

Englefield Parish News

October - November 2020



The Parish of St Mark's, Englefield

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Front cover: *An abundance of late autumn flowers, fruit and vegetables photographed in the kitchen garden at Englefield House.*

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

Lockdown. That word and its 'associates' - quarantine, curfew, shutdown, self-isolation, cabin fever - have become depressingly familiar, even frightening, to many over the last few months. These words identify the confinements within which we live and advice abounds on 'Living With Worry And Anxiety Amidst Global Uncertainty' but, as another psychiatrist reviewing the current situation observes, "If I could find a way to package and dispense hope, I would have a pill more powerful than any antidepressant on the market."

God's people are described as "prisoners of hope". Are the confinements within which we live those imposed by the world around us or those informed by the word of God? We will be influenced and affected by events and people around us - using author Gordon McDonald's categories: 'VDPs' (Very Draining People!) who affect us with negativity or 'VIPs' (Very Inspiring People) who foster hope. Prisoners, of course, have no choice about their surroundings, but we do!

One of the reasons people aren't overflowing with hope is because their hope is misplaced - a job, a relationship, the economy or politics. Their inadequacy is increasingly evident for they were never meant to be the source of that which God alone can supply. God's children are not exempt from trials and tribulations, but often we let them dictate our thoughts, moods and attitudes. Rather we should trust in the promise that in all things God works for good for those who love Him. We are writing this at harvest time - "a harvest to forget" according to *Farmers Weekly*. But it is nothing to the national disaster and pestilence faced by one Biblical writer who nonetheless declared "Though the fields produce no food, though there are no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will be joyful in God my Saviour."

At St Mark's we support *Christians Against Poverty*. Their current mailing has on the envelope 'Always Hope'. They tell the inspiring story (one of many) of Charlotte and Dave who found freedom from debt, faith in Christ and friends to support them. Dave writes, "when Char and I read God's word we know that he came for us, for the broken, and *that gives us a real hope*. Psalm 40 is one of my favourites because it's my story: "I waited patiently for the Lord; he turned to me and heard my cry. He lifted me out of the slimy pit, ... he set my feet on a rock and gave me a firm place to stand."

In these difficult days of coronavirus with the uncertainty and lurking fear, where is your hope grounded? As the popular modern hymn puts it

*In Christ alone my hope is found, He is my light, my strength, my song
This Cornerstone, this solid Ground, Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.*

In Christ

Nick and Harriet

Diary dates

Time to Pray: first and third Wednesdays of every month, 6pm to 6.30pm in the
Englefield Chapel at St Mark's

Harvest Festival: Sunday 4th October - for more details see page 4

Annual Parochial Church Meeting: Monday 12th October at 6.30pm - joining
details will be on the bulletin

Remembrance Sunday: Sunday 8th November

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
Lloyds Pharmacy (Calcot)	0118 938 2265 Monday to Friday 08.30-21.00 Sat 08.00-20.00, Sun 10.00-16.00
NHS dentist Dentalcare	0118 984 5894 - Pangbourne
West Berkshire Council	01635 551111 (out of hours 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

Sunday services at St Mark's

It is hoped to be able to restart Sunday services in the church in the near future, subject to all the current safety guidelines. The intention is to record the services for those who are unable to attend in person. More details will be posted on the church bulletin, St Mark's website or you can email office@stmarksenglefield.org.uk.

St Mark's continues to be open for private prayer every weekday from around 11am to 4pm.

Congratulations

To Rachel Haig and Jheryl Cabey on their engagement.

To Marcus Fishburn and Scarlett Clark married at St Mark's on Saturday 1st August.

To Phil Corden and Charlotte Hollands married at St Mark's on Saturday 22nd August.

RIP

Dennis Sargeant who died on September 19th. Details of funeral arrangements will be on the church bulletin. Our thoughts are with Lin and all the family.

Parish Council

Englefield Parish Council is very pleased to welcome Lynn Dennison as a new parish councillor. Lynn and her family have lived in North Street for seven years and she has been a regular attendee at council meetings.

Our next meeting will be held on Thursday 8th October at 6.30pm. Due the ongoing covid-19 situation it is still recommended that Council meetings are held as a remote meeting to which members of the public will be invited to join either by video conference, or over the telephone. All are welcome and please visit the parish website for more information <https://englefieldpc.org.uk/>.

Nia Rands, Clerk to Englefield Parish Council

Married at St Mark's

The first wedding to be celebrated at St Mark's after 'lockdown' was on Saturday 1st August when Victoria and Dudley Fishburn's youngest son, Marcus, married Scarlett Clark from Norfolk. Marcus has had his family home at The Old Rectory since he was born and attended Englefield Primary School. All four of the Fishburn children - sons as well as daughters - have been married at St Mark's, as were Victoria and Dudley themselves.

The wedding was attended by 30 people on a glorious day with all the solemnity and all the fun of a wedding ten times the size. The bride's grandfather, a Church of England priest, officiated with Nick at the service. Outside a number of the congregation met to sing a rousing hymn as the bride and groom came out and to cheer them on their way as they walked down to The Old Rectory.

Dudley Fishburn

Harvest Thanksgiving

St Mark's is celebrating Harvest on Sunday 4th October. We are delighted to be joining with Holy Trinity Theale this year and contributing to the West Berks Foodbank and CIRDIC (Churches in Reading Drop in Centre). Boxes will be left at the back of St Mark's for your contributions which will be delivered in liaison with Holy Trinity. Non-perishable items only this year, please. Items needed are tinned vegetables, chilli mix, soup, instant mash, tinned potatoes, baked beans, shampoo, cleaning products; urgent needs include sponge puddings, custard, sugar, tinned fruit, rice pudding. Please bring and leave your gifts at the church any day or time (between 10am-4pm) until Tuesday 13th October. Thank you.



Uchiki kuri squashes ripening in the autumn sunshine in the Five a Day garden.

Drive-through flu vaccines

The Estate will be assisting Theale Medical Centre to deliver influenza vaccinations this autumn by allowing them to hold 'drive through' clinics on the main drive to Englefield House. The number and timings of clinics will depend on demand although it is expected these will be held on Saturday mornings throughout October, with the first on Saturday 3rd October.

Signage will be erected on the day and a one-way system will be in operation for those receiving vaccines with cars entering via the main Lodge Gates, drivers and passengers receiving their vaccines near Appleton's Corner and cars leaving via The Street after a short wait. For further details on booking flu vaccinations, please contact Theale Medical Centre. For those not pre-booked to receive a vaccination, we ask that the front drive is not used as a short cut to the village, as this will cause delays for the medical team. Thank you.

Englefield Estate Office

Thank you to our advertisers

As you'll be aware Englefield Parish News is distributed free of charge to all the households in the parish and to members of the congregation of St Mark's and, since lockdown has prevented us from meeting physically, to an ever-increasing mailing list of more distant friends and supporters of the church. This is made financially possible largely because of our loyal advertisers. If you take the time to look towards the back of every issue you will find ads for the farm shop, for tree surgery, health and wellbeing, fitness, motor services, carpet cleaning, logs, golf, water softener salt, taxis, pet kennels, interior decoration, undertakers and, the latest to join the band, Darren's Garden Services (see page 32 and right). Englefield Garden Centre, Village Stores and The Old Fire Station Nursery also feature on the back cover. We are hugely grateful to all these businesses for supporting the magazine.

Please do spread the word if you know of anyone running a local business who might want to advertise with us. Rates are very reasonable! For more details contact parishnews@stmarksenglefield.org.uk.



**Darren's Garden & Exterior
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Pruning	Conservatory roof cleaning
Strimming	Fencing
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General tidying	

For bookings and quotes please
contact Darren
07960084434 Dazzaif@icloud.com

Hugh Boulter RIP

Hugh was buried in St Mark's graveyard on 20th August. The bell tolled 80 times for the years of his life as the family processed down the drive and across the graveyard. It was a beautiful sunny, breezy day, a great blessing as the whole service was conducted outside by Revd Nick Wynne-Jones. Family and friends contributed to the service. Adam and his family had made it back from Madagascar where he is Dean of the Theological College in Toliara, although they had to quarantine on arrival. Adam gave a eulogy about his friendship with his father and Joseph (13) read part of Hugh's memoirs on travelling in Papua New Guinea. He had read this to Joseph on Zoom the morning of the day he died suddenly of a heart attack. Hannah (8) read his favourite Wordsworth poem 'My heart leaps up when I behold a rainbow in the sky'. The Venerable Julian Hubbard gave an moving address. Canon Ian Cohen wrote several of the prayers specially for Hugh and Revd Professor June Boyce Tillman was played on CD singing the hymn she composed to honour Hugh's work on justice and Interfaith issues. The family are so grateful for the wonderful support they have been given especially in the long wait for the funeral and on the day itself. Hugh touched so many lives. It was a very sad but also a joyous laying to rest, honouring the many ways he had served in promoting Interfaith issues and spirituality. May he rest in peace for he has risen in glory.

Carol Boulter



Revd Nick Wynne-Jones and The Venerable Julian Hubbard with Adam, Beth and two of their children, Hannah and Benjamin Boulter.

A wedding at St Mark's

Charlotte was aged just three when we first arrived at Englefield church in 1990, and what a joy for Peter and myself to see her married to Phil on August 22nd. Nick was away on holiday, so they asked a friend, Simon Lewis, the Dean of St Anselm, based in Lambeth Palace, to officiate, with Simon Guillebaud to preach. Phil's Oxford friend, Peter Shepherd, composed a piece of music for Charlotte's bridal procession into church; his organ playing was a joy.

Phil and Charlotte had both joined the Community of St Anselm: Charlotte in year 1 and Phil in year 3 – both non resident and working at day jobs throughout. They met on a St Anselm trip to Israel in March 2019 and within months began dating.

The covid-19 restrictions took a lot of time to think through; numbers were cut, then cut again and that was agonising as so many family and good friends were not able to be in church to witness the marriage. However, that prompted a desire to have a 'live stream' for absentees to watch, and so began a journey for Peter, joined by Phil's brother Rob, to enable this to happen. Many weeks later, they were successful, and back home, 30 people used the marquee to watch the live stream, as well as many friends and relatives in their homes. A lot of electronic kit in church on the morning resulted in our friend, the cameraman, having to act as security from early morning until 2pm.

Many others gave their time and energy for the day: Nick and Torquil gave consistent support; Carole, Penny and Lizzie did a special church clean; Stephanie and David, and Liz and Ron, sat outside front and back doors as 'door keepers' during the service; Dinah, always a reassuring presence, set up the altar candlesticks and tidied away afterwards; Gwen and Carole, with Izzy Archer, created beautiful flower arrangements on the entrance arches and inside the church; Liz McKean and Dudley appeared outside and threw rose petals as the bridal pair left the church – we felt very loved and supported by St Mark's congregation, many of whom we know were praying for the day to go well.

With no congregational singing in church allowed in the Church of England guidelines, Phil's stepsister Amy and our Annie, joined together to sing *Amazing Grace* and *How Great is thy Faithfulness* accompanied by the organ, during the service. It was both peaceful and moving to sit and meditate on the words as they sang. Annie and husband Jon sang during the signing of the register. Denny, signing the register, noted the entry above – Victoria's signature at Marcus' recent wedding.

Joy and happiness radiated from Phil and Charlotte's faces throughout the ceremony – a wonderful and blessed day.

Denny Hollands



Exercise for everyone

Ever Active is a programme developed by Get Berkshire Active and funded by Reading Borough Council and West Berkshire Council. The programme supports older and disabled adults who are seeking to improve their health and fitness and reduce feelings of loneliness and social isolation. There are a range of activities now available including Virtual Yoga (via Zoom), a regular walk from Pangbourne, and an Outdoor Gentle Exercise class in Englefield Village. A downloadable pdf of their weekly calendar is available on their website: www.getberkshireactive.org/ever-active.

All Ever Active sessions are low to moderate intensity and everyone is encouraged to take sessions at their own pace. A typical session also features opportunities for attendees to socialise with new friends. Sessions are delivered in a friendly and supportive group environment, led by qualified individuals and structured to help improve physical activity levels, mental and social health.

The Gentle Exercise session at Englefield can be done standing, sitting on chairs provided by the instructor, or using your wheelchair. Sessions take place on Friday mornings at 11.15 on the grass behind St Mark's Close. They are booked in advance by emailing nickrance@getberkshireactive.org before 5pm on Thursday. Email is essential to ensure social distancing and to get details of what will happen if the weather forecast is bad.

Liz Mattison, Community & Education Officer, Englefield Estate

Thank you

Terry and Dinah would like to say a big thank you to all our kind friends who sent cards, flowers and a delicious cake to wish us well in our new home. We moved into St Mark's Close on August 12th and it feels like home now. After 50 years at Mayridge packing up was a nightmare really but with help of family and friends we made it. It certainly was the right time for us to move and we are so grateful to be here. We would love to see you if you would like to call in. Thank you!

Dinah Perkins

Memories of Den

One of Englefield's finest, Den Sergeant, died on 19th September, a few weeks short of his 94th birthday. Den lived for most of his time at Englefield in the School House with Lin and his sons, Gary, Dean and David.



Den and Lin first came to Englefield when he was appointed as the Club steward, a role he held until 1970 when he came on to the Estate team as a painter. There he worked with Gerald Faulkner and the two could be seen across the Estate, usually up precarious ladders and always chatting away. He retired in 1992 enjoying a full and active retirement for 28 years.

No conversation with Den was ever ordinary or dull. He had huge interests across a wide number of subjects. He was fascinated in all things American. Dudley Fishburn, Den's Englefield neighbour, used to bring back baseball hats for him on his frequent trips to America. The collection grew and grew and Den would often be seen wearing these exotic emblems of distant teams in his garden, the prize being a Texas Stetson worn at the Flower Show. He was an accomplished model maker and would give many of his works to children, including my own.

The Sergeant family have been no strangers to loss, with the tragic death of Gary in 2014. Den and Lin's nursing of him through those dark days and the courage they and his brothers showed after his death will always be remembered among his family and friends. As a family they have always been close in good times and bad. I will



remember seeing them all going around the garden at Englefield with Den testing them all on the tree species. A great love of the natural world and of Englefield was heartfelt. He and Lin gave a talk in the church a few years ago on their life in the village. It was full of fun, happy memories, and a deep belief in what good communities should be about. For many of us the last time we saw him was at the VE celebrations (see the photo above). He was frail but his good humour and friendliness was there for all he met. At all future village gatherings there will be a giant Den-sized hole. He will be greatly missed.

Richard Benyon

Den and Lin on their Diamond Wedding anniversary in June 2017.

Raising money for Berkshire's churches

Ride+Stride is the main annual fundraising event for the Berkshire Historic Churches Trust and this year took place on Saturday 12th September. Despite all the current restrictions many churches valiantly stepped up and opened their doors to visitors. Torquil Montague-Johnstone undertook to visit every participating church in the Bradfield Deanery using a combination of electric bike and car, and he was very grateful to all those who kindly supported him. Half of all the money he raised will come back to St Mark's. If you would like to donate, it is not too late!

<https://www.justgiving.com/berkshirechurchestrust>.

Keeping the village tidy

On Tuesday 23rd September, five members of the Englefield Estate staff took part in the Great British September Clean. This annual campaign by Keep Britain Tidy aims to spotlight the problem of litter, improve public spaces and get people involved. More than 600,000 people in the UK 'pledged to pick' this year, in events rescheduled from the springtime due to COVID-19 restrictions.

The Englefield team covered over four miles of road, public footpath and permissive walking route in the vicinity of the village, as well as a stretch of the nearby River Bourne. 42 bags of rubbish were collected – the majority of which had sadly been dumped in the river. Liz Mattison, the Englefield Estate's Community and Education Officer said, 'Over the last six months we have been glad to provide open spaces and beautiful surroundings for our local communities to enjoy, get fresh air and exercise during such a difficult time. The Great British September Clean has given us the opportunity to take part in a nationwide campaign whilst ensuring our village and walking routes are litter-free for residents.'



Rob Allen, Sara Ward and Sue Broughton at the end of the morning's litter pick.

News from Rushall Farm



When I finished working at Rushall Farm as manager for William Cumber six years ago I continued to have responsibility for the various pieces of farmed land around Theale. Most of it had been put into an environmental scheme in 2011. At that time we planted wild flower meadows, allowed some areas to naturally regenerate, did tree and shrub planting and turned the wartime pillbox into a home for bats. This was all to make it more attractive for wildlife, and it has been a success. There are often roe deer happily grazing and an abundance of pheasants knowing they are miles away from being shot.

But now you will have seen flags flying at the entrance to the field opposite Sainsbury's, and a showroom Portakabin advertising the name Fairfields. House prices vary from £300k to £500k on land which until recently was deemed too close to the motorway for residential development. It is really great that they are keeping the band of trees alongside the M4, which are growing well, and the pillbox is a special feature on the new estate. A friend specialising in cutting and demolishing concrete structures told me there are tonnes of concrete in one of those pillboxes, and they are very difficult to destroy. I take comfort that was the purpose of their design. Interestingly, Bellway Homes, the developers, had first to plan and build a new home for the resident badgers that have thrived over the last nine years. Their accommodation is by far the most expensive on site even without en suite bathroom and fitted kitchen. Right now they are encouraging the badgers with tasty food and a promise not to use violence, but the stakes are high if they don't move.

Land is still retained in the area below the development as a wild flower meadow. This has paths for walkers and is popular with locals. Wildflowers are maintained with annual cutting. The band of trees planted along the M4 has grown incredibly well, reducing noise and giving a more intimate feel to the area.

So it is the end of an era for another chunk of green land. When handing the keys to the site foreman at 8am in the morning pre lock down we mused that, although advertised as half a mile from the motorway, another 200 houses was going to mean an even longer tailback to that busy road.

John Bishop



From Englefield Primary School

'Sowing the Seeds for a Flourishing Future'

What a joy to have school feeling relatively normal again! All our pupils have returned from the summer break re-invigorated and keen to get back to learning and to get back to their friends. Staff are also delighted to be back doing their 'normal' jobs.

Our main aim now is to keep everyone healthy and keep school open. To help with this, parents are staying outside the school building and pupils are washing their hands several times a day. We also have two drop-off and collection times which hopefully is helping with our usual parking problems in the village. Our 18 new children in Mrs Sheppard's Foundation Stage class have started their school careers brilliantly. They come in full of smiles and settle quickly to activities.



Having said goodbye to Mrs Watts in the summer, we are now delighted to welcome Miss Langston into the Year 5/6 class. She has fitted in well to the school and the children are really enjoying her lessons.

Unfortunately our new way of working means that we can welcome very few people into school. We were however lucky to be able to welcome Mr Richard Benyon to our outside classroom where he met with the Year 5/6 class to find out what their ideas were for making our world a healthier place for all. Many ideas came from the restrictions put on people through the lockdown period, for example limiting air travel. Mr Benyon explained how laws were made and how



long it takes for changes to environmental laws to start having an impact. He also gave some suggestions about how the pupils could pass their ideas on to the Government.

Year 5/6 also held an 'evacuation day' to start their World War II topic. Pupils came dressed up in suitable clothing, made identity cards and evacuee tags, carried gas mask boxes. At one point they were all lined up outside the hall building and 'chosen' by staff who pretended to be local residents. The children loved the day and it made the whole experience feel very real for them. They will now continue learning about this important topic through the book *Goodnight Mister Tom*.

Hilary Latimer, Headteacher



Remembering Hazel

I have been searching for a photo of Hazel in her Flower Show hat as it would have been lovely to have shown it in the magazine. She took photos of the Flower Show every year. She loved it, always entering the 'hanging basket' category.

She loved village life and, as a farmer's wife, she helped her husband Jim Pocock with his farm. She pickled, bottled, made jam, loved her garden. The salt of the earth. I was so glad to read the tribute to her written by Dudley Fishburn in the last issue and it prompted me to add mine. She was a special lady.

Lin Sargeant

If anyone has a photograph of Hazel at the Flower Show please do send it to parishnews@stmark.senglefield.org.uk or drop it into the Village Stores and we will put it into a future issue



News from Five a Day

On returning from my summer break, it was wonderful to see the garden with rich autumn colours of dahlias in the cut flower beds as well as squashes, pumpkins and apples ripening fast.

Celebrate the abundant harvest this year with our produce available to buy from the gazebo in Englefield Garden Centre car park, and by calling in to the garden Tuesday to Friday between 10.30am – 12.30pm when volunteers will pick to your requirements. Cut flowers available too! We have swiss chard, potatoes, tomatoes, cucumbers and autumn raspberries available now with uchiki kuri (below) and butternut squashes and pumpkins ready soon.

We are looking forward to welcoming Englefield Primary School children to the garden again this autumn to learn more about soil health, composting and re-cycled rain water. Five a Day is part of the Reading Gardening for Health and Wellbeing Network. Horticultural therapy is so beneficial for people recovering from physical and mental health illness. We offer opportunities for people to come via social prescribing.



Welcome back to the older people who enjoy our Thyme Together sessions and to new volunteers who have started this autumn. Thank you for everyone's hard work – the garden is looking fantastic! As in previous years we're donating some of our produce to the Reading Town Meal on 3rd October. This is Reading's annual celebration of locally-grown food, free to communities and families, run by Food4Families and Reading College. Please visit our website and Facebook page for details and updates from Five a Day this autumn.

Sophie Axford, Five a Day Market Garden Development Officer



Autumn at The Old Fire Station Nursery



Here at the Old Fire Station we have been exploring autumn by using our senses both indoors and outdoors.

The wonderful village has offered so many opportunities for us to explore which we are always thankful for. The children have been collecting pine cones, conkers and acorns to add to the mud kitchen which has supported so many areas of their development especially when counting up to and beyond 10. Stories and leaf printing in the woods have also been enjoyed by all ages.

Here at The Old Fire Station we truly believe that nature is the best playground. For those that would like to come and see what we do please contact us on sophie@theoldfirestationnursery.co.uk or 01189306981 (show-arounds are currently being done after nursery hours).

Sophie Bieny
sophie@theoldfirestationnursery.co.uk



Flu jabs

This year, with COVID-19 in circulation, it's more important than ever that eligible groups are vaccinated to protect them from flu. The flu vaccination is free for a range of people including:

- Those with a long-term health condition
- People living with someone who's at high risk for coronavirus
- Children aged 2 and 3, pupils in Primary School and in year 7
- Pregnant women
- People aged over 65 – where capacity allows, it will be offered to those over 50 later in the year
- Carers

Visit the NHS website or your local surgery website for more information about who should have the flu vaccine. Don't put it off. Protect yourself, protect your family and protect those you care for. Speak to your GP or your local pharmacist today.

For further information see <https://www.thealemedicalcentre.com/>



Test and trace

The NHS Test and Trace app is now available across England and Wales. This follows successful trials with residents on the Isle of Wight, the borough of Newham, and with NHS

Volunteer Responders. Please download and use the app to keep you and other people safe.

The app will be used alongside traditional contact tracing to notify users if they come into contact with someone who later tests positive for coronavirus

The app allows people to report symptoms, order a coronavirus test, check in to venues by scanning a QR code and it helps the NHS trace individuals who may have coronavirus

The app will help the NHS understand if the virus is spreading in a particular area, so local authorities can respond quickly to stop it spreading further and save lives

The app does this while protecting a user's anonymity. Nobody, including the government, will know who or where a particular user is

Search for NHSCOV19 in the Apple Store/Google Play Stores on your phone. Please encourage your friends and family to do so as well - together we can all play our part in keeping West Berkshire safe.

St Mark's rota

(Sidesmen, Sunday Club and creche will only be required when Sunday services resume at the church)

Date	Sidesman	New Testament	Gospel	Prayers	Sunday Club (creche)	Cleaners
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	Dee Boddy Penny Savage	Paula Fenwick *2 Timothy 2:1-10	Melanie Townsend Matthew 21:33-end	Carol Boulter	Saffy O'Sullivan (Liz Reeves)	Saffy and Frieda O'Sullivan
October 11th 18th Sunday after Trinity	Peter Haig	Dee Boddy *3 John:1-4	Peter Haig Matthew 22:1-14	Ron Marillier	Carolyn Ahanchian (Denny Hollands)	Pete and Carole Ford
October 18th 19th Sunday after Trinity	Denny Hollands	Mike Kimber *Acts 28:28-31	Penny Savage Matthew 22:15-22	Catherine Haig	Sara Guiducci (Catherine Haig)	Saffy O'Sullivan Melanie Townsend
October 25th 20th Sunday after Trinity	Melanie Townsend	Gill Barton *Revelation 7:9-17	Dudley Fishburn Matthew 24:30-35	Harriet WJ	HALF TERM	Peter and Catherine Haig
November 1st 21st Sunday after Trinity	Penny Savage	Kahlen Spaulding Ephesians 1:11-end	Torquil MJ *Matthew 9:35-38	Melanie Townsend	HALF TERM	Pete and Carole Ford
November 8th Remembrance Sunday	Liz McKean	Denny Hollands 1 Thessalonians 4:13-end	Aldo Guiducci Matthew 25:1-13	Catherine Haig	Andrea Kean (Liz Reeves)	Saffy and Frieda O'Sullivan
November 15th 23rd Sunday after Trinity	Catherine Haig	Dinah Perkins 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11	Harriet Wynne-Jones Matthew 25:14-30	Ron Marillier	Saffy O'Sullivan (Denny Hollands)	Peter and Catherine Haig
November 22nd Christ the King	Liz Marillier	Dee Boddy Ephesians 1:15-end	Gloria Sleep Matthew 25:31-end	Harriet Wynne-Jones	Carolyn Ahanchian (Catherine Haig)	Saffy O'Sullivan Melanie Townsend
November 29th Advent Sunday	Penny Savage	Mike Kimber	Melanie Townsend	Carol Boulter	Sara Guiducci (Liz Reeves)	Peter and Carole Ford
December 6th Second Sunday of Advent	Dee Boddy	Ronan O'Sullivan	Ann Stone	Saffy O'Sullivan	Andrea Kean (Denny Hollands)	Saffy and Frieda O'Sullivan
December 13th Third Sunday of Advent	Peter Haig	Gill Barton	Peter Haig	Melanie Townsend	Saffy O'Sullivan (Catherine Haig)	Pete and Carole Ford

**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.

Three generations

My wife, Maureen (nee Kerry) was born on April 8th 1941 and passed away on January 30th 2020 at the Royal Berkshire Hospital in Reading due to a respiratory condition, bronchiectasis, which she had had since 2012. The funeral was held on February 26th at St Mark's, followed by the cremation at West Berks Crematorium. Sadly, due to covid-19, we were unable to put Maureen to rest until July 17th. All the services were conducted by the Revd Anthony Peabody to whom we are indebted and Maureen is now the third generation of Smyths to be laid to rest at St Mark's.

My grandfather, Walter William, came to Englefield to work in 1882, coming from Northamptonshire aged 22. He worked on the Estate as a painter and decorator and lodged at David Awbery's at Chalk Pit Lodge. He eventually met and married Emily Elizabeth Harris from Reading in 1888 and had eight children - four girls and four boys, sadly losing Gilbert, the first born. They were living at 55 Parkers Corner at that time. Emily died in 1934 and Walter in 1938.

My father, Francis Edward, was born October 20th 1899. He worked as a telegraph boy and joined the army in 1918 but never went to war. He met my mother, Elizabeth May Horn, who came from Tadley and got married at Christchurch in Reading in 1933. He was then working as a forester on the Estate and they lived in a house in Bradfield named The Haven. He then applied for a job as a gardener at Englefield Rectory for David McCready and moved into Rectory Cottage in March 1939. As the war broke out in 1939 he had to combine two jobs, gardener and security guard at the munitions factory in Theale.

I am Peter R.Smyth and was born in Bradfield in June 1936. After moving to Englefield I went to school there until aged 14, moving to Theale school for the final year. I started work for a local factory in Theale before joining the RAF for four years and spending two years in Aden. On my return from overseas in 1957 I met Maureen and we were married in October 1962. We had three children, Debbie, Mark and Christopher and now have grandsons to carry on the Smyth name.

Maureen came from Reading and when her mother passed away she had her ashes interred at Englefield because she loved it there. We had a headstone placed with her name and her father's name although his ashes are at All Hallows cemetery.

Maureen's sister, Lyn, died in December 2019; she was married to my very good friend Peter Nash who died in November 2015 so her ashes were interred with his in Mr and Mrs Nash's grave. To finalise, the Smyths have been in Englefield from 1882 until 1958 if not in body but in soul - a footnote is that Maureen and Lyn were confirmed in Abingdon by the retired Bishop of Norwich, Maurice Wood, who served as Resident Priest at St Mark's. I and my family are now happy and pleased that Maureen is at rest and free from pain.

Peter Smyth

'Staff notice'

A poem given to Nick Wynne-Jones by its author, an elderly lady living in a care home

A thank you to our faithful staff
with all their smiley faces,
even when some residents
have lost their social graces.
They sweep and dust, and mop the loo
and bring us round fresh water.
They empty bins, deliver post.
Their kindness doesn't falter.
They'll change a light bulb if you ask
or sort a leaking tap.
However much they're in a rush
they're never in a flap.
Then there are those who feed us well,
perhaps with nice hot roast,
and then again at supper time
maybe it's cheese on toast.
And there are carers, night and day
to deal with all our needs
they wash us, dress us, brush our hair
and then they deal with feeds.
They answer bells and calls for help
in sunshine and in rain.
they make the beds and change the towels
and answer bells again.
They run upstairs and down again,
and seldom get a break;
they pick up things, turn on the box
and bring us tea and cake.
They bring us lunch and supper too
and nice hot drinks as well.
I wonder if they'll take the hint -
well only time will tell!
At night they plump our pillows up
and soothe each fevered brow.
They answer bells - oh yes, they do
it's never quiet - not now!

They answer many calls for help
as round the house they creep
however silently they move
some folk will NEVER sleep.
Then there are those in Navy blue -
we couldn't do without them.
They bring us pills for our own good -
Why ever would we doubt them?
They bandage legs and take our pulse
And then, with little warning,
They'll ask us awkward questions, like
"now have you been this morning?
Now some are dark and some are fair
but all of them are blooming.
And some of them let down their hair
when party time is looming!
We know you must appear quite firm,
but when all's said and done
we love the way you laugh and joke
and have a sense of fun!
We also have two VIP's
whose office is on high,
one pays the wages, keeps the books,
the other keeps an eye
on all that happens down below;
she watches over care.
Oh what would we poor mortals do
if either wasn't there?
So well done every one of you,
whatever part you're playing,
We'll all get through this dreadful time
while all of you are staying.
And when it comes to eight o'clock,
when some of us are napping,
please try to hear our grateful thanks
in bursts of virtual clapping!



Englefield People (part II)

Englefield tended to keep itself, and its people, to itself for perhaps much longer than many places and people from outside were still a noticeable rarity even into the middle of the 20th century. Nevertheless, the origin of its population changed a good deal during the

time of Queen Victoria. In addition to the general increase in mobility at that time Englefield had one particular factor: even in 1851 the Englefield estate covered a greater area than just the immediate surrounds of the village. There was therefore more interaction between these surrounding parishes for work or social reasons than might otherwise have been the case and many a marriage resulted. Of the 41 instances in the 1851 census where the birthplace of the head of household was not Englefield, in 23 of them it was in one of the immediately surrounding villages. By 1901 the estate took in at least parts of the parishes of Ufton, Sulhamstead, Burghfield, Mortimer, Theale, Bradfield and even further afield and although the number of households where either husband or wife had been born in Englefield had fallen considerably, the number of heads of household not born in the village but born in the associated villages nearby was nearly the same as in 1851 at 20. These figures may be skewed somewhat by the tendency of women to return to their mother's home as the birth of a child drew near, as witness the number of children shown as born in the same (neighbouring) village as their mother although she and her husband were resident in Englefield at the time.

Sometimes, too, there was no house available in the village for workers at the Yard, the Gardens or on one of the Englefield farms when they married and they were forced to commute from an estate property elsewhere until a house nearer their work became available, leading to at least some of the next generation being born outside Englefield but then becoming very much part of the village later. Alfred Lamperd, living with his parents at Wimbleton's before his marriage 1908, lived afterwards in Church Terrace at Theale until 33 North Street became available. 'Jim' Smith lived at number 10 with his mother until he married Renee Cook in 1951 when the only house vacant was 60 Mayridge Farm Cottages (at least still on the main estate) although he worked at Chalkpit. They were later able to move into 31 North Street.

Perhaps the main thing that created movement of people in the 19th century, in Englefield as elsewhere, was the practice of sending young men and women to be domestic servants in households distant from their home village. Of the 18 servants living-in at Englefield House in 1901, three were born in other parts of Berkshire with the remainder coming from a wide variety of places across the country: from Scotland to Devon; Westmorland to Norfolk. To this must be added some of the more senior servants who were married and lived out: butlers Edgar Worth (born in

Sussex) at number 5 in 1901 and Donald Large at Wimbleton's Cottages in 1939, for example. Similarly, chauffeurs, coachmen and grooms, married or not, generally lived over the Stables, as did Percy Garton in 1939 and Frederick Reid in 1901.

In 1851 two maids had Englefield House to themselves on census night, the family being at their London house, 34 Grosvenor Square, with 19 servants, including coachman James Smales from Cumberland. His wife, Mary Ann Smales also from Cumberland, was at number 4 in The Street. Most of the servants no doubt had travelled from Englefield but their places of birth, showed the same spread as in 1901. The only example found of a living-in servant born in Englefield was in 1881 when Caroline Cox was a stillroom maid at 17 Grosvenor Square, to which Richard Benyon had moved from number 34 in 1869.

Given the propensity of country people for next-door marriages, the presence of servants in the village community usefully stirred up the gene pool by 'out-crosses', both between servants or their children and villagers and between servants in the same or associated households. May Winchcomb (granddaughter of Thomas Horn and Matilda May, representing the union of two long-time Englefield families) married Shropshire groom Ted Van Veen; Arthur Claydon, son of James and Clara Claydon at the Club, married Mabel Reid, daughter of Mr Benyon's coachman Frederick and Hannah Reid, from Blackheath and Scotland respectively. Annie Claydon, Arthur's sister, didn't go far for service herself, being cook to the Rector, the Revd Granville Gore Skipwith, but she married William Milne (originally from Kent) who was chauffeur to the Rector's father-in-law George Tyser at Oakfield near Mortimer and after the First World War (during which William was twice awarded the MM) they lived in the village until he died in 1938. Emily Horne, from number 10 in The Street, was in service at Henley when she married William Percy Smith from Remenham and after years of moving around with him came back to Englefield when he died in 1925 and stayed until her death in 1981. Renee Cook, whose father William took over the Club from James Claydon, was a children's nanny in Newbury during the Second World War and in 1942 married John Hayward, originally from Corsham but a chauffeur at Speen. Sadly, the marriage lasted but six months before he was killed in the Mediterranean and Renee later reverted to type by marrying her sister's husband's brother from six doors down The Street.

Despite all the changes during and since the War, a few descendants of the old families cling on, if not exactly in Englefield then not far away.

Richard Smith



Opposite page: members of the Cox family. Above: a photograph taken when the Timber Yard played the House and Gardens at cricket, August 2014.

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.

The tongue of the wise adorns knowledge, but the mouth of the fool gushes folly (Proverbs 15 v 2)

In the Bible, wisdom usually refers to the right application of knowledge. Here we see that the wise person is able to use their tongue to 'adorn' knowledge; to use knowledge in a way which is profitable. The fool on the other hand is one who spouts 'folly'; words which are lacking in insight or understanding and which miss the mark. It is quite possible to have access to lots of information, yet still be unwise. It is also quite possible to do a lot of talking but say nothing worth hearing.

The application of this to us today is clear: we should be people who think carefully before we speak, particularly with regards to the pandemic and the key workers who are labouring in the midst of it. Much folly has been spoken this year by people, whether fanning the flames of conspiracy theories about the origins and severity of the virus, or stirring up controversy about the wearing of masks. Wisdom requires us to not only speak what is true – and much of what has been said by many is clearly untrue – but also what is edifying and loving.

Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told Jesus about her (Mark 1.30)

There is no remedy like this. Means are to be used diligently, without question, in any time of need. Doctors are to be sent for, in sickness. The help of friends is to be sought. But still, after all, the first thing to be done, is to cry to the Lord Jesus Christ for help. None can relieve us so effectually as He can. None is so compassionate, and so willing to relieve. When Lazarus fell sick, his sisters sent immediately to Jesus: 'Lord,' they said, 'he whom you love is sick.' (John 11:2.) Now let us do likewise. 'Cast your burden upon the Lord, and he shall sustain you.'... 'In everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God.' (Psalm 55:22; Phil. 4:6.) We live in a world of sin and sorrow. It needs no prophet's eye to foresee that we shall all shed many a tear, and feel many a heart-wrench, before we die. Let us be armed with a formula against despair, before our troubles come. Let us know what to do, when sickness, or bereavement, or cross, or loss, or disappointment breaks in upon us like an armed man. Let us do as they did in Simon's house at Capernaum. Let us at once 'tell Jesus'. *(Reflection by Bishop J C Ryle)*

'I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you.'
(John 17 v 20b-21a)

In these verses we see an example of Jesus praying specifically for *us* – for those who will come to faith after the time of his earthly ministry, believing in him through the message passed down by the apostles. The theme of his prayer might at first surprise us – he prays for unity in the church; that his people would be one. But actually, this prayer flows quite naturally from a right understanding of the intimate relationship between God and his people; modelled as it is on the perfect relationship between the Father and the Son. It is when we are united that we display the truth of the gospel, the good news about Jesus, most clearly. Sadly, all too often we see discord and factions in the church, rather than the unity we read about here. This unity, like the love which produces it, is supernatural: it is fundamentally the same as the unity that exists between the Father and the Son. It only endures when believers keep in touch with their Lord, and contemplate the glory that has been his from eternity. As spokes in a wheel draw closer together the nearer to the hub they get, so we will only draw closer together in unity as we draw near to Jesus.

'We continually ask God ... so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord, and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God.' (Colossians 1 v 9b-10a)

What it means to grow as a Christian is summed up well in these words of the apostle Paul. Growth is a key part of the Christian life, not an optional extra. We have not just been rescued from the “dominion of darkness”, we have been “brought...into the kingdom of the Son” (v13). We were rescued for a purpose. And that purpose, Paul tells us here, is to live a life worthy of the Lord and to grow in the knowledge of God. It is worth reflecting on two truths here: first, that how we live matters to God. We are called to “bear fruit”; as we grow in our knowledge of God our lives will manifest behaviours and actions which blossom from this knowledge. But this activity is not something that we empower ourselves to do, as if we can turn over a new leaf in our own strength. Paul stresses the second truth through using the little phrase “so that” in verse 10: the root of our growth, and the power that enables it, comes from God himself. If we are serious about growth, and living for God today, we must remember first and foremost that it is he who equips us with what we need to flourish and grow in holiness, and come before him in prayer.

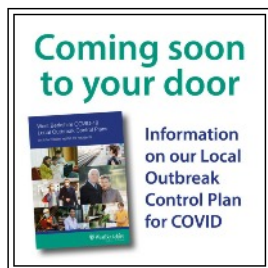
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Our At Home service is also running and may be able to deliver books to you if you are unable to get to us. If you are housebound, we can arrange doorstep deliveries to your home every few weeks with a small selection of library items. There is no charge for this service, except when you request a book not held in any West Berkshire library. You can find out more by ringing 01635 519827.

The Library Service also runs an online book group called *West Berks Reads*. Visit www.facebook.com/groups/wberksreads to find out more.

The Mobile Library comes to Englefield every three weeks on Wednesdays stopping outside the Old Fire Station Nursery. The next dates are: October 8th; November 19th; December 10th.



West Berks covid plan

The leaflet shown here should be put through your door. West Berkshire Council is distributing them as a safeguarding measure to all households across the district. As you will be aware, there is a risk that an outbreak may happen in this area and as required by central Government, the Council has prepared a COVID-19 Local Outbreak Control Plan (LOCP) which outlines how

a local outbreak and any future restrictions would be managed. Integral to the success of the plan will be ensuring that everyone is aware of its existence, what may happen and what may be asked of you, should an outbreak occur in West Berkshire.

Please do keep an eye out for this leaflet - read it, share it and keep it safe.

From the intercessory prayers at a recent service at St Mark's

We glorify you Lord as head of the Church, our King and our judge. We thank you for the Church, the body of Christ on earth, and pray for revival at this time of crisis, that many millions would turn to the Lord Jesus acknowledging that He is the Messiah, the Son of the one true God. We pray for our leaders: Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury; Stephen Bishop of Oxford and Olivia Bishop of Reading. We pray for Martin Davy and his family in Theale and for Nick and Harriet in their ministry here in Englefield. Please give each one wisdom, discernment and grace to serve you faithfully, holding fast to the truth of the Gospel, strengthening the whole Church to live in expectation of your coming.

We praise you Lord, our Saviour and Redeemer. Father we lift to you the millions of Christians throughout the world suffering persecution because of their faith in Christ, remembering especially those in Iran and the Coptic Church in Egypt, Christians in Nigeria, India, Pakistan and those suffering cruel persecution in North Korea. In obedience we pray for their persecutors, that they might be transformed by Holy Spirit revelation having a longing for Christ and the forgiveness and the new life that he brings.

We proclaim your Kingship Lord as ruler of the nations. Father we lift this world to you, praying for all those who are suffering the misery of hunger, war and displacement. We pray especially for Lebanon, Yemen, the DRC and other parts of Africa, the refugees in Myanmar and those trapped in poverty in Venezuela. We pray for the US at this time of civil unrest, for peace in Hong Kong and we lift the Middle East and Syria to you and most especially pray for the protection of Israel and your blessing on her, giving thanks for the peace agreement with the UAE.

Eternal King, we pray for Elizabeth our Queen, giving thanks for her life and health and the continued strength to live out her calling as monarch. We pray for our country and government. Keep us faithful in prayer for those in authority, humbling ourselves in repentance before you, seeking your face that we may be governed wisely, with humility and discernment; and that once again we might become a nation which carries the message of salvation in Christ Jesus to others.

Lord of all healing, we pray that the hope and comfort of your Holy Spirit would fill all those whose lives are overshadowed by illness or pain. In a moment of quiet let us bring before the Lord those known to us who are in need of God's grace and healing. We give thanks for answered prayer and join with all those who have received your healing and comfort, praising you for your mercy and loving care.

Heavenly Father, fill us afresh with your Holy Spirit this morning we pray. Please strengthen us that we might live a life worthy of the Lord, pleasing him in every way and bearing fruit in all that we do for the glory of Christ Jesus.

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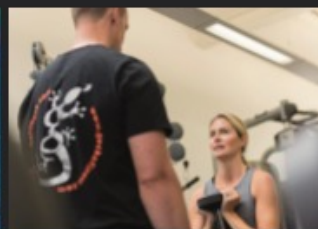
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What do PPG members do? We suggest ideas for improvements and speak up about how services are organised or managed. We're the voice of all Theale patients.

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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