

# *Englefield Parish News*

December 2020-January 2021



# *The Parish of St Mark's, Englefield*

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07725 171223

**St Mark's Church website:**

**[www.stmarksenglefield.org.uk](http://www.stmarksenglefield.org.uk)**

**Englefield Parish Council website:**

**[www.englefieldpc.org.uk](http://www.englefieldpc.org.uk)**

**Front cover:** *St Mark's nativity: 'For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger' (Luke 2: 11-12).*

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](mailto:catherinehaig@gmail.com) or handed in to Nick Wynne-Jones or to the Village Stores by the 20<sup>th</sup> of the preceding month.

# From St Mark's House

## Dear friends

‘Thank you for calling. All our agents are busy at this time. Your call is very important to us. Please stay on the line and your call will be answered as soon as possible.’

According to one survey, the average person will spend approximately 43 days waiting on hold in their lifetime! That seems as nothing when compared to all the waiting of 2020. In the uncertainty, plans have been cancelled, rescheduled or postponed. For many, life itself has been put on hold. The mood seems captured in the title of one (among many) recommended consultancy book: *How to Lead When You Don't Know Where You are Going*. This season of uncertainty between an old comfort zone and new challenges can foster feelings of anxiety, confusion or low morale.

Our world has been changed and our routines are gone. We're told to distance ourselves socially from each other - an unfortunate phrase for distancing ourselves *spatially*. While keeping physically distanced, we need to encourage one another *socially* in conversation or correspondence, getting closer in heart and mind. Between working from home and avoiding group gatherings, 2020 has proved to be a lonely year. That is a hard place to be. Our minds can conjure up worst-case scenarios in the darkness of the imagination, the fear of the unknown. From imprisonment the apostle Paul wrote, 'Instead of worrying, pray. Let petitions and praises shape your worries into prayers, letting God know your concerns. Then God's peace will guard your hearts and minds and the God of peace will be with you.'<sup>1</sup>

While life appears to have been put on hold for many, God's plans and purposes are not, nor is his attentiveness to our cries. For centuries the Jewish people lived in expectation of the Messiah; through the intervening years the world was prepared for the Gospel to spread. When the right time had come, God sent his Son. At the end of his ministry on earth, Jesus promised that he would return. The apparent delay became a cause for doubting God's word. The apostle Peter set the record straight: 'in the last days scoffers will come saying "where is the promise of his coming?" God is not slow but patient, not wanting any to perish but everyone to come to repentance.'<sup>2</sup> God's plans are not on hold; his 'delays' are not denials; his timing is perfect. Jesus taught, with regard to events in his day, that disasters may be a gracious call to salvation. It has been observed that this may well be true of our current pandemic: 'I think that God is calling the world to repentance while there's still time. He is showing us that nothing in this world gives the security and satisfaction that we find in Jesus.'<sup>3</sup>

May this Christmas and the year ahead, find you rejoicing in the message of Christ's first coming and ready for his return.

Watching and waiting

*Nick and Harriet*

## Diary dates

Time to Pray: if lockdown restrictions are relaxed, this will resume on the first and third Wednesdays of every month, 6-6.30pm in the Englefield Chapel at St Mark's. Carols by Candlelight: Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December (subject to post lockdown guidelines, see opposite for more details).

## 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

*Darren's Garden Services advert, featured for the first time in the last issue, unfortunately had the wrong mobile number - please see the revised ad on page 32 and note the number: 07960 084494.*

## *Christmas at St Mark's*

At the time of writing it is not yet certain what form our Christmas celebrations at St Mark's will take. However, in anticipation that restrictions will return to something similar to those pre-lockdown, we are planning to hold our Carols by Candlelight on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December and a family service on Christmas Day. Please look out for details which will be posted on the church bulletin, on the noticeboard in the Village Stores and on the church website: [www.stmarksenglefield.org.uk](http://www.stmarksenglefield.org.uk).

Sunday morning services returned to Zoom during lockdown but it is hoped to resume services in the church in the near future, subject to safety guidelines. Thanks to the sterling work by Peter Hollands, these services will continue to be streamed for those who are unable to attend in person. If you would like to know how to access this, please send an email to [office@stmarksenglefield.org.uk](mailto:office@stmarksenglefield.org.uk). St Mark's Church continues to be open for private prayer every weekday from around 11am to 4pm.

## *St Mark's APCM*

Because of the pandemic the annual meetings, usually held by the end of April, had to be postponed until restrictions allowed. On 12th October the first ever APCM to be held on Zoom as a video conference was attended by 20 people. Carol Boulter and Torquil Montague-Johnstone were elected as Churchwardens. Deanery Synod representatives Paula Fenwick, Ron Marillier and Torquil Montague-Johnstone were elected for a three-year term. Members of the PCC are elected on a three-year rotation with Liz Marillier re-elected, and two newly elected members, Daphne Boddy and Peter Hollands. The 2019 report and accounts were received (the report is now on the church website. The electoral roll was confirmed as 94. Other appointments were: Ron Marillier, Treasurer; Penny Savage, Secretary; Richard Smith, Electoral Roll Officer; Susannah McBain, Child Protection Officer. The Chairman thanked all those whose term of office was extended, those who provided ministry and pastoral care, and those who enabled worship to continue 'virtually' during lockdown.



## *Operation Christmas Child*

St Mark's is supporting this initiative again this year. If you would like to help bring a little Christmas cheer to children suffering from war, famine and poverty, visit [ShoeBoxOnline](http://ShoeBoxOnline) to see the options. You can pack a shoebox virtually, or choose one ready packed, or make a donation: <https://www.samaritans-purse.org.uk>. Deadline is December 14<sup>th</sup> and don't forget to put St Mark's Englefield when prompted to say which group you represent.



## *Christmas cards*

As Christmas-tide approaches, St Mark's would like to continue the tradition of exchanging Christmas cards within the community. As this year it is not viable to leave cards on the font in church as is our usual practice, Andy and Laura have kindly agreed to be our postbox at the Village Shop. Last posting date will be Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December to ensure delivery of all cards before Christmas Eve.

With every Christmas card you write, there's no guarantee of a White Christmas, but here's hoping your days are Merry and Bright!

*Paula Fenwick*

*Berkshire Historic Churches Trust Christmas cards, usually available in church, can be ordered online this year - details on [www.berkschurchestrust.org.uk](http://www.berkschurchestrust.org.uk).*

## *Estate news*

Welcome to Caroline Jones, from Tilehurst, who joined us as an apprentice gardener in September and will be spending four days a week at Englefield and one day per week at Sparsholt College. Caroline's course will last a little over two years and, during this time, she'll be visited by an assessor to test her on practical aspects of her training.

You will have noticed that building work on the new village hall is nearly complete. Before the building can be used, work is underway to set up the charitable organisation that will manage it, to equip what is currently an empty shell and to put in place the infrastructure to run the hall including insurances, licences, booking processes and the team to run the show. Inevitably, covid-19 has delayed progress but we look forward to updating you early next year and to the opening of what will be a multi-purpose community facility to be used for range of recreational, educational and leisure activities, hopefully meeting the needs of local residents and community groups of all ages.

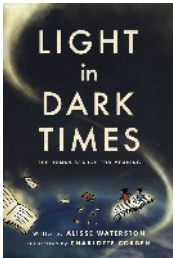
*Edward Crookes, Estates Director*

## Virtual carol services

Many local charities have struggled this year due to the circumstances, finding themselves unable to hold any of their usual fundraising events such as carol concerts. However, thanks to the power of technology, several charities are going ahead with 'virtual' events instead.

'Follow the Stars' is the Christmas carol concert in aid of Macmillan which will be streamed online, from its première on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December at 8pm, until 31<sup>st</sup> December. It features stars such as Joanna Lumley, Sinéad Cusack, Stephen Fry, Toby Jones, Alexander Armstrong and many others. To pre-register go to [www.macmillan.org.uk/followthestars](http://www.macmillan.org.uk/followthestars) and follow the link. It is free but donations would be gratefully received by the Newbury Macmillan Committee (30-64-72, account 35854460, reference 'concert').

The annual Charlie Waller Memorial Trust carol service has also gone online and will this year be streamed via YouTube at 7pm on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> December. It too features a star-studded line up and tickets are £25 per household, available here: <https://charliewaller.org/events/charlie-waller-virtual-carol-service>.



## *Light in Dark Times*

Congratulations to Charlotte Corden (née Hollands) on the publication of her first published illustrated book. *Light in Dark Times: the human search for meaning* is by anthropologist, Alisse Waterston, and the collaboration came about after Charlotte heard Alisse speak at a conference and was moved to create a drawing to help her understand what she'd said. When Alisse saw the illustration she got in touch to ask if Charlotte would like to help turn her speech into a book. Charlotte describes it as the best endeavour of her life so far and the most extraordinary collaborative experience. The book is published by University of Toronto Press and is available at £12.54 from Amazon.

## *Dine out at Ufton Court*

A pop-up restaurant is coming to the Tithe Barn at Ufton Court, offering Saturday evening dinner and Sunday lunch on the weekends of 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> December - in support of the children's charity Ufton Adventure. You can see menus and make a booking on the Ufton website <https://uftoncourt.co.uk/charity-events/> or email Darren at [info@fosters-catering.co.uk](mailto:info@fosters-catering.co.uk).



## *Help for online services*

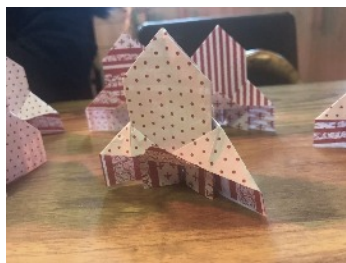
The PCC and the congregation would like to record their grateful thanks to Ronan O'Sullivan for all his hard work in setting up and running the St Mark's Zoom services during both lockdowns. And also to Peter Hollands whose expertise enabled Sunday services to be broadcast when we returned to church in the autumn and who is continuing to put in an enormous amount of work to upgrade our IT'. Whatever the future brings, we would like to continue to record our services and Peter would like to train others to operate the equipment once we return to church. If you think you could help and would like to know more about it please contact Nick or the churchwardens who will put you in touch with Peter. Thank you.

*Nick Wynne-Jones*



### *St Mark's Sunday Club*

Sunday Club has persevered despite the circumstances of the year and we have met each week on Zoom to pray, to chat, to make and paint and cook and to sing. Over the summer, Frieda and Tabbi met regularly in the deer park for walks and on one occasion Frieda helped test the buoyancy of cones and leaves in the lake when we looked at Jesus walking on the water.



After a glorious reunion in the vestry at the beginning of October, we then found ourselves back to Zoom meetings, but have still found time to meet and play near the church in wonderful anticipation of our return. The girls are pictured here making origami churches as we looked at the Early Church and how church refers to our congregation as much as to our beautiful building.

*Saffy O'Sullivan*





## Christmas at the Garden Centre

Well it has definitely been an interesting year at the Garden Centre to say the least. We were closed for 59 days of the first lockdown, however we have been lucky enough to remain open during the second lockdown. It has been so pleasing to hear how many customers missed us and how many new customers have found us, so please continue to tell your friends about all the great work we do.



Christmas is fast approaching and we have already received our first colourful batch of poinsettias and are due a second batch in a couple of weeks. Our Christmas trees are now ready for sale and we have a strong feeling that they will go quick so don't leave it too long. We will also continue doing our mixed foliage and hyacinth bowls along with all the other great plants we sell. Also why not take a look at the tools - we have great presents for all those who have recently gotten in to gardening or why not start planning next year's planting programme by picking up some seeds. Our seed potatoes and bulbs are due mid-January. This is always subject to ground conditions so can be a little later if too wet or too cold to transport. Hopefully we can have a more normal season going forward.

Please remember when visiting the Garden Centre to scan our QR code, sanitise your hands, wipe down your trolley and keep two metres from other customers. Enjoy your shopping experience with us, we all want to stay safe. Keep gardening.

*Austin Crabbe, Garden Centre Manager*

### Why give to your local Foodbank?

- 400% increase in take up since March
- 16 tonnes of food parcels a month (up from 4 this time last year)
- A growing need in Theale





**DROP OFF LOCATION:**  
Holy Trinity Church, Theale

**WHEN?**  
**SUNDAYS AND WEDNESDAYS**  
**10.30AM TO 4.00PM**



## *Beaver Scouts visit the gardens*

Scout groups around Englefield have continued to meet both online via Zoom and face-to-face when possible, with volunteer leaders making a massive effort to provide young people with some welcome continuity during these difficult times. The usual

range of Scout activities has obviously been badly affected by the covid-19 pandemic but two groups of Beaver Scouts (ages 6-8) were able to visit the Englefield Gardens in late September.

Guided by Sue Broughton, Head Gardener, the Beavers learned about the different trees in the garden, talking about the changing seasons and how old the gardens are. They were challenged to learn five things during their visit.

Beaver Scout leader Helen Townsend said, 'Voyager Beavers from 1<sup>st</sup> Burghfield and Sulhamstead Scouts were overjoyed to be back to face-to-face scouting; to do this in such a beautiful setting as Englefield Gardens was a real privilege.'

Over at the Estate Forestry Yard, Richard Edwards has also helped 1<sup>st</sup> Upton Nervet Scout Group by providing a covid-safe covered outdoor area for meeting as well as the wide-open spaces of the forest. Scout leaders plan to resume usual activities as soon as they are able but, in the meantime, Englefield continues to help where we can.

*Liz Mattison, Community & Education Officer, Englefield Estate*

## *A tale of two terriers*



Two men went for a walk with their dogs quite late on a winter afternoon. It was dark when they parted and each attached a lead to his dog and made his way home. One watched television for a while with the dog lying beside him. The other fed his dog, it said hello to his wife and then joined a Facetime call to his granddaughter. Only after a couple of hours was the mistake spotted and two slightly



mystified Irish terriers were reunited with their rightful owners. How come nobody twigged? Apparently a classic case of confirmation bias: suspicions were never aroused because everyone assumed that everything was just as it should be!

## *Cobbs at Christmas*

Our farm shop is ready and raring to go for Christmas. Our shelves are fully stocked with some absolutely stunning Christmas food and our butcher's order books are open. We are proud to be offering award-winning turkeys from Peach Croft Farm again this year, as well as lots of other festive options. Orders need to be placed by Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> December.



Our Friday and Saturday night takeaways from the Cobbs cafe were very successful during lockdown - keep an eye on our website for future plans.

*The Cobbs at Englefield team*

## *Reduce the risk of burglary this winter*

Now that the clocks have gone back and the evenings are darker, there are a few simple steps you can take to help protect your property:

- Lock your doors and windows; if you have a UPVC door make sure you have double-locked it by lifting the handle and locking it with the key. Make sure the key is removed from the lock and out of reach.

- Think about purchasing a video doorbell camera - this will send the footage of anyone approaching your home, to your mobile phone.

- Keep valuables out of sight from doors and windows.

- Remember to mark your valuables using a UV pen and register them on the national property register at [www.immobilise.com](http://www.immobilise.com).

If you are leaving the house, you can deter burglars by making your home appear occupied:

- Double check that you have locked your windows and doors before leaving.

- Light up your living-room using a timer switch. A TV simulator can also be used to give the appearance of a TV screen being on.

- Invite a neighbour to park on your drive while you are away.

You can find more information on how to reduce the risk of becoming a victim of burglary by downloading your free Home Security Guide from the Thames Valley Police website here: <https://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/police-forces/thames-valley-police/areas/advice/home-security-guide/>.

*Thames Valley Police*



## Letter from Molly

Dear Englefield community, I've been thinking deeply while next to the new studio rack in the vestry at St Mark's. This tech stuff, you either love it or hate it. Take a look at the back! My master loves it. I love chasing a ball.

Apparently the PCC thought it was a great time to take a step towards their vision of 'Anywhere Church' or 'Everybody Church'; whether you're in church or at home, they want you to be able to hear and see the service, and if possible to be able to participate. Yes, it's nice to be physically together, but not everyone can make it back into the building. They want to try and include people from home as much as possible. So we often go to church to try and make it happen.



St Mark's needs to be connected to the internet for broadcasting and Zoom. It's done. There is a thing called a '4GLTE router' in the Bell Tower that barks silently over to the motorway towers. Amazing; seems to work. So now our church can connect with anyone in the world who has an internet connection.

For better wireless microphone reception, my master is installing 'aerial paddles' in the vestry. Hopefully there will be no more dog whistle sounds when the Rector is down near the altar. The system is working much better so far. There are two additional wireless microphones that can be used in a variety of ways and also a new mixer; this allows the sound to be mixed separately for the congregation and separately for those at home. It's kept securely in the vestry yet can be controlled from a PC, tablet or phone from any part of the church. Sound from Zoom or Skype can be played over the church speakers. The mixer is great for helping to make 'Anywhere Church' happen (although we will still need a video mixer and better cameras); apparently it's the magic sauce of the upgrade. Talking of that, it must be my feeding time soon.

The Englefield yard lent us a vital ladder. Thanks folks. You won't get me going up one of those! Can't get the squirrels up the nearby tree trunks either. Hope you had a good lockdown and hope to see you soon if you are walking around Englefield.

*Molly (with thanks to her master)*



# *News from Rushall Farm*



Last night it was a full moon, very big with a misty presence. It was just like the pictures in story books with that vague outline of a sad face looking down on you. I remember once staying on a farm in Oldham, five of us in a small caravan. There was a low ridge in view of the barn we'd parked in. And there it was - an enormous moon with the silhouette of a cow just waiting to 'jump over the moon'. Tonight the owls were hooting in the woods behind us and it was a starry night, bright and cold.

I wonder what sort of night it was when Jesus was born? We know that Mary was young and had got pregnant out of wedlock. We can imagine gossip was rife back home in Nazareth, even though Joseph, inspired by the Holy Spirit, had determined to stand by her. We know that they had travelled 90 miles through at times dangerous countryside, with temperatures around 30 degrees by day and freezing at night, probably carrying most of their food, water and stuff. We know that in Bethlehem the only place to stay was a stable or cave attached to an inn. We don't know whether it was clean or dirty, whether there was straw or animals present. We can guess Mary and Joseph were exhausted, desperate and frightened.

We do know that in those lowly conditions Jesus was safely born and survived without the full services of the NHS in Bethlehem. We do know that it was shepherds who confirmed for Mary that this child was the son of God, and described the huge company of angels announcing his birth in the skies. It was those irrelevant keepers of sheep, who were generally illiterate, not to be trusted, sometimes thieving, probably smelly and definitely never allowed to testify in court. They reassured, confirmed and encouraged Mary that she was the centre of God's purposes, even though she was struggling in such dire conditions.

Later we read in the story of Jesus' life that 'when he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd'. For me that means he really understands and cares who we are and what we feel, and comes alongside to bring healing, comfort and joy into our lives. Is that enough to celebrate this Christmas? I think so.

*John Bishop*





## *From Englefield Primary School*

### *'Sowing the Seeds for a Flourishing Future'*

Firstly we are delighted to report that school has remained open to all pupils since the start of the school year. We have had some staff and pupils absent while awaiting test results but we haven't had to close any bubbles and the staff have done a sterling job covering each other and ensuring all classes continue as normally as possible.

Year 6 pupils had two days of Bikeability training with a coach from West Berkshire Council. They learned how to ride their bikes safely and confidently on the road; this means when they move to secondary school they may be able to travel there independently.



Sadly, we couldn't hold our usual Harvest Festival in church but we did team up with the congregation from St Mark's to collect donations for CIRDIC. We still aren't able to have whole school assemblies so we continue to have daily acts of worship online...some of our House Captains are now helping Mrs Latimer to prepare these.

Year 1 and 2 visited the Five a Day Market Garden. They worked with Donna and Ellie to learn how to look after our world in some very simple ways. They made bird feeders, wormeries and learned what is in compost by playing a worm game.

We held two Open Days for prospective new parents; these were carried out in a covid-secure manner in our school hall. We were delighted to welcome these parents to our school and hope we were able to show them enough to reassure them that our school is the right choice for them. In lockdown these meetings take place online. Anyone interested should contact the school office.

Our Year 5 pupils were due to spend 3 days at Rushall Farm to develop their self-confidence, their leadership skills and to strengthen their support for each other. Sadly this had to be postponed until January but we hope we will then be able to enjoy some crisp, winter days in the woods.



One thing we have noticed is that we are all feeling a little jaded as we don't have the usual things to look forward to. For



this reason, we are making sure we plan in some fun activities to keep us all going. One of these events was Children in Need Day. Everyone came into school in 'Wacky wear' and we sold Pudsey merchandise which was very popular; all of the children made or decorated a spotty biscuit or cake. Our House Captains organised socially-distanced House races on the school field; it was so lovely to see the youngest pupils finally meeting the House Captains and the rest of their House group.



We are delighted that the refurbishment of the new Village Hall is now complete. It is so much nicer to look out onto this attractive building rather than the building site that we had for a year. We were grateful to Edward and Duncan from the Englefield Estate who, throughout this period, worked closely with us to minimise disruption. Our school community worked around the issues well and we are now looking forward to making good use of the 'new' building along with our other community neighbours.

We are currently planning for Christmas and are hoping to keep it a truly spiritual and enjoyable time of the year. This year it will be different but we will do our best to keep it special.

*Hilary Latimer, Headteacher*

## *One Ash Project: learning and making*

Over the past year, the charity Andover Trees United and Englefield Estate have provided a learning experience for children from four Andover schools - the One Ash Project. In October 2019, children 'met the tree' and learnt about the importance of woodland spaces and biodiversity. In February this year, they saw an ash tree being felled, planted trees and learnt about sustainable forestry management. Shares of the ash timber were distributed amongst 31 craftspeople to be used in their work, ranging from smoking trout to hand-carved axe handles to furniture-making. One of these craftspeople is local designer and woodturner, Liz Pearson, who was given part of the crown of the tree. Liz uses traditional craft techniques and completely natural resources. She has created a new collection of tableware using the ash wood: 3 Bears Woodware. Each piece is a limited edition, with a maker's mark and item number. You can read more about creating the collection here: <https://www.loveheartwood.co.uk/one-ash-2/>. There will be an exhibition of all the craft projects in Andover in 2022: [www.andovertrees.org.uk/one-ash](http://www.andovertrees.org.uk/one-ash).

*Liz Mattison, Community & Education Officer, Englefield Estate.*



## News from Five a Day

Thank you to everyone who has helped and supported us during a challenging year. Our autumn harvest continued through the first frosts and coloured-stemmed willow is now ready to harvest for making wreaths, stars and hearts for the festive season.



Subject to Covid 19 restrictions, we hope to run our successful Christmas wreath making workshops in the garden in December, socially distanced and safe.

Come along to buy ready-made willow rings from the gazebo in Englefield Garden Centre car park or call in to the garden Tuesday to Friday between 10.30am – 12.30pm to buy bundles of different coloured willow stems cut by our volunteers to your requirements.

Englefield Primary School children enjoyed a visit to the garden during the autumn term and made mini-wormeries and bird feeders to take back to school. Thank you to Mrs Carney, the supporting school staff, Donna from Rushall Farm and our volunteers who helped the children 'Care for our World'.

Our Thyme Together sessions have stopped until next spring to keep everyone safe. During their autumn sessions people planted spring bulbs and sowed sweet pea and broad bean seeds. We look forward to resuming as soon as we can in 2021. If you are over 65 and would enjoy spending a couple of hours in the garden, growing food and flowers in good company, please do get in touch, email: [sophie@fiveaday.org.uk](mailto:sophie@fiveaday.org.uk).



All of us at Five a Day wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We are looking forward to sowing and planting in the spring and growing tasty produce to enjoy. Please visit our website [www.fiveaday.org.uk](http://www.fiveaday.org.uk) and Facebook page @5adaygarden for updates from Five a Day this winter.

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

## Englefield Virtual 10k

As the Englefield 10k was not able to go ahead this year, a virtual run is taking place instead. Runners enter for £10 and run their own 10k route of choice sometime between Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> November and Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> December. Anyone is welcome to participate but should you not feel like doing it yourself, please do consider supporting the Estate team, Liz Mattison, Shane Sewell and Caroline Jones.

They are running their virtual Englefield 10k route around real Englefield trails to raise money for BIBS (Babies in Buscot Support), a charity that supports babies and their families in the special care baby unit at the Royal Berkshire Hospital in Reading. You can sponsor them here:

<https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/Team/EnglefieldRunners2020>. Thank you!



### *Help for families*

PACT (Parents and Children Together) have always appreciated greatly the support and prayer they have received from the people of Englefield. With the extra strain on services during the current pandemic our prayers are ever more important. With no drop-in groups, no face-to-face therapy, great difficulties introducing proposed adoptive parents and children, a great deal of innovation and ingenuity has been exercised in order to continue to provide services.

The aim of PACT is to build, support and strengthen families through these services:

**Alana House** helping women who may otherwise, for example, have their children taken into care or be involved with the justice system, as they bravely try to turn their lives around, gain self-worth, and become more fulfilled people.

**Bounce Back 4 Kids (BB4K)** a programme for children and parents who have been affected by or witnessed domestic abuse.

**Voluntary Adoption Agency and Adoption Support** PACT recruit and prepare adoptive parents to adopt children who are in the care of local authorities. As these children have had a difficult start to their lives the on-going support that PACT gives to adopted children and their adopting parents is incredibly important.

In all these areas PACT always values our prayers and support. If you would like more information visit their website [www.pactcharity.org](http://www.pactcharity.org).

*Stephanie Gibbons*

Date	Sidesman	First reading	Gospel reading	Prayer
December 6th 2nd Sunday of Advent	Torquil MJ	Ronan O'Sullivan 2 Peter 3:8-15a	Ron Marillier Mark 1:1-8	Saffy
December 13th 3rd Sunday of Advent	Catherine Haig	Harriet Wynne-Jones 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24	Peter Haig John 1:6-8; 19-28	Melanie
December 20th 4th Sunday of Advent	Penny Savage	Kahlen Spaulding Romans 16:25-end	Saffy O'Sullivan Luke 1:26-38	Steph
December 25th CHRISTMAS DAY	Peter Haig	Catherine Haig Titus 2:11-14	Torquil MJ Luke 2:1-14	Ron
December 27th 1st Sunday of Christmas	Penny Savage	Miles Edgar Galatians 4:4-7	Dinah Perkins Luke 2:15-21	Harriet Jones
January 3rd Epiphany	Linda Price	Linda Price Ephesians 3:1-12	Penny Savage Matthew 2:1-12	Cath
January 10th Baptism of Christ	Torquil MJ	Denny Hollands Acts 19:1-7	Gloria Sleep Mark 1:4-11	Saffy
January 17th 2nd Sunday of Epiphany	Denny Hollands	Paula Fenwick Revelations 5:1-10	Harriet Wynne-Jones John 1:43-end	Melanie
January 24th 3rd Sunday of Epiphany	Penny Savage	Mike Kimber Revelations 19:6-10	Aldo Guiducci John 2:1-11	Steph
January 31st 4th Sunday of Epiphany	Paula Fenwick	Kahlen Spaulding Revelations 12:1-5a	Peter Haig Mark 1:21-28	Ron
February 7th 2nd Sunday before Lent	Peter Haig	Catherine Haig Colossians 1:15-20	Saffy O'Sullivan John 1:1-14	Carol
February 14th Sunday before Lent	Linda Price	Denny Hollands 2 Corinthians 4:3-6	Penny Savage Mark 9:2-9	Harriet Jones

We are very grateful to all those who help maintain the ministry of the church during these difficult times. Only readers and intercessors will be required should services remain on Zoom. Please let us know if you can help.

ers	Servers	Sunday Club	Cleaners
O'Sullivan	Penny Savage	Andrea Kean	Liz McKean Saffy O'Sullivan
nie Townsend	Sue Smith (Denny Hollands)	Saffy O'Sullivan	Pete and Carole Ford
anie Gibbons	Penny Norris (Torquil MJ)	Sara Guiducci	Saffy O'Sullivan Melanie Townsend
Marillier	Catherine Haig (Melanie Townsend)	NO SUNDAY CLUB (but vestry open)	ALL HELP GRATEFULLY RECEIVED (contact Saffy)
et Wynne-	Penny Savage (Peter Haig)	NO SUNDAY CLUB (but vestry open)	Peter and Catherine Haig
erine Haig	Sue Smith (Saffy O'Sullivan)	Sara Guiducci (Denny Hollands)	Saffy O'Sullivan Melanie Townsend
O'Sullivan	Penny Norris (Penny Savage)	Andrea Kean (Catherine Haig)	Pete and Carol Ford
nie Townsend	Catherine Haig	Saffy O'Sullivan (Penny Savage)	Liz McKean Saffy O'Sullivan
anie Gibbons	Penny Savage (Denny Hollands)	Sara Guiducci (Catherine Haig)	Peter and Catherine Haig
Marillier	Sue Smith (Peter Haig)	Saffy O'Sullivan (Denny Hollands)	Pete and Carol Ford
l Boulter	Penny Norris (Saffy O'Sullivan)	Andrea Kean (Penny Savage)	Saffy O'Sullivan Melanie Townsend
et Wynne-	Catherine Haig (Carol Boulter)	Sara Guiducci (Catherine Haig)	Peter and Catherine Haig

ult times. This rota lists all the usual duties in anticipation of being able to return to services in the  
et Nick Wynne-Jones know if you have any prayer requests or notices for the weekly bulletin.

## The birth of modern Englefield

Writing in 1949, John Betjeman described the village of Englefield as *'the last of its kind in the county and worth seeing as a compact, well-run example of benevolent private ownership'*. It had, he went on to say, *'the overwhelming and firmly established atmosphere of the great country house of Trollope's novels, which continued into good King Edward's reign'*. The Englefield that Betjeman described only really came into being from the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century (at exactly the same time as Trollope's Barsetshire) and had changed very little since 1892, when the last new houses had been built at Wimbleton's and an old pair that stood opposite the entrance to the Yard were demolished. Bread was even still delivered by a horse-drawn van by Percy Gundry, pictured below, and there were only about three or four cars in the village.



Englefield was relatively late to the Tudor fashion of new country house building, with Englefield House dated by Pevsner to the last decade of the 16<sup>th</sup> century. This was, no doubt, due to the prolonged period during Elizabeth's reign when there was no settled tenure of the main estate. This lasted from 1559, when the estate was seized by the Crown after Sir Francis Englefield decamped to France, until 1589 when it was leased to trustees for the Earl of Essex, though he was so busy with fighting the Spanish that it is unlikely he spent any time there. Even then the stability was short-lived, for from being the Queen's favourite in 1589 it didn't take Essex long to fall out with her, leading to his execution

in 1601 and the return of the estate to the Crown until 1611.

During Elizabeth's reign, as well as the main estate there were two separate, smaller ones. One of these was that retained by the Englefield family having been given to Sir Francis's brother John by their father and consequently not seized by the Crown. The other was the one bought by Lord Norreys in 1597 for his son, Sir Henry. This was bought from Sir Thomas Sherley (about to be imprisoned for embezzlement of the funds he was sent while Treasurer at War in the Netherlands), though how he came by it is not known. The Norreys estate is believed to have included the old manor house of the Englefields, probably Cranemoor House situated near the northern end of the lake (though that wasn't there then).

Two of these parts came together in 1611 when the Earl of Kelly bought the main estate, having already acquired the Norreys one from Sir Edward's heir in 1608 after marrying his widow. Kelly sold to his creditors in 1622 and they passed it on to Sir



John Davis whose wife was Kelly's step-daughter. When Sir John died in 1625 the manor was settled on his daughter Lucy who had married Ferdinando, Lord Hastings, at Englefield in August 1623, the record in the parish register giving the bride's father as 'Sir John Davis, lord of the manor of Englefield'. At the time Hastings was 17 and his bride just 10. This was, in fact, their second wedding, hurriedly arranged after Archbishop Abbott threatened all concerned in the first one a month earlier with excommunication because it was apparently conducted without licence or clergyman. The third part, that retained by the Englefields, was not amalgamated with the rest until 1792 when the last baronet, Sir Henry Englefield, sold it to Richard Benyon.

There were certainly other landowners in the parish during the 17<sup>th</sup> century, for in 1660 (described in the indenture of the sale as the twelfth year of the reign of King Charles II, so Cromwell was obviously officially 'cancelled') Richard Horn, a merchant with a shop in the village, bought land there from James Watts. Robert Horn, a farmer from North Street and a churchwarden of St Mark's, also bought land in Englefield and North Street in 1669 and 1677. Another significant landowner was the church, of course, in the shape of the glebe land that went with the appointment of Rector, and then there were the many villagers and others who owned numbers of individual strips in the common fields and some enclosed land. *(To be continued in the next issue)*

Richard Smith

## *BYFC in lockdown*

Along with everyone else, our enthusiastic restarting of club meetings at the beginning of September was abruptly brought to a halt following the announcement of the second national lockdown. Undeterred, we returned to our virtual meetings, including an interesting, albeit dexterity challenging, origami craft night run by one of our club leaders. We started with a basic pot, but by the end of the evening members had progressed to making heart-shaped money wallets and even moving birds.

The last week of October saw National Young Farmers Week activities. Unable to visit the various other YF Clubs this year, our members instead took part in virtual evenings hosted by Berkshire County Young Farmers, with a quiz, pumpkin carving and a very popular cocktail/mocktail making. Following covid guidelines, we managed to run a face-to-face meeting in the form of non-mounted Pony Club games at Bradfield Riding School by kind permission of Heather Hallett and family. It was great to see everybody again, and the usual YF competitiveness was evident in the various games and races, especially the finale, a Chase Me Charlie with the winning competitor clearing a four foot fence. We have lots of virtual meetings planned for the run up to Christmas, including the County AGM which will provide a great opportunity for us to reflect on our achievements over the past 12 months. Stay safe and well.



## Remembrance Sunday

*(The talk given by Major General Roddy Porter MBE at St Mark's service of Remembrance on November 8<sup>th</sup>.)*

Good morning and it is good to be with you on this Remembrance Sunday. I served in the British Army for 31 years, retiring in 2011. I was a Royal Welch Fusilier and served half my career in Northern Ireland. I also served in the Gulf War of 1991, twice in Bosnia with the UN in the 1990s and ended my operational service in Baghdad in 2008, leading a small team of UK

and US servicemen and women seeking reconciliation opportunities with the Shia and Sunni militias.

People sometimes ask me what I think about on Remembrance Sunday? The answer is many things, but I think especially about two people. The first was one of my own soldiers, Lance Corporal Louis Williams. His nickname in the Battalion was 'Psycho' because of his steadfast refusal to take a backward step in the boxing ring. He was the strongest man I have ever met but his huge physical strength could do nothing to stop the bullet that took his life. And all I could do was to administer first aid and hold him as his life blood ebbed away.

The second person is a particular hero of mine – the Revd Theodore Bailey Hardy. He was turned down for military chaplaincy in 1914 because he was considered to be too old at age 51. But in 1916, he was accepted, such was the toll on the lives of chaplains at the front. Between August 1917 and October 1918 he was awarded the Distinguished Service Order, the Military Cross and the Victoria Cross for conspicuous and selfless bravery in rescuing the wounded and the dead, despite enemy fire and the risk to his own life. Almost inevitably, on 18<sup>th</sup> October 1918, days short of his 55<sup>th</sup> birthday, he was killed, again attempting to rescue the wounded.

These two men represent the countless numbers of men and women through the ages who have given their lives in the service of the country so that we might enjoy the freedom that was denied to their generations. Their hope was that they were fighting towards a better world and that their sacrifice might give others the opportunity to flourish in more peaceful, forgiving, and reconciled societies.

But is our world today more peaceful, forgiving and reconciled? Even the most superficial survey of the stresses, hurt and disunity in our own nation, in the United States of America at this election time, across Europe and particularly in Russia and Ukraine, Azerbaijan and Armenia, and further afield, we see and sense division, hurt, anger, war and loss. It is right that we remember those who gave their lives in war. It is important that we teach our children and grandchildren why we do this and why the sacrifice of past generations is so important. But the challenge is deeper - if our

remembrance is confined to a few minutes once a year, it seems to me there is something lacking. Remembrance, without also seeking reconciliation, is a halfway house for me personally and for us nationally and internationally, where the painful lessons of war risk being left unlearned.



So too our response to God's love in Jesus Christ. In today's reading from 1 Corinthians 5, Paul's springboard into reconciliation is the love of Jesus for us sinners – he died for us all, even you and me, so that, 'Those who live might no longer live for themselves but for Him who for their sake died and was raised.' No longer live for themselves but for Christ; no longer live for ourselves but for Christ – there's a bigger challenge yet but a glorious one because, if we are in Christ we are a new creation, with forgiven sin and a new Holy-Spirit breathed relationship with the Lord which will endure for eternity. And as His people, loved, redeemed, cleansed and acceptable to Him, we are given a mandate, a commission, an ambassadorial work to do. Because our God is a reconciling God, a God who loves the world so much that He gave His only son so that we should not perish if we would only believe in Him. And, as children of this reconciling God, He gives us the ambassadorial charge (verse 18) to appeal to others, our family, friends, those we meet along the way, even leaders of nations to be reconciled to God – because God has forgiven them in Christ, if only they could see it. For Christians, reconciliation is non-negotiable. In 2018, I spoke on this theme at a service of remembrance for family friends, who were that day marking the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of a relative in the First World War. Afterwards I was delighted to learn that two family members had been reconciled after years of separation – and this is what I mean; this is what God calls us to do.

And on a national level this is also possible. Each year, there is an ANZAC Commemoration at the Cenotaph on 25<sup>th</sup> April, where the Australian, New Zealand and British dead of the Gallipoli Campaign are remembered. This is now also attended by the Turkish Ambassador, who lays a wreath, and the Turkish flag is paraded with the Allied flags down the aisle of Westminster Abbey in the ensuing service of remembrance. This is how it should be, remembrance with reconciliation.

So, let us stop and remember. And in remembering, shall we review our lives in the light of sacrifice, both that of our forebears and that supremely of the Lord Jesus Christ? And if the measure of a man is in the worth of the things he cares about, to quote Marcus Aurelius, let us as Christ's ambassadors, live lives worthy of Him, which reflect our thankfulness for sacrifices made in time of war; lives that fulfil as best we can the commission that God has entrusted to us. May we be blessed as we do so.

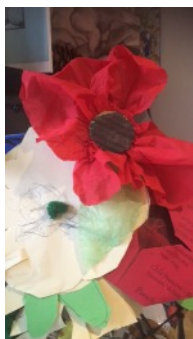
*Roddy Porter*

## 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.

Later the others also came. 'Lord, Lord,' they said, 'open the door for us.' But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I don't know you.' Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour. (Matthew 25 v 11-13)

Every age has its own challenges. This Sunday, as we enter a second lockdown, we remember those who have fallen in war. They too must have grappled with the uncertainties of life and the future, of what lay ahead in a time of great stress. While these times of trial are not easy, bringing with them hardship and often anguish, they do help shake us out of complacency and can bring Jesus' words into sharper focus. When life is easy, we can forget the urgency of Jesus' warnings to keep watch. The truth is that one day, all of us will be called to account before God, and we will find ourselves there with little or no warning. Jesus solemnly warns us that the outcome of that event will have eternal consequences, and that the appropriate response is to be mindful in the present of the way we are living. We should live each moment as though the Lord's return is at hand, because it would be an awful thing to be caught unprepared.



*St Mark's Sunday Club continued to meet online during November and the beautiful poppies shown here were made by Alex, Frieda and Tabbi as their contribution to the St Mark's Remembrance Sunday service on November 8<sup>th</sup>.*

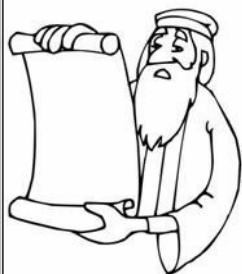
**I lift up my eyes to the mountains – where does my help come from? My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth. (Psalm 121 v 1-2)**

The mountains the psalmist refers to are the peaks he is travelling towards, which stand in the way of him reaching his destination. They were known for being haunts of bandits and robbers, and were hazardous to pass through. The psalmist poses himself the question: who will protect me from the dangers of the road? In answer, he reminds himself of what he knows to be true – that the Lord, the one who made the whole of creation, is the one who watches over him. The same holds true for us today, who face trials and difficulties on a variety of fronts. Whether it is health worries, job insecurity or unemployment, fears about our family – our help ultimately comes from the Lord. Though this doesn't mean that we will never suffer in this life (we most certainly will), this psalm reminds us that our world and our lives are not really spinning out of control, but are held by a loving God who is powerful to rescue. The final verse, verse 8, points forward to the ultimate hope we have: 'the Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore'. Beyond this life lies eternity, and the same Lord who watches over us now will be with us there too.

**God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea. (Psalm 46 v 1-2)**

Crises and difficulties can come upon us suddenly, and can seem insurmountable. Life is full of uncertainty, and things which seem to be plain sailing one minute can quickly turn upside down into chaos the next. In these verses, the Psalmist reminds us that at all times, amidst the good moments and the bad, God is present with us as a source of help, strength and refuge. It is only because we have this as our hope, the promise of God that he will not abandon nor forsake us, that the Psalmist can go on to say '*therefore* we will not fear'. We must cling to the truth of God's love for us, revealed supremely in Jesus, to give us confidence that we ultimately have a refuge against which not even the earth giving way or the mountains tumbling into the sea will prevail.

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**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](mailto: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.

**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](mailto:ppg.tmc@nhs.net).



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