

Englefield Parish News



August - September 2023

The Parish of St Mark's, Englefield

Rector rector@stmarksinglefield.org.uk
 Rev Julia Myles 0118 9303595

<i>Churchwardens</i>	churchwarden@stmarksenglefield.org.uk
Paula Fenwick	07850 603508
Torquil Montague-Johnstone	0118 9714536

Safeguarding Officer
Lucy Roper 0118 9585417

Parochial Church Council

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

<i>Treasurer</i>	treasurer@stmarksenglefield.org.uk
Ron Marillier	0118 9305152
<i>Electoral Roll Officer</i>	richard@transport-studies.org
Richard Smith	0118 9833258

Parish Council

Chairman
Edward Crookes

edward.crookes@englefield.co.uk
0118 9302504

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

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

Front cover: *Englefield School Year 6 leavers who will be moving on to their new schools in September, photographed with their teachers in the school playground before the Leavers' Service at St Mark's Church on the last day of term.*

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 to rector@stmarksenglefield.org.uk, or handed in to the Village Stores by the 20th of the preceding month.

From St Mark's House



Hello Everyone!

What do you think?

I can hardly believe Paul and I will soon have been here a whole year! The year has certainly not been boring!! It has been so good to begin to get to know you as I have met you at village events or special services, in happy times or in sad.

As I write I am looking forward to attending two of the Heritage Live concerts as well as a meeting to find out more about the Estate Yard Regeneration Project. In March we moved into St Mark's House behind Five a Day...so you know where to find us now!

I have slowly begun to learn more about the characteristics of Englefield and the role of St Mark's within it. What I would love to know now is *what you think!!* As we plan how best to organise our activity and services, can I ask you please to tell me your answers to these three questions?

- 1) Is the church important to you? If so, how?
- 2) Are there any activities or events you feel the church could be hosting or doing in our community?
- 3) Would you be willing to be involved in the above or volunteer in a different activity that you enjoy?

You can email office@stmarksenglefield.org.uk or complete these questions (anonymously if preferred) on paper and leave in church or push through my door by September 9th please...or stop me in the village and tell me :)

Thank you so much.



Your Rector, Julia

Diary dates

West Berkshire Mobile Library: Wednesday 2nd and 23rd August and 13th September, outside the Old Fire Station Nursery, Englefield, 2pm to 2.25pm.

Have Your Say: Wednesday 9th August, 11am to 12 noon, come and meet your Neighbourhood Police Team at Englefield Village Hall, see page 23.

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.

Aldworth Afternoon Teas: at St Mary's Church, Aldworth, every Wednesday in August and September, from 2.30–4.30pm.

Ride+Stride: in aid of Berkshire Historic Churches Trust, Saturday 9th September, see www.berkschurchestrust.org.uk for more details.

Newbury Show: Saturday 16th and Sunday 17th September, tickets available on <https://newburyshowground.co.uk/newbury-show-2023/>.

St Mark's PCC Prayer and Planning morning: Saturday 23rd September, more details in church.

Harvest Sunday: Sunday 1st October, family service with speaker John Bishop.

Local contacts

Englefield Estate Office	0118 930 2504; office@englefield.co.uk
Englefield Estate Yard	0118 930 2538 maintenance@englefield.co.uk
Englefield Stores & Tea Room	0118 930 2479 admin@englefieldstoresandtearooms.co.uk www.englefieldstoresandtearooms.co.uk/ https://www.englefieldvillagehall.co.uk/ info@englefieldvillagehall.co.uk
Englefield Village Hall	
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) www.westberks.gov.uk/
Englefield Parish Council	www.englefieldpc.org.uk/
Theale Parish Council	www.thealeparishcouncil.gov.uk
Englefield Primary School	0118 930 2337; 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 Tory Benyon and Tom Russell, married at St Mark's on Saturday 8th July.

Baptisms

Oscar Abery-Thorpe, baptised at St Mark's on Sunday 16th July.

Visitors from the USA

St Mark's was delighted to welcome a group of students from Lee University in Cleveland, Tennessee, who joined the congregation for the morning service on Sunday 25th June. Thanks to Paula and her team, a delicious breakfast of coffee, croissants and strawberries gave everyone a chance to meet and chat beforehand. From Englefield, the students were concluding their UK trip with a visit to Hampton Court and a service at St Paul's Cathedral.



RIP

Howard Hipwood, who died on 6th June and whose funeral was held at St Mark's on Monday 26th June.

Ken Evans, who died on Saturday 3rd June.



Volunteer Treasurer needed

Englefield Village Hall is 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 with your contact details and we will be in touch.

Village Hall committee

Parish Giving Scheme

There are a variety of ways to give to St Mark's - the collection plate is one, the card reader at the back of the church is another, cheques can be made out to 'PCC of Englefield', and there is a QR code on our service sheets as well. But for regular givers, we would like to encourage the use of the Parish Giving Scheme. Around twenty donors are currently signed up to the PGS, and it is a very effective and simple method of giving to the church on a regular basis. Donors can give monthly, quarterly or even annually and can elect to donate on the Gift Aid Scheme if they are tax payers. They have direct control over how much they wish to donate and when, and the scheme is very helpful to the Treasurer in terms of administration. Joining the scheme just requires completing a simple form. Please ask me if you would like further details.

Ron Marillier, Treasurer to the PCC



One year on!

We have had such a busy few months here. In the Store, we now have Beth looking after things while the Tea Room is open. It's so lovely to have her on the team and I hope you all have had the chance to meet her now. We have had a mini makeover in the Store, have started the pizza and panini takeaways and are due to launch with Deliveroo by the end of July too.

In the Tea Room, we have just celebrated our 1st birthday and it was great to see so many of you on the day - including the Old Fire Station Nursery children who dropped in with a wonderful birthday card, shown here. We hope you enjoyed it as much as we did. We are expecting a busy summer and wishing for a sunny one too.

Dare I say it, but we already have days booked out for Christmas lunches, so please let us know if you have a date in mind so not to miss it with us. More details will follow in the next issue.

Liz and Team



Englefield concerts 2023

This summer, we once again opened the gates to welcome thousands of guests to the Heritage Live summer concerts at Englefield House. Returning to the Estate for a third year, the concerts were followed by the Flackstock festival, celebrating the life of TV presenter Caroline Flack.

The festivities kicked off on Friday 21st July with The Bootleg Beatles and their string and brass ensemble. The world's favourite Beatles tribute band for more than four decades, the band appeared alongside special guests The Counterfeit Stones and Noasis. Songs from the much-loved back catalogues of each of the three original iconic bands brought the grounds of Englefield House to life for a spectacular evening of entertainment.

On Saturday 22nd July, renowned singer-songwriter Richard Ashcroft, who found fame with The Verve, took to the stage and performed many of his classic tunes to thousands of delighted fans - undeterred by the torrential rain. He was supported by Ocean Colour Scene, the English rock band who have notched up ten albums since their formation in 1989, and Indie band The Sherlocks, who performed ahead of their eagerly anticipated fourth album 'People Like Me & You'.



We were thrilled to welcome award-winning, multi-platinum singer and songwriter Hozier for an incredible performance on Sunday 23rd July, as part of his return to the UK for the first time in four years. Arriving in Englefield that morning, he insisted on delaying his sound check until the Sunday service at St Mark's had finished! Opening the show that evening was Victoria Canal, an inspiring young artist on a mission to improve humanity through music, and Far From Saints, comprising Kelly Jones of Stereophonics along with Patty Lynn and Dwight Baker of The Wind and The Wave.

And finally on Monday 24th July, Flackstock returned for its second year, raising awareness of mental health issues and fundraising for causes close to Caroline's heart. Sophie Ellis-Bextor, Olly Murs, The Feeling, Matt Goss and Denise Van Outen, amongst a host of other famous faces, took to the stage to sing, dance and perform, creating a truly special and joyous atmosphere. The festival raised £325,000 for charities Choose Love, Samaritans, Mind and the Charlie Waller Trust in 2022 and organisers are busy totting up the total for this year.

Thank you to everyone for their patience and understanding whilst these events took place. We hope many of you were able to come along and enjoy them with us.

Peter Carson, Events Manager



A busy term at the Nursery

The Old Fire Station Nursery has had a busy term which has included a range of activities throughout all three age groups within the our local nursery. The children have been extremely interested in the growth and life cycle of various animals and plants. We have extended this by giving our growing box a bit of TLC followed by adding new seeds kindly recommended by the local garden centre.

We have really tried to link up with the local community this term, recently spending the morning in the market garden digging up and weighing potatoes with the friendly volunteers, visiting the primary school sports day and more recently popping a birthday card into the Tea Rooms to celebrate their 1st birthday.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish all of our school leavers a happy summer and all the best in this next journey. We are celebrating their last day with a trip to Bucklebury Farm Park.



Sophie@theoldfirestationnursery.co.uk



Ride & Stride 2023

St Mark's churchwarden, Torquil Montague-Johnstone, is back on his (electric) bike again on Saturday 9th September, once again attempting to cycle to all the churches in the Bradfield Deanery to raise money for the Berkshire Historic Churches Trust. Half the money he raises will be returned to St Mark's, the rest will be used to support churches in Berkshire in need of funds for restoration

and repairs. Please do support him with a donation - <https://www.justgiving.com/page/torquil-montague-johnstone-1690222140349> - and if you too would like to take part, visit www.berkschurchestrust.org.uk for more details.



Englefield Schools Days 2023

Once again, the sun was hot for the Englefield State Schools Days, with 1,500 children and 215 adults visiting from schools within Berkshire and north Hampshire. On June 14th and 15th, 31 schools had a fantastic time exploring Englefield and taking part in a range of hands-on activities.

The theme for Schools Days is Sustainability: meeting our current needs without infringing on the capacity of future generations to meet their needs. The topic has never been more important, and the event enabled young people to find out about current issues such as climate change and generating renewable energy with Ian Gough, the water cycle and natural ways of managing flood risk with the Pang Valley Flood Forum, habitat creation for species under threat with the Estate gamekeepers, how to plant and grow trees with our Forestry team, how to follow the Countryside Code with Hampshire County Council's Access team and how to keep a positive mindset when you might be feeling worried with Life's Little Bugs.



New activities included making tree sparrow nest boxes with the Estate carpenters, learning about freshwater fish and the sport of angling with the Angling Trust's Reel Education team and discovering the stories behind a range of historical agricultural artifacts with the Museum of English Rural Life. The ever-popular Reading and District Beekeeping Association introduced children to a real hive so they could learn the honeybee life-cycle and spot the queen bee. Bat Rescue

Berkshire taught children about how bats are adapted to hunt at night as well as about the enjoyment and satisfaction that comes with giving wildlife a helping hand.

Pupils had a wonderful time weaving and making friendship bracelets from natural materials with Small Fire, Big Adventure and debated how to design the best eco-village, taking into consideration everything they might need, from solar panels and EV chargers, to parks and playgrounds, to local shops. They visited St Mark's Church, learning about believing and belonging to a community, joining in with a demonstration christening and marriage before the lovely helpers provided drinks and biscuits – much appreciated on such a hot day.



Fascinating tours of Englefield House taught children about what life was like in Victorian times and about the house's use as a hospital during WWI and WWII as well as a film set today. In another part of the Estate, they discovered what life was like for the Romans at Silchester through an amazing collection of real Roman artifacts brought by the University of Reading's Department of Archaeology.

HBH Farming and The John Simonds Trust used real farm machinery and samples

of different grains and seeds to show children how arable crops are grown, Newbury and District Agricultural Society gave sessions on milk and meat, assisted by a cow and calf from the Estate's Hereford herd – stars of the show for some children who had never seen a real cow before. Other students joined the Estate gardeners for a worm hunt, learned how to make compost and how different fruit and vegetables are ready to eat through the seasons.

Meanwhile, the Estate Maintenance Team had groups practising roof tiling with real tiles from Estate buildings. Pupils designed and built a model water network, learning about the importance of conserving water and the 'Three Ps' with Thames Water. Butterfly Conservation and the Berkshire Moth Group showed children stages of the lepidopteran lifecycle and the variety of habitats our butterflies and moths need, whilst Action for the River Kennet brought samples of freshwater invertebrates for children to hunt for and learn how they are used to check how clean our rivers are. We were lucky to be joined by A-Level pupils from Pangbourne College, who gave outdoor maths lessons on how to estimate the height of two of our biggest trees. The verdict is in: over 40 metres tall and still relatively young for Wellingtonias!

The Village Store provided excellent lunchtime catering for our staff and volunteers, and the Benyon family hosted thank you refreshments for our volunteers and staff at the end of two very busy days.

The children were tired but very happy after their visit and schools have sent excellent feedback, with thank you letters from children and praise from teachers on how interesting the activities were, how much the children learned and how welcome schools were made to feel. Thank you so much to all the wonderful local organisations, volunteers and Estate staff who worked so hard to make the 2023 Schools Days such a success.



Photo credit and thanks to Paul Myles.

*Liz Mattison, Education Officer
Englefield Estate*

Englefield Village Fete and Flower Show 2023

Englefield Village Fete and Flower Show was again a great success, raising money for the school and funds to put the event on for next year. The sunshine and the people kept coming, and the committee would like to thank Bradfield Young Farmers Club for herding the cars in the car park.



This annual event shows off our village, the talent of our crafters, bakers and gardeners, as well as our lovely little school. It brings people together and gives us a link to the past with all the cups that have been donated and won by people in the past and this year was no different.

We have a new cup, the Queen Elizabeth cup donated by Zoe Benyon and myself. This cup is to encourage ladies that can cook but don't enter, or those that don't think they can, a novice maybe. We have a novice men's so why not one for the ladies as well? This year it was won for the first time by Karen Elliot for chocolate cookies, so maybe next time she will be entering the other classes. Our judges have always commented on how much they enjoy coming to our show and the standard of entries did not disappoint.

We also run the Best Kept Garden event. This took place in June this year and we would like to encourage more people to enter next year. It does not have to be a big garden, it can be a patio garden, so please think about it. We are hoping to have next year's event on Saturday 13th July and the Best Kept Garden will be judged at the end of June.

We rely heavily on friends and family for help on the day and the PTA relies on help from parents and staff and we would like to give them all a big thank you. We also need to thank the Beenham Wind Orchestra as they enhance our day with their music, and the school also show off their talents in the maypole dancing.



The games stalls are always popular including the hoopla coconuts and smash the china. The tombola and toy orphanage are all well supported. The tea tent with its hot drinks and cakes, the BBQ with its ice creams and the beer and pies offer refreshments for all ages. I am always amazed to see the bric-à-brac and book stalls and the variety of bargains to be had and thank you to all those who donate to these stalls. We are always looking for fresh new ideas and more people to join our committee. If you feel you could help however big or small why not give us a try. We will be holding our AGM in November so come along and see what it's all about, details will follow nearer the time.

Allison Strang, Flower Show Chairman

Flower Show winners 2023

The Flower Show cups and shields were presented this year by Zoe Benyon:

PERPETUAL CHALLENGE CUPS (given by)

Garden of the Year (Lady Benyon)

The Cox Cup (M & P Cox)

Rose Challenge Cup (F. Lamperd & H. Wilkinson)

Bill Partridge Memorial Cup (Flower Show)

Kathleen Lamperd Memorial Cup (F. Lamperd)

Bob Orchard Memorial Cup (Flower Show)

Senior Citizens Shield

Ambrose Setterfield Memorial Shield

Oliver Bridges Challenge Cup (H.O. Bridges)

Miniature Challenge Cup

Novice Challenge Cup (N. Allen)

Floral Art Challenge Cup (M. Hart)

Victor Brown Memorial Bowl (J. Brown)

Queen Elizabeth Cup (Zoe Benyon & Allison Strang)

Social Club Ladies Challenge Cup (The Social Club)

Wendy Greaves Memorial Cup (C. Roberts)

Photography Cup (T. Perkins)

Des Allen Memorial Cup (N. Allen and Family)

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 1 & 2 (Flower Show)

Joan Dunn Memorial Cup Yrs 3 & 4 (Flower Show)

Joan Dunn Memorial Cup Yrs 5 & 6 (Flower Show)

The Mrs Black Memorial Cup (S. Smith)

Children's Cup (J.K. Strang JP)

Trevor Allen

Dudley Fishburn

Ding Parrish

Frankie Bethell

Sarah Fraser

Luke Goulden

Glen Higgins

Trevor Allen

Trevor Allen

Elinor Helme

Laura Meade

Ionella Ciordas

Craig Wilkinson

Karen Elliot

Allison Strang

Alison Lush

Luke Goulden

Luke Goulden

Eoin Finnieston

Eva Smith

Taleisha Butler

Jess Perfect

Alice Perfect

Wilf Helme

Ryleigh Norris

Ryleigh Norris



Sunshine and showers at Five A Day

What a mixture of weather we have all experienced these last few months! Our gardening volunteers have been working hard and the garden is looking beautiful. We are currently harvesting broad beans, beetroot, lettuce, onions and potatoes which are all on sale along with herbs directly from the garden Tues-Fri

10am to 12.30pm or from the gazebo in the garden centre. Cash only please. We should be harvesting tomatoes, cucumbers and chillies later in the season. There is a lot of wildlife activity in the garden including lots of insects, rabbits and of the feathered variety!

The Ella's Explorers school visits have come to an end for this school year. We look forward to seeing the children again in October. You may have seen a few corporate teams working hard on a new wildflower strip, working on the compost bays, weeding and spreading woodchip. CROW continue to visit and will be working on the rectangular pond near the seating area. We are so very grateful for all their efforts.



We had a very successful Open Day last month and welcomed lots of new visitors to the garden. We look forward to having them join us again.

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.

5ADAY will be advertising soon for a Development Officer. This will be a part-time paid post, please look out for the advert or you can find details on our website. If you are interested in any of the items mentioned, volunteering or know of a business who supports staff volunteering please get in touch and leave a contact number where you can be reached.

Wendy Cadman, Five A Day management team member

Recycling bins in Theale

Don't forget there is now a mini recycling centre at the end of the High Street in Theale, between the entrance to Woodfield Way and the M4 footbridge. You can drop off 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. Any soft plastics can be deposited in the bins in the Coop.

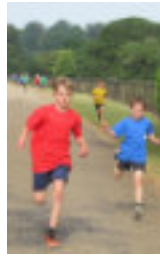


From Englefield Primary School

'Sowing the Seeds for a Flourishing Future'

The summer holiday is here...at last! It has been an incredibly busy term but one full of joyous events and celebrations. Below are some of the highlights.

We enjoyed another fantastic Sports Day at Englefield. The sun shone, picnics were enjoyed, everyone supported well and Pebbles the tortoise even joined in by meeting some of our toddlers. Events included the Englefield Mile, a carousel of activities on the school field, a family picnic, sprints and fun races, a parents egg and spoon contest (designed to slow them down!) and the wonderfully cute toddlers race. The final results showed that Athena triumphed on the day with Poseidon coming in second, Demeter third and Hermes fourth.



Over 20 children from Key Stage 2 entertained the guests at the NHS Birthday Party held in Englefield House garden. We sang many of our favourite songs including Hosanna and Corner of the Sky as well as Happy Birthday...of course!

Our Year 5/6 class put on a fabulous production of Let Loose! This production was all about a residential trip with all the disasters that this entails - entirely fictional of course. The performances were held in the marquee which was a super setting - especially with the 'realistic sound effects' of rain on canvas provided by the storm on Wednesday! The children learned their lines brilliantly, the songs were catchy and the comic timing was superb. The audiences were greatly entertained by the whole thing. Well done to the pupils and staff and for putting on such a great show.

As part of our RE Week, the whole school went for a day trip to Windsor Castle. We had a fabulous time...so lovely to go out together! Highlights included the Changing of the Guard, Queen Mary's Dolls House, the State Apartments and St George's Chapel. There was something for everyone! The main event was visiting the resting place of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II...a really poignant moment.



Our tradition continued this year with our Year 6 Leavers producing a joint piece of artwork which will be displayed in the school hall so we can remember them.

This year, following last year's piece which celebrated the Queen's Jubilee, we decided to create a piece celebrating the coronation of King Charles III. Thank you once again to Laura Alvarado who helped the children produce such a wonderful work of art which will be enjoyed for years to come.

Each term we hold a music concert at which any pupil who is learning an instrument can perform to the school, including parents. This time we had 14 separate performances played on recorder, piano, flute, electric guitar and bass and finally the drums. Seeing the progress term on term is wonderful and it is a great opportunity to encourage more pupils to take up an instrument which will provide such wonderful opportunities when they grow older.

We finished the school year with a beautifully celebratory yet poignant Leavers Service for our Year 6 pupils. They told us their best memories of Englefield before being presented with certificates, cups and Bibles. We sang their favourite songs and at the end of the service the school sang a beautiful blessing as the Year 6 pupils processed out of the church...the silence when they had left was really moving.

Immediately after the service, they rushed to the local pool where they all jumped in still wearing their uniform! We wish them all every happiness in the next stage of their journey.

Finally, I am sad to report that Claire Bushnell is leaving Englefield after eight years as our school secretary...her approachable and accommodating manner has been excellent in her 'front of house' role. We wish her well in her new school and will miss her greatly. This does of course mean we have a crucial role to fill. As the front face of the school, we need to ensure we find the right person. Please share this opportunity with anyone you think may be interested and direct them to our school website where they can find more details.

Hilary Latimer, Headteacher



Thank you from Bishop Donald

Many of the St Mark's congregation will remember visits in the past from Bishop Donald Mtetemela, formerly Archbishop of Tanzania. After he retired, he and his wife Gladys set up a charitable fund called the Mama Bahati Foundation, which gave micro loans, mainly to women, to help them set up their own small businesses. The foundation has now closed but in its ten years of operation, it helped an estimated 10,000 clients. Bishop Donald writes: 'We want to thank St Mark's people for all their support towards Mbf project. We thank all the Christians at St Mark's for their contributions, both in kind and through their prayers. This has impacted many poor lives and has transformed their lives! May our God bless you indeed.'

Volunteer drivers needed

Pangbourne Volunteers provide transport to and from medical appointments to clients in Purley, Pangbourne, Upper and Lower Basildon and Englefield. We are in need of drivers, as well as volunteers to man our office in Pangbourne which is open Monday to Friday 9:30 - 11:30am. Drivers need to have a roadworthy vehicle and permission from their insurance company to volunteer. DPS clearance is not required but we do ask for references which will be followed up. Drivers are reimbursed at 45p per mile and can do as much or as little as they are able (it's okay to say no) and will find the service they offer very fulfilling. If you are interested please get in touch with myself either by email or telephone - 0118 942 4330, bartonvicar1@gmail.com. Many thanks.

Rev Alan Gates, Chair Pangbourne & District Volunteer Centre

BRADFIELD PAROCHIAL CHARITIES

A vacancy exists in the Almshouses, Mariners Lane, Bradfield Southend

The newly refurbished accommodation is in a terrace of four cottages. On the ground floor there is a kitchen with small utility area, a living room, and shower room and upstairs two bedrooms and an additional toilet. The house has small front and back gardens, and also access to a communal grassed area. Priority will be given to applicants who are 55 years of age or over, and have a connection to the Parish of Bradfield or who have relatives in the area.

Application forms and further information may be obtained from:

The Clerk to the Trustees.
Lynda Bennell
Kyalma,
Cock Lane,
Bradfield Southend,
Reading RG7 6HN
Tel: 01189744423
Email: lyndabennell@googlemail.com

The closing date for applications is Monday 14th August 2023

Forty years on at Rushall Farm

There are two unsung heroes in successful trips to Rushall Farm. One, of course, is our teaching staff, with the flexibility to enthuse preschool children one day, A Level pupils the next, and ALL that may come in between. The other is the school staff, who normally direct their energy and efforts in the safe confines of the classroom, but then dare to launch their charges into an environment of trees and fields, sheep and cattle, ponds and river, the wild green world and all its unpredictability, and tractor and trailer rides.

One secondary school in Reading has always used the farm for their more needy pupils. Their lead pastoral care teacher for this work is Becky. Tonight she is here camping with a small group training for their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award. Recently she had to take a group on a field trip to Wales and, feeling quite resentful of the expectations the school had put on her for her time and talents, she pondered her lot. While driving along the M4 one of the boys shouted out, 'Miss this so exciting. I have never been away before. Are we going to see the sea?' Four days later she was sat down exhausted and anticipating clearing everything up and the return journey. Another boy came up to her and said, 'I look after my mum at home. You look tired; I'll make you a cup of tea. I will clear up and tidy the kitchen.' Becky swallowed the tears and allowed another painful endorsement to ensure she carries on doing what she does so well.

This summer marks 40 years since John Simonds died in a fatal car accident. We and others locally wanted to try and reflect John's energy, enthusiasm and zest for life by changing Rushall Manor into a centre for children. The site was derelict with a large heap of muck between the stable and the barn. The following summer a group of 40 young people from across Europe and behind the 'Iron Curtain' began the work of restoring the pond and creating paths through the woods. And so it has continued, with the amazing support of the Cumber and Benyon families and many others, and lives are touched. So, like Becky, we receive the endorsement and encouragement to carry on carrying on.

John Bishop
www.rushallfarm.org.uk



Date	Sidesman	First reading	Epistle	Gospel reading	Prayers	Sacristan	Server	Sunday School and crèche	Cleaners
Sunday 30th July 8th Sunday after Trinity	Penny Savage	Peter Haig 1 Kings 3:5-12 (Psalm 119)	Dee Boddy Romans 8:26-end	Preacher Matthew 13:31-52	Catherine Haig	Dee Boddy	Denny Hollands	NO SUNDAY SCHOOL	Pete and Carole Ford
Sunday 6th August 9th Sunday after Trinity BCP	Peter Haig	Paul Myles Isaiah 55:1-5 (Psalm 145)	Dinah Perkins Romans 9:1-5	Preacher Matthew 14:13-21	BCP	Catherine Haig	Penny Savage	NO SUNDAY SCHOOL	Carolyn Ahanchian
Sunday 13th August 10th Sunday after Trinity	Torquil MJ	Saffy O'Sullivan 1 Kings 19:9-18 (Psalm 85)	Torquil MJ Romans 10:5-15	Preacher Matthew 14:22-33	Dinah Perkins	Penny Norris	Saffy O'Sullivan	NO SUNDAY SCHOOL	Liz McKean
Sunday 20th August 11th Sunday after Trinity	Penny Savage	Ronan O'Sullivan Isaiah 56:1,6-8 (Psalm 67)	Meryl Bonser Romans 11: 1-2a, 29-32	Preacher Matthew 15:21-28	Penny Savage	Sue Smith	Denny Hollands	NO SUNDAY SCHOOL	Penny Norris Saffy O'Sullivan
Sunday 27th August 12th Sunday after Trinity	Torquil MJ	Dee Boddy Isaiah 51:1-6 (Psalm 138)	James Bamforth Romans 12:1-8	Preacher Matthew 16:13-20	Ron Marillier	Penny Savage	Torquil MJ	NO SUNDAY SCHOOL	Pete and Carole Ford
Sunday 3rd September 13th Sunday after Trinity BCP	Liz Marillier	Denny Hollands Exodus 3:1-15 (Psalm 105)	Aldo Guiducci Romans 12:9-end	Preacher Matthew 16:21-end	BCP	Denny Hollands	Peter Haig	Saffy O'Sullivan Meryl Bonser	Carolyn Ahanchian
Sunday 10th September 14th Sunday after Trinity	Torquil MJ	Graham Harvey Exodus 12:1-14 (Psalm 149)	Paula Fenwick Romans 13:8-end	Preacher Matthew 18:15-20	Denny Hollands	Dee Boddy	Penny Savage	Saffy O'Sullivan Liz Reeves	Liz McKean
Sunday 17th September 15th Sunday after Trinity	Penny Savage	Michael Ahanchian Genesis 50:15-21 (Psalm 103:1-13)	Lorraine Dehn Romans 14:1-12	Preacher Matthew 18:21-35	Dudley Fishburn	Penny Savage	Paula Fenwick	Saffy O'Sullivan Liz McKean	Penny Norris Saffy O'Sullivan
Sunday 24th September 16th Sunday after Trinity	Peter Haig	Anne Edgar Jonah 3:10-end of 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
Sunday 1st October Harvest Festival	Liz Marillier	Dinah Perkins Deuteronomy 8:7-18 (Psalm 65)	Ron Marillier 2 Corinthians 9:6-end	Preacher Luke 12:16-30	BCP	Sue Smith	Torquil MJ	Saffy O'Sullivan Liz Reeves	Pete and Carole Ford
Sunday 8th October 18th Sunday after Trinity	Paula Fenwick	James Bamforth Isaiah 5:1-7 (Psalm 80:9-17)	Dee Boddy Philippians 3:4-14	Preacher Matthew 21:33-end	Ron Marillier	Catherine Haig	Penny Savage	Saffy O'Sullivan Liz McKean	Carolyn Ahanchian
Sunday 15th October 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	Catherine Haig	Denny Hollands	Paula Fenwick	Saffy O'Sullivan Liz Reeves	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).

Land's End to John O'Groats for the Black Barn

The Black Barn at Rushall Manor is an iconic landmark in the beautiful Pang Valley in West Berkshire. It is at the centre of the work of the John Simonds Trust, an educational charity, welcoming children and young people to the countryside. However, it is also a focal point for the local community, many of whom congregate there for weddings, parties, camps, horse riding or dog walking.

The Black Barn was last thatched in 1998, so after 25 years it is ready for a new 'hairdo'! However, this will cost £125,000.

Jane Patrick, the administrator of the John Simonds Trust, is the invisible person in the office. You may well communicate with her via email or phone, but she is seldom seen. However, Jane is being let out specially for the first two weeks of September so that she can cycle from Land's End to John O'Groats (1,000 miles) and raise funds towards the re-thatching of the Black Barn. The Trust needs to contribute £50,000 towards the thatching, on top of the £40k needed annually to keep our work going, so please give generously. Jane's target is £10,000 and the easiest way to give is by using this link: <https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/23985>.

Thank you!

Summertime at the Garden Centre

Well as I write this I'm trying to work out if we've had summer (June) or we are going to get a late summer in August as it seems to be one of the wettest Julys in ages. However the temperatures have been good and the plants have enjoyed all the rain, so as soon as the sun does come out all your bedding plants will be full of blooms.

Now is the time to make sure you are dead-heading to encourage more flowers. Leaving the dead flowers there will just encourage seed heads to form. You should be feeding at least once a week to also encourage more flowers. If you make sure any plants in tubs are watered first and then fed straight after you will find that the feed is absorbed better by the plants.

The team have been busy during the quieter period getting the garden centre back all nice and tidy again and even getting the paint out to spruce up the planters and arches which have really made a difference.

We've also had our cyclamen come in and the first batch of autumn bedding has just arrived. The people we support and the staff have been getting the trays and pots filled ready for the plugs and they are so excited to be pricking out the next lot of bedding growing in the greenhouses.

Austin Crabbe, Manager

The Lodge gates

The recent assault by an errant motorist on the gates on the Pangbourne Road at the start of the private road to Englefield House was a sad occasion. The gates are probably the originals and the extent of the damage is still being assessed.

The gate screen with its two lodges was built in 1862 to commemorate the marriage of Richard Fellowes Benyon to Elizabeth Clutterbuck. The architect was Richard Armstrong who had already been engaged on making major changes to Englefield House and rebuilding St Peter's Church, Upton Nervet, the latter reopening in the same year that the gate screen was built.

Until 1855 the present private road was part of the public highway between Theale and Bradfield, which ran through the arch at the side of Englefield House, turned sharp right in the pleasure grounds and ran across the deer park down to the river Bourne. The closing of the road was understandably a goal pursued by Richard Benyon, starting in 1802 when he made Englefield his principal residence. In order to be able to do that he had to provide satisfactory alternative routes.

His first act was to extend the road that ran between Parker's Corner and the tee-junction with the Beenham Lane up what was then called Blyth's Hill. The road to Beenham turned off the old Bradfield Road just above Englefield House and ran along the top of the hill. The course of most of the road remains visible although the part on the Englefield side of the junction was closed by 1829. The part on the Beenham side remained in public use until it was closed for gravel extraction in the 1970s after which it was diverted at the Beenham end and reopened as a bridleway. The new road down the north side of the hill to the river Bourne ran through the Englefield common wood which presumably accounts for the modern name of Common Hill.

A new connection was also made from Parker's Corner to the Bath Road at Theale. This followed an existing track into the Great Field past the south-west end of Cranemoor Pond as far as Powlett Wright's turnpike from Bostock to Tidmarsh. Beyond the turnpike there seem to have been a number of different routes at one time or another until the present one was established much later, though the staggered cross-roads at Bushy Wigmore is a late 20th century attempt (not entirely successful) to prevent road accidents here. This provided a satisfactory replacement for the old road between Theale and Bradfield although it meant a longer route for traffic coming from the Tidmarsh direction. The Bradfield Road could not be closed until the year after Richard Benyon de Beauvoir died, when another new road (appropriately officially called New Road though usually known as Chalkpit Road) between the Chalkpit and Bradfield College was opened. This road used the



existing 'occupation road' (a private road for the landowner's use) that already ran as far as Lone Barn. An application to close the old road past Englefield House was made on 1st January 1855 by the new squire, Richard Fellowes Benyon, and when New Road was opened six months later this ambition could finally be realised although the part from Appleton's Corner to the southwest gate of the churchyard remained open to the public 'on foot and with horses and carriages for access to the church and churchyard and no other purpose'.

Richard Benyon de Beauvoir had already made himself a private coach road, diverging from the public one at a lodge near the Old Rectory, that ran up to the front of Englefield House then across the park to Parker's Corner. The public road at that time followed the line of the fence and wall in front of the Old Rectory, Rectory Cottage, St Mark's House and the Five-a-Day garden. When he closed the road to the public Richard Fellowes Benyon realigned it, initially following the private coach road but then taking a course somewhere between the two roads as far as Appleton's Corner.



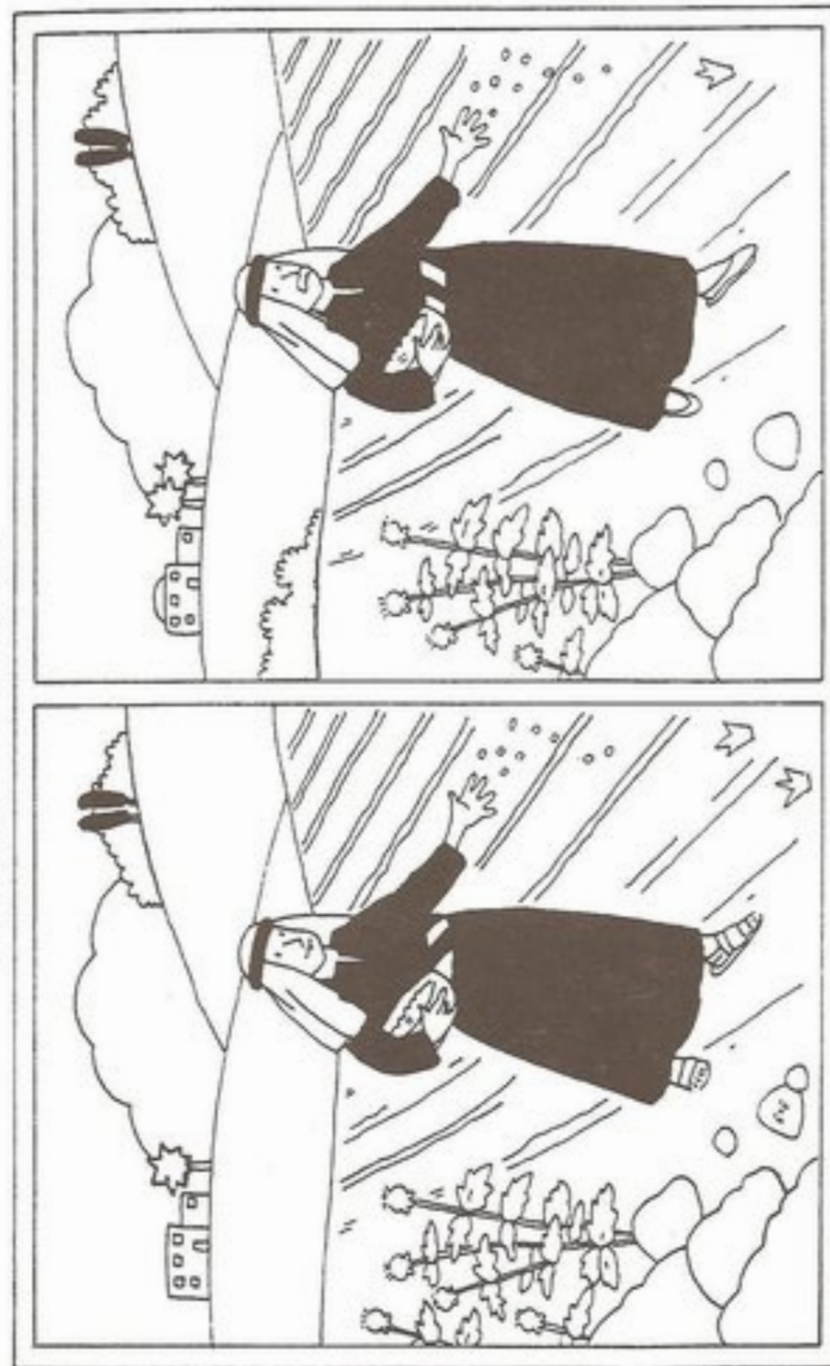
Although the gates were left open most of the time in the 20th century, they were sometimes closed to preserve the post-1855 status of the road as private. Villagers from the top of The Street used the road on foot or by bicycle to get to and from the bus stop on the main road (given on the timetable as 'Englefield Park Gates') or to get to Theale. There was until relatively recently no pedestrian gate (compare the photograph here with the picture on the previous page)

so this meant that when getting off the number 11 bus from Reading and finding the gates closed it was necessary to climb over the low brick garden wall just beyond the end of the screen wall on the right and go through the garden of Egbert Allen who lived in that Lodge. He also allowed people to leave their bicycles in a lean-to at the back of the house, an especial convenience for a boy and girl who used the bus to get to and from school every day.

Egbert Allen was born in the village in 1872 and worked as a gardener at Englefield House. He was living in the Lodge with his wife by 1911 and died there in 1969. Those who lived in the other Lodge include James Winchcomb, another gardener who was the only adult to die in the measles epidemic of 1893/4. His daughter Bertha was born there in 1893 and like Egbert Allen lived in the village all her life until her death in 1986. William Yarlett, a carpenter on the Estate, who joined the Army on 28th August 1914 and returned home a year to the day after the declaration of war with a gunshot wound to the head, also lived there with his parents.

Richard Smith

**The parable of the sower (Mark 4v1-20).
Can you spot 10 differences?**



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.

‘For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do.’ (Romans 7 v 19)

Paul’s words here probably strike a chord with all of us who profess faith in Jesus, and are seeking to live as his followers. How often we set out with good intentions, yet find ourselves slipping into sin before we have gone very far! The struggle that Paul describes is a common war that rages in the life of all believers – the desire to live according to what we know we should do, battling against the selfishness and sin that lurks in the wings. This should be an encouragement to us all: if someone like Paul was not immune to these struggles, we shouldn’t expect to be immune either. Though we shouldn’t use this to justify our behaviour when we sin, we can nevertheless take some comfort that our struggle is not unique to us. But how can we be free of guilt and shame for the times we fall short? Paul answers this in verse 25 – thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord!

‘I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us’ (Romans 8 v 18)

How often do we stop amidst the troubles of everyday life, and weigh them up against the vastness of eternity, and the promises that God makes about it? How much of our time is spent consumed with fears and doubts about the here and now, when we should be taking the long view? In these verses, the apostle Paul highlights the contrast between the difficulties and suffering of this present age, and the assurance of glory that God promises us in eternity. As Matthew Henry puts it in his concise commentary, ‘The sufferings of the saints strike no deeper than the things of time, last no longer than the present time, are light afflictions, and but for a moment. How vastly different are the sentence of the word and the sentiment of the world, concerning the sufferings of this present time!’ This week, let us resolve to remember that, however troubling our present circumstances, God has promised us an eternity of such glory and joy in his presence, these present sufferings will seem as nothing by comparison.

To find more of these weekly reflections go to www.stmarksenglefield.org.uk and click on Thought for the Week on the lefthand side. And, further down the home page, use the Video link to find recordings of Julia’s sermons, now also uploaded to the website each week.

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 Contact: Pangbourne Neighbourhood Police Team

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