

# Englefield Parish News

February - March 2021



## The Parish of St Mark's, Englefield

### Rector

The Reverend Nicholas Wynne-Jones      nwwj@stmarksenglefield.org.uk  
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### Churchwardens

Carol Boulter      churchwarden@stmarksenglefield.org.uk      0118 9303182  
Torquil Montague-Johnstone      0118 9714536

### Child Protection Officer

Susannah McBain      07772 425133

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Secretary      office@stmarksenglefield.org.uk      0118 9410808  
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Richard Smith

### Parish Council

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Edward Crookes

Clerk      clerk.englefieldpc@outlook.com      07725 171223  
Nia Rands

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

**Front cover:** *A felt-tip coloured picture of St Mark's Church by Chloe Wynne-Jones, drawn last year when she was 7 years old.*

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 20<sup>th</sup> of the preceding month.

## From St Mark's House

### Dear friends

James Herriot, author of *All Creatures Great and Small*, tells of when he completed his first class in animal husbandry. Emerging enthusiastically, he saw a massive horse, standing with a coal cart which he pulled about the streets. James reached up to pat the great beast on the neck, but it acted with unexpected speed, clamping its teeth firmly into James' coat and lifting him off the ground. When the coal man persuaded the horse to drop him, James beat a humbled hasty retreat with the horse's owner's advice ringing in his ears: '*Dinna meddle wi' things ye ken nutbin' about!*' This is virtually the same lesson as is taught in the book of Job, the oldest book in the Bible. Job was a generous and godly man who, through a succession of natural disasters and human wickedness, lost his family and fortune. He was visited by 'friends' who spoke as those presuming to have great wisdom, yet speaking of matters they knew nothing about.

We are soon to enter the season of Lent, recalling Christ's suffering in the wilderness as he resists temptation and heads steadfastly towards the cross. This is a time when traditionally people 'give things up' but, in the current situation, things have been taken away. Coronavirus has beaten us to it with draconian restrictions that expose the triviality of much of our 'self-denial'. The world has been locked down. Many are isolated from those we typically turn to for comfort and companionship in times of tension and fear. With no sure end in sight, time stretches interminably. With King David we cry 'How Long, O Lord?' but can close with his assurance, 'I trust in your unfailing love'. (Psalm 13v5)

Job challenges us with its portrayal of his sufferings, the superficial responses of his friends, and his struggle for faith and understanding. People are burdened by questions: *Why is this happening? Can I get through this? When will life return to normal? Where is God in this?* – all unanswerable but the last. To that God responded by sending His Son: God is with us - and always will be. The babe of Bethlehem grew up to manhood; Jesus walked through every struggle and was no stranger to suffering. We do not face suffering alone; Jesus understands everything we are going through. Into the uncertainties and unanswered questions breaks Job's shout of triumph (remember his story is from millennia before Christ!): 'I know that my Redeemer lives'. That is the word of hope from Job for all those waiting with anxiety and uncertainty. We are not promised freedom from suffering in this world but we are promised grace and his presence. For some, there may be healing and restoration in this life. For others, that gift awaits them in the 'new heavens and the new earth' where there will be no more pain, no more tears, no more death. But for all of us, here and now, there is grace, and there can be hope.

Locked down – with hope

Nick and Harriet

## Diary dates

St Mark's PCC meeting: Monday 15<sup>th</sup> March (APCM Monday 10<sup>th</sup> May)

Ash Wednesday: 17<sup>th</sup> February

Mothering Sunday: 14<sup>th</sup> March

Palm Sunday: 28<sup>th</sup> March

Easter Sunday: 4<sup>th</sup> April

*(Information about services on Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday will be available nearer the time on the weekly bulletin and on St Mark's website)*

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

## Local contacts

Englefield Estate Office

0118 930 2504

[office@englefield.co.uk](mailto:office@englefield.co.uk)

Englefield Estate Yard

0118 930 2538

[maintenance@englefield.co.uk](mailto:maintenance@englefield.co.uk)

Englefield Stores

0118 930 2479

Cobbs Farm Shop

0118 930 4064

[englefieldshop@cobbsfarmshops.co.uk](mailto:englefieldshop@cobbsfarmshops.co.uk)

Theale Medical Centre

0118 930 3081

NHS online coronavirus service

[111.nhs.uk/covid-19](https://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

Lloyds Pharmacy (Calcot)

Mon to Fri 09.00-18.00 Sat 09.00-13.00

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/](http://www.westberks.gov.uk/)

Englefield Parish Council

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

Theale Parish Council

[www.thealeparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.thealeparishcouncil.gov.uk)

Englefield Primary School

0118 9302 337

[www.englefieldprimary.co.uk](http://www.englefieldprimary.co.uk)

Police

101 or 999 (for emergencies)

Utility suppliers

Electricity - SSEN 0800 072 72

Oil - Ford Fuels 0148 872 829

Gas - National Grid 0800 111 999

Water - Thames Water 0800714 614

Drainage - Total Drainage 0118 9421140

## A Christmas thank you

There are so many thank yous to say this month to everyone who contributed to making our Christmas at St Mark's so special despite the very trying circumstances.

First to the school for the beautiful Tree of Hope in the church, decorated with gold stars carrying messages from the children. Then to the team that filled the church with the most beautiful flower arrangements (some are shown on page 7) - thank you to Carole, Penny, Susan and Marylyn. Thank you to Paula for organising the St Mark's post box at the Village Stores and ensuring that Christmas cards were delivered on time - and to Laura and Andy for their help in this.



Thank you to Saffy and Andrea for organising the lighting of the Advent candles each week leading up to Christmas and to Alfie, Alex, AJ, Frieda, Tabbi, Chloe and Georgia for reading and singing so beautifully. Thank you also to John Bishop for the marvellous 'Nativity tableau' he organised on the trailer, even though this could not tour round the village due to last-minute covid restrictions.

Thank you to Peter and Ronan for ensuring that despite all the restrictions we were able to meet as a congregation - drawn from far and wide - to celebrate Christ's birth on Christmas morning. And for putting together the virtual carol service that enabled all of us, whether in church or in our own homes, to join together and hear again the timeless message of the angels - a message of hope so needed and welcomed at the end of a strange and difficult year. And thank you to our church secretary, Penny, who as ever is right at the heart of our church community, ensuring that everyone, every week, gets the church bulletin and the link to join our services both at Christmas and every other week of the lockdown. May 2021 bring happier times. Thank you.

*Nick Wynne-Jones*

## Congratulations

To Izzy Archer and Benji Walton on their engagement.

To Andrew and Katie Strang on the birth of their son, Kit Theodore, on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> January, a first grandchild for Meryl Bonser.





## Ever Active Exercise classes now on Zoom

Don't let lockdown stop you from joining group exercise activities! Since the summer, a weekly outdoor Gentle Chair exercise class has been running with great success in Englefield Village. Enjoyed by several of our older residents as well as people who have found the class through their local social prescriber and via friends, the only equipment required is a chair. During the pre-Christmas lockdown period, instructor Hayley piloted a virtual version of the Gentle Chair exercise class using Zoom. The success of the format means that Ever Active are now providing a range of virtual classes through this lockdown period. During February, the classes are free of charge. There are no specific referral criteria but it is recommended that anyone with health-related concerns about taking part in any of the activities consult their GP/healthcare professional first.

Sessions can be booked via Eventbrite or accessed directly using Zoom (see details below). On Eventbrite, a 'virtual event' page covers registration details, code of conduct and the Zoom details:

**Mondays at 10am**, Chair Yoga with Sami – <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/136449158105>

**Tuesdays at 11am**, Gentle Chair exercise with Debbie and Mandy from Mindset Massage – <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81234567890>

**Wednesdays at 11am**, Gentle Chair exercise with Kate – <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/136450191195>

**Thursdays at 10am**, Gentle Chair exercise with Kate - <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/137594156827>

**Fridays at 11.15am**, Gentle Chair exercise with Hayley - <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/136450532215>

Kirsty Heath, Healthy Communities Manager at Get Berkshire Active, says, 'If you would like to speak to someone about the session before attending, please don't hesitate to get in touch. Simply email [kate.wiggins@getberkshireactive.org](mailto:kate.wiggins@getberkshireactive.org) – our webpage <https://getberkshireactive.org/ever-active> also has information on getting ready for your class and what to expect.'

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

*The Ever Active programme is funded by Reading Borough Council and West Berkshire Council and is available to older adults and adults with a disability or health condition within these areas. Organised by charity Get Berkshire Active, qualified instructors run classes with exercises tailored to the requirements of participants, with the aim of improving health and wellbeing and helping to reduce feelings of loneliness and social isolation.*

## Happy New Year from Englefield Stores

We just wanted to thank you all for your custom and support you have given us, and for our lovely messages and gifts at Christmas, they were very much appreciated. All this makes us want to work harder and better for our community and surrounding area.

Looking forward, we will remain working with you in getting essential stock in the shop. Life has been a challenge for many of us in a variety of ways, but despite this please be positive and hope the end is within our grasp. Myself and Laura are always in the shop or on the end of a phone. If there is anything we can help with or you just want a chat, please pop in or phone. All the best

*Andy, Laura, Jake and Isabel*



## Big Thank You award

Congratulations to Laura and Andy on winning one of West Berkshire Council's Big Thank You 2020 awards. As an extra category in the annual Community Champion awards, these show appreciation for groups and individuals who have supported their local community through the last year.

Andy and Laura were nominated by Englefield Parish Council 'for their efforts in supporting our local community during the covid-19 pandemic. From the outset they have gone more than the extra mile to help everyone in their community. After they had to close their tea room business due to restrictions, they put all their energies into stocking up their stores, delivering groceries, checking daily on older people and those who were ill - collecting prescriptions for anyone who was housebound, and putting out dustbins for elderly neighbours. They have supported the community wholeheartedly and always with good humour.'



## Estate planning update

We are very pleased to report that the Estate's application for a modest car park off The Street across the road from St Mark's Close was granted planning consent in December. In spite of the application being taken to a full planning committee with planning officers recommending refusal, Councillors supported the proposal unanimously.

This successful outcome would not have been possible were it not for the enthusiastic support of members of the local community, for which we're very grateful. In particular, we would like to thank Richard Smith of Englefield Parish Council and Hilary Latimer of Englefield Primary School, who gave up their time to speak at the virtual meeting and helped us win the hearts and minds of the Committee.

The planning application has been issued with a number of conditions and it will take time for us to work up a detailed design, understand the cost of the project and to put in place the necessary finance, but we hope to deliver as soon as we reasonably can against the background of covid-19 restrictions. We will also be considering how the car park will be managed, with the emphasis on it being a car park to serve the school and, in due course, the Village Hall.

The Estate's other planning application for the sensitive conversion of the buildings within Englefield Estate Yard has yet to be determined but we have been in ongoing positive discussions with the local planning authority.

*Edward Crookes, Estates Director*

## Let's Talk Theology

The next series of Let's Talk Theology will start on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> February at 3.30pm and will take place via Zoom for the foreseeable future. These informal discussion groups will be held on the second Wednesday of every month and will be led by Derek Spears. The topic for February is John Barton's latest book *The History of the Bible*. Please contact Carol Boulter if you would like to find out more and to put your name on the mailing list for the Zoom invitation.

Please also note that the lectures organised by Bradfield Deanery Spiritual Development Group will resume this year with one event per term. The speakers for April and July will be announced shortly, and Bishop Olivia is scheduled to speak on *Care for Creation* on 20<sup>th</sup> October.



*Three of the stunning flower arrangements which were part of the decorations for Christmas in St Mark's Church and enjoyed by all the visitors who came in for private prayer and to listen to the recording of the traditional readings and carols that was playing during the Christmas season..*

## 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**

West Berks  
**foodbank**

## Next steps for the Village Hall

The opening of the new Village Hall remains an ever more important goal for 2021. Work continues behind the lockdown scenes but has inevitably been impacted by the covid-19 pandemic.

The application to formally create the Englefield Village Hall Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) as a new legal entity is grinding through the Charity Commission's system, a process which takes some time. This is an essential next step in creating a community-run organisation to operate the hall for the benefit of local residents and community groups of all ages.

A small group comprised of local residents, Parish Council and Estate representatives is working to put in place everything that is required to enable the hall to be used when restrictions allow. This is a start-up operation with many elements beyond the scope of this article but includes finances, insurance, safety and compliance, equipping the hall, booking arrangements, caretaking and much more, including the formation of a management committee in due course.

As a result, we would now welcome assistance from members of our community who have experience in the following areas and who may be able to give some time to this important project:

- Administration, bookings and secretarial
- Website design and build
- Graphic design
- Grant applications
- Safeguarding compliance
- Premises Licences

If you would be interested in helping in any way please contact Lynn Dennison, preferably by email at [lynndenno@gmail.com](mailto:lynndenno@gmail.com) or on 07900 405 438.

In advance of the CIO being formally approved, it is the Estate's ambition to make the hall available to selected community groups (as opposed to private bookings) as soon as possible with the necessary safeguards in place, should restrictions permit. We were delighted that the school were able to use the hall in this way for Christmas celebrations and would ask any other interested community groups to contact Sara Ward at the Estate Office at [sara.ward@englefield.co.uk](mailto:sara.ward@englefield.co.uk) to discuss this further.

*Edward Crookes, Lynn Dennison,  
James Holbrook-Bull, Nia & Duncan Rands*



## World Day of Prayer 2021

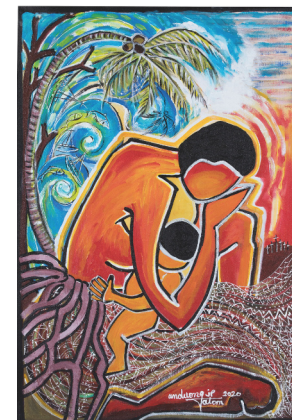
Sadly with the pandemic rife around the world, the live services for this event on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March will be very few and far between and many services including our deanery branch are cancelled.

The service for this year was prepared by the Christian women of the Republic of Vanuatu in the South Pacific 2000 miles east of Australia. The World Day of Prayer was introduced to the islands in 1981 by Anglican and Catholic churches. In the service, which will be read all over the world, they thank God for triumphs in key moments in their history and proudly declare their nation is built on the Rock of Ages, Christ the King, hence the title for the service 'Built on a Strong Foundation'.

Although live services will not be held in our area you can still see the service sheet and read the background to the service online: [www.wwdp.org.uk/](http://www.wwdp.org.uk/).

Of course, revenue from cancelled services will be down so please can I urge you to make a donation to the World Day of Prayer, some of which will go to the committee in Vanuatu and the rest to the national committee. Please make donations before the end of February to help to support this amazing praying association. To donate go to <https://www.wwdp.org.uk/product/make-a-donation/>. Any small amount would be very welcome.

*Dinah Perkins*



## Valentine treats at Cobbs

For a special twist on a stay-at-home Valentine's dinner, how about a personalised Beef Wellington from our butchers? These individual Beef Wellingtons are handmade with love (of course) by our butchers using locally sourced and grass-fed fillet of beef, delicious Ardennes pâté and flaky pastry. They will even personalise the Wellington with your loved one's initials for that extra special, finishing touch. Please pre-order with our butchery team by Friday 12th February (0118 930 4064).

Cobbs' florist Sarah Styles is offering flowers online; order a special bouquet for your loved one and have it delivered straight to your door! <https://sarahstylesflorist.com/>.

*The Cobbs at Englefield team*



## *Libraries in lockdown*

West Berkshire libraries have plenty of books to borrow (free of charge) on keeping active, such as physical fitness, crafting, cooking for healthy eating, tips on DIY, and much more. You can reserve titles via our online catalogue, and although libraries are closed due to the lockdown, you can collect your books from any West Berkshire library, including the mobile library, or ask for information about our At Home service (library details and opening hours are on the West Berks Council website). We will contact you to arrange collection.

If you are not exactly sure what books you want, you can use our Order & Collect service and staff will then choose a selection of up to five books for you. Call 01635 519813 or contact your local library or visit the online catalogue to place your order. Many of our titles are available as e-books as well, and we have many fantastic e-magazines which you can read for free.

## *Laptops for learning*

The plight of disadvantaged school children who cannot access remote learning during lockdown because they do not have access to the equipment needed has been widely publicised in the national press. In response to growing demand from local schools, Greenham Trust has launched a Laptops for Lockdown Learning fund. This fund will provide grants to help schools across West Berkshire and north Hampshire to purchase laptops, tablets and digital devices for students in need. Every £1 donated to this appeal will be matched by Greenham Trust. You can find out more on the The Good Exchange: <https://app.thegoodexchange.com/project/18560/greenham-trust/laptops-for-lockdown-learning>.

## *Prayer and support*

'Prayers for Uncertain Times' is a selection of short prayers published by Our Daily Bread Ministries which can be read online or downloaded here: <https://odb.org/resources/he-hears-us-prayers-from-an-ever-changing-world-to-a-never-changing-god>.

Daily Hope is a free national telephone line which offers music, prayers and reflections as well as full worship services from the Church of England. The line – which is available 24 hours a day on 0800 804 8044 – has been set up particularly with those unable to join online church services during the period of restrictions in mind, to provide comfort and spiritual nourishment.

## *News from Rushall Farm*



It is an understatement that right now in early January it is cold. It was a few years ago that Martin, who was profoundly deaf and at Brookfield School, came to help me first thing on Saturday mornings. He was part of a group who came regularly on Tuesday to the farm, but was not coping all that well. He worked with me, bedding up the cattle and sheep, feeding and checking hungry stock, although would have much preferred to be still in bed.

His mother Laura was the driving force behind my somewhat reluctant assistant. When he arrived I always asked him how he was. His reply, always brief, slow and drawn out, heavily accentuated 'TIRED', only to be extended on one wintery morning to 'TIRED AND COLD'. His days of forced labour didn't last too long and he is now in Scotland with his mother training to be a mechanic, having worked for the Newbury Community Furniture project for a number of years as a driver.

Julian, who I work with, and I have just completed a three-day chainsaw refresher course. Most of our time was practical, working on competence and confidence to safely fell sizeable trees. We were cutting mainly ash and oak in a copse planted 30 years ago. The young trees were a prize for winning the Berkshire Conservation Award - £1,500 I believe (to be spent on further conservation sadly, rather than a holiday or even a weekend in Bognor!).

The first job was to select the trees to grow on. Those which were small, badly shaped, or overshadowed by a strong oak or ash had to go. This means that the best will go on to reach their full potential while the rest goes for firewood, habitat piles or materials for building dens in the woods. In normal years the main work of the Trust is hosting around 12,000 children on school visits and camps but at the moment we are developing work with a relatively small but significant group of children who, like the poorer trees in the copse, are not thriving in their school situation. Rather than dismiss them as interfering with other children's progress (which they probably are) we are looking to encourage the fact that they are children of value and have a contribution to make to society with their lives. Over a twelve-week course of one day a week we want them to grow with gifts and personalities into thriving individuals. Surely that is worth doing?

*John Bishop*





## From Englefield Primary School

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

I can't believe it is two months since my last article. One of the main problems with these lockdowns is that you do so little that is new or different that every day blurs into the next!

We are now back to remote learning with the majority of our children at home and about 20 pupils, children of critical workers, learning in school. All is going very smoothly and we are having excellent engagement from our pupils. This time we are doing more 'live' contact during the day as this proved the most effective use of teachers' time during the first lockdown. The children respond well to their two live sessions a day and knowing they will be showing their work to the teacher at the end of the day helps to motivate them to complete their learning tasks. Needless to say our parents are doing a brilliant job of supporting the home learning whilst holding down their own jobs.

Looking back to the end of last term, we were very fortunate to be able to put on some special events for our pupils which meant that we still had an exciting lead up to Christmas.



### Alternative Advent Calendar

This year, we decided to ask our families to donate an item of food or clothing each week in December which would then be passed to two local charities: Reading Food Bank and New Beginnings. Life has been even tougher for the homeless this year and there are a growing number of families going through financial difficulty because of the pandemic. The donations were very gratefully received by the charities. According to the Food Bank we gave enough to provide meals for 84 families.

### Christmas Nativity

One of the most difficult things about the covid restrictions is the fact that parents can't come in and see their children's work or enjoy their performances. We were determined to still have a Nativity and Mrs Carney, Mrs Sheppard and the KS1 team did a tremendous job of planning, writing and producing a roving Nativity featuring all the children in FS2, Year 1 and Year 2. Charlie Woodward, an ex-pupil who now has his own video-filming company, gave



up two days to film the scenes and then put the video together. The end result had the real wow-factor and was a bit of a tear-jerker.

### Christmas Fayre

Each class had a wonderful time at the Christmas Fayre which was organised by the PTA. It was very different to normal but the children had fun and it was a chance to relax with friends. Games included the chocolate card game, name the teddy, spin the wheel, and the ping pong Christmas tree. Mrs Bushnell ran the photo booth and spent days printing off photos!



### Once Upon a Pantomime

As we were unable to make our annual visit to The Watermill, the PTA kindly agreed to fund the online pantomime 'Once Upon a Panto' which was enjoyed by every class during the last week of term. Featuring the evil Queen Karona it had the usual mix of terrible puns and slapstick comedy.

### Tree of Hope

As part of their RE unit, the Year 1/2 children had to produce messages of hope for the local community. This seemed particularly appropriate at this time so we decided to extend this idea to the whole school. Working in partnership with Englefield Garden Centre who donated the tree, we put our beautifully decorated 'Tree of Hope' in St Mark's church. Many local residents and visitors visited the church during the run up to Christmas and read our messages.

I do hope that the next time I write, all of our children will be back in school and life will feel a little more normal again. I would also like to wish the readers a 'Happy and Healthy New Year' from all of us at school.

*Hilary Latimer, Headteacher*





## News from Five a Day

The garden is now resting after providing us with bountiful crops last year. Sweet peas and broad beans (shown below right) sown last autumn are growing well in the poly tunnel. Daffodils can be seen pushing their way up through the soil and the birds are busy singing - spring is already on the way!

Thank you to all our volunteers who helped us 'put the garden to bed' for the winter months. Everyone worked very hard to get vegetable beds weeded, dug and manured to enrich the soil. Some are covered ready for this year's growing season. Fruit bushes have been pruned, flower beds cut back and paths covered with bark chip.



Our Christmas wreath making workshops were a great success and we were delighted to welcome both regular and new visitors to the garden. Families and friends were able to enjoy a festive experience whilst staying safe outside in a covid secure environment.

Willow from the garden was used to make a willow hoop and decorated with a wonderful range of foliage. Huge thanks to our Committee and wonderful volunteers who ran the workshops. Many thanks also to the Benyon family for allowing us to use fantastic foliage from their garden. Five a Day would also like to thank everyone who bought willow hoops either from the garden or the garden centre gazebo. Your support is very much appreciated during such challenging times.

Volunteer gardening sessions will resume in February, observing all the current rules and guidelines to keep everyone safe. If you are interested in volunteering, please do get in touch. Please visit our website [www.fiveaday.org.uk](http://www.fiveaday.org.uk) and Facebook page @5adaygarden for updates.

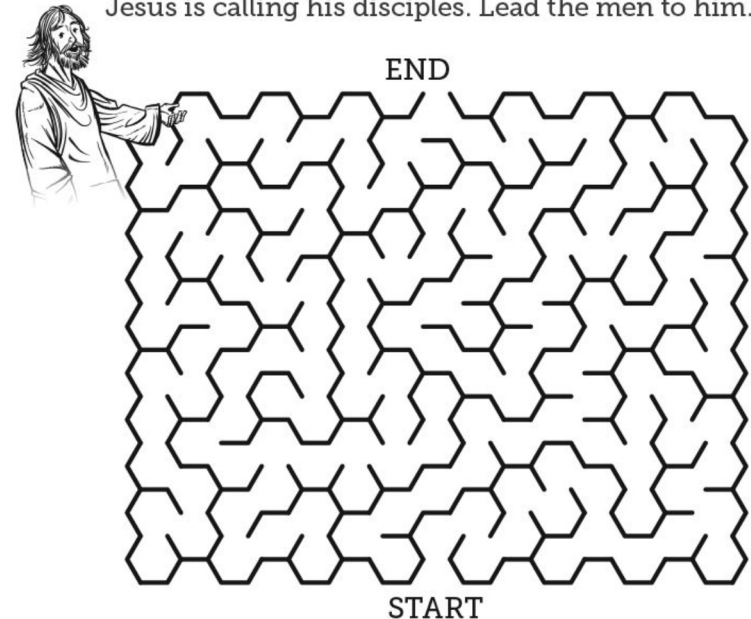
*Sophie Axford, Development Officer*



# SUNDAY CLUB PAGE

## JESUS CHOOSES HIS 12 DISCIPLES

Jesus is calling his disciples. Lead the men to him.



Date	Sidesman	First reading	Gospel reading	Intercessions	Sacristan/server	Sunday Club	Cleaners
January 31st 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Epiphany	Paula Fenwick	Kahlen Spaulding Revelations 12: 1-5a	Peter Haig Mark 1: 21-28	Ron Marillier	Sue Smith Peter Haig	Saffy O'Sullivan	Pete and Carole Ford
February 7 <sup>th</sup> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday before Lent	Peter Haig	Catherine Haig Colossians 1: 15-20	Saffy O'Sullivan John 1: 1-14	Carol Boulter	Penny Norris Saffy O'Sullivan	Andrea Kean	Saffy O'Sullivan Melanie Townsend
February 14 <sup>th</sup> Sunday before Lent	Linda Price	Denny Hollands 2 Corinthians 4: 3-6	Penny Savage Mark 9: 2-9	Harriet Wynne-Jones	Catherine Haig Carol Boulter	Sara Guiducci	Peter and Catherine Haig
February 21 <sup>st</sup> 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent	Carol Boulter	Linda Price 1 Peter 3: 18-end	Gloria Sleep Mark 1: 9-15	Catherine Haig	Penny Savage	Saffy O'Sullivan	Pete and Carole Ford
February 28 <sup>th</sup> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent	Saffy O'Sullivan	Paula Fenwick Romans 4: 13-end	Torquil MJ Mark 8: 31-end	Melanie Townsend	Sue Smith Peter Haig	Andrea Kean	Liz McKean Saffy O'Sullivan
March 7 <sup>th</sup> 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent	Denny Hollands	Kahlen Spaulding 1 Corinthians 1: 18-25	Peter Haig John 2: 13-22	Stephanie Gibbons	Penny Norris Torquil MJ	Saffy O'Sullivan	Peter and Catherine Haig
March 14 <sup>th</sup> Mothering Sunday	Peter Haig	Mike Kimber 2 Corinthians 1: 3-7	Dinah Perkins Luke 2: 33-35	Richard Benyon	Catherine Haig Melanie Townsend	Saffy O'Sullivan	Pete and Carole Ford
March 21 <sup>st</sup> 5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent	Penny Savage	Denny Hollands Hebrews 5: 5-10	Harriet Wynne-Jones John 12: 20-33	Ron Marillier	Dee Boddy Carol Boulter	Saffy O'Sullivan	Saffy O'Sullivan Melanie Townsend
March 28 <sup>th</sup> Palm Sunday	Paula Fenwick	Dee Boddy Philippians 2: 5-11	TBC Mark 15: 1-end	Carol Boulter	Penny Savage Saffy O'Sullivan	Saffy O'Sullivan	Peter and Catherine Haig
April 4 <sup>th</sup> Easter Sunday	Denny Hollands	Linda Price Acts 10: 34-43	Richard Benyon John 20: 1-18	Harriet Wynne-Jones	Sue Smith Peter Haig	NO SUNDAY CLUB	Pete and Carole Ford
April 11 <sup>th</sup> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter	Peter Haig	Catherine Haig Acts 2: 32-35	Torquil MJ John 20: 19-end	Melanie Townsend	Penny Norris Torquil MJ	Saffy O'Sullivan	Liz McKean Saffy O'Sullivan

*We are very grateful to all those who help maintain the ministry of the church during these difficult times. This rota lists all the usual duties in anticipation of being able to return to services in the church - only readers and intercessors will be required should services remain online. Please let Nick Wynne-Jones know if you have any prayer requests or notices for the weekly bulletin.*



## Making marmalade

Did you know that marmalade had been around for hundreds of years – as a Portuguese sweetmeat, an after-dinner digestif, an aphrodisiac – before it turned into the most famous breakfast ingredient ever? Apparently it's a favourite of the Queen, who reputedly has Tiptree Orange Marmalade on her white toast. The season for Seville oranges is very short, running from December to mid-February, so now is the time to make your own lockdown marmalade. This recipe is taken from the BBC Good Food website:



1.3kg Seville oranges  
2 lemons, juice only  
2.6kg preserving or granulated sugar

Put the whole oranges and lemon juice in a large preserving pan and cover with 2 litres water - if it does not cover the fruit, use a smaller pan. If necessary weight the oranges with a heat-proof plate to keep them submerged. Bring to the boil, cover and simmer very gently for around 2 hours, or

until the peel can be easily pierced with a fork.

Warm half the sugar in a very low oven. Pour off the cooking water from the oranges into a jug and tip the oranges into a bowl. Return cooking liquid to the pan. Allow oranges to cool until they are easy to handle, then cut in half. Scoop out all the pips and pith and add to the reserved orange liquid in the pan. Bring to the boil for 6 minutes, then strain this liquid through a sieve into a bowl and press the pulp through with a wooden spoon - it is high in pectin so gives marmalade a good set.

\*Pour half this liquid into a preserving pan. Cut the peel, with a sharp knife, into fine shreds. Add half the peel to the liquid in the preserving pan with the warm sugar. Stir over a low heat until all the sugar has dissolved, for about 10 minutes, then bring to the boil and bubble rapidly for 15- 25 minutes until setting point is reached.

Take pan off the heat and skim any scum from the surface. (To dissolve any excess scum, drop a small knob of butter on to the surface, and gently stir.) Leave the marmalade to stand in the pan for 20 minutes to cool a little and allow the peel to settle; then pot in sterilised jars, seal and label. Repeat from \* for the second batch, warming the other half of the sugar first.

## Far away from Madagascar

*Adam Boulter's last newsletter was written in July just after his father Hugh had died. The family managed to make it home for the funeral but now, six months on, Madagascar's borders are still closed and they have been unable to return. These are extracts from his latest update.*



Before leaving for Madagascar we had left our belongings in a friend's barn in France with the understanding that if we had to evacuate for any reason we could use their gite while we sorted ourselves out. In September we travelled to France and took up residence there. The younger children are in the local primary school, and our oldest we are teaching from home. Beth's work has carried on at a pace remotely. It is not where we intended to be and we all miss Madagascar, but we are safe and well, so we are counting our blessings.



Meanwhile I have been doing what I can for the Bible College in Toliara from France. That has meant regular email correspondence about a range of issues from discipline cases through to hiring a new college secretary and sorting out a refurbishment of the buildings and equipment... We realised the internet connection is just not fast enough for me to teach via zoom. Instead we agreed that I would teach remotely using the old fashion method of writing up my lectures to be sent to the college to be translated into Malagasy. The hope is they will start to form a learning resource and course book for the students.

Fundraising has also been ongoing and we were given a grant for equipment from Franciscan Aid, and have also raised an amazing £10,000 for the education fund... That money has meant we have been able to have the class rooms repaired, and painted, to have new tables and chairs to replace the sparse and broken ones that were there, and to have bookshelves made so that the books the college do have are available for the students and do not get eaten by termites and other insects...we can also feed the students a good diet, and renovate their sleeping area and washing facilities... Realistically it is hard to say when we will get back... Like many people in the West we are having to learn what the people of Toliara know very well: how to live with uncertainty. My hope is that this realisation that we cannot control everything in the world will teach us all to trust God and care for all of his creation, especially the marginalised and forgotten people and places. Blessings,

*Adam, Beth, Joseph, Hannah and Benjamin*



## The birth of modern Englefield (part II)

By the time of the Restoration, the main manor of Englefield was firmly established in the hands of John Paulet, 5<sup>th</sup> Marquess of Winchester, who had actually owned it since about 1635 although he was imprisoned after his failure to defend Basing House from the Parliamentarians in 1645 and didn't actually settle in Englefield until he was released some time in the 1650s. The Englefield family still retained their house and some land in the village but there were still many other freeholders of land in the common fields and other, enclosed, land. Near the end of the 17<sup>th</sup> century, in addition to the Rector's Glebe lands, some 28 different people owned strips in the common fields and several of these certainly owned enclosed land elsewhere about the village.

By 1762 the common fields consisted of the Great Field, the Punt (or Pont) Field and the Englefield Meadow. The Great Field covered roughly the area bounded now by Bostock Lodges, Mayridge Farm Cottages, Parker's Corner and Wickcroft Farm and the Punt Field was an extension of it across the Bath Road between Gravel Pit Cottages and Mile House Farm Cottages down to where the railway now is. The Englefield Meadow was a separate area south of Theale along the north bank of the Holybrook, much of which is now under water. There must, though, have originally been another Great Field somewhere because over the long term this type of cultivation demanded at least two such areas to allow proper crop rotation. It seems probable that this second field occupied at least some of the area between the modern village and the River Pang, where the mill was situated. It may well have been enclosed around 1690 to create Chalkpit Farm.

Among the freeholders of that time were the notable names of Wimbleton, Blyth and Parker. The significance of Wimbleton needs no explanation and Wimbleton's Farm is mentioned in 1712, although the family no longer seems to be around then and by 1762 when the farm was owned by James May, the miller from Burghfield Mill, it was called Park Farm. The name Blyth may be unfamiliar now but in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century Mr Blyth owned land and a house on the south side of Common Hill, which was then called Blyth's Hill. When in about 1802 Richard Benyon straightened the dog-legs on the road up the hill he inadvertently went through Mr Blyth's land. He wrote to apologise, giving in mitigation the fact that there was already a track there that the carters took in good weather. Parker is almost certainly he of the eponymous corner, which was actually one of the dog-legs straightened by Richard Benyon. Parker's Farm is mentioned in 1771 but in 1806 none of its land was at Parker's Corner, though there was an unnamed 'farmhouse' there in 1861.

Other names of note from this time are Powel, Haines, Horn and Draper. In 1762 John Powel lived in Cranemoor House, probably the old manor house of

the Englefields, and all these families (seemingly inter-related by marriage) remained important figures throughout the 18<sup>th</sup> century as fairly prosperous yeoman farmers who formed some sort of third rank in local society below the Squire and the Rector and are commemorated by some notable gravestones in the churchyard.



Enclosure is often presented as something foisted on the peasants by the aristocracy but that is not necessarily true, certainly not in this case. The smaller freeholders and tenants had already made an agreement in 1762, of which the Lord of the Manor, Powlett Wrighte, was not even a part, to suspend the individual strip system of farming, having '*found by experience that such situation... is very inconvenient*', and allocated blocks of land to certain crops in rotation. They converted this to a permanent enclosure of the Great Field and Punt Field by further agreement amongst all those concerned in 1774. Although Powlett



Wright gained the largest part, Mrs Powel had the next biggest allocation and Mrs Draper had some too. A sizeable block belonged to the Corporation of Reading, which explains the name of that triangular field alongside Bostock Lane between Parker's Corner and Mayridge Farm. A small part was retained by Sir Henry Englefield.

Although John Horn did not receive any land in the enclosed Great Field, he did, more conveniently, gain additional land adjacent to his existing farm at North Street in compensation for that which he had formerly owned there. The farm no doubt originated with the land bought by Robert Horn in 1669 and 1677, which he passed to John Horn in 1684 and by 1760 this farm occupied more or less all that land between North Street and Hogmoor bridge, including the wood that is still called Horn's Copse. There were three houses: New House, situated on the old Tidmarsh Road between the present Chalkpit Cottages and the farm; Knapp's, a little further along the old road towards Hogmoor just about where the M4 crosses the A340; and Bunces, location unknown though this might be a mis-transcription of Dunces, one version of the name of the farmhouse that formerly occupied the site just across the A340 at the bottom of The Street. Somewhat less conveniently he also owned parcels of land near Wigmore Lane, on the now Brunel Road Industrial estate at Theale and at Kentwood Hill in Tilehurst.

Thus the situation stood at the opening of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. *(To be continued)*

Richard Smith



## 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.

**‘What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all – how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?’ (Roman 8 v 31-32)**

As the UK moves wearily once more into another lockdown prompted by the rising covid-19 infection rate, questions naturally surface about what is going on. For those who are struggling to make sense of it all, what are we to say to give them assurance that God is really in control, and if so that he really cares what happens to us?

These words of Paul go straight to the heart of the matter, and are a tremendous encouragement to believers in every age struggling in difficult circumstances. His argument comes down to this: God has acted, openly and visibly in world history, in sending his Son to die on the cross. The death and resurrection of Jesus are not philosophical ideas or wishful thinking, but historical world events that actually took place. Given how much God loves his Son, and that God was prepared to give him up for us, Paul says, what possible grounds can we have for not believing that God is on our side? He has already given us the biggest thing we can imagine. Compared to giving up Jesus, his own beloved Son, for us, anything else will be a minor matter for God. If a wealthy benefactor bought us a new car as a free gift, would we find it hard to believe he would fill it with fuel?

This truth, grounded in history not wishful thinking, gives us hope that even in the midst of difficult times God is still with us and will see his good plans for us worked out in full.

**‘How long, Lord? Will you forget me forever?’ (Psalm 13 v 1a)**

Psalm 13 seems particularly relevant to us today, as the New Year brings with it another national lockdown. More disruption to our lives; children’s education impacted by the need to stay at home; livelihoods, relationships and perhaps even our health put under incredible strain for at least the next several weeks... how long will this last?

The Psalms are a great resource for us at times like this, containing as they do the undisguised anguish and expressions of raw emotion of God’s people. The

Psalms help us recognise that it is okay to cry out to God; that expressing our pain and frustration to him is not sinful. God knows us intimately, he is our maker and sees the battles we face. Even more than that, God has actually experienced the harrowing realities of human life in the person of Jesus – he is not impassive, aloof or indifferent to the pain we are going through.

This psalm opens with the psalmist’s anguish, but closes with a sense of peace. What enables him to make that transition is his focus on what God has revealed. It is when the Psalmist looks at God’s unfailing love, rather than his own current troubles, that he is able to rejoice. Living after the death and resurrection of Jesus, we have even more concrete assurance of God’s love for us than the Psalmist had when he wrote these words. It is this confidence in what God has done which can lead us to sing the Lord’s praise even in the shadow of the pandemic.

**‘On my bed I remember you; I think of you through the watches of the night. Because you are my help, I sing in the shadow of your wings. I cling to you; your right hand upholds me.’ (Psalm 63 v 6-8)**

How many of us in this present time of anxiety can relate to David’s experience of lying awake all night? Doubtless a good number know all too well the slow creep of the clock through the hours of darkness, the restless waiting for the dawn to appear. In those late watches of the night, our problems can often seem magnified and the difficulties we face seem insurmountable.

What is it that goes through our minds at such times? David made a point of focussing, not on his problems, but on the God whose love and power was enough to protect him from all of them. Just like David, we too should turn to our God who is our help, whose right hand upholds us. As we do that, as we cling to him amidst the storm, we too will find that we are empowered to sing under the protective shadow of his wings.

It is worth pausing to reflect that David’s focus on God is not half-hearted: v1 tells us ‘my whole being longs for you’. David found such peace because he wholeheartedly looked to God for relief; he didn’t succumb to idolatry and seek satisfaction elsewhere. When we are confronted with the difficulties and anxieties of life, can we too claim to be fully satisfied in praising God’s name (v4-5)?





## Bradfield Young Farmers

At Bradfield YFC our enthusiastic members continue to regularly meet via Zoom. We had a successful County AGM and since then have enjoyed a variety of meetings including quizzes and bingo and an excitable evening in the form of a Scavenger Hunt. Our members took great delight in finding the most obscure items, which in true YFC style became extremely competitive, even from the comfort of home!

Preparations are well underway for our entries in the Public Speaking and Reading competitions, which will be held under very different conditions this year, but we hope to have many members taking part. We also have some stock judging training in preparation for the pre-show competition, which is to be held virtually during the early part of spring.

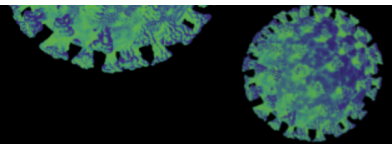

*To find out more about Bradfield YFC, contact Club Leader Sonia Walters [sonia.walters2@btinternet.com](mailto:sonia.walters2@btinternet.com) or find Bradfield Young Farmers on Facebook.*

## Beware of scams

Trading Standards is warning against the increased number of covid scams:

- Fake NHS texts telling people they're eligible to apply for the covid-19 vaccine. Do not click on the link and NEVER give your bank details from an unsolicited text such as this. If you are eligible for the vaccine you will be contacted directly via your own GP surgery.
- Automated calls saying you are being called to organise your vaccination. HANG UP AND DO NOT PRESS A NUMBER. Only deal directly with your GP with regards to the covid vaccine.
- Scammers selling fake vaccination cards. Once you have had the covid vaccine you are given a record card of the vaccination.
- Financial scams with text and email messages which appear to be from Government departments, NHS, banks or other trusted organisations, seeking to trick people into providing their personal and bank details. Never click on the links or respond to such messages.
- Sale of fake coronavirus testing kits and vaccines. Any covid testing should be accessed via your GP or the following link: <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>. If you wish to pay for a private test then only use organisations registered with the NHS and Government.
- Emails/text messages purporting to be from HMRC regarding claiming tax back or grants, again a way of tricking people into providing bank details.

Report any issues relating to coronavirus to the new Crimestoppers Covid Fraud Hotline (0800 587 5030) or to Action Fraud or Citizens Advice..



GOV.UK/coronavirus


## Beware of Scammers

Criminals are using the COVID-19 vaccine as a way to target vulnerable people by tricking them to hand over cash or financial details.

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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

**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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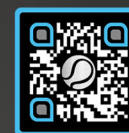
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