

Englefield Parish News

June - July 2021



The Parish of St Mark's, Englefield

Rector

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

Churchwardens

Carol Boulter churchwarden@stmarksenglefield.org.uk 0118 9303182
Torquil Montague-Johnstone 0118 9714536

Child Protection Officer

Susannah McBain 07772 425133

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

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Ron Marillier

Electoral Roll Officer richard@transport-studies.org 0118 9833258
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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: *St Mark's Church, captured in breezy sunshine in between the downpours last month, one of the wettest Mays on record.*

Englefield Parish News is published every two months and is now 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

It was so good to hear the church bells ring out on Saturday, celebrating a new beginning not just for the couple married but, in a sense, for us all, as we begin to emerge from the coronavirus restrictions. Although usually quoted as the year changes, Tennyson's poem seems apt, looking to the future:

*Ring out the old, ring in the new, / Ring out the false, ring in the true.
Ring out the grief that saps the mind / For those that here we see no more;
Ring out the want, the care, the sin, / The faithless coldness of the times;
Ring in the love of truth and right, / Ring in the common love of good.¹*

There are times in all of our lives when we need just such a change; a fresh start for people and nations. And God is a God of new beginnings! Fresh starts aren't the exception; they're the rule, seen throughout the Bible: remember Moses, a fugitive from Pharaoh's court, wandering in the desert, called to lead a nation; Joseph languishing in prison, released to be second-in-command of Egypt; Ruth, widowed with nowhere to go, given a life beyond her wildest dreams; Peter, ashamed at having denied the Lord, forgiven, restored and empowered to preach at Pentecost; Paul, a religious bigot persecuting Christians, transformed and called to teach and preach the Gospel; and so the stories go on today... Think of Matt, suicidal, bankrupt, drug and alcohol addicted, transformed through new life and hope in Christ.² Time after time, story after story, God offers a new beginning. Circumstances change, stories vary, but the grace of God never wavers. God always offers a new chance. A new opportunity. A new life.

A new beginning for the church will involve, the Diocese reminds us, 'not a quick return to the old normal [but]...reflecting carefully on lessons learned and next steps'.³ In discerning these steps, we are encouraged in Scripture to 'Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls'. With these words the prophet Jeremiah called his nation to repentance and warned of destruction if they didn't heed his words. Tragically the response was, 'We will not walk in it' (*Jeremiah 6.16*). In the crossroads of a changing culture increasingly hostile to Christian values we need to heed this warning. In a world and society that seem increasingly dark, we can be tempted to compromise important truth for the sake of preserving unity, but God's moral commandments do not adapt to the changing standards of our culture.

Ring out the darkness of the land, / Ring in the Christ that is to be.

When you next hear the bells, let us make that our prayer.

Nick and Harriet

¹ 'In Memoriam' ² 'Lifted', *Christians Against Poverty*, May 2021 ³ www.oxford.anglican.org/coronavirus-covid-19-2/emerging-from-coronavirus/

Englefield Flower Show is back!

Please put **Saturday 11th September** in your diary and start planning your entries for the Englefield Village Fete and Flower Show! Subject to any restrictions that might be in place by then, this will be held at Englefield School and more details will be published in the next issue of the Parish News. Any help before or on the day would be much appreciated - please get in touch with Mark Postles on mapostles@gmail.com or 07551 981587 to find out more.

Diary dates

PCC meeting: Monday 28th June

Let's Talk Theology: Wednesday 9th June, Wednesday 14th July, 3.30pm, contact Carol Boulter to be added to the mailing list for the Zoom link

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 Sarah (née Procter) and Harry Benyon who were married in Sarah's home parish in Yorkshire on Saturday 24th April.

To Rachel (née Haig) and Jheryl Cabey who were married at St Mark's on Saturday 22nd May.

To Anna Richardson and Jonathan Wynne-Jones on their engagement.

St Mark's APCM

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting was held on Monday 10th May. The two churchwardens nominated and elected for the coming year were Torquil Montague-Johnstone and Paula Fenwick. Paula was welcomed to the role and Carol Boulter was thanked for her service of six terms of office. The PCC lay members re-elected were Richard Benyon, Elizabeth Benyon, Aldo Guiducci, Catherine Haig and Melanie Townsend. Two vacancies were filled by Carol Boulter and Linda Price. The audited accounts for 2020 were presented and approved, together with the PCC report of the Council's business and the Parish events, almost all of which were done online. Richard Smith confirmed 92 on the electoral roll.

Appointments made were: Treasurer, Ron Marillier; Secretary, Penny Savage; Electoral Roll Officer, Richard Smith; Independent Examiner, Francis Wells; Safeguarding Officer, Susannah McBain; Verifier, Liz Marillier. The Fabric and Terrier log books had been updated and were on display to view.

Thanks were noted to Saffy O'Sullivan for her wonderful work with the Sunday Club. Also to Catherine Haig and Penny Savage for the consistent channels of communication via the Parish News, website and bulletins. Peter Hollands and Ronan O'Sullivan were thanked for the tremendous way they have created hybrid services each Sunday allowing those in the congregation who are unwell, infirm or who have moved away to be part of the St Mark's worshipping community.

The patron sent a message of thanks to the St Mark's leadership team for all they have done to 'keep us together as a Christian community over the last 14 months'. He gave particular thanks to the Rector 'who has continued to guide us in the most difficult of circumstances imaginable.'. The Chairman closed the meeting with prayer and reflection based on the message from the book of Nehemiah, remembering that all we achieve is through God and not ourselves.

Penny Savage, PCC Secretary



Victoria Fishburn RIP

Only 30 people could attend Victoria's funeral on Friday 9th April but Englefield and the congregation of St Mark's gathered in force in the churchyard that day to say farewell to one of its most loved and long-standing residents. The last hymn was played outside so all could sing and share in the service.

Victoria moved to Englefield 50 years ago as a teenager when her father, Jack Boles, with his wife, Anne, and five children came to live at the Old Rectory. Victoria and her sister Catherine were both married at St Mark's in the summer of

1981, a couple of months apart, and both held their receptions in the garden at the Old Rectory. A few years later, Dudley and Victoria moved to Englefield, taking over the Old Rectory on Jack and Anne's retirement to Devon. Their four children, Alice, Honor, Jack and Marcus, were all christened at St Mark's and all went to Englefield School. Victoria joined the PCC and became a governor of the school, later becoming chair of governors, a role she performed with great skill and diligence for many years.

As her children grew up, going on to secondary school and then university, she decided to do a degree herself and, in her 40s, she achieved a First Class degree in History from Reading University, followed by a Masters in Biography from the University of Buckingham, topped off with an Honorary Doctorate from Reading.

In 2012, she became High Sheriff of Berkshire, carrying out around 250 engagements across the county during her year of office. Many of us attended the service to mark the start of the judicial year in Reading Minster that October and also remember her in her uniform, complete with feathered hat and badge, giving out prizes at the Englefield tea party to mark the Queen's 90th birthday and at the High Sheriff Awards ceremony which she organised in the Long Gallery. She combined the ceremonial, the charitable and the personal aspects of the role with natural warmth and ease and made so many firm friends on her travels - continuing to keep in touch with people and organisations she met that year long afterwards.

She served as a governor of Elstree School and was a trustee of the John Simonds Trust for many years. She joined the board of the Greenham Trust in 2014 and was also involved with the Museum of English Rural Life at the University of Reading.

She loved Englefield and its community, always taking the time to chat to residents new and old, editing the Parish News for nearly 20 years, serving on the



PCC for 35 years, and supporting village enterprises. The highlight of the year was the Flower Show which she loved. She missed just one in 35 years and made a point of entering everything possible, mainly for the fun of taking part as well as being able to showcase produce from the wonderful garden that she created with the help of Andy Jupp.

She also loved St Mark's, her spiritual home and the scene of so many great family occasions over the years. She and Dudley saw all four of their children married there, as Louis, Olly, Liisa and Scarlett joined the family. And in recent years they in turn have brought their own children to be baptised. Victoria leaves a huge gap in Englefield life and she will be so very, very much missed.

Thank you

During Victoria's long illness, the kindness and warmth of so many of our Englefield friends was extraordinary. It was not as if one or two people helped occasionally. No. Day after day our neighbours everywhere in the community were asking after her, leaving food or flowers or just being supportive. For all this we were immensely grateful. It was in a way a reflection of the love that Victoria had had for Englefield where she lived for 50 years. And it was greatly comforting for us both.

Dudley Fishburn

Perry Brown RIP

Perry Brown sadly passed away on the 2nd March 2021 from covid-19 after fighting for five weeks on a ventilator in ICU at Royal Berks Hospital.

Perry was a wonderful, loving husband, dad, grandad, brother, uncle and friend. He was full of life and taken far too soon. He will be forever missed and loved forever. Perry lived on the Englefield Estate from the age of 25, and made many friends throughout the years. On Friday 7th May Perry was laid to rest at St Mark's Church in Englefield where all his daughters were christened. Richard Benyon has very kindly allowed for a memorial bench to be placed on the estate in memory of Perry.

Thank you for all your support, cards (of which we received over 250) and beautiful gifts which we really appreciate. Many thanks

Andrea, Ria and Gemma



In memory of Hugh Boulter

Hugh died on 28th June and was buried on 20th August the park side of the burial ground of St Mark's. Many friends and congregation came and continue to support me and my family for which I am most grateful. During the year 2017/18 Hugh and I lived in London as I was Master of the City Clothworkers' Company. During this time Victoria Fishburn carried out my duties as churchwarden at St Mark's with characteristic attention and care. She is now buried next to Hugh in the graveyard.

During the year in London Hugh and I made many friends and Hugh was especially loved by the spouses of the Masters of the Senior Livery Companies. They clubbed together and planned the planting of a Red Oak tree in his memory as near to the grave as possible. On 26th March the Englefield Estate forester, Rich Edwards, met with Nick and Miranda Arkell (the past Master Vintner) and myself and a friend to plant the tree. It will eventually replace the existing Red Oak nearby and is bursting into leaf and will soon have a memorial plaque.

Carol Boulter



Newbury Carebus running again

The Friday minibus service from Englefield to Newbury has re-started after the pandemic shut-down. It departs the village around 9.30am, returning by lunchtime. Particularly useful for those who find it difficult to get out and about, or for whom public transport is not an option,

Route 75 is run by the volunteers at Carebus. Their 12-seater vehicle is equipped with a hydraulic lift and all necessary harnesses, and so can accommodate people who travel both with or in a wheelchair.

Newbury drop-offs include The Parkway, Pinchington Lane retail park, and the hospital. Return fare is £4.80 cash on board, or West Berks bus passes are welcomed. Pre-booking before 6pm Thursdays is essential as pick-up route will vary with demand. Please call 0118 930 4837. The Carebus is also available to groups and families in and around the village for social excursions. Drivers are all volunteers who give their time freely; a modest mileage charge is payable to cover fuel and other operating costs.

www.carebuscommunitytransport.org

Thy Kingdom Come

Many people have found much need to pray over the last year through all sorts of circumstances and difficulties. During May we were encouraged to join with others throughout the world to pray between for 'God's kingdom to come and his will to be done on earth, as it is in heaven'.

The booklet which comes with this Parish News can help at any time but, if it doesn't, just pray. John Wimber was one of the most influential Christian leaders of the last century. He had three main prayers 'Oh God', 'Help' and the third, 'Oh God Help'. It is that straightforward, and watch to see what happens!

John Bishop



West Berkshire mobile library

The mobile library stops in the village by the old fire station every three weeks on a Wednesday. At the moment only two of us are using it and we are in danger of losing this service. I would thoroughly recommend this service to all ages. They carry a wide range of books and are happy to get any book required for their next visit. I have so enjoyed this facility since being in the village as I am sure many others would too. The next dates are Wednesday 16th June, July 7th and 28th at 2pm. Please come and join, social distancing is being observed at the moment and every book is cleaned after use.

Dinah Perkins

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

Visitors to the Old Fire Station Nursery

It has been a busy couple of months for us here at The Old Fire Station Nursery full of messy play, exploring the village and observing the forever changing weather. We have been super excited to have a visit from two baby goats and hatched eight little chicks using the incubator this past month. The team are getting to grips with the changes to the early years foundation stage which comes into effect this September.

We would like to welcome our new families and for those who may want to come and look around we are currently doing these after operating hours weekday evenings. Please don't hesitate to get in touch, spaces are filling up fast for September.

Sophie@theoldfirestationnursery.co.uk
0118 9306981



Free rapid covid-19 tests

The government has announced that free, twice-weekly rapid covid-19 tests (lateral flow tests) are now available to every person in England who does not have covid-19 symptoms. The tests can be carried out at West Berks Council community testing centres and you can also collect home testing kits from there (for those aged 16+). Alternatively, you can pick them up from Community Collect mobile vans - see <https://info.westberks.gov.uk/lateralflowtesting> for days and times of the nearest collection points; or from Theale pharmacy or Lloyds Pharmacy in Sainsbury's Calcot; or order them online for home delivery at <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests> (eligibility requirements apply); or by phone via 119.

If you have not taken this test before, it is advised that you first book an in-person test at one of the four community test sites. That way you can learn how to do the test properly with help from testing staff, and while you are there you can pick up a test kit to take home with you.

Please note: If you have covid-19 symptoms please do not use or book a lateral flow test. Instead, you need to book a PCR test for covid-19 by either calling 119 or visiting: www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test.

Line up confirmed for concerts in the park

All residents should have had a letter by now confirming details of the performers for the concerts this summer at Englefield House. Supergrass with special guests Feeder and Sports Team are first to perform on Friday 23rd July. The following evening sees Boy George and Culture Club, with Lulu, Kim Wilde and Gabrielle. And the weekend rounds off with Russell Watson and the Royal Philharmonic Concert Orchestra on Sunday night. This Last Night of the Heritage Proms evening will also include soprano Christina Johnston, very special guests the NHS Choir, a Spitfire flypast and a 10 minute firework finale.

Tickets can now be purchased from www.ticketmaster.co.uk and further information on the events is available from the Heritage Live website <https://www.heritagelive.net>.

Peter Carson, Events Manager



Summer colour at the Garden Centre

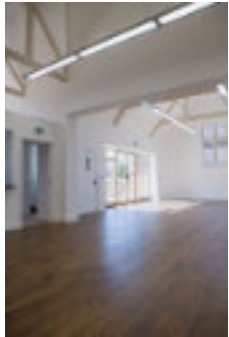
Well the Garden Centre is blooming into colour. With April having the most frosts for over 60 years, we arrived to May which after a cold start finally started to give us some warmer days. The plants have been waiting for the sun and the warmer days to burst into colour.

As always the people we support and the staff team have been working hard sowing seeds, pricking out, potting up and planting up, all the plants in the pictures have been lovingly grown at the garden centre. We have a wide range of bedding and vegetable plants to choose from. So why not pop down and say hi to the team.

Austin Crabbe
Garden Centre Manager

Englefield Village Hall - we're nearly there!

On 6th May 2021, in a hugely important step and after many frustrating months of waiting, the Charity Commission formally approved the creation of the Englefield Village Hall Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO); the community-run charity which will manage your newly refurbished state-of-the-art Village Hall for the benefit of local residents and community groups.



Our small group of local volunteers are now pressing ahead with putting in place everything required to start up and run a Village Hall operation from scratch. This includes essential steps such as opening a bank account, taking out insurances and, importantly, entering into a lease with the Estate on concessionary terms. With the generous assistance of the Englefield Charitable Trust, we can now also start getting the Hall kitted out with all the various essential items such as tables, chairs and loo roll etc!

We are hoping to hold an open day so that everyone can at last see the Hall in all its glory as soon as we can. Inevitably, covid-19 restrictions will drive when we can do this but fingers crossed it will be soon! In the meantime, booking enquiries are more than welcome at englefieldvillagehall1@outlook.com. A website will follow in due course.

We can't wait to share this amazing new facility with you as the hall will only come alive and thrive when we are able to open for business and if our community supports it going forward. We are also still recruiting much needed volunteers who can spare a few hours to help make this project a success. The date of the open day will be published as soon restrictions permit.

*Lynn Dennison, James Holbrook-Bull, Nia & Duncan Rands,
Edward Crookes, Hilary Latimer*



Schools Days 2021

A reminder that Schools Days 2021 are **Wednesday 9th** and **Thursday 10th June**. We are minimising the number of school groups that will be using The Street but please could residents take care extra care and be patient when driving on these dates as a few schools may need to walk along the road at the start and end. Coaches and minibuses will also be present at the start and end so please avoid parking along The Street if possible. Following the morning school run, essential areas will be coned off to ensure access. More information is on the parish noticeboard.

Liz Mattison, Community & Education Officer

News from Rushall Farm

Eric and Kathy Salt lived in Bradfield for 50 years. He was well known as a very good gardener, particularly growing show chrysanthemums, but also prize-winning vegetables. When he retired, his services were very much in demand by the owners of the newly built houses in Bradfield. And if people asked, he knew. So it was a surprise to all of us when he and Kathy upped sticks, left their prize garden and disappeared to Glastonbury to be near Karen their daughter in October last year. Ben and Liz next door and recent arrivals with a large unkempt garden came under Eric's critically watchful eye. As a result, they now don't just have lawn, shrubs and flower borders BUT also have a vegetable patch.



Where have these rare pieces of ground gone? Wild flower borders and pollinator mixtures are great but what about rows of broad beans, potatoes, turnips, carrots and cauliflowers and a proper compost heap for hedgehogs to thrive in? Digging, raking, planting, weeding and hoeing; even pushing a mower around must be good for mind, body and soul. And there is something very healthy about working with the seasons, exposed to the weather and getting your hands dirty. It is rewarding to pick courgettes, peas in the pod or delicious home-grown tomatoes, and with more than a touch of pride. It is not always like that because the picture on the seed packet of the perfect parsnip rarely matches the one that is produced. But growing stuff to eat is all about learning by doing over the years and refining practise, like rotating your planting, valuing compost, watching the weather, and buying seeds and plants well.

At Rushall Farm we have been inspired by Nigel Crisp's excellent new book *Health is made at Home, Hospitals are for Repair*. He encourages us to embrace our role as health creators in our work with the 14,000 children who normally come on visits and camps. A recent example would be the Growing for Good Course. Children aged 9-12 who are not coping in the classroom setting come here for one day a week for 12 weeks. We address their needs with real hope for healthy and lasting benefits for them, their fellow pupils and families. We have recently been given a large polytunnel where those children will learn to grow seeds and plants and so perhaps be inspired to follow in the footsteps of Kathy and Eric.

John Bishop
www.rushallfarm.org.uk



From Englefield Primary School

'Sowing the Seeds for a Flourishing Future'

Although we still haven't been able to visit anywhere beyond Englefield, we have all been very busy learning in and out of the classroom – mainly 'in' due to the inclement weather!

Mrs Sheppard's class have definitely been making the most of the outdoors and have been Woodland Learning every Friday – you may have seen the high-viz crocodile making its way down The Street! They have been looking at place value in teen numbers; whilst in the woods, they collected lots of sticks and tied them into bundles to make one lot of ten. They then used individual sticks to provide the extra ones.



The classroom is full of their growing seedlings as they prepare for filling their garden with fruit and veg plants; they have also enjoyed looking after our tortoise, Pebbles, and learning about what he needs each day to keep healthy. The class also has a lovely mini indoor pond in which they have hatched tadpoles, ready to go into our school pond.



To add to the menagerie, Mrs Karen Elliott, local chicken breeder and good friend to the school, brought in four of her chickens - they enjoyed roaming in the outside area. The children learnt about looking after chickens and the different types of chicken that Mrs Elliott breeds and shows. Mrs Elliott also brought in 32 chicken eggs which she set up in an incubator for us to hatch in class. They have now hatched and we have 9 beautiful little chicks running around a special indoor pen. They will stay with us until the half term break before returning to Mrs Elliot's outdoor pens. All of this excitement has inspired some super independent writing.



As part of our learning on our school values, Year 1 and 2 have been thinking about what it means to be 'Sowing the seeds for a flourishing future' by planting bulbs, seeds and potatoes. Noah taught the class how to make plant labels. They have even set up a growing competition for our four school houses.

The children in Years 3 and 4 have been learning about the Romans and have created some wonderful 'double-page spreads'. The children in this class are now looking forward to their residential trip to Foxlease Guiding Centre in Lyndhurst

which will take place just before the half term break. They will be away for two nights and will be taking part in many exciting activities including archery, tunneling, pioneering and orienteering. A huge thank you to the staff and Mrs Fearn who are giving up their time to take them.



Years 5 and 6 brought their learning about 'The Explorer' to life by trying edible insects. They tasted like popcorn and peanuts and nearly everyone had a taste. One of our Year 5 pupils said, 'I think dried bugs are my new favourite snack!' The class was very brave and nearly everyone tried them- even though they were a bit put off by their appearance.



Grace, in Year 5, won the opportunity to teach the class in the game 'Homeworkopoly'. Grace taught the class about writing imaginatively in the context of Greek gods.

We recently held our annual Science Day. Pupils around the school did lots of practical activities learning about 'fizzy colours' (mixing an acid and alkali together to cause a reaction -the reaction made lots of gas called carbon dioxide), non-Newtonian liquids such as cornflour paste which means it is different to 'normal' liquids - it gets thicker when it is pushed or pressed, and showing through drama the difference between solids, liquids and gases.



Finally, this is the last magazine article I will be writing before the end of the school year. In July, Mrs Julia Kidd, our School Business Manager, will be retiring after 24 years of service at the school – an incredible achievement! Many people in the local area will know Julia and may want to do something to recognise her contribution to the local community. We will have a 'Good wishes' book in the school office on **Thursdays and Fridays** after the half term break if anyone would like to come in and add a message. We will also be making a collection if you would like to contribute to a leaving gift.

Hilary Latimer, Headteacher



News from Five a Day

Spring is always a busy time in the garden, and never more so than at Five a Day. The garden is looking fabulous and full of blossom. After a cold, dry April things were slow to get going, but May has brought better weather to improve growth and we are now harvesting rhubarb. It's a fantastic crop so make sure you don't miss out. It's available from the pergola at the garden centre or from the garden on Tuesday to Friday mornings. £2 per bunch. Cash only please.

Thyme Together, our gardening sessions for older people, have resumed which is great news. Thanks to a grant from Berkshire Community Foundation, we are also running a free gardening course from May-October to help people who have been affected directly or indirectly by the pandemic. The sessions which are on Wednesdays are available to all adults (resident in West Berkshire). All gardening abilities welcome. Contact us on info@fiveaday.org.uk to book your place or find out more.



We are delighted to be welcoming people back to the garden once more, and hope that school visits will be able to re-commence in September.



Our amazing team of volunteers keep the garden in shape. We are eternally grateful to them, but we could really do with a bit more help in the following areas:

- Planning and running a programme of workshops throughout the year
- Volunteer welfare - listening to volunteers' views and organising volunteer get togethers
- Someone to make sure that our HS&E documentation is up to date

We would love to hear from anyone who could help us in these areas. Please email info@fiveaday.org.uk.

Hannah Fraser, Five a Day committee member

Are we your favourite partner garden?

The Royal Horticultural Society and its gardens are well known to many, but you might not know that the RHS has a large 'support cast' of gardens, some owned privately by families just like Englefield. If you are a member of the RHS, as the card holder you will be able to visit for free. Each year the RHS automatically enters all partner gardens into its Partner Garden of the Year competition and a poster is provided which I have attached to the garden gates in the Long Gallery car park. It is voted for by visitors and a panel of judges from the RHS. So, if we are your favourite Partner Garden then please vote for us and spread the word!

The gardens are such a wonderful place to see beautiful and interesting plants. Gardeners and non-gardeners alike will enjoy the experience, with views encompassing the deer park and the hills of the Berkshire countryside beyond. There is a wide range of birds and small mammals which find the habitat provides an abundance of food and cosy nesting sites, plus insects abound in the wilder areas and a beehive in the top garden. The woodland at the top of the slope is deciduous with a few conifers, the flora a mix of native and non-native bulbs and wildflowers and very pretty all year round. The stream is a convenient halfway stop in the walk through the woodland to listen to the water and enjoy the rows of candelabra primula lining the edges. The jewel-like flowers of the azaleas hugging the banks of the stream are a 'must-see' sight in the spring. The gardens are open every Monday - including Bank Holidays except Christmas Day and New Year's Day - so visit us for a walk or pick up a few ideas on what to plant in your own garden, please feel free to pick the gardeners' brains too!

Sue Broughton, Head Gardener

Help save the European eel

Action for the River Kennet (ARK) are looking for schools, groups and individuals who would like to be part of their exciting new eel project. The iconic European eel, once a common fish in the Kennet and the Pang, is now critically endangered and participants will learn all about its incredible life cycle and migration, as well as the importance of these rivers to the survival of eels. We are particularly looking for volunteers to become part of a regular Eel Force on the Kennet from Reading to Hungerford and the Pang from Pangbourne to Reading. This is an opportunity for anyone who would like to regularly spend time near their local river at the same time as doing something useful to protect the European eel. Email mia@riverkennet.org if you would like to get involved.

The Thames Catchment Community Eels project is a partnership, led by Thames Rivers Trust with Action for the River Kennet, South East Rivers Trust and Thames21, funded by the government's Green Recovery Challenge Fund. The fund is being delivered by The National Lottery Heritage Fund in partnership with Natural England and the Environment Agency.

Date	Sidesman	First reading	Gospel reading	Intercessions	Sacristan/server	Sunday Club	Cleaners
May 30 th Trinity Sunday	Penny Savage	Mike Kimber Romans 8:12-17	Richard Benyon John 3:1-17	Melanie Townsend	Dee Boddy Carol Boulter	Andrea Kean	Peter and Catherine Haig
June 6 th 1 st Sunday after Trinity	Paula Fenwick	Catherine Haig 2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1	Torquil MJ Mark 3:20-end	Ron Marillier	Penny Savage Saffy O'Sullivan	Sara Guiducci	Pete and Carole Ford
June 13 th 2 nd Sunday after Trinity	Linda Price	Dinah Perkins 2 Corinthians 5:6-17	Melanie Townsend Mark 4:26-34	Carol Boulter	Sue Smith Peter Haig	Saffy O'Sullivan	Saffy O'Sullivan Melanie Townsend
June 20 th 3 rd Sunday after Trinity	Denny Hollands	Kahlen Spaulding 2 Corinthians 6: 1-13	Gloria Sleep Mark 4: 35-41	Catherine Haig	Penny Norris Torquil MJ	Saffy O'Sullivan	Peter and Catherine Haig
June 27 th 4 th Sunday after Trinity	Torquil MJ	Dee Boddy 2 Corinthians 8: 7-15	Ron Marillier Mark 5: 21-43	Stephanie Gibbons	Catherine Haig Melanie Townsend	Sara Guiducci	Pete and Carole Ford
July 4 th 5 th Sunday after Trinity	Peter Haig	Linda Price 2 Corinthians 12: 2-10	Ronan O'Sullivan Mark 6: 1-13	Carol Boulter	Penny Savage Saffy O'Sullivan	Saffy O'Sullivan	Liz McKean Saffy O'Sullivan
July 11 th 6 th Sunday after Trinity	Penny Savage	Mike Kimber Ephesians 1: 3-14	Catherine Haig Mark 6: 14-29	Melanie Townsend	Sue Smith Peter Haig	Saffy O'Sullivan	Peter and Catherine Haig
July 18 th 7 th Sunday after Trinity	Paula Fenwick	Denny Hollands Ephesians 2: 11-22	Paula Fenwick Mark 6: 30-34, 53-56	Saffy O'Sullivan	Penny Norris Torquil MJ	Saffy O'Sullivan	Pete and Carole Ford
July 25 th 8 th Sunday after Trinity	Linda Price	Dianne Graham Ephesians 3: 14-21	Torquil MJ John 6: 1-21	Harriet Wynne-Jones	Catherine Haig Melanie Townsend	NO SUNDAY CLUB (vestry open)	Saffy O'Sullivan Melanie Townsend
August 1 st 9 th Sunday after Trinity	Denny Hollands	Mike Kimber Ephesians 4: 1-16	Penny Savage John 6: 24-35	Ron Marillier	Penny Savage Denny Hollands	NO SUNDAY CLUB (vestry open)	Peter and Catherine Haig
August 8 th 10 th Sunday after Trinity	Torquil MJ	Harriet Wynne-Jones Ephesians 4: 25- 5: 2	Aldo Guiducci John 6: 35, 41-51	Catherine Haig	Sue Smith Peter Haig	NO SUNDAY CLUB (vestry open)	Pete and Carole Ford

We are very grateful to all those who help maintain the ministry of the church as we move away from restrictions. Please let Nick Wynne-Jones know if you have any prayer requests or notices for the weekly bulletin. If you have swapped duties, or need to make a change, please contact Saffy O'Sullivan (saffyosullivan@gmail.com).



Friend and patron

Victoria Fishburn was a trustee and more latterly a patron of the John Simonds Trust for 20 years. She was always encouraging and kind as a trustee. She was forever hopeful that our aspirations and dreams of bringing benefit to the many children coming to Rushall Farm would be developed and become reality. She was fiercely loyal to fellow trustees and the teaching staff here. You always had the impression that she was concerned and thinking about you and the work the trust was trying to do beyond formal meetings. So she built relationships and community without it really being noticed. It was the very thing that strengthened the trustees to be more confident, purposeful and appropriate in meeting the needs of children in this rapidly changing world. We are very sad at our loss.

John Bishop



Governor vacancy

Sulhamstead and Ufton Nervet Primary School is overseen by a governing board made up of parents, staff, and representatives from the diocese and local area. A vacancy has arisen for a Local Authority governor to join our governing board.

Who is eligible? Any member of the Sulhamstead and Ufton Nervet community, and/or a professional wishing to volunteer their skills to contribute to the effective governance of the school, is welcome to apply. LA governors are not appointed or employed by the LA, but would make an effort to understand the LA's priorities and views, and to represent these in governing board meetings. We would particularly welcome nominations from people with experience of, or interest in, financial and/or business management.

Being a governor requires a willingness to learn, a commitment to the school's vision and ethos, and an interest in ensuring that our pupils receive the best possible educational outcomes. Our school is greatly enriched by the contributions and perspectives of our governors. A successful candidate will be appointed to the governing board for four years, and also to a committee specialising in a particular area. The full board and each committee meet once per half term. Meetings are usually in the evenings and are about 60 to 90 minutes in length. Governor induction and training is offered free of charge.

Interested? If you are interested or would like more information, please email Angela Hartley-Kane (Chair of Governors) at soffice@sun.w-berks.co.uk.

*Sulhamstead and Ufton Nervet CE (VA) Primary School
Church Lane, Ufton Nervet, Berkshire, RG7 4HH (tel 0118 983 2223)*

More options for plastics recycling

West Berkshire Council launched a trial of new plastics recycling banks at the end of March, complementing the existing household collection of plastic bottles, at four sites: Padworth and Newtown Road Recycling Centres; the Kingsland Centre in Thatcham (Waitrose); and Station Road Car Park in Hungerford. The types of plastic you **can** recycle at these new banks include:

- ✓ yoghurt pots
- ✓ cream pots
- ✓ butter/margarine tubs
- ✓ plastic food trays eg take away trays, ready meals trays
- ✓ tubs from chocolate/sweets/biscuits/crackers
- ✓ biscuit tray packaging
- ✓ clear fruit punnets
- ✓ clear meat trays
- ✓ cosmetic pots eg face cream pots

Please make sure plastic is washed and lids/films are removed, and put items loose into the containers not in bags. **Please don't deposit any black plastic trays, or any flexible plastics** (eg shopping bags, cling film, plastic wrapping, crisp packets) or foil.

The Council is hoping that residents will make good use of these new recycling banks: if enough material is recycled without contamination, plastics processing companies in the UK will become more willing to take material from West Berkshire on a regular basis, and - in the longer term - to invest and grow the recycled plastics industry. Recycling more plastic will help reduce demand for oil-based new plastic, and will reduce carbon emissions compared to sending material to landfill or incineration facilities. The trial will be evaluated after six months, and again we hope to continue this as a long term service.

Why can't I put all my waste plastic in the green bag at home? Our Padworth facility can only handle a limited amount of mechanical sorting: it can only separate metal and aluminium cans and plastic bottles. Other plastics or tin foil have to be removed by hand, which is an unpleasant job, expensive for all of us as ratepayers, and slows down the overall recycling process. There are many sources of information about plastics and recycling generally available on the internet. One of the best is WRAP: wrap.org.uk

*Councillor Steve Ardagh-Walter
West Berks Council, Executive Portfolio Environment*

■

Tracing the origins of Chantry Farm

Chantry Farm although no longer extant may be one of the oldest Englefield farms for deeds exist as far back as 1598 and its origin may be much older than that. The farm was certainly still in existence in 1779 for a map drawn that year shows the location of the lands then belonging to it, but it probably ceased to exist as a separate farm early in the following century.

The origin of the farm is likely to go back several hundred years before even 1598 if the name is anything to go by. A chantry was a private Mass celebrated regularly for the soul of one departed in order to speed it through the period of penance spent in purgatory until eventual redemption meant it could be released into paradise, a concept that originated in the 12th century. These Masses were celebrated at a 'privileged altar' within a church by a priest specially employed for the purpose. There was certainly a chantry of St Mary in Englefield church before 1386 and the presence of the image bracket and squint at the east end of the aisle of suggest that one such privileged altar was located there. From the dating of the male effigy in the niche in the south wall it is thought to be of Sir Roger Englefield who died in about 1317 so he may have been the founder of the chantry. Chantries were dissolved along with all other such provisions when the fiercely Protestant Edward VI came to the throne in 1547.

A common means of providing funds for a chantry was by allocating the rent from a particular piece of land and Chantry Field at Englefield is believed to have been the source of funds for the Chantry of St Mary in the parish church. There is a field of that name shown on the enclosure map of 1829 and it was certainly part of Chantry Farm in 1779, though it was then known as Long Close, and formed part of a block of land along with Home Close and an orchard (on which Elmfields in The Street now stands) totalling about nine or ten acres adjacent to the farmyard, which was on the site that later became the timber yard, perhaps using some of the original farm buildings.

The main block of arable land lay a little distance away from the yard, surrounded by other land and accessible only by means of a lane that linked it to the yard, this providing the origin of the name by which the lane is now known - Chantry Lane. Originally Chantry Lane went no further than this (to where the old bathing pool is) but in 1822 the plan for the new Pangbourne Road shows the track going on to join the road from Theale to Englefield at nearly the same point as the permissive extension to the present footpath now does. Later, perhaps in 1862 when the Lodge Gates were built, it was truncated to follow the line of the present official footpath ending on the Pangbourne Road opposite Wickcroft Farm.

Some of this land was already enclosed before 1762 but some of it (35 acres from a total of 72 – much of the present polo fields) was land that had been allotted to Mrs Powel when the Great Field was enclosed in 1774. There were

also seven acres in the Englefield Meadow, then still unenclosed. Another seven acres was let to Mr Simmonds and this comprised an acre and a half of Daintylands at the junction of the Bradfield Road and Beenham Lane just to the north of Englefield House and a further 3½ acres further along on the south side of the Beenham Lane, including two cottages and gardens.

The farmhouse was Cranemore House (called Cranemoor Farm in 1762) with seven acres of adjacent land, situated on the edge of the old village. Up to his death in 1755 John Powel lived there and he left it with some land in the Great Field to his widow Elizabeth. John and Elizabeth Powell had two daughters, Elizabeth and Alice. Elizabeth married William Toovey in 1754 and Alice married Richard Carter in 1756, so Carter and Toovey therefore inherited at least some of Chantry Farm from their mother-in-law. The executors of John Powel's will, made shortly before his death when he was "*weak in body but of sound and disposing mind*", were his brother Thomas Powel and his nephew Thomas Carter. In this will John Powell left £1,800 to his daughter Alice on reaching her 23rd birthday, or on the day of her marriage, but is at great pains to ensure that such a marriage must meet with the approval of his executors. Whether he might have been trying to ensure or trying to prevent Alice's marriage to Richard Carter, which took place a few months short of her 23rd birthday a year after her father's death, is unknown.

In 1667-8 a portion of the original Chantry House lands had been purchased allocated by deed of 20 February 1668 for use by the poor. The price was £48, part of a total of £100 belonging to the poor of the parish, and this is probably the "*Antient Gift of 100 pounds: 50 of it being in Land and the other 50 in Money: the Interest and income to Apprentice poor Children*" that is mentioned on the board in the church dating from 1731. By 1889 the funds for apprenticing were being provided in part by the rent paid by Mr Benyon for the use of the land in the Englefield Meadow.

Cranemore House was demolished early in the 19th century when Richard Benyon removed the old village and created the new deer park and lake. In 1844 some of the main block of arable land was owned by the Rector, some by Caroline Hopkins and George Appleton and some was part of Wickcroft Farm. The 35 acres in the former Great Field were part of Chalkpit Farm. The other parts along the Beenham Lane were then mainly the woodland they are today but the two cottages remained, along with a small field, called 'Simmond's Piddle' ('piddle' is a corruption of 'pightle' which means a small, odd-shaped piece of land left over when the surrounding fields were enclosed as roughly rectangular shapes to facilitate mechanical cultivation). All was owned by Mr Benyon and the cottages were occupied by gamekeeper Thomas Farley and underkeeper William Cox. These cottages were pulled down in 1892 by which time the head keeper lived in the new house at Daintylands and the underkeeper at Parker's Corner.

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.

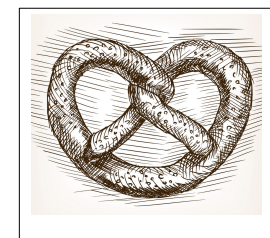
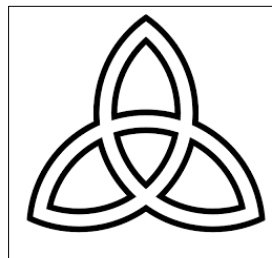
Then they asked him, 'What must we do to do the works God requires?' Jesus answered, 'The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent. ... For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day.' (John 6 v 28-29, 40)

Many people approach God with the idea that they have to do something to earn his approval. The crowd at the start of this passage are no different; they want to know what they must do to meet God's requirements. Jesus cuts cleanly through this notion of achievement. He says that the 'work' people have to do is simply to believe in him – the bread of life – because the Father's will is that all who believe in him will have eternal life. Just as we sustain our physical life by regularly eating wholesome food (bread), so our spiritual life is sustained by regularly coming to Jesus and having a right relationship with him. Just as physical bread can satisfy our physical hunger and nourish our bodies, so Jesus (the bread of life) can satisfy our spiritual hunger and nourish our souls. It is Jesus who gives us eternal life, rescuing us from the mistakes and the mess we have made of our lives, and who will raise us up at the last day.

My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. (John 17 v 15-16)

With the end of his mission in sight, his arrest only a few hours away, Jesus prays with his disciples. Knowing that he is about to return to his father (v11, 13), he prays some very specific things for them, that they might be strengthened and encouraged through the difficult days ahead. Many of us, facing hardships, want nothing more than to be free of them. Jesus explicitly prays that this doesn't happen; that rather than the disciples being taken out of the world and its suffering, they should remain and be protected from the evil one. A moment's pause shows why this is a good thing: it is through the disciples' testimony that the good news of Jesus has made it down through the years to rescue us. It is for the good of God's people that every generation should not be pulled out from the world, but be protected from the evil one as they go about proclaiming the salvation Jesus brings. Though this experience is hard, we are encouraged that this is only a temporary situation – like Jesus, we are not of this world, and ahead of us lies an eternity with him that will far outweigh the 'light and momentary troubles' we face in the present (2 Cor 4:17).

What does the Trinity look like?



Join us every Sunday morning in St Mark's, for cooking, making, gardening, sharing, picnics, and to explore the answers together.



Beekeeping at Englefield

A year ago in May, Englefield Estate became the landlord of two hives which you might have spotted in the wild flower meadow as you travel up or down the drive.

The spring weather has not been kind to us beekeepers this year. While the rain is most

welcome for the gardens; flowers also benefit from the rain creating good nectar yields for the bees. Night rain would however, be more favourable! Weekly inspections are required to support a colony but ideally not when temperatures are below 14 degrees or it is raining or windy. We are all looking forward to calm warm sunny days as the seasons progress. Swarming is a natural instinct and we do as much as we can to control this by checking the hives weekly through the spring and summer seasons.

In the summer of 2018, with the blessing of the headteacher Hilary Latimer, bees took up residence at Englefield Primary School. The generous donation of a hive from Newbury Beekeepers Association enabled this to happen. A second hive was promptly donated to the school by a retiring beekeeper so the children were furnished with two hives all ready for bees. The bees arrived and have been successful to date. The PTA of the school funded beekeeping suits for the children and 'Bee Club' is now one of the weekly afterschool activities. Many children of all ages have the opportunity to 'experience' bees at first hand.

Having taught at the school for five years, in summer 2020 I decided to leave the classroom and continue my beekeeping passion full-time. I care for a number of hives, some mine but most belong to others who would like to have bees but lack time or knowledge or both to do so. Currently the average age of a British beekeeper is 66 years old. Passing on the passion to the next generation has always been one of my priorities. Englefield are doing their best to reduce the average age of a beekeeper.

'Bee Club' had a good honey harvest last year. Only time will tell if the harvest will be similar this year. A fast running out supply of honey can be purchased from the school office. Alternatively, Englefield Garden Centre also sell my very local honey. Local English honey is like no other.

At Bee Club today we managed to add a small swarm to a weak colony, with a failing queen, so will hope that they build up to a strong colony and bring in some summer honey. Jess has been great at taking notes, Archie loves the challenge of keeping the smoker alight. Gregor is usually the quickest to find the queen. Like the others, Maisy, Freya and Maya are always asking questions – the best way to learn about anything new.

Serena Watts



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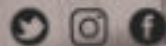
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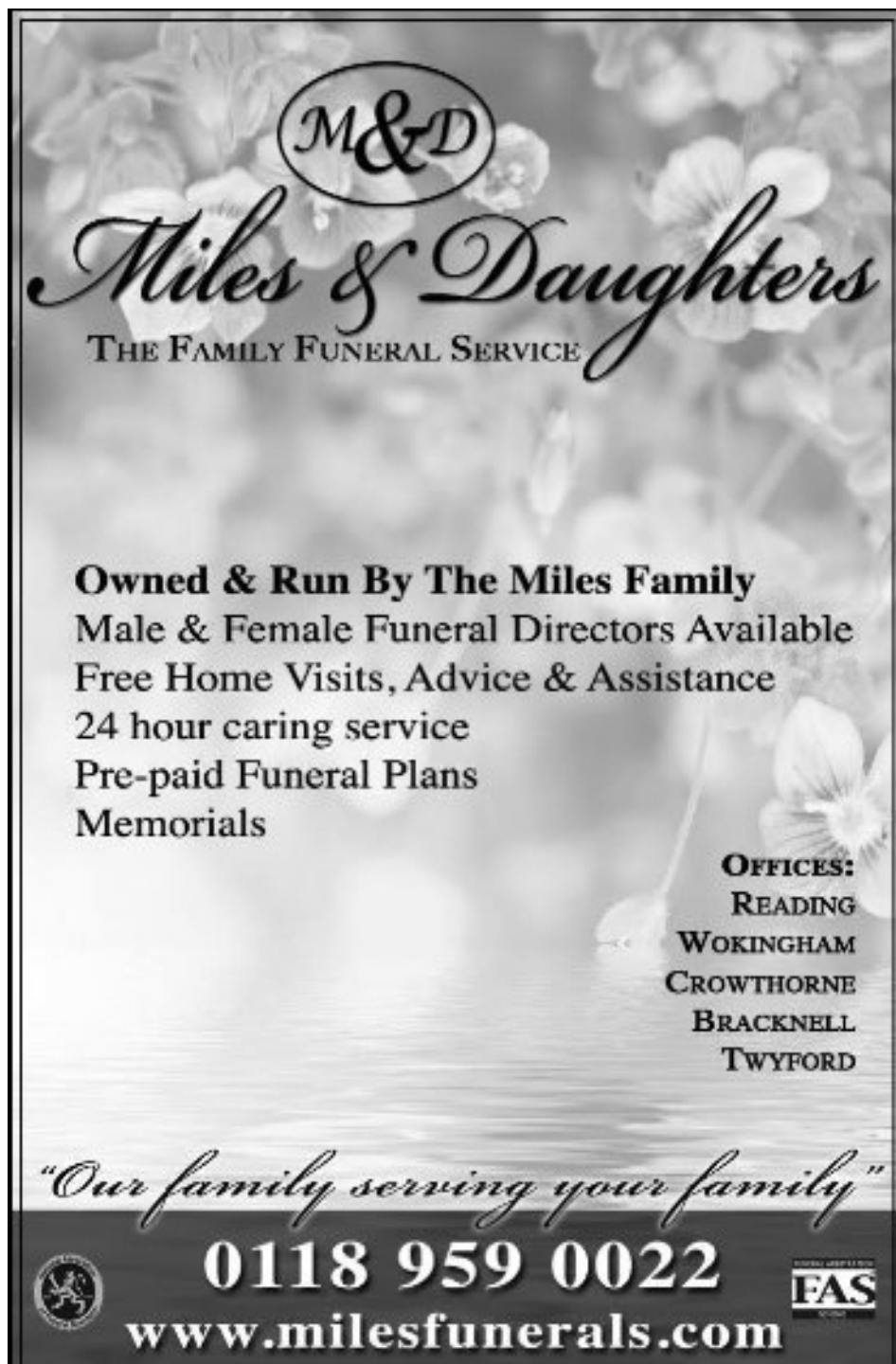
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