

# *Englefield Parish News*

August - September 2021



# *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      07850 603508  
Torquil Montague-Johnstone      0118 9714536

## *Child Protection Officer*

Susannah McBain      07772 425133

## *Parochial Church Council*

*Secretary*      office@stmarksenglefield.org.uk  
Penny Savage      0118 9410808

*Treasurer*      treasurer@stmarksenglefield.org.uk  
Ron Marillier      0118 9305152

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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:** *Year Six students from Englefield School arriving at St Mark's for a special leavers' service at which they were each presented with a Bible.*

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

# *From St Mark's House*

## *Dear friends*

We both enjoy Parkin, the Yorkshire ginger cake, which now comes with a 'woke' warning as the ingredients are sourced from a colonial past.<sup>i</sup> But so too is the tea which accompanies it! Attempts to eradicate unhelpful instances from history do nothing to help address the underlying problem - and problems there most certainly are, as was evidenced by the appalling abuse suffered by our valiant footballers in the Euro 2021 final. Similar abuse smears other sports and nationalities and has done for ages. The attitudes they encountered are not ones that can be resolved by mere sticking plasters rewriting history or redacting reports.

BBC's *Hardtalk* with Stephen Sackur invariably produces stimulating interviews and did so recently with Michael Holding, the record-breaking West Indian fast bowler in the late 1970s, who has addressed the racist abuse he suffered in his book *Why We Kneel; How We Rise*. He is concerned that this practice should be more than a token gesture to respect visitors, but an affirmation that black lives *do* matter. He admits that he hated Tony Grieg (S Africa 1976) when he said he wanted to make the West Indian team 'grovel' but, after meeting him, he came to understand that he was formed by a society that reinforced prejudice. Considering the perspectives and needs of others is a Christian value. Knowing Tony made all the difference. Quoting 'Can the Ethiopian change his skin, or the leopard its spots?'<sup>ii</sup> Michael came to the view that people behave as they do 'because of lack of education'.

This raises fundamental questions about human nature to which the answer is found ultimately not in education but in the transforming Gospel and grace of God. Important though education is, history and research suggest that we disguise our intractable nature with its fallen tendencies. God alone can change us and bring about a new creation through repentance and faith in Christ. The biblical narrative portrays us as hopelessly flawed and in need of Someone to rescue us. Humanity is seen as alienated from one another and from God, broken into disparate groups, divided by barriers of race or class, prejudice, pride or unforgiveness. Tragically past history and present society are littered with examples of such attitudes but they are also gloriously studded with examples of forgiveness and reconciliation that bring hope. That happens at the Cross where we are brought back into fellowship with God and one another, and formed into a new humanity. That is the vision with which the Bible concludes: 'that **at the name of Jesus every knee should bow**', as God brings in his new creation with an 'innumerable crowd, from **every nation and tribe and people and language** standing in front of the throne'.<sup>iii</sup>

Bowing the knee

*Nick and Harriet*

<sup>i</sup> <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/07/20/parkin-probed-council-links-cake-colonialism/> <sup>ii</sup> Jeremiah 13:23 <sup>iii</sup> Philippians 2:10 and Revelation 7:9

## Diary dates

Time to Pray: Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> August, Monday 6<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> September, 6pm to 6.30pm in the Englefield Chapel, prayer, readings and reflection, all welcome

West Berkshire Mobile Library: Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> August, Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> September, at the Old Fire Station Nursery

Englefield Flower Show and School Fete Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> September, 2pm

Ride+Stride in aid of Berkshire Historic Churches Trust: Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> September 10am to 6pm

Let's Talk Theology: Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> September, 3.30pm, contact Carol Boulter to be added to the mailing list (there is no meeting in August)

PCC meeting: Monday 27<sup>th</sup> September

Harvest Festival: Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> October

## 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
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	

## Congratulations

To Olivia and Philipp Meindl on the birth of baby son Moritz on May 9<sup>th</sup>.

To Emily Dehn and Digby Don, married at St Mary's Mortimer on May 29<sup>th</sup>.

To Sophie Crookes and Jacob Hall, married at St Mark's Church on June 6<sup>th</sup>.

To Alison Pocock and Simon Strang, married in Wales on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> June.

To Jennifer Ashworth and Harry Burt, married at St Mark's on July 17<sup>th</sup>.

To Will and Monica Haig on the birth of Violet Imogen on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> July, a sister for Robyn and granddaughter for Peter and Catherine.

To Linda and Roger Price celebrating their golden wedding on July 31<sup>st</sup>.

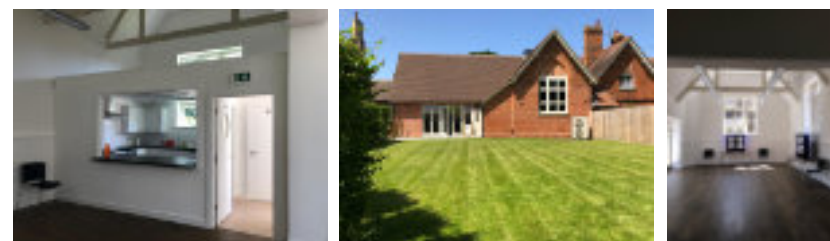
## Launching the Village Hall!

We had a very successful open day in July, thank you to everyone who came and for all your very positive feedback. It was so lovely to see so many people trying to picture where things were previously, and imagining themselves now using the hall to host lots of events including kids' parties, fish suppers or club meetings!

Thank you to all of the committee for your hard work in getting us ready for our launch! I would also like to thank the Estate for funding such a beautiful renovation of this lovely old building, especially Duncan Rands for managing this successful building project. We also need to say a massive thank you to the Englefield Charitable Trust for their generous donation which was used to fit out the hall, everything from tables and chairs down the all important loo roll!

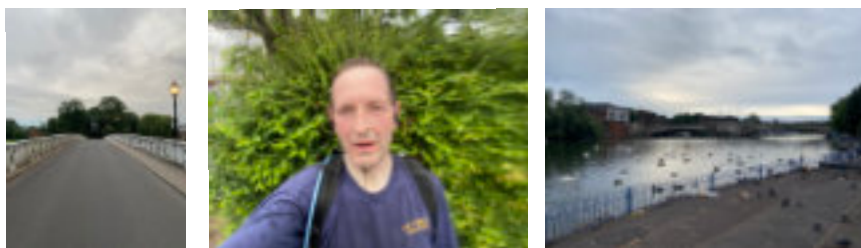
Our next big job is to get our website up and running, including a new booking tool. Fingers crossed this will be done by the end of August. In the meantime, you can email us with any enquiries on englefieldvillagehall1@outlook.com. The flyer enclosed shows all booking details and hire rates (including those for local residents). It also has a list of volunteers and activities we are looking for some help with. We have a small number of bookings in the diary so far, but hopefully over the next few weeks we will see that expanding.

*Lynn Dennison, Chair, Englefield Village Hall Committee*



## Completing the challenge

On Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> July, Aldo Guiducci successfully completed his '3 bridges challenge'. He writes, 'Setting off at 4:20am, I managed to run the whole 21 mile route non-stop in 3 hours 18 minutes. Although running physically alone, I was very conscious of the Lord's presence and kept my mind occupied by listening to all of John's Gospel (and a good portion of Mark). Thank you to everyone who has supported me through prayer (which was sorely needed for the last couple of miles which were all uphill!) and sponsorship. If you would like to contribute to the work of Open Doors by sponsoring me, and haven't done so already, please visit my JustGiving page - [www.justgiving.com/fundraising/aldo-guiducci-3bridgechallenge-opendoors](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/aldo-guiducci-3bridgechallenge-opendoors).'



## Relay for climate justice

RELAY to COP26, is a relay walk/pilgrimage for all ages organised by the Young Christian Climate Network to raise awareness of climate justice. It started at the G7 in June in Cornwall and will reach Glasgow in time for the UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties 26 (COP26) in November. The relay passed through the Diocese in late July and Bishop Olivia hosted a service and advocacy event at Reading Minster on 31st July. There is more information on the Oxford Diocese website and the Relay passes back through the Diocese in mid August going to Aylesbury, Oxford and Banbury before heading north.

## SDG programme

As well as the continuing programme of Let's Talk Theology meetings which take place on the second Wednesday of every month (currently on Zoom), the termly lectures resume in the autumn with Bishop Olivia speaking on Care for Creation. This will be on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> October at St James the Less, Pangbourne, at 7.30pm. Other speakers in the pipeline are Adam Carhill on the Psalms, and Adam Boulter on Teaching theology to ordinands in Madagascar. Dates will be announced nearer the time.

## Englefield Flower Show & School Fete 2021

**The Show WILL BE HAPPENING on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> September!**

Despite a new date (for this year only) the Flower Show returns with many of the traditional attractions and classes that you are used to. The school PTA will be running their fabulous refreshments, Beenham Wind Orchestra will of course be making a return and the tractor and trailer rides are sure to be a big hit with the children and 'big children' alike.

Some small changes to the classes will reflect the time of year with hard fruits instead of soft fruits and the flowers may well bring some new and different colours or tones to the exhibition tent. The popular domestic classes will remain the same but with different themes. The class Schedules will be emailed to those entrants who previously supplied details. We hope that printed copies will be available from the usual village outlets by the time you read this, please contact Mark Postles if you are unable to source a copy. Closing date for entries is Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> September.



As ever, we are struggling for help, so if you could give up some time to assist running stalls like Smash the China or Bowling for the Pig, or if you could help sell BBQ items or ice creams, we would really appreciate the support. Help before and the after the Show with set up and take down/clearing up is always appreciated. Please let us know if you could support this community event which cannot run without volunteers.

*Mark Postles (07551 981587)*



## Eel events

There are five Eel walks and talks scheduled during August and September in the ARK (Action for the River Kennet) programme to encourage interest in the endangered European eel. Families and children are welcome and advanced booking is essential. For more information email [mia@riverkennet.org](mailto:mia@riverkennet.org).



## A personal tribute

### President Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia 1924 - 2021

I have read all the tributes from political leaders and in the press so his life and work are well documented. I served as his Principal Personal Secretary for 27 years in Zambia and enjoyed every minute of it. He spent long hours at his desk and would call on his staff at very unsociable hours but he had an incredibly loyal staff who served him well. He was a man full of charm and radiated energy and enthusiasm which brushed off on all who met him. It was an exciting and challenging time in Africa and he played a major role earning him respect in Africa and on the world stage.

A devout Christian, he loved to sing hymns often accompanying himself on the piano or guitar. When we attended the funeral of an old friend in a small village in Devon, while waiting for the service to begin, he entertained the rather bemused local villagers who had no idea who he was with his rendering of 'What a friend we have in Jesus' - a great favourite of his. In fact he greeted me with the same hymn every morning before we started our day and whenever I hear it at St Mark's it brings a smile to my face and maybe a tear to my eye.



When we visited the UK on a State Visit in 1983 at the banquet he hosted in honour of the Queen he ended his speech with another favourite song 'Tiyende Pamodzi' (let us go forward together) with his staff as backing singers. When the Queen rose to reply she just threw up her hands and said, 'How am I going to follow that?'

I left Zambia under very unfortunate circumstances when he lost the election and he was always concerned about my welfare. He came to tea at Englefield House (the photograph shows him meeting Sir William) and asked the butler if he was looking after his Secretary well. He went away quite happily to see me so well settled.

I could go on and on but I want to end by saying that to me and all who knew him he was a remarkable man who had no appetite for luxury, who loved his country and people like a father. He was a large part of my life and holds a very special place in my heart. I shall miss him.

*Gloria Sleep*

## Raising funds for Berkshire churches

Ride+Stride is the main annual fund-raising event for the Berkshire Historic Churches Trust (BHCT) and this year it takes place on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> September. The BHCT provides grants to help maintain the fabric of our churches in Berkshire which is

vital to their upkeep. Half the funds we raise goes towards meeting this objective, the other half is returned to St Mark's. We have a couple of exceptional items of expenditure to meet: the first is the investment in the technology required to enable people to attend our church services on line from wherever they are in the country or indeed the world ('the everywhere church') and the second is the replacement of the boiler to heat the church in the winter.

I am seeking sponsorship to raise funds to help meet the above objectives and intend to cycle to as many churches in the Bradfield Deanery (for which I am the co-ordinator) as possible on 11<sup>th</sup> September. It would be wonderful if others wanted to participate and raise funds from friends and family too!

My Just Giving page is: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/torquilmontague-johnstone>

*Torquil Montague-Johnstone*



## 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**



## *Piano concert in the Long Gallery*

Come and join us on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> September for a concert by well-known local organist Christopher Burrows in aid of local mental health charity, The Charlie Waller Trust. Christopher is an extraordinarily talented keyboardist and his concerts around Berkshire and Wiltshire are regularly sold out. He will be performing a programme of piano pieces by composers including Rachmaninoff, Haydn, Mozart and Beethoven.

The evening begins with canapes and drinks at 7pm and the concert starts at 7.45pm. Tickets are £25.00 each. For more information and to book tickets visit [charliewaller.org/events/christopher-burrows-piano-recital](http://charliewaller.org/events/christopher-burrows-piano-recital).

*Georgie Miles, Fundraising Manager*



## *In loving memory*

Just off the Englefield drive, below Appletons Corner, a new bench has been installed in memory of Perry Brown who died earlier this year. A gift from members of his family, it looks out across the park towards Perry's home at Parkers Corner.

## *Englefield 10k*

This popular event is back again this year on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> August. Organised by the Rotary Club of Reading Abbey and Tadley Runners, it takes place in and around the park. More information is available on [www.Englefieldrun.info/](http://www.Englefieldrun.info/) and all money raised this year will go to Thames Valley Air Ambulance.

## *Yarn bombing in Theale*



Have you noticed the new look post box in Theale High Street? 'Yarn bombing' post boxes has been seen all over the UK since the start of lockdown and the Theale one is decorated with woolly flowers, leaves and bees. The Post Office says it has no problem with the toppers as long as they do not impede post-ers and posties!



## *Save the dates - again!*

Originally planned for the end of July this year, the summer concerts in the park have now been postponed until July 2022. The new dates are:

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> July: Supergrass, plus special guests Feeder and Sports Team;  
Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> July: Boy George & Culture Club, with very special guests for the shows Lulu, Kim Wilde and Gabrielle, with DJ Fat Tony;  
Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> July: Last Night of the Heritage Proms with Russell Watson, featuring the Royal Philharmonic Concert Orchestra conducted by David Arnold, Mike Moran, Christina Johnston, and the NHS Choir. All original tickets remain valid but refunds can be arranged by contacting your ticket agent.

*Peter Carson, Events Manager*



## *Summer planting*

The Garden Centre in Englefield is open every day from Monday to Saturday 9am to 5pm and from 10am to 4pm on Sunday (tel 0118 9304898). We sell plants that are locally sourced as much as possible and a lot are planted on site by our horti team at the centre along with the people that we support.

We have just got our potatoes in, ready to plant now for, dare I say it, in time for Christmas! We are awaiting late summer and autumn planting bulbs too. We also sell a lovely variety of cards and gifts. The team look forward to seeing you soon. Take care from all at Englefield Garden Centre.

## *Your favourite RHS Partner Garden?*

This year, in recognition of the positive impact gardens have for mental and physical wellbeing, the RHS is asking people to vote for their favourite 'Feel Good Partner Garden'. As explained in the last Parish News, Englefield is on the list so if it is your favourite Partner Garden please do vote and spread the word! Voting opens on the RHS website from 19<sup>th</sup> August until 30<sup>th</sup> September - <https://www.rhs.org.uk/gardens/partner-gardens/rhs-partner-garden-of-the-year> - and voters will be entered into a prize draw to win a pair of tickets to the RHS Hampton Court Palace Festival Gala evening in 2022, including a luxury two-night stay close to the showground.



## All change at Englefield Stores

As some of you will know, after 15 years amazing service to our community, Andy and Laura Allen have decided to move on from Englefield Stores & Tea Rooms later this year.

As did Doris and John before them, they have always gone above and beyond by supporting local residents but during the covid pandemic they went the extra mile ensuring that the

Stores remained not only fully stocked and open but by looking out for local residents, taking orders and making personal deliveries to the doorstep too. They have been a vital point of social contact for so many people over the years and they and their family will be greatly missed.

The Estate is working up plans to refurbish the shop and tea rooms, which include a family home, and this will provide a great opportunity for someone to bring their entrepreneurial and customer service skills to Englefield to build on Andy and Laura's hard work to ensure the stores and tea room continue to thrive. Inevitably, refurbishing the building whilst keeping the stores open presents some challenges but we hope to achieve that by perhaps moving the stores into the tea room in the short term.

If you know of anyone with the right skills and experience who might be interested in running the business we would be delighted to hear from them on 0118 930 2504 or at [office@englefield.co.uk](mailto:office@englefield.co.uk)

*James Holbrook-Bull, Estate Surveyor*

## Catalytic converter theft

Did you know a thief can take the catalytic converter from your car in a matter of minutes and leave you to foot the bill? A catalytic converter is the device that helps to cut harmful emissions produced by your car and is made of precious metals that thieves often target in exchange for money at a scrap yard. You can protect your vehicle by where possible, parking in a protected garage; consider security lighting and CCTV; mark your catalytic converter with a forensic marker and register your converter to make it harder for thieves to dispose of; speak to a mechanic to find out other ways you can protect your vehicle. Report any suspicious behaviour to police on online or by calling 101 or 999 in an emergency. See more crime prevention advice at: [www.thamesvalley.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention/](http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention/)

*Tracie Stone, Neighbourhood Policing Administrator*

## News from Rushall Farm

Well, Peter Cuss was right. The oak trees and hazel coppice had been completely stripped of all their leaves by the winter moth caterpillar. Four weeks on they have grown back with a vengeance. Now they have full, lush foliage with vivid bright green leaves, not an embattled response, but proving resilience and determination that they are alive and here to stay.



It has felt like that with the schools work. Children and teachers have just wanted to be out of the classroom away from tired and familiar surroundings. Getting onto a coach with a journey to the foreign-to-many territory, the countryside, and a farm, has really been a breath of fresh air, and they have loved it, including the rain and mud, stinging nettles and hay fever. To be able to see ewes and their lambs, cows and calves feed, and even hold a chicken, learn about growing wheat and bread making. They donned waders and explored and measured the Pang, dipped the pond and used sweep nets to identify insects on field margins. They have dug holes to study the solid clays, gritty sands and fertile loams and discussed land use and rotations, organic and conventional farming.

The camps, mainly from schools in Reading, have been really enjoyable, with enthusiasm from children and teachers to make the most of being here. They join in 'command tasks' which are a fun way to develop leadership, self-confidence and mutual respect. Then there is the walk to Bradfield along the Pang with its views across the valley, ducks and swans, the shadow of trees across the clear water and the noise of the river as it rushes through the old mill. So they arrive for swimming at the College, and then a trailer ride back to Rushall. But that is not all because there is bivvy building, camp fires with marshmallows, a barbecue, watching bats in the barn and being woken in the morning by a still noisy dawn chorus and lots more.

It is odd that we struggled so much during the last 12 plus months with fears that we would have to start all over again. It hasn't been like that, and since January we have continued to receive support from the government, and in addition from West Berkshire, two businesses and substantial donations from local people. There are a lot of tired and smiling faces as a result of this fantastic outpouring of generosity.

*John Bishop*  
[www.rushallfarm.org.uk](http://www.rushallfarm.org.uk)





## From Englefield Primary School

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

What fabulous end to another tricky school year!

We are delighted to say that we haven't had to close a single bubble since the start of the pandemic which is partly luck and partly down to the great team work between school and parents, following the rules and keeping everyone else safe by following the restrictions to the letter.



We have had an exciting summer term with far more new experiences on offer than we have been able to have in the previous terms.

FS2 celebrated their final Woodland Learning session of the year with a barbecue in the woods. This part of their weekly curriculum is invaluable and can only happen with the support of the parents who accompany Mrs Sheppard, Mrs Jackson and the class.

Sadly the tennis taster session for Years 1 and 2 had to be cancelled because of the storms but Key Stage 2 were able to have their sessions. Coach, Damian Lane, was very impressed with the children's skills and focus during the sessions. We hope that some of the pupils and their families will take the opportunity to join one of the local tennis clubs to enjoy this great family sport. Thankfully, the children who missed out will get another go in the autumn term.



Key Stage 2 and staff also had a fabulous time on the school field playing archery tag and target-shooting. The sessions, led by Discovery Archery, gave the children a taster of a slightly different kind of sport. Archie proved to be the best shot!



We were thrilled to be able to take the whole of Years 5 and 6 for two nights' camping at Rushall Farm in Bradfield. The children (and staff) loved making their two man tents snugly and actually slept much better than expected. The



weather was very kind to us and we missed all the torrential rain...someone was smiling down on us! Our days were filled with activities: den-building in the woods, a walk to Bradfield College for a swim, a campfire with obligatory singing, pond-dipping, raft-building for a teddy, river-dipping (which involved many exciting finds and was great fun in our over-sized waders!), a visit to the farm and a talent show. A huge thank you to Sandra Stone and the other staff at Rushall Farm for making us feel so welcome...we will certainly be back!

On Tuesday 20th July we said goodbye to 13 fantastic Year 6 pupils. They have



shown great resilience and fortitude over the past two years, putting up with restrictions and separation in a very mature way. They have kept smiling and kept supporting each other. We have been lucky to have them as part of our school community and we know their secondary schools will be delighted to receive each and every one of them.

The Year 6s, with the help of Ms Alvarado, made a beautiful collage to represent our school motto. This will be going up in the school hall and will be a lovely reminder of our motto and of this super group of pupils.

We also said goodbye to Mrs Julia Kidd who has worked at the school as our Finance Officer then School Business Manager since February 1997. We had a touching farewell from the children followed by a celebration with staff, governors and ex-colleagues hosted in the gardens of Englefield House by the Benyon family. Thank you to the many people who donated to Julia's collection; she went away with two beautiful framed pictures of the school, a serving platter, a Raku pot made by ex-teacher Mrs Watts, an illustrated Bible and vouchers for a Spa weekend. She was overwhelmed by the number of gifts and good wishes.

*Hilary Latimer, Headteacher*







## News from Five a Day

Well we've certainly seen a wide range of weather conditions since sowing and planting commenced in the spring. Potatoes and courgettes have cropped heavily, and by the time you read this we expect to be harvesting vast quantities of delicious tomatoes. It's not all positive though, because as all gardeners know, it's not just the weather we're trying to negotiate. Furry visitors have wreaked havoc on beans and cucumbers, and this year seem to be particularly fond of aubergines!

We thank everyone who has supported us by buying produce, both direct from the garden and from the pergola at the garden centre. Sales have been brisk, which we are truly grateful for, and there will be plenty more to buy this year.



Thyme Together, our gardening sessions for the older generation are proving popular once more, and we are so enjoying welcoming people back to the garden to enjoy all that it offers. We are expecting to be able to welcome back our school visits when the new academic year starts in September, which will be a major turning point as covid restrictions are eased.

Special thanks to the CRoW (Conserve Reading on Wednesdays) volunteers, whose ongoing support to Five a Day makes an enormous difference. The latest projects have included replacing the pergola roof and dividing up compost bays. No small task!

*Hannah Fraser, Five a Day committee member*

## Standby Volunteer Group

GOOD NEWS! We have been able to resume our service. All our drivers have been vaccinated. We would hope that all our patients would be vaccinated too. There are a few necessary rules which we will all have to accept. Drivers and patients all have to wear masks, until further notice, there will be sanitisers to be used on getting into the car and patients will be required to sit at the back.

The office (0118 9306419) is manned on Monday and Wednesday between 10am and 12 noon. An answerphone is available at other times (only checked on office days). We always try to find a driver for your hospital/medical appointment, for which we ask an affordable donation. The more drivers we have, the easier it is to help everyone who needs it. If you have any spare time, have comprehensive insurance and feel you would like to help, please contact us on 0118 9744439.

*Peter and Marion Moulder*

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MOVEMENT  
BARN**

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AT COBBS FARMSHOP, ENGLEFIELD, RG7 5EA

Date	Sidesman	First reading	Gospel reading	Prayers	Sacristan/server	Sunday Club	Cleaners
August 1 <sup>st</sup> 9 <sup>th</sup> Sundayafter Trinity	Denny Hollands	Mike Kimber Ephesians 4:1-16	Penny Savage John 6:24-35	Ron Marillier	Penny Savage/ Denny Hollands	No Sunday Club but vestry open	Peter and Catherine Haig
August 8 <sup>th</sup> 10 <sup>th</sup> Sundayafter Trinity	Torquil MJ	Harriet WJ Ephesians 4:25-5:2	Aldo Guiducci John 6:35,41-51	Catherine Haig	Sue Smith/ Peter Haig	No Sunday Club but vestry open	Pete and Carole Ford
August 15 <sup>th</sup> 11 <sup>th</sup> Sundayafter Trinity	Peter Haig	Dee Boddy Ephesians 5:15-20	Melanie Townsend John 6:51-58	Carol Boulter	Penny Norris/ Torquil MJ	No Sunday Club but vestry open	Liz McKean Saffy O'Sullivan
August 22 <sup>nd</sup> 12 <sup>th</sup> Sundayafter Trinity	Penny Savage	Kahlen Spaulding Ephesians 6:10-20	Gloria Sleep John 6:56-69	Melanie Townsend	Catherine Haig/ Saffy O'Sullivan	No Sunday Club but vestry open	Peter and Catherine Haig
August 29 <sup>th</sup> 13 <sup>th</sup> Sundayafter Trinity	Paula Fenwick	Catherine Haig James 1:17-end	Ron Marillier Mark 7:1-8; 14	Stephanie Gibbons	Penny Savage/ Melanie Townsend	No Sunday Club but vestry open	Pete and Carole Ford
September 5 <sup>th</sup> 14 <sup>th</sup> Sundayafter Trinity	Linda Price	Carole Ford James 2:1-10	Dudley Fishburn Mark 7:24-end	Ron Marillier	Sue Smith/ Carol Boulter	Saffy O'Sullivan	Saffy O'Sullivan Melanie Townsend
September 12 <sup>th</sup> 15 <sup>th</sup> Sundayafter Trinity	Denny Hollands	Stephanie Gibbons James 3:1-12	Richard Benyon Mark 8:27-end	Saffy O'Sullivan	Penny Norris/ Peter Haig	Saffy O'Sullivan	Peter and Catherine Haig
September 19 <sup>th</sup> 16 <sup>th</sup> Sundayafter Trinity	Peter Haig	Ronan O'Sullivan James 3:13 – 4:3	Paula Fenwick Mark 9:30-37	Harriet Wynne-Jones	Catherine Haig/ Dudley Fishburn	Saffy O'Sullivan	Pete and Carole Ford
September 26 <sup>th</sup> 17 <sup>th</sup> Sundayafter Trinity	Penny Savage	Mike Kimber James 5:13-end	Carol Boulter Mark 9:38-end	Penny Savage	Penny Savage/ Torquil MJ	Saffy O'Sullivan	Saffy O'Sullivan Liz McKean
October 3 <sup>rd</sup> 18 <sup>th</sup> Sundayafter Trinity	Paula Fenwick	Denny Hollands Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12	Peter Haig Mark 10:2-16	Carol Boulter	Sue Smith/ Melanie Townsend	Saffy O'Sullivan	Peter and Catherine Haig
October 10 <sup>th</sup> 19 <sup>th</sup> Sundayafter Trinity	Linda Price	Dee Boddy Hebrews 4:12-end	Melanie Townsend Mark 10:17-31	Catherine Haig	Penny Norris/ Carol Boulter	Saffy O'Sullivan	Pete and Carole Ford
October 17 <sup>th</sup> 20 <sup>th</sup> Sundayafter Trinity	Denny Hollands	Kahlen Spaulding Hebrews 5:1-10	Aldo Guiducci Mark 10:35-45	Ron Marillier	Catherine Haig/ Denny Hollands	Saffy O'Sullivan	Saffy O'Sullivan Melanie Townsend

*For prayer requests or notices for the weekly bulletin please contact Nick Wynne-Jones. If you have swapped duties or need to make a change please contact Saffy O'Sullivan (saffyosullivan@gmail.com).*

## Englefield Estate Yard and car park

We're delighted that West Berkshire Council has approved the Estate's planning and listed building consent applications, which were submitted in June 2020. The proposals involve plans to sensitively update the Estate Yard and include creating a new Estate Office in the old sawmill, as well as providing a new maintenance building, together with car parking and landscaping.

Although this is welcome news there is still a long way to go before work on the Yard can begin in earnest. A number of surveys need to be undertaken, and many of the finer details of the proposal agreed with planning officers. We will let everyone know when work is likely to begin and appreciate the need to work closely with occupiers of the Yard and local residents on this important project to minimise any disruption.

We do, however, hope to start work this year on the new village car park off The Street. The proposals for this 28-space facility were widely welcomed by both the parish council and the school, as well as many residents and school parents.

*Edward Crookes, Estates Director*



### Schools Days 2021

On the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> of June, more than 1,100 youngsters from Berkshire, Hampshire and Oxfordshire gathered at Englefield for our annual Schools Days event.

After having to cancel last year, due to the pandemic, we were thrilled to welcome schools back, to stretch their legs, enjoy the scenery and learn about rural life. For many children, it was their first school trip since 2019.

The theme for 2021 was sustainability, which means meeting our current needs without infringing on the capacity of future generations to meet their needs. Visiting the Estate provided an ideal opportunity for children to see sustainable practices in action.

Estate staff, local volunteers and local organisations led activities. Reading and District Beekeepers Association, Berkshire Moth Group, Butterfly Conservation Upper Thames Branch, the Estate's gamekeepers and the National Gamekeepers' Organisation Educational Trust offered sessions on animal life cycles, pollination, wildlife, habitats and conservation. Hampshire County Council Countryside Service, Life's Little Bugs and Small Fire, Big Adventure focussed on health and wellbeing, teaching the new Countryside Code,

mindfulness and positive thinking and outdoor skills. Englefield House, St Mark's Church and the World War II bomb shelter were used to illustrate the history of the Estate and the people who live in the village.

The Five A Day Market Garden and the Estate Maintenance Team shared the benefits of community working, from gardening and caring for soils to construction and building. Thames Water demonstrated clean water and water saving, Pang Valley Flood Forum explained natural flood management techniques and Estate staff and volunteers demonstrated different forms of renewable energy production.

Teaching farming and food production were HBH Farming, Newbury and District Agricultural Society, the John Simonds Trust and the Estate's gardeners. The forestry department and Oakley Tree Services gave sessions on trees and forests including wood production, how veteran trees are cared for and why trees are important while Estate carpenters demonstrated their skills to show how timber is used in construction.



The days were a great success, and we were very lucky with the weather! Virtually all the Estate staff were involved, from setting up, to running school activities, to marshalling the Street and the Coach Park. The Village Store provided us with excellent packed lunches and we were able to give all our volunteers a voucher for Cobb's Farm Shop to say thank you.

Feedback from schools has been fantastic. The children thoroughly enjoyed their day, and teachers were deeply appreciative of the time, care and enthusiasm of all involved. Visiting schools have sent numerous messages of thanks and good wishes. Let's hope that next year we will be able to provide an even more interactive and entertaining event.

*Liz Mattison, Community & Outreach Officer*







## The history of the Agency

The plan to site the estate office within the timber yard will presumably mean the existing Agency building being repurposed nearly 150 years after it was first built. Actually, this will not be the first time it has been subject to change for the existing arrangement is a late 20<sup>th</sup> century one, by which time the demands of running a

modern estate required a considerably enlarged staff, so the building ceased to be a home for the Agent and became solely an office building.

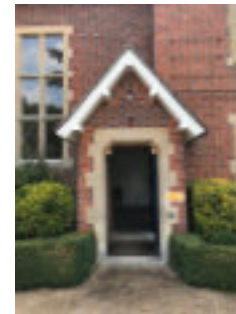
John Betjeman wrote in 1949 of 'a Georgian House (probably for the Agent)' in Englefield village. The only house that seems to fit this description would be number 1, though that was the Crown Inn at least between 1841 and 1861 and never subsequently lived in by the Agent. The first Agent, as such, seems to have been John Turner, a Yorkshireman appointed in the 1850s presumably to assist Richard Fellowes Benyon in carrying out his plans for the estate after he inherited in 1854. In 1861 Turner lived in what is now Mayridge Farmhouse, then newly built and originally intended, Miss Winchcomb said, as a dower house but never used for that purpose. The earlier farmhouse then still stood alongside it, where the farm buildings now are, and was still inhabited by farmer George King, although the census notes that his tenancy had expired at Michaelmas, some six months earlier. King had presumably not been at the farm for more than four years, since the previous tenant, John Harris, had died (probably of a stroke) while driving his gig home from Reading market in January 1856. The farm at that time was called Mearidge Farm.

Turner was still at Mayridge as the Agent in 1871 when he had as a clerk Richard Todd, another Yorkshireman, who shared one of the new cottages nearby with Joseph Spearing (probably, the handwriting on the census return is unclear) the new farm bailiff. Todd married Mary Cook at Bradfield in 1875 and by 1877 had moved to Mapledurham as Agent. By April 1881 the new Agency had been built in the Englefield Road and John Turner moved there but Richard Todd was soon back, this time as Agent himself. In fact, he must have been back at Englefield before the end of 1881 for his son Leslie was born there in the last quarter of that year. Sadly within a few years Todd would be a widower, his wife having died in 1884, the death being registered in the same quarter as the birth of their youngest son, Charles.

By 1911 Richard Todd's eldest son Leslie was his Assistant Agent and he, his elder sister and youngest brother all lived at the Agency, catered for by a live-in cook and housemaid. Later in the year Leslie married Maud Rendell, daughter of Reading solicitor John Walrond Rendell, and a son, Richard Walrond Todd, was

baptised at St Mark's on 6<sup>th</sup> February 1914. Leslie, who had been Captain of Englefield cricket team for some years, died suddenly later that same year and was buried at St Mark's on 15<sup>th</sup> October. The repeated use of 'Walrond' as a second Christian name indicates that there may well have been an ancestor in common with Mrs Benyon, whose maiden name was Walrond and whose father was born in Tiverton, where Maud's father was also born.

Richard Todd remained at the Agency until he retired in April 1915. He was presented with a gold cigarette case inscribed 'With best wishes for your health and happiness from the Works Department, Englefield estate' and went to live in Kendrick Road, Reading, but before the end of the year he died suddenly while at Folkstone visiting his youngest son. He was buried alongside his wife and son in the churchyard at Englefield on 11<sup>th</sup> November. His successor was Charles Carter, son of Colonel Carter the Agent at Lockinge. Captain Gilbert Paul, son of a former Rector of Bearwood and educated at Bradfield College, was the Agent from 1926 until his death in August 1938. He was buried at Leek Wooten, Warwickshire, where he formerly had lived but a memorial service was held in St Mark's at which over 200 people were present.



Captain Paul was succeeded by Henry Barber who served until 1960 when he retired to live in Silver Lane at Padworth. At a gathering of 50-60 employees of the estate in the Workmen's Club in the presence of Lady (Violet) Benyon he was presented, by the Assistant Agent Mr A E Fishleigh, with a pair of oak gates for his house subscribed for by the employees. Mrs Barber was given a bouquet of flowers by Sally Plumb, whose father, Arthur, worked at the Agency, his cycle commute to and from number 9 in The Street always accompanied by merry whistling.

Colonel D A Campbell then became the Agent. Unsurprisingly, Col Campbell (described by the *Evening Post* in May 1970 as 'burly') was a Scot but he had come to this area, coincidentally to Padworth, with his family in 1930 from South Wales. He commanded the Berkshire Yeomanry between 1952 and 1955 and before Englefield he was Agent to the Marquess of Salisbury at Hatfield. He was Chairman of Bradfield Rural District Council for two years from 1968 but declined a third term in 1970 owing to the amount of work involved in managing the effects of the M4 motorway then cutting its way across the estate. He was also for some time Chairman of the Forestry Safety Council and was appointed CBE in 1986 on that account. Col Campbell retired to Bucklebury in 1979 and was the last agent to have the Agency as both home and office, his successors being housed in Elmfields in The Street, formerly occupied by the Clerk of Works.

*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.

**For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight...adopted...through Jesus Christ (Ephesians 1 v 4-5a)**

For many the pain and uncertainty of the times we have been living through have caused much soul searching. Health of self and loved ones, job losses, isolation from family and friends – the difficulties of daily living in this covid-19 pandemic have grown so much that fundamental assumptions about life have been challenged. Is God really in control? Does he care? Are we safe in his hands?

This wonderful passage gives us an emphatic 'yes!' to all these questions. God is completely sovereign; completely in control. So overarching is his dominion that he chose us before the creation of the world itself. And our confidence in his good purposes towards us is equally certain: he chose us to be blameless and set apart for him – a people who would be his cherished possession. He loves us so much that he has adopted us into his family, through the blood of Jesus (v7). This surely is the most amazing part of all – that God should pay with the blood of his own beloved Son to adopt us. A final point: in the 1<sup>st</sup> century Roman world, the adoption of a son was irrevocable. A natural son might be cast out of the family for some crime or relational breakdown, but under Roman law an adopted son could not. Once adopted, forever adopted. What tremendous assurance we can have, when the whirlwind of life howls about us, that God is for us and that we are safe in his hands!

**For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two (Ephesians 2 v 14-15a)**

Society today puts great emphasis on diversity and inclusiveness. The focus on inclusion, on bringing the outsider into positive relationship with the majority, is something which has gained a lot of traction lately but it is not a new idea.

Twenty centuries ago in Palestine, society had a number of divisions which kept people apart. Chief among these was the great divide between the Jews and the Gentiles; between God's chosen people and the rest of humanity. This was a barrier that could not be overcome, with any number of laws and prohibitions

keeping the two groups apart and hostile to one another. It can be hard for us to grasp just how revolutionary and shocking the message of the gospel was to that society – that this most unbreakable barrier had been destroyed by Jesus' death on the cross, who had brought the Jews and Gentiles together and forged a new single humanity out of the two groups. That this deepest of cultural hostilities could be overcome, and a new single humanity formed from out of the two groups, was an amazing message of hope.

Paul emphasises that the foundation and the purpose of this unity and peace is found in Jesus – it is through him that this amazing reconciliation is made possible. He is showing us that through the good news of Jesus, there is no division within society – whether race, class, wealth, gender or anything else – that cannot be dissolved by putting our trust in Jesus. With him as our foundation, all people can find rest and peace in this one new humanity: the ultimate in inclusivity.



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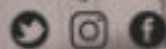
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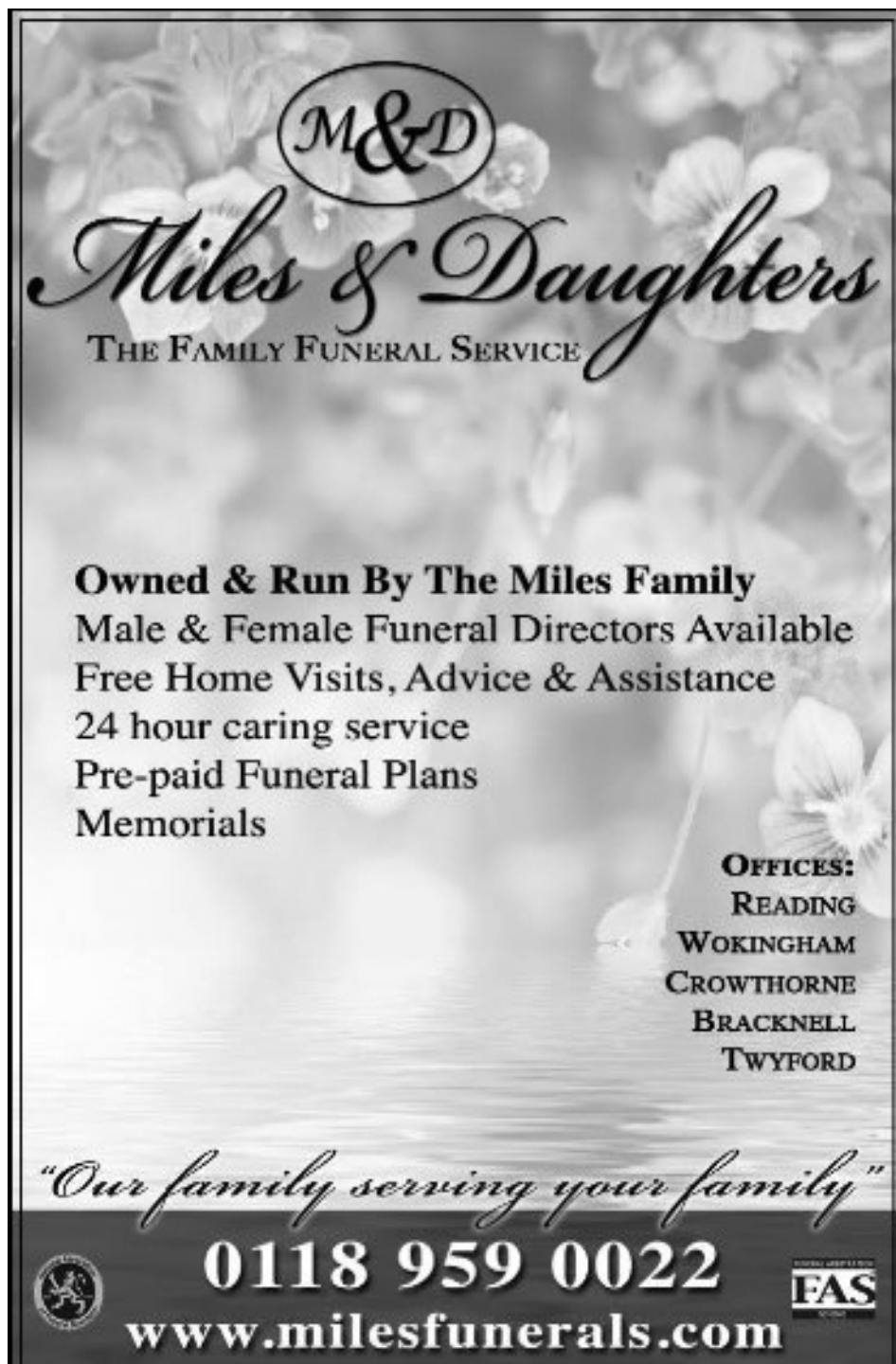
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