

Englefield Parish News

June - July 2024



ENGLEFIELD
VILLAGE FETE
& FLOWER SHOW
SATURDAY 13TH JULY
FROM 2.00PM
STALLS • GAMES • TRACTOR RIDES
BOUNCY SLIDE • REFRESHMENT TENT
BBQ • ICE CREAM

The poster features a central illustration of a brown deer with large antlers. The text is arranged in a vertical stack, with 'ENGLEFIELD' at the top in orange, 'VILLAGE FETE' in a large purple arch, '& FLOWER SHOW' in pink, 'SATURDAY 13TH JULY' in light blue, 'FROM 2.00PM' in orange, and a list of activities in blue at the bottom. The entire poster is framed by a colorful border with geometric shapes in blue, orange, purple, and teal.

The Parish of St Mark's, Englefield

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

Churchwardens 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
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Electoral Roll Officer richard@transport-studies.org
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Parish Council

Chairman edward.crookes@englefield.co.uk
Edward Crookes 0118 9302504

Clerk clerk.englefieldpc@outlook.com
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St Mark's Church website: www.stmarksenglefield.org.uk
Englefield Parish Council website: www.englefieldpc.org.uk

Front cover: *A reminder that the Englefield Village Fete & Flower Show is on Saturday 13th July. Schedules are in the Village Stores or email efsentry@gmail.com. See page 8 for more information about this year's show.*

Englefield Parish News

Englefield Parish News is published every two months and is distributed free to all households in the parish of Englefield. Contributions welcome, email catherinehaig@gmail.com or rector@stmarksenglefield.org.uk, or hand in to the Village Stores by the 20th of the preceding month.

From St Mark's House

You've got a friend in me!
'You've got a friend in me
You've got a friend in me
When the road looks rough ahead
And you're miles and miles from your nice warm bed
You just remember what your old pal said
Boy, you've got a friend in me, Yeah, you've got a friend in me'

I wonder if you know this Randy Newman song from the brilliant 1995 Toy Story film? It is worth a watch no matter what your age! I wonder if it surprises you to know that 'a friend' is one way I describe God's Holy Spirit?

*Jesus describes
the Spirit as the
Helper*

The last Sunday in May was Trinity Sunday, when we focus on God as 'one being and three persons'. This 'trinity' is wonderful and unique to Christianity. It is God in relationship. The Trinity means that we don't have a God who is distant, unreachable and incommunicado! We have a God who is a Heavenly Father (better than any earthly Dad), a God who came to live amongst us and share our lives as Jesus the Son, and having died on a cross, was raised from the dead and re-joined His Father in heaven. God then sent His Holy Spirit in a pretty dramatic event (at Pentecost, see Acts, chapter 2)!

The Holy Spirit does sometimes cause a dramatic response today yet Jesus describes the Spirit as the Helper (sometimes translated as Counsellor), one who will come alongside and also one who will lead them into all truth. I don't know about you, but the friends I value most are the ones who I know I can trust to be really honest, not to just tell me what I want to hear. These are the people I really want around me. It can sometimes be hard to find a 'critical friend', but they are so extremely important in our own development as human beings. Jesus tells the disciples that the Holy Spirit will also convict us of the things we do wrong.

We all need these things but more than ever I know people who struggle with anxious thoughts and fearfulness. We each need more peace inside of us. It is the Holy Spirit that can bring us the kind of peace that we cannot get anywhere else... no matter how much mindfulness, yoga, tai chi, deep breathing or feng shui we do! Whether you need wisdom, guidance, empowering, counselling, peace or a friend, the Holy Spirit of God offers it to everyone who asks. He is available 24/7, open all hours, at home or away...why not make a new friend?! I would of course be most happy to chat with you too.



*The friends I
value most are the ones
who I know I can trust to
be really honest*

Your Rector, Julia

Diary dates

Thursday 6th June: D-Day 80th anniversary commemoration, more details on page 5.

Wednesday 12th and Thursday 13th June: Englefield Countryside Days for Schools.

West Berkshire Mobile Library: Wednesday 12th June and 3rd and 24th July, outside the Old Fire Station Nursery, Englefield, 2pm to 2.25pm.

Monday 24th June: St Mark's PCC meeting, 6.30pm, in the church.

Evening Praise: last Sunday of every month, 6pm at Holy Trinity, Theale, next dates 30th June and 28th July.

Saturday 13th July: Englefield Village Fete & Flower Show, from 2pm, see page 8 for more details.

Heritage Live Summer Concerts: Friday 19th, Saturday 20th and Sunday 21st July, and Flackstock Festival: Monday 22nd July - see page 9 for more information.

Saturday 14th September: BHCT Ride+Stride in aid of St Mark's and Berkshire churches, see link for more details on page 15.

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/ www.englefieldpc.org.uk/ www.thealeparishcouncil.gov.uk
Englefield Parish Council	
Theale Parish Council	
Englefield Primary School	0118 930 2337; www.englefieldprimary.co.uk
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 Richard Highley and Faith Iman Ibet, married at St Mark's on Saturday 6th April.

To Harry and Sarah Benyon on the arrival of baby daughter, Lara, on 12th April, a sister for Archie.

To David and Penny Norris on their Golden Wedding anniversary in April.

To Rachel Haig who completed the Paris Marathon on Sunday 7th April in four hours 20 minutes, raising funds for Shelter.

To Christopher Bailey and Bethany Jupp, married at St Mark's on Friday 17th May.

To Charlie Benyon and Megan Townsend, married at St Mark's on Saturday 18th May.

Baptism

Lucas Prucha, Arthur Bone and Benjamin Shelton, baptised at St Mark's on Sunday 12th May.

St Mark's APCM

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in church on May 13th began with refreshments for the 21 people in attendance. The Churchwardens, Paula Fenwick and Torquil Montague-Johnstone, were re-elected for the coming year and were thanked for their dedicated service over the past year.

The audited PCC accounts for 2023 were presented together with the PCC annual report, both of which were approved by the meeting.

Nominations were received from Elizabeth Benyon, Richard Benyon and Linda Price who were unanimously re-elected for a further three-year term.

The annual revision of the Electoral Roll confirmed 96 on roll and Richard Smith was thanked and appointed ER Officer for a further year. Other appointments were Ron Marillier as Treasurer, Penny Savage as Secretary, Lucy Roper as Safeguarding Officer, Liz Marillier as St Mark's Verifier, Paul Myles as Health & Safety Officer, and Francis Wells as Independent Examiner.

The Rector gave her report, illustrated by a slide show, describing the services and special events at St Mark's and in the village month by month. She concluded with a prayer for thankfulness and the Churchwardens expressed heartfelt thanks on behalf of the congregation for Julia's ministry and Paul's dedicated support.



Commemorative trees

After the service at St Mark's on Palm Sunday, the congregation moved down to Appleton's Corner to join the Sunday Club children, Estate staff and village residents to plant two commemorative trees. A whitebeam was planted in memory of the late Queen, and a hornbeam to mark the coronation of King Charles III.



Ring out for peace

As part of the commemoration of the 80th anniversary of D-Day - see opposite for details - the bell ringers at St Mark's will be ringing the bells for peace. The Central Council of Bell Ringers has asked towers to ring at 6.30pm local time on Thursday 6th June, so the St Mark's peal will be echoed by towers in Australia, New Zealand, Canada, the USA, South Africa, Europe and Italy.

Let's Talk Theology

Let's Talk Theology meetings continue on the second Wednesday of every month at St Mary's Sulhamstead, at 7.30pm. For further details, contact carolboulter@ntlworld.com.

ENGLEFIELD
ESTATE



The 6th June 2024 marks the 80th anniversary of D-Day, the largest Naval, Air and Land Operation in history.

The Englefield Estate will be marking this occasion by joining with many others across the country in lighting a Beacon in celebration of the "light of peace" that emerged out of the darkness of war.

It is our country's opportunity to remember over 209,000 Allied casualties of Operation Overlord. This includes nearly 37,000 ground forces and 16,714 air forces killed in the invasion of Normandy's Utah, Omaha, Gold, Juno and Sword beaches, and the long and bloody campaign that followed.

All residents of Englefield Parish are invited to join us at the Beacon Ceremony on 6th June 2024.

8:30pm - Meet outside Englefield Village Hall and walk to the Beacon site (located in the Englefield Top Deer Park)
9:15pm – Tribute and Lighting of the Beacon

A 4x4 will be available to assist with access to the site for those with limited mobility.

Limited lighting will be setup for the event, please come equipped with a torch and suitable clothing if the weather is poor.



Schools Days 2024

This year's Englefield Estate Schools Days will be on **Wednesday 12th and Thursday 13th June**. Classes will be diverted away from The Street while on foot to maximise safety, but please could residents take care extra care and be patient when driving on these dates.

Coaches and minibuses carrying schoolchildren will be present at the start and end of the days, with particularly busy times between 9:00-10:00am and 1:00-3:00pm. We ask that you kindly avoid parking along The Street, which should be much easier now the village car park is in operation. Following the morning school run, essential areas will be coned off to ensure access.

The theme of the event is Sustainability - the ability to meet current needs without infringing on the capacity of future generations to meet their needs. We have a great combination of long-standing supporters of the event and some new faces running activities for pupils to take part in.

Activities this year include learning about carpentry and roof tiling with our Maintenance Team, recycling with Hills Waste Solutions, chalk stream wildlife with Action for the River Kennet, the church community with Rev. Julia Myles, Butterflies and Moths with Butterfly Conservation, the story of wheat with HBH Farming and Rushall Farm and dragonfly craft with Countryside Learning, along with many other fantastic organisations and volunteers. We're fully booked with schools, who are eagerly looking forward to their visit to Englefield. I'm sure you join us in wanting to make the Schools Days a great success, providing lasting happy memories for the children attending.

Dr Liz Mattison, Education & Environment Officer



Summertime at the Tea Room

Easter was a lovely time here at the Store and Tea Room with the Easter Trail. We were delighted that so many families came along and really enjoyed a few hours hunting for the eggs around the Estate. Congratulations to Oscar, who was the winner of the Easter Hamper, and we are pleased to say that together we raised £182 for Brain Tumour Research in loving memory of Ruby White.

We have been busy with a new arch into the Tea Room Garden and a couple of pergolas in the courtyard. Diane has been working hard on the garden and getting it ready for the summer...hopefully the sunshine will come soon!

The Store has some really pretty items for sale by local craft ladies, things you really will not find on the High Street, so when you're next in please have a look and I know Janice would love to see you too! Carte D'or ice cream is in and going so well, rain or shine!



This may sound crazy but we have quite a few bookings already for the Christmas lunches which will run from the 18th November - 21st December with Christmas Afternoon Teas served on the Saturdays only.

But firstly let's just hope for a summer full of sunshine and happy faces!

Liz and the team 😊



ENVIRONMENTAL HELP NEEDED!

The Oxford Diocese offers churches three different processes to go through in order to help them become more environmentally friendly: an energy audit, an energy footprint tool and how to devise a strategy towards net zero. There is also an Eco Church award scheme called A Rocha that the church can participate in, working towards bronze, silver and gold levels. The Rector would like to host an Environmental Group meeting at St Mark's House, so if you are interested in environmental issues, please get in touch with her on rector@stmarksenglefield.org.uk.

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



Englefield Flower Show

We hope that **Saturday 13th July** is firmly in your diary when the Englefield Village Fete & Flower Show will take place on the school playing field. It will of course feature all the usual classes, stands, stalls and entertainment. The school PTA will be providing their excellent tea and cakes as well as a beer/Pimms tent and a Grand Raffle. The school children will be running their own stands to raise funds for school activities.

The Class schedules are ready to go so you should be receiving yours shortly. You will also be able to download one from Englefield School's website or email efsentry@gmail.com.

The Show committee would very much appreciate any volunteers willing to help set up or run a stall etc and contribute to this amazing and traditional community event. Please contact Allison on 078443 576064 or Gordon on 07939 504145 if you can help us.

And if you enjoy the Flower Show and would like to be part of it and see it continue, please do consider joining the committee. Contact Allison or Gordon as above or speak to them on the day for more information.

We look forward to receiving your entries and seeing you on 13th July for another wonderful Englefield Village community event.

Village Fete & Flower Show committee

Englefield's Easter Trail

Many thanks to Liz Wirth at the Village Stores for devising and setting up the Englefield Easter Trail. Six wooden Easter eggs, beautifully painted by the primary schools, the Old Fire Station and the Tigers Day Nurseries and Gemini Beavers, were dotted around the village and 126 children and families took part over the Easter holidays. The congregation of St Mark's helped provide an Easter hamper and a Fair Trade egg and Easter booklet for each entrant.



Heritage Live Summer Concerts

From Friday 19th until Monday 22nd July, a full programme of acts, including the much-loved Flackstock Festival, are guaranteed to entertain guests within the grounds of Englefield House.

Madness is the first headline act of the Summer Concert series, performing its 'C'est la Vie' tour which will include brand-new songs, as well as huge hit singles such as 'One Step Beyond', 'Baggy Trousers', 'House of Fun' and 'Our House'. Special guests are the Lightning Seeds and the Old Time Sailors.

Combining unique orchestration with unparalleled electronic production, global dance music legend Pete Tong will bring his Ibiza Classics show to the Estate on Saturday 20th July, alongside Jules Buckley and The Essential Orchestra. They will be joined by The Grid and Groove Armada, plus a rising star from the Pete Tong DJ Academy.

For the Sunday night, ELBOW will headline the stage with support acts the superb Villagers and Hamish Hawk. ELBOW who recently opened the new Co-op indoor arena in Manchester to much acclaim, are undoubtedly one of Britain's' most loved and respected bands, so ticketholders can get ready for an unforgettable evening!

And to round off a long weekend of epic entertainment, on Monday 22nd July Flackstock Festival returns to Englefield for its third year, to raise vital funds and awareness for a range of brilliant mental health charities, in memory of much-loved TV presenter Caroline Flack.

Olly Murs is set to headline the daytime festival, along with Shaznay Lewis, Tom Walker, NewDad, Chesney Hawkes, Rebecca Ferguson and many, many more amazing acts. Don't forget to pack a sensible pair of shoes as fitness and health coach Joe Wicks will also appear onstage during the festival!

Further details are presented on the Englefield Estate website and tickets are now available for sale through the Heritage Live website, <https://www.heritagelive.net/>.

Peter Carson, Events Manager





Working together at Five A Day

After a very variable period weatherwise the Fiveaday Garden is thriving with sales from the gazebo in April mostly from willow, Easter baskets and wreaths. We have planted potatoes, broad beans, shallots, onions and garlic.

Corporate groups: We have two more groups from both Vodafone and other companies due in May and three in both June and July.

Thyme Together: Our sessions for the over 65's continue with the garden area being extended and raised beds built courtesy of funding and hard work from the corporate groups. Everything should be in situ by the end of May. We have appointed a new leader for the TT group who will start in May. Katie has a background in working with groups and is experienced in horticultural therapy. We wish her every success in her new role. Should you know anyone who might be interested in joining these free sessions for over 65's please let them know about us.



Kids go Green: The school and uniform groups (Scouts and Guides) are back this month under our Kids Go Green scheme encouraging participation in gardening, conservation and activities around the garden such as seed sowing, pond dipping and bug hunting. They also take part in a food tasting tour of the garden. Each child takes home seed sown pots of vegetable and flowers and information about parks and nature reserves in their local areas.

Our Development Officer, Ali Luke, continues working on funding and creating new opportunities in the garden along with Glen Higgins, our Garden Manager who co-ordinates the gardening volunteers. 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 or call 07555 184343. Please leave a contact number where you can be reached. You can also visit our website at Fiveaday.org.uk

Wendy Cadman, Five A Day management team member and trustee

Rain and sun at Rushall Farm

Today, Sunday, really has not been the best of days. It rained hard all night as expected. The pit by our house was flooded. The promise of a wet second weekend of Bluebell Walks in the woods at Rushall Farm had come true. At 7am the phone call came that one of the minibuses looking after the Duke of Edinburgh campers was stuck and could I tow it out?



I always walk up to church at St Peter's Southend. As I passed the shop a friend from Stanford Dingley got out of his car and said, 'I've just read your article in the parish magazine'. Now, for me, that is always good to know! But then he added that he was off to a bluebell picnic elsewhere, having chosen the date especially because it was when we did ours. The rain immediately got heavier. I was speaking in church that day on the claim of Jesus that he is like a vine and we are like the branches, looked after and cared for and loved by God, who is like the gardener. In the congregation last week Tony spoke about Jesus as the good shepherd. Tony is a gardener, so with my experience of looking after sheep for 40 years I felt I would have been on safer ground talking about sheep.

It stayed dull and wet; we cleaned the toilets vacated by the DoE and encouraged the team from Reading Multiple Sclerosis Society as they laboured on, wet, but now cold as well. Then the sun came out and people came, with lots of children and dogs, looking at the beauty of creation with a special emphasis on bluebells, teas, and delicious cakes. Everyone went home with at least some mud from Rushall Farm. My advice from years of experience to the car park attendants was that it would be a good idea to park cars on hard standing around the Manor site. In fact, all cars were directed into the field by our two youngest assistants, with assurance that there would be no problem. I positioned the 7am tractor plus tow rope at the ready. They were right, and even reconnected the tractor ready for trailer rides for schools on Monday morning, cheerily leaving, saying, 'we will see you next year'.

My sister died of MS, which led us to start supporting this cause in 1985. Over half a million pounds, including £14,000 this year, has been raised by the Reading Branch using Rushall Farm. It means that prospects for those diagnosed with MS are so much better today, so THANK YOU.

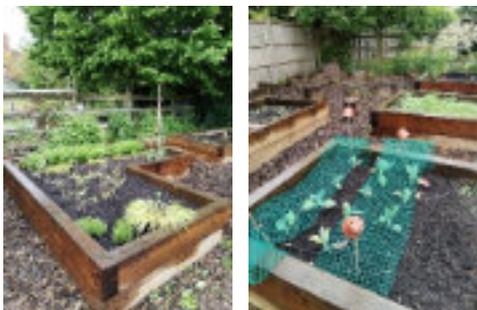
John Bishop
www.rushallfarm.org.uk



From Englefield Primary School

'Sowing the Seeds for a Flourishing Future'

The sun is finally making an appearance giving our green-fingered children the opportunity to give Ruby's garden its spring tidy up ready for summer. The garden is now filled with beans, broccoli, spinach, carrots, tomatoes and cucumbers and the children are waiting with baited breath to see what will grow as a result of their hard work. We would like to add a huge thank you to



our PTA who hosted a very successful plant sale on Friday and who have donated some beautiful plants which have already been added to the garden by our hard-working gardeners.



The better weather also brings out the bees. Our Beekeeping club is back in full swing, each week six of our eldest children don their bee suits and head over to the hives to monitor the bees, learning to locate the queen, and how to tell a drone from a worker bee. It is a fascinating and rare opportunity for such young people to be able to experience and each one of them has taken to it with bravery and maturity. Hopefully it will be a good summer for honey making!

This year, pupils of Englefield were very lucky to have their work on display at the Rotary Club Art Exhibition in Pangbourne Village Hall.

Children from all across the school produced a picture using the theme 'Nature' and 28 pieces were chosen to be displayed in the exhibition. We are very proud to say that six of our children received highly commended certificates, one of whom, Robyn, was the overall winner of KS1. Well done to Eli, Rafa, Alfie, Aden and Phiorella for their outstanding work and a huge well done to Robyn for her winning piece.



This week our year 3 /4 class are off on a trip to Thirtover Place for a two-night residential. For some of them this will be the first time they have stayed away from home. It will be exciting and challenging, an opportunity to realise they can achieve things they never thought they could. We have no doubt that they will love every minute of it!

The second half of this term will soon be upon us and will be filled with summer fun and moving up preparation. We have a whole school trip to look forward to alongside a production from our year 5/6 class and our annual Englefield Flower Show and Summer Fete which will be held on the 13th July at 2pm. This year will come to an end with an emotional Leavers Service at St Mark's and a goodbye and good luck celebration for our year 6 class before they make their exciting move on to pastures new. Every child leaves a lasting memory here at Englefield, it is a privilege to watch them learn and grow, and to be a part of that. We are so proud of our children and we wish them the best of luck for their new school adventures.

Hilary Latimer, Headteacher



Bingo at the Village Hall

On Saturday 27th April, we held a Bingo and Fish & Chip night for the community. The hall was full of Englefield neighbours. Rev Julia was brilliant at calling the Bingo balls and had us all laughing the night away, thank you to her for being a fantastic Bingo caller! We had three games of Bingo with some lovely prizes - thank you to the Garden

Centre, the Tea Room and Englefield Estate for their contributions. The evening ended with a spontaneous 'sing-along-a-bingo-playlist' and a great time was had by all. £242 was raised for the Alzheimer's Society.

It was lovely to see our small community getting together and we hope that we can do some more events again this year.

Liz Wirth



Donald Barton 1938 - 2024

Taken in part from the tributes given by David, Jane and Anna (his children) at his funeral at St Mark's on Monday 25th March.

Don was born in Sidcup, Kent and, influenced by his father's time in Australia, was named after the great cricketer Donald Bradman. His parents moved to Theale, and he went to primary school in Calcot and then to St Bartholomew's Grammar school in Newbury, playing cricket for the first XI and becoming the school's senior prefect. His connection

with Englefield began when he met Gillian (our Mum) who lived in the village - they married at St Mark's in 1964 and as a young man he played cricket for Englefield cricket club. He and Gill have been members of the St Mark's community throughout their lives, their daughters were married in the church and Don was the church treasurer for many years. He felt at home in the church, and its beautiful and tranquil surroundings, and found comfort and solace in faith throughout his life.

Instead of studying geography at Oxford, as suggested by a teacher, Don chose first to do national service in the Royal Air Force before renewing his studies. He saw active service in Cyprus during the Greek Cypriot EOKA terrorist insurgency between 1957 and 1959, including duties in convoys through the Troodos mountains transporting fuel and supplies from Limassol port to RAF Nicosia. He also played cricket for RAF Nicosia. He always said he benefited from national service but returned to England to pursue his academic love of geography and enrolled at the college of Estate Management at London University. He studied town and country planning and qualified as a chartered surveyor before working for Berkshire County Council when he graduated in 1962. At college, again playing cricket, he captained his college cricket team to win the London University college cup.

Don and Gill had three children, David born in 1966, followed by Jane and Anna. They all read tributes to him at the funeral. His children knew him as someone who always wanted to do his best and be of service. He was actively involved and present throughout their school years and became a governor of their primary and secondary schools. In retirement he served on the Parochial Church Council at St Mark's.

They also remember him as a father who was always encouraging and supportive in all aspects of their lives, from their academic studies to life beyond. He was someone who, David said, 'taught me a huge amount by who he was, what he did and how he did it. He never expected anything, was modest, thoughtful, intelligent, and generous, but never conspicuously so'. He was devoted to his wife Gill and to his family, he was proud yet humble and showed his love in the truest

sense through his words and actions. At home he loved to cook, to garden and he also loved driving and never with the need of a map!

After leaving Berkshire County Council, Don had roles as a planning consultant, and was involved in planning legal enquiries and in commercial property management. In his retirement, Don very much loved being a grandad to his eight grandchildren, who experienced his culinary skills, dry sense of humour and quiet unwavering love. As Anna said, 'most of all you were kind, you could talk to anyone and put them at their ease. Even at the end you still managed the odd quip and made us laugh'.

In his last years, Don was overtaken by the cruel disease of what clinicians call mixed dementia. It did feel to those close to him that, in many ways they had already lost him in part, but thankfully there were many times when he had moments of clarity and his essence shone through. He often simply expressed gratitude for the care he received and was, until the end, grateful to Gill for her care at home or simply in making visits to the hospital or more recently to a care home.

Don will be much missed by Gillian, David, Jane and Anna and their respective families, as well as Gillian's bother Robert. As read as part of the tributes, in the words of a famous writer, 'We make a living by what we get, we make a life by what we give'. And if this is true, Don lived a very good life, one marked by gratitude and wanting to do his best and be his best. His love for us all was evident and enduring.

Thank you.

We give our heartfelt thanks to our church community at St Mark's for all the kindness and support at such a painful time. Don's funeral was so much beyond what he would have expected. The music, the flowers, the readings, and the prayers made the service tranquil and memorable. Julia gave us so much help with the arrangements and led the service so beautifully. Thank you to everyone.



Helping Berkshire churches

Please put Saturday 14th September in your diary and join us for Ride+Stride, the annual fundraiser for Berkshire Historic Churches Trust. Many of our beautiful local churches will be open for you to visit, and asking for sponsorship or a donation from friends and family will help support both St Mark's and churches across the county. More information is available at www.berkschurchestrust.org.uk/ride-and-stride-2/ or see Torquil MJ or Catherine Haig in church.

Sunday	Sidesperson	First reading	Epistle	Gospel	Prayers	Sacristan	Server	Sunday Club and crèche	Cleaners
June 2nd 1st Sunday after Trinity BCP	Graham and Pauline Harvey	Peter Haig	James Bamforth	Preacher	BCP	Sue Smith	Penny Savage	Liz McKean Denny Hollands	Peter and Catherine Haig
June 9th 2nd Sunday after Trinity	Paula Fenwick	Ron Marillier	Denny Hollands	Preacher	Richard Benyon	Penny Savage	Peter Haig	Saffy O'Sullivan Meryl Bonser	Pete and Carole Ford
June 16th 3 rd Sunday after Trinity	Torquil MJ	Kahlen Spaulding	Philip Anderson	Preacher	Linda Price	Catherine Haig	Paula Fenwick	Saffy O'Sullivan Liz McKean	Angie Higgins
June 23rd 4th Sunday after Trinity	Peter Haig	Lorraine Dehn	Aldo Guiducci	Preacher	Catherine Haig	Denny Hollands	Torquil MJ	Saffy O'Sullivan Denny Hollands	Penny Norris Saffy O'Sullivan
June 30th 5th Sunday after Trinity	Liz Marillier	Mike Kimber	Penny Savage	Preacher	Ron Marillier	Dee Boddy	Peter Haig	Saffy O'Sullivan Meryl Bonser	Liz McKean
July 7th 6th Sunday after Trinity BCP	Penny Savage	James Meade	Linda Price	Preacher	BCP	Sue Smith	Penny Savage	Saffy O'Sullivan Liz McKean	Angie Higgins
July 14th 7th Sunday after Trinity	Graham and Pauline Harvey	John Rothery	Harry Benyon	Preacher	Paula Fenwick	Penny Norris	Denny Hollands	Liz McKean Meryl Bonser	Peter and Catherine Haig
July 21st 8th Sunday after Trinity	Torquil MJ	Ronan O'Sullivan	Richard Benyon	Preacher	Dinah Perkins	Denny Hollands	Peter Haig	Saffy O'Sullivan Denny Hollands	Penny Norris Saffy O'Sullivan
July 28th 9th Sunday after Trinity	Paula Fenwick	Kahlen Spaulding	Jean Rothery	Preacher	Peter Haig	Penny Savage	Torquil MJ	Saffy O'Sullivan Liz McKean	Pete and Carole Ford
August 4th 10th Sunday after Trinity BCP	Peter Haig	Carole Ford	Meryl Bonser	Preacher	BCP	Catherine Haig	Saffy O'Sullivan	Liz McKean Denny Hollands	Graham and Pauline Harvey
August 11th 11th Sunday after Trinity	Liz Marillier	Anne Edgar	James Bamforth	Preacher	Denny Hollands	Dee Boddy	Paula Fenwick	Saffy O'Sullivan Meryl Bonser	Angie Higgins
August 18th 12th Sunday after Trinity	Penny Savage	Aldo Guiducci	Graham Harvey	Preacher	Linda Price	Penny Norris	Denny Hollands	Liz McKean Saffy O'Sullivan	Penny Norris Saffy O'Sullivan

Bible readings will be emailed to readers beforehand and can also be found at <https://almanac.oremus.org/2023-03-19> (click on the correct date and scroll down to Principal Service readings). If you swap duties, please email Rev Julia (rector@stmarksenglefield.org.uk) and the churchwardens. Please send prayer requests to Linda Price (pricelinda8@gmail.com).



Down memory lane

Rev Julia in conversation with Ray Stevens about his recollections of life in Englefield:

What brought you to Englefield and when?

In 1946 when Ray was a few months old (the youngest of 6), his Dad Alf came to work as cowman at Wickcroft Farm and they lived in the cottages. Ray started our school aged five but got meningitis and spent nine months in Peppard Sanitorium. He was only allowed in school for half-days for a year. Ray showed me a class photo from 1956 when Arthur Hayes was Headteacher and Mrs Claydon the Junior Teacher. It also featured Anne

Cripps, Richard Smith and Bob Lamperd (Gill Barton's brother). They moved around various farms until returning to 43 Chalkpit Cottages when he was eight.

What are your memories of the village then and how has it changed?

Ray remembers how everyone at the beginning of The Street worked in the yard and everyone in the top half by the school all worked in the garden (when it was run by the Estate, before it became the Garden Centre). Five a Day was the school playing fields and then tennis courts. All the outlying houses and cottage residents worked on the farms run by the Estate.

The Post Office was attached to the Club in those days and Mr and Mrs Cook, Richard Smith's grandparents, ran them both. The Village Shop had a bakery with the bread oven which is still there at the back of the Stores and that was run by Mrs Gosling. Ray also remembers that the village fete used to be on the Old Rectory lawn. Ray's Mum Olive used to do the teas for the village football team on Saturdays, his brother Donald played. Donald was a window cleaner and Ray helped him do the Englefield House windows.

Ray used to help his Dad, Alf, cut the churchyard and, along with Eddy Newman, was confirmed in St Mark's and both boys sang in the choir. He remembers they sang at both Harry and then Violet Benyon's funerals. Ray and Eddy also tried bellringing but couldn't quite get the hang of letting go of the ropes! So that was very short lived says Ray. The twosome were both life members of the Club and they were set up on blind dates with Margaret and Jackie....who later became Mrs Stevens and Mrs Newman! They could often be found courting in the corner of the Club and Ray and Margaret were Lin and Den Sargeant's first wedding reception in the Club in October 1969.

One story Ray tells with slight trepidation was when he and his brothers, Gerry and Don, were running for Reading Athletics Club and training in the top park, known then as the Beeches. They were running when Sir William came along on horseback,

with young Richard and Edward on their ponies. Unfortunately Richard's pony was startled and he was thrown off. Ray thought he was due a telling off but Sir William said, 'Oh don't worry, he is all right'. Ray's brother asked was it still okay to run and the answer was, 'You can run anywhere on the Estate and if anyone stops you, tell them you have my permission'.

This surely played a part in Gerry becoming an international athlete and representing Britain in the Commonwealth Games and holding the British record for the 3000 metres steeplechase...and as for Ray...he is still running on the Estate today.



Ray and Margaret leaving their wedding reception, held in the Club in October 1969.

Indian street food pop-up at Cobbs

We are very excited to host our next Indian Street Food Pop-up here at Cobbs with the fantastic Chaat Food Truck. Come along any time between 5pm and 8.30pm on the first Saturday of the month: next dates 1st June, 6th July and 3rd August. No need to book, just turn up and why not make it a fun night out and eat your food on site with a drink or two from Cobbs. Don't miss the chance to taste this delicious, authentic Indian food with a modern twist.

The team at Cobbs

Afternoon teas at Aldworth

St Mary's Church in Aldworth is hosting its afternoon teas once again this year, every Wednesday from 3rd July until the end of September. Open from 2.30-4.30pm, enjoy delicious homemade cakes in the company of the famous Aldworth Giants. For further details and to book groups contact Gill Wilding on 01635 578624 or gillwilding@hotmail.com.

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.

‘Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven.’ (Acts 2 v 5)

How often do we privately question God’s timing? How often do we grow frustrated that God doesn’t seem to be moving quickly enough in our lives, or the lives of those around us? The Jews must certainly have felt this in the time leading up to the arrival of Jesus. Where was their Messiah? Why was God taking so long?

The truth is, God’s timing is perfect. Jesus had his ministry at the perfect time - the earliest point in history when an empire (Rome) had connected up the known world. As a result, news of the crucifixion and resurrection would travel rapidly across many nations in a way which would not have been possible before. In this passage, we see God sending his Holy Spirit on Jesus’ followers during Pentecost, the Feast of Weeks. This was an important festival in the Jewish calendar marking the giving of the Law to Moses on Mount Sinai, and Jews from across the world would be congregating in Jerusalem. What better time for the apostles to be empowered to proclaim the good news about Jesus, miraculously in the languages of all these people, just before everyone headed out from the city and back to their homes? We should remember this when we are tempted to think that God is not moving at a pace we would like - his sense of timing is much better than ours.

‘My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one.’ (John 17 v 15)

At times, many of us feel like retreating from the world and hiding away. We long to escape from the troubles of life in the present, to pull up the drawbridge and be insulated from the stresses and opposition of the world. At times like this we can find ourselves asking why, if God really loves us, he doesn’t just pull us out of our difficulties and set us in more comfortable surroundings. In his prayer for those who would follow him, Jesus specifically prays for this issue. Those who belong to God are not called to leave the world, but to live in it as witnesses who can testify to his truth. For our sake, it is good that this is so: if God quickly removed those who follow him from the world, we would never have had the opportunity to hear the good news of Jesus and ourselves be rescued. The Christian hope is not that we will never suffer; rather, it is that when we do, God draws alongside us to sustain and uphold us. Suffering should never be mistaken for being unloved by God. Consider that Jesus, who lived with God the Father in the closest relationship of love imaginable, himself knew all about the experience of suffering.

The Old Parish Chest

In the Englefield Chapel sits an old wooden chest, in a condition that the antiques trade would describe as somewhat ‘distressed’. The lid is divided into two parts, each covering a separate part of the chest beneath. While the smaller part of the lid only has provision for a single lock, the greater part has three separate locks, giving us a clue to what the chest was originally intended for.

In 1538, four years after England’s split from Rome, Thomas Cromwell, principal advisor to Henry VIII, ordered all parishes of the Church of England to keep a register of baptisms, marriages and burials and this register was to be kept in a locked chest. It was usual for this chest to have two or three locks; the keys being held separately by the Rector and the churchwardens. In this case each churchwarden could have a different key so the chest could only be opened when all three of those people were together. This guarded against false entries being made in the records – an incidence of which forms a key element in the plot of Wilkie Collins’s *The Woman in White*.



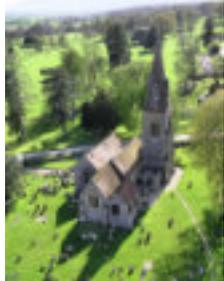
Our parish records do not extend back quite as far as 1538 and the first burial recorded in the parish register was that of Robert Waitbourne on 25th September 1559. Cromwell’s edict was resisted by many Roman Catholics and some parishes have gaps in their records spanning the reign of Mary I between 1553 and 1558. It is perhaps no coincidence that the first burial record in Englefield coincides with the departure of Sir Francis Englefield just after the accession of Elizabeth I.

In ‘God’s Acre’, as churchyards are sometimes called – although the same title was given to the cricket ground at Buller Barracks in Aldershot – there are many headstones, sadly a lot of them now illegible or at least almost so, but none from before about 1700. The churchyard also has much apparently empty space, though we must assume that this is actually occupied by the many who must have been buried there since the church was founded. It is also a sad fact that there are some much more recent burials that go unmarked.

The early burial records were a simple list written on plain paper (parchment from 1558) with the date of the burial and the name of the deceased but also such other information as was thought relevant. The age of the deceased only appears to be noted when it is at least over 80, like Antipas Cherrington at ‘c90’ in 1682, Charles Denby (89), a pauper, in 1795, Elizabeth Wells, another pauper of 92 in 1804, and John Knight, a labourer of 87 in 1810. Four nonagenarians were recorded in the 19th century, with the doyenne being Elizabeth Ham of Wimbleton’s Cottages who

died aged 98 in 1891, although she is surpassed (just) by Winifred Stanbrook of Chalkpit Cottages who died at 100 years old, oddly enough exactly 98 years later. From 1812 the specially printed books used today were introduced with a column for age, so starting with the burial of Hannah Pocock aged 33 on 23rd February 1813 the age is almost always quoted. At the other end of the scale, the number of children of all ages recorded is truly staggering.

The register also provides interesting clues to the times, for example the record of the burial of Richard Wilder on 12th October 1593 is annotated '*of the sickness*' and that of Gregorie Benet on 1st November, '*died of the sickness – about this time the sickness of the plague increased*'. Benet's wife Elenor followed him on the 27th and her daughter by her first marriage, Anne Wilder, on December 1st. The register also notes, '*There was buried a maid servant of John Sanguine newly come to this parish and a nursing child nursed by John Sanguine's wife*' but explains that they were not entered formally in the register as their names were not known to the Rector. John Sanguine



was himself buried on 25th November 1593 and his wife two years later. It is quite possible that the maid servant brought the plague with her, although the fact that the sickness 'increased' suggests that it may have been around already and erupted every now and then (sounds familiar) with a cluster of deaths, perhaps, for example, in March 1597 when there were seven burials between 2nd and 18th March with two on the 8th. It may not be wise to go digging around the unmarked areas of the churchyard!

In some parishes burials went unrecorded during the Civil War but in Englefield those years seem to have been busy ones for the Sexton and the Rector with nine burials in 1643 alone, including four members of the Prince family between 12th November and 15th December. Only Thomas Powell, noted as 'soldier' and buried on 6th June 1643, seems to have any possible connection to the war though and might be connected with the Siege of Reading between 14th and 26th April that year.

Visitors, travellers and vagrants who died in the parish by accident or otherwise were usually accommodated in the churchyard rather than being returned to their home parish, such as Thomas Eames, a traveller from Somerset in 1696. Another was George Cruse of Boxford, buried on 5th August 1910. The register simply notes '*killed on the line in this parish*', but context is provided by the *Reading Standard* of August 3rd which tells us that this was at the Wigmore Lane crossing and was '*a suicide of a very determined nature*' by Cruse, a woodman formerly employed by the Newbury Racecourse Company. The slower pace of transport in earlier days did not make it any less lethal: in 1582 Joan Holden, daughter of Allen and Mary, was '*killed by a cart at Theale*', and in 1684 Nicholas Smith was '*killed by a waggon at Common Hill*'.

The next time you're that way, spare a thought for all those unknown occupants with whom we share the green spaces of our churchyard.

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