

Englefield Parish News

December 2022 - January 2023



The Parish of St Mark's, Englefield

Rector

Rev Julia Myles 0118 9303595
rector@stmarksenglefield.org.uk

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

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

Front cover: Cut-out Christmas nativity decoration, image by falco from Pixabay.

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

Dear Friends

I wonder if you are a patient or impatient person? Confession of the Rector coming... I always have been more the latter! My mum always used to say my motto was 'Why wait until tomorrow if I can have it today!'

My mother may have despaired at my own impatience but with our own three girls, and in an attempt to teach them NOT to be like me, we instigated an obligatory system for the receipt of pocket of money; it went into three pots entitled 'Spend, Save and Give'. It was a (fairly successful) attempt at teaching them charitable giving and the excitement and anticipation of watching and waiting for the moment when they had enough to purchase whatever was the item of choice ...which was predominantly madly expensive trainers!

Waiting doesn't come naturally to me but I absolutely love the season of Advent! Firstly the church turns to my favourite colour...purple! Secondly it is all about waiting; waiting with great anticipation, to celebrate the arrival of Jesus (the Latin *adventus* meaning arrival is where Advent comes from). This is by no means an annoyance to me. The four Sundays in Advent have a wonderful build up to them. Starting on 27th November, Advent Sunday, we light a candle each week on the Advent wreath as we get closer to the fifth and final white candle on Christmas Day for Christ himself. The first candle looks back to the forefathers of the faith, the second back to those who prophesied Christ's coming, the third for John the Baptist who announced his arrival and the fourth for Mary His Mother. The readings in Advent look back to the prophecies about Jesus from the Old Testament (Hebrew Scriptures) from around 800 years before His birth, as well as looking forward to His coming again one day. So in Advent we re-tell a story that has happened as was prophesied and promised and a story that is yet to happen as prophesied and promised. The former gives us real evidence and a great reason to hope for the latter.

This Advent, as part of the build up to celebrating Jesus's arrival, I am leading two small groups that are looking at the angelic appearances around the birth of Jesus. Angels are God's messengers and we will look at how God used them to speak to people then, as well as how God might speak to us today. These are on Monday afternoon in person and on Tuesday evening via zoom. Do get in touch if you are interested...and most of all do come and celebrate with us at Christmas!

Your Rector, Julia



Diary dates

Time to Pray: Monday 5th and 19th December and Monday 2nd and 16th January, 6pm to 6.30pm, Bible reading, prayer and reflection in the Englefield Chapel.

West Berkshire Mobile Library: Wednesday 14th December, 4th January and 25th January, at the Old Fire Station Nursery, Englefield, 2pm to 2.25pm.

Let's Talk Theology: Wednesday 11th January, 8th February and 8th March, 7.30pm, on Zoom, contact carolboulter@lukers.org.uk to be added to the mailing list.

St Mark's PCC: Monday 30th January, 6.30pm.

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 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 englefieldshop@cobbsfarmshops.co.uk
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/ www.englefieldpc.org.uk/ www.thealeparishcouncil.gov.uk
Englefield Parish Council	
Theale Parish Council	
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	

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Sunday 18th December

6.30pm

Lessons & Carols by Candlelight
followed by mulled wine & mince pies

Saturday 24th December

Christmas Eve 'Nativingle!'

3.30pm - 4.15pm

An all-age interactive nativity & Christingle
Come dressed as a nativity character

Sunday 25th December

Christmas Day

10.30 am

Christmas Communion for All

Congratulations

To Jack Fishburn and Liisa Lahti on the birth of Aada Victoria on 29th September, a sister for Otso.

To Elizabeth Benyon who celebrated her 90th birthday on 26th October.

To Andrew and Katy Strang on the birth of Octavia Grace on 11th November, a sister for Kit.

To Marcus and Scarlet Fishburn on the birth of Averell Theodore on 18th November.

Baptisms

Venetia Walker, on Sunday 9th October.

Archie Benyon, on Sunday 23rd October.



Moving in

We have been so busy in the Tea Room and now have indoor as well as outdoor seating and a winter menu for the colder days.

We have now moved into the house and are really enjoying being part of the village. The new store has reopened and looks wonderful. We have a great selection of local gifting as well as the Englefield gifting which is very special and can only be purchased here, so please come and have a look. *(A detail of the apron in the Englefield range is shown here.)*



At the time of writing, it's been an exciting week as our new Kitchen Cabin arrived and plans are now underway to extend the Tea Room kitchen and seating area. Christmas dinners start in December, we still have some spaces available if you would like to join us, for we hope to be a really good festive afternoon with lovely food and perhaps meeting new people too! Thank you to Five A Day for creating some beautiful table displays for us and the Garden Centre who will be helping us create a real Christmas theme with their gifting and of course Christmas trees.

The Tea Room will be open until Friday 23rd December and then will reopen on Monday 23rd January and will have a new look which will be very much in keeping with the history of Englefield. Very exciting.

I would like to say thanks once again for all the support we have around the village, as many of you are regular visitors now to the store and the Tea Room, which is really great!

Liz, Dan, Connor and Bethany



RIP

Ophelia, baby daughter of Sarah and Daryl Andrews, whose funeral service was held at St Mark's on Saturday 29th October.

The Englefield Bellringers

Every Sunday morning across the country, the air is filled with the sound of church bells. It is a quintessential part of British culture.

At Englefield we need new ringers to help continue this tradition, and anyone is welcome to join our small band. There is no age limit, currently we have ringers aged between 50 and 80 years, and you don't need to be big and strong. Unlike learning to play a musical instrument like a guitar or piano, being a bellringer is not necessarily about musical talent. Ringers at the beginning need to learn how to control the bell and ring in time with the other ringers.

Some ringers like being part of a small group and ringing to celebrate local and national events. We rang to mark the death of the late Queen Elizabeth II, and next May we will be ringing for the coronation of King Charles III.

We practice on Tuesday evenings from 7 to 8pm in the Tower. All our instructors are experienced ringers, so you will be in good hands. It is open to both worshippers and non-worshippers. Ringers do not need to live in the Parish, everyone is welcome.

Please email me on janinealston@hotmail.com.

Janine Alston

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

Support for the new car park

We are delighted that the new village car park is now open and available for use by visitors to Englefield. It seems to have been received very well and of particular note is the support being given by the school, with parents filling it most mornings and afternoons as they drop-off and collect their children. Our thanks to Mrs Latimer, the school staff and especially the parents for their support in promoting its use and making The Street safer for pedestrians.

As this edition goes to print, the finishing touches of landscaping are about to commence with hedges and trees being planted to the front and around the boundary, further softening this new facility into the backdrop of the village's green and natural landscape.

Duncan Rands, Building Manager

Midnight service

Holy Trinity Church in Theale is holding a Midnight service on Christmas Eve. It starts at 11.30pm and will be a quiet reflective service to see in Christmas Day and the birth of the Saviour. All are welcome.

Remembrance Day

Rev Julia led Collective Worship on the theme of remembrance at Englefield School during the week leading up to Remembrance Day and artwork created by the students was displayed in the church porch on Remembrance Sunday.



Join us for Christmas Lunch

Every Monday, Wednesday & Friday in December
Starting Friday 2nd until Friday 23rd December 2022

Starts at Midday

Glass of Christmas fruit punch on arrival

Two course meal

MAIN
Traditional Christmas dinner with Sliced Turkey, Stuffing, Mini Pigs in Blankets, Parsnips, Roast Potatoes, Carrots, Peas, Sprouts and Lashings of Gravy

DESSERT
Christmas pudding, Cheesecake or Mini Mince Pies

Finishing with Tea/Coffee with Mints
Additional drinks can be purchased from us on the day

£21.95 PER PERSON
£10 non-refundable deposit per person to secure booking
(BOOKING ESSENTIAL)

CHRISTMAS GAMES TO GET US IN THE FESTIVE SPIRIT!
(nothing too taxing and all totally optional)

All welcome

Englefield Stores & Tea Rooms

Vegetarian option available, please discuss at time of booking.
To book either pop in during tea room hours, call or email.
Deposit to be paid at time of booking. Please contact us early for large group bookings.

The Street, Englefield, Reading, RG7 5ES | 01189 930 2479
admin@englefieldstoresandtearooms.co.uk



Wreath making workshops

The 16th century tithe barn, complete with 15 foot Christmas tree, is the festive setting for the annual wreath making workshops at Ufton Court. Harrison & Green will be providing a high quality choice of materials, foliage and decoration, as well as expert guidance, to help everyone create impressive results.

There are two sessions, both on Monday 12th December, one at 10am and one at 7pm. Tickets are £50 (plus £4.49 booking fee), to include all equipment, materials, tea, coffee and homemade cakes, and all proceeds will go to the Ufton children's charity, Ufton Adventure. The link to book is on the Ufton Court website: <https://www.uftoncourt.org.uk/charity-events>.

The Five A Day Market Garden Christmas wreath workshops have already started but there are sessions on Friday 9th, Saturday 10th and Sunday 11th December, from 10am to 12 noon, or from 1pm to 3pm. The workshops are led by the Five A Day team and make use of colourful willow grown in the garden and festive foliage gathered from the Estate and local hedgerows, along with ribbons and other decorations. The workshops will take place outside in the garden and in the polytunnels, gazebo and pergola. Tickets are £20, payable in cash on the day and can be booked by emailing 5adayevents@gmail.com.

Alternatively, there is the option to buy a ready-made Five A Day Christmas wreath to decorate your front door, along with a selection of willow wreath rings, stars and hearts to decorate your home. Or you can buy Five A Day willow to take home and make your own Christmas wreath and table decorations.

Last posting dates

Last posting dates for Christmas cards to most European countries are from 8th to 14th December. Further afield ranges from 1st to 10th December. Last dates for UK letters are 19th December for second class, 21st December for first class. More information is on <https://www.royalmail.com/christmas/last-posting-dates#lastpostingdates>.

And a note for the New Year, all non-Christmas stamps without a bar code need to be used up as they will no longer be valid from 31st January 2023.



Join us for
Messiah and More
 in
One Hour

Sunday
11th December
7pm
St Mary's
Church
Bucklebury

Enharmonic Choir
Director Daniel Nicholls

Free
Just come
along and
enjoy!

Suitable for the whole family

More information
daniel.nicholls64@outlook.com
 0118 9712555



Busy times at the Village Hall

We have had a busy few months in the hall, lots of parties, Englefield Garden Centre had a training day, Five A Day have returned to the hall for the winter Thyme Together, parish council meetings, AGMs, Baby massage, Women's Wellness, Lizzie's Kids and Kevin's Adult weekly yoga!

We are really looking forward to having some festive events coming up over the next month, including Wreath Making, the Fire Station Nursery Christmas party, and the School's Christmas Fayre.

A massive thank you to everyone involved who helped apply and secure a number of grants which have allowed us to have new acoustic panels installed. These have drastically improved the sound in the hall.. no more echoes! As you can see from the photo below they are pretty discreet and blend in well.

We were also extremely lucky to have been able to acquire a new shed, thanks to a very kind donation from Elizabeth Benyon, which is now in the garden. Thanks so much to the Estate Yard for putting it up! We also need to say thank you to the Estate gardens team for keeping our grass cut and looking great. We really do appreciate all the help!



Finally, we hope you all have a lovely Christmas and New Year.

Englefield Village Hall Committee



CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Seasonal Readings and Music

In support of Brookfields Specialist SEN School

Led by Pangbourne Choral Society

Organist David Pether

Conductor Chris McDade

7:00pm Saturday 10th December

The Falkland Islands Memorial Chapel
Pangbourne College



Free entry - donations at the door to
Brookfields School Association -
Charity no 273594

PCS website:





From Englefield Primary School

'Sowing the Seeds for a Flourishing Future'

October started with our annual Harvest Festival. It was super to see a church packed full of people celebrating together. The children sang songs of thanks and praise, including everyone's favourite, 'Cauliflowers Fluffy'. There was also a reading and some beautifully written prayers. The collection of produce to be taken to New Beginnings was amazing - the charity were delighted. This was such a great opportunity to show the children the importance of saying 'thank you' and of being grateful for what we have whilst thinking of those who are in need in our own community. A special thank you to Rev Julia and her husband, Paul, for leading the service and organising the sound so well.



Our Worship Group have recently started weekly prayer meetings. They had the idea of starting the group so that children could join in with special prayers for people or events that they were thinking about or worrying about or just to say a simple 'thank you'. This will be a weekly event which we hope will give comfort and support to any pupils who are going through an anxious time.

It was great to welcome Bassistry Arts back to Englefield. Each class had a great workshop with the drum and bass duo, in which they did some rhythm work and learned a song which was then performed to the rest of the school.

We were delighted to open the gates of the new Englefield Village Car Park in November. The parents have made good use of the facility and it has really helped to reduce the morning stress of finding a place to park. A huge thank you from the school to Englefield Estate for supporting the needs of the school and other village users so well.



Both our Year 3/4 and Year 5/6 football squads headed off to Westwood Farm School to play in a tournament. The children supported each other well and showed great sportsmanship towards the other teams. Both 'A' teams won all of their games and won the tournament for their age group. Well done to all who represented the school so well.

On Remembrance Day, our choir of 19 eager singers sang in the Junior Music Festival at The Hexagon as part of a huge multi-school choir.

They sang songs for the shows to an audience of 800 plus. Parents and pupils alike had a fantastic time – what an experience!



Some of our learning about 'Remembrance' was displayed in St Mark's Church, Englefield. We hope our prayers and artwork (shown on page 3 of this issue), helped the congregation and our other neighbours during this important time of commemoration, reflection and thanks.



Four of our Year 4 pupils took part in the maths challenge at St Edward's School. They had to solve various mental maths and reasoning problems and work well as a team. Out of 18 teams we came 3rd and 8th...the second-best performance of any of the schools present.

Finally, we enjoyed raising money and celebrating Children in Need. We dressed up in bright colours or Pudsey-wear and did some fun activities in our House groups. Thank you to the House Captains for organising such a great day.



Sadly, since the summer we have suffered damage to our outdoor bins and playground equipment, including the football goal posts. This generally happens at the weekend and unfortunately means we have to spend valuable resources on replacing broken equipment. We have also had a number of larger items 'dumped' by our Veolia bins. Local residents are welcome to use our grounds but please could you ask any children who are using the equipment to keep a careful watch and to treat the equipment like it is their own so it is in good condition for many months to come.

Finally, we are currently looking for a Clerk for our Governing Body. This is a part time position and would suit someone who works part time or who is looking to get back into the world of work after a career break. The hours range from day time meetings to some evening meetings so some flexibility is essential. Please see further information on our school website or contact the office.

Hilary Latimer, Headteacher



Winter at Five A Day

We are gradually organising the garden for winter with our fantastic volunteers preparing the growing beds ready for next spring with manure and compost mulch. We have sown onions and garlic hoping to harvest an early crop and our produce sales have almost finished after a very good season with successful crops of winter veg such as cauliflower, kale and cabbage which we haven't tried in previous years.

Our school visits have just finished and we look forward to seeing everyone back in the spring. Thyme Together, our sessions for older folks, will continue to run in the village hall throughout winter. The last visit from our corporate groups is due to take place on Friday 18th December and we will welcome them back next year.

Our new shed should be with us before Christmas to be ready for use next year for schools and the Thyme Together group if we can find funds for seating.



Finally, we are taking bookings for the annual Christmas wreath sessions. There are still spaces on the first weekend - 2nd, 3rd and 4th December. The second weekend is almost fully booked but spaces are available on Friday 9th December. Those people who wish to come please visit the Five A Day website or email info@fiveaday.org.uk where you can also view our latest

newsletter. Please remember to leave a contact number when booking.

If you are interested in volunteering or know of a business who supports staff volunteering please email info@fiveaday.org.uk or call 07555 184343.

Wishing you all a wonderful Christmas and a very happy 2023 from all of us at Five A Day.

Glen and Yvonne, Five A Day committee members



Christmas thoughts from Rushall Farm



It was just getting dark as I walked along the brow of the hill overlooking the Pang Valley above Rushall Farm the other evening. The mist was settling in the valley at a defined height and the yellowing evening sun gave its final appearance for the day, though masked by clouds. It seemed that I was very alone even though the busy homes and families scattered around were so very close.

Was that what it was like for those shepherds so long ago, looking after their sheep on the hillside outside the noise and bustle of Bethlehem? Were they the only ones who could have seen and heard the multitude of the heavenly host of angels praising God and singing 'Glory to God in the highest and peace on earth to those on whom His favour rests'? Shepherds at that time each looked after about 15 sheep, although these might be combined into larger flocks. There were no fenced fields so they had to protect the sheep against attack or wandering off. The sheep relied on their shepherds for fresh grazing and water and for their health and well-being, especially at lambing time. The sheep were kept for meat, milk to be made into cheese, and wool. So it was a 24/7 job. You stayed with your flock. and so did your sons. Shepherds were unlikely to have been to school and were generally considered dirty and smelly. Worse still, they were regarded as untrustworthy, and not able to give testimony in court. Yet amazingly these were the very people God chose to formally announce the birth of His son Jesus. And because of the detail they were given by the angel they were able to go to Bethlehem and assure the frightened, nervous couple, Mary and Joseph, that what was happening was completely in God's plan.

Jesus is described as Emmanuel, God with us. God's plan was, and still is, that in whatever situation HE IS WITH US. Jesus wants to come and be with us whether we are alone on a hillside or up to our eyes in being busy. He gives us the promise and assurance of his presence now and always. Surely that's a Christmas present worth considering?

John Bishop
www.rushallfarm.org.uk

Date	Sidesperson	First lesson	Epistle	Gospel reading	Prayers	Sacristan	Server	Sunday School and crèche	Cleaners
Sunday 4 th December 2 nd Sunday of Advent BCP	Peter Haig	Peter Hollands Isaiah 11:1-10 (Psalm 72: 1-7)	Linda Price Romans 15:4-13	Preacher Luke 21:25-33	BCP	Penny Norris	Paula Fenwick	Melanie Townsend Denny Hollands	Penny Norris Saffy O'Sullivan
Sunday 11 th December 3 rd Sunday of Advent	Penny Savage	Hamish Bamforth Isaiah 35:1-10 (Psalm 146: 5-10)	Dudley Fishburn James 5:7-10	Preacher Matthew 11:2-11	Denny Hollands	Sue Smith	Peter Haig	Saffy O'Sullivan Liz McKean	Pete and Carole Ford
Sunday 18 th December 4 th Sunday of Advent	Paula Fenwick	Stephanie Gibbons Isaiah 7:10-16 (Psalm 80: 1-7)	Meryl Bonser Romans 1:1-7	Preacher Matthew 1:18-25	Penny Savage	Catherine Haig	Carol Boulter	Saffy O'Sullivan Liz Reeves	Peter and Catherine Haig
Sunday 25 th December Christmas Day	Torquil MJ			Preacher John 1: 1-14	Paula Fenwick	Denny Hollands	Paula Fenwick Torquil MJ Saffy O'Sullivan	VESTRY OPEN; ACTIVITIES IN CHURCH	ALL HELP WELCOMED
Sunday 1 st January 2 nd Sunday of Christmas BCP	Liz Marillier	Paula Fenwick (readings to be confirmed)	Catherine Haig	Preacher Luke 2: 13-23	BCP	Penny Savage	Denny Hollands	VESTRY OPEN; ACTIVITIES IN CHURCH	Liz McKean
Sunday 8 th January Epiphany	Catherine Haig	Meryl Bonser Isaiah 60: 1-6 (Psalm 72:1-7,10-14)	Aldo Guiducci Ephesians 3: 1- 12	Preacher Matthew 2: 1-12	Dudley Fishburn	Penny Norris	Melanie Townsend	Saffy O'Sullivan Liz McKean	Penny Norris Saffy O'Sullivan
Sunday 15 th January 2 nd Sunday after Epiphany	Denny Hollands	James Bamforth Isaiah 49: 1-7 (Psalm 40: 1-11)	Ronan O'Sullivan 1 Corinthians 1: 1-9	Preacher John 1: 29-42	Ron Marillier	Sue Smith	Peter Haig	Saffy O'Sullivan Denny Hollands	Pete and Carole Ford
Sunday 22 nd January 3 rd Sunday after Epiphany	Peter Haig	Miles Edgar Isaiah 9: 1-4 (Psalm 27: 1, 4-9)	Linda Price 1 Corinthians 1: 10-18	Preacher Matthew 4: 12-23	Melanie Townsend	Catherine Haig	Saffy O'Sullivan	Liz McKean Denny Hollands	Peter and Catherine Haig
Sunday 29 th January 4 th Sunday after Epiphany	Penny Savage	Carole Ford Micah 6: 1-8 (Psalm 15)	Graham Harvey 1 Corinthians 1: 18-31	Preacher Matthew 5: 1-12	Catherine Haig	Denny Hollands	Paula Fenwick	Melanie Townsend Liz Reeves	Liz McKean
Sunday 5 th February 3 rd Sunday after Epiphany BCP	Paula Fenwick	Melanie Townsend (readings to be confirmed)		Preacher Matthew 5: 13-20	BCP	Penny Savage	Peter Haig	Saffy O'Sullivan Liz McKean	Penny Norris Saffy O'Sullivan
Sunday 12 th February 2 nd Sunday before Lent	Torquil MJ	Kahlen Spaulding Deut 30: 15-20 (Psalm 119: 1-8)	Ron Marillier 1 Corinthians 3: 1-9	Preacher Matthew 5: 21-37	Paula Fenwick	Penny Norris	Carol Boulter	Saffy O'Sullivan Denny Hollands	Pete and Carole Ford

If you swap duties please contact Saffy O'Sullivan (saffyosullivan@gmail.com) and the churchwardens. Please send prayer requests to Linda Price (pricelinda8@gmail.com or 07951 660169)



The Advent Ring

Children are very welcome to join us in Sunday School throughout Advent to light that week's candle, and learn who is represented by each one, and colour in. Please see the note on page 3 about the Christmas Eve 'Nativingle' service, and during our Family Service on Christmas morning, there will be activities for children in church. The crèche is open, every week, for babies and young toddlers, and Sunday School meets in the vestry for activities. Shown here: Sunday School children gathering foliage to make the Advent Ring.



Thank you for saving water

In keeping Thames Water's own announcement, we're pleased to let affected residents know that our request not to use hosepipes on our private water supply ended on 22nd November. Thank you to everyone for your efforts to save water, since the ban was put in place in August.

Happily, there has been continued heavy rain throughout November and ground is now wet enough for water to begin filling underground sources. However, we can't take this for granted and so please keep using water wisely – the more water we save, the less we need to take from rivers and boreholes. By doing the right thing by the environment, you could also reduce your energy bill. Many thanks,

The Englefield Estate

Carols at the Minster

PACT's annual carol concert will take place in Reading for the first time this year. Held in the beautiful setting of Reading Minster on Friday 16th December, starting at 6.30pm, the event will be a fun-filled, family-friendly evening of music, readings, performances and reflections to celebrate family life and raise money for PACT. There will be refreshments to enjoy, children are invited to dress up, and there will be an opportunity to meet and take photos with some well-known Christmas characters! Tickets are £10 adults, £5 children or £20 family - book here: <https://register.enthouse.com/ps/event/CarolsattheMinster2022>.

Berkshire Young Farmers Club

Bradfield YFC continues to build on the success of the last year and in recent weeks has welcomed several new faces to its ranks. In November, our members represented the Club at the Harvest Festival service hosted by Windsor & Maidenhead YFC at the Royal Chapel in Windsor. A full congregation saw Berkshire members present Club banners for blessings and donations for the local Food Bank. Bradfield had two junior teams representing the Club at the County Quiz and a single, victorious, Senior team. We have some great talks, speakers and visits lined up in the coming weeks and lots of fun planned for the Christmas period. Topping the successes of 2022 will be a tall order, but we already look like we have that in our sights.

If you are interested in joining us, please contact Club Leader Gordon Fletcher on 07939 504145 or you can follow the Club exploits on Facebook.

More on Place Names

Local place names usually have some descriptive basis which may be lost in the mists of time, but the origin is often not as old as we might think. Camp Road in Ufton may be thought to have some deep historical origin from Roman times of earlier but it probably references the Canadian Forestry Corps camp during the First World War and the road name (along with Island Farm Road – origin obvious) was only formally adopted in 1964, as the minutes of Ufton Parish Council for 9th June that year record.

Names also changed from time to time, sometimes with the original name being lost (Widmoor Wood) but sometimes with it being regained later (as with Wimbleton's).



Names also move around over time, sometimes a long way and sometimes not so far. Parker's Corner, for example, was not the road junction where we place it today but a sharp double bend further up the hill that was straightened in 1802. The perimeter of a small copse today marks the line of the old road and was still known as Parker's Corner Copse in 1883. The wood called Strawberry Copse locally today was Mount View in 1844 but The Hill Plantation ten years later in the description of the course of the new road from Bradfield to Chalkpit. In 1883 it was Bradfield Plantation, the name by

which the Ordnance Survey still know it today. The modern Hill Plantation is close to it and was known as Middle Plantation in 1883 but was Great Picked Piece and Little Picked Piece in 1844, when it was in two separate parts with an arable field (Middle Picked Piece) between them. The Larches too has moved around and has been in three different places since 1844.

Dainty Land was originally 'Great Denty Land' which in 1762 was just one part of the larger area at the top of Common Hill in the angle between the old roads to Bradfield and Beenham. Adjacent to it was 'Little Denty Copse' and when the new road was put down the north side of the hill in 1802 it followed the boundary between Great Denty and Little Denty with the latter later becoming known as Bennett's Copse, as it still is. By 1844 Great Denty had become the brick works and plantations, including Stone Park and The Larches with the southern part of it absorbed into 'The Lawn', as the new Deer Park was then called. In the 1870s when the new house for the Head Keeper was built on this piece it was fenced-off from the park and called Dainty Land.

Appleton's Corner presumably originated in about the 1830s or 40s when George Appleton, a farmer from Sulhamstead, owned a 'house, garden and yard' in the area at the top of The Street just to the right of the gate into the park.

The **Corporation Field** is the piece of land that lies between Bostock Lane and

the road from Parker's Corner to Mayridge Farm. The origin of this name lies in the fact that the Corporation of Reading had ownership of some strips scattered across the Great Field before enclosure and when the open field was enclosed in 1774 this total holding was consolidated into a single block covering part of the present Corporation Field.

Loring's Meadow is not a name in common use today but it certainly was up to the end of the 19th century. In 1844 (when it was written as 'Loarins') it comprised two adjacent pieces of land that were part of the Glebe land belonging to the Rector and situated between the old Rectory walled garden and The Street. In 1863 the new school was built on one part of it and in 1884 the Workmen's Club was built on another, but the rest remains to this day, now as the Five A Day garden, shown here. In 1941 as part of the Dig For Victory campaign, part of the Meadow became the school garden, measuring some 800 square yards. There were then 60 children on the roll but in 1953 there were only nine boys taking gardening (oldest 12) and the garden greatly reduced in size to the strip alongside the road. It was discontinued altogether in 1956 when the new Willink secondary school opened in Burghfield Common and the older children were transferred there. In the 1960s the meadow was used by Head Gardener Bill Partridge to grow dahlias and there was for a time a grass tennis court for use by the villagers alongside the Rectory garden wall.



The name probably originates from the 1780s when Joshua Loring, a significant figure in the American War of Independence, came to live in Englefield, perhaps in the old manor house that stood where Rectory Cottage now is and later served as Rectory until the new one was built in 1870.

The origin of the name **Lone Barn** appears to be obvious: a barn on its own at a distance from any other building. The barn is first seen on the Estate tithe map of 1844, when it was called 'Bradfield Barn'. In the description of the course of the new road in the Reading Chronicle in 1854 it is called Lone Barn but the pair of cottages next to it first appear in the census of 1861, when they are listed as 'Long Barn' (an equally accurate description) and are occupied by agricultural labourers James Cox and James Woodley. Ten years later, still with James Cox (now also a Primitive Methodist Lay Preacher) but Thomas Tame in place of James Woodley, the name is given as 'Longbarn Cottage' and then in 1881 (with Thomas Tame and shepherd James Allen) as 'Lower Barn'. The name Lone Barn reappears on the Ordnance Survey map of 1883 and then in the census of 1891.

It is now a single dwelling but that is relatively recent and its earlier form is evident from the two bricked-up front doors replaced by a single door between them.

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.

'My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command.' (John 15 v 12-14)

On Remembrance Sunday we remember those who have fallen in war, defending their homes, their friends and their families at the cost of their own lives. These famous words of Jesus, often quoted in Remembrance services, speak of how the ultimate act of love is to lay down one's life for one's friends.

Jesus of course lived out these words in his own life. For him, they were a foretelling of what he was to do shortly after he spoke them – arrested, put through a mockery of a trial, beaten and finally executed in excruciating pain. He knew in advance that this was what the future held, but he went through with it anyway. Why? Because of love. Think about it – what could have held the maker of the universe to the cross? Only his love for the people he came to save. He willingly gave up his life because he knew it was the only way to redeem the lives of his friends.

The people stood watching, and the rulers even sneered at him. They said, 'He saved others; let him save himself if he is God's Messiah, the Chosen One.' (Luke 23:35)

How do we know God loves us? How can we have confidence that he cares about our suffering? In this passage in Luke's Gospel we come to the ultimate answer to these questions: Because Jesus died on the cross.

The sight must have been pitiable; a beaten, broken man covered in his own blood hanging from a roughly-hewn timber cross with onlookers gawking and the rulers sneering. As the energy slowly drained away from him, it must have looked like a tragic end to a promising, love-filled life. What had gone wrong? The mocking voice called out, 'He saved others, let him save himself' – and why couldn't he? Jesus had healed the sick, calmed the storm, raised the dead; surely, to detach himself from the cross would have been easy by comparison. But he stayed put.

Think about it: What was it that held Jesus, the creator of the universe, to the cross? What could pin onto that wooden beam the hands that had flung the stars into space? Only his love for us. Jesus knew that the only way to restore a right relationship between God and his people was for him to take the punishment they deserved in their place, and because of his amazing love he went through

with the appalling experience in order to save them. When we are in turmoil and start to doubt God's love, we must remember the lengths to which he went in order to redeem us for himself. Our king is no stranger to suffering; he took it on voluntarily because he loves us. That truth can give us hope that however dark the present, the future is bright.

'But to you who are listening I say: love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who ill-treat you...Do to others as you would have them do to you' (Luke 6 v 27-28, 31)

One of the strands of evidence that points to Jesus' divinity is the quality of his moral teaching. It has been commented on that, in the 2000 years since his earthly ministry, nobody has ever improved on what Jesus said. His teaching is the absolute peak of moral perfection, which surpassed what came before it and still sets the gold standard today. Indeed, his summary at the end of this passage is sometimes called 'the Golden Rule' – do to others as you would have them do to you (note the greater moral force of this than its lesser cousin, 'don't do to others what you wouldn't want them to do to you').

This teaching is the essence of love: love which is unconditional, which breaks the cycle of hate and retribution by consciously choosing to return good to others, even those who have been wicked or unkind. We see Jesus embody this love through his whole life, even at the end as he prays for forgiveness for those who have nailed him to the cross.

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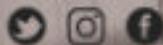
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