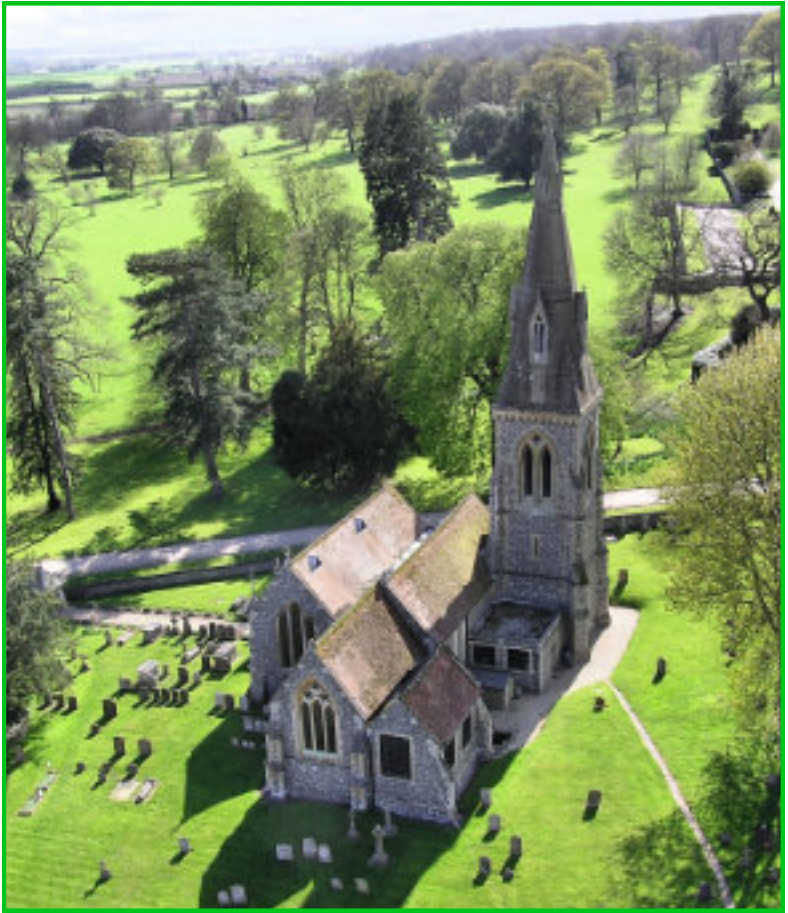


Englefield Parish News

April - May 2022



The Parish of St Mark's, Englefield

Rector

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

Churchwardens

Paula Fenwick churchwarden@stmarksenglefield.org.uk
Torquil Montague-Johnstone 07850 603508
0118 9714536

Safeguarding Officer

Lucy Roper 0118 9585417

Parochial Church Council

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

Parish Council

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

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

Front cover: *An aerial view of St Mark's Church, looking out towards the deer park.*

Englefield Parish News is published every two months and is 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

With her body bowed, head bandaged and hands clasping a broken lyre with one string left, the figure painted in subdued colours by G F Watts provokes reflection with its title *Hope*.ⁱ Barack Obama observed, on hope, 'I'm not talking about blind optimism [but] something more substantial. It's the hope of Negro slaves sitting around a fire singing freedom songs, with the whip lashes freshly etched on their backs, singing triumphantly, "By and by I'm gwin to lay down this heavy load"'.ⁱⁱ This was Hope in the face of adversity. Hope in the face of uncertainty. The audacity of Hope: we dare to believe. Martin Luther King affirms, "A genuine faith will imbue us with the conviction that there is a God beyond time and a Life beyond Life."ⁱⁱⁱ

This is the hope sustaining multitudes suffering the barbaric evil unleashed by Putin and his murderous cohorts. Bible Society of Ukraine, still in Kyiv at present, is working closely with local churches and Christian organisations, to distribute food and medicine. During this difficult time, many people want to find strength, rest and comfort in their faith and in God's word. Psalm 31 is becoming significant for the entire nation. Our understanding of their perspective grows as we hear them read this Psalm.^{iv} Through this moving video link you can join with men, women and children in their bunkers reading Psalm 31 (v1 to 24): 'In you, Lord, I have taken refuge; ...Be strong and take heart, all you who hope in the Lord.'

It can be hard to 'keep your hopes up' News broadcasts, accompanied by warnings that 'some viewers may find the following images disturbing', are a sobering acknowledgement that 'the history of the world is written in blood'. The Bible is realistic about the justice and righteousness of God who holds us all accountable. In St Nicholas Church, Oddington, one wall is occupied by a huge 'Doom painting',^v with the figure of Jesus at the top, and two angels sounding trumpets to waken the dead who are seen rising to be judged, some to be welcomed to heaven, others to be dragged to hell. Our society is complacent about the day of universal, righteous reckoning that is coming. But one day all will see it; for now we must live by faith in Him who is faithful and true. Biblical hope is a confident expectation based on solid certainty, God's sure promises. By his cross and resurrection, Christ won the victory over the powers of evil; He bore our sins on the cross, and was raised to put us right with God. Returning in glory, he will manifest that victory. On Him the moral order of our world depends: He is our hope.

Daring to believe, with hope

Nick and Harriet

ⁱ <https://www.tate.org.uk/art/artworks/watts-hope-n01640>; ⁱⁱ <https://theharwoodinstitute.org/richs-blog-posts/2004/07/an-authentic-voice-of-hope>; ⁱⁱⁱ <https://kinginstitute.stanford.edu/king-papers/documents/draft-chapter-xc-shattered-dreams>; ^{iv} www.biblesociety.org.uk/latest/news/ukraine-crisis-how-psalm-31-is-bringing-comfort/;

^v <https://www.britainexpress.com/counties/glouces/churches/Oddington.htm>

Diary dates

Time to Pray: Monday 4th and 18th April and Monday 2nd and 16th May, 6pm to 6.30pm, in the Englefield Chapel, prayer, Bible readings and reflection.

West Berkshire Mobile Library: Wednesday 6th and 27th April, 18th May, at the Old Fire Station Nursery, Englefield, 2pm to 2.25pm.

Let's Talk Theology: Wednesday 13th April and Wednesday 11th May, 3.30pm, contact Carol Boulter to be added to the mailing list.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting: Monday 25th April.

Annual Parish Assembly: Thursday 19th May, 7pm (see page 10).

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations: June 2nd - 5th (see page 4).

Englefield Schools Days: Wednesday 15th and Thursday 16th 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 admin@englefieldstoresandtearooms.co.uk www.englefieldstoresandtearooms.co.uk/
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-Fri 09.00-18.00 Sat 09.00-13.00)
Lloyds Pharmacy (Calcot)	0118 938 2265
NHS dentist Dentalcare, Pangbourne	0118 984 5894
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
Theale Parish Council	www.englefieldprimary.co.uk
Englefield Primary School	101 or 999 (for emergencies)
Police	
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	

RIP

Ruby White, who died on Wednesday 9th February and whose funeral was held at St Mark's on Wednesday 16th February.

Nora Allen, who died on Sunday 27th February and whose funeral was held on Wednesday 16th March at St Mark's.

Margaret Gearing, Nora's sister who tragically died returning home from Nora's funeral on 16th March.

Rev Tom Ekin, who died March 7th and whose funeral was held at All Saints' Church, Wrington, on March 18th.



Thank you

Trevor, Lynn, Philip, Jenny and family would like to say thank you for all the lovely cards and letters that we received about Mum. Also for the lovely flower arrangements in the church and to the Benyon family for the kind use of the Long Gallery and everyone who helped in the church to make the service run smoothly. Mum loved Englefield and the church, and Englefield and the church gave her a lovely goodbye.

The Allen family

Farewell to Nick and Harriet

To mark Nick Wynne-Jones' retirement from St Mark's in May, there will be a farewell lunch at Englefield House after the service on **Sunday 8th May**. More details to follow but please put the date in your diary to come and say goodbye to Nick and Harriet, to wish them well in their retirement and thank them for all they have done for Englefield.

Richard Benyon

APCM and Electoral Roll

The Church Electoral Roll contains the names and addresses of those who can vote at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting. The Roll is revised annually. Those already on it will be carried forward, those wishing to have their names added will need to apply before 10th April. The new Roll will then be published in the church for two weeks prior to the APCM. Application forms can be downloaded from www.stmarksenglefield.org.uk or contact richard.smith.ufton@icloud.com or 0118 983 3258. The APCM is on **Monday 25th April** at 6.30pm at St Mark's. All members of the congregation and the parish are welcome to attend.



Update from the Village Stores

We have had a lovely first couple of months in the village, everyone has been so welcoming. We are settling into life in the Tea Rooms as a store and filling it with lots of new and most loved products. Simmering in the background, it's been 'all systems go' on creating the new website, Facebook, and Instagram account. Please give us a like and share (www.inglefieldstoresandtearooms.co.uk)!

Hopefully you have seen our new posters about too and we would like to thank the House when the gardens are open, the Garden Centre, the Primary school, and the Nursery for displaying it in their settings. Also thank you for your kind words of support while we find our feet.

The shop renovations are coming along well, and we are enjoying our updates from Dave and his team who are doing a fantastic job. We would like to thank them along with Edward and Duncan who have been very supportive with business.

Lastly, we are very pleased to announce that we will be opening a 'Pop-up Summer Garden' in July which will bring an outside Tea Room to the village once again until all the renovations are complete. We have lots to prepare before then, but we are very excited. With this mind we have added one more to our little team and very much look forward to having Sally with us from the 'off' and watching it grow, in what we hope will be a great place to visit, eat, drink, to catch up with loved ones near and far while soaking up the sun and the tranquil Englefield atmosphere.

Dan, Liz, Connor and Bethany



Platinum Jubilee celebrations

Englefield will be joining in the national celebrations for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee over the weekend of 2nd to 5th June. On **Thursday 2nd June at 9.45pm**, the Estate will light a beacon, one of more than 1,500 to be lit across the UK, and on **Sunday 5th June**, there will be a **Big Jubilee Lunch** at

the Village Hall. Please put this date in your diary and look out for more details nearer the time. It is hoped to have a bring and share lunch, with games and activities - and please get in touch if you have any royal memorabilia!

Planning is underway and any help, however small, will be gratefully received and won't take too much of your time. Please email clerk.inglefieldpc@outlook.com.

Englefield Parish Council



Easter Colouring Competition

Pencils and Crayons at the ready!
Our Easter Colouring Competition is in full swing.
To enter, simply return your finished sheet to the Stores
before the end of April and receive a little treat!



RunFestRun at Englefield

From Friday 20th to Sunday 22nd May a three-day event is to take place within the grounds of Englefield House. RunFestRun is a family running festival, with a mix of short and long runs and relays, plus the chance to meet sporting stars, enjoy fitness talks and workshops, and browse the shopping village. Athletes Paula Radcliffe, Steve Cram CBE and Colin Jackson will act as team captains for the running extravaganza which last year was hosted by Laverstoke Park Farm in Hampshire and in 2019 at Bowood House and Gardens in Wiltshire. A guest appearance is also expected from Virgin Breakfast Show host Chris Evans.

On the two evenings, the runners are able to enjoy live entertainment including music and comedy on the stage and outdoor cinema, with family and friends being able to indulge in a variety of street foods. Several managed campsites will be set-up in the grounds, with strict safety and security measures in place for the benefit of both guests and local residents. The Estate team are working very closely with the experienced event organisers at News Live Ltd (affiliated with *The Times* and *The Sunday Times*), to ensure minimal impact to local residents, before, after and during the event.

Peter Carson, Events Manager, Englefield House

Busy times at the Village Hall

Things have been busy in the Village Hall over the last few weeks. We have recently started running a community coffee morning in the hall on Wednesdays from 10am to 11.30am. It's been lovely to meet some old and new residents for tea/coffee and cake. Jamie Weir has been playing a blinder with his Victoria sponge and cookies; I will have to try harder to compete! All are most welcome and we'd love to see you!

We are getting bookings through our website, www.EnglefieldVillageHall.co.uk, and we've just set up a Facebook page to help promote the hall. It's called EnglefieldVillageHall if you'd like to follow us!

Thank you to Englefield Estate for organising to have the holly tree taken down from the front garden - it's really opened it up so people can see the hall more from The Street. Also, the gardeners have kindly offered to give the front garden a bit of a spring clean for us, which we gratefully appreciate. The grass growing season is starting and we desperately need some help in mowing the lawn. We are putting a rota together and we'd really appreciate it if anyone could find the time to help out, hopefully only once or twice during the season! Please email me on info@EnglefieldVillageHall.co.uk. Happy Easter!

Lynn Dennison, Village Hall Committee



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





Tony Palmer RIP

Extracts from the tributes at Tony's funeral service on 1st February, the first given by his son, Simon Palmer, and the second by his close friend since September 1952, Michael Maule.

Simon writes: My dad was a special man, he always threw himself with enthusiasm into everything he did, always wanting to contribute to the community whether it was as

chairman of the old Presentonians, manager of Tilehurst football club, committee member of Englefield Social Club, Board of Governors at Reading and Westwood Schools, chairman of the Chiltern Lions, member of Probus, being an officer in the CCF or driving the handy bus. My dad was always looking to see how he could be involved, how he could help.

Despite being an only child my dad was always a keen family man and we would often be travelling down the motorway to Bristol, Clevedon or East Grinstead to keep in touch. Dad was often amazed however how his family had grown – from him as an only child, to two children - me and Tracie - nine grandchildren, 18 great-grandchildren and counting, often asking us if any of us had heard of television. Dad was a larger-than-life character, wanting to get involved and help everyone. Another of his great passions was cars. He sold second-hand cars as a young man independently and at Reading Garage. He returned to this trade in later years with his own garages in Tilehurst Road and Norcott Hill. Dad would have been his own best customer, often convincing himself that the most recent car he liked he had to buy as was in the best condition, had the highest specification, and the most reasonable once in a lifetime price and then only a short time later explaining why the same car needed to be sold immediately as it was too basic, the condition was about to deteriorate and the price was about to fall off a cliff!

For many years, my dad and I would always go for a pint on a Sunday. And that's where I got to know him as much as a friend as I did as a father. Whether at Englefield Club or the Volly, he was always keen not to be late and always critical of my choice of drink – lager, saying 'when you grow up you will drink a proper drink, bitter or whisky' and he was right, well he wasn't wrong anyway! I will remember my dad with love and a smile and I hope you will too.

Michael Maule writes: What then about my special friend Tony? He was a true gentleman. He truly loved Madeline, Simon, Tracie, together with their spouses and his greater family and was proud of his family heritage and legacy. He was strongly committed to his friendships and was never critical of people. He believed in and trusted people and was himself totally trustworthy. Above all he enjoyed helping others with never any expectation of payback. We will all miss Tony for our own special reasons. My lasting memory of him will be of a really big and caring personality and an exceptional friend.

Schools Days 2022

We are once again preparing for our annual Englefield Estate Schools Days! The dates for this year are **Wednesday 15th and Thursday 16th June.**



The broad theme of the event is Sustainability - the ability to meet current needs without infringing on the capacity of future generations to meet their needs. Although the term is relatively new, the ethos has long been integral to the way we work at the Englefield Estate.

Staff are busy preparing their stands and fantastic local organisations, such as Butterfly Conservation, the University of Reading, Small Fire Big Adventures, Reading & District Beekeepers Association, Action for the River Kennet, the Five a Day Market Garden, Newbury and District Showground and Reading & District Angling Association are also taking part. Classes will all follow timetabled routes around the Estate and will be diverted away from The Street while on foot to maximise safety, but please could residents take care extra care and be patient when driving on these dates.

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 so you will be able to take note of busy times. Please keep your fingers crossed for fair weather. We have 1,500 children booked to attend and want them all to have a lovely day at Englefield!

Dr Liz Mattison, Education & Environment Officer

Housing in Bradfield Southend

Bradfield Parochial Charities has a vacancy in the Almshouse, Mariners Lane, Bradfield Southend. The newly refurbished accommodation consists of two bedrooms, one living room, kitchen, bathroom and toilet on two floors in a block of four houses. The house has a small front garden and also access to a communal grassed area. Priority will be given to applicants who are ideally 55 years of age or over, and have a connection to the Parish of Bradfield or who have relatives in the area. Application forms and further information may be obtained from: The Clerk to the Trustees. Lynda Bennell, Kyalma, Cock Lane, Bradfield Southend, Reading RG7 6HN, tel: 01189744423, email: lyndabennell@googlemail.com.

The closing date for applications is 30th April 2022.

Annual Parish Meeting

Not to be missed is the Annual Parish Meeting, which will be held on **Thursday 19th May** at 7pm in the Village Hall.

It has been two years since the last one was able to be held in person, so the Parish Council would love to see as many of you there as possible to hear your thoughts and get your input on what matters to you in the local community. There will also be updates on what's coming up over the next few months, and the all-important refreshments!

Nia Rands, Clerk to the Parish Council



Spring at Five a Day

Pruning, planting, potting on, painting...there's been so much activity in the garden this spring, preparing for the season ahead.

Crops both edible and ornamental are in full flow, so there should be a really good harvest this summer and autumn. Onions, garlic, beans, potatoes, carrots, beetroot, raspberries, gooseberries are just some of the crops to look forward to later in the year.

We've been thrilled to welcome visitors back to the garden again post pandemic. School children have benefited from outdoor learning to understand where food comes from, whilst corporate volunteers from Vodafone and Sage have enjoyed some real life team building whilst being invaluable to us. The new raised beds built by the Vodafone team look fabulous. CRoW volunteers will be with us every month for the rest of the year which is great news. As always, we've got lots for them to do! Our Thyme Together group have been enjoying sessions in the warmth of the Village Hall over the winter, and will be returning to the garden in April with the seedlings that they've planted ready to plant out in the new raised beds.



Bundles of willow are still available to buy. Great for making your own plant supports or Easter bunnies!

As always we are on the look-out for new volunteers to join us. We would love to hear from anybody interested in volunteering, either in the garden or behind the scenes. We would also love to hear from any businesses who support staff volunteering. Please get in touch info@fiveaday.org.uk or on 07555 184343.

Hannah Fraser, Five a Day committee member

From St Mark's Sunday School

Spot the Differences in Jesus Is Alive!

Compare the picture on the top with the picture on bottom. Circle the 13 things that are different.



St Mark's Sunday School meets every Sunday in the church vestry, during the service, with Bible stories, games, activities and toys. All welcome.



From Englefield Primary School

'Sowing the Seeds for a Flourishing Future'



It has been so lovely to see the children mixing out on the playground once more. It seems such a long time since we were able to do this. The older children now have a genuine chance to be good role models and to care and look after their younger counterparts, whilst the younger ones revel in playing with the bigger children. In addition to playtimes we have also re-started our whole school singing and assemblies. It was such a lovely feeling to see the whole school together, singing their hearts out. Our FS2 parents were actually able to come into the building for the first time for their parent meetings.

The ukulele lessons, provided by Berkshire Maestros, have been going well and the Year 3/4 children have been learning parts to play along to lots of different music, including Ed Sheeran. The hope is that some of the children will get the music bug and decide to keep having lessons in either the ukulele or another instrument of their choosing.

Safety Week: Each year we organise special weeks in which we give the children opportunities outside of the normal school curriculum. In February we held our Safety Week in which the children had lots of different opportunities to learn about keeping themselves safe. They covered First Aid, road safety, the NSPCC 'Speak Out, Stay Safe' programme, a hand washing workshop, they used the Internet Safety Day materials to learn about being respectful online and had a special visit from the police.

Book Week: We have just enjoyed our annual Book Week which included a dressing-up day. What an amazing array of book character costumes! From Wally, to 'The Worst Witch' to Manga characters - we were all so impressed with the imagination on show, including from the staff!



As well as dressing up, we also enjoyed our book sale - every child was able to take home at least one nearly new book to enjoy at home. Thank you to everyone who donated. We had three competitions: 'Book in a Box', find and identify the book character, and poetry performance. The lucky-dip winners of the 'Book in a Box' were Holly, Felicity, Sebastian and Anna. The KS2 winner of the library competition was Harrison; the KS1 winner was Lily M.



Well done to the 14 finalists in our annual Poetry Performance Competition. They entertained the whole school (plus our three judges) for half an hour with their poems about cats, mice, friends, cutting off Granny's head and many other and varied topics.



The Art, Design and Technology department at Theale Green School have announced that Evan Rose, past Englefield pupil and Mrs Rose's son, won a competition to provide the art work for the new fire station at Theale. Evan has been working with a graphic designer to create the final version which will be unveiled in the lobby of the new fire station in March. Well done, Evan!

Well done also to Jennifer in Year 6 who had a poem about Hedgehogs published in *Animal Action* magazine which is produced by the RSPCA.

Pebbles is out of the fridge after his 22 week hibernation period. He is fit and well and has now returned to school. From now on, he will be looked after by one class each week and a family from that class will be able to take him home for the weekend.



Finally, it has been great to take some of our pupils to other local schools to enjoy competing in different sports. We have taken our cross-country team to both Elstree School and Bradfield College and have also taken our Year 1/2 footballers to the Elstree Football Competition.

Hilary Latimer, Headteacher

Parish Councillor vacancy

Following his resignation, the Parish Council would like to thank Cllr Nick Wynne-Jones for his long and dedicated service as a Councillor. He joined the Parish Council in 2014, and his contribution will be greatly missed.

We will be appointing a new Parish Councillor in due course. If you'd like to know more about how you can represent and support the community, please do get in touch with Nia Rands at clerk.englefieldpc@outlook.com.

There's never a dull moment on a Parish Council... just ask Jackie Weaver!

Nia Rands, Clerk to the Parish Council



Ruby White RIP

This is an extract from memories of Ruby (2nd May 2019 - 9th February 2022) written by her parents Steve and Debbie for her funeral service on 16th February at St Mark's.

Our world was made complete on 2nd May 2019 when Ruby joined our family of three and made us four, we all loved her so much, her brother Jasper giggled the first time he saw her and was so happy, the bond was there

from the start, we loved watching them both grow and the connection between them strengthen.

Ruby absolutely adored being on the farm she was a huge animal lover, her favourite part of the day was walking round with her two dogs Kiki and Coco to feed Lady Piggles, the pig, and all the sheep. She would spend all day in the yard visiting the horses and would even occasionally get to ride them. She would often be found on the bridge by Granny Jack's pond visiting the fish, they must be missing her as she liked to feed them about 15 times a day. She adored tractors and liked sitting in the seat pretending to drive, she loved going out on them with her Daddy and would quite often be found in his arm out in the fields feeding the cows. Ruby adored music and took after her Mummy loving the 80's tunes, her absolute favourites were Cindi Lauper, *Girls Just Want to Have Fun*, and Bonnie Tyler's *Total Eclipse of the Heart*. Later an incredible love for Peppa Pig was formed and with her new iPad that was kindly gifted from a charity she could control what and when she watched.

Ruby was a true warrior she fought so incredibly hard, the brain cancer diagnosis was such a shock for us all but Ruby was a dream patient, she never moaned or cried that we had to go to hospital even though she was missing out on so much. We sadly lost a huge part of her last August when her second brain surgery left her with severely reduced abilities but it did not matter to her and she fought back every day and was such a happy little person.

We imagine in heaven that she can run and climb again in the trees as she loved to do on earth before cancer stole that from her, she will be spending all day bouncing on the trampoline and throwing the ball for Kiki. We miss her so much, Ruby will always be with us in everything we do, she was the bravest, most fearless little person we could ever hope to meet and we are so very grateful she chose us to be her family. We will always be a family of four and will forever keep her memory alive with us.

(Ruby's brother Jasper goes to Englefield School and the school's sponsored run in December helped raise over £3,000 for her treatment. Donations in memory of Ruby can be sent to Berkshire Children's Hospice Service, Brain Tumour Research, Helen & Douglas House, and Oxford Hospitals Charity - more details on www.milesfunerals.com)

From Rushall Farm

Trees obstruct treasured paths while the ways are strewn with debris through the woods. Broken branches, shattered deadwood and carpets of conifer leaves all hide the wet muddy tracks. Storm Eunice has been and gone, but evidence of its destruction will stay for years. Future habitats are now made for insects and reptiles, fungi, mosses and lichens, and safe homes for voles and mice. Fallen trees and branches provide slow release of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere unless handy as fuel for log burning fires. Of course, storms make room for new plantings, but not ash to replace ash. The disease dieback has put uncertainty into this beautiful tree's future. So now it's short-lived cherry, trusty oak and really hard wood beech, alder if it's wet, poplar (has to be looked after), the chestnuts, mountain ash and silver birch. There is always a place for hazel, so useful for thatching spars, woven hurdles, bean poles, pea sticks and firewood. Traditionally it was used to make faggots - bundles of sticks three feet long and eight inches in diameter which, when dried, were used to fire bread ovens. Today faggots are still made to improve the flow of water in rivers like the Pang.

Last time we had a serious storm was in 1987. I had been to the farm office near Abingdon. The wind was blowing hard as I left and joined the A34 in my long wheelbase Landrover. To begin with it was exhilarating until I saw, in my rear-view mirror, the box van behind me blow over and down the embankment. When I reached the hill going up to the Ridgeway the road was strewn with overturned articulated lorries. After weaving back to Rushall through fallen trees, I found we had 10 acres of mature soft wood in a mangled heap, corrugated roof sheets from the Black Barn had blown through the air to the Ashampstead Road in Bradfield, and a very special 17th century barn had been completely demolished.

So, Storm Eunice hasn't been so bad, even though it feels like it. And why should I get upset when it bears no comparison to weather-induced disasters like floods, hurricanes, droughts and wildfires that happen around the world, and last for just a day on our TV screens? Or the dreadful man-made destruction of war?

So, it didn't take long for volunteers from Bradfield College to start clearing fallen trees on paths, and thoroughly rise up and enjoy the challenge!



John Bishop
www.rushallfarm.org.uk

Date	Sidesman	First lesson	Gospel reading	Prayers	Sacristan	Server	Sunday School	Cleaners
Sunday 3 rd April Passiontide begins BCP	Catherine Haig	Carole Ford Philippians 3:4b-14	Penny Savage John 12:1-8	BCP	Sue Smith	Carol Boulter	Melanie Townsend	Penny Norris Saffy O'Sullivan
Sunday 10 th April Palm Sunday <i>Liturgy of the Palms</i>	Linda Price	Luke 19:28-40 <i>readers to be confirmed</i>		Harriet Wynne-Jones	Catherine Haig	Peter Haig	Saffy O'Sullivan	Peter and Catherine Haig
Sunday 17 th April Easter Sunday	Peter Haig	Torquil MJ Acts 10:34-43	Harriet Wynne-Jones John 20:1-18	Richard Benyon	Penny Norris	Paula Fenwick	EASTER EGG HUNT	Pete and Carole Ford
Sunday 24 th April 2 nd Sunday of Easter	Paula Fenwick	James Bamforth Acts 5:27-32	Ron Marillier John 20:19-end	Linda Price	Penny Savage	Denny Hollands	Melanie Townsend	Penny Norris Saffy O'Sullivan
Sunday 1 st May 3 rd Sunday of Easter BCP	Penny Savage	Meryl Bonser Acts 9:1-6	Linda Price John 21:1-19	BCP	Catherine Haig	Torquil MJ	Saffy O'Sullivan	Peter and Catherine Haig
Sunday 8 th May 4 th Sunday of Easter	Torquil MJ	Carole Ford Acts 9:36-end	Stephanie Gibbons John 10:22-30	Ron Marillier	Sue Smith	Penny Savage	Saffy O'Sullivan	Pete and Carole Ford
Sunday 15 th May 5 th Sunday of Easter	Peter Haig	Ronan O'Sullivan Acts 11:1-18	Penny Savage John 13:31-35	Carol Boulter	Penny Norris	Carol Boulter	Liz McKean	Liz McKean
Sunday 22 nd May 6 th Sunday of Easter	Linda Price	Hamish Bamforth Acts 16:9-15	Dudley Fishburn John 14:23-29	Ron Marillier	Penny Savage	Paula Fenwick	Saffy O'Sullivan	Penny Norris Saffy O'Sullivan
Sunday 29 th May Sunday after Ascension Day	Penny Savage	Dee Boddy Acts 16:16-34	Peter Haig John 17:20-end	Saffy O'Sullivan	Catherine Haig	Peter Haig	(Saffy O'Sullivan) HALF TERM	Peter and Catherine Haig
Sunday 5 th June Pentecost BCP	Paula Fenwick	Carol Boulter Acts 2:1-21	Aldo Guiducci John 14:8-17	BCP	Sue Smith	Torquil MJ	HALF TERM	Pete and Carole Ford
Sunday 12 th June Trinity Sunday	Torquil MJ	Lorraine Dehn Romans 5:1-5	Paula Fenwick John 16:12-15	Penny Savage	Penny Norris	Denny Hollands	Saffy O'Sullivan	Penny Norris Saffy O'Sullivan
Sunday 19 th June 1 st Sunday after Trinity	Catherine Haig	James Bamforth Galatians 3:23-end	Ron Marillier Luke 8:26-39	Catherine Haig	Penny Savage	Saffy O'Sullivan	Liz McKean	Liz McKean

If you have swapped duties please contact Saffy O'Sullivan (saffyosullivan@gmail.com) and the churchwardens. Please send all prayer requests to Penny Savage.

The Parish Council

The parish council is the lowest tier of local government in England, although there is actually no legal necessity for any parish to have a parish council. Perhaps this is why, as Bernard Wooley explains to new Prime Minister Jim Hacker in *Yes, Prime Minister*, there are things it can do and things it should do but really very little that it must do. The list of 'can-dos' is actually quite long and the main thing, as with all authorities, is to know the difference between making things better and just interfering for the sake of it.

The forerunner of the parish council, from about the time of the Reformation, was the Vestry Meeting, so called because at least nominally it took place in the vestry of the church. All rate-payers were eligible to attend and it was chaired by the parish priest. As well as being responsible for the upkeep of the church and graveyard the Vestry also covered other civic functions such as care of the poor, maintenance of the roads and law enforcement.

Maintenance of the poor was one of the few legal duties of the Vestry from 1601 until 1834 when 'Poor Law Unions' of parishes were formed and instead of the poor being looked after in their own homes by their own neighbours they were housed all together in a single workhouse which served the needs of several parishes. The Bradfield Union Workhouse was erected in 1835 and in 1841 it housed 150 people with a further 55 in a Poor-house at Tilehurst. Despite that, ten years later Charles Horne was listed in the census as *'Farm Labourer now in receipt of Parish Relief'* while living in a house (since demolished) opposite the Timber Yard with his wife, 27-year-old daughter (the infant school mistress), 10-year-old son and two lodgers.

The custom in Englefield, at least towards the end of the 19th century, seems to have been that the Lady Day Vestry meeting (25th March) dealt with the secular business concerning the Overseers of the Poor and the Highways, while the church business, including the elections of Churchwardens and Sidesmen and the presentation of the Churchwarden's accounts, was transacted at an Easter Monday Vestry. In years where Easter coincided with Lady Day, or very nearly did so (as in 1891), only one combined meeting seems to have been held. The Lady Day meeting, held in the vestry, generally seems to have been short and only sparsely attended but the Easter Monday meeting was longer and usually better attended so convened in the vestry but was traditionally held by adjournment in Englefield House. That was unsurprising given the amount of space in the vestry of that time before the adjacent choir vestry was built, although until 1855 the vestry may have occupied the much bigger space at the west end of the aisle.

Other matters also seem to have been settled by custom at that time, with the Clerk of Works invariably appointed the Overseer of the Poor and the farm bailiff at Chalkpit Surveyor of Highways. At the Easter Monday meeting when the Churchwardens were appointed (equally by custom, it seems, Mr Benyon was

always the Rector's Warden and the Clerk of Works was the People's Warden), the accounts were presented and a voluntary rate was set. In 1892 this was 2d in the £ and it is notable that in 1890s, over 50 years after the Vestry's official responsibility for the poor was removed, some £25-0s-5½d had been collected for the sick and poor of which only £16-10s-4d was given out despite this apparently being a time of much illness in the village. The reason for this, as explained by the Rector, was that *'so much brandy, wine and nourishing food of all kinds has been given from Englefield House...'*. Eight trained nurses were also retained to attend to sick persons in the village during the year.

Civil, as distinct from ecclesiastical, parishes and civil Parish Councils were created by the Local Government Act of 1894 and they took over the secular duties from what then became the Parochial Church Council. The Englefield Vestry continued to discharge its secular duties up to the end and at a meeting on 25th January 1894 there was unanimous consent to an application by the Tilehurst, Pangbourne and District Water Company Ltd for a Provisional Order to construct and maintain waterworks and supply water in part of the parish of Englefield. The company also undertook to apply for a further Order to supply the whole parish with water within 21 years. There was no Lady Day Vestry that year because Easter Day was on March 25th but at a meeting the next day only the usual church business was dealt with.

In Englefield the composition of the first parish council was arrived at by arrangement without a poll. In advance of the official nomination date a special parish meeting was held on Wednesday 28th November 1894 to consider the question of candidates and after the names of Mr Benyon and George Roake (the new Clerk of Works) had been approved it was suggested that the necessary number of five councillors should be made up by a representative from each of the three large centres of labour in the village: the gardens, the timber yard and Chalkpit Farm. Accordingly, Daniel Harris (timber yard), Thomas Dixon (gardens) and Henry Horne (Chalkpit Farm) were nominated. At the official nomination meeting held on Tuesday 4th December with the Rector in the chair and 27 of the 54 parochial electors present no other nominations were made and these five were duly declared as the first parish councillors for the new civil parish of Englefield.

Richard Smith

Recycling plastics

It is now possible to recycle soft plastics such as salad and vegetable bags, bread bags and crisp packets (none of which are accepted by West Berkshire Council's kerbside recycling service) at the Coop in Theale. Look for the soft plastics recycling unit at the back of the store (www.coop.co.uk/environment/soft-plastics).



A day of meditation

The Deanery Spiritual Development Group has organised a day of quiet meditation led by Revd Peter Dewey at the Alnutt Almshouses at Goring Heath RG8 7RS, on Thursday 26th May. It will start at 10.00 and finish at tea time. Bring a packed lunch.

Coffee and tea will be provided. There will be two led sessions of meditation. There is a beautiful chapel and woodland walks. To book a place contact Carol Boulter on 01189303182.

Burghfield Bowls Club

Burghfield Bowls Club would like to invite you to one of our Open Days, where you can try the sport of Lawn Bowls for free and without any obligation - on Sunday 24th April or Sunday 29th May, from 2:00pm - 5:00pm. These are open sessions for people to visit our green in James Lane (behind the BCSA) and try the game. Please check our website www.burghfield.bowls-club.co.uk, email burghfieldbowls@btinternet.com or ring David or Pat Glover on 0118 9833812 nearer the time to check the latest details. All you need do is bring along some flat shoes, as all other equipment is provided.



Burghfield Bowls Club, James Lane, Burghfield, Reading RG30 3RS

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Bradfield Young Farmers Club

Since my last report the Club has finally held its Christmas Party! Yes, you did read that correctly. It felt very odd with lights, tinsel, and Christmas jumpers on a dreary February evening, but fun was had by all. Our Ecology evening from November was followed up by a talk on River Ecology, Chalk streams and Conservation, by ARK – Action for the River Kennet. On Ash Wednesday (a day late) we had our Annual Pancake mess! And we attempted to work off those calories the following week with a mixed sports evening. Many thanks to Bradfield Riding Stables for allowing us to use their indoor school.

Our members represented Berkshire YFC in three Public Speaking competitions and both sections of the prestigious Member of the Year competition for a place in the NFYFC finals. I am so proud to report that we WON all three Public Speaking competitions entered! Our young members have shown tremendous commitment and skill to get this far and thoroughly deserve their place in the National Finals in the summer.

The Club will now be preparing for the Stock judging competitions and the Country Fayre show classes. This year the Country Fayre will be held at Newbury Showground on Sunday 22nd May following the Berks YFC organised Wurzels Gig on Friday 20th May. For more info and tickets visit the Berks YFC website.

The Club meets weekly, to find out more about what Bradfield YFC has to offer please find us on Facebook or contact Gordon Fletcher on 07939 504145 or email gffletcher@optimah.com

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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.

Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God, for true and just are his judgements. He has condemned the great prostitute who corrupted the earth by her adulteries. He has avenged on her the blood of his servants (Revelation 19 v 1b-2)

Life on earth now is hard. We live in what has been called the 'now and not yet' kingdom; the time between Jesus' first coming (when he inaugurated the kingdom of heaven) and his second coming (when he will consummate it, bringing it into its fullness). As we look around at the dark state the world is in, with all the pain and suffering and horror, it can be hard to remember that Jesus has already won the victory. But the Bible is quite clear that he has.

The vision that John was given in Revelation was provided for the church through the ages, to remind God's people that the final end of evil is certain, and that the darkness will be lifted. In this passage we see the multitudes of heaven praising God for his justice and righteousness, for his condemnation of the wicked and his vindication of the just. We must hold on to this revealed truth of the final judgement, because by it we can carry on living in this fallen world with hope rather than despair. God is sovereign and will hold everyone, the low and the mighty alike, to account when his kingdom comes in all its fullness. The resurrection of Jesus is proof that this hope is certain, and we can be confident that one day we will be rid of the presence of evil forever.

Then I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies gathered together to wage war against the rider on the horse and his army. But the beast was captured, and with it the false prophet... The two of them were thrown alive into the fiery lake of burning sulfur. The rest were killed with the sword coming out of the mouth of the rider on the horse (Revelation 19 v 19-20a, 20b-21a)

As we see on our screens only too clearly, war is a bloody and drawn-out business. Each side contends against the other, both sides take losses, and the end is often uncertain in both timing and outcome. The build up to the final showdown in human history starts out looking like the preparation for just such an event: armies drawn up together against the white rider and his army. But something surprising happens as we read the account – there doesn't seem to be a battle at all. The beast and his cohort are so overmatched by the rider that we

read nothing of a fight, only that they were all destroyed, seemingly without much effort. We see a similar pattern in the next chapter, as Satan himself is bested in a seeming anticlimax to the preparation for the fight.

The message here is clear – God's white rider is so mighty a conqueror that no-one can even begin to stand against him. We don't have to do too much detective work to establish his identity – one whose appearance is like the Jesus from chapter 1, who like Jesus is called the Word of God, and who is called King of Kings and Lord and Lords. And we know that the final triumph over all his enemies, even death itself, has already taken place on the cross 2000 years ago. The great encouragement of Revelation is to remember that the battle, though seeming fierce around us now, is already won. All that remains now is for Jesus to return, and we are called to patient endurance while we wait.

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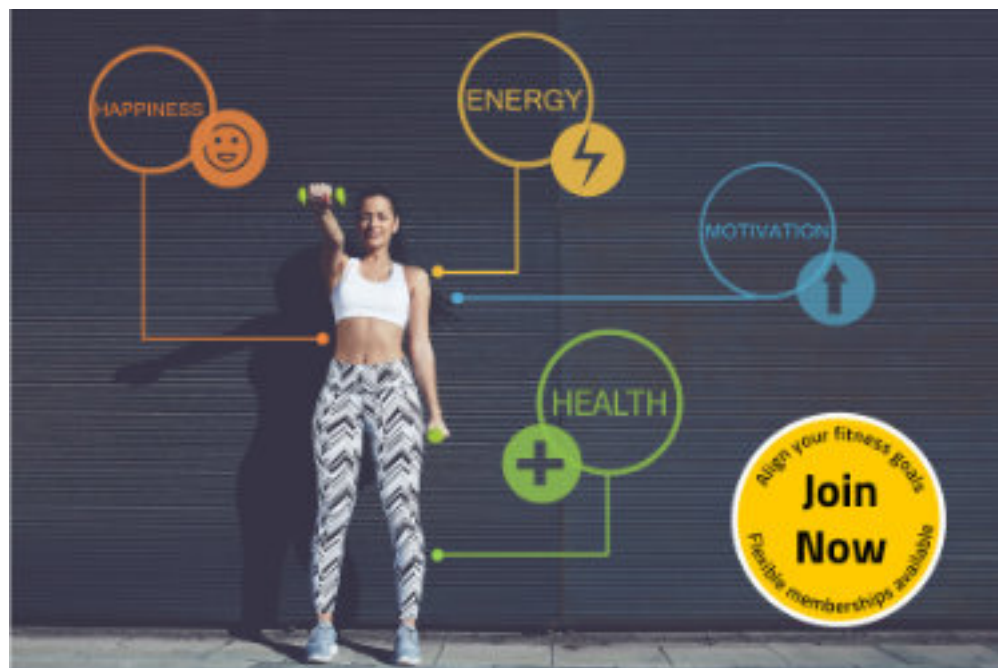



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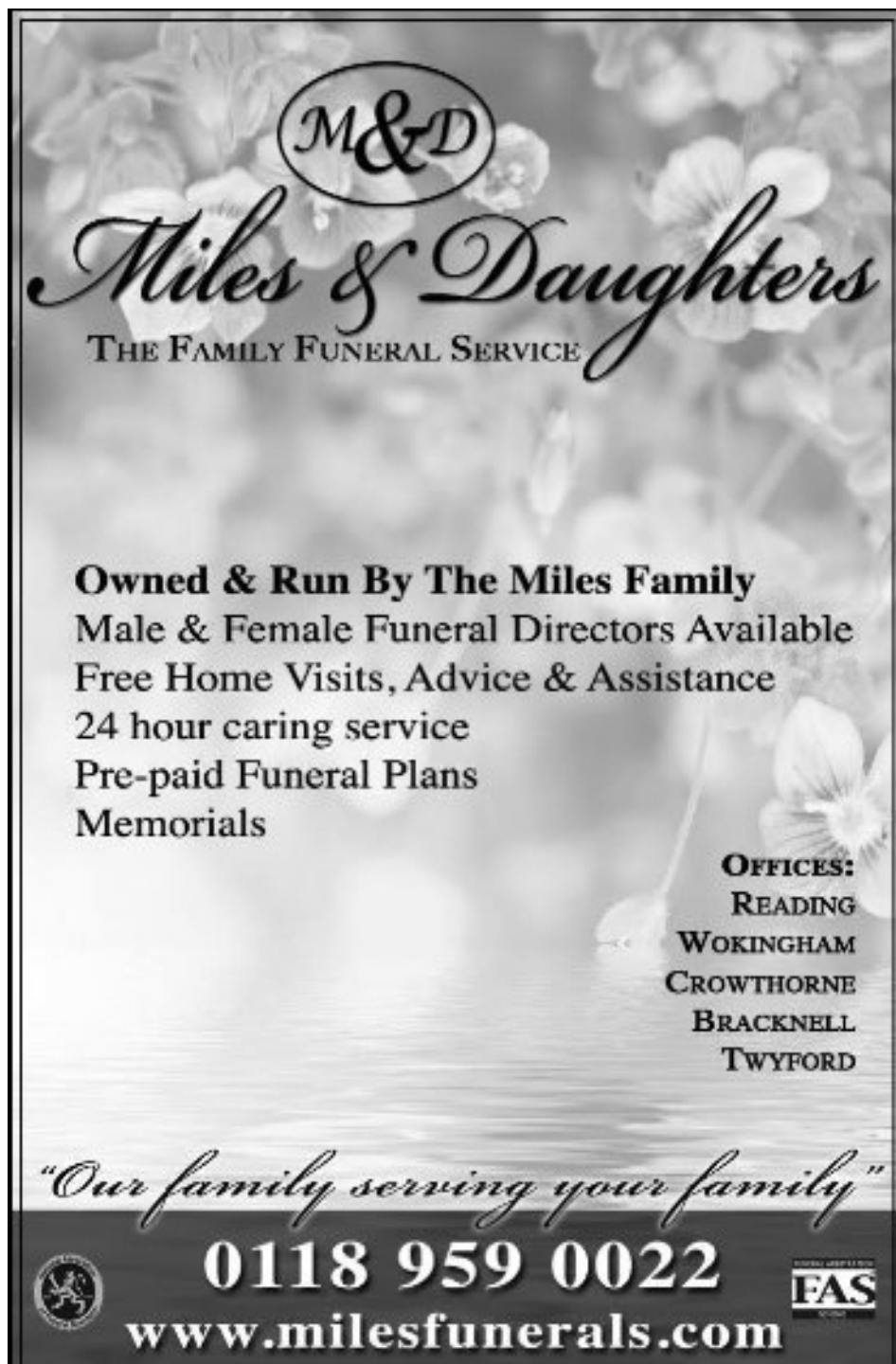
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