

Englefield

Parish News

April - May 2021



The Parish of St Mark's, Englefield

Rector

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

Front cover: *Daffodils on the bank in front of Englefield House, photograph by Cas Cramer (@carolynmc_photography).*

Englefield Parish News is published every two months and is now distributed free to all households in the parish of Englefield. Contributions are welcome and can be emailed to catherinehaig@gmail.com or handed in to Nick Wynne-Jones or to the Village Stores by the 20th of the preceding month.

From St Mark's House

Dear friends

Have you heard the 'tweet of the day'? – no, not the deluge of 'tweets' via Twitter but those on David Attenborough's eponymous programme which we discovered on Radio 4. Now that spring is here, the dawn chorus delights our ears, but depressing statistics indicate a decreasing population for the choir. The situation is more critical for the endangered regent honeyeaters in Australia who are forgetting their songs because, as habitats and food disappear, there are few elder birds to pass them on. While songbirds are born to sing, the song is lost if it is not passed on through the generations. 'Just as in human populations, the culture of these birds is being lost as it fails to be passed on to new generations over time and has no common song to bring them together.'¹

We could well learn from history as well as from nature, those things that secure hope for the future. A watershed moment in Jewish history was when they were deported to Babylon, uprooted from their environment, their culture devastated and their Temple destroyed in 586bc. The psalmist wrote: 'By the rivers of Babylon we sat and wept when we remembered Zion...for there our captors... demanded songs of joy...How can we sing a song of the LORD in a foreign land?'² Yet through that exile God's people were given courage to stand with integrity. Prophets such as Jeremiah ministered to the exiles, teaching how they were to live in their new circumstances and prophesying hope for the future.

We, too, are called to sing a song of the LORD in a foreign land, for we also are exiles; believers are citizens of heaven. The song we sing is one that has been passed down unchanged through the ages, it is one that brings God's people together.³ The apostle Peter addresses them (and us) as aliens and strangers in a hostile world. Covid rules that we can't sing – but we can still hope! Post-pandemic, much that was familiar has gone, the future is uncertain and millions are hopeless. As 'temporary residents and foreigners' Peter says, 'be ready at any time to give a quiet and reverent answer to any person who wants a reason for the hope that you have within you.'⁴ That hope is guaranteed through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. 'He was handed over to die because of our sins, and he was raised to life to make us right with God.'⁵ Pastor and author Dr Timothy Keller was recently diagnosed with cancer again. In his recent book, *Hope in Times of Fear*, he writes 'During a dark time for most of the world, and for me personally, as we all long and grasp for hope, there is no better place to look than the resurrection of Jesus Christ.'

Passing on the Easter song

Nick and Harriet

¹ *Proceedings of the Royal Society B*; ² *Psalm 137.1, 4*; ³ *see Psalm 145*; ⁴ *1 Peter 3.15*; ⁵ *Romans 4.25*

Englefield Flower Show

Plans are being made to hold the Flower Show in 2021, hopefully some time later in the year, restrictions permitting. This is a fantastic community event and the committee that works so hard to put it on would really appreciate some more help. There are lots of ways you can do this from joining the committee through to offering your time on the day - please get in touch with Mark Postles on mapostles@gmail.com or 07551 981587 to find out more.

Diary dates

Annual Parish Assembly: Wednesday 28th April
St Mark's APCM Monday 10th May
PCC meeting: Monday 28th June

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 Mon to Fri 09.00-18.00 Sat 09.00-13.00
Lloyds Pharmacy (Calcot)	0118 938 2265
NHS dentist Dentalcare	0118 984 5894 - Pangbourne
West Berkshire Council	01635 551111 (out of hours 01635 42161) www.westberks.gov.uk/ www.englefieldpc.org.uk/ www.thealeparishcouncil.gov.uk
Englefield Parish Council	0118 9302 337 www.englefieldprimary.co.uk
Theale Parish Council	
Englefield Primary School	
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	

Congratulations

To Richard Benyon on being made a life peer. He was officially introduced to the House of Lords at the beginning of February - shown here, flanked by his supporters Lord Goldsmith and Lord Strathclyde, and his full title is Baron Benyon, of Englefield in the Royal County of Berkshire.



RIP

Joe Iglesias, on 25th January.

Ian Savage, on January 31st and whose funeral was held at St Mark's on Tuesday 16th February.

Perry Brown, on March 2nd and whose funeral took place on Friday 26th March.

Ian Highley, on March 9th and whose funeral was held at St Mark's on Saturday 27th March.

Victoria Fishburn, on Monday 22nd March.

Annual Parish Assembly

The Annual Parish Assembly will be held on Wednesday 28th April at 6.30pm. Due to the ongoing covid-19 restrictions this year's assembly will be held remotely on Zoom. Further details of the speakers will be confirmed over the coming weeks and the information needed to access the meeting will be available on the Parish Council website, or by contacting the clerk on clerk.englefieldpc@outlook.com.

The Parish Council would love to 'see' as many of you there as possible. Please do get in touch if there is anything specific that you would like to hear about at the meeting.

Nia Rands, Clerk to the Parish Council

Revision of the Church Electoral Roll

The Church Electoral Roll contains the names and addresses of those who can vote at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM).

The Roll is revised annually before the APCM. The previous year's Roll is carried forward but people wishing to have their names added will need to complete an application form before 24th April. After April 24th the new Roll will be published in the church for the two weeks prior to the APCM.

To obtain an application form or confirm that your name is on the existing Roll please contact Richard Smith at richard.smith.ufton@icloud.com or 0118 983 3258.

Sunday Club

The Sunday school children have been busy learning about Lent, temptation and the context of Jesus' final journey to Jerusalem. We have made pretzels (shown below), written prayers for Mothering Sunday, baked gifts for our mothers, drawn and coloured. For Palm Sunday we met up with some donkeys to help us better imagine the events of that day and we will be virtually sharing food to remember Passover and the Last Supper.

Saffy O'Sullivan

Sunday Club prayer for mothers:

Mighty Father God,
O hear our prayer:
Thank you for our mothers,
Hear our grateful prayer.
Each mummy is so loving;
Running after us each day
In our times of need,
Now and always,
Giving so freely of their love:
Soothing our fears;
Undoing mistakes
Nursing our injuries;
Doing so much for our sakes,
Anything we need!
You know their goodness. Amen



Ian Savage RIP

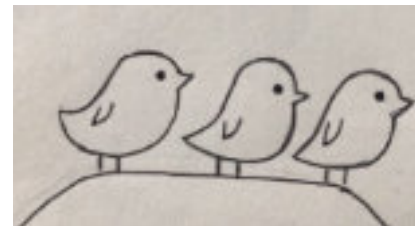
Ian Savage was a very regular worshipper at St Mark's Church for over 20 years. He died on 31st January at the age of 77. He was born in Yorkshire where he became a member of the Leeds Parish Church choir at the age of nine. His love of choral singing was renewed when he joined the St Mark's choir. He enjoyed playing cricket for the Englefield team during the late eighties.

Ian started his working life as an inspector in the Royal Hong Kong Police at the age of 19. He returned to the UK in 1966 eventually enjoying a long career in publishing, starting with Penguin Books and ending with running his own business until retirement.

A funeral service in St Mark's was Ian's very dear hope. Lockdown rules meant we were allowed only 30 mourners. However, we were blessed to have family and very close friends in St Mark's, including a few members of the church family. We are grateful to Nick and Harriet for their pastoral care, Peter and Catherine who ensured the rules were followed with cleaning and closing the church, as well as Carole Ford and the flower team for the beautiful arrangements around the church.

The prayers, loving messages and generous support from so many people helped us through those difficult weeks and gave us so much comfort. Thank you.

Penny, Katherine and Victoria



Let's Talk Theology

Let's Talk Theology continues on the second Wednesday of the month at 3.30pm and will take place via Zoom for the foreseeable future. These informal discussion groups are led by Derek Spears. 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. The next dates are April 14th and May 12th.



Three bridge challenge

The past year has seen almost unimaginable change to daily life in many countries around the world. The covid-19 pandemic has wrought havoc to communities, families and individuals which have all been affected by the spread of the disease. Here in the UK, life has been badly affected by a succession of lockdowns and illness, resulting in damage to the economic, physical and mental health of many.

During the summer of 2020 I was able to get out into the Oxfordshire countryside to get exercise and fresh air, and started to get in shape by running. It got me thinking about how much freedom we still have in the UK, in spite of current circumstances. Although I have found the restrictions on daily life here in the UK tough, they have helped highlight for me how many Christians around the world are suffering in far worse ways. Even today there are many areas and countries where being a follower of Jesus comes with a heavy cost. For many of these persecuted Christians, covid-19 isn't only a deadly pandemic and the reason for loss of income. It's also another weapon of persecution: many Christians are being denied vital food, aid and PPE.

There is an organisation which specifically seeks to address this injustice. Open Doors is a charity which works to help alleviate the suffering of persecuted Christian minorities. It provides practical support like food, medicine, housing, clean water and education as well as micro-loans to start businesses to persecuted Christians worldwide. Working in over 50 countries around the world, Open Doors also provides Bibles, Christian literature, training, literacy programmes and trauma training.

In 2021 I plan to help support the work being done by Open Doors by undertaking the longest run I have ever done as a fundraiser. This 'three bridge challenge' will take me on a 21 mile round-trip journey: starting at Woodcote, I will head to the first bridge at Goring-on-Thames and run downstream along the north bank of the river until reaching Whitchurch-on-Thames (the second bridge). From here, I will cross to the south



bank and continue downstream to Caversham bridge in Reading, where I will cross back to the north side of the Thames, and run in a loop back to my starting point. I expect the run will take me around three and a half hours to complete, and I plan to do it one morning before breakfast in late July.

I hope that you'll be able to support me in supporting the persecuted church worldwide. This is the link to my justgiving page: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/aldo-guiducci-3bridgechallenge-opendoors> and you can find out more about the work of Open Doors here: <https://www.opendoorsuk.org/>. Thank you!

Aldo Guiducci

Cobbs cafe reopening

From Monday 12th April our café will be open once again for alfresco dining, serving breakfast, lunch, hot and cold drinks, and cakes! We have seating available in our covered outdoor area and highly recommend booking a table in advance to avoid disappointment (max 6 people per table). Opening times are Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm, Saturday 9am to 4pm and Sunday 10am to 3pm.

Later this summer we are hosting three four-week wine tasting courses running on a Tuesday evening throughout June, July, and August. These events are designed to be fun and informal and cover not just English wine but the world of wine in general. Visit our website to find out more and book your place.

The team at Cobbs

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



High Sheriff awards

Mary Riall's year as High Sheriff of Berkshire came to a close on Friday 26th March. One of her last events in office was the High Sheriff Awards ceremony, this year held online on Thursday 18th March and still available to watch on this YouTube link: <https://youtu.be/QUB8vXQ3JfQ>.

There were over 120 nominations from right across the county for the six categories, among them our own Laura and

Andy Allen at the Village Stores and Gordon Fletcher for his work with Bradfield Young Farmers Club.

In Mary's words, 'In response to the pandemic my year has focussed on supporting the extraordinary volunteers and community groups that have sprung up across Berkshire to meet the needs of their communities during this very difficult time.' Because of restrictions, she organised the annual Judicial Service to take place outside in the Reading Abbey ruins, with 30 people attending representing the whole community, together with the Reading Community Gospel choir and powerful talks given by Mujahideen Ameer, a refugee now settled in Reading, and the Right Reverend Olivia Graham, Bishop of Reading. The service can be viewed on the website <https://berkshirehighsheriff.com/>.

Mary's successor as High Sheriff is Willie Hartley Russell who lives at Bucklebury.



Visits to the Old Fire Station Nursery

The Old Fire Station Nursery offers spaces for children from 3 months and above, with funded spaces for those eligible. We are offering show arounds for families after operating hours to ensure we

are following current guidelines. Sessions for September are getting booked up so please do give us a call on 0118 9306981 or send an email to Sophie at sophie@theoldfirestationnursery.co.uk to find out extra information.

Summer concerts at Englefield

The Englefield Estate has been in discussion with concert promoter, GCE Live, regarding the prospect of staging outdoor concerts in the deer park in front of Englefield House at the end of July. GCE Live is one of the UK's leading concert and tour promoters, staging hundreds of events over the years involving major national and international musical artists.

A licence application for three days of concerts on 23rd, 24th and 25th July 2021 has been submitted by GCE Live and the outcome of this process will be published shortly. Normally, by this time all the performers to appear at the concerts would have been announced, however due to the disruption caused by the pandemic there are some delays confirming the programme.

However, we are delighted to announce that on Sunday 25th July one of Britain's best loved singers, Russell Watson, will appear with the Royal Philharmonic Concert Orchestra. This Last Night of the Heritage Proms evening will also include soprano Christina Johnston, very special guests the NHS Choir, a Spitfire flypast and a 10 minute firework finale.

Although recent announcements related to the covid pandemic indicate a positive outlook, we can't be absolutely certain that all restrictions will be completely lifted. However, we are optimistic that as we move into the summer months, the situation will continue to improve as the vaccine programme rolls out and the number of covid cases reduces.

Nevertheless, it is important for the Estate and GCE Live to emphasise that the safety of the audiences and local communities, along with the artists and crews are paramount and we will adhere to all Government and local authority guidelines and advice over the coming months. As the concert planning progresses and details of arrangements become clearer, further information will be circulated.

Peter Carson, House and Events Manager





Schools Days 2021

As schools have had such a difficult year, with children missing out on summer trips, forest schools and many weeks of normal school life, we are very excited that plans for Schools Days 2021 are in full swing!

The dates for this year are **Wednesday 9th and Thursday 10th June**. The format is slightly different for 2021, with a reduced number of schools attending and classes all following timetabled routes around the Estate. This is to ensure schools do not mix and social distancing measures are followed.

We have a busy schedule planned, covering many aspects of life on the Estate, including farming, forestry, horticulture, wildlife, history, community and employment and we are delighted that local organisations such as the Five A Day Market Garden, Upper Thames Butterfly Conservation, Small Fire Big Adventures, Reading & District Beekeepers Association and Reading & District Angling Association are pitching in to help make the day a success.

We are minimising the number of school groups that use The Street during Schools Days but please could residents take care extra care and be patient when driving on these dates as a few schools may need to walk along the road at the start and end of the event. You should also be aware that coaches and minibuses carrying schoolchildren will be present at the start and end of the days so it will be best not to park along The Street. Following the morning school run, essential areas will be coned off to ensure access. We will put timetabling information on the parish noticeboard nearer the day.

Please keep your fingers crossed for fair weather! The schools booked to attend are so excited to have the opportunity for a grand day out at Englefield.

Liz Mattison, Community & Education Officer

Help for Rhos-y-Gwaliau

Many of you will know that outdoor centres which host school residential trips have been really hard hit during this period. The sad thing is that they may face closure. Rhos-y-Gwaliau in North Wales used to be owned by Berkshire Council and is still used by many local schools; it has lost over £900,000 since March last year which is threatening its very existence. Residential are such an important part of our children's school experience and usually provide the longest-lasting memories. If you would like to support them, they have started a crowd-funding scheme: <https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/support-ryg-outdoor-education-centre>.

Hilary Latimer

News from Rushall Farm

The other evening while walking the dog and shutting the gates around Rushall I came across a toad sat in the middle of the track, not even startled by my torch. To me it seemed he had woken up and thought it had been quite a sunny day and, well, it must be spring and time to mate. But then had second thoughts. Or was it that any potential mates were still sensibly cocooned in a nest of warm leaves under a rotting log? I quietly moved him to safety. The farm, though, has had to wake up. 250 ewes lambed during February and are now grazing turnips and winter rye with another group behind Waylands. Farmer Steve has dad Peter ploughing ready for planting spring wheat and barley. The second group of ewes to lamb have been housed and start lambing just after Easter. Lambs from this group will be selected and retained for breeding, while the others are off to Sainsbury's organics via South Wales. Most of the thirty suckler cows, which were all in calf, have calved successfully. It was black twins yesterday, always a delight. But stocks of silage, hay and straw for the sheep and cattle are tight. Like most farms, last year's drought has made supplies of winter forage very short, putting further strain on the narrow margins which always challenge farmers.

We are all hoping for a better year, with volunteer groups back in action at the Manor and in the woodlands. School groups again we hope, camps perhaps, and even some family parties and much delayed wedding receptions. What is never delayed or deferred is that amazing push of spring; sap rising in trees forcing a canopy of blossom and green leaves. Then there is the unfailing growth, sight and smell of bluebells, the unfurling of ferns and succession of wood anemones, celandines, yellow archangel, wood spurge and foxgloves, each in their turn queuing for a splendid and quite often hidden display. These are just some of the plants which create a myriad of environments for ants and beetles, woodlice, bees and wasps, moths, butterflies and many tiny beasties. Now small mammals, reptiles and birds thrive while deer graze, foxes and badgers patrol and kites and buzzards survey the scene from on high. And us? Well, come and see, breathe in and engage in a world with seasons beyond our control and definitely there to refresh and do us good.



John Bishop
www.rushallfarm.org.uk



From Englefield Primary School

'Sowing the Seeds for a Flourishing Future'

Finally! Pupils and staff are back fulltime and school is feeling normal once more.

Most of our pupils have been learning at home since the start of January and have done magnificently. Our parents showed themselves to be super teachers and our teaching staff became very creative at teaching live using Microsoft Teams. Our teaching assistants worked in school supporting our growing keyworker group as well as giving additional online well-being support when needed. Engagement in learning was excellent, though of course we all missed our friends and the range of opportunities that being in school provides.

School lockdown seemed to last an eternity and the whole school community is rejoicing now that it has ended for us. Warren Taylor, one of our parents who owns Combat Pest Solutions, gives our building a fortnightly 'fogging' with disinfectant, and everyone is still following the 'hands, face, space' guidance as we really hope to keep the virus out of school as we did in the autumn term.

Times like these really test us and we are delighted to have come through this period as a whole school team. Homes can now return to being havens of peace and tranquility and school can return to being a busy, buzzing centre of learning and friendship.



The whole school has used the book *After The Fall – How Humpty Dumpty Got Back Up Again* by Dan Santat; this is a wonderful book that has allowed us to think about the ways in which situations can hurt us and how we can get help, as well as help ourselves, to get past these difficulties. This is hugely important at the moment as emotional well-being is at the heart of our school recovery plan.

Years 1 and 2 had some fun with the story and decided to design and make boxes to keep Humpty Dumpty safe. They then tested their boxes by throwing them off our adventure playground and seeing if their Humpty Dumpty egg stayed intact...I am happy to say most did!

Years 3 and 4 spent some time in our grounds painting and drawing. It was a good opportunity to catch up with friends too.

Years 5 and 6 have taken part in an online STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) lesson with other schools courtesy of the Tim Henman Foundation. The lesson involved designing and making gliders which they then tested on the school field. This was a great way to reintroduce teamwork to the classroom after so long working alone.

We really hope that the gradual easing of restrictions will mean that we can get out and about more in the summer term and maybe even start playing sport against other schools. It is amazing how many things we all take for granted until they are taken away.



We wish our local communities a healthy and happy run up to the Easter break.

Hilary Latimer, Headteacher

[Editor's note: thank you to the School for the Easter drawings shown on pages 5, 15 and 19]



ABC to Read

We are looking to recruit volunteers to help local children from Englefield. Help children who struggle with their reading gain essential skills at a crucial age. Make learning to read fun and become a volunteer with ABC to Read. We have vacancies both in schools as well as online. You can find out more here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qHAluYcVEWk>. Please contact us at info@abctoread.org.uk if you would like to know more.

Marcia Rowlinson



News from Five a Day

Despite the lockdown, Five a Day has been extremely fortunate. As volunteering is still allowed, many of our regular Five a Day volunteers have been able to return to the garden this spring.

We continue to adhere to strict health and safety measures and to restrict numbers to keep everyone safe. We take extra care with frequent handwashing, social distancing and wearing face coverings when working in the poly tunnels.

We have also been able to welcome new volunteers to the garden, of all ages and gardening ability who are enjoying the opportunity to help us in the garden, whilst improving their own health and wellbeing.

Our gardening volunteers are keen to carry on preparing the soil for the spring and summer vegetables and have already started sowing, planting and weeding. Thank you to all of them.

We are hopeful that when government rules allow we will be able to welcome back our over 70's group late in the spring /early summer when the weather should hopefully be warm enough to spend the afternoons outside. Sadly, school visits are not currently allowed but we hope that as soon as they are, children will once again be able to enjoy visiting the garden to learn about healthy eating and how to grow fruit, flowers and vegetables.

It is more important than ever for people to be able to enjoy the Five a Day garden and we hope that it will play a big part in the community and in helping people to return to good health after the difficulties of covid-19.

We will continue to grow vegetables to sell at the Garden Centre this spring, starting with rhubarb in May, broad beans in June, followed by a succession of summer fruit and vegetables.

Sophie Axford, Development Officer



Girlguiding Pang Valley

As I write this and reflect over the last year, and what a year it has been, we've realised how strong Girlguiding is in the area, even in the challenging times we have faced over the last few months.

I clearly remember having to suspend our face to face meetings last March and we had only held one meeting with our new Rainbow unit in Bradfield, thinking we would be back in a few weeks, but that wasn't to be the case. As we headed into the summer term we all heard about this platform called Zoom and began to think could we use this and after setting up an account, we haven't looked back since! Our Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, Rangers and us leaders have embraced the technology and we all have continued with our Girlguiding journey.

We have done scavenger hunts, arts and crafts, games, bingo, made cheesecakes, butter and have enjoyed visits from the Cats Protection, our local Girlguiding peer educator looking at mental health and building resilience and body confidence, and the girls loved a visit from Lisa the goat. From September we were able to return to face to face Guiding, and it was amazing to see the girls in person again! We ran our units from the car parks of our usual venues and activities ranged from dance routines with glow sticks to games and making lanterns. The Brownies even had a visit to see the alpacas in Mortimer. But I think the most important thing was just being there, a much needed little bit of 'normal' for our girls and leaders alike.

As we think about the summer term ahead and being able to see the girls in person again, one thing I do know is that our units will continue to offer an amazing programme of adventure, friendships, new opportunities and fun for our local girls and young women.

If you are interested in finding out more about Girlguiding in the local area, please email helenguides@yahoo.com.

Helen, Pang Valley District Commissioner



Date	Sidesman	First reading	Gospel reading	Intercessions	Sacristan/server	Sunday Club	Cleaners
April 4 th Easter Sunday	Denny Hollands	Linda Price Acts 10:34-43	Richard Benyon John 20:1-18	Harriet Wynne-Jones	Sue Smith Peter Haig	Sunday Club at 10am (children in church for the main service) Saffy O'Sullivan	Pete and Carole Ford
April 11 th 2 nd 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
April 18 th 3 rd Sunday of Easter	Penny Savage	Miles Edgar Acts 3:12-19	Melanie Townsend Luke 24:36b-48	Ron Marillier	Catherine Haig Melanie Townsend	Andrea Kean	Peter and Catherine Haig
April 25 th 4 th Sunday of Easter	Paula Fenwick	Dee Boddy Acts 4:5-12	Gloria Sleep John 10:11-18	Carol Boulter	Dee Boddy Carol Boulter	Sara Guiducci	Pete and Carole Ford
May 2 nd 5 th Sunday of Easter	Linda Price	Paula Fenwick Acts 8:26-end	Ron Marillier John 15:1-8	Richard Benyon	Penny Savage Saffy O'Sullivan	Saffy O'Sullivan	Saffy O'Sullivan Melanie Townsend
May 9 th 6 th Sunday of Easter	Catherine Haig	Stephanie Gibbons Acts 10:44-end	Peter Haig John 15:9-17	Stephanie Gibbons	Sue Smith Peter Haig	Andrea Kean	Peter and Catherine Haig
May 16 th Sunday after Ascension Day	Torquil MJ	Linda Price 1 John 5:9-13	Aldo Guiducci John 17:6-19	Saffy O'Sullivan	Penny Norris Torquil MJ	Sara Guiducci	Pete and Carole Ford
May 23 rd Pentecost	Peter Haig	Denny Hollands Acts 2:1-21	Penny Savage John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15	Harriet Wynne-Jones	Catherine Haig Melanie Townsend	Saffy O'Sullivan	Liz McKean Saffy O'Sullivan
May 30 th Trinity Sunday	Penny Savage	Mike Kimber Romans 8:12-17	Richard Benyon John 3:1-17	Melanie Townsend	Dee Boddy Carol Boulter	Andrea Kean	Peter and Catherine Haig
June 6 th 1 st Sunday after Trinity	Paula Fenwick	Catherine Haig 2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1	Torquil MJ Mark 3:20-end	Ron Marillier	Penny Savage Saffy O'Sullivan	Sara Guiducci	Pete and Carole Ford
June 13 th 2 nd Sunday after Trinity	Linda Price	Dinah Perkins 2 Corinthians 5:6-17	Melanie Townsend Mark 4:26-34	Carol Boulter	Sue Smith Peter Haig	Saffy O'Sullivan	Saffy O'Sullivan Melanie Townsend

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.



Free gadgets for people in need

The pandemic hasn't stopped the volunteer 'MakeAbility' engineers from making equipment and gadgets for people with disabilities or special needs. Among the projects recently completed locally by the charity Remap have been: specially-padded bathroom steps to help a six-year-old with the rare RERE Syndrome get in and out of the bath; long-reach window-opener for a woman who finds it impossible to stretch up; wooden extensions to the legs of

a dining table so a wheelchair user can sit comfortably close; conversion to the wheels on a walker to allow it to be used on soft ground.

The 25 volunteer 'MakeAbility' engineers at Remap Berkshire enjoy using their skills to create custom-made equipment and gadgets for people in the county who have disabilities or special needs and who cannot find anything suitable to buy. This 'MakeAbility' service is entirely free. Panel members have a wide variety of expertise between them, ranging from IT and electronics, to metalwork, carpentry and 3D-printing - the list is endless. Remap Berkshire engineers often work alongside health professionals like occupational therapists, physiotherapists, doctors or Special Educational Needs staff to make sure that the equipment provided safely meets individual situations.

Some 'MakeAbility' projects are simple, others extremely challenging - all can make a real difference to the recipient's quality of life. Each piece of equipment is tailor-made to suit specific needs. Many of the materials used are recycled, but some have to be bought using funds kindly contributed from sources including charitable foundations, rotary clubs and community groups. Although no charge is made to users, many are so pleased with the service that they choose to make a donation to facilitate projects for others.

Remap Berkshire is one of 70 county 'MakeAbility' groups spread across England, Wales and Northern Ireland. The charity (reg. no. 1137666) was founded in 1965 and assists around 3,000 people every year. Remap Berkshire can be contacted in complete confidence on 07790 127123 or berks.caseofficer@remapgroups.org.uk (www.berkshire.remap.org.uk). If you would like a Remap Berkshire speaker to make a Zoom or in-person presentation at your club, group or healthcare team, please call 01491 671998 or send an email to berks.publicity@remapgroups.org.uk. There is no charge. To find out more about volunteering with Remap, please visit: <https://www.remap.org.uk/volunteering/making-equipment-for-people-with-disabilities/>.

Kimble Earl, volunteer publicity officer, Remap Berkshire



Raising funds for Berkshire churches

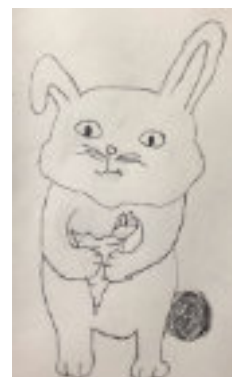
Although on a slightly reduced scale, and with many necessary restrictions in place, Ride+Stride took place as usual last September, and on a beautiful autumn day some 50 rider and striders set out to visit as many churches as they could to raise money for Berkshire churches – and we're delighted to say that in 2020 we raised almost £18,000. In a year when income took such a hit, this will be especially welcome. Between them, our participants visited 200 churches, old and new, large and small, and at many they not only signed the visitors' sheet, but were welcomed by a steward and able to pop in and see some of the treasures that are such a feature of so many of our church buildings.

Ride+Stride is a great way to see other churches, and in most years, to meet the people who worship in and care for them. And it's a great way to raise money too. Half of anything raised goes to the church of your choice, the rest goes to the Berkshire Historic Churches Trust, which will use it to support repair and restoration work across the county, as need arises. Why not join us in 2021?

Ride+Stride 2021 will take place on Saturday 11th September

Setting up a Neighbourhood Watch scheme

With all the lovely community spirit at the moment and neighbours getting to know one another, it is the ideal time to keep this going by setting up a Neighbourhood Watch scheme in part or all of your road. If you would like me



to send you details of how to set up a scheme, please phone me, Angela Money on 01635 40866, or forward your email address to ajmy5m7@gmail.com and I will make contact with you. All we ask is for you to be the receiver of the Police/NHW/Action Fraud Alerts and forward them on to your neighbours. Neighbourhood Watch signs, stickers and leaflets are free plus all neighbours receive various local discounts. If more schemes are set up this will help combat crime and make the community a safer place to live.

Angela Money, NHW Scheme Coordinator

The birth of modern Englefield (part III)

As the 19th century dawned Richard Benyon, the third of that name in succession, inherited the Englefield estate and in 1802 sold Gidea Hall, bought by his grandfather on his return from India, becoming the first Benyon to make Englefield his primary residence.

The great majority of the open fields had been enclosed by agreement in 1774 and only the Englefield Meadow (at Theale) remained in common ownership at this time. In 1809 Richard Benyon sought to enclose this by Act of Parliament. The process was long drawn out and wasn't formally completed until 1829 although for all practical purposes it was settled long before that. The Enclosure Commissioners saw to it that all those with land in the Englefield Meadow received other land elsewhere in compensation and the meadow became the sole property of Richard Benyon. There were also other exchanges of land as part of the overall agreement, one example being the exchange of land and a house for use as a rectory (now the site of Rectory Cottage) for that just behind the church on which the old rectory stood. This was apparently completed, and the old rectory demolished, before 1822.



A second stage to the enclosure process, also documented in the 1829 Act, came when many of the people who had been given land in exchange for their holding in the Englefield Meadow then sold that newly acquired land back to Richard Benyon. Outside of the enclosure process some, like the May and Horn families, also sold their entire holding to Richard Benyon.

This time was also when the old village, spread along the road to Theale between St Mark's Church and a point where the Old Rectory now is, was mostly

demolished. This was rather later than most places for the same thing had happened at Nuneham Courtenay on the road to Oxford (immortalised in William Goldsmith's poem *The Deserted Village*) some 50 years earlier. Powlett Wrighte may have had such an aspiration in the 1770s but he overspent on remodelling Englefield House and after he died the house had to be let by his uncle to Lady Clive in 1781 at a rent of 300 guineas a year to refill the coffers.

Unfortunately, there are no details for the census in Englefield in 1801 but the one in 1811 shows that in the parish there were 68 inhabited houses and 70 uninhabited ones. Ten years later there were 78 inhabited and four uninhabited. This period looks, therefore, very much like the turning point between the old and new villages, although in 1822 fewer than 20 of those houses seem to have been along the village street and about 12 of those were there in 1762. There were, however, many houses scattered around the wider area that have now disappeared: at Parker's Corner, along Beenham Lane and Piper's Lane, and 18 around the Bourne bridge where only the two Bradfield Lodges now stand.

Although by 1844 most of the land had been acquired by Richard Benyon, the Tithe Map of that year shows there were still some 13 others owning land in the parish. The Englefield Meadow, Punt Field and most of the Great Field were owned by Richard Benyon but the Wickcroft Furlong (alongside what is now the private drive to Englefield House) was mostly Glebe land owned by the Rector, with some parts owned by George Appleton and Caroline Hopkins. George Appleton was a retired farmer from Sulhamstead who also owned a house at the eponymous corner (a last remnant, along with a house situated in the dip in front of the Old Rectory, of the old village) and Caroline Hopkins also owned (in modern terms) number 1 (then the Crown Inn), the land between it and number 10, the school field, the shop and St Mark's Close. The shop was let to Charles Webb and the rest to the Harriet Mildenhall, a widow (husband James, the Parish Clerk, died in 1843) who kept the Crown Inn. The Corporation of Reading, for John Hall's Charity, still had a fair amount of land between Parker's Corner and Mayridge Farm and John Welch also had some seven acres there, let to Charlotte May.

It was not until past the middle of the century under Richard Benyon's successor, yet another Richard, that complete ownership was finally achieved.

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.

‘The time has come,’ he said. ‘The kingdom of God is near.

Repent and believe the good news!’ (Mark 1 v 15)

Mark recounts the beginning of Jesus’ ministry in these three sentences, which together capture the heart of Jesus’ message. Firstly, ‘the time has come’. Down through history, God had been working out his plan of salvation and the time of its culmination had now arrived. Secondly, ‘the kingdom of God is near’ because Jesus, God’s king, has arrived on the scene. For the first century God-fearing Jew, the arrival of God’s king was a long awaited promise and would have been a great comfort and source of joy. For us too, living in times which are no less troubled, the news that God’s kingdom is near gives us tremendous hope amidst all the chaos. We have not been forgotten or abandoned by God – he loves us and has come near to us in his son, the King. Thirdly, ‘repent and believe the good news!’. In these few words Jesus counters two opposing errors people can make when they think about life. The first is to discount sin, the second is to think we must earn the forgiveness of our sin. Jesus’ command to believe tells us that rather than perform actions to offset our sin, we are instead to trust in him – ultimately, in the action that he took on the cross on our behalf.

‘He also drove out many demons, but he would not let the demons speak because they knew who he was.’ (Mark 1 v 34b)

The first half of the book of Mark is all about Jesus’ identity. In this opening chapter, we see the beginning of Jesus’ ministry, with him teaching and performing miracles. The demons know who he is yet Jesus forbade them to speak. Why not let them broadcast his identity straight away and save all the confusion? There are at least three reasons. First, those speaking were demons – enemies bitterly opposed to God. There was no guarantee that they wouldn’t lie to those listening, and no way to tell if they did. Second, Jesus did not want to rely on third-party validation of who he really is, but wanted people to judge for themselves. This feeds into the third reason: Jesus’ identity as Messiah, God’s chosen king, was very different to people’s expectations of what Messiah would be and do. Jesus didn’t want to allow this misunderstanding to cloud people’s perceptions of what his mission was; he would rather allow people to see him in action and form their own opinions. For us, living some 2000 years after the events Mark records, the same challenge applies. What do we make of Jesus? Are we happy to believe what others around us say about him, or do we instead look at what Jesus himself did and taught, and form our own opinion of who he is?



Bradfield Young Farmers

Our regular zoom meetings have continued, with a common cooking theme. We were creative with noodles to celebrate the Chinese New Year and the annual pancake making evening, which involved lots of chocolate spread and sprinkles!

Our members were lucky to have the opportunity to join a one night only talk given by JCB about the world's fastest tractor. The team from JCB explained how they engineered their Fastrac into making a world record breaking speed machine. It made the Guinness World Book of Records by reaching a speed of 135.191mph – not something you will see working in our local fields; however, it certainly would not hold up any traffic!

As many of you may know, Young Farmers get involved with many competitions and last month we took part in Public Speaking, Reading and Member of the Year competitions. These obviously had to take a very different format to comply with the covid 19 regulations, which meant more zoom! Our members worked hard on their various entries and their efforts were reflected in success at both County and South East Area rounds. Our teams will be going forward later in the year to the National finals to compete in the Public Speaking and Member of the Year, which we are all looking forward to. We anticipate with longer days approaching and, hopefully, with the lifting of regulations it will not be much longer before we can re-start our normal face to face meetings.

To find out more about Bradfield YFC, contact Club Leader Sonia Walters sonia.walters2@btinternet.com or find Bradfield Young Farmers on Facebook.

Rubbish and recycling

In a change to previous arrangements, Monday rubbish and recycling collections will now take place on Bank Holidays. Bins and boxes need to be out by 6am. Veolia says that their crews can walk over eight miles a day collecting our rubbish and little things can make all the difference: face bin handles towards the road, sort the recycling into the correct containers and stack boxes, and fold and flatten cardboard boxes. You can check what you can put in the recycling here <https://info.westberks.gov.uk/recycle>.



Every year we throw away the equivalent of 38 million wheelie bins full of food in the UK. Food waste can be composted at home or recycled in your green bin (even if you don't have a garden subscription) and there are recipe ideas for using up food at www.lovefoodhatewaste.com.

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

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

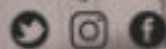
How does the PPG work? Our PPG includes 12 patients/carers, the GP practice manager, senior administrator and a GP (currently Dr Brooke)

How does the PPG include my views? If you have any issues or suggestions you'd like to raise, please get in touch: ppg.tmc@nhs.net. Your email will be treated confidentially

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

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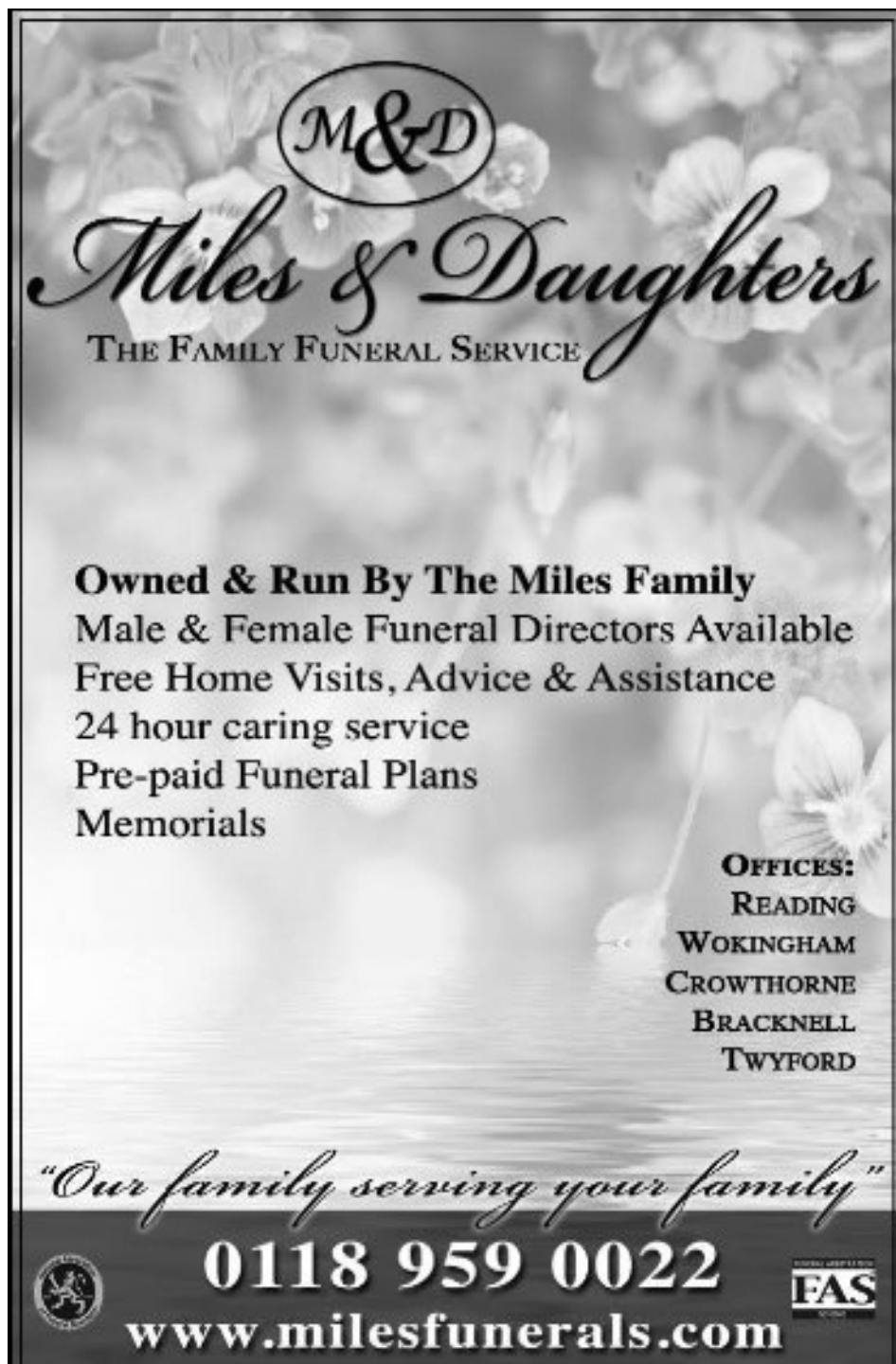
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