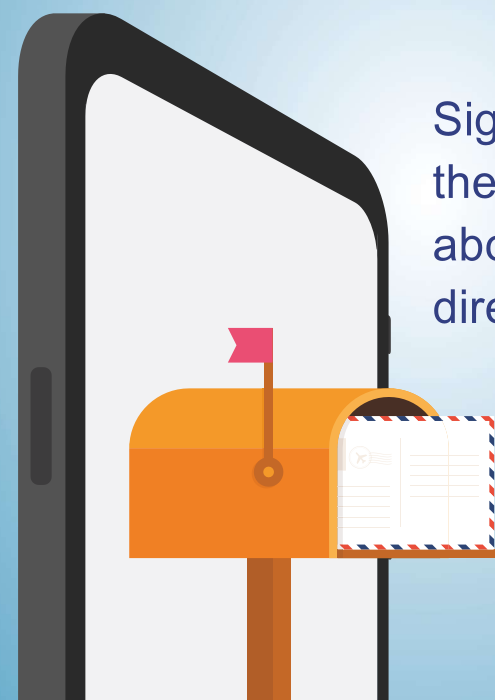
Help came to Italy in the form of the Allied Forces and Colin, a young man from a Welsh regiment. Colin was stationed in Italy working with British intelligence and in 1946 they married. Colin's time in Italy came to an end and he returned to the Welsh Valleys and his home at Taff's Well. In the 1940's Taff's Well was still a typical Welsh valley community with strong mining links. Eva followed Colin, travelling by boat alone. She arrived with her stunning blonde hair, Italian clothes, furs and jewellery speaking not a word of either Welsh or English. Her home was to be a coal-fired terraced cottage, shared with a stern mother-in-law; no villa on the



Eva, shown far left with Nick and Harriet Wynne-Jones at the celebration for her 90th birthday at St Mark's; and left, cutting the cake with her granddaughter Harriet. Opposite, enjoying the sunshine on VE Day in May this year.

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.



Sign up to receive the latest updates about coronavirus direct to your inbox.

www.westberks.gov.uk/ebulletinsubscribe

Covid-19: the silver lining

- Damage and mess caused by a pregnant rat, provided us with a “house makeover challenge” at No 52 PC. One thing leading to another, as it does, we started with the replacement of the carpet and wardrobe in the invaded bedroom and ended up working our way through the house with paint rollers and brushes in hand, and we now have only one room to do – this could not have happened but for being “confined to barracks”
- Aware of Graham’s health problems, Liz started the isolation early in the first week in March but did not think to stock up on “liquid refreshments”. Our thanks go to Yorkie and Angie who came to our rescue with a very acceptable selection of wine – delivered to our door! So at least, ours was a “Lock Inn” with a smile on our faces!
- Village people who were isolating because of their health will know that an anonymous “Easter Bunny” went round delivering Easter Eggs and a message reading “With love, care, and gloves”. Can we be so bold as to say “Thank You” for bringing the spirit of Easter to us in lockdown.
- Let’s ZOOM in to something different – The good side of today’s technology has been a GODSEND to the St Marks community, and I have really felt included although not present. I have so enjoyed talking with the Sunday School children and parents and being able to take part in the services. The Reeves family has also taken advantage of Zoom during this period to have the pleasure of seeing faces and in effect to “meet the family without meeting”.
- Apart from willingly supporting the nation’s “new-found” gratitude to the NHS by standing outside and clapping, this family personally has good reason for doing so, because our granddaughter Holly Davies who is a speech therapist at a major hospital, is helping patients recover their faculties (like speaking and eating) when they are able to come off a ventilator.
- New-found gratitude has also been generated by the emergency for our unsung “key workers” who have kept going throughout the pandemic to supply us with goods and mail and to keep us healthy by collecting our refuse and recycling items. We thank them all.

Liz Reeves

coast, not much sunshine either. Eva found this time challenging. She would recall post-war rationing and how she would go to the grocer for her rations then go back the following day again, not understanding that those rations were intended to last a whole week.

Some years later her mother, Lydia, left Italy and came to live with Eva and Colin; this was a welcome decision for Eva who always spoke with great adoration of her mother. Colin and Eva had a variety of different jobs and professions over the years. Up until her 30s Eva remained childless; they believed they could not have children because Colin had contracted mumps as a young man. It was only when Eva went to see her doctor that she found out she was 7 months pregnant! Roy was born in 1958.

During the 1960s and 1970s Eva and Colin moved around Wales from Anglesey to Swansea, running shops, pubs and then golf clubs, building a reputation for good Italian catering, with Eva and her mother adjusting their Italian recipes to Welsh palates with great success. In 1987 work and family brought them to Berkshire and shortly after they moved to Englefield - 12, The Street - which became a happy home. Eva created an amazing group of friends. She most particularly enjoyed her involvement with St Mark’s Church, where she was a regular member of the congregation. And often on trips to Reading, she would sit with friends in the Minster, just to be quiet between bouts of shopping and coffees. The verger there always delighted in her coming. It was her nature to have a smile, a joke, to take life lightly, to go on as many outings as she could: no wonder everyone liked her. Four years ago Eva moved to one of the cottages in St Mark’s Close right next to the shop and the ever-helpful Andy and Laura. As the years went by, Eva remained seemingly carefree, laughing about her failing health as she had about so much of her life.

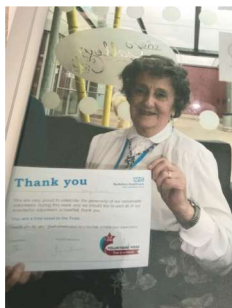
And the family writes:

We cannot express our thanks to everyone for their care and support toward Eva; especially in the last few months of her life. She lived a very healthy long life to the age of 93. She saw a lot in those 93 years both good and bad. We have been



overwhelmed by the cards we have received talking so kindly of Eva, of her vibrance, her wit, wisdom and of the warmth she exuded to others. Eva’s death has had a huge impact on us as a family; we have been lucky to have had her around for so long, to have her see her grandchildren reach adulthood and their life partners. She will be in our hearts always and sadly missed. Arrivederci Mum - ciao x

Roy, Debby, Amy and Harriet Davies



National honour for Berkshire's NHS volunteers

Mary Parsons has lived in Theale all her life and is well known to so many of us through her work at Theale Primary School (for 27 years) and then at Theale Medical Centre (for 25 years). However, since retiring she has taken up another role as a volunteer at West Berkshire Community Hospital, travelling there every Friday on the bus for the last four years.

Last month she was delighted to receive a letter telling her that she and all the other Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust Volunteers have been awarded The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service, the MBE for voluntary groups.

This prestigious national honour recognises outstanding contributions made to local communities by volunteers devoting their time, skills and energy for the benefit of others. It sets a benchmark for excellence in volunteering with those awarded being judged of the highest standard.

The CEO's letter reads, 'This is a fantastic achievement. We already knew what an outstanding and talented team of volunteers you all are and the truly amazing work you do, not only for us but for the local community who also benefit from your efforts. It is, therefore, a great pleasure to celebrate the efforts of 'our' volunteers with The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service and help raise awareness of all the wonderful work you do... On behalf of Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust, I congratulate you and thank you. This award is truly deserved.'

Mary is pictured with the thank you card she received from the Trust during Volunteers Week and we send her many thanks and congratulations from us all!

Gloria Sleep



GreenFest 2020

Held for the first time last year in Hampstead Norreys, GreenFest has this year been moved online. Due to current restrictions, organisers have taken the decision to cancel the live event but put

on an equally inspirational 'virtual' programme of talks, workshops and panel debates on all aspects of sustainable living. It runs from Monday 31st August to Saturday 5th September and details are being posted on facebook @ourgreenfest and on the website www.ourgreenfest.co.uk/#.

'For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,' declares the LORD. 'As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.'
(Isaiah 55 v 8-9)

Life can be very confusing. Living under the assurance that God loves us, and wants the best for us, it can be a great challenge to our faith when things go wrong and the bottom drops out of our world. We find it hard to reconcile our head knowledge with our heartfelt experience. Why does God allow so much suffering? We see a glimpse of the answer here: God's ways are not our ways. His plans for us, which are for our good, so often unfold in ways which we don't expect or can't understand. It takes faith to accept that our eyes are often not up to the task of seeing what God is doing in the present. Those seeing Jesus, the Son of God, suffering and dying in agony on the cross were completely unable to recognise the amazing victory that was being won there. Not one person in all the gospel accounts could fathom how the cross was anything other than a crushing defeat, until God raised Jesus from the dead and opened their eyes by the Holy Spirit. We are commanded, not to try to exhaustively reason things out, but to trust and obey what God has said. If we do, we will find in the final analysis that our faith in him is always vindicated.

Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die.' (John 11 v 25-26a)

The covid-19 pandemic has caused great pain and brought home to many the fragility of life. There will be many today grieving over the loss of friends and loved ones. Numbers and statistics can never do justice to those who feel the acute sting of grief; every person is precious and their loss a terrible blow to those who love them. Jesus himself knew this experience; verses 33-35 tell us how he was deeply moved and wept on his way to the grave of his friend Lazarus. But the great hope held out to us in the gospel is that death does not have the final word. Jesus has conquered death; by his resurrection power he holds out the free gift of eternal life to all who trust in him. He assures us of this by both speaking this truth plainly, and then demonstrating his power by raising Lazarus from the tomb as an illustration of what every believer will experience. Though grief is real, and its pain sometimes seems unbearable, we can have hope as we look to the sure and certain promise of Jesus that one day, death will be undone and grief done away with forever.

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.

Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight. (Proverbs 3 v 5-6)

God has given humanity the ability to think and to reason, a gift which helps us to make sense of the world. This is a very valuable gift, but like so many good things there is a danger that we can make it an idol. When we reach a point where we think that because we can't understand something – suffering, or injustice perhaps – then there is no answer, we are straying dangerously close to putting our reason in the place of God. How often have we been tempted to look at a situation and think that God isn't in control, or that if he is then he doesn't know what he is doing? King Solomon, the writer of this proverb, understood the dangers of over-reliance on human wisdom well, and counsels us to ultimately put our trust in God, not what we can figure out. There are always limits to our knowledge, and it is foolish to assume that our understanding is complete. If we put our trust in the one who really does know exhaustively what is going on, we will find we stay on the path of truth.

Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains. (James 5 v 7)

At its root, the Bible's command to God's people to be patient is founded on God's faithfulness. Just as God repeatedly showed his faithfulness to the agrarian society of first century Israel by sending the rains at their appointed time, so too he will prove to be faithful to us in due time. Until then, we are to wait patiently. Knowing this can be a great relief and a comfort to those who are struggling and suffering, and can encourage them to hold on and keep trusting in God's promises through the dark times. As we continue to wait for the current covid-19 crisis to pass, we too can take refuge in God's faithfulness which can help dispel our frustration and sense of helplessness. The Lord is coming, and will bring all things to their fulfilment when he does. All we need to do is be patient and trust him.

News from Rushall Farm

Bright and early this morning, though we were barely awake, Reuben and mum Jenny burst through the front door. He is only two but then life is so exciting and everything, just everything, has to be done at full pace.



I was keen to test out a dustbin full of hazel blocks of all shapes and sizes that we had made for the school. Reuben built them high; a train pointing to the sky with added sound, then demolition with shouts of delight. But then on to the next thing, a walk through the woods but missing out feeding the chickens and collecting eggs. "Look, look" as he ran ahead bursting with energy and then "run, run" as we slowly wandered under the canopy of trees. Then there was a small puddle, but one to savour. It was only splashing modestly but still like a magnet, something very special. We miss out the swing and the fallen tree in the woods because today it is important to see tadpoles turned into frogs, but not before he falls flat on his face on the gravel track. He muddies the pond water forgetting the tiny creatures and then disappears through the dense undergrowth, but we can hear him so that is OK. We pause to watch a snail lumbering across our path, then on through the field and weary.

It is surprising how heavy a two year old is. He is passed from mum to me and then we swing him on the count of five, not three. We are nearly home when he spies Steve who offers a look at his big tractor with a new trailer and so the energy surges again. Now it is lunch time and with jaws almost too tired to chew he eats, but then is bundled into the car, eyes shutting as the engine starts.

For us, further news is of schools wanting to book in for our Life Skills course 'Growing for Good', and government support for this work. The furlough scheme has been a life line to charities like ours and at this difficult time, generous individual donations are going a long way to sustain and endorse the work we are doing. Schools are being encouraged to have trips outside the classroom from September. For Steve, his late planted organic crops have missed the drought, enjoyed the recent rains and so look set to produce a good harvest.

John Bishop



Parker's Corner celebrates VE Day

Neighbours gathered on the green, drinks in hands but seated with social distancing in place, to thank our heroes who safeguarded Great Britain in WW2.

We listened to Winston Churchill's famous words on Ria Brown's transistor radio, and at 3pm we joined the Nation in raising our glasses to honour them, and spent the afternoon chatting and enjoying the peace and freedom our heroes bought for us (in so many cases with their lives) 75 years ago.

Being on the road from Theale to Bradfield, passing traffic added the sound of their horns to our celebration.

Graham and Liz Reeves



Calling all gardeners!

Despite the cancellation of the Flower Show this year, there is still a chance to showcase your garden with the Best Kept Garden competition being run by the Flower Show committee. See page 4 of this issue for all the details and please put your entry in by Monday 7th September. Shown here are photographs of judging the winning garden in 2018 - this year it might be yours?



for longer than many places. Caroline Horne and Charles Cox were both born in Englefield and living close to each other at Malpas in North Street when they married in 1848. Esther Horne lived at number 10 and married Frederick Vince from just across the road at number 7 in 1903, again both were born in Englefield. Frederick's mother was also born in Englefield as was Esther's father. Frederick's sister Mary (Kitty) later married Arthur Dance also from the village (though born at Hurst) and Esther's sister Ethel married George Parsons from 51 Parker's Corner.

Throughout Victoria's reign and after, mobility increased dramatically for a number of reasons, one certainly being the possibilities opened up by new industries. Soon after their marriage Frederick and Esther Vince moved away to East Anglia with his job on the railway, an option not open to Charles Cox in 1848, although he did move with the times, becoming an agricultural engine driver at Little Heath in the 1870s. In the census of 1901, the first year of the 20th century and the first of the Edwardian era, only 13 of the 67 houses in Englefield had a head of household born in the village. In only two of the cases were both man and wife born in Englefield, and only two male heads not born in Englefield had a wife who had been.

(To be continued in the next issue)

Richard Smith



The Englefield cricket team in about 1910 which includes some of the people mentioned in Richard's articles in this issue and next. Back row second from left: Oliver Hopley, then George Reid (Mabel Claydon's father); third from right Edgar Worth who was the butler at Englefield House. Middle row right: James Claydon from the Club with his son Arthur seated in front; third from left William Lamperd, brother of Alfred.

Englefield people

Englefield people, as elsewhere, were always a mixture, some like William Cox, Egbert Allen and William Horne, were born, married, lived their whole lives, died and are buried there; many of them with ancestors in the village at least back to the beginning of parish records in the 16th century and probably beyond. Others came on marriage or for work; some stayed and some moved on again. Some of those born in the village moved away too, but for a long time Englefield seemed largely to hold on to its own.

In the census of 1851, the fourth year of Victoria's reign, of the 73 households recorded in Englefield, 32 had a head of household who had been born in the village. In five of those 32 households both husband and wife had been born in Englefield and in a further seven households, although the (male) head had not been born in Englefield his wife had been. There were five separate Horn households, four Coxes and five Allens - of the total population of 359, just under a quarter had one of those three surnames.

The professionals, like the Agent, the farm bailiffs, Clerks of the Works at the Timber Yard and the clergy usually did move around over a wide area. In the last quarter of the 19th century William Rhind who was Clerk of Works at Englefield was from Scotland; Jenkin Davies, tenant at Wickcroft Farm came from Wales; Richard Todd, the Agent, was from Yorkshire as was his predecessor John Turner, Thomas Hand, bailiff at Chalkpit Farm, from Warwickshire and the Rev Charles Travers from Ireland. Some served in their offices for a time and then moved on in the course of their careers, but some stayed for many years and ended their days in the churchyard, as did William Rhind and Jenkin Davies. Charles Travers did too, though after only four years in the village, succumbing to pleurisy said to have been initiated when, after returning home from Reading with his clothes soaked by a storm on the way, he immediately went out again without changing to visit some sick parishioners.

Some of the workers did move around too. Oliver Hopley, a joiner at the Yard, came to Englefield from Cholmondeley in Cheshire in 1898 when in his twenties and remained until his death at the age of 89 in 1960, playing a full part in the church choir, cricket team, fire brigade and the Club Committee. Agricultural workers were particularly prone to moving jobs regularly at Michaelmas: Emily Horne married William Percy Smith in 1907 and over the next seven years they had four children, each born in a different place - and a fifth after the War in yet another place.

There was a general propensity in country villages for people to marry the first eligible person of the opposite sex that they met when they left the house in the morning so that village society came to be every bit as much a network of families related by marriage as did the aristocracy. Perhaps Englefield maintained the practice

Ride+Stride for Berkshire churches

Final results for last year's Ride and Stride are now in and we raised just over £20,000. This is a terrific result – the best for several years – and a huge thank you goes to our organisers and participants, and of course to our generous sponsors.

Ride and Stride is organised by the Berkshire Historic Churches Trust, which uses the money raised to support its grants programme. In 2018/19 we gave £35,000 to help fund work on towers, roofs, walls, floors, doors and windows in churches across Berkshire – grants which made a real difference to the churches in question.

Ride and Stride 2020 will take place on Saturday 12th September. Book the day now – and speak to your church organiser to find out how you can help. It's a great opportunity to explore some of our wonderful church buildings, and to meet the people who worship in them, as well as to raise those much-needed funds.

For more information about Ride and Stride, and about the Berkshire Historic Churches Trust, visit our website www.berkschurchestrust.org.uk

Peter Durrant, BHCT Chairman

St Mark's churchwarden and BHCT Trustee, Torquil Montague-Johnstone, is planning to visit every participating church in the Bradfield Deanery on September 12th and in the event that you might not want to take an active part yourself please do consider sponsoring him! The easiest way is to use the Donate button on BHCT's justgiving page:

<http://www.justgiving.com/berkshirechurchestrust> - and make sure you nominate St Mark's when you do, as 50% of the money will come back to St Mark's.



RIDE+STRIDE
for Churches

12 SEPT. 2020

HELP SAVE OUR CHURCH HERITAGE

Choose your own route and travel at your own pace – enjoy the day!
Cycle, ride or walk to help save our churches. Through sponsorship or a donation you will be supporting your local heritage

Contact: rideandstrideberks@gmail.com

Find out more at www.berkschurchestrust.org.uk
Charity number 268797

Supported by the National Churches Trust
Charity Number 119645



News from Five a Day

Despite the continued lockdown, we have been very fortunate to have an excellent team of volunteers helping in the garden who have worked hard growing produce. Thank you so much to everyone who has helped us!

The sowing, planting, watering and weeding has produced good results and we are now harvesting mini-munch cucumbers, courgettes, runner and French beans, salad leaves, sweet peas and cut flowers. The shallots and garlic will also soon be ready to eat. Many thanks also to Austin at the garden centre for kindly allowing us to sell produce from the wooden pergola near the current entrance of the one-way system.

Look out for our patty pan summer squash 'Jaune et Vert', an heirloom variety that can be used like courgettes in a stir fry or salad although we will let some mature and ripen with their attractive stripes for the autumn harvest. People can pop in to pick their own fruit, beans and cut flowers and, although the strawberries have finished, there are raspberries, blackberries and redcurrants to pick before the birds eat them! Thank you to one of our volunteers for taking a lovely photo of strawberries she had picked. Next will be salad potatoes followed by the maincrop and it looks as if we may have a bumper crop of apples, pears, autumn squashes and pumpkins in September!



We enjoyed a visit by a class of year 1 and 2 children from Englefield Primary School for them to learn more about plants and healthy eating. The children tasted vegetables and edible flowers, discovered fun facts whilst completing our quiz and played a compost game to find out how quickly or slowly different items break down to make compost. They know how worms keep soil healthy! Huge thanks to our volunteers who helped.



Government guidance and strict health and safety measures continue to be observed with a maximum number of volunteers allowed 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*

For our Year 6s this has been a bitter-sweet term. We have had to cancel most of the special events that mark the end of their time at primary school but instead have made a real effort to make it stand out for them. Firstly, they enjoyed a picnic and scavenger hunt in the deer park. Then they wrote their own end of year play and we videoed it for parents. We also presented them with certificates, trophies and Bibles along with some lovely photographs of the group. After school finished on the last day, which was thankfully gorgeously hot and sunny, they all went to enjoy a splash about at Lagoon Water Park. The result of this was a different but memorable end to Year 6 for a group of wonderful pupils who will be greatly missed.



Sadly we are saying goodbye to our Year 5/6 teacher, Mrs Serena Watts. She is leaving us to become a full-time bee-keeper...an exciting new venture! We are delighted that she has offered to return each summer to carry on running our own bee-keeping club which she set up two years ago. Mrs Watts has given so much to our school, teaching our oldest pupils, running the pottery club, leading residential to Wales and Swanage, being our Special Needs Coordinator and so much more. Her infectious laugh will be sorely missed. We now look forward to welcoming our new teacher, Miss Amy Langston, who we know will be a real asset to our school.

We are so lucky at Englefield to have such a supportive parent body. During the past few weeks we have been helped in so many ways, not least the management and repair of the gazebos that have enabled us to continue outdoor learning in bad weather. The Lusted family has sponsored our new KS1 football kit which we know the children are looking forward to wearing...fingers crossed that matches can resume in the autumn. We have also been given a wonderful new bench for our school field with a plaque showing all our Year 6 leavers; a lovely memento. This was donated by the Kolb family, whose daughters Maizie and Connie have come through Englefield. We look forward to many happy hours sitting on the bench in the sunshine enjoying our school grounds.

We have been blessed this year with such a sense of community which I know we will take forward to make us even stronger. We wish all our friends and families a more relaxed and fun-filled summer and look forward to welcoming everyone back in September.

Hilary Latimer, Headteacher





From Englefield Primary School

'Sowing the Seeds for a Flourishing Future'

Goodness...what a crazy end to our school year! I don't think any of us have lived through a term like this and we all hope we won't have to again! We are however very proud of the fact that we have been able to invite all our children back into school, most of them full-time.

Our reception children bounced back in and have been working outdoors in their garden area with Mrs Sheppard and Mrs Jackson. They have been so resilient...it was as if we'd never been away. Woodland Learning has continued so many of our local neighbours will have seen our 'high-viz crocodile' walking down The Street.



Sadly, not many of our Year 1 pupils were able to return so we were able to open up that 'bubble' to our Year 2s as well. Mrs Carney and Mrs Hough made the classroom 'socially distanced' for half a group at a

time with the rest of the children learning outside. They also had a wonderful 'trip' to meet Sophie in the Five-a-day garden. Ably assisted by Sacha, Juliet and Megan, the children learned how compost was made, investigated the parts of plants and even had the chance to taste some of the produce from the garden...a super opportunity and one that we hope to repeat in the future.

Unfortunately we were initially unable to offer any return for our Year 3/4 pupils as we had run out of space. Our parent governors, Bec Butler and Ellie Helme, decided they needed to do something about this so they organised for a marquee to be erected on the school field which meant these children could spend two full days a week in school for the last two weeks...so worthwhile. Our parents, governors and friends of the school then happily donated funds to cover the cost...a great team effort and one which shows our school values in action.

The children from Years 1-4 who have been shielding and who haven't been able to join us full-time have been able to come in for two afternoons a week for the last three weeks of term - a chance to re-engage with school and re-establish friendships - so important for positive mental health. Our Year 5 and 6 children have been in two separate bubbles: Year 5 with Mrs Kelley and Mrs Newsome and Year 6 with Mrs Latimer, then Mrs Watts and Mrs Harwood. The Year 5s have shown great focus and this has been an important time for them to ensure they are prepared for the move to Year 6 in September. From what we've seen they are going to be superb role models for the rest of the school.

From The Old Fire Station Nursery



We welcomed our children back to The Old Fire Station on June 15th after the months of lockdown. The children have all returned back to the setting with laughter and excitement to see friends again after such a strange time.

Some of you may have noticed we had a garden refurb which was something we have had in the pipeline for some time now. The new garden allows us to continue spending as much time learning and developing outside in the fresh air as we can.

The Old Fire Station Nursery is very much based on recommendations from current or past parents and we already have a waiting list for some sessions in January next year. For those of you who would like to come and see what we offer please be aware that visits are being done after nursery hours or over weekends when the nursery is not being operated by the team and children.

We would like to wish all of The Old Fire Station school leavers the best of luck when starting big school in September. It has been an absolute pleasure being a part of your life and development.

Please contact me on 0118 9306981 or email sophie@theoldfirestationnursery.co.uk for more information.



Sophie Bieny

Thank you

All over the country, covid-19 revealed the community spirit and caring ability of people, none more so than at Parker's Corner. In our personal case we owe a debt of sincere gratitude to our neighbours round the green and their relatives for their daily contact and willingness to keep us supplied by running errands to the medical centre and the shops. We feel very blessed to have neighbours like Ria Brown and her family, Nicky Clark, and Debby Woodward and her family, and offer them our public thanks.

Graham and Liz Reeves

St Mark's rota for online services

Date	New Testament	Old Testament	Prayers	Cleaners
August 2nd 8th Sunday after Trinity	Dinah Perkins Psalm 78:1-8	Melanie Townsend Matthew 14:13-21	Harriet Wynne-Jones	<i>HELP! Now the church has reopened every weekday and in anticipation of services restarting at some point soon, more volunteers are urgently needed to join the cleaning rota – please email office@stmarksglefield.org.uk – thank you!</i>
August 9th 9th Sunday after Trinity	Kahlen Spaulding 1 Thessalonians 3:6-13	Peter Haig Matthew 14:22-33	Carol Boulter	
August 16th 10th Sunday after Trinity	Denny Hollands 2 Corinthians 1:3-11	Penny Savage Matthew 15:21-28	Ron Marillier	
August 23rd 11th Sunday after Trinity	Paula Fenwick Romans 13:1-7	Dudley Fishburn Matthew 16:13-20	Stephanie Gibbons	
August 30th 12th Sunday after Trinity	Dee Boddy Proverbs 15:1-33	Torquil MJ Matthew 16:21-end	Dudley Fishburn	
September 6th 13th Sunday after Trinity	Mike Kimber Romans 13:8-end	Ann Stone Mark 1:29-39	Saffy O'Sullivan	
September 13th 14th Sunday after Trinity	Gill Barton Romans 14:1-12	Aldo Guiducci John 17:20-26	Catherine Haig	
September 20th 15th Sunday after Trinity	Kahlen Spaulding Colossians 1:9-14	Harriet Wynne-Jones Matthew 20:1-16	Melanie Townsend	
September 27th 16th Sunday after Trinity	Denny Hollands Romans 1:8-17	Gloria Sleep Matthew 21:23-32	Harriet Wynne-Jones	
October 4th 17th Sunday after Trinity	Paula Fenwick 2 Timothy 2:1-10	Melanie Townsend Matthew 21:33-end	Carol Boulter	
October 11th 18th Sunday after Trinity	Dee Boddy 3 John v1-4	Peter Haig Matthew 22:1-14	Ron Marillier	

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.

The eco-lesson of lockdown

At Parker's Corner, on Common Hill Road (Theale to Bradfield), we were well placed to judge the impact of the lockdown on traffic noise and pollution. Humanity was forced into hibernation and this allowed Mother Nature to come in to her own. I heard the cuckoo daily, the song thrush sang morning and night, the sound of the blackbird and the robin was so clear, and the bumble bees' friendly buzzing was equally loud and clear. How this period brought back memories of my childhood. The pollution disappeared here to expose a perfect blue sky, as it did around the world, illustrating the simplicity of the solution to the world's environmental problem. The recovery from covid-19 we all want, I fear will also inevitably give us back the noise, pollution, and litter we had before March 2020.

Liz Reeves

Stay safe from scams

Scams are often smart, sophisticated and hard to spot, so here are some tips to help protect yourself from fraud:

Your financial information, PIN numbers and secure login details are valuable, so don't share them with anyone – even if they're claiming to be a company known to you. Your bank, for example, will never ask you for these over the phone.

Choose passwords you can remember easily instead of writing them down.

Scams usually start with someone getting in touch out of the blue. An email, a phone call or text message you weren't expecting can be convincing, but stay wary and hang up or don't reply if you're at all concerned.

Don't click links or open emails unless you're confident the email is really from a sender you know.

If you are 'cold called' by someone saying there is a problem with your computer, there generally isn't and you should just hang up.

If it sounds too good to be true, it likely is.

Scammers often try to put pressure on you to make a quick decision. Always take your time to review things before going ahead.

Your bank or pension provider will never ask you to move money to a 'safe' account, so if someone contacts you asking you to do this, it's a scam.

Check out sources, like the Money Advice Service or Citizens Advice, to stay a step ahead of the latest scams.

Beware of any organisations you don't know asking for donations to covid-19 relief.