

# *Englefield Parish News*

October - November 2023



*The Parish of St Mark's, Englefield*

Rector  
Rev Julia Myles

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## Parish Council

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Edward Crookes	0118 9302504
<i>Clerk</i>	clerk.englefieldpc@outlook.com
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St Mark's Church website: [www.stmarksenglefield.org.uk](http://www.stmarksenglefield.org.uk)  
Englefield Parish Council website: [www.englefieldpc.org.uk](http://www.englefieldpc.org.uk)

**Front cover:** *A beautiful tortoiseshell butterfly alighting on a leaf, photographed recently at the Five A Day Garden in Englefield by management team member, Wendy Cadman.*

Englefield Parish News is published every two months and is distributed free to all households in the parish of Englefield. Contributions are welcome and can be emailed to [catherinehaig@gmail.com](mailto:catherinehaig@gmail.com) or to [rector@stmarksenglefield.org.uk](mailto:rector@stmarksenglefield.org.uk), or handed in to the Village Stores by the 20<sup>th</sup> of the preceding month.

*From St Mark's House*



*Hello Everyone!*

Bbbrrrrr!! There is a definite change in temperature - and clothing! - as well as blustery wind and rain and leaves flying in St Mark's House garden today. It's that time of season change and Harvest services and the wonderful transitioning of green leaves to browns, golds and reds, and the excited gathering of horse chestnuts and the revealing of the brand new shiny conkers that have been slowly growing, out of sight, inside. Some change happens in plain sight as we stop to notice and some happens out of sight...as this roadworks sign on the way to Cornwall attests. 'We are working out of sight. So you may not see us'. Where exactly might they be, I wondered? I looked in the trees, or for holes in the ground...nothing! (I'm certain the sign is just in case we think the miles of cones are there simply to annoy us!)



I deal a lot with unseen things, in fact we all do. There are our thoughts, feelings, hopes, dreams, worries and memories. And there are hidden illnesses and disabilities too of course. All these are within, all unseen. And there are our spirits. We are all, as human beings, body, mind and spirit.

I wonder how these unseen things are in your life today? How you are within yourself, where no-one can see?...well, almost no-one. Even if we find expressing ourselves easy and have friends

who care how we are doing, we don't always really know how we are doing! We've hardly stopped a moment to ask ourselves. We've been too busy or too worried or too pre-occupied...and time goes on and seasons change...and here we are again, 13 weeks until another year has gone by.

I want to advocate for paying more attention to the unseen things within us...and the very best way I know to do that is...*silence*. Joyce Huggett said, 'Just as the petals of a water lily uncurl, when the sun shines, so closed parts of people unfold when they are silent'. Angela Ashwin said that in quiet, 'we gather together the threads of our lives and the different roles we play, and we become more integrated, more in touch with the person we are *underneath* the aspects of our lives we like to present to the world.' In silence we grow in self-knowledge. Silence allows us to be present to ourselves and to God.

*Your Rector, Julia*

## Diary dates

West Berkshire Mobile Library: Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> October and 15<sup>th</sup> November outside the Old Fire Station Nursery, Englefield, 2pm to 2.25pm.

Time to Pray: half an hour of prayer, Bible reading and reflection in the Englefield Chapel, fortnightly on Mondays, 6.00 - 6.30pm, details on the church bulletin.

St Mark's PCC meeting: Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> October, 6.30pm, at St Mark's.

Evening Praise: Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> October, Holy Trinity, Theale, 6pm.

Remembrance Sunday: Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> November, the morning service at St Mark's will include the act of remembrance and there will be a guest speaker.

Remembering Our Loved Ones Together: Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> November, a reflective time of words, music and lighting candles in memory of those we love but see no longer, 4pm to 4.30pm, at St Mark's.

Evening Praise: Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> November, Holy Trinity, Theale, 6pm.

Advent Sunday: Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December, come and celebrate the start of the Advent season and enjoy a glass of sherry after the service.

## Local contacts

Englefield Estate Office 0118 930 2504; [office@englefield.co.uk](mailto:office@englefield.co.uk)  
Englefield Estate Yard 0118 930 2538 [maintenance@englefield.co.uk](mailto:maintenance@englefield.co.uk)  
Englefield Stores & Tea Room 0118 930 2479

Englefield Village Hall [admin@englefieldstoresandtearooms.co.uk](mailto:admin@englefieldstoresandtearooms.co.uk)  
[www.englefieldstoresandtearooms.co.uk/](http://www.englefieldstoresandtearooms.co.uk/)  
<https://www.englefieldvillagehall.co.uk/>  
[info@englefieldvillagehall.co.uk](mailto:info@englefieldvillagehall.co.uk)

Cobbs Farm Shop 0118 930 4064  
Theale Medical Centre 0118 930 2513  
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  
Lloyds Pharmacy (Calcot) 0118 938 2265  
NHS dentist Dentalcare, Pangbourne 0118 984 5894  
West Berkshire Council 01635 551111 (out of hours 01635 42161)

Englefield Parish Council [www.englefieldpc.org.uk/](http://www.englefieldpc.org.uk/)  
Theale Parish Council [www.thealeparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.thealeparishcouncil.gov.uk)  
Englefield Primary School 0118 930 2337; [www.englefieldprimary.co.uk](http://www.englefieldprimary.co.uk)  
Police 101 or 999 (for emergencies)

Utility suppliers: Electricity - SSEN 0800 072 72; Oil - Ford Fuels 0148 872 829;  
Gas - National Grid 0800 111 999; Water - Thames Water 0800 714 614;  
Drainage - Total Drainage 0118 9421140

## Congratulations

To Katherine and Peter Foster on the birth of baby Laura on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> August, a granddaughter for Penny Savage.

To Thomas and Rose Benyon on the birth of Sienna on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> September.

## Baptisms

Louis Furse, baptised at St Mark's on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> August.

Aada Fishburn, baptised at St Mark's on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> September

## Welcome

Welcome to Katie O'Neill, who has joined the Estate Office team as Personal Assistant to Edward Crookes. Katie lives locally and has worked with senior officers in Thames Valley Police for many years, amongst other roles.



## Plea for a volunteer treasurer

Englefield Village Hall is urgently seeking a volunteer to join the friendly team running our Village Hall. The treasurer's responsibilities include liaising with our bookings coordinator ensuring payments in and out are accurate and timely, preparing monthly and year end statements and attending committee meetings. Applicants should be well organised and computer literate to manage records and online banking but do not need accounting experience. If you are able to commit to an average of three or four hours a month we would love to hear from you. Simply email [info@englefieldvillagehall](mailto:info@englefieldvillagehall) with your contact details and we will be in touch.

*Village Hall committee*



## Time to remember

'Remembering Our Loved Ones Together', a reflective time of words, music and lighting candles in memory of those we love but see no longer, will take place on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> November, from 4pm to 4.30pm at St Mark's.



## Prizes for the Englefield Herefords

This year has been a good year for the Englefield Hereford cattle. Simon Strang, who looks after these lovely gentle animals at Mayridge Farm, picked a few of the best to show at the Alresford Agricultural Show and the Newbury Show, with help from Trevor Allen.

Thunder, the bull, or to give him his proper name, Spartan Tropic Thunder, did not disappoint. He won the best bull class and also went on to be grand champion for his breed. We took some home-bred cows as well, and Englefield Camilla VI and her calf, Englefield Assassin, won best in their class and were runners up in best of breed to Thunder.

At Newbury, Thunder came first and the same cow and calf were placed 2<sup>nd</sup>, under the watchful eye of Richard and Zoe Benyon. We were told that the calf, Assassin, would be one to watch for the future so let's see what happens next year.

*Allison Strang*



## Milestone on the path to Net Zero

The Englefield Estate has become one of the first organisations of its kind to be formally recognised for the work it is doing to combat climate change through a programme that catalyses action to reduce greenhouse gas emission. Following a series of initiatives, including one-to-one and online training sessions for all staff at Englefield, in London and Scotland, the Estate has been granted official status as a Silver Level Carbon Literate Organisation by the Carbon Literacy Project.

The Carbon Literacy Project is based on the principle that if we are to cut our greenhouse gas emissions, we need to change culture alongside technology. The whole team took part in carbon literacy training earlier this year to explain the principles of climate change and the importance of reducing greenhouse gas emissions, both at work and at home. This followed earlier work to calculate the Estate's carbon footprint as an important step on the path to net zero.

Achieving this recognition is an important step in support of the Estate's commitment to playing our part to address climate change. Carbon Literate status is just one part of our journey to reduce our impact on the environment. It is very important that we maintain momentum and we are working with heads of department to implement plans of action over the weeks and months ahead and for the Estate's operations long into the future too. We're very grateful to the whole team for their hard work in helping the Estate make this important step on our journey to net zero.

*Edward Crookes, Estates Director*



### *'A poetic journey'*

A chance to hear the renowned Christian poet and singer-songwriter, Malcolm Guite, on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> October at 7.30pm at Bradfield College. A regular *Church Times* contributor and prolific publisher, Malcolm will be speaking on 'A poetic journey through the Psalms'. Organised by the Bradfield Deanery Spiritual Development Group, this event is open to all. More information available on the church bulletin or from Carol Boulter.



## Ride & Stride 2023

Torquil would like to thank all those who kindly supported his Ride+Stride efforts in aid of the Berkshire Historic Churches Trust and St Mark's, including those who donated anonymously who he is not able to thank personally. He rode 50 miles to visit 20 churches in the Bradfield Deanery on one of the hottest days of the year and drove to a further six before the 6pm deadline to thank them all for their participation. He remains some distance from his fundraising target, but it isn't too late to donate: <https://www.justgiving.com/page/torquil-montague-johnstone-1690222140349>

## Tearfund appeal

The special collection at the Harvest service at St Mark's this year is in aid of Tearfund's 'Practise what you pray' appeal. In Tearfund's words, 'Poverty is not God's plan. But we believe the church has a key role to play in ending extreme poverty and injustice.' For more than 50 years, Tearfund has seen how local churches can bring effective and lasting transformation to whole communities. Often best placed to respond to disasters, they understand local needs and strengths and are able to reach some of the most vulnerable groups. And they can continue to support their communities for years to come. Tearfund is asking for the global church to 'Practise what we pray' and support its Church and Community Transformation training which will help communities use their resources and skills to lift themselves out of poverty and fulfil their God-given potential. More information is available here: <https://www.tearfund.org/campaigns/practise-what-you-pray>.



## Summer months at Englefield Stores and Tea Rooms

We have had an amazingly busy summer, the place has been full of regular faces and new ones that are quickly becoming regular faces also. Lots of families, friends catching up and workmen from the Estate, all happy to soak up a bit of sun while waiting on the food to come. We have loved the summer vibe, so many giggles and singing of 'Happy Birthday' too. I do feel we should audition for BGT next year, as we sang it 13 times in one week!

The Store has been busy too with takeaway sandwiches, paninis and now pizzas. The Carte D'or ice cream has been very popular, I think Beth is all scooped out in the Store. The gifting in the Store is just beautiful, the ladies are so talented. There are some really special little items, so please when you next visit pop into the Store to have a peek at them.

Not that we want the sunshine to go at all but knowing that the colder months are coming, we now have brand new radiators in the Tea room so we should be lovely and snug this winter.

The sides are now on the marquee, so we have seating outside as well as in the Tea room. Did you know that the marquee is dog friendly, we have bowls of water, towels if needed and free dog treats too for all the dogs that visit us.

We are now busy preparing for Halloween with the Store and Tea room to be spookily decorated. The Store will have some lovely craft items for sale and the Tea room will have some Halloween specials on the menu so we would love a visit from you. Christmas is also in full swing. We only have a few tables left for Christmas lunches in December now, but we are just starting to take bookings for Christmas afternoon teas on the Saturdays only in December.

The Tea room will be open for breakfasts, drinks and cake in December on Monday, Wednesday and Fridays 10-11.30am and also Saturdays 10-3pm, but will be closed the rest of the time due to Christmas lunches which start at 12.30 each weekday and are only pre-bookable. However, throughout December and January, as the Tea room is closed, takeaway drinks and food from the Store can be purchased and eaten in the marquee if needed.

The team and I have had a brilliant summer, and it wouldn't be possible without this lovely community, local businesses, the support from Englefield Estate and of course our awesome customers- so thank you all so very much!

*Liz Wirth*





## Lands End to John O'Groats

Congratulations to Jane Patrick who completed her marathon 874 miles cycle ride to raise money for the re-thatching of the Black Barn at Rushall Farm. She started on September 3<sup>rd</sup> and cycled into John O'Groats fourteen days later. She and her fellow cyclists were blessed with fantastic weather apart from one afternoon of thunderstorms, and she did not have a single puncture.

She has raised over £9,500 so far and donations can still be given via this link: <https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/23985#!/DonationDetails>. The John Simonds Trust has to raise £50,000 towards the re-thatching, on top of the £40,000 needed annually to keep its valuable work going so every pound will help enormously.



## Did you know?

Did you know that St Mark's, Englefield, has a YouTube Channel? It is a permanent collection of just the readings and sermon from each Sunday for you to view again. The new sermon usually goes up on the same Sunday afternoon. Follow this link and you can subscribe to the channel and 'like' it (if you would like to!): <https://www.youtube.com/@stmarksenglefield1497>.

This is a public channel which can also be found by searching 'St Mark's Englefield' in youtube.com. This is entirely separate to the weekly service link that you can opt to receive by email which allows you to watch the complete Sunday service. This link usually remains active for at least a week and you can sign up by emailing [secretary@stmarksenglefield.org.uk](mailto:secretary@stmarksenglefield.org.uk).

## AGM and church crawl

The AGM of the Berkshire Historic Churches Trust is always followed by visits to a cluster of nearby churches and this year's meeting on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> September included a stop at St Mark's. The afternoon began at Holy Trinity, Theale (right), with a short review of BHCT activities for 2022-2023 by chairman, Peter Durrant, and a tour of the church. Few members of the Trust had ever been inside this remarkable church which was modelled on Salisbury Cathedral. It was consecrated in 1832 and was once sketched by the artist, John Constable. From there, we moved on to St Mark's where Miles and Anne Edgar gave members a short tour of the monuments and windows. One visitor commented that it was a 'very tidy' church which we took as a compliment.



We then drove to St Laurence, Tidmarsh, with its fine Norman doorway (left) and 13<sup>th</sup> century vaulted apse, and then to St Nicholas, Sulham. Both these churches are on our doorstep, quite hidden away but well worth a visit. John Pritchard, BHCT secretary, gave a brief description in each of the architecture and history. The afternoon finished at St James the Less in Pangbourne, one of only 26 churches in the country dedicated to this St James, and built in 1866, the second if not the third church on this site. The highlight here was the magnificent east window (below left) by Karl Parsons, a memorial to two Armstrong brothers who fought and died in the First World War. Hidden away behind the organ is the tomb of Sir John Davis, depicted alongside both his wives, carved in local chalk from Shooters Hill. We were then treated to a magnificent tea, before the afternoon concluded with a service of Evensong, led by Rev Mark Hopkins.

If you would like to find out more about future events organised by the BHCT please have a look at the website [www.berkschurchestrust.org.uk](http://www.berkschurchestrust.org.uk).

*Catherine Haig, BHCT trustee*



## Autumn events at Cobbs

Enjoy a hands-on sausage-making tutorial with the expert butchers at Cobbs on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> October starting at 6.30pm. Master the art of sausage making for yourself and take home two kilos of your own homemade sausages! Tickets are £45 per person and booking is essential.

Deliciously fresh sushi is now available to order from Little Fish. Make your selection via the Cobbs at Englefield website and your sushi will be available for collection from the farm shop on Thursdays and Fridays between 2pm and 6pm, and on Saturdays between 2pm and 5pm.



Sarah Styles is repeating her popular Christmas wreath-making workshop at Cobbs on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> November. The evening starts at 7pm and will finish at 9.15pm. Tickets are £60 per person, including mulled wine and mince pies, spaces are limited and booking is essential.

For more information on all events and all the Cobbs range, see the website <https://www.cobbsfarmshops.co.uk/cobbs-englefield>.

*The team at Cobbs*

# Evening Praise

The final Sunday of each month  
at Holy Trinity Theale

## NEXT DATE 29TH OCTOBER AT 6PM

Sing | Praise | Worship | Pray

Holy Trinity Theale  
To know Christ  
and make Him known

St Mark's, Englefield



## Saying goodbye to summer

With such variable weather our hardworking gardening volunteers have been very busy indeed. We will have a few corporate groups coming to work on the weeding this month. We are cropping squashes, chillies and tomatoes which are all on sale directly from the garden Tuesday-Friday, 10am to 12.30pm or from the gazebo in the garden centre. Cash only please.

Our lovely Garden Manager Glen was nominated for the Green Award in the BBC Berkshire Make a Difference Awards. She was one of four people shortlisted across the whole of Berkshire and received a Highly Commended which is richly deserved. Well done to Glen!

The Ella's Explorers school visits are due to begin again early in October. We have had a corporate team from AWE in the garden and recruited a volunteer from the team who will work with the Friday group. We have another new volunteer who will be working with the Tuesday group. Welcome to Molly and Kris.

Yvonne's grandsons raised funds as Cereal Superstars and the donations have provided us with new tools, trowels, secateurs, a new wheelbarrow and a new trug. What a brilliant achievement!

5ADAY has advertised for a Development Officer and is in the process of reviewing applications. We are keen to fill places for Thyme Together, should you know anyone who might be interested in joining these free sessions for older folk please let them know about us either by phone on 07555 184343 or email to [info@fiveaday.org.uk](mailto:info@fiveaday.org.uk).

If you are interested in any of the items mentioned, volunteering or know of a business which supports staff volunteering please email [info@fiveaday.org.uk](mailto:info@fiveaday.org.uk) or call 07555 184343. Please leave a contact number where you can be reached.

*Wendy Cadman, Five A Day management team member*

## Recycling centre in Theale

A reminder that the mini recycling centre at the end of the High Street in Theale, between the entrance to Woodfield Way and the M4 footbridge, has bins for textiles, small electrical items, food and drink cartons, cardboard and all those plastic pots, tubs and trays that cannot go in the regular kerb-side recycling. For any soft plastics, there are recycling bins in the Coop.





## *From Englefield Primary School*

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

What a fabulous start to the new school year! The children (and staff!) bounced back in after an enjoyable summer with their families. We have welcomed sixteen new families to our FS2 class and they have settled in brilliantly. We have also welcomed two new Year 5 pupils and 6 new staff – a record for Englefield.



We came back to an amazing harvest from Ruby's Garden after such a wet summer. The Outdoor Club, led by Mrs Sheppard and Mrs Kelley, brought in bowls and buckets of produce!

All classes have got straight down to learning and there has been a lovely buzz of activity around the school. The younger pupils have been making kites using plastic bags.

Year 3/4 have the exciting experience this year of learning the Tenor Horn with Berkshire Music Trust (which used to be known as Berkshire Maestros). The children all managed to blow a note during their first lesson which was a real achievement!



At Englefield we value 'pupil voice' as it helps us to grow and develop our school in ways which appeal to our children. At the start of each new school year, we give the children the opportunity to sign up for a special role; this could be House Captain, School Councillor, Worship Group, Buddy, ECO Group or Librarian. We also select our Head Boy and Head Girl from the Year 6 cohort. An incredible 47 children have been assigned a role and have been presented with a badge. All groups will meet monthly to find ways to improve our school.

Our choir are busy rehearsing as they have several performances coming up this term. The first will be at the Harvest Service at St Mark's on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> October so we hope to see some of you there.

We celebrated Jean for Genes Day by wearing our denim into school and donating to the charity which supports children born with genetic conditions – a very worthwhile cause. The younger pupils, shown below, celebrated by decorating old pairs of jeans.



Mrs Watts extracted an incredible amount of honey from our school hives over the summer. We are selling it to our school community; if you are interested, please pop in and see us.

Finally, a bit of notice for all Englefield residents. Our annual 'carol sing' around the village will take place between 6 and 7pm on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December. If you would like us to come to your house and fill you with festive cheer, please either email the school office with your address ([office@englefield.w-berks.sch.uk](mailto:office@englefield.w-berks.sch.uk)) or pop in and let Mrs Thomas know.

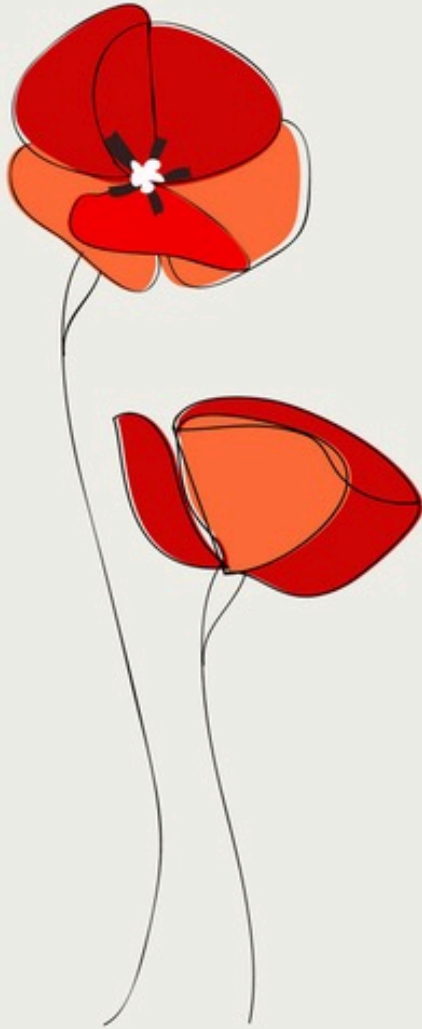
*Hilary Latimer, Headteacher*



# REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

12TH NOVEMBER  
10.30 A.M.  
ST MARK'S  
ENGLEFIELD  
ALL WELCOME

## LEST WE FORGET



## *Harvest at Rushall Farm*

As a child in the early 1950's we lived in the last row of houses going out of London. I remember looking out of the window on a warm, misty, spring morning and being captivated by the sight of four men, each with horse and roller, rolling in the newly sown wheat. Later that year, when the crop of wheat was fully grown, a cutter and binder threw the freshly cut sheaves of corn on to the ground. This was followed by a burly man who set the first two sheaves together.



As 7/8-year-olds we did the rest, or that's what it felt like, making stooks of eight sheaves to dry in the late summer sun. These were then carted back to the farm and built into ricks or stored in barns. During the winter the threshing machine would come round to each farm to beat the grain out of the ears and sieve it from the straw and chaff. Lots of people were involved, and even then it was nearly all manual labour. Today's combine, based on the same principles as the threshing machine, does all that work at once. The grain is then carted away for storage, leaving the straw in neat rows ready for baling, or it may be chopped and spread behind the combine to improve the soil fertility. Combine harvesters are now highly sophisticated machines with specialist tracking equipment, and very comfortable for the driver. This means they come with a hefty price tag.

Twenty-five years ago, we removed the corrugated iron sheets from the roof of Rushall Barn, restored the timber and thatched the roof. The straw came from Stratfield Turgis. Traditional varieties of wheat, with a long, strong straw are needed, just like the varieties which made sheaves when I was a boy. As modern, efficient combines crush the straw while extracting the grain they leave it no good for thatching. With 300 acres to cut, this specialist farmer uses a combine to strip the heads off the crop, leaving the straw standing. The straw is then cut with a cutter binder and made into bales ready for storage and selling for thatching.

And guess what? It is time to re-thatch the barn again, with straw from the same farm. Work starts in late October. Do come and have a look!

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

Date	Sidesman	First reading	Epistle	Gospel	Prayers	Sacristan	Server	Sunday School and creche	Cleaners
September 24th 16th Sunday after Trinity	Peter Haig	Anne Edgar Jonah 3:10-end 4 (Psalm 145:1-8)	Paul Myles Philippians 1:21- end	Preacher Matthew 20:1-16	Dinah Perkins	Penny Norris	Denny Hollands	Saffy O'Sullivan Meryl Bonser	Peter and Catherine Haig
October 1st Harvest Festival	Liz Marillier	Dinah Perkins Deut 8:7-18 (Psalm 65)	Ron Marillier 2 Corinthians 9:6- end	Preacher Luke 12:16-30	Peter Haig	Sue Smith	Torquil MJ	Saffy O'Sullivan Liz Reeves	Pete and Carole Ford
October 8th 18th Sunday after Trinity BCP	Paula Fenwick	James Bamforth Isaiah 5:1-7 (Psalm 80:9-17)	Dee Boddy Philippians 3:4-14	Preacher Matthew 21:33- end	BCP	Penny Savage	Penny Savage	Saffy O'Sullivan Liz McKean	Carolyn Ahanchian
October 15th 19th Sunday after Trinity	Torquil MJ	Carole Ford Isaiah 25:1-9 (Psalm 23)	Ronan O'Sullivan Philippians 4:1-9	Preacher Matthew 22:1-14	Ron Marillier	Denny Hollands	Paula Fenwick	Saffy O'Sullivan Liz Reeves	Liz McKean
October 22nd 20th Sunday after Trinity	Penny Savage	Denny Hollands Isaiah 45:1-7 (Psalm 96:1-9)	Mike Kimber 1 Thessalonians 1:1- 10	Preacher Matthew 22:15- 22	Paula Fenwick	Dee Boddy	Peter Haig	NO SUNDAY SCHOOL	Penny Norris Saffy O'Sullivan
October 29th 21st Sunday after Trinity	Peter Haig	Linda Price Leviticus 19:1-2,15- 18 (Psalm 1)	Paula Fenwick 1 Thessalonians 2:1- 8	Preacher Matthew 22:34- end	Penny Savage	Penny Savage	Saffy O'Sullivan	NO SUNDAY SCHOOL	Peter and Catherine Haig
November 5th 22nd Sunday after Trinity BCP	Liz Marillier	John Rothery Revelation 7:9-end (Psalm 34)	Michael Ahanchian 1 John 3:1-3	Preacher Matthew 5:1-12	BCP	Penny Norris	Denny Hollands	Saffy O'Sullivan Liz McKean	Pete and Carole Ford
November 12th Remembrance Sunday	Paula Fenwick	Torquil MJ tbc	Ron Marillier tbc	Preacher Matthew 25:1-13	Richard Benyon	Sue Smith	Penny Savage	Saffy O'Sullivan Liz Reeves	Carolyn Ahanchian
November 19th 24th Sunday after Trinity	Torquil MJ	James Bamforth Zephaniah 1:7,12- end (Psalm 90)	Lorraine Dehn 1 Thessalonians 5:1- 11	Preacher Matthew 25:14- 30	Ron Marillier	Catherine Haig	Paula Fenwick	Saffy O'Sullivan Meryl Bonser	Liz McKean
November 26th Christ the King	Peter Haig	Paul Myles Ezekiel 34:11-16 (Psalm 95)	Meryl Bonser Ephesians 1:15-end	Preacher Matthew 25:31- end	Paula Fenwick	Denny Hollands	Peter Haig	Saffy O'Sullivan Liz McKean	Penny Norris Saffy O'Sullivan
December 3rd Advent Sunday BCP	Paula Fenwick	Dinah Perkins tbc	Aldo Guiducci tbc	Preacher	BCP	Dee Boddy	Denny Hollands	Liz McKean Liz Reeves	Peter and Catherine Haig
December 10th 2nd Sunday of Advent	Liz Marillier	Mike Kimber tbc	Carole Ford tbc	Preacher	Denny Hollands	Penny Savage	Torquil MJ	Saffy O'Sullivan Meryl Bonser	Carolyn Ahanchian
December 17th 3rd Sunday of Advent	Peter Haig	Penny Savage tbc	Graham Harvey tbc	Preacher tbc	Catherine Haig	Penny Norris	Penny Savage	Saffy O'Sullivan Liz McKean	Liz McKean

*If you have swapped duties, please contact Saffy O'Sullivan (saffyosullivan@gmail.com) and the churchwardens. Please send all prayer requests to Linda Price (pricelinda8@gmail.com).*

**SATURDAY 2ND DECEMBER**



# Christmas MARKET

*Food, Gifts, Santa's Grotto  
& Carol Singing*

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4.30PM - 7PM**

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## Curiosities in the Chapel

We know that the Englefield Chapel was built in 1514 because in 1665 the antiquary Elias Ashmole saw engraved on the glass of the north window '*This Chapell was builded in the year of our Lord MVCXIIII*'. It is the only part of the church that today retains its original architectural style for when he completely rebuilt the rest of the church in 1855 George Gilbert Scott decide to restore it in its original form rather than rebuild it in a different style, as he did with the rest of the church.



A focal point in the Chapel now that the organ no longer almost completely fills it is the coloured alabaster monument on the north wall. But this provides something of an enigma, for in 1665 Ashmole wrote '*...against the north wall is erected a faire monument having thereon the portraitures of a knight in armour and his lady both kneeling at a deske; behind him kneeles four sons and behind her one daughter. Upon the side of the Deske are the Armes of Englefield and Browne empaied*' and this describes only the lower part of what we see now.

The figures of a man in armour with a woman lying beside him and the arms and crest of Englefield above them Ashmole describes as being engraved on a brass plate, also on the north wall. This brass also had an inscription on it, which is reproduced exactly on the black tablet at the bottom of the monument. This explains that the recumbent figures are those of John Englefield (died 1567) and his wife Margaret Fitton by whom he had just one child, Francis, who married Jane Browne and had four sons and one daughter by her. It also said that Margaret caused the brass to be placed in 1605.

John Englefield was the younger son of Sir Thomas Englefield, and grandson of Sir Thomas the Commons Speaker, whose tomb separates the Chapel from the sanctuary and who died in the same year the Chapel was built. John's elder brother was Sir Francis who inherited the main estate at Englefield from their father in 1538. John had already been given a part of it which he retained when Sir Francis was dispossessed after he fled to France in 1559. John's seat was at Wootton Bassett in Wiltshire and his only son Francis was created 1<sup>st</sup> Baronet of Wootton Bassett in 1611.

So it looks like the present monument is a later creation dating from after 1665, uniting father and son in a single monument. The kneeling figures of Francis and Jane may be the originals but the two recumbent figures and the arms and crest must be later three-dimensional representations of what was engraved on the brass. A possibility is that it was created by Scott who may have removed all the brasses from the Chapel when he restored it in 1855. In his letter to Richard Benyon, Scott does mention a design for 'the monument' which may refer to this, though it may equally refer to the monument to Richard Benyon de Beauvoir behind the pulpit.



There remains a puzzle over the ‘four sons and one daughter’ of Francis and Jane as seen on the monument and the inscription, for in 1665 a brass plate on Francis’s ledger stone (no trace now remaining) said they had ten children and named them all. However, this plate also said that three died before their father so a partial explanation of this discrepancy is that at the time the brass to John Englefield was engraved in 1605 although Jane had already given birth to six children (two girls and four boys) but one of the girls had already died and was not included.

What this doesn’t explain, though, is why the original monument to Francis and Jane, as described in 1665 long before Scott got busy, has only the four sons and one daughter unless it was sculpted at the same time as the plate was engraved, nearly 30 years before the death of Francis and 45 years before that of Jane.

In a chapel supposedly dedicated to the Englefields it is perhaps odd to see a number of tablets to apparent interlopers. One of these is Milburg Allpress (though the name is usually given as Milborough) who died in 1803. Milburg was born at Kingston, Jamaica, in 1765 and married Major General Richard Crewe of Crewe Hall in Cheshire, by whom she had four children. She died in 1803 and according to the tablet is buried in the chapel.

That unstated reason for the presence of this memorial, and its subject, is that from about 1794 she was the mistress of Sir Henry Englefield the 7<sup>th</sup> Baronet of Wootton Bassett in direct succession to Sir Francis, although the family had by then moved to Whiteknights in Earley and he was living in his London house in Tilney Street. Sir Henry was the last of the family to own the property in Englefield that Sir Thomas Englefield gave to his son John. Henry sold the land to Richard Benyon in 1792.

General Crewe obtained a divorce *a mensa et thoro* (literally ‘from bed and board’ and really just a legal separation) from the Consistory Court in 1800 but a full divorce *a vincula matrimonii* (‘from the bond of marriage’) could only be effected at that time by an Act of Parliament, which General Crewe obtained in 1801. He also sued Sir Henry for trespass, assault and criminal conversation in the Court of Common Pleas and was awarded £3,000 damages. In 1802 a son was born to Henry and Milburg but Milburg died the following year. When Sir Henry died in 1822 with his only child the son of Milburg the baronetcy became extinct because being illegitimate the son could not succeed to the title.

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 the master called the servant in. “You wicked servant,” he said, “I cancelled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. Shouldn’t you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?”’ (Matthew 18 v 32-33)**

Why should we forgive other people when they do something against us? Forgiveness is costly: either they make reparation for what they did wrong, or else we have to. What is our motivation to absorb that cost, especially when we are dealing with a repeat offender?

Jesus answers this question with a parable that points to an uncomfortable truth. No matter how badly somebody has offended against us, it is a pale shadow of how much we have offended against God. The debt that we owe him, in our rejection and rebellion against our creator, is inestimably huge. We would never be able to pay it off if we had a hundred lifetimes. Yet, in his great mercy, through the death and resurrection of Jesus, God has absorbed that cost for us.

If we have grasped the extent of this mercy we have been shown, it becomes possible for us to show mercy to others. Recognising we have been forgiven such a large debt helps us to forgive those who owe us a small debt by comparison. This isn’t always easy – there is still a cost we have to bear in forgiving others – but it is possible.

We should notice that this doesn’t mean we need to forget as well as forgive. In some cases with serial offenders, when we have reason to believe they will do the same again, it will be wise to put them or ourselves in a position to prevent it. Helping somebody avoid temptation is every bit as godly as forgiving them – we see both of these contained in the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples to pray (The Lord’s Prayer; see Matt 6:9-13).

Jesus’ warning in this parable is serious though, and echoes how he concludes his passage on prayer (Matt 6:14-15) – if we are unforgiving towards others, it indicates that we have not accepted the value of the forgiveness Jesus offers us, and so are showing ourselves to still be rebelling against him. When we are struggling to forgive, we should spend some time reflecting on what God has forgiven us and see where that leads us.

(continued overleaf)

# Reflections

**‘So when those came who were hired first, they expected to receive more. But each one of them also received a denarius. When they received it, they began to grumble against the landowner.’ (Matthew 20 v 10-11)**

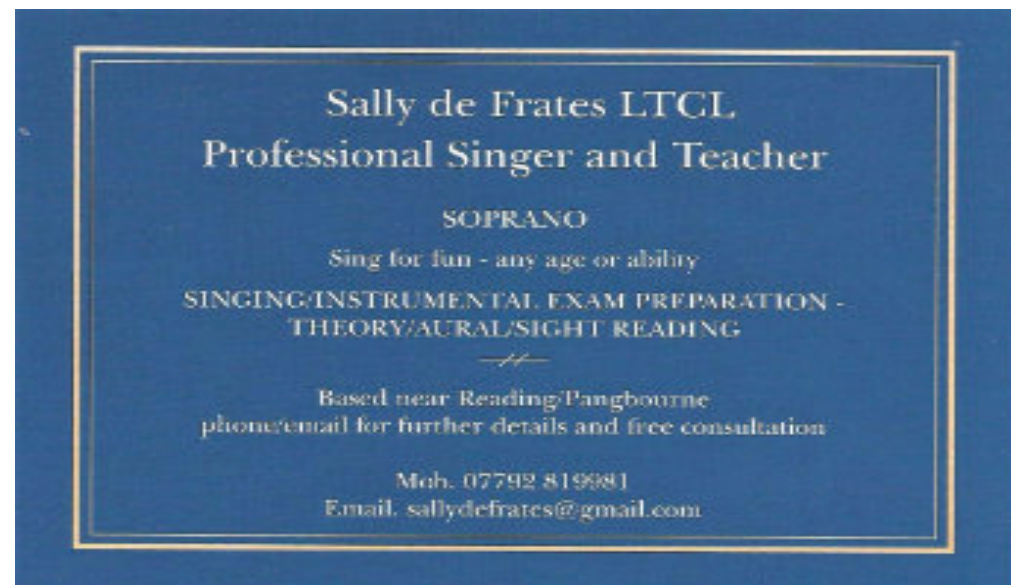
On first hearing this parable, you could be forgiven for thinking that this story is very unfair. Working in a vineyard is hard work, and those who had been hard at it since the early morning found themselves in a queue to get their wages along with some people who had only turned up shortly before it was time to down tools. It may have been a bit galling that the latecomers were paid first; it must have been very galling that they were paid exactly the same amount – a denarius; a day’s wage – as those who had been toiling all day.

If it seems unfair to us, it is because we are viewing what the labourers received as wages. Wages are earned, and it is instinctively wrong to us that people who do dramatically different amounts of work should receive the same wage. But – each worker agreed originally that the pay they were to receive was fair. It was only when they compared themselves to others that they began to grumble, as pride began to manifest itself.

When we view the parable through the lens of grace (undeserved reward) rather than wages, we see things differently. From the perspective of grace, we see a generous landowner who delights to give extravagantly. In the same way, Jesus reveals that the heart of God is filled with abundant generosity; his provision for his people is not dependant on how much they have done for him, but rather their willingness to follow him alone.

Let’s make sure we avoid the temptation to compare ourselves and our lot with that of others – that leads to pride and resentment – and instead recognise that God owes us nothing, but gives freely and generously out of the abundance of his grace. Those who trust in Jesus have eternal life, not because of great works or sacrifices they have made, but rather because God is gracious to the undeserving.

*To find more of these weekly reflections go to [www.stmarksenglefield.org.uk](http://www.stmarksenglefield.org.uk) and click on Thought for the Week on the left hand side, see below. And, further down the home page, use the Video link to find recordings of Julia’s sermons, now uploaded to the website each week.*







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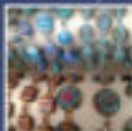
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