

# *Englefield Parish News*

February - March 2022



## The Parish of St Mark's, Englefield

### Rector

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

### Churchwardens

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

### Child Protection Officer

Susannah McBain      07772 425133

### Parochial Church Council

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

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

Electoral Roll Officer      richard@transport-studies.org      0118 9833258  
Richard Smith

### Parish Council

Chairman      edward.crookes@englefield.co.uk      0118 9302504  
Edward Crookes

Clerk      clerk.englefieldpc@outlook.com      07725 171223  
Nia Rands

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

**Front cover:** *A colourful early display of primroses on sale at Englefield Garden Centre.*

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

## From St Mark's House

### Dear friends

Snowdrops are a welcome sight, emerging earlier each year, the 'venturous harbinger of Spring, And pensive monitor of fleeting years!' (Wordsworth). There is much to be pensive about as we reflect on the fleeting year just past, and wonder what the 'new normal' might be, as we have persevered (2021 'word of the year') through its bleak conditions. Offices have been shut, playgrounds empty and streets deserted; fellowship has been limited and people isolated, downcast by uncertainty, suffering and mortality, often at times when personal touch was most needed.

Before covid, we were already facing what has been described as an 'epidemic of loneliness', deeply affecting mental health, physical well-being and community life. The 'solution' for one pandemic - social isolation and distancing - only exacerbated another one - for relationships are fundamental to human flourishing and sustain mental well-being. Digital technology enables us to connect with one another but it is a mixed blessing - although individuals can remain in touch despite social distancing, screen time cannot replace personal time. Its prolonged use has caused concerns about its impact on physical and mental health. We have become aware of how much we need each other, as we work together to keep one another healthy and safe. This year, if the vaccines drive down infections and variants are kept at bay, life could return to some form of 'normal'. However, the NHS advises that, despite the promise that someday life will return to some kind of normality, a growing number of people are experiencing 'pandemic burnout'.<sup>1</sup> The desire to follow protective guidelines is waning; a sense of exhaustion is on the rise.

'Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out?' the Lord Jesus asks, and invites us, 'Come to me. Get away with me and you'll recover your life. I'll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me — watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won't lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you'll learn to live freely and lightly.'<sup>2</sup> His company is the answer to the loneliness epidemic and Christ has promised to be with us all the way.

Our hope and health rest not in supermarket shelves cleared in panic stocking but in the goodness of God who so loves the world that he sent his Son to secure the future. Then He will wipe every tear and there will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain (or omicron).<sup>3</sup> As headlines blare out news that alarms, let His love for us, rather than fear for ourselves, spur us to action. Yes, do remember the mantra (hands, face, space). And remember this not out of fear but in faith, and out of love for your neighbour and yourself.

In His company

*Nick and Harriet*

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.nhs.uk/every-mind-matters/mental-health-issues/stress/> <sup>2</sup> The Gospel of Matthew 11v28-30; The Bible, Message Version <sup>3</sup> The Book of Revelation 21v4 The Bible

## Diary dates

Time to Pray: Monday 7<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> February and Monday 7<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> March, 6pm to 6.30pm, at St Mark's House, prayer, Bible readings and reflection.

West Berkshire Mobile Library: Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> February and 16<sup>th</sup> March, at the Old Fire Station Nursery, Englefield, 2pm to 2.25pm.

Let's Talk Theology: Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> February and Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> March, 3.30pm, contact Carol Boulter to be added to the mailing list.

World Day of Prayer: Friday 4<sup>th</sup> March (see page 7).

PCC meeting: Monday 28<sup>th</sup> March; APCM Monday 25<sup>th</sup> April.

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

## Local contacts

Englefield Estate Office	0118 930 2504 office@englefield.co.uk
Englefield Estate Yard	0118 930 2538 maintenance@englefield.co.uk
Englefield Stores	0118 930 2479
Cobbs Farm Shop	0118 930 4064 englefieldshop@cobbsfarmshops.co.uk
Theale Medical Centre	0118 930 3081
NHS online coronavirus service	111.nhs.uk/covid-19 or call 111
Royal Berkshire Hospital	0118 322 5111
West Berks Community Hospital	01635 273300
Theale Pharmacy	0118 930 2542 Mon to Fri 09.00-18.00 Sat 09.00-13.00
Lloyds Pharmacy (Calcot)	0118 938 2265
NHS dentist Dentalcare	0118 984 5894 - Pangbourne
West Berkshire Council	01635 551111 (out of hours 01635 42161) www.westberks.gov.uk/ www.englefieldpc.org.uk/ www.thealeparishcouncil.gov.uk
Englefield Parish Council	0118 9302 337
Theale Parish Council	www.englefieldprimary.co.uk
Englefield Primary School	101 or 999 (for emergencies)
Police	
Utility suppliers: Electricity - SSEN 0800 072 72; Oil - Ford Fuels 0148 872 829;	
Gas - National Grid 0800 111 999; Water - Thames Water 0800714 614;	
Drainage - Total Drainage 0118 9421140	

## Congratulations

To Peter Foster and Katherine Savage on their engagement.

To Rich Wills and Emma Strang on their engagement.

## RIP

Warren Taylor who died on October 24<sup>th</sup> and whose funeral was held at St Mark's Church on December 21<sup>st</sup>.

Wavell Wilson who died on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> December and whose funeral was held at West Berkshire Crematorium on Friday 31<sup>st</sup> December.

Tony Palmer who died on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> January and whose funeral was held on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> February at West Berkshire Crematorium.

## Welcome

In late February, we're delighted to be welcoming James and Laura Meade together with their two boys to the Englefield community. James will join the Estate management team from March 1<sup>st</sup> 2022 in the role of Head of Rural Property & Land and will have day to day oversight of land and property matters on the Estate. James is a land agent and chartered surveyor, who joins us from Savills, where he headed up the Newmarket office. The Meade family will live not too far away from Englefield at Ufton Nervet.

*Edward Crookes, Estates Director*

## Lent and Easter

Lent starts this year at the beginning of March with Shrove Tuesday on March 1<sup>st</sup> and Ash Wednesday on March 2<sup>nd</sup> when there will be a service of Communion at 6.30pm at St Mark's. Mothering Sunday is on March 27<sup>th</sup>, Palm Sunday on April 10<sup>th</sup> and Easter Sunday on April 17<sup>th</sup>. Clocks 'spring' forward on March 27<sup>th</sup>.

## SDG talk

Adam Boulter will speak about his work in Madagascar at the next Deanery Spiritual Development Group meeting online on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> February. Please email Carol Boulter for details and Zoom link.



## *The Queen's Platinum Jubilee*

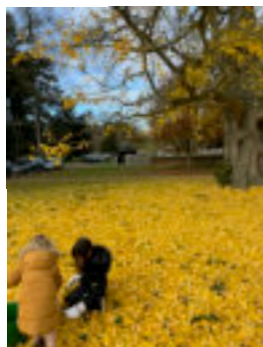
As in the past, the Parish Council is seeking enthusiastic volunteers to form a small group to help organise the village's celebrations of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in June 2022. If you would like to be involved please contact the Clerk by emailing [clerk.inglefieldpc@outlook.com](mailto:clerk.inglefieldpc@outlook.com).

To celebrate this unprecedented anniversary of the Queen's historic reign various national events will take place as communities come together to celebrate this historic milestone. For more detail see <https://www.royal.uk/platinum-jubilee-central-weekend>.

At Englefield, on **Thursday 2nd June**, the Estate will join the celebrations by lighting one of more than 1,500 beacons to be lit throughout the United Kingdom and on **Sunday 5th June**, we hope to organise a Big Jubilee Lunch to share friendship, food and fun with neighbours as part of the celebrations.

Any help, however small, will be gratefully received and won't take too much of your time.

*Englefield Parish Council*



## *A new look for Sunday School*

The choir vestry at St Mark's which is used every week for Sunday School has had a makeover with a smart coat of paint and new carpet and fittings, making it a much lighter, brighter and more welcoming space.

The Sunday School has welcomed a number of new families recently and there are now two regular leaders on the rota. It is hoped that the children can be part of the traditional Liturgy of the Palms to celebrate Jesus' entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, 10th April.

We would like to form a choir of Sunday School singers to practise together and perform in Sunday services. Please contact Saffy ([saffyosullivan@gmail.com](mailto:saffyosullivan@gmail.com) or 07799 060949) if your child might be interested.

*Saffy O'Sullivan*

## *Plans for the Village Stores*

We are delighted to have taken over the running of the Village Stores and Tea Room. It is like a homecoming for me; I was brought upon the Estate at Pond House Farm, Burghfield, and many members of our wider family live in and around Englefield. My nan, Mrs Hannington, lived in an Estate cottage for many years, so I am Englefield through and through.

Dan and I currently run our sandwich van which serves 29 companies in and around Basingstoke. We had been looking for a tearoom to run alongside the business, so when this opportunity came up, we knew it was for us. It fits where I'm from and what we're all about as a family.

It's going to be a huge challenge, but for us it isn't a scary one. There's a familiarity about the house and returning to Englefield which makes it very welcoming.

We're very much looking forward to being part of the community. Dan and I have always been involved in PTAs, after school clubs, Brownies and Cubs, but now the children are that bit older, we'll have time to be part of community projects once more - once the Stores and Tea Room are up and running of course. We'd like to get to know everyone in the village and have been so grateful for the support we have received from everyone who has dropped in already. Please stop by and let us know what you'd like from your Village Stores. We want to know what works well, anything new you'd like to see, and how we can support you all.

*Liz Wirth*



*Having temporarily moved the shop into the tea room the refurbishment of the shop area will begin shortly. The refurbishment of the house is well underway too and will be completed in the late spring before the Wirth family take up residence in the village.*





## News from Holy Trinity

There have been a few changes at Holy Trinity in the last year. We're grateful that, despite all the restrictions around covid, God has continued to be faithful as He builds His church here in Theale.

In 2021 our heating broke, but with support from congregation members and various grants we were able to get it replaced just before the cold weather came. We have also been blessed with new technology, both to livestream our services, but also to be more paper-free in the services with a projector and screen. This has been a huge blessing to us and we're very grateful. And walking around the graveyard, you'll see various improvements and a new path for ease of access. But for all the various physical things that we are getting used to, we're delighting in how God is, person by person, growing His church. We're thankful that we're able to hire out the Old School House next to our church building for our Sunday Clubs and after school club. There's a new Diocesan Area Office built next to the church which we might be able to rent out for meetings, but that's yet to be confirmed.

We have had a few highlights over the last few months, which include supporting two new mission partners, increased presence in the secondary school as we now run the Christian Union and, of course, Christmas, which saw us singing again at the fayre and outside the church with members of the village. Whilst we had to restrict numbers to our services, we give thanks that the livestream meant we could reach out to many more people in their homes. Our prayer continues to be for revival in Theale – for more and more people to know Jesus as the Lord of life and love.

*Martin Davy, Rector Holy Trinity Theale*

## Exploring the local area

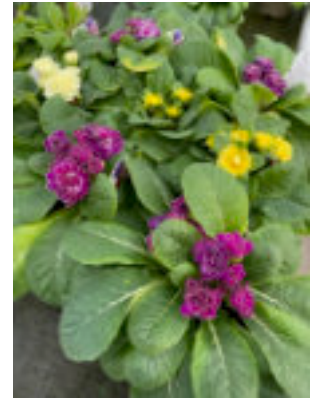
One way of putting those New Year resolutions into practice is by taking a look at the routes and guides for walking and running on the Englefield Estate website. They are available to download, along with suggested outdoor activities, and links to further relevant information and ideas.

The walking route photo guides have information on distance, terrain, ground conditions and parking as well as maps and step-by-step photo directions. Visit <https://www.inglefieldestate.co.uk/community/outreach> to find routes of varying lengths around Mortimer, Mortimer West End, Theale, Silchester, Pamber Forest Nature Reserve, Theale and Englefield.

## Looking forward to spring

As I sit and write this we started the day off with -3 and clear blue skies with the sun shining through, who could ask for a nicer start to a winters day. Our seed potatoes have arrived also our summer bulbs which are ready for planting, the team and people we support have been working hard potting up just over 3500 herbaceous plants, seed sowing has commenced so that must mean spring is on its way. We look forward to seeing you all soon.

*Austin Crabbe, Garden Centre Manager*



## World Day of Prayer 2022

This year's service is to be held on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> March, starting at 2pm, at Mortimer Methodist Church, 17 West End Road, Mortimer Common, RG7 3TB. The service is written this year by the women of England, Wales and Northern Ireland. The theme is 'I know the plans I have for you' (Jeremiah 29: 11). Refreshments will be served after the service. All are welcome.

## 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**





## Wavell Wilson RIP

Wavell Wilson passed away on 19th December, aged 80, and his funeral was held at West Berkshire Crematorium on Friday 31<sup>st</sup> December.

Wavell came to Englefield in 1974 as under keeper to Peter Denison and took over as

head keeper on Peter's retirement, managing the shoot at Englefield until his own retirement in 2008. He was well known for his love of the countryside and his knowledge of all matters to do with wildlife. His help in the early years of the Englefield Countryside Days for Schools ensured that the gamekeepers' stand was one of the most popular with the children. He was full of anecdotes about Englefield and his life before at Courteenhall in Northamptonshire. He was much loved by his wife Pat and his family and will be hugely missed by them and by his wide circle of friends.



## Tours of Ufton Court

Join us at Ufton Court on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February for a rare opportunity to enjoy a guided tour of our historic Tudor manor house.

With its roots going back as far as the Domesday book, Ufton Court has a fascinating and varied past. Once owned by well-known Catholics, Ufton Court was raided at least twice by officials in search of priests in hiding and is home to many hidden mysteries including a secret chapel and priest holes.

Today, Ufton Court is the home to a thriving and innovative children's charity and education centre and is rarely open to the public. Our tours will be a unique chance to be guided around this historic building by our expert teachers, who will enthral you with its stories. There will also be an opportunity for a self-led tour around the grounds and to speak to our Head Groundsman about Ufton's history. Tea, coffee and cake are included in the ticket price - adult £15, family (1 adult, 2 children) £20, booking at <http://uftoncourt.co.uk/tours-of-ufton-court/>. All proceeds will go towards our charity – Ufton Adventure.



## The Village Hall online

Englefield Village Hall is back open for the year ahead, and the Committee is looking forward to seeing many more community events there in the coming months. Please do take a look at our brand-new website

[www.Englefieldvillagehall.co.uk](http://www.Englefieldvillagehall.co.uk), complete with smart new logo.

We are also keen to welcome new volunteers, so please do get in touch if you can spare any time to help with practical tasks such as cleaning and lawn mowing, even if not on a regular basis.

*Village Hall Committee*



## Digital permits for Council recycling centres

West Berkshire Council has introduced a new online registration scheme for access to Household Waste Recycling Centres, replacing the current paper permits with a digital system. *Paper permits, including green car permits that have already expired will only be accepted until 28 February.* The digital permit system will enable households to register and update their vehicle details, household addresses and contact details instantly, allowing for seamless entry into the Household Waste Recycling Centres, so long as they have booked an appointment. It will also save printing and postage costs, consistent with the objectives set out in the Council's Environment Strategy.

Households are asked to register their car (up to three cars per household) online before 28<sup>th</sup> February. Each household will need to set up a My Account profile if they do not have one already via [www.westberks.gov.uk/myaccount](http://www.westberks.gov.uk/myaccount) and then register their car(s) for the digital permits. The process is quick and simple; it takes less than three minutes to complete the actual permit registration. Booking appointments to use the two West Berkshire waste recycling centres at Padworth and Newtown Road can be done online at <http://westberks.gov.uk/clickandtip>.



## News from Five a Day

There was no stopping our volunteers, they couldn't wait to get back in to the garden in the new year. Usually we have a break until early February, but not so this year; we made a start at the beginning of January and have subsequently received very positive local feedback on how good the garden looks. Thanks to everyone for braving some very chilly mornings, when not only the ground was frozen but the locks on the sheds too! Roll on spring.

Our Christmas wreath workshops were the most successful ever, with over 100 attendees, providing a much needed boost for our funds. Thanks to all involved in making these events such a success. We can now fund the ongoing maintenance of the garden infrastructure and mend raised beds/sheds etc.

Seed sowing has started in earnest: sweet peas and broad beans are underway with lots more to follow. We have also been busy pruning gooseberries and currants hoping for bumper crops in the summer. Milder temperatures earlier in the season meant that the weeds never really stopped growing so they too have kept us busy.

CROW volunteers have coppiced the willow - as you can see in the picture below - which is now available to buy in bundles. Great for basket making, fencing or garden structures.

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](mailto:info@fiveaday.org.uk) or on 07555 184343.

*Hannah Fraser, Five a Day committee member*



## From Rushall Farm



When Lindsay and I came to Bradfield in 1974 to work for the Cumber family we inherited, along with sheep and a small herd of Aberdeen Angus cattle, two Shire mares. They were all that remained of the 40 breeding stallions which had been based in Wiltshire in the nineteen twenties. Crossed with a race horse they produced a horse which could carry a good sized man for a day in the saddle. We were employed by John Cumber. He was the only son in a family of five girls. Ellen the eldest went to Cambridge and was involved in the resettlement of refugees at the end of the war, a harrowing experience including going into Belsen. Mary became a missionary in India, Beth married George, one of the eight Strang sons from Wickcroft Farm, and Olive and Barbara both became nurses. The family had butcher shops in Theale and Reading and farmed at Beansheaf, Bradfield, Buckinghamshire and Wiltshire. They were known nationally for their quality Shorthorn and Aberdeen Angus cattle, and Shire horses. It was a huge business and run without the benefits of the instant world we know so well.

John Cumber was a kind man. My first few years here were not without incident. We wrote off a brand new combine in my first summer and crashed his precious Ford Escort Estate. Some wild Scottish Blackface sheep I bought from Scotland remained wild, running amok through Reading Market. And the farm? It was not that good at producing profitable crops and I was short of answers. So why did we move to Bradfield from an easy to manage large estate on 'boy's land' above Blewbury? It wasn't just that the Pang Valley was a beautiful piece of land to be entrusted with, but also that my father was a shipping manager working for BP in London. Most nights he would come home and complain about his boss. I resolved not to do that, but after three years as assistant manager I found myself doing exactly the same thing. John Cumber was different. He was a Christian and as we toasted me getting the job he welcomed us into his family and I was keen to learn about the faith which made this man different.

Why am I telling you this? This time last year his daughter Mary asked if I would help her with the John Cumber Hall in Theale put up in his memory in 1980. I said I would, so we are busy painting it now, and as I paint I think of him and his family with gratitude.

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





## From Englefield Primary School

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

A Happy New Year to everyone associated with the Englefield community.

Christmas seems such a long time ago now. It was lovely to be able to celebrate this very special time of year with the children but sadly, once again, we weren't able to involve our parents in our usual round of services and carol-singing; we also had to cancel our Christmas Fayre. We are determined to look on the bright side and keep saying, 'Next year will be different!'



I hope you managed to see our Tree of Love in St Mark's over Christmas which gave our children's ideas of how we can show love to each other, ourselves, to God and to the world; thank you to Austin at the Englefield Garden Centre for providing the tree.

In my last article I told you about our fund-raising for one of our school families. As a school, we raised in excess of £3000 to go towards Ruby's treatment. We know the whole school community is continuing to think of Ruby and her family and our prayers are with them. <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/rubyrocks>

Covid continues to affect us in school. Many pupils have had to stay away as they have tested positive and several members of staff have also been affected. These absences have a huge impact in a small school, both in terms

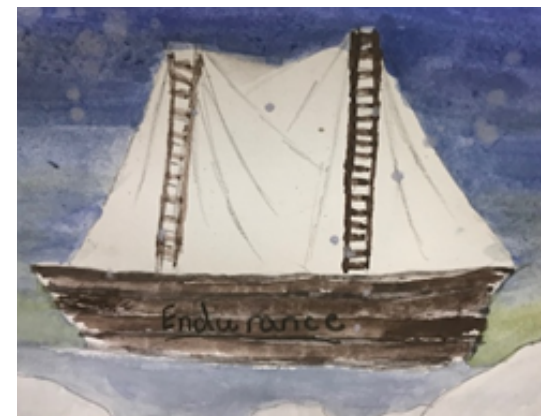
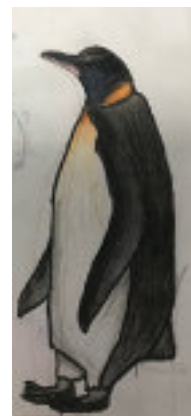
of covering the different roles and of pupils missing their friends and staff trying to provide them with learning to do at home so they don't miss out. Our values have certainly come to the fore and 'Love of Others' is the theme of many of our class discussions. Yet again our parent body has been fantastic in following all the rules and supporting us in our efforts to keep the school healthy. Let's hope that with warmer weather, we will start to see a reduction in the numbers affected.

Nearly the whole school is currently studying topics based around the Arctic or Antarctic; very relevant at the moment - as I write, the temperature outside is two degrees! Display boards are full of penguins and polar bears, pictures of Shackleton's ship, 'Endurance', and images featuring ice and snow. We are all

hoping that this cold snap brings us a little snow of our own so the children can appreciate the joys of deep winter.

Finally, it was lovely to meet Dan and Liz in the shop. We are delighted that both sides of the business are continuing and we are all looking forward to seeing the developments they have planned. A huge welcome to them both, from everyone at the school.

*Hilary Latimer, Headteacher*



### *We need help!*

Are you handy? Do you like fixing and repairing items or perhaps you might like to get out and meet people by joining our van crew? Or you could join the busy teams at one of our friendly shops? Or even help us with marketing and getting our message out? Whatever is your forte we will have a role for you somewhere at CCA. Please get in touch and let us know how you can help out whether it's from one or two hours a month or a regular weekly activity we would love to welcome you to the team!

You can visit us at any of our sites, just pop in and say hello! Or phone us on 0118 951 2336, send an email [mail@ccam.org.uk](mailto:mail@ccam.org.uk), or contact us through our facebook page, or website.



## Seville oranges at Cobbs

The Seville orange season lasts until the middle of February and Cobbs Farm Shop has a supply in stock. If you haven't made marmalade before this is the recipe from the BBC Good Food website:



1.3kg Seville oranges  
2 lemons, juice only  
2.6kg preserving or granulated sugar

Put the whole oranges and lemon juice in a large preserving pan and cover with 2 litres/4 pints water - if it does not cover the fruit, use a smaller pan. If necessary weight the oranges with a heat-proof plate to keep them submerged. Bring to the boil, cover and simmer very gently for around 2 hours, or until the peel can be easily pierced with a fork.

Warm half the sugar in a very low oven. Pour off the cooking water from the oranges into a jug and tip the oranges into a bowl. Return cooking liquid to the pan. Allow oranges to cool until they are easy to handle, then cut in half. Scoop out all the pips and pith and add to the reserved orange liquid in the pan. Bring to the boil for 6 minutes, then strain this liquid through a sieve into a bowl and press the pulp through with a wooden spoon - it is high in pectin so gives marmalade a good set.

Pour half this liquid into a preserving pan. Cut the peel, with a sharp knife, into fine shreds. Add half the peel to the liquid in the preserving pan with the warm sugar. Stir over a low heat until the sugar has dissolved, about 10 minutes, then bring to the boil and bubble rapidly for 15-25 minutes til setting point is reached.

Take pan off the heat and skim any scum from the surface. (To dissolve any excess scum, drop a small knob of butter on to the surface, and gently stir.) Leave the marmalade to stand in the pan for 20 minutes to cool a little and allow the peel to settle; then pot in sterilised jars, seal and label. Repeat for the second batch, warming the other half of the sugar first.

## Downland Filling Station online

The speaker at the February meeting of the Downland Filling Station is Newbury Baptist minister, Richard Littledale. A well known speaker and author, Richard will be talking on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February, 7.15 for a 7.30 start, about his recent book, *Tales from an Under Gardenex*. The decision has been taken to stay online for this meeting (the usual venue is Hampstead Norreys Village Hall) and you can sign up for zoom link via the website <https://thefillingstation.org.uk/station/downland/> or on FaceBook <https://www.facebook.com/DownlandFS>.

## New year at the Nursery

Happy New Year from us all at The Old Fire Station Nursery in Englefield. As we start the new year we have been thinking about winter and have taken many walks around the village to make observations on the signs we can see such as frost on cars, animals making warm nests and lots more.

We would like to welcome the new shop keepers in the village - we have enjoyed waving to you as we pass. Thank you for our lovely platter you brought up for us.

We were lucky to bump into a kind gentleman in the church who was playing the organ as he has been invited to play at Windsor Castle. Thank you for being so kind to us and letting us play the organ, another amazing new experience thanks to the wonderful village and community.

*The Old Fire Station Nursery  
(0118 9306981)*



## Neighbourhood Watch

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

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

*Tracie Stone, Neighbourhood Policing Administrator*

Date	Sidesman	First lesson	Gospel reading	Prayers	Sacristan	Server	Sunday School	Cleaners
January 30th Candlemas	Paula Fenwick	Harriet Wynne-Jones 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 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday before Lent BCP	Catherine Haig	Lorraine Dehn 1 Corinthians 15:1-11	Paula Fenwick Luke 5:1-11	BCP	Sue Smith	Denny Hollands	Melanie Townsend	Peter and Catherine Haig
February 13th 3 <sup>rd</sup> 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
February 20th 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday before Lent	Penny Savage	Ronan O'Sullivan Revelation 4	Ron Marillier Luke 8:22-25	Harriet Wynne-Jones	Penny Norris	Penny Savage	Saffy O'Sullivan	Penny Norris Saffy O'Sullivan
February 27th Sunday next before Lent	Peter Haig	Kahlen Spaulding 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2	Harriet Wynne-Jones Luke 9:28-36	Catherine Haig	Penny Savage	Carol Boulter	Melanie Townsend	Peter and Catherine Haig
March 6th 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent BCP	Catherine Haig	Hamish Bamforth Romans 10:8b-13	Linda Price Luke 4:1-13	BCP	Sue Smith	Peter Haig	Saffy O'Sullivan	Pete and Carole Ford
March 13th 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent	Linda Price	Penny Savage Philippians 3:17-4:1	Carol Boulter Luke 13:31-end	Penny Savage	Penny Norris	Paula Fenwick	Saffy O'Sullivan	Penny Norris Saffy O'Sullivan
March 20th 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent	Peter Haig	Dee Boddy 1 Corinthians 10:1-13	Dudley Fishburn Luke 13:1-9	Paula Fenwick	Catherine Haig	Torquil MJ	Saffy O'Sullivan	Peter and Catherine Haig
March 27th Mothering Sunday	Penny Savage	Stephanie Gibbons 2 Corinthians 1:3-7	James Bamforth Luke 2:33-35	Carol Boulter	Penny Savage	Penny Savage	Saffy O'Sullivan	Pete and Carole Ford
April 3rd Passiontide begins BCP	Catherine Haig	Carole Ford Philippians 3:4b-14	Penny Savage John 12:1-8	BCP	Sue Smith	Carol Boulter	Melanie Townsend	Penny Norris Saffy O'Sullivan
April 10th Palm Sunday Liturgy of the Palms	Linda Price	Luke 19:28-40 <i>readers to be confirmed</i>		Harriet Wynne-Jones	Catherine Haig	Peter Haig	Saffy O'Sullivan	Peter and Catherine Haig
April 17th Easter Sunday	Peter Haig	Torquil MJ Acts 10:34-43	Harriet Wynne-Jones John 20:1-18	Richard Benyon	Penny Norris	Paula Fenwick	NO SUNDAY SCHOOL (vestry open)	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](mailto:saffyosullivan@gmail.com)) and the churchwardens.

## The Pangbourne Turnpike

As the guns and beaters regrouped at the end of the drive in an unaccustomed spot the thought occurred that we must be very close to the line of the old Pangbourne turnpike, one of the few old roads in Englefield that has left no visible trace on the ground, so a quick check of the surrounding landmarks was needed to confirm that we were indeed very close to where it ran.

An Act of 1714 established a turnpike from Castle Hill in Reading to the Puntfield, an extension of the Englefield common field on the south side of the Bath Road at Bostock and this was extended to Speenhamland in 1747. The powers of the trust were renewed in 1771 at which time the trust proposed a new turnpike from that road at Bostock to Pangbourne. The route of this turnpike was to be *'...through Englefield Common Field to or near a house in Englefield Street known by sign of The Daggers and thence along Englefield Street into the Highway leading out of Englefield Street through Tidmarsh by and through a place called Hog Moore...'*. The road then ran on to the Elephant and Castle Inn at Pangbourne.

The route from Bostock to Pangbourne at this time ran along Bostock Lane to Parker's Corner then across what would become the deer park in front of Englefield House to Appleton's Corner and down the modern village street as far as Elmfields, where it branched off across the fields to Hogmoor. Much of this route already existed, therefore, and the trust merely took over the maintenance of it in return for a toll, but a completely new length of road was required from the junction of Bostock Lane with the Bath Road across the Great Field. The main part of the village at that time lay around Appleton's Corner and along the Theale-Bradfield road between the church and today's Old Rectory (not built until 1870) with a few houses along the road now known as The Street. The *'house...known by the sign of The Daggers'* was the Three Daggers Inn and its sign was the arms of the Marquis of Winchester' as seen on the family ledger stones in the church.

Powlett Wrighte, a turnpike trustee who owned most of the land involved, gave his consent to the road and allowed the builders to take materials from his land without charge. He did however make two conditions. The first was that *'...a highway leading out of the SW side of Englefield Street on NW side of a Blacksmith Shop and from thence to NW side of Cranmore Pond to a gate leading into common field shall be shut up'*. This was the road that ran in front of the House between Appleton's Corner and Parker's Corner, so he was able to remove the traffic from his view.

The second condition was that there should be no toll gate between the southern end of Bostock Lane and Chalkpit Farm and this meant that traffic was at least able to move from one side of the estate to the other without payment. The Act of 1771 duly authorised the erection of *'One Toll-gate and One Toll-house between the south end of Bostock Lane and Pangborne'* and this must have been the one that still stands in Tidmarsh, although there is no record of that before 1815 and the style

of it is consistent with the early 19<sup>th</sup> century.

While Powlett Wrighte got the advantage of having the traffic removed from in front of Englefield House, the situation for the village was made slightly worse because that part of it that lay between the Old Rectory and Appleton's Corner now got not only the Theale-Bradfield traffic but also the Pangbourne traffic as well. Powlett's successor, Richard Benyon, sought to remove all the through traffic from the village so he created a new direct route from the Bath Road to Pangbourne – today's A340 – to replace the turnpike. The new road was opened in 1825 and an order of February 1826 closed the turnpike between Bostock and Hogmoor and returned the land to Richard Benyon.

While the whole distance from Bostock to Hogmoor was shorter by the new road, that between the Bath Road and Englefield village was greater, as was the distance to the church for some parishioners. In particular, the distance to Tyle Mill at Sulhamstead, where inhabitants of Englefield had their corn ground, was increased for some and on 10<sup>th</sup> March 1826 John Welch and another man trespassed on the route of the old road and destroyed gates and fences, claiming that the trustees had no right to close the road on the grounds of the increased distance by the replacement road. The Berkshire Assizes found in favour of Richard Benyon against the trespassers and that was supported by the King's Bench on appeal the following year. By 1829 the road was definitely closed by the building of Bostock Lodges, squarely across the line of the turnpike at the point where it had turned off the Bath Road.

Richard Smith







## Warren Taylor RIP

*Warren was a long-standing member of St Mark's choir and his funeral was held at St Mark's on December 21<sup>st</sup>. This is an extract from the tribute from his daughters in Australia.*

Warren's family originated from Dorset and Cornwall. The family emigrated to Australia as free settlers in 1839, arriving just north of Sydney and settling in the Blue mountains. His mother's family were Salvation Army missionaries to India, New Zealand and Australia. His parents settled and Warren enjoyed his youth in Gadigal country spending much of his youth at the beach swimming and surf life saving.

Professionally, Warren qualified as a wool classer, quantity surveyor, and later as a master carpenter, and pilot. He travelled extensively around the world building and directing large commercial projects in remote places such as Minj and Mount Hagen in Papua New Guinea, building hospitals, and teacher residences as well as other pioneering infrastructure projects in places like Vanuatu.

He played several instruments, the violin, bugle, trumpet, banjo to name a few and particularly enjoyed being a chorister. He also acted in musical theatre companies with productions such as *West Side Story*, and *Annie Get Your Gun* which he loved. He often quipped his preferred place was being on the stage performing and he found great enjoyment from this, being part of the ensemble.

He loved the arts and was an accomplished oil painter and sketcher. His drawings of political cartoon characters on various topics of the day were legendary and often a hit amongst those in the know. Each weekly letter we received was adorned with black and white sketches drawn expertly on the subject, giving all observers a good idea of his humour.

His three young girls appreciated his direct instruction, teaching us in early years to drive a car, boat, forklift, tractor, use machinery, and become practically accomplished at all manner of things. In equal measure he was a protector of the family, and we always felt safe with his monumental bear hugs. Life with Warren was never dull. He was a person with multiple projects on the go at any one time, looking for the next experience, new innovation, and better way to invent and problem solve things that often didn't need solving. He certainly lived life to its fullest.

What we learned from our father was that life is short, and to live each moment to the full. Enjoy the little things along the way - and that family comes first. He had life long friends that he adored and was still in regular contact with. He had great love and respect for the community in the UK and that he was involved with, his beloved Labour party family, and the broad choir community which he treasured. We love and miss dad, and thank you all for your support.

## Bradfield Young Farmers Club

In the run up to the Christmas period, Bradfield YFC members certainly got into the spirit of things. A chocolate tempering evening caused much hilarity as we endeavoured to create chocolate domes with water balloons – cue excessive chocolate temperatures and exploding balloons! We attempted our own Christmas wreaths using nothing more than holly, fir, ivy and rosemary from Gordon's garden and few ribbons and baubles to brighten them up, and it was yet more edible creations for our Festive Icing evening, learning piping techniques and using buttercream and fondant icing to decorate gingerbread shapes and cupcakes.

Our annual trip to the Pantomime at the Corn Exchange in Newbury had been a covid doubt, but in the end a small group of YFC members were in the balcony to enjoy Cinderella, 'Oh Yesss they did!'

We now look forward to a year of meetings, events, and competitions and, like everyone else, keep our fingers crossed that covid allows such activities., not forgetting the return of the Berkshire YFC Country Fayre in May.

*The Club meets weekly, to find out more about what Bradfield YFC has to offer please find us on Facebook or contact Gordon Fletcher on 07939 504145 or email [gletcher@optimab.com](mailto:gletcher@optimab.com)*

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## Thoughts for the week

These reflections are just some of the short commentaries that are compiled by Aldo Guiducci each week on the readings in church. They are all available, week by week, on the pew sheets and on the church website.

**On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshipped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. (Matthew 2 v 11)**

In these verses of Matthew, coming straight after the birth of Jesus, we are presented with something remarkable. We might have expected the first people to come and visit God's long promised saviour to be important representatives of his own people, the Jews. Instead, we find that Jesus' first visitors are foreigners, Magi from the East. These wise men have been travelling for quite a while, over some distance, to come and see him. When they finally get to him, we are told they 'knelt down and paid him homage'. In other words, they worshipped him, in stark contrast to the behaviour of his own people who will later have him crucified. Not only that, but their choice of gifts shows that the wise men recognise who Jesus is in a way not seen in the rest of Matthew's gospel until the very end. Gold, a gift that speaks of kingship and recognises Jesus' kingly authority. Frankincense, an expensive incense used in the temple that speaks of Jesus' role as priest, as our mediator with God the Father. Myrrh, a resin used for embalming the dead, which foreshadows Jesus' death at Calvary as the fulfilment of his mission. At the start of this New Year, let's resolve to get to know Jesus better, so that like the wise men we will respond to him in true worship.

**There are different kinds of gifts, but the same spirit distributes them. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work. (1 Corinthians 12 v 4-6)**

Scripture makes clear to us that we, those who believe in Jesus and are trusting in him, are Christ's body. He is the head, we are his own body parts. Through the indwelling of his Holy Spirit, Christ comes to make his home in us, and joins us together into a radiant community which displays his glory to those around us. Especially in the Western world, we can sometimes forget the community aspect of our being the body of Christ, focussing much more on the personal aspect of God indwelling us. This can lead to a skewed, overly-individualistic understanding of our identity in Christ. In these verses, Paul helps remind us that God's purposes for us are much broader than that. We are individuals, and differ from one another, but we are bound together and unified through what

God has done. Three times, Paul highlights the diversity which has its root in God's unity. God's people receive different gifts. They offer different kinds of service. They perform different kinds of work. God's people are not homogeneous clones, but a rich diversity of different individuals. Our faith in Jesus does not erase our differences. But beneath them, foundational to our identity as his children, we see the unity of God at work. It is the same spirit, the same Lord, the same God who is the fountain which provides all this diversity.

Because of this, we shouldn't compare ourselves with one another, trying to establish a pecking order or hierarchy of faith. Whatever our station or function within the community of God, it is the same God who has individually empowered and equipped us for the service and activity we do. We are together Christ's body, the church, here in the world and no part is greater than any other.

**If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honoured, every part rejoices with it. (1 Corinthians 12 v 26)**

Just as a physical body constitutes a whole, and responds as a whole to stimulus such as pain, so the spiritual body that is the church also constitutes a whole. Rather than individual Christians being autonomous beings which relate only to God, Paul here continues to expand on the truth that they are in fact bound together as a single body – the body of Christ. The parts of the body are all interconnected and related to one another in a deep and profound way, and one which often flies in the face of our individualistic society.

This of course has many implications. Jesus' call that we should love our neighbour as ourselves has a special intensity when we consider that within the body of Christ both we and our neighbour are parts of a whole. If a part suffers – perhaps locally in our parish, perhaps far away in a country where to be a Christian still invites persecution – then in a real, spiritual sense the whole body suffers. This truth should fire us to seek to help those who are disadvantaged, rejected or persecuted, since helping to honour one part of the body brings rejoicing to every part.





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
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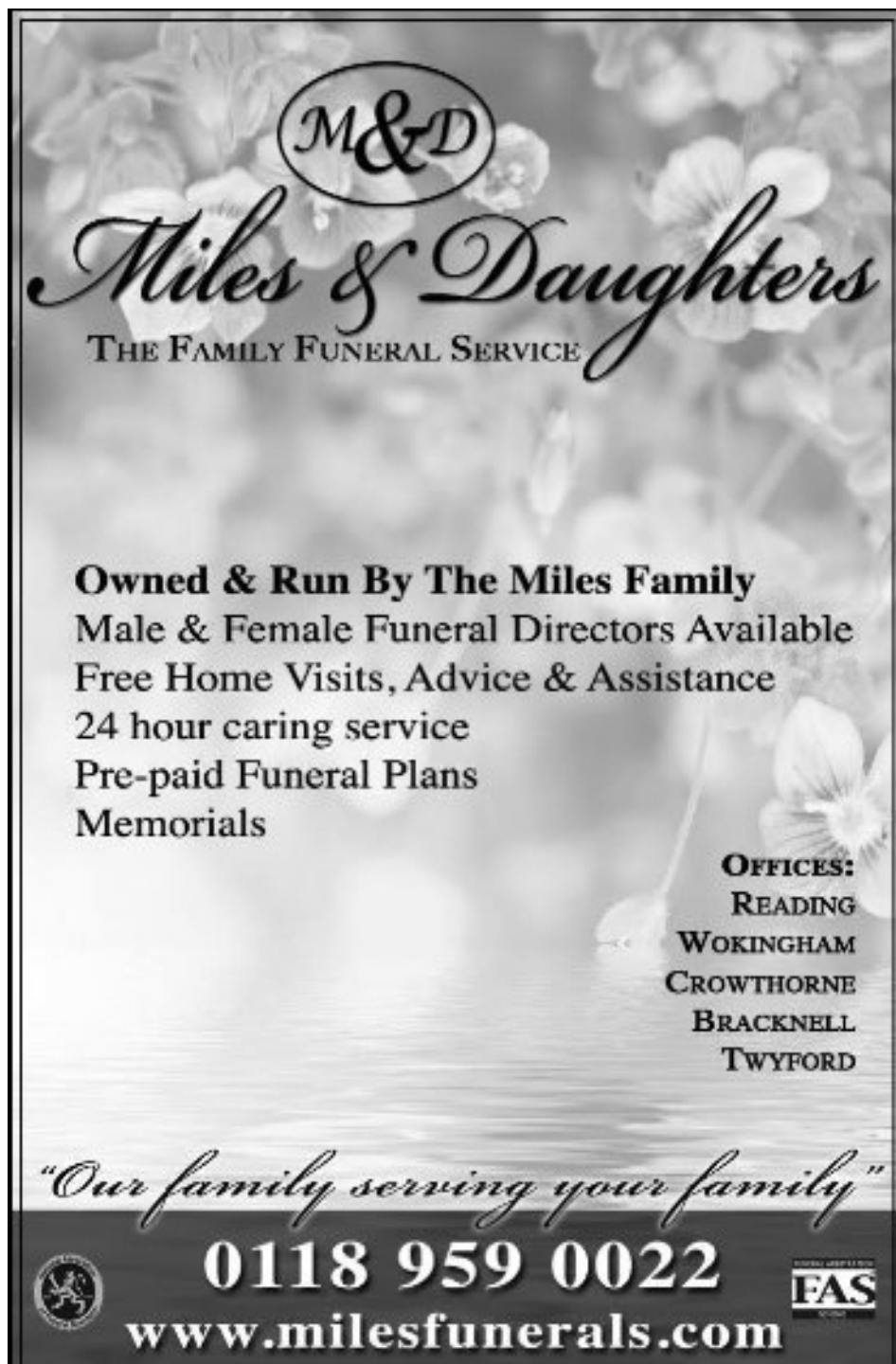
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