

December 2021 - January 2022

Englefield Parish News



The Parish of St Mark's, Englefield

Rector

The Reverend Nicholas Wynne-Jones nwwj@stmarksenglefield.org.uk
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0118 9714536

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Richard Smith 0118 9833258

Parish Council

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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: *A Christmas wreath by Harrison & Green, the florists leading Ufton Court's wreath-making workshops, more details of these and other local workshops on page 14.*

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

From St Mark's House

Dear friends

In St Mark's we've been reading a great love story – and much more. Ruth was from the country of Moab where she met and married her husband who had moved there during a time of famine in his homeland, Judah. After about ten years her husband died and, when news came that Judah had once more yielded a harvest, she determined to accompany her mother-in-law to her home town, Bethlehem, for she had a deep commitment to her God. Ruth was a Moabite woman who had no natural claim to relationship with God: she was an outsider, a stranger who, by God's mysterious plan and amazing grace, became an heir of His promises, part of Jesus' family tree. Her story is in the short Biblical book named after her.

Her life reveals God's care for the alien and stranger – as is well documented in dozens of Biblical references - giving much to ponder in today's crises. More than that, it reveals God's love for us, for we are 'aliens', without hope and without God in the world. But God so loves us that he sent his Son, Jesus, to bring us back into his family and enjoy the riches of life in all its fullness with him. That is the divine romance that we celebrate each Christmas as we sing *O little town of Bethlehem*.

Christmas is a time to rejoice in the unchanging nature of God. His love for us stretches back to eternity and was embodied in time. God sent his only Son, full of grace and truth, to give us a future and a hope. The New Year looks to the future; it rapidly changes gear, and our world is changing in fundamental ways. We should be concerned not just for our climate but our culture, both of which are 'overheating'. Speaking last month to the governing body of the Church of England, Her Majesty the Queen said:

None of us can slow the passage of time; and while we often focus on all that has changed in the intervening years, much remains unchanged, including the Gospel of Christ and his teachings. The list of tasks facing [us] may sound familiar to many But one stands out supreme: 'to bring the people of this country to the knowledge and the love of God'.

That is the Great Commission of which we are part, to go to all nations. God uses ordinary people and unexpected agents to bring about his purposes, as Ruth reminds us. God's sights are far wider than just the people of Israel: His grace spreads beyond the borders of one nation and embraces all the nations on earth. And now the nations are coming to us! that there may be people from every tribe, tongue and nation worshipping the Lord:

O little town of Bethlehem how still we see thee lie!
The hope and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

Happy Christmas and New Year

Nick and Harriet

Diary dates

Englefield School Christmas Fayre and Market: Friday 3rd December, 3.30-5.30.

Carols by Candlelight at St Mark's, Sunday 19th December at 4pm, followed by mulled wine and mince pies.

Time to Pray: Monday 6th and 20th December and Monday 3rd and 17th January, 6pm to 6.30pm, at St Mark's House, prayer, Bible readings and reflection.

West Berkshire Mobile Library: Wednesday 1st and 22nd December and 12th January, at the Old Fire Station Nursery, Englefield, 2pm to 2.25pm.

Let's Talk Theology: Wednesday 8th December, 3.30pm, contact Carol Boulter to be added to the mailing list.

PCC meeting: Monday 24th January.

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/

Englefield Parish Council

www.englefieldpc.org.uk/

Theale Parish Council

www.thealeparishcouncil.gov.uk

Englefield Primary School

0118 9302 337

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

Congratulations

To Thomas Benyon and Rose Eden on their engagement.

To Michael Thomas and Ann Clark who were married on Friday 15th October.

To Ian Perkins who completed a 10 mile sponsored Memory Walk on September 25th raising over £2,300 for the Alzheimer's Society.

Baptism

Edward Thomson, on Sunday 7th November.

Benjamin Simpson, on Sunday 28th November.

All change at the Village Stores

More than 50 friends and neighbours gathered in the Village Hall to say a heartfelt thank you to Laura and Andy Allen for their 15 years of service and support to our small community running Englefield Stores and Tea Rooms. This was summed up in speeches by Richard Benyon and Dinah Perkins. As was officially recognised during the covid pandemic, they have been true community champions. We wish the family every happiness in their new home.



Thank you to everyone who supported this happy event with generous donations, making and baking but especially Englefield Parish Council, Dinah Perkins, Sara Ward and Lynn Dennison.

Discussions with Laura and Andy's successors are well advanced and Laura has very kindly agreed to continue running the shop until the end of the year in the meantime. The refurbishment of the house will take some months to complete, but it is hoped that the new occupiers, who live not too far away, will take on the shop and tea room in January and will move into the village during the spring of next year.

Edward Crookes

RIP Gloria Sleep

In 1996 my parents were looking for someone who might fill several roles. They wanted someone who could do some secretarial work, someone to oversee things at the house and to cover other responsibilities. A telephone call to my mother expressing interest in the job, in that wonderful distinctive voice, led to someone coming to Englefield who has enriched all our lives in a way far greater than we could ever have imagined from the boundaries of her original job.



Gloria was a child of Empire and had an interesting life, part of which was holding down the most demanding of jobs working for President Kaunda. But she adapted to life in the UK and for many years lived in a flat in the house. At the same time as fulfilling her multiple roles in the house she was more-or-less a full-on carer for Clifford who had been stricken by a stroke.

After Clifford died, she continued to work at the house for the next 18 years, overseeing events, pouring oil on any troubled waters and being a wonderful support to my parents. And in doing so becoming a part of our family and an extraordinary force for good in this village. There are many friends from Englefield here, my mother included. Gloria was with her in Scotland this August, as in every year. When I heard that Gloria was coming home early for some tests I didn't worry because there was something indestructible about her. But of course, no one is.

Gloria loved this church. It was part of her weekend routine. She was an active member of this congregation. She would involve herself in much more than just Sunday services. She was very much committed to the Englefield Schools Days when she would be here to talk to the children, many of whom had never been in a church before. She was always good for a chat after a service. Sometimes Africa gossip, perhaps news of someone in the village who needed help. Perhaps to give me her views on politics – with which I made sure I always agreed.

Also, part of her weekend routine would be having her great grandson Alfie to stay. He would spend Saturdays with his Granna riding his bike up and down and playing with the other children in the village, with them coming in and out of her house with an ever-present biscuit tin for them to enjoy. They were welcome to do almost anything as long as they didn't touch her beloved roses. She was super-proud of them, even winning a prize at the Flower Show, which she valued greater than her many other more prominent achievements.

Renee described Gloria's years at Partridge Gardens as some of the best years of her life. She had a close-knit group of friends with whom she exercised, chatted, knitted (her knitting circle used to meet at Norah Allen's house and was as much about chatting as it was about knitting).

Her friendship with Kenneth Kaunda (or KK as he was known) persisted. I can remember meeting them in the garden at Englefield chatting away like the old friends they were. She was sad not to be in Zambia for KK's funeral. It would have been a wonderful occasion for her to give someone a few home truths. The hapless UK Government Foreign Minister they sent to the funeral, maybe because of a poor flight, arrived at the funeral in Lusaka, Zambia and said, 'I weep with everyone in Zimbabwe'. Gloria told me this with a mixture of amusement and disgust.

Gloria was a prolific texter. After she died I looked through the many texts I received from her. She was usually first to acknowledge a birthday or some good family news. Her work in the Duchess of Kent Hospice very often gave us the first news of the death of someone we both knew. Often her messages were amusing, slightly irreverent but like her, were never harsh. Working at the Hospice was something she loved, and I know she was loved by the amazing team there. It is fitting that the family want donations today to go to the Hospice.

I know she had a very close loving relationship with her family and I hope they will forgive me if I concentrate my concluding remarks on one of them. Alfie. We here in this village saw the special relationship that you and she had. Alfie, you are smart enough to have worked out that your Granna was not just fun, full of stories and kind. But also wise. In the many years that lie ahead she would want you to fulfill your dreams and use your talents. But all parents, grandparents and great-grandparents want that. But here's a way of making sure she is always with you: from time-to-time life will throw up bumps in the road. When that happens just ask yourself one thing, 'what would Granna do?/what would Gloria do?'. If the answer comes to you, follow it because it will nearly always be right.

Richard Benyon

Thank you from the family

We would just like to say how grateful we all are for Englefield, every part and person in the village really made us realise what a special place it is. Thank you to everyone, from the Village Stores and Partridge Gardens to the Estate Yard to the House for making the saddest day seem somehow wonderful. The flowers in the church were beautiful - thank you to Lady Benyon and the team who did the most amazing job making the church look and feel just right. And to everyone at the House that helped making teas and coffees and of course to Richard and Zoe for opening their home for the day. We would like to thank each and everyone of you. Gloria will miss Englefield and I know Englefield will miss her.

Renee and the family



Christmas at the Garden Centre

Well the festive time of year is now upon us. Our Christmas trees are now ready for sale and we have a mixed selection of wreaths handmade and decorated at the garden centre for you to choose from, as well as a colourful mixture of poinsettias in various price brackets. We will also have a selection of indoor planted containers and hyacinth baskets. Moving swiftly on to January we are due delivery of our seed potatoes in the second week of January. Why not follow us on

Facebook to keep yourself updated. We would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and, once again, thank you for your custom.

Austin Crabbe, Garden Centre Manager

Goodbye and thank you!

We would like to express our huge appreciation for the friendships we have built and the great times we have enjoyed as part of the community over the last seven years. It feels like only five minutes ago that we arrived in Englefield, however seven years on and two noisy boys later, we are excited, but also sad, to be moving to pastures new. Thanks to everyone who has made our stay at Englefield so much fun and who have supported us along the way. We look forward to visiting in the future and keeping in touch. Best wishes

James, Kerry, Henry and Jack Holbrook-Bull

RIP

Gloria Sleep who died on Friday 1st October and whose funeral was held at St Mark's on Friday 5th November.

Anthea Laing who died on 27th September and whose funeral was held on Friday 15th October at Great Bedwyn.

Philip Wellesley Davies who died on 2nd October and whose funeral took place at West Berkshire Crematorium on Wednesday 20th October.

Elizabeth (Betty) Mills, Liz Marillier's mother, who died on Monday 1st November.

John Simmons whose funeral is at St Mark's on Monday 6th December at 2pm.

Warren Taylor, for many years a faithful member of St Mark's choir, who died on Sunday 24th October.

Christmas at Cobbs

Our priority is to source the best quality ingredients from ethical producers who share our values. We buy our award-winning, free-range turkeys from Peach Croft Farm, Oxford - a family we have worked with for over five years. We source our 28-day dry-aged beef from surrounding Berkshire and Hampshire farms and our succulent free-range pork comes from the South Downs. All this, plus the all-important Christmas trimmings, plus seasonal cheeses from our deli counter, are available to order now. Please place your orders by Sunday 12th December.



The team at Cobbs

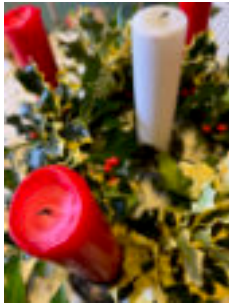
Village Fete and Flower Show AGM

The Village Fete and Flower Show AGM took place on Thursday 18th November 2021 at the Englefield Village Hall.

Glowing reports were received from the Chairman, Administrator and School PTA. Beyond an enjoyable and successful community event and competitive Flower Show, the increased footfall was reflected by profits for both contributing sections of the committee. Profits that go some way to making up for the missed fundraising in 2020.

The committee is very pleased to have persuaded Mark Postles to remain as Chair for another year alongside Chris Gittins as Administrator. We would also be delighted to hear from anybody who could help support with any of the aspects of the show itself – new volunteers are always welcome and essential to ensure the future success of this community event. If you can offer some time and support please contact Mark Postles on 07551 981587.

After some lengthy discussion it was decided to continue with the more autumnal date for the show. **The 2022 Englefield Village Fete and Flower Show will be held on Saturday 10th September 2022.**



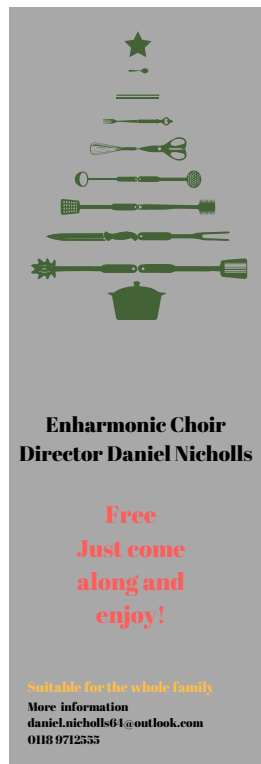
Christmas at St Mark's

Carols by Candlelight, the traditional service of carols and readings, with organist Daniel Nicholls and members of the Enharmonic Choir, will be held this year on Sunday 19th December, starting at 4pm, followed by mulled wine and mince pies.

Every Sunday throughout Advent the children of the Sunday School light the candles on the Advent ring, shown here, which they helped to decorate with holly and ivy.

There will be a family service with carols and communion at 10.30 on Christmas morning, but no service on Sunday 26th December. For anyone wishing to attend a midnight service, there is a Christmas Eve Midnight service at Holy Trinity Church in Theale starting at 11.30pm. Booking is essential: <https://www.holytrinitytheale.org.uk/christmas/>.

The Christingle service will be held to celebrate the season of Epiphany in the New Year, please see the bulletin and the church website for more details.



Join us for
Messiah and More
in
One Hour

Sunday
5th December
7pm
St Mary's
Church
Bucklebury

Arrive early for refreshments



A busy time in the Village Hall!

We've had lots of children's parties with various themes, magicians, princesses, Lego making, and more booked over the next few months! We also hosted Andy and Laura's leaving do and the hall really did feel like a community venue. We also had a christening a couple of weeks ago, and the hall looked spectacular. Little Teddy had a lovely celebratory brunch including a chocolate fountain!

We now have a few re-occurring bookings which is great. The Five A Day market garden are hosting their Rhyme time in the hall over the winter months and we also have a yoga class three times a week (see www.movemindandbody.co.uk/ for details). Also, to get us into the Christmas spirit on Saturday 4th December there is a wreath making class, please email wildbloombyella@gmail.com for more details.

We are hoping to get some more re-occurring bookings, so spread the word and if anyone knows anyone looking for a venue to host their Pilates, art, toddler/baby groups, gardening classes or anything else please point them in our direction.

Or if anyone would like to get involved and run a community event or class.. fish and chip supper anyone? Please get in touch. We'd love to get more community driven activities going! Our website is nearly ready and in the meantime please follow us on instagram [@englefieldvillagehall](https://www.instagram.com/englefieldvillagehall/)!

Lynn (07900 405438) Committee Chair



Filming at Englefield

Earlier in the autumn, scenes for the DC Comics drama *Pennyworth* were filmed in the library at Englefield House (shown here set up for the shoot). The Warner Bros series tells the story of Alfred Pennyworth prior to him becoming the butler for Bruce Wayne (alias 'Batman'). Alfred was formerly a special forces soldier in the

British military who initially worked for Bruce Wayne's father, Thomas Wayne, in 1960s London. The American television series on HBO max features English actor Ben Aldridge and also singer, songwriter and actress Paloma Faith.

Peter Carson, Events Manager



News from Five a Day

There has been so much activity in the garden this autumn. We've welcomed corporate volunteers from Vodafone and Sage, in addition to our regular volunteers. Collectively they've worked really hard both gardening, but also carrying out some of the more structural work such as fixing raised beds, mending the rather worn out roof on the pergola and all-important rabbit-proofing. Such important jobs that make a difference to the overall function of the garden. A mild autumn has resulted in continuous grass and weed growth which has kept us busy alongside soil improvement and getting a head start on next years' crops including garlic, onions, spring bulbs and sweet peas.

We were thrilled to award four long service awards to our lovely volunteers: Isabel, Christine, Heather and Debs, who have clocked up many years of volunteering at Five a Day between them. Thank you for all you have done.

Produce sales have now come to a seasonal end but willow rings and stars will be available to buy from the pagoda at the Garden Centre from early December. We are really excited to be running our ever-popular Christmas wreath making workshops again this year, so we're busy preparing for that. Bookings for these events are at record levels which is fabulous.

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

Hannah Fraser, Five a Day committee member



From Rushall Farm

'May your word to me be fulfilled'

My granddaughter Summer, aged six, has just started at a new school. We were looking after her and her sister Olivia in Eastbourne last week while parents were away hosting a conference in Peterborough. Picking her up on the first day back after half term she announced that she was to play Angel Gabriel in her nativity play. Most of us may have been a humble shepherd or more likely a sheep BUT to get the main speaking part in the Christmas story? She could be off to the West End next with this as her big break. So to get her ready for this important role I read the account in Luke chapter 1 of what happened when Gabriel visited Mary.

'God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favoured! The Lord is with you."

'Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favour with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

"How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

'The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So, the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. For no word from God will ever fail."

"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her.'

Not a bad prayer for the young teenager Mary with all the consequences, for six-year-old Summer or for all of us as we enter into Christmas and a New Year.

'May your word to me be fulfilled.'



John Bishop
www.rushallfarm.org.uk



From Englefield Primary School

'Sowing the Seeds for a Flourishing Future'

We are absolutely delighted with how well our new pupils have settled in to Mrs Sheppard's class. There have been very few wobbles and there is lovely learning buzz in the room and they are definitely flourishing! When they came up to their first Celebration Assembly, they each received a certificate for settling in well. A huge thank you to our school community for showing love and kindness towards them all.

As Year 5 and 6 pupils missed their usual swimming slots in Years 3 and 4 due to covid restrictions, we put on a special sequence of lessons this term to ensure they are all up to the required standard before they leave us. Nine Year 6 pupils also passed Levels 1 and 2 Bikeability which means they are confident to cycle safely on the road. Thank you to West Berkshire Council who deliver this essential provision in schools in readiness for the move to secondary school.



Our Harvest Festival was a beautiful service in St Mark's, thanks to Reverend Nick. Sadly our parents weren't able to join us. The donated tinned and packet goods went to the Food Bank at New Beginnings in Reading. The staff at the charity were delighted with, and grateful for, the donations. Well done to the small choir who joined me at the usual Sunday Harvest service at St Mark's. They sang their hearts out and their presence was most appreciated by the congregation. So nice to bring a bit of 'singing joy' into people's lives at the moment.

As part of our Black History Week, each class learned about black people from the past and present who have shown courage in standing up for equal rights for all people around the world. Key Stage 1 found about Jamaican nurse, Mary Seacole, who bravely served in the Crimea at the same time as Florence Nightingale. Years 3 and 4 learned about modern black heroes such as Marcus Rashford, whose recent campaigning led to much better provision for children. Finally, Years 5 and 6 researched the life of the great campaigner for freedom, Nelson Mandela. Let's hope that learning about all of these heroes has a lasting impact on our children.

It was so lovely to welcome back drum and bass duo, Bassistry Arts. They gave each class a fantastic workshop, learning rhythms and songs which were then

performed to the whole school in an assembly at the end of the day...we certainly showed Love of Life that day! Such a shame not to have the hall packed with parents but hopefully next year...

Showing Love of Others is one of our school values and we take our charitable work very seriously. This term we raised money for Jeans for Genes and for Children in Need. The children came in dressed as everything from robots to a bag of popcorn!



Our Santa Fun Run will be held on the Englefield Drive on Friday 3rd December. We have decided that the funds raised from sponsorship will go to a cause very close to our hearts. Ruby, the sister of one of our new pupils, needs some medical treatment which can only be accessed abroad. We want to help her family with this. If you would like to read her story please use the following link: <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/rubyrocks>

On Friday 3rd December at 3.30pm we will be having our Christmas Fayre and Market outside at the front of the school. Please do come and join us for games, festive market stalls, a grand raffle and festive refreshments. We look forward to seeing you there!

Wishing everyone in our local community a very happy Christmas and a joyous New Year.

Hilary Latimer, Headteacher



Come and join our Christmas Fayre & Market



Friday 3rd December 3.30 – 5.30pm

Thank you

A big thank you to all who phoned, sent cards and messages to Graham over his stay in hospital, through pneumonia and pleurisy. He is much improved.

We have joined the special club of Great Grandparents as Holly Davies, our granddaughter, and her fiance Paul had a baby boy, George Arthur, on 13th October - a third great grandchild for Mick and Valerie. We are pleased to say that mum and son are doing very well.

Liz Reeves

Christmas wreath making

Workshops at the Five A Day Market Garden are being held on Friday 3rd, Saturday 4th and Sunday 5th December, and on Friday 10th, Saturday 11th and Sunday 12th December, two sessions available on each day, 10am-12 noon and 1pm-3pm (no afternoon session on 5th December). Taught by the Five A Day team, using coloured willow like the gold one shown here and a variety of foliage, plus ribbons and other materials, the sessions take place outside in the garden and in the polytunnels, gazebo and pergola. £20 per person, payment requested in cash on the day, email 5adayevents@gmail.com to book a place.



For details of the wreath making workshop in the Village Hall on Saturday 4th December please email wildbloombyella@gmail.com.

Ufton Court's Christmas wreath making workshops are on Monday 13th December. The evening session is sold out but at the time of writing there are still spaces in the morning. The Tithe Barn will be open for refreshments from 9.30am and session will run from 10am until about 12.30. It will be led by Karen and the team from Harrison & Green (see the front cover of this issue) and the session costs £45 per person, all proceeds going to Ufton Adventure. Book via the Ufton website uftoncourt.co.uk/wreath/.

Cobbs at Englefield is offering an evening workshop led by Cobbs florist, Sarah Styles, on Thursday 9th December from 7pm-9.30pm. Tickets are £60 a head, including mulled wine and mince pies and booking is essential, 07464 098325.

Festive planning at the Old Fire Station

We are in full swing with festive planning and have now excitedly booked the annual children's Christmas party to be held in the new village hall. We would like to thank our families and children for a wonderful year despite the ups and downs of the pandemic. I would like to personally thank the team here for working hard and ensuring the children in our care are happy, healthy and learning every day. Englefield Village offers us many opportunities for outdoor learning and the local people we meet each day are fantastic. If you think you have a specific skill or talent that the children may enjoy and learn from then please do get in touch. Recently we enjoyed a visit from a local farmer and her goats which the children enjoyed feeding. If you are interested in information for September 2022 then please get in touch: sophie@theoldfirestationnursery.co.uk.

The Old Fire Station Nursery

Bradfield Young Farmers Club

It was great to be able to host our annual AGM in October back at Milehouse Farm rather than on Zoom. Also in October, our older members enjoyed a fun night at the Berkshire County Ball, a great opportunity to catch up with other senior members from the county. Bradfield hosted the County Harvest Festival at The Black Barns at Rushall Farm. A massive thank you to John Bishop for leading the service and organising the Rogation style farm visit. Tea and cake afterwards raised £136 for Macmillan Cancer Care. Harvest donations were taken to West Berks Food Bank. Halloween saw our members return to Rushall Farm for a spooky night walk through the woods with ambushes, scary masks, genuine hooting owls, and roasting marshmallows by the campfire.

For more information on Bradfield YFC find us on Facebook



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

Date	Sidesman	First reading	Gospel reading	Prayers	Sacristan	Server	Sunday School	Cleaners
November 28th Advent Sunday	Denny Hollands	Ron Marillier 1 Thessalonians 3:9-end	Denny Hollands Luke 21:25-36	Harriet Wynne-Jones	Sue Smith	Denny Hollands	Melanie Townsend	Peter and Catherine Haig
December 5th 2nd Sunday of Advent	Peter Haig	James Bamforth Philippians 1:3-11	Penny Savage Luke 3:1-6	BCP	Catherine Haig	Torquil MJ	Melanie Townsend	Pete and Carole Ford
December 12th 3rd Sunday of Advent	Penny Savage	Stephanie Gibbons Philippians 4:4-7	Ronan O'Sullivan Luke 3:7-18	Paula Fenwick	Denny Hollands	Paula Fenwick	Saffy O'Sullivan	Saffy O'Sullivan Harriet Wynne-Jones
December 19th 4th Sunday of Advent	Catherine Haig	Harriet Wynne-Jones Hebrews 10:5-10	Aldo Guiducci Luke 1:39-45	Penny Savage	Sue Smith	Melanie Townsend	Saffy O'Sullivan	Peter and Catherine Haig
December 25th Christmas Day	Denny Hollands	Paula Fenwick Isaiah 9:2-7	Richard Benyon Luke 2:8-20	Ron Marillier	Penny Norris	Peter Haig Torquil MJ	VESTRY OPEN	ALL HELP WELCOME
December 26th	NO	SERVICE						
January 2nd 2nd Sunday of Christmas BCP	Penny Savage	Carole Ford Ephesians 1:3-14	Peter Haig John 1:10-18	BCP	Penny Savage	Denny Hollands	Saffy O'Sullivan	Pete and Carole Ford
January 9th Epiphany	Linda Price	Denny Hollands Acts 8:14-17	Dudley Fishburn Luke 3:15-17,21-22	Denny Hollands	Catherine Haig	Torquil MJ	Saffy O'Sullivan	Saffy O'Sullivan Harriet Wynne-Jones
January 16th 2nd Sunday of Epiphany	Denny Hollands	James Bamforth 1 Corinthians 12:1-11	Ronan O'Sullivan John 2:1-11	Linda Price	Denny Hollands	Paula Fenwick	Saffy O'Sullivan	Peter and Catherine Haig
January 23rd 3rd Sunday of Epiphany	Peter Haig	Kahlen Spaulding 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a	Torquil MJ Luke 4:14-21	Richard Benyon	Penny Norris	Saffy O'Sullivan	Saffy O'Sullivan	Pete and Carole Ford
January 30th Candlemas	Penny Savage	Harriet WJ 1 Corinthians 13	Carol Boulter Luke 2:22-40	Paula Fenwick	Penny Savage	Peter Haig	Saffy O'Sullivan	Saffy O'Sullivan Harriet Wynne-Jones
February 6th 4th Sunday before Lent BCP	Catherine Haig	Lorraine Dehn 1 Corinthians 15:1-11	Paula Fenwick Luke 5:1-11	BCP	Sue Smith	Denny Hollands	Saffy O'Sullivan	Peter and Catherine Haig
February 13th 3rd Sunday before Lent	Linda Price	Carole Ford 1 Corinthians 15:12-20	Aldo Guiducci Luke 6:17-26	Ron Marillier	Catherine Haig	Torquil MJ	Saffy O'Sullivan	Pete and Carole Ford

Please send prayer requests to Nick Wynne-Jones. If you have swapped duties or need to make a change please contact Saffy O'Sullivan (saffyosullivan@gmail.com) and the churchwardens.



Remembrance Sunday

An extract from the talk given by Major General (retired) Tim Cross CBE at the service of remembrance at St Mark's.

All over the world millions of men, women and children, will gather together today for a Service of Remembrance. Our commemorations can, if we are not careful, take on a rather dispassionate, cool approach but the essential fact of war, what needs to be remembered above all else, is death, merciless and brutal, spreading across Europe and the world.

I found these words on the headstone of a 23-year-old private in the Leicestershire Regt, in the military cemetery near Changai in Singapore, from his loving mother: *'Sleep on Dear Son In a far-off Land In a grave I will never see'*. On the headstone of a 19-year-old soldier in Bayeux, these words from his parents: *'To the World he was but one of many but to us he was all the World'*. And on another: *'There were others we know But he was ours And we loved him so.'* This is the reality of the awesome statistics, for each headstone represents a personal tragedy; some, however, tell a story between them that is almost too much to bear.

War did not of course stop in 1918; the years since have been just as awful – in some respects more so. Nearly 10 million died, 765,000 of them British, in WW1, yet within 21 years many of that same generation found themselves embroiled in another, even greater, war and this time nearly 55 million died; and there has been only a couple of years since 1945 when a British serviceman has not been killed on operations around the world. Since 1996 the British Army has been deployed on over half-a-dozen operations, including most recently of course to Afghanistan and Iraq – where many hundreds have died or been wounded in action, many very badly – I remember visiting one of my officers lying in a Birmingham hospital with one arm and one leg blown off, and the second leg in danger of being amputated.

So, what then does Remembrance Sunday amount to amongst such suffering, amongst the continuing carnage of war, amongst such catalogues of human misery? Why bother, we may ask, to remember when we know that there will be other wars, further genocides? Not surprisingly I think it amounts to something very important.

The most common form of remembrance follows personal loss – and for many today this and every Remembrance Sunday is a very personal day. But collectively we undertake an act of remembrance for those to whom we are not related, do not know personally, but who have lost their lives in some general cause or great disaster. We are all touched in some way or other by remembering the dead of the Great Wars, or the victims of the Holocaust, or the terrible events of September 11th. For the survivors and the relatives of those who have died the memory is more acute, more personal, more searing – but the magnitude of what

has happened produces a collective, not just individual sense of loss and suffering. But whilst this is certainly one important reason why we should remember, on its own it is not enough. In the Hebrew tongue *to remember* means more than just recounting such events and facts, tragic and important as they are. The song, *Ruby Tuesday* by the Rolling Stones says, *'Yesterday don't matter if its gone...'* – this tends to be our approach; we try to put the past behind us, but the Bible acknowledges that yesterday is important, and it couples *Remembering* first with *Thanksgiving*, constantly underlining that a true man of faith not only remembers but returns to give thanks, whilst unbelievers have short and ungrateful memories – and that applies to nations as well as to individuals.

And remembering also carries with it the intention of learning from the past, bringing the lessons into the present and then carrying them with us into the future. That intent is twofold. First to help produce a better future – a collective resolve to do better, a determination to ensure that the evil that is past will not recur easily. Secondly to give us individual resolve as we face up to the future crises and conflicts in our own lives, which we know will occur.

Now there are of course many lessons we can learn from the events we remember today. I would offer just two. First, we must not take the freedom and democracy we enjoy today for granted. The Berlin Wall may have come down but sadly the heart of man has not, and will not, change. My recent experiences, dealing with the tens of thousands of refugees forced out of Kosovo by Milosevic and his cronies, along with the ravages of Saddam Hussein in Iraq, are but more recent examples of that. Since the start of recorded history there have been perhaps 270 years of worldwide peace – 270 out of 3,500. Can we really believe, indeed have we any right to believe that this will change? The Bible certainly does not promise that the world will somehow evolve into a better place, indeed the reverse is true.

'When you hear of wars and rumours of wars do not be alarmed for these must happen' (Matt 24 v 6-7). Not until the return of the Lord Himself will we see war finally overcome. Why? Because we live in a fallen world with one central and major problem. You may remember that famous letter sent to *The Times* during the debate on what was wrong with the world. I think it was G.K. Chesterton who wrote the simple reply, 'I am'. As Paul reminds us in his letter to the church in Rome: 'All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God'.

Secondly, peace is not just an absence of war. As a soldier for over 30 years, I have faced the reality of war breaking out around me, and experienced its effects – the bitterness of religious bigotry and division in N Ireland; ethnic division and hatred in Cyprus and across the Balkans; and oppression and barbarism in Iraq, twice in 12 years.

I have seen pretty awful things in these conflicts, and have experienced the pain of loss. But too, throughout this time, I've come to understand that peace is not an absence of war, nor is it about a pain or crisis-free life.

Jesus Christ said many things about peace – but not once did he associate it with the world as a whole but rather with an individual and inner, spiritual peace. ‘I have told you these things so that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have trouble, but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world’ (John 16 v 33). Jesus’s peace is a peace that the world cannot give, indeed largely does not understand – Remembrance Sunday should serve as a reminder of that too.

Finally, Remembrance Sunday is of course epitomised by the poppy. At the 2nd Battle of Ypres in 1915, during a short lull in the battle, a Canadian Colonel called John McCrae, in peacetime a professor of medicine at the great Canadian University of McGill, wrote in pencil on a page torn from his dispatch book the words of his famous poem, *In Flanders Fields the Poppies blow*. In January 1918 Col John McCrae was brought as a stretcher-case himself to one of the big hospitals on the Channel coast of France. The verses were obviously on his mind because he told his doctors: ‘Tell them this - if they break faith with us who die - we shall not sleep’. That same night Col McCrae died. He was buried in a beautiful cemetery on rising ground above Wimereux from where the cliffs of Dover are easily visible on sunny days. The verses he wrote were sent anonymously to *Punch* magazine and published under the title *Flanders Fields*; from them comes the poppies we wear today.

To give one’s life is as much as there is to give - it is the ultimate sacrifice. As Jesus said: ‘Greater love has no man than this, that he should lay down his life for his friends.’ He should know. When we talk about sacrifice, we need to see it in the perspective of a hill outside Jerusalem where God gave his only Son, for you and for me, and for the world. The great reconciliation. In Dusseldorf there used to be a famous painting of the crucifixion on the wall of the Cathedral. As you looked up into the eyes of Christ the words at the base of the painting asked: ‘All this I did for thee What has thou done for me?’ It’s a good question – What’s your answer?

So, it is with the Flanders poppy as our symbol that we remember and return to give thanks for all those who gave their lives for our freedom and for those who suffer still. We pray too for peace and reconciliation; but, if we are wise, we also learn and remember some lessons of the past and carry them with us into our uncertain futures as we leave this church today; for although we may not know what the future holds, we can at least know and trust in Him who holds the future. And when our time comes, we too can say, like the words on the tombstone of a young soldier in the British war cemetery in the northern part of Baghdad: ‘My Duty Done; Labour Ended; Jordan Passed’.



Clerk of the Works

As we have seen, a key appointment made by Richard Benyon when he came to his new estate was that of Agent but an equally vital post, perhaps even more so given the amount of development that was to take place, was that of Clerk of Works. A Clerk of Works today is responsible for ensuring that all work on a construction site is carried out in accordance with the plans and the specifications and all legal, safety and environmental standards but in those days he might also draw up the plans, removing the need for a separate architect.



The first Clerk seems to have been William Rhind, a Scotsman, who came to the estate in the early 1860s when he acted as Clerk of Works on the rebuilding of St Mary’s Church at Stratfield Mortimer. The old church, possibly the fourth on the site, was pulled down in 1866 at a cost of £55 2s 8d. The new one is said by Historic England to have been designed by Richard Armstrong, also from Scotland, who was the architect involved in making changes to Englefield House from 1855. He was also responsible for rebuilding St Peter’s Church at Upton in 1862 in a very similar style. However, the *Berkshire Chronicle* of 4th September 1869 in recording the completion of St Mary’s Church and the presentation of a testimonial to William Rhind, says that ‘the architectural designs of the church were entrusted to and successfully carried out by him’. It is also possible that the distinctive ‘H-plan’ style of Englefield Estate house seen all around the wider area and built between about 1870 and 1892 was his work.

Rhind kept meticulous weekly records of the work at St Mary’s, detailing all the expenditure and showing that over the three years it took to build the church, a total of more than 340 named individuals were employed in different trades, often with 40-45 at work at any one time. Rhind’s accounts show that St Mary’s cost Richard Benyon almost £10,000 in direct costs although the true cost was much more as some things like aggregate, bricks, scaffolding and cartage were supplied from the Estate’s resources. The presence of the Great Western Railway line and Mortimer station (then with a goods yard) was of huge benefit as stone and ironwork could be easily brought from across the country and even from abroad.

Rhind lived in Mortimer while St Mary’s was being built and his first three children (of 13 by 1891) were born there between 1867 and 1871, the third of them being named William Mortimer. By April 1871, however, the family had moved to Englefield for they appear there in the census that year. The house built for the Clerk of Works was Elmfields, shown above, next to the timber yard.

In 1881/2 William Rhind acted as Clerk of Works for Richard Armstrong’s son (also Richard) on the building of a completely new church, St John’s at Mortimer

Common, needed to cope with the local population growth. The church was classified as a 'Chapel of Ease' because it saved people the mile trip to St Mary's, which remained as the parish church. In 1896 St John's was enlarged to cope with an even larger congregation and a new vestry was added at St Mary's. The architect for both was Swinfen Harris, who had already designed the churchyard and lych gate at Englefield in 1894.



William Rhind moved on in 1892 and by the end of November that year, was working on his own account as W Rhind and Son, Builders, in Fulham. He was succeeded in Englefield by Londoner George Roake (shown left). In June 1894 when the fire brigade was formed George Roake became Chief Officer and in December was elected as a member of the first Englefield Civil Parish Council, created by Act of Parliament that year. He was also a churchwarden and member of the Working Men's Club

committee where he was instrumental in the addition of the billiard room and the library, also in 1894. It was George Roake who in 1907 suggested using the old Norman font (found the previous year in a shed on the estate, where it had probably been since 1855) as the central pillar of a table and supervised the work involving the addition of a top and base of oak. The table was placed in the centre of the new choir vestry dedicated in October that year. Only two months later George Roake died and was buried in the churchyard on December 9th.

After the death of George Roake, Harry Stanley Davis, another Yorkshireman, was appointed as Clerk of Works in 1908. In 1911, the Clerk's household, like the Agent's, ran to two live-in servants one a 'general servant' and the other a 'nursemaid-domestic' to look after the couple's four sons. Tragically the four were reduced to one by the end of 1915, four-year-old Edward dying at Englefield of meningitis in 1912 and George and Roland, aged ten and five, from diphtheria in Prestwich, Lancashire, in October 1915, Harry Davis having moved to a new job here earlier that year.

Harry Davis was succeeded in the post by John Bevan, who continued in the post until at least September 1937 but about whom little else is known. Frederick Dry was Clerk of Works by July 1939 when he was congratulated by the King and Queen who particularly admired the fine exhibit, including a panelled fireplace, staged by the estate at the Royal Agricultural Society Centenary Show in Windsor Great Park. During the Second World War he was a member of the Englefield Home Guard. He was the last Clerks of Works, as such, for the estate and when he died in 1967 although his assistant, Mr Cork, stayed for a short while, the job has subsequently been carried out under contract and Elmfields became home to the Agent when the Agency was converted to an office.

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.

May you be richly rewarded by the Lord, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge. (Ruth 2 v 12b)

Following Ruth's courageous decision to forsake her homeland and people to accompany Naomi back to Israel, the hardships of their lives begin to be replaced with a ray of hope. Ruth finds herself working in the fields of a relative of her mother-in-law, a man named Boaz. Boaz is impressed by Ruth's selfless dedication to her mother-in-law, and her willingness to become part of the Israelite people, and so starts to provide generously for them both.

It's interesting to note that Boaz recognises two things about Ruth's situation. As well as blessing her for what she has done (v12a), he also blesses her for her status as one who is taking refuge under God's wings (v12b).

If we have turned away from a life of worldly living, and come instead to live as a member of God's people, there are parallels for us with Ruth's story. Just as Ruth found her life began to be turned around when she abandoned her old way of life to join with Israel, so we too can experience a profound change if we turn away from a life centred on us and begin to follow Jesus. We too can find great reward as we take refuge under the wings of the Lord, the God of Israel, as he reveals himself in Christ.

So Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife. Then he went to her, and the Lord enabled her to conceive, and she gave birth to a son...And they named him Obed. He was the father of Jesse, the father of David.' (Ruth 4v13, 17b)

The story of Ruth is a heartwarming one; from its opening note of tragedy the story unfolds as Ruth's selfless devotion to her mother-in-law and trust in God leads her to find security and love in the kinsman-redeemer Boaz. There are many lessons which can be learnt from it, about trusting in God even in hard circumstances, the importance of integrity and faithfulness, and the wisdom of seeking and taking good advice. But beyond all this, it is important for us to remember that this little story is narrative history about what happened to a small family living in Israel in the days of the judges. Why is that important? The end of Ruth points to a startling fact: this humble widow from Moab is not just blessed by God, but is revealed as the great-grandmother of king David, and so a direct ancestor of Jesus. God works in his world in ways we don't expect, often that can only be comprehended in hindsight. Things which can seem inconsequential to us may have profound impacts on those who come after us, so we should be watchful and attentive to hear God's call and obey him.



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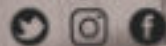
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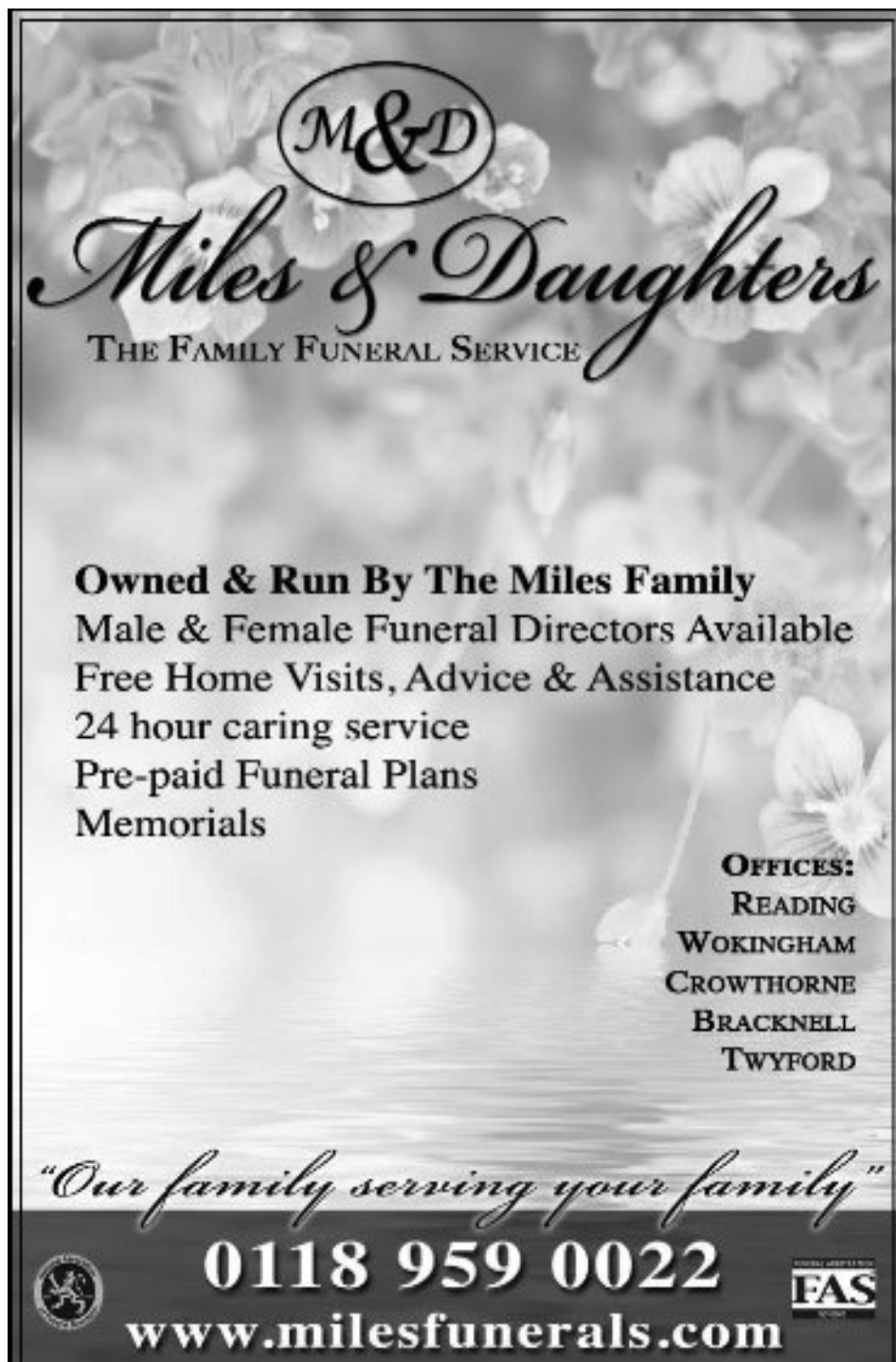
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