

Englefield Parish News

October - November 2021



The Parish of St Mark's, Englefield

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Englefield Parish Council website: www.englefieldpc.org.uk

Front cover: *A colourful display of dabbias, along with other exhibits, in the show tent at the Englefield Flower Show and School Fete in September.*

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

From St Mark's House

Dear friends

How would you like to win a charity raffle ticket for a three-day space flight orbiting the earth at 357 miles altitude? Billionaire Musk's SpaceX Dragon, dubbed Inspiration4, launched on September 16th and returned on the 19th with four passengers in an automated capsule completely controlled by computers on earth and no professional astronaut on board. The world's first 'amateur astronaut' crew to orbit Earth included the youngest in space (age 29) and first with a prosthesis - a childhood cancer survivor with a titanium rod in her leg. But what motives drive Inspiration4? The billionaire on board said, 'We're not going to do this if we cannot make a huge difference for the problems the world is faced with today'. But behind these aspirations is a mammoth battle to open up space tourism for the richest on Earth and compete for plans to give political advantage over opponents on our globe.

Is tourism and rivalry for claiming territory on heavenly bodies going to bring improvements for humankind when we haven't done a very good job of it on our earthly one? Sir David Attenborough's film *A Life On Our Planet* states his grief and documents the devastating effects of humanity's adverse impact on our changing planet. As we look to the stars and beyond, can we have a clear earthly perspective on what we've done to our planet? If, with increasing wars on earth and the rise and fall of nations, we have not found lasting peace, how can we achieve any peaceful balance in space and not destruct the planets with our 'Star Wars'?

Elon Musk responds by celebrating his human achievement: Inspiration4. In contrast, David, the poor shepherd boy who became Israel's greatest king, looked into the same heavens and said to the God who created them, 'You see me when I travel...you know everything I do. I can never get away from your presence! If I go up to heaven, you are there; if I go down to the grave you are there. If I ride the wings of morning, even there your hand will guide me, and your strength will support me.' (Psalm 139) David found inspiration knowing that, as he said, 'God reached down from heaven and rescued me: he led me to a place of safety because he delights in me'. (Psalm 18) We now know that David's inspiration can be 'inspiration 4 you' because of the gift that God gives through His Son Jesus who reached down from heaven to rescue us. Riding in Space X Dragon for three days relying on remote controls required faith. David knew that the safest place to put his trust for all time was in the hand of God who loved him and was with him always. That is an inspiration for us, too.

Travelling and trusting

Nick and Harriet

Diary dates

Harvest Festival: Sunday 3rd October

Time to Pray: Monday 4th and 19th October and Monday 1st and 15th November, 6pm to 6.30pm in the Englefield Chapel, prayer, readings and reflection, all welcome

West Berkshire Mobile Library: Wednesday 20th October, 10th November, 1st December, at the Old Fire Station Nursery, Englefield

Let's Talk Theology: Wednesday 13th October, and 10th November, 3.30pm, contact Carol Boulter to be added to the mailing list

PCC meeting: Monday 22nd November

SDG termly lecture: Bishop Olivia Graham on 'Care for Creation', 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 Benj Walton and Izzy Archer, married at St Mark's on Saturday 8th August.

To Annie Stone on the birth of her newest great grandson Rupert, to Louise and Phillip Young.

To Jonathan and Anna on the birth of Theodore Henry, a grandson for Nick and Harriet Wynne-Jones.

To Jamie Gray and Sophie Kilduff, married at St Mark's on Friday 24th September.

To Matthew Goldhill and Georgiana Haig who celebrated their wedding at Englefield on Saturday 25th September.

Estate update

We're very pleased that Matt Butler has joined the maintenance team based at the Estate Yard. He is a carpenter by trade having undertaken his apprenticeship with a specialist oak framing company and will be doing a wide variety of work for the Estate. Matt lives in Spencers Wood and in his spare time has taken up bee keeping.

In addition, the Forestry department has been joined by Joe Western on a one year training placement in partnership with the Royal Forestry Society. Joe is from Suffolk and has recently completed a Countryside Management degree at Harper Adams College in Shropshire.

In late October James Holbrook-Bull will be moving on from Englefield to a prestigious new role as Head of Property Management at Windsor with the Crown Estate. During his seven years at Englefield James has played a key role in the day to day management of the Estate and his hard work and dedication has been greatly appreciated by us all. We wish James, Kerry and the boys the very best with their exciting move.

Edward Crookes, Estates Director

Save the date!

All residents of Englefield parish will be invited to join with friends and neighbours at the Village Hall on **Friday 29th October** to say thank you to Laura and Andy for their many years of service to our community running Englefield Village Stores & Tea Rooms. Further details will follow for this early evening gathering but for now please save the date in your diary.



Ordination at Exeter

Duncan Hollands was ordained as curate and deacon on Saturday 11th September in Exeter Cathedral. Duncan attended both the Sunday school at Englefield church, and the nursery school run by Nanny Benyon. He was very happy there. He attended St Mark's with the Hollands family over the following years. The church has been praying for him on a regular basis while he studied Theology at Oak Hill College. He is curate in the parish of St Pancras Church in Pennycross, Plymouth, where he and his family now live.

Over the years Englefield has developed something of a strong connection with Oak Hill Theological College in North London. Bishop Maurice Wood (resident priest of Englefield when Duncan was an infant) was also principal of the college during his career. Nick Wynne-Jones studied Theology at Oak Hill. Duncan completed four years there finishing with an MA in Theology. Alumni of the college are known as 'Old Oaks'.

Peter Hollands

SDG lecture

Olivia Graham, Bishop of Reading, will give the next Spiritual Development lecture on Wednesday 20th October. She will be speaking on 'Care for Creation', at St James the Less, Pangbourne, starting at 7.30pm. Everyone is welcome.

Let's Talk Theology meetings continue on the second Wednesday of every month - the next dates are October 13th and November 10th.

Englefield Tower

In May we opened the Tower door, and the band got together for our first wedding this year. We have rung at Englefield before the Sunday service and for five weddings. The practice evenings have started again on Tuesdays at 7pm for one hour. We need more ringers so please contact us if you want to find out more about bell ringing. It is a small group and we enjoy learning at a steady pace.

Janine Alston (07740 183087)

Remembrance Sunday

This falls on Sunday 14th November and we are delighted to be welcoming visiting speaker, Major General (retired) Tim Cross CBE, to our service of remembrance at St Mark's.

Tim was commissioned into the British Army in 1971. He commanded at every level, from leading a small Bomb Disposal Team in Northern Ireland in the 1970's to commanding a Division of 30,000 in 2004/07.



Alongside various tours in the UK and Germany, he served with the UN in Cyprus in 1980/81 and had operational deployments to Kuwait/Iraq in 1990/91 and Bosnia in 1995/96 and 1997. In 1999, as a Brigadier in command of 101 Logistic Brigade, he deployed to Macedonia, Albania and Kosovo and was appointed CBE in the subsequent operational awards for his work in leading the NATO response to the humanitarian crisis; his brigade headquarters was also awarded the Wilkinson Sword of Peace.

In September 2002 he became involved in the initial planning for military operations in Iraq, then deploying to Washington, Kuwait and Baghdad as the British Deputy to the US-led Office of Post-War Planning - which eventually became the Coalition Provisional Authority. In July 2003 he returned to the UK and, after a staff appointment, assumed command of the largest of the three Divisions of the UK Field Army in Oct 2004. Retiring in January 2007 he was the Army adviser to the UK House of Commons Defence Committee for seven years until 2014.

Amongst a broad portfolio Tim is a local lay minister in the Church of England and an itinerant preacher and international speaker. He works with Theos - a Christian think tank - and advises other Christian charities. He is on the board of three UK/international businesses, and also chairs the Ethics Oversight Committee of a major UK technology company. A facilitator/tutor at the Leadership Trust, he is also a visiting/honorary professor at three UK universities.

Tim has been married to Christine since 1972 and they have three children and five grandchildren. Outside of them, his hobbies include gardening, walking and reading/writing, having had a number of articles and book chapters published.

Nick Wynne-Jones

Unknown Donor charity

Are you under 21 years of age, resident in Englefield parish and in need of financial help with your education? The Englefield Unknown Donor charity may be able to offer a small grant towards school, apprenticeship, university or college costs such as books, travel, equipment or tools.

Please contact the trustees on 0118 9302504 or email office@englefield.co.uk for more information.

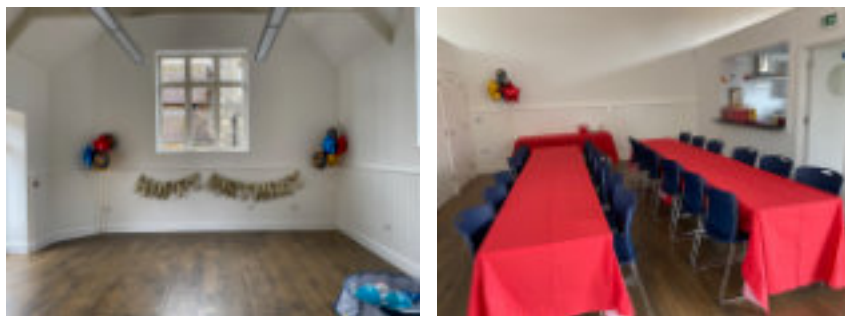
Village Hall update

We're really pleased to say that the new Village Hall is now fully open, and has already hosted a number of community events, including children's birthday parties, a family lunch, and a nursery graduation!

Thanks to all those who've hired and supported the hall so far. We've got a number of upcoming bookings through the autumn from local residents and community groups, and are thrilled to see it being used and benefiting the community.

A new website to showcase the hall is in the process of being designed and built, and we now have superfast fibre broadband thanks to the Gigaclear Community Hub scheme. If you'd like to know more about booking the hall for your event, please get in touch by emailing englefieldvillagehall1@outlook.com.

Englefield Village Hall Committee



The Village Hall set up for a children's birthday party

Congratulations

Many congratulations to St Mark's churchwarden, Torquil Montague-Johnstone, who bicycled 50 miles for Ride+Stride on September 11th, raising money for St Mark's Church and for the Berkshire Historic Churches Trust. He visited every church in the Bradfield Deanery, 20 of them by bike and five by car, within the timespan of 10am to 6pm that day. The funds for St Mark's will go towards meeting the expenses of the new boiler and oil tank and upgrading the church IT. If anyone would like to support Torquil's campaign, his justgiving page is still open: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/torquilmontague-johnstone>



WW2 drama at Englefield

In early August Englefield House was transformed into the setting for a new World War Two series from Steven Spielberg and Tom Hanks. *Masters of the Air*, which follows the US Eighth Air Force unit, is the third in the WW2 drama trilogy, the previous being *Band of Brothers* and *The Pacific*.

The new TV series is based on Donald L Miller's book *Masters of the Air: America's Bomber Boys Who Fought The Air War Against Nazi Germany*. The Eighth Air Force, known as the 'Mighty Eighth', bombed Berlin, Hanover, Leipzig and Dresden, and destroyed enemy targets including rail facilities and oil refineries, while also engaging in air-to-air fighter combat.



During the filming, Englefield House was portrayed as a convalescent home for wounded soldiers, with the Governor's Room being transformed into a doctor's surgery. It's an accurate reflection of the role Englefield House played during both world wars, when the Long Gallery acted as a hospital for recovering servicemen.

Peter Carson, Events Manager

September success for the Flower Show!

The rescheduled Englefield Flower Show and School Fete on Saturday 11th September 2021 can surely go down in history as one of our best!

There were so many uncertainties in restarting our traditional July show and fete in September after all the societal changes during lockdown. The unhesitating decision of the fete committee in June was to go for it and phew(!) it was the right decision. Blessed with late summer sunshine, people turned out to support the event in their hundreds. They were rewarded with the usual great atmosphere provided by Beenham Wind Orchestra and the school performed traditional maypole dances and entertained us with a martial arts display. Traditional teas, cakes, as well as Pimm's and beers, served by the PTA, were as popular as the ice creams and barbecue food. The stalls and amusements did a roaring trade. The pig



was bowled for, the crockery smashed, the bric-a-brac, books and toys were browsed through and purchased. Not forgetting the bouncy castle and the tractor rides or the children's stalls and games run by the school pupils that were busy all afternoon.

Running the event in September rather than July this year – feedback on which has been entirely positive – did mean altering some of the classes, yet there was an amazing range for the judges to consider. These included vegetables and fruits, cakes and preserves, crafts and photography and some beautiful floral entries brightening the whole display. The difficult growing season and moving the date brought changes for the flower, fruit, and vegetable growers but, even so, entries in some classes were up, both in quality and number. The household judges commented that the quality of the art, craft and photography classes was one of the highest they had seen. As for the baking and preserves classes, the number of entries again made the trestle tables groan.

Pupils at the school had worked hard on their entries too, particularly in the handwriting classes and artwork to celebrate the lifting of the covid lockdown. With only a week of term completed, the entries were super and there were a host of rosettes awarded and well deserved. They soon moved from the display boards to the chests of our young entrants and were proudly worn around the show.



The Five-a-Day market garden again held an open day, and the fete crowds were encouraged to visit and see for themselves the enterprising work they do to promote the therapeutic benefits and a love of gardening for the young and old alike.



Heartfelt thanks must go to the PTA and school head, Mrs Latimer and the Show Committee who worked so hard to plan and organise/run this event. There is also grateful appreciation for the many volunteers on the day, whether helping to man stalls or setting up and clearing away. It would not have happened without their commitment, time and support. A special mention must also be given to the Englefield Estate team who once again gave their time to set up and dismantle marquees, tables, electricity, water etc. But most of all, thank you to all those who put the date in their diaries and came along on the day to enjoy this very special Englefield community event which will provide much-needed funds to support learning and enrichment activities at Englefield Primary School.

We do apologise for the parking problems on the day and any inconvenience this may have caused either those attending or the village residents. We can assure you that this will be addressed as a priority for 2022. The relief and pleasure we can all take from the successful revival of the show and fete spurs us on to think about next year and the preparation for that will start when we meet afresh in October. If you have any suggestions for the committee or could help in anyway at all we would be delighted to hear from you.

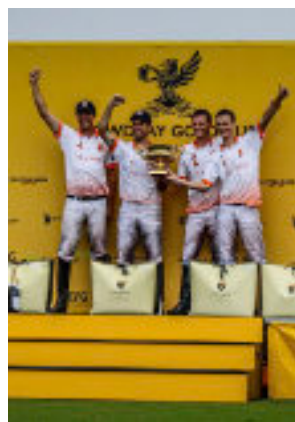
Mark Postles, Committee Chairman (mapostles@gmail.com)

Congratulations to the 2021 winners of the Cups and Shields (presented this year by Lady Benyon):

PERPETUAL CHALLENGE CUPS (given by)	HOLDER
The Cox Cup (M. & P. Cox)	Anthony Powell
Rose Challenge Cup (F. Lamperd & H. Wilkinson)	Mary McLean
Oliver Bridges Challenge Cup (H.O. Bridges)	Trevor Allen
Bill Partridge Memorial Cup (Flower Show)	Amanda Parish
Kathleen Lamperd Memorial Cup (F. Lamperd)	Amanda Parish
Bob Orchard Memorial Cup (Flower Show)	Dudley Fishburn
Ambrose Setterfield Memorial Shield	Trevor Allen
Senior Citizens Shield	Dudley Fishburn
Miniature Challenge Cup	Anthony Powell

Floral Art Challenge Cup (M. Hart)
 Victor Brown Memorial Bowl (J. Brown)
 Novice Challenge Cup (N. Allen)
 Social Club Ladies Challenge Cup
 Wendy Greaves Memorial Cup (C. Roberts)
 Photography Cup (T. Perkins)
 Des Allen Memorial Cup (N. Allen and Family)
 Children's Cup (J.K. Strang JP)
 Handwriting Shield Yrs 1 & 2 (J. Dunn)
 Handwriting Shield Yrs 3 & 4 (J. Dunn)
 Handwriting Shield Yrs 5 & 6 (J. Dunn)
 Joan Dunn Memorial Cup Yrs 3 & 4 (Flower Show)
 Joan Dunn Memorial Cup Yrs 5 & 6 (Flower Show)
 The Mrs Black Memorial Cup (Mrs S. Smith)

Elizabeth Benyon
 Gordon Fletcher
 Lisa Dore
 Allison Strang
 Annette Chishick
 Phoebe Parsons
 Phoebe Parsons
 Tess Higley
 Oscar Ilsley
 Tess Higley
 Grace Phelps
 Cory Cross
 Kacey Cross
 Charlotte Hendricks



Gold Cup winners

Sporting success at the highest level has come to Englefield. Ned and Louis Hine from Chalkpit Farm were two of the four players in the Thai Polo team who won this year's polo Gold Cup, the biggest tournament in Europe.

They triumphed in a game that was played in near torrential rain at Cowdray Park and was televised to a worldwide audience. Ned aged 18, and Louis aged 15 (seen here on the right of the podium) played alongside Nico Pieres, an Argentine 9 goal handicap (the best in the world is 10) and James Harper, England's captain, on a 7 goal handicap, and fought

their way to the final against some of the best players in the world. Based at Chalkpit Farm and coached by their father Andrew they have hit the big time by winning one of the most sought-after trophies in the sport which attracts players coming from across the world.

Many congratulations to Ned and Louis and all the back-up team at Chalkpit Farm.

Angie Marin-Moreno



From Rushall Farm

I am just in quiet recovery mode having had my 11 and 8 year old grandsons, Eli and Isaac, to look after for four days. We operated in a *Last of the Summer Wine* mode, with a long walk through the countryside in the morning. I was invariably out in front while they paused to climb a fallen tree, bundle on an open piece of grass or attack one another with their newly prized sticks.



There were rarely many cries of pain or discomfort. There was the odd splash when one decided to walk across a deepish part of the Pang but otherwise I prided myself in pointing out self-sown oak trees where vegetation had been cleared just three years ago, and how necessary it is to protect newly coppiced hazel from deer grazing. This was a walk which normally takes an hour, and was easily strung out to two and a half hours with no trouble at all.

Afternoon tasks were based around bribes. Last time the boys stayed I got into serious trouble from their dad for excessive screen time. In fairness it was raining and 8 hours in one day is a bit much. So tasks were planned; a massive bonfire to clear stuff up on the first night, and mixing food and feeding the birds, at odds I know from the latest report saying we shouldn't. There were sand bags to fill (I am sure floods are coming), sheaves of wheat to cut for harvest festivals, some fencing to fix with hammers and drill, new tyres on the wheelbarrows and coppice thinnings for logging to bring back home. All was well as we loaded from what had become a nice habitat pile. Indeed it was, because there right in the middle of it was a very fat toad sitting next to a beautiful nest of very tiny field mice. This was too much for Isaac, so we quickly restored the security of their homes.

I feel slightly guilty for not explaining in detail the excellent report by Henry Dimbleby, author of the National Food Strategy, or how difficult this farming season has been for so many, including Steve Waters and his family here. But it is amazing that once again seed time and harvest have not failed, and thank goodness we can respond with gratitude to God, and generous hearts to those less fortunate.

John Bishop
www.rushallfarm.org.uk



From Englefield Primary School

'Sowing the Seeds for a Flourishing Future'

Finally we're back together in school with everything feeling fairly normal. We've had a good rest over the summer and everyone has come bouncing back in for the start of a new year.

Our new Foundation Stage pupils have settled brilliantly and are enjoying being able to play with the older ones at break times. Mrs Sheppard is hoping to start Woodland Learning very soon so you may see them out and about around the village.

We have welcomed four new children to other year groups: Scarlet, Tess, Peter and Zander; they (and their families) have settled well and it feels like they've always been here. We also welcomed our new Finance Officer, Mrs Kate Scott, who has done a brilliant job of getting to grips with life in a school office.



Over the summer, a lot of work went on in school to make our building even better. The Key Stage 1 area was redecorated and we added new storage boxes and shoe trolleys to help with tidiness. A new awning was also erected over part of the Year 1/2 outdoor area to make it a useful learning space in any weather.

Last week was Values Week when we reflected on our school vision and the values that we hope we can instill in our pupils before they leave us. Our vision is based around growth and nurture as we feel this fits beautifully with our lovely setting: **'Our loving environment cultivates the foundations of mutual respect and the understanding that every child is special in God's eyes. Our children are the seeds from which we will build a brighter future. We nurture and nourish them so they grow and flourish.'**



Using the Parable of the Mustard Seed (Matthew 13:31-32) we show the children how they can grow and develop to be proactive, kind and compassionate members of society, looking after their own needs but also those of people around them. Our children have responded brilliantly to this analogy; they often talk about how they are being nourished and nurtured and show

through their actions how they support others. During lockdown last year our Year 5/6 pupils worked from home in small groups to do charitable acts and

raised over £3,300 for good causes such as the NHS, Cancer Research and the RSPCA, an incredible achievement and real testament to their thoughtful and compassionate nature.

In the last article, I included a picture of the wonderful collage produced by our Year 6 leavers with help from the younger pupils. This showed the Mustard Tree with birds sheltering in its branches. The collage, shown opposite, is now hanging in our school hall and it helps us to remember how we can grow and flourish and go on to be a shelter for others.

One of the ways we help our children to flourish is to give them a wide range of experiences and opportunities. Our Year 3/4 pupils have just had their first ukulele lesson with Mr Ian Smithers from Berkshire Maestros. These lessons are subsidized by the Maestros and by school so the pupils get two terms of lessons for a very low cost. Hopefully we will hear a number of the pupils playing their ukuleles in our band in the summer term and some may even go on to take further lessons.



Many of you will have joined us on the school field for the Englefield Flower Show and School Fete. We were amazed at how many people supported the event. Everyone seemed to be thrilled to be back in their community, enjoying delicious refreshments and fun activities. There were also a really good number of entries into the various competitions in the show tent...well done to anyone who was awarded a prize. Our Key Stage 2 pupils put on a great maypole dancing display - thank you to Mrs Kelley for organising that so quickly and efficiently.

As well as the great efforts of the Flower Show Committee, the parents and staff at school worked tirelessly under the direction of Kate Smith and Fiona Read to make the event a success. It looks like we have raised just over £3000 for the school which is fantastic. A huge thank you to everyone who gave up their time to support this very special community event.

Hilary Latimer, Headteacher





News from Five a Day

It's been such a busy summer in the garden. Our lovely volunteers have been as busy as ever, growing, harvesting, weeding and watering. Crops including tomatoes, courgettes, beans and potatoes have been selling well both in the garden and from the pergola at the garden centre. Huge thanks to Englefield Garden Centre for allowing us to use this facility, it has made a considerable difference to our sales.

We were delighted to open the garden last month for the Englefield Flower Show and School Fete. It was such a great day and lovely to see so many visitors enjoying the garden (and our delicious cakes). Sales of refreshments, plants, veg and flowers significantly boosted our funds, for which we are always grateful. Thank you to all involved for creating such a lovely event for the community.



As we move into autumn we are beginning to plan our Christmas wreath workshops. Dates have not yet been confirmed, but they always get booked up quickly so keep an eye on Facebook and the noticeboard outside the garden for details.

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

Hannah Fraser, Five a Day committee member

Englefield Parish Council

Parish Council meetings have now resumed in person, and at the new location of the Village Hall. The dates and agendas for upcoming meetings will be available on the website: www.Englefieldpc.org.uk. All members of the Parish are welcome to attend.

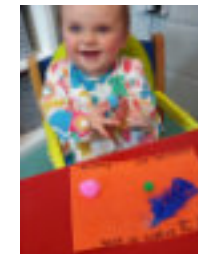
Nia Rands, Clerk

Plant a tree for the Jubilee

A tree planting initiative is being launched to mark Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee in 2022 and people across the UK are being invited to 'Plant a Tree for the Jubilee' - from October 2021 to December 2022. Everyone is encouraged to be involved - individuals, community groups, schools, councils, businesses. Free saplings are available from this autumn from The Woodland Trust.

Autumn at the Old Fire Station

It dawned on us last week when walking through the woods that autumn is soon approaching. Although we have had a splendid summer we can't quite believe it has almost ended. That being said we were lucky enough to host the preschoolers graduation party in the new Village Hall which was outstanding to say the least and again we wish them all the best on this new adventure.



We have already started planning and preparing activities to welcome Harvest and the change in seasons. We have visited Cobbs Farm Shop to purchase some vegetables and enjoyed counting the bales of hay from afar with the support of each other. As we move into the new term we are excited to be exploring the new statutory framework and using team meetings and events to further our knowledge. If you have any skills you feel may be of interest to the children then please do get in touch on 0118 9306981.

The Old Fire Station Nursery

Why give to your local Foodbank?

- **400% increase in take up since March**
- **16 tonnes of food parcels a month (up from 4 this time last year)**
- **A growing need in Theale**

DROP OFF LOCATION:
Holy Trinity Church, Theale

WHEN?
SUNDAYS AND WEDNESDAYS
10.30AM TO 4.00PM



Date	Sidesman	First reading	Gospel reading	Prayers	Sacristan	Server	Sunday Club	Cleaners
October 3rd Harvest Festival	Paula Fenwick	Denny Hollands Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12	Peter Haig Mark 10:2-16	Paula Fenwick	Sue Smith	Melanie Townsend	Saffy O'Sullivan	Peter and Catherine Haig
October 10th 19th Sunday after Trinity	Linda Price	Dee Boddy Hebrews 4:12-end	Melanie Townsend Mark 10:17-31	Catherine Haig	Catherine Haig	Denny Hollands	Saffy O'Sullivan	Pete and Carole Ford
October 17th 20th Sunday after Trinity	Denny Hollands	Harriet Wynne-Jones Hebrews 5:1-10	Aldo Guiducci Mark 10:35-45	Ron Marillier	Penny Norris	Peter Haig	Saffy O'Sullivan	Saffy O'Sullivan
October 24th Bible Sunday	Peter Haig	Lorraine Dehn 2 Timothy 3:14-4:5	Dee Boddy John 5:36b-end	Stephanie Gibbons	Catherine Haig	Torquil MJ	Saffy O'Sullivan	Harriet Wynne-Jones
October 31st All Saints' Day	Penny Savage	Carole Ford Revelation 21:1-6a	Dudley Fishburn John 11:32-44	James Bamforth	Sue Smith	Paula Fenwick	Saffy O'Sullivan	Peter and Catherine Haig
November 7th 3rd Sunday before Advent BCP	Catherine Haig	Kahlen Spaulding Hebrews 9:24-end	Paula Fenwick Mark 1:14-20	BCP	Penny Norris	Saffy O'Sullivan	Saffy O'Sullivan	Pete and Carole Ford
November 14th Remembrance Sunday	Paula Fenwick	Catherine Haig Hebrews 10:11-25	Torquil MJ Mark 13:1-8	Harriet WJ	Catherine Haig	Melanie Townsend	Saffy O'Sullivan	Saffy O'Sullivan
November 21st Christ the King	Linda Price	Dee Boddy Revelation 1:4b-8	Peter Haig John 18:33-37	Linda Price	Penny Savage	Peter Haig	Saffy O'Sullivan	Harriet Wynne-Jones
November 28th Advent Sunday	Denny Hollands	Lucy Roper	Denny Hollands	BCP	Sue Smith	Denny Hollands	Saffy O'Sullivan	Peter and Catherine Haig
December 5th 2nd Sunday of Advent BCP	Peter Haig	James Bamforth	Penny Savage	Richard Benyon	Penny Norris	Torquil MJ	Saffy O'Sullivan	Pete and Carole Ford
December 12th 3rd Sunday of Advent	Penny Savage	Stephanie Gibbons	Ronan O'Sullivan	Paula Fenwick	Catherine Haig	Paula Fenwick	Saffy O'Sullivan	Saffy O'Sullivan

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

Remote from Madagascar

My last newsletter was back in January, and at that time we were hoping to get back to Madagascar in the spring. However, in April a national state of emergency was declared and entering Madagascar became even more difficult than before. At the time of writing, the island remains closed with no commercial flights allowed in, and even Malagasy citizens, who can take repatriation flights, need a good reason to return.

So for the time being we are staying put in rural France and doing what we can for the Bible College in Madagascar from here. At least we are all safe and well, which is more than can be said for the situation in Toliara which has been hit by the double whammy of covid and a severe famine. The drought this year has been the worst in decades and food supplies have run out in many of our communities, with resultant starvation and increase in disease. In spite of this, the Diocese has been carrying on, and Bishop Sami is active in keeping his longer term vision of improved education intact. The College has reopened for this year and we are teaching the second year curriculum to the students, with my contributions being remote via email and zoom. The College is in ongoing need of financial support and so any donations would be gratefully received (details of how to give are available at St Mark's). It has been a strange experience for me to be so physically disconnected from the worsening situation in Toliara while remaining so involved with their day to day life. It has made me very aware of how wealthy the West is and how privileged we are to live in countries with health systems, food, water, and roads. It is a wonderful thing to be able to drive safely down a street, or turn on a tap and drink clean water, and I give thanks for these simple things daily.

One of my main ways of staying connected has been to pray, and also to paint (which for me has always been closely connected to prayer) and so I have been painting the street scenes of Toliara. These are all going up on my website as I paint them, so do take a look: www.adamboulter.co.uk. Blessings,

Adam, Beth, Joseph, Hannah and Benjamin Boulter

Afternoon concert

The well-known Tedesca String Quartet (www.tedesca.co.uk), with Rose Redgrave on viola, is performing at St Mary's Church, Shaw, RG14 2DR, on Sunday 7th November at 4pm. The programme includes works by Dvorak and Mozart and tickets are £15 to include refreshments, in aid of St Mary's Church Projects - available from rachel.haslam@ntlworld.com or 07919 555043.

Bradfield YFC

Traditionally YFC closes over August to allow for harvest to commence, unfortunately it seems no one told the weather this year! The beginning of September equals the beginning of the new YFC membership year and by the time you read this we will have already enjoyed some fun-packed meetings. This year also marks National YFC 90th Membership year, which is a great time to join YFC and even better is that the membership range has been extended for anyone up to 28 years of age.

Our autumn/winter programme has been published and we have an extensive range of activities to get involved with from stock judging, ploughing, pizza making, beekeeping talks to sports and quiz nights, as well as rallies, informal gatherings and social events there is something to suit everyone. Plans are well underway for our AGM in October and we will be involved with the NDAS Ploughing Match on Saturday 3rd October where we will have a stand and be competing in various competitions including scarecrow making and stock judging. We'll be hosting the County Harvest Festival service at the Black Barns, Bradfield, on 17th October. If you would like to find out more about us and enjoy a day out, then this is the perfect opportunity to come and talk to us. *The Club meets weekly, to find out more about what Bradfield YFC has to offer please contact Club Leader, Sonia Walters sonia.walters2@btinternet.com or find Bradfield Young Farmers on Facebook.*

Covid update

16 - 17 year olds can now get their covid vaccinations at walk-in clinics at Broad Street Mall in Reading every day 9.30am – 7.00pm. No appointment is necessary.

All those aged 18 and over, or within 3 months of their 18th birthday, can get the vaccine either by booking online for an appointment at a vaccination centre or pharmacy, or by going to a walk-in covid-19 vaccination site - no appointment needed - or if you cannot book online, by calling 119 free of charge.

It's also vitally important to keep testing for covid-19 if you don't have symptoms as you could be unknowingly transmitting the virus, even if you've been vaccinated. You can obtain self test kits from your local participating pharmacy or by ordering the kits online (free) from <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>.

West Berkshire Council

The moving schoolhouse

The Moving Toyshop was a crime novel from 1946, written by Edmund Crispin (real name Bruce Montgomery), in which a toyshop mysteriously appears to move, for nefarious purposes, from one side of Oxford to the other and then back again in the course of one night. In Englefield, the schoolhouse also appears to have undergone a similar translocation somewhere between 1844 and 1851, only to be back in its original place by 1861, though not with any apparently malign intent.

Ecclesiastical records show that there was a parish school in Englefield from as early as 1540 until at least 1835 and in 1721 the Reverend Michael Kirby was schoolmaster. Nothing further is known of this but in 1762 the house and schoolroom identified above was the property of Thomas Horn, along with the land alongside as far as number 10, the land on the opposite side of The Street up to where St Mark's Close now is and 'Horn's Pightle', now the site of the modern school building and the school field.

The 1841 census was the first to give any details that can tie named individuals to properties. However, it can be difficult to say exactly which people lived where for no address details are given. Fortunately, we also have the Tithe Survey of Englefield only three years later which provides not only a list of the names of the freeholders and occupiers of individual properties but also a map keyed to the list so we can identify exactly who lived where.

From the census we know that Elizabeth Giles, aged 70, was a schoolmistress and Robert aged 40, living in the same house and presumably her son – relationships were not recorded until 1851 – was a schoolmaster. The Tithe Survey confirms that Elizabeth Giles was the occupant at what is now numbers 11 and 12 in The Street, owned by Richard Benyon and described as 'Schoolhouse and garden'. At that time the schoolhouse was the central portion of the present building that is parallel to the road and the schoolroom was the part that extends from it at a right angle towards the road. This part was then only a single storey and the rear portion of the current house had not yet been built.

The mystery now begins. The 1851 census has more detail than in 1841 and although much in the way of address detail is still not usually given, it is possible to place at least some of the properties. Using those that can be so placed as a guide we can follow the census enumerator on his route around the village and interpolate the rest, assisted by the 1844 survey. In this way we can see that in 1851 the schoolhouse of 1844 is now listed as '*one house void*'. The Tithe Survey shows us that still remaining from the old village were three properties: George Appleton's house at the eponymous corner, the Rectory of the time (situated between Rectory Cottage and St Mark's House) and a pair of cottages occupied by Daniel Harris and George Swadling in front of today's Old Rectory.

In the 1851 census return we can follow the enumerator from Englefield House to Wimbleton's Cottages (three of them then rather than the modern two) and then to George Appleton's house. From there the order goes a little awry for next, in the 'Englefield Road', come Daniel Harris and George Swadling, then back to the Rectory, followed by another unsuspected pair of cottages, location unknown but also in Englefield Road, inhabited by tailor William Varndell and farm labourer Thomas Cox. After that comes the lodge that we know stood in the fork where Richard Benyon's private coach road up to the front of Englefield House deviated from the public road just beyond the Harris/Swadling cottages and then comes the '*Englefield School House*'. The next entry after that is the Fishery Cottage at the far end of Garrett's Lane (nowadays Wigmore Lane) and that is followed by Bostock Lodges and the houses at Parker's Corner.

Leaving aside the Varndell/Cox mystery for now, and neither of them is listed anywhere local in the 1861 census though both pop up in Theale later in the century, there were no other known buildings in the parish in this area so we must assume from the sequencing that this new schoolhouse was somewhere between the lodge and the Bath Road. This gives us a fairly wide area for speculation, but a possible answer may be found in the dip that lies on the edge of the polo field 100 yards or so from the site of the lodge. When this field was cultivated in the 1950s the plough would turn up bricks in this hollow so although no map from any time ever shows a building there it may well have been the site of the short-lived school. The schoolmistress in 1851 was 21-year-old Henrietta Percy (or Povey, the handwriting is unclear), originally from Bermondsey, who appears to have lived there alone for the only other occupant on census night was a visitor, Sarah Gallop from Islington.

In 1861 the school is very clearly back in its old place in the sequence: the shop, number 10, school, the pair of cottages that stood opposite the entrance to the timber yard and Chantry Cottage. The schoolmistress is now spinster Emiline Vick, aged 35 from Cheltenham, living with her widowed mother, her sister (married to a bookseller of whom there is no trace) and two nieces. The mystery schoolhouse and the cottages of Varndell and Cox have disappeared and there is only Appleton's, the Rectory, Swadling and Harris, and the lodge, just as in 1844.

By the next census in 1871, as we know, the new school and schoolhouse had been built on a part of Loring's Meadow opposite the Gardens and the schoolmaster was John Eastman from Middlesex, assisted by his wife Jane. They had a son and a daughter, aged 3 and 4 respectively and a 14-year-old live-in servant Sarah Weller. In the old schoolhouse was George Swadling, moved from his former home which had been demolished when the new Rectory (now the Old Rectory) was built just behind it, with a new wife Sarah, his former wife Elizabeth having died in 1862.

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.

Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole body, sets the whole course of one's life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell (James 3 v 5b-6)

Forest fires can wreak tremendous damage. Those living in wooded areas during hot, dry weather can suddenly find their homes, livelihoods and indeed lives threatened by an approaching wall of smoke and fire that consumes everything in its path. James points out that this unstoppable force started with something quite trivial, a small spark, and draws the comparison between this and our tongues.

Just as a small spark can set off a blaze of terrible destructive power, so a few ill-chosen (or perhaps deliberately chosen) words can likewise stir up great trouble. Dissension, pain, anger and even violence can result from something that has been said which can cause enormous strife. Just like a spark catching in dry tinder in the forest, words are extremely difficult to control once they have been spoken. James is here highlighting the truth that our words matter enormously, and can therefore quickly have enormous impact on those around us.

Soberingly, in highlighting the truth that the tongue is incendiary, James is saying that we generally use our tongues destructively. Worse still, the way we speak and the uses to which we put our tongues tend to corrupt, setting us on a downward course. James tells us all this to highlight the danger, helping us to face up to it and recognise the truth. The tongue is beyond our control – can any of us truthfully claim to have gone even a single day without saying something untrue, or hurtful, or unkind? The tongue is beyond our control because it is the outflow of our hearts (Matt 15:18). Our hearts are defiled and unclean, and there is nothing we can do to fix them. Wonderfully, God knows how desperately our hearts need to be restored, and has taken action in Jesus to put them right.

But if you harbour bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. Such 'wisdom' does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, of the devil. (James 3 v 14-15)

There has perhaps never been a time quite so self-centred as our own. Our society is unashamedly individualistic, and increasingly encourages us to forget

about those around us and focus on ourselves and our own desires. Where once it was normal to see oneself in the context of a family group or a place within a community, the messages we are constantly being bombarded with now are about seeing ourselves as autonomous individuals. 'Assert yourself', 'Go for it', 'Be true to yourself' – all these sorts of slogans direct us to put our own interests first and look after number one.

In this passage, James warns us that the selfish ambition that we are so easily drawn into is not a godly mindset, and not an attitude that we should adopt. It will lead to envy, greed and destructive competitiveness, as we end up putting ourselves rather than God at the centre of our lives. As we consider Jesus' attitude, how he approached ambition and self-interest, we quickly see how it is diametrically opposed to how the voice of society is encouraging us to live.

Humility comes from wisdom, as we recognise that we are not the masters of our own lives. Seeking God's wisdom will deliver us from the need to compare ourselves to others and to want what they have. Earthly wisdom, and the things it delivers, are transient and will not last. When we find ourselves feeling envious – or proud – we would do well to remember that ultimately all that we have or that we achieve in making a name for ourselves will count for nothing when we stand before Jesus on the last day.



Back to Bradfield

He learnt his craft with Alan Caiger-Smith at Aldermaston Pottery and spent 14 years in Oxford, but now Andrew Hazelden has returned to the area in a newly-built studio/showroom at Bradfield and is inviting visitors to view his work.

The address of the new pottery is Hewins Wood Farm, Bradfield, RG7 6DH. Andrew will be having his first Christmas show from November 27th onwards. More information from www.andrewhazelden.co.uk (0118 9744300, andrew.hazelden@btconnect.com).



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