

# *Englefield Parish News*

August - September 2022



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

### *Rector*

During the interregnum, enquiries to St Mark's House 0118 9303595

### *Churchwardens*

Paula Fenwick churchwarden@stmarksenglefield.org.uk 07850 603508

Torquil Montague-Johnstone 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](http://www.stmarksenglefield.org.uk)

**Englefield Parish Council website:** [www.englefieldpc.org.uk](http://www.englefieldpc.org.uk)

**Front cover:** *Illuminated inside and out, Englefield House made a dramatic backdrop for the Heritage Live series of concerts in the Park in July.*

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

## *Diary dates*

West Berkshire Mobile Library: Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> August, 21<sup>st</sup> September, at the Old Fire Station Nursery, Englefield, 2pm to 2.25pm.

Every Wednesday in August and September: afternoon teas at St Mary's Church, Aldworth, 2.30-4.30pm.

Let's Talk Theology: contact Carol Boulter to be added to the mailing list.

Englefield Village Fete & Flower Show: Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> September, see page 2.

Ride+Stride in aid of Berkshire churches: Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> September, see page 11.

## *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/

0118 930 4064

englefieldshop@cobbbsfarmshops.co.uk

0118 930 3081

Theale Medical Centre 111.nhs.uk/covid-19 or call 111

NHS online coronavirus service 0118 322 5111

Royal Berkshire Hospital 01635 273300

West Berks Community Hospital 0118 930 2542

Theale Pharmacy (Mon-Fri 09.00-18.00 Sat 09.00-13.00)

0118 938 2265

Lloyds Pharmacy (Calcot) 0118 984 5894

NHS dentist Dentalcare, Pangbourne 01635 551111 (out of hours 01635 42161)

West Berkshire Council [www.westberks.gov.uk/](http://www.westberks.gov.uk/)

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

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

Englefield Primary School 0118 9302 337

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

Police 101 or 999 (for emergencies)

Utility suppliers: Electricity - SSEN 0800 072 72; Oil - Ford Fuels 0148 872 829;

Gas - National Grid 0800 111 999; Water - Thames Water 0800714 614;

Drainage - Total Drainage 0118 9421140



## It's Flower Show time!

The Englefield Village Fete & Flower Show will take place on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2022, starting from 2pm and will of course feature all the usual stands, stalls and entertainment expected. The school PTA will be providing their excellent tea and cakes as well as a beer tent and Grand Raffle. The school children will be running their own stands to raise funds for school activities.

The Classes schedule has been distributed and extra copies can be obtained from the Village stores or from [efsentry@gmail.com](mailto:efsentry@gmail.com). The classes with themes for this year are listed below, as well as two, new, homemade wine and liqueur classes.

The Show committee would very much appreciate any volunteers willing to help set up or run a stall etc. Please contact Mark on 07551 981587 or Gordon on 07939 504145. We look forward to receiving your entries and seeing you on 10<sup>th</sup> September for another wonderful Englefield Village community event.

- 36 Arrangement: 'Magical White, max 24"/60cm overall
- 39 Floral Art: 'In a Crown', 20"/50cm x 20"/50cm, height unlimited
- 40 Novice: Simple buttonhole – secured by foil is acceptable
- 46 Chocolate Chip Cookies: MEN ONLY, recipe provided
- 47 Mini Victoria Sponges: Individual 'Modern' Victoria sponges, own recipe
- 48 Panettone Buns: Exhibitor's own recipe, four individual, flavoured buns
- 49 Cheese Scones: Exhibitor's own recipe, six to be displayed.
- 50 Jubilee Cake: see recipe provided.
- 51 Maids of Honour: Exhibitor's own recipe, six to be displayed
- 52 Victoria Sponge: Traditional Victoria Sponge. Exhibitor's own recipe
- 53 Edible Cake Topper: Decoration only, for a Street Party on 8" cake board
- 55 Homemade Wine: Bottle of, any type, variety
- 56 Homemade Liqueur: Bottle of any type, variety
- 57 Handmade Card: Handmade Card suitable for a 'Party Invitation'
- 62 Photography: Theme 'Together', standard print not enlargement, mounted
- 63 'Two Standard Prints: 'Wet and Dry', related prints not enlargements, mounted
- 66 A Message: An open class using the initial letters from the title 'QUEEN ELIZABETH' devise an acrostic message to be sent on a postcard

*The Flower Show Committee*

## A warm welcome

We are looking forward to welcoming Rev Julia Myles and her husband, Paul, to Englefield. Julia's Service of Institution, Induction and Installation will take place at St Mark's on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> September at 7pm. Everyone is most welcome to attend and invitations and further information will follow. We are so blessed that Julia is joining the Englefield community and they will be living in the village from around the middle of August.



*The Churchwardens*

## Congratulations

To Lucy Wiggins and Joe Falvey, married at St Mark's on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> June.

To Amy and Finn Nobay on the birth of Imogen Harriet, a sister for Joshua and granddaughter for Nick and Harriet Wynne-Jones.

To Paula Fenwick on the arrival of two new grandchildren born just nine days apart - Tristan, a son for Ashlee and Angus Armstrong, and Ophelia, a daughter for Sarah and Daryl Andrews.

To Charlotte Landers and Matthew Hardcastle, married at St Mark's on 30<sup>th</sup> July.



## Celebrating the Jubilee

Residents and friends of Englefield Parish turned out in force to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee on Sunday 5th June. Over 130 people joined in the Bring and Share lunch, sporting an amazing array of hats and crowns and fancy dress. The Village Hall was decked out in red, white and blue and tables were groaning under the weight of food and drink. The dire weather forecast did not materialise and the children were able to take part in games and activities on the school field. The display of memorabilia included a service sheet from the Queen's Coronation service, the commemorative booklet from Englefield's celebration on that day in 1952 and some wonderful photos.

Thank you to the team who organised it, ably led by Peter Carson, to the Village Hall committee, to the Estate Yard for help with setting up, the Flower Show for the loan of the tent, Zoe Benyon for judging the competitions, Gordon Fletcher for organising the children's activities and to everyone who came along to make this a truly memorable community event.

*Englefield Parish Council*



## Pop up tea garden at the Village Stores

Yet another couple of busy months! The house and store is coming along nicely with the renovation work and we hope to move in around the autumn time. Thanks again to Edward, Duncan, Dave and Brendon.

In June we were very busy getting ready for the Tea Garden and since the start of July we have been open to an overwhelming response. It's a very pretty area to sit and enjoy something to eat, so please pop in! We have decorated the outside area with beautiful flowers from Englefield Garden Centre and they really do make it special - thank you!

*Dan, Liz, Connor and Bethany*  
[www.Englefieldstoresandtearooms.co.uk](http://www.Englefieldstoresandtearooms.co.uk)



### 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**

foodbank

## Graham Reeves 1939-2022

I knew this gentleman for 58 years, 55 of them as his wife and what a privilege, what an honour, it has been. I don't think I have met anyone so focused, so determined to help and be kind to others.

Graham's motto was 'what can I do to enhance people's lives in the community?' He worked hard as a local Liberal Councillor in Theale, and Thatcham. How can you describe him? He was like a pebble being thrown into a pond, and watching the ripples pick up momentum, reaching out. He led by example, a gentleman, kindness itself, helpful, a fine man. And stubborn too; when his mind was made up, the determination set in and the goal was met. Trafalgar Court was one example. Graham saw that provision for frail and vulnerable adults was lacking in this area. His work for James Butcher made him have this dream and through fund/grant raising, knocking on government and business doors, and with the help of friends like Sir William Benyon, he achieved this goal and accomplished his dream.

Then Carebus, again a dream and again determination. A secondhand Theale Green school minibus and the idea of local community transport was born. Since 1988 Carebus has been an integral part of this area's transport, essential for the elderly to get to their clubs, doctors, hospital appointments etc. Now on a very sound footing, it will still continue thanks to the volunteer drivers.

Graham leaves us all so enriched by his presence in our lives. He and I were a good community team. Graham never liked confrontation but, boy, did we have great debates! I won a couple, and though we did have lows as well as highs we worked together and got through them. Graham helped me at both Theale and Bradfield youth club over 25 years and we supported each other in our local groups and interests. If we all took on just a little of Graham's philosophy and were kind and looked out for each other, life could be a richer, nicer place.

I have had so many cards, flowers, messages, and I thank all of you, they have given me strength. We will miss this man immensely, as a husband, father, grand- and great-grandfather, friend and colleague. He does leave a very long shadow. There will be a celebration of Graham's life in the autumn, details will be issued at a later time, but meanwhile Graham's two charities are Thames Valley Air Ambulance and Carebus.



*Lizzie and family*

*(For links to these two charities please see the tribute to Graham on page 10.)*



## *Village car park and Estate Yard update*

You may recall that in the summer of 2020 the Estate held an exhibition which looked at ideas for how the village of Englefield might evolve as a community in the years to come. We were pleased with the response to the exhibition, which was very supportive of our outline ideas.

Among these ideas was a proposal to sensitively convert under-used buildings in the Estate Yard to provide a new Estate Office, as well as a range of offices and other workspaces to provide opportunities for small businesses to work from Englefield. We hope these will create new employment opportunities by reinvigorating what has historically been an important economic contributor to the parish and beyond.

In addition, proposals for a modest car park off The Street in Englefield village to serve the primary school and other visitors to the village received a lot of support.

We followed this work up with two planning applications in 2021, which after many months going through the planning process including further public consultation, were approved by West Berkshire Council. Having now worked up the construction detail, been out to tender and having satisfied various pre-commencement planning conditions, building work on these projects is now ready to commence on site.



Contractors Nicholson Lockhart Garratt have started work on the car park in the field opposite St Mark's Close. We are liaising directly with the nearest neighbours over the detail of the works, which we hope will be completed during September 2022.

With regards to the future use and management of the car park, we are working closely with Englefield Primary School and others. We will share those details in good time before the car park opens for use, which may be some weeks after the initial work is finished, in order to allow time to arrange the appropriate signage and engage with various user groups. The final landscaping and tree planting is likely to take place later on when planting conditions are more suitable.

In early August, Stonewood Builders will begin phase one of the Estate Yard project which involves the conversion of the sawmill building to create a new Estate Office, the restoration of the wheelwright's furnace and the relocation of the Estate joiner's shop. It also includes the installation of site-wide services, including electric vehicle charging points, ground mounted solar panels at the back of the Yard and air source heat pumps. Phase one also includes landscaping with new hedges and trees, together with on-site car parking and cycle storage.

Internally, historic elements of the sawmill such as the steam boiler and engines, and the flywheel, will be preserved and retained in-situ as features in the new Estate Office.

Phase one is expected to take around 12 months to complete subject to the vagaries of the weather, working on old buildings and potential supply chain challenges.

We're conscious that these are significant projects for our small village and will do our best to minimise the impact upon local residents, particularly occupiers of the Yard and nearest neighbours. The contractors will work closely with the Estate team and Stonewood Builders is a member of the Considerate Constructors Scheme ([www.ccscheme.org.uk](http://www.ccscheme.org.uk)).

As ever, we are grateful for your support & we apologise for any inconvenience these works may cause. We will provide updates through the Parish News as the work progresses but if you have any questions or concerns please do contact the Estate Office.

*James Meade, Head of Rural Property and Land*

## *A breakfast of champions*

OK so I'm not a champion of any sort, but I felt just a little like I imagine one might feel, after a 26 mile morning bicycle ride via Bucklebury, Hampstead Norreys, Compton, part of the Ridgeway, Aldworth and Bradfield, ending up at Englefield Village Stores, where at 10.30 I was tempted by their full breakfast: eggs, bacon, beans, mushrooms, sausages, hash browns, tomatoes AND black pudding (and, yes, the plurals are correct!), as well as toast and butter. And all that for under £10, a little more if you want coffee (I did). Truly a breakfast for competitors, if not champions, and one I highly recommend - but perhaps not if you are trying to get your beach body prepared. One warning though, it might just beat you!

*Peter Haig*



## Schools Days 2022

The sun shone brightly for this year's Schools Days, with 1,500 children from across Berkshire taking part in the 25<sup>th</sup> year of the event. On 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> June, 56 classes from 31 schools took full advantage of the chance to explore our gardens, farmland and Englefield House. Staff and volunteers were delighted to meet so many enthusiastic, engaged and inquisitive students.

The theme for Schools Days is Sustainability: meeting our current needs without infringing on the capacity of future generations to meet their needs. Englefield is ideally placed to demonstrate aspects of sustainability to children with a range of hands-on activities in a truly inspiring environment.

Children met a kestrel and a red kite with One to One with Raptors, a queen bee with Reading and District Beekeepers Association and a range of butterflies, moths and caterpillars with Butterfly Conservation Upper Thames Branch. The Estate's gamekeepers and the National Gamekeepers' Organisation Educational Trust used wildflowers and a hugely popular collection of skeletons, bird taxidermy and antlers from the deer park to teach children about habitats, animal life cycles and conservation.

Natural materials such as leaves, branches and fir cones became animal Land Art, Hampshire County Council Countryside Service ran quizzes about the Countryside Code, Life's Little Bugs held sessions on mindfulness and positive thinking and Small Fire, Big Adventure taught children bushcraft skills.

Groups toured Englefield House, visited St Mark's Church and learned about the Romans at Silchester with an amazing collection of real Roman artefacts brought by the University of Reading's Department of Archaeology.

The Five A Day Market Garden taught children about worms and composting, the Estate Maintenance team had groups practising roof tiling with real tiles from estate buildings, pupils designed their own eco-village using model buildings recycled from carpentry off-cuts and children did a magnet fishing quiz and learned about invasive species using a tank of signal crayfish with staff from Sportfish Game Fishing Centre.

Action for the River Kennet brought samples of freshwater invertebrates for children to hunt for and learn how they are used to check how clean rivers are. Pupils designed and built a model sewer network and learned about the 'Four Ps' with Thames Water, others built leaky dams and learned about natural flood management with the Pang Valley Flood Forum while renewable energy expert, Ian Gough, demonstrated solar and wind powered generation of electricity.

HBH Farming and the John Simonds Trust displayed the machinery used to grow arable crops and told the story of wheat, Newbury and District Agricultural Society gave sessions on milk, meat and wool, with the aid of Robin Wiggins's sheep and lambs. The Estate's gardeners gave tours of the kitchen garden, taught pupils about seasonal vegetables and fruit and ran sessions on soil health and making compost.

The Forestry Department, Oakey Tree Services and the Estate carpenters gave sessions on trees and forests including how trees grow, veteran trees and how timber is used in construction, including building benches.

The Village Store provided excellent lunchtime catering, and for the first time since 2019, we could say a big thank you to all our volunteer and staff with some much-needed cold drinks and food at the end of the event! Once again, feedback from schools has been brilliant. Everyone at the Estate was praised for their warm welcome and expertise. The children had loads to discuss on their return to school and the teachers are looking forward to returning next year. A huge thank you to the many local organisations, volunteers and Estate staff who worked so hard to make the 2022 Schools Days such a success.

*Liz Mattison, Community & Education Officer*



## Summer at the Old Firestation

We are super excited for the summer holidays and new term starting in September. After what seems forever due to covid restrictions we haven't been out on our minibus BUT watch this space as we have just purchased 14 new car seats so that we can safely go out exploring further afield.

So much has been happening in the nursery and pre-school. Two of our members of staff have recently signed up to start an NVQ level 3 in Child Development and Learning which we are happy to support them through and the deputy manager is about to have her second baby.

The children are super excited to continue being part of such a wonderful village, we often stop and say hello to the tractor drivers, the kind lady in the village shop and most recently to the gentleman looking after the horses this summer. Thank you to the residents of the village who always go out of their way to say hello to the children and introduce them to their dogs, we are getting some regular visitors to the nursery gate during the day.



## Graham Reeves RIP

*Kimble Earl, one of Graham's many friends and colleagues, adds his recollections to Lizzie's tribute on page 5.*

Community champion Graham Reeves, founder and driving force behind Carebus and other projects in West Berkshire, died on July 8<sup>th</sup> aged 82.

Graham launched the Carebus Community Transport service from his Englefield home with an old secondhand minibus in the 1980's. Since then the operation has grown to its current fleet of two minibuses, two accessible cars, and private cars, all driven by volunteers and valued by many for journeys where other forms of transport are non-existent, unsuitable or unaffordable. His work with Carebus won him the West Berkshire Council's Community Champions Award in 2018.

Graham was also the mastermind behind the development of Trafalgar Court, Theale, to provide homes for frail elderly locals, a dream he had nurtured over many years and which his determination brought to fruition. Some of its first residents were from Waylands Hospital, Bradfield Southend, after it closed down; they were also some of the earliest users of the Carebus.

Graham was born in Reading in 1939 and educated in the town. He worked for a variety of local employers in sales and accounting roles before joining the James Butcher Housing Association in 1977 where he remained until 1990. He was founder and chief executive of the Englefield Residential Homes Association for the next six years, before running the transport operations for both the Berkshire Red Cross and Berkshire Community Council.

Graham's public service was extensive. He was chair of the Housing Committee at Bradfield Rural District Council and its successor Newbury District Council between 1970 and 1976. He chaired Theale Parish Council between 1968 and 1973 and again between 1995 and 2000. He was a Governor of Theale CofE Primary School from 1996 until recently. He was Treasurer and a leading member of local groups including Theale History Club, Theale Tea Club, Theale CanDoIt Club, Theale Social Club, Bradfield and Theale Youth Clubs, and Englefield Social Club.

Graham is survived by Lizzie, children Teresa and Robert, grandchildren Holly, Lewis and Anna, and great-grandson George. Following a private cremation, a memorial event is planned for the autumn. Donations in his memory may be made to Thames Valley Air Ambulance <https://www.tvairambulance.org.uk/support-us/donate/>, or to Carebus <http://carebus.org/support-us>.

## Ride+Stride 2022

The churches of Berkshire are worth saving for many future generations.

One way you can help is by signing up

for the annual Ride+Stride event on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> September and ask your friends and family to sponsor you generously. Sponsor forms and JustGiving information can be printed off via the BHCT website: <https://www.berkschurchestrust.org.uk>.

Ride+Stride happens every year throughout the country. Our wonderful Berkshire supporters raised nearly £25,000 in 2021 – how can we improve on this for 2022? St Peter's Woolhampton have won the Daphne Barnes-Phillips challenge cup for the past two years. This cup is given to the church raising most money and you can walk, jog, cycle or ride round any number of churches anywhere you choose. We will have a list of participating churches, plus a few routes, on the BHCT website.

You can go by yourself or in a group, any time between 10am and 6pm on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> September. Sign in at each church you visit; have a look round and enjoy refreshments. Do please take photos of your expedition and send them to me, [prue.matchwick@gmail.com](mailto:prue.matchwick@gmail.com). We will use the best ones on the BHCT website.

*Prue Matchwick, Berkshire Ride+Stride Coordinator*



## Ride+Stride for St Mark's

If you are not intending to take part in Ride+Stride yourself please do consider supporting my Ride+Stride challenge. I am intending to cycle to not less than 20 churches in the Bradfield Deanery on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> September (subject to weather conditions!). If you would like to contribute, please see my JustGiving page at: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/stmarksenglefieldim22>. Your support will be equally divided between St Mark's and the Berkshire Historic Churches Trust. Thank you!

*Torquil Montague-Johnstone*

## Occasional gardener required

We are looking for someone who can maintain a small planted container in St Mark's churchyard, Englefield. This would suit someone who is regularly in the area and in exchange for a monthly retainer could ensure plants are watered, deadheaded etc. If interested please contact Julia on 07939 213312.





## From Englefield Primary School

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

We have just reached the end of another school year; this one with fewer disruptions (thankfully). We have been able to enjoy trips, visitors and residential. We have also been able to send children out to sporting and musical events as well as some enrichment days at local independent schools. In addition, our parents have been able to join us in school and in the grounds for celebration assemblies, concerts, performances and several sociable events.



Our Year 3/4 children has a fabulous time at the Englefield Countryside Day; they particularly enjoyed finding out about birds of prey and having a tour of 'The Big House'! Thank you to Englefield Estate for providing this opportunity.

Nine Year 5/6 pupils spent a day at Bradfield College, taking part in a Kwik Cricket tournament with nine other local schools. It was perfect cricketing weather and the confidence and the skills of the team grew enormously as the day went on, and some extra coaching in the nets from the Bradfield College sixth-formers really helped. They managed to clean bowl nine children, took several catches and hit many runs; the teamwork and support for each other was superb. Overall we came second in our league - WELL DONE, TEAM!

Twelve of our Year 5/6 pupils joined children from six other schools to take part in a Pop Workshop in the Greek Amphitheatre in Bradfield College. It was a fantastic setting and the vocal coach, ably assisted by Bradfield College pupils got the children and staff singing their hearts out. A fabulous opportunity.

Sports Day began with the older children racing the Englefield Mile up and down the Englefield House private drive. Meanwhile on the school field, the younger children were taking part in a carousel of sporting activities to earn points for their houses. After the mile the older children had their turn at the field events. At lunchtime the field filled up with picnicking families. The skies looked ominous but the rain held off. In the afternoon we all enjoyed a full programme of races from sprints to dressing up, football slalom to toddler and parent races.

We had a light sprinkling of rain but otherwise we were blessed with fine weather. While the children enjoyed ice lollies, Mrs Bushnell totted up the scores and the winning team were....Poseidon! Well done to them and to everyone who took part and supported this wonderful school community event.



he Year 5/6 class, ably assisted by Miss Langston, Mrs Rose, Mrs Smith and Mrs Kelly, gave us three superb performances of *The Pirates of the Windy Bean*. There were some side-splitting jokes, uplifting and tender singing, including several solo performances, and great character acting...a truly enjoyable experience. The best thing is that everyone on stage loved being there.



Thank you to Mrs Sheppard, Mrs Carney and Rev Mark and his team at St James the Less, Pangbourne, for organising a super Schools Day last week. The children were joined by Pangbourne Primary and they did a wide range of activities to increase their knowledge about life in church. Our children made thoughtful contributions and thoroughly enjoyed the day.

We are truly delighted with the academic results our pupils have achieved this year - this is down to the hard work of the pupils, staff and parents and the great teamwork that has developed between the three. The disruption that has affected education since March 2020 has had a huge impact on the levels of attainment across the country. Although we have seen some impact at Englefield, we are delighted that our teamwork has kept this to a minimum.



Sadly we have had to say farewell to Jon Chishick who has been a governor at Englefield for 28 years! He started when his own children came to the school and has given loyal service ever since. With a background in accountancy, Jon has been a great support as Chair of our Finance Committee. A huge thank you from all of us at Englefield for so many years of dedication.

We have just said goodbye to our Year 6 children at a poignant service led by our soon-to-be vicar, Rev Julia. This group were hard-working, conscientious and thoughtful, with mature ideas and well-rooted views on fairness and justice; the embodiment of our school values. They added much to our school over the years and each and every one of them will be sorely missed. To help us all remember this special group, they worked with Ms Alvarado to produce a beautiful piece of jubilee-related artwork which will hang in the hall for all to see.



We would like to wish all our local neighbours an enjoyable and fun-filled summer.

*Hilary Latimer, Headteacher*





## Summer at Five A Day

Things are returning to normal here at Five A Day as we are now back in full swing with our visiting groups: the schools supported by Ella's Kitchen, the Thyme Together Group and the uniform groups – Guides and Brownies. It's so lovely to welcome everyone back after what seems like a very long period of disruption. We have also welcomed our corporate groups Vodafone, Virgin Media, KMG and Baxter Storey who have worked hard to help build new raised beds, paint sheds and many other one off tasks as well as the inevitable weeding!

CROW (Conservation Reading on Wednesday), who have supported us for many years, have also returned and have helped us with cutting the willow, digging beds ready for planting and repairing fences to try to keep the rabbits at bay.

Our volunteers have been very busy and we have been selling some fantastic seasonal crops in the gazebo of the garden centre car park. We are also happy to sell directly from the garden when volunteers are working which is on Tuesday to Friday morning from 10-12.30. Please feel free to drop in if you are passing to purchase produce direct from ourselves.

The Thyme Together group has been running for over 10 years and this year they have been very busy planting up an area where we have some easily accessible raised beds. As part of the Jubilee celebrations they planted a bed full of red, white and blue flowers to celebrate the Jubilee.

If you are interested in volunteering or know of a business who supports staff volunteering please email [info@fiveaday.org.uk](mailto:info@fiveaday.org.uk) or call on 07555 184343. You can visit our website for our latest newsletter.

*Wendy Cadman, Five A Day committee member*



## Bees at Rushall Farm

I've looked after suckler cows and sheep, reared calves and run an outside pig unit, always kept a few chicken and fed the birds, but never looked after bees.

Liz Butcher entrusted the observation hive we have in the stable for children to my care while she was away. All I had to do was top up a honey jar with holes in the lid with sugar syrup. But after a few days there was a build-up of dead bees blocking the entrance. It was Serena Watts, our local bee impresario, to the rescue. She saved the colony including the queen, put a new swarm in and blamed it all on the season and not on me. The new bees had plenty of food available from comb and sugar syrup. The queen is clear to see as she lays her eggs. The worker bees, the females, are extremely busy with some doing the famous waggle dance to show where the best food was to forage, and how far away. All are busy bringing food into the hive and capping the cone with wax. A few feed the males, the drones, who sit around doing nothing apart from the major task of mating the queen.

Back from her holiday Liz had to rush down to her own hives as one had swarmed. It was all very dramatic; the sight and sound of thousands of bees on the move, with children from Denefield School having front row seats in the show. The swarm eventually settled in the branch of an oak tree overhanging Steve's grass margin. It is a beautiful sight: thousands of bees, a moving mobile mass protecting their new queen. We looked up and thought and thought, and decided to go and have lunch. Refreshed and invigorated and armed with a ladder, rope, two bee suits and a box we had a plan. Joo, who could be relied on for safe operations and clear instructions, was in charge. I, as an older person and expendable, was on the ladder. Nigel held the rope and Liz was there with box ready to capture the bees. And it went like a dream. The branch was cut off, extra bits trimmed, the bees were lowered into the box and transferred into a hive, including the queen. It was job done, and the satisfaction of achieving success.

But short lived! Liz phoned an hour later. They had swarmed, and preferred the branch. We sighed! They were still there the following morning but then disappeared to where, nobody knows?



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

Date	Sidesman	First lesson	Gospel reading	Prayers	Sacristan	Server	Sunday School	Cleaners
Sunday 31 <sup>st</sup> July 7 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity	Denny Hollands	Meryl Bonser Colossians 3:1-11	Paula Fenwick Luke 12:13-21	Ron Marillier	Catherine Haig	Peter Haig		Pete and Carole Ford
Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup> August 8 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity BCP	Linda Price	Ronan O'Sullivan Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16	James Bamforth Luke 12:32-40	BCP	Penny Norris	Carol Boulter		Liz McKean
Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup> August 9 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity	Paula Fenwick	Catherine Haig Hebrews 11:29-12:2	Saffy O'Sullivan Luke 12:49-56	Denny Hollands	Catherine Haig	Paula Fenwick		Penny Norris Saffy O'Sullivan
Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup> August 10 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity	Torquil MJ	Miles Edgar Hebrews 12:18-end	Carole Ford Luke 13:10-17	Penny Savage	Penny Savage	Torquil MJ		Pete and Carole Ford
Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup> August 11 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity	Peter Haig	Kahlen Spaulding Hebrews 13:1-8	Denny Hollands Luke 14:1,7-14	Paula Fenwick	Sue Smith	Saffy O'Sullivan		Liz McKean
Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup> September 12 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity BCP	Denny Hollands	Torquil MJ Philemon 1-21	Ronan O'Sullivan Luke 14:25-33	BCP	Penny Norris	Peter Haig	Saffy O'Sullivan	Peter and Catherine Haig
Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup> September 13 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity	Torquil MJ	Hamish Bamforth tbc	Carol Boulter tbc	Catherine Haig	Penny Savage	Denny Hollands	Saffy O'Sullivan	Penny Norris Saffy O'Sullivan
Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup> September 14 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity	Linda Price	Lucy Roper tbc	Dee Boddy tbc	Saffy O'Sullivan	Catherine Haig	Saffy O'Sullivan	Liz McKean	Pete and Carole Ford
Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup> September 15 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity	Paula Fenwick	James Bamforth tbc	Aldo Guiducci tbc	Ron Marillier	Sue Smith	Paula Fenwick	Saffy O'Sullivan	Liz McKean
Sunday 2nd October Harvest Festival	Penny Savage	Hilary Latimer tbc	Richard Benyon tbc	BCP	Penny Norris	Carol Boulter	Saffy O'Sullivan	Peter and Catherine Haig
Sunday 9th October 17th Sunday after Trinity	Denny Hollands	Catherine Haig tbc	Dudley Fishburn tbc	Denny Hollands	Penny Savage	Torquil MJ	Saffy O'Sullivan	Penny Norris Saffy O'Sullivan
Sunday 16th October 18th Sunday after Trinity	Peter Haig	Meryl Bonser tbc	Ron Marillier tbc	Penny Savage	Sue Smith	Denny Hollands	Saffy O'Sullivan	Pete and Carole Ford

*If you swap duties please contact Saffy O'Sullivan ([saffyosullivan@gmail.com](mailto:saffyosullivan@gmail.com)) and the churchwardens. Please send prayer requests to Linda Price ([pricelinda8@gmail.com](mailto:pricelinda8@gmail.com) or 07951 660169)*



*St Mark's Sunday school restarts in September. We will be looking at Creation in the Book of Genesis. New members are always welcome - the children go out to the church vestry after the first hymn for outdoor and indoor activities, sharing stories, and snacks.*

## Eulogy to Jo

Our beloved daughter Joanna passed away on June 22<sup>nd</sup> in Seattle USA. She was just 46 years old. Pauline and I have been coming to St Mark's regularly for the past two years or so and in that time we have been greatly comforted by the prayers said for Jo every week. Our great regret however is that being so far away the congregation knew very little of Jo. In many ways she was a remarkable person. She lived life to the full and touched many people's lives. The church for the Celebration of her Life was full with innumerable watching on line. Many flew in from all over the USA to attend. The tributes to her on social media were overwhelming.



Her fight against cancer for seven long years was both courageous and inspirational. We were all in awe of her strength and determination to beat it and she never gave up. Throughout she never complained and was so mentally strong that she was often the one consoling us. She had innumerable girl friends and they gave her unbelievable support especially when the going was tough.

Jo was strong willed but always had a positive and balanced outlook on life. She was kind, clever, decisive, well organised and financially astute. She brought these skills successfully to both her work and her family life. She had a very successful career in the travel business. For 10 years she was the area manager for Las Vegas dealing with all the top hotels on the famous 'Strip' and became the West Coast Manager for Priceline, selling digital media campaigns to the travel and tourism industry.

Jo was truly the centre of her family and did everything for them. She loved her husband Ken, the boys, Tom, 15, and Ben, 12, and Henry the dog with all her heart. But she always put them before herself. She was a strong advocate for her boys, determined to bring the best out of them and prepare them for adult life. Her greatest wish was that they receive the best education when she was gone.

She grew up in Streatley on Thames, along with her older sister Georgina. She attended St Joseph's Convent and graduated from the University of Brighton in 1997 with a BA degree in Travel and Management. She met Ken when carrying out work experience in her gap year in Seattle. They were married in 2002 in our then local church of St Mary's in Streatley and settled permanently in the USA.

Her great love was the big outdoors and the opportunities it presented. She and the family were always away in their RV, be it camping in the mountains or on the Pacific coast. She was an adventurer and in her life had travelled extensively abroad, including backpacking around the world with a university friend. Above all she loved extreme sporting activities. She has ziplined in the Idaho mountains, skied in the French Alps, watched big game on safari in Africa, scuba dived on the Great Barrier Reef, bungee jumped in New Zealand and most adrenalin sapping of all - a skydive from 10,000 feet. We are extremely proud of what Jo achieved in her life. She was much loved and will be greatly missed. May God bless her.

*Graham and Pauline Harvey*



## Not Cricket?

Readers of a certain newspaper may have noticed a couple of months ago an item about the propriety of county, indeed international, standard players turning out to play for village teams. This is, of course, the stuff of comic fiction and even featured on TV in an episode of *Dad's Army* but it is certainly not new.

For three years in the 1890s the Englefield cricket team included L E Bligh (in full, Major The Honourable Lodovick Edward Bligh MFH) who had played for Kent between 1878 and 1884. At least it wasn't his cousin Ivo who not only played for Kent but captained England in Australia in the winter of 1882/83 - the first ever Ashes series (England won, two matches to one in a three-match series).

Lodovick Bligh came with his wife and children to live at the Rectory in early 1891, the Rector having moved into the 'Parsonage' (number 9, The Street). He doesn't appear to have played in that year but was captain of the side in 1892 and topped the batting averages. In March 1893 Bligh was appointed Master of the East Kent Foxhounds and so relinquished his role as Master of the South Berks but continued to play cricket for Englefield through the summer. Ex-county player he may have been but at least he did have a bona-fide residence in the village, unlike some. In June that year after the side suffered a heavy defeat by Bradfield the Rector commented that '*...when first-rate players are brought to play against a village team, the results are not very uncertain*'. Any early-season hunting with the East Kent must have been done from a distance because Bligh again topped the batting averages for Englefield that year, although at the AGM in October he declined to accept the award for that achievement and it went instead to runner-up Tom Harris. Bligh left the village soon after, presumably moving to Kent.

1893 seems to have been a fractious year for sharp practice of a different sort was alleged in July when the Rector, writing from Bad Homburg where he was taking the waters, writes that '*The intelligence of some little difficulties connected more or less with the cricket club has reached Homburg...*'. This seems to have been a dispute over an umpiring decision. To prove further that nothing changes, the Rector comments on the team's hard luck in not winning a match against Bucklebury Fireside in June 1896 when 'time' was called with Englefield needing three runs to win with three wickets in hand: '*...one of the opposing team going on to bowl about a quarter of an hour from "time" robbed our team of a certain victory by wilfully wasting time*'.

The first recorded participation in a cricket match by a team from Englefield was in August 1858 when they played against a team from Aldermaston Wharf in a meadow near the Three Kings, Jack's Booth (presumably the present cricket ground) and lost by the heavy margin of an innings and 72 runs. The first recorded match by an Englefield Cricket Club as such was on 8<sup>th</sup> June 1864 against Bradfield when the Reading Mercury commented '*The game of cricket was somewhat of a novelty to many of the Englefield players, yet they proved too strong for their experienced opponents.*'.

In the 1914 season the coming war seems to have affected people all round for after a '*very pleasant game*' against Bucklebury Fireside on May 9<sup>th</sup> (Englefield won) there was a '*little unpleasantness*' at the end of the next match, against Mortimer (a tie), although it was '*amicably overcome*'. Things then got worse for the next match, against Basildon, was played in very bad weather with the Englefield team waiting nearly an hour at the ground before the home side turned up. The Rev Phillips, playing for Basildon, told the Englefield captain that '*Englefield were no sportsmen; and after being bowled by Vince, he walked off the field without even saying good-day*'. The penultimate completed match of peacetime on August 1<sup>st</sup> (one against Whitchurch the following day had to be abandoned because of rain) was against Mr Tyser's team at Oakfield near Mortimer and was a '*very pleasant*' one, although Englefield captain Mr H A Benyon '*...did his very best to hurry up the Oakfield team as it only wanted one minute to the time for drawing stumps, the Oakfield team not recognising any allowance for the twenty minutes our team was out in the field in the wet*'.

The First World War in Englefield was bookended by cricket matches. The one on the literal eve of the war, August Bank Holiday 1914, with several of the players no doubt already under notice for mobilisation, was the annual fixture between a side from the House and Gardens and one from the Timber Yard but the next match to be played, on Whit Monday 1919, was a different matter. Against the 'old enemy' Theale, the result was expected to be a foregone conclusion, with Theale having scoured the area to put together a seemingly invincible team. Nevertheless, Englefield won when the Theale side (with 5 wickets in hand) was still 16 runs short of the required total of 143 when the time came for stumps to be drawn.

Richard Smith

## Bradfield Young Farmers Club

Club success at the Country Fayre was followed up with a celebration BBQ and a programme of meetings to keep the members busy. We visited Chiltern Rifle Club for an evening of target practice; a walk over the Downs to the Bell in Aldworth for a drink; and we hosted the Berks Country Spotters competition. The club joined with Shefford YFC for a Farm visit and talk at Rookery Farms, Curridge. Dan Willis is a well-known local contractor and opened up his farm and machinery to Club members. The real focus of the last few weeks was preparation for the National Finals which took place in Stafford in July. All our members excelled in their performances. It is astounding that one Club manages to have this array of talent in its membership, and whilst we were simply proud to just be there, to have the Speaking team achieve second place in the National finals was a particularly joyous moment that we will all savour. We are very proud of all our members who have achieved so many amazing things this year.

*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.*

## 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.

[Jesus] told them, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest fields. Go! I am sending you out like lambs among wolves.' (Luke 10 v 2-3)

What do we think of, when we look at the non-Christian world around us? Have we been persuaded by our relativistic culture that there is no real significance between the different belief systems we see, and no difference in the ultimate destiny of all their different adherents? The picture Jesus paints as he sends out his seventy-two followers in this passage is that of a harvest field. The clear implication is that the world, rather than being a wilderness without purpose, is more like a field deliberately sown with a crop which the farmer wishes to bring in. God wants to bring people into his kingdom, under the reign of his king, Jesus. There is an abundant crop – no shortage of people he wants to bring in – but there are not many workers who are involved in the harvesting. We are to ask him to provide more workers, to get more people involved in the task of proclaiming the good news about Jesus and the rescue he offers. But as well as asking God to raise up more workers, Jesus wants his followers to do the work of the harvest themselves as well. His emphatic 'Go!' is immediately followed by a warning that the world will be full of hostility towards Jesus and

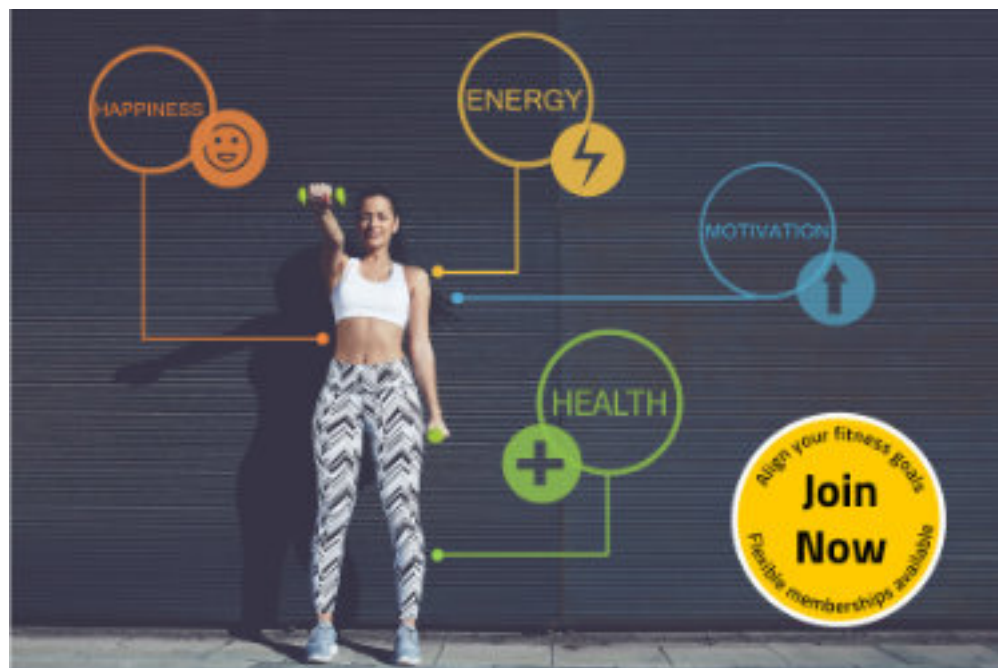


his messengers. The work is of utmost importance, but it will not be easy. If we try to do it in our own strength we will quickly falter. Success will depend on our leaning on the Lord of the harvest – when we pray that he will send workers out into the harvest field, we are praying not just for others but for ourselves to be raised up and equipped for the task.

Still another said, 'I will follow you, Lord, but first let me go back and say goodbye to my family.' Jesus replied, 'No-one who puts a hand to the plough and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God.' (Luke 9 v 61-62)

Following Jesus means putting him first, and making him the top priority in our lives. There is no higher priority than him in the lives of his followers; everything else is subordinate. Our culture is one of a marketplace of ideas, which can lead us to slip into a 'pick-and-mix' type of Christianity – we selectively take the parts we find comfortable, and leave the ones we find too challenging. This compromised form of belief puts Jesus on a par with other things in life; there are some areas of our lives where we are happy to do what he says, and others where we prefer to listen to other voices such as those of work, friends, or family. Here Jesus warns against such compromise, using stark words to highlight the importance of putting him centre stage. It is not that Jesus is criticising or demeaning family relationships; in other places he is clear that these are very important (eg Mark 7:9-13). He is speaking here in hyperbole to make his point – next to loving him, all other loves should pale by comparison. Following Jesus half-heartedly is not really following him at all, he says. If there is something else in our lives which is holding us back from following Jesus wholeheartedly, we need to identify it and cut it out. Only then will we find we can be fully effective in helping to build God's kingdom.





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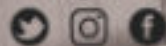
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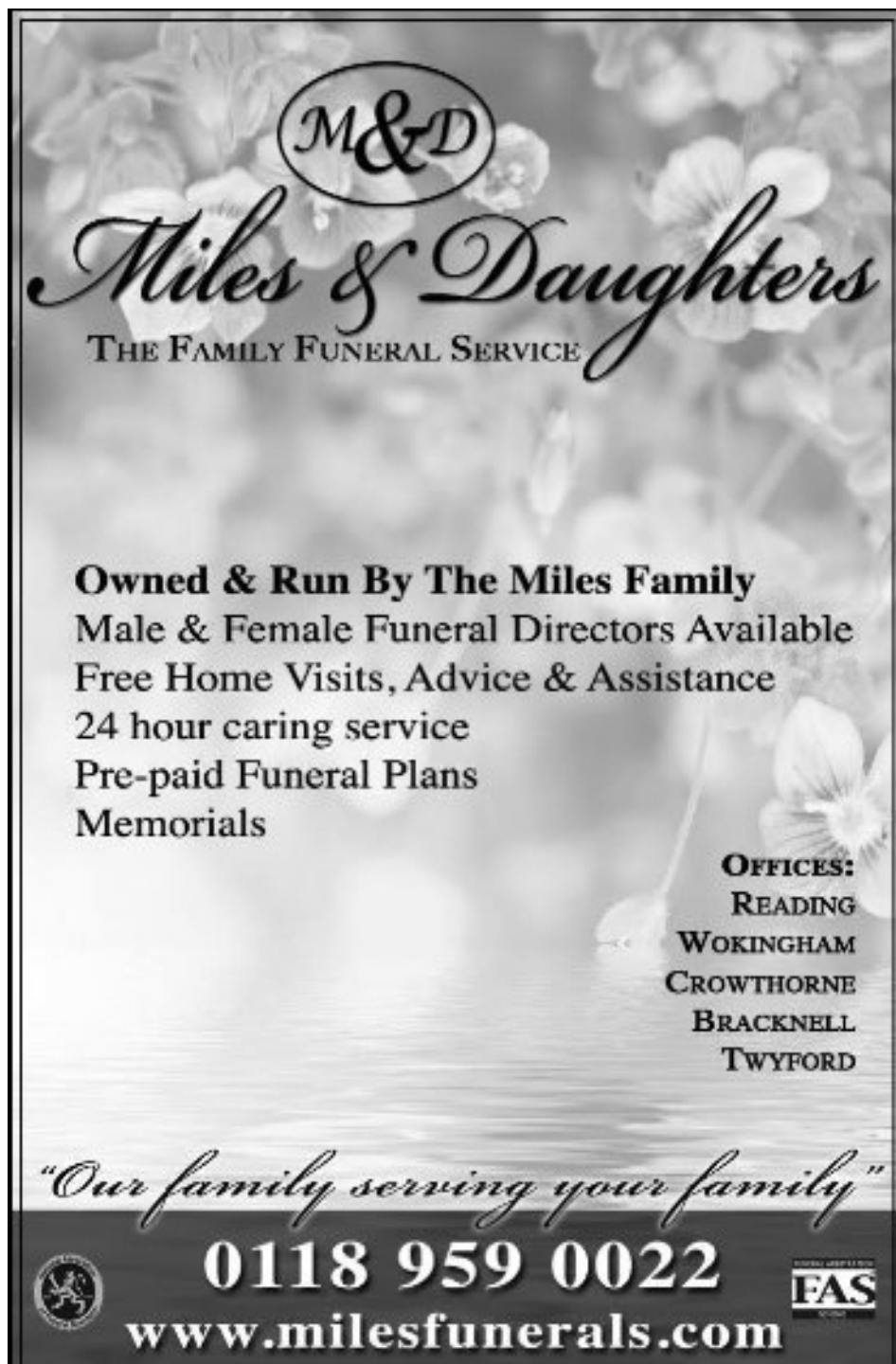
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Green and Yellow Camp ⌚ 0900 - 1600 ₤ £60/Day

Week 2: Tues 19th - Fri 22nd April

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