

Englefield

Parish News

October - November 2024



The Parish of St Mark's, Englefield

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

Front cover: *Spotted in an Englefield village garden, the last of the season's sunflowers in full bloom, complete with visiting butterfly.*

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@stmarksenглеfield.org.uk, or hand in to the Village Stores by the 20th of the preceding month.

From St Mark's House



Dear friends

So how was your summer? I hope it involved some R&R? Rest and relaxation...? We did have quite a bit of R - rain - too sadly. We also had a summer of more activity around the church than usual but now the filming has finished and St Mark's is back to normal with no more fake flowers on the path or embellishments on the windows and we are also back to being the sole graveyard in the village!

Three 'R's have been on my agenda too. For every ten years of ministry, licensed clergy (and lay ministers) are encouraged to take a three-month sabbatical. This is described as, 'A sustained period away from normal duties that usually consists of three elements:

Renewal: This is the element of personal and/or professional development. It will involve some element of learning, probably through study and theological reflection.

Retreat: The sabbatical should include some time set aside for oneself and one's relationship with God such as going on an organised retreat.

Rest: A sabbatical is not intended as a holiday, but the biblical pattern of Sabbath includes rest as a vital part of life. The three months will therefore include some time for rest and refreshment.’

Having been ordained over 11 years, I have been granted that prolonged period of R & R & R which will be most welcome and needed. I have just celebrated two years in Englefield and will be on sabbatical for December, January and February. Our friend Rev Alan Gates is well known to St Mark's and has kindly agreed to oversee St Mark's and its services for that whole period. He will be, in effect, your parish priest for that time.

All our wonderful Christmas services will happen as usual and we have some special ones before that with Harvest on October 13th at 10.30am, 'Remembering Our Loved Ones' on November 3rd at 4pm and of course Remembrance Sunday on November 10th at 10.30am.

As the days grow shorter and the weather a bit chillier it can be a less 'bright' time all round. It is important to look after ourselves and to nurture our spiritual lives as well as our bodies and our mental health, so here's to some regular doses of R & R & R for us all!

With warmest wishes

Your Rector, Julia

Diary dates

Harvest Festival: Sunday 13th October, 10.30am at St Mark's (see page 5).

Remembering Our Loved Ones Together: Sunday 3rd November, 4pm, at St Mark's.

Remembrance Sunday: Sunday 10th November, service at 10.30am at St Mark's with Act of Remembrance and two-minute silence.

West Berkshire Mobile Library: Wednesday 6th November (no visits in October) and 18th December, outside the Old Fire Station Nursery, Englefield, 2pm to 2.25pm.

Evening Praise: last Sunday of every month, 6pm at Holy Trinity, Theale, next dates 27th October and 24th November..

Let's Talk Theology: October 9th and November 13th (see page 11).

St Mark's PCC meeting: Monday 18th November, 6.30pm, in the church.

Advent Sunday (or Sherry Sunday!): 1st December, service at 10.30am at St Mark's followed by a glass of sherry thanks to the churchwardens.

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	0118 930 4064
Cobbs Farm Shop	0118 930 2513
Theale Medical Centre	111.nhs.uk/covid-19 or call 111
NHS online coronavirus service	0118 322 5111
Royal Berkshire Hospital	01635 273300
West Berks Community Hospital	0118 930 2542
Theale Pharmacy	0118 938 2265
Lloyds Pharmacy (Calcot)	0118 984 5894
NHS dentist Dentalcare, Pangbourne	01635 551111 (out of hours 01635 42161)
West Berkshire Council	www.westberks.gov.uk/ www.englefieldpc.org.uk/ www.thealeparishcouncil.gov.uk
Englefield Parish Council	0118 930 2337; www.englefieldprimary.co.uk
Theale Parish Council	
Englefield Primary School	
Utility suppliers: Electricity - SEN 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 Ant Killeen and Charlotte Payne married at St Marks on Saturday 10th August.

To Alice Montague-Johnstone and Charlie Smith married at St Mark's on Saturday 17th August.

To Alexandra Wyatt and Alexander Robinson married at St Mark's on Saturday 31st August.

To Lin Sargeant who celebrated her 90th birthday on 21st August.

Baptism

Matilda Amanda-Grace Cadle, baptised at St Mark's on Sunday 11th August.

Margot Hughes, baptised at St Mark's on Sunday 8th September.

Lara Benyon, baptised at St Mark's on Sunday 22nd September.

Royal appointment

Congratulations to Richard Benyon who has been appointed as Lord Chamberlain by the King. This role has existed since the 14th century but is now effectively the head of the Royal Household. He will be responsible for the day-to-day smooth running of the many different departments which support the Royal Family and for the management of events such as state visits and investitures. He is also the formal link between the King and Parliament. He takes over this three days a week role formally on 1st November.



We are moving!

The Estate Office team is now hard at work sorting and packing centuries of records ready for the big move on Wednesday 9th October. We look forward to welcoming you to our new home when we've settled in. Our new address will be The Estate Office, Englefield Estate Yard, The Street, Englefield, Reading, Berkshire RG7 5ES.

The main Estate Office telephone number 0118 9302 504 will remain unchanged, as will the telephone number and email address for reporting maintenance matters to 0118 9302 538 or maintenance@englefield.co.uk.

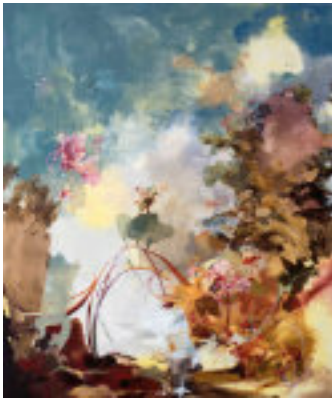
Once again, a very big thank you to everyone involved in making this exciting project become a reality.

Edward Crookes, Estates Director



An Englefield link

British painter Flora Yukhnovich has been attracting much attention in the art world. She trained as a portrait painter but is now known for her contemporary take on Rococo. An article recently in the *Financial Times* described her works as 'luminous semi-abstractions in which almost-recognisable genre elements (fruits, silks, flowers, faces, animals, clouds, pastoral settings) are melted and exploded in a riot of colour and luscious paint surfaces'. This has earned her critical and art market success with her paintings reaching up to \$3m at auction. Two of her oils are now on show at the Wallace Collection.



And her connection with Englefield? Many readers will remember Annie Stone, a faithful member of the St Mark's congregation for many years. Annie was Flora's grandmother and Flora, nee Watson, and her siblings spent much time at her home in Tidmarsh. Annie died in December 2022, aged 93, so lived long enough to see Flora's burgeoning career and she would rightly be so proud of her success!



HELP SUPPORT YOUR FOODBANK AND LOCAL PARENTS AND CHILDREN

DONATE FOOD

Help by donating an item or two from our shopping list to ensure we can provide food to help people in crisis.



SHOPPING LIST MOST NEEDED

Instant Coffee
Tins of Soup, Meat,
Fruit and Vegetables
Rice
Rice Pudding
Dried Milk
Biscuits
UHT Milk
Shaving Foam
Sugar

THANK YOU!!

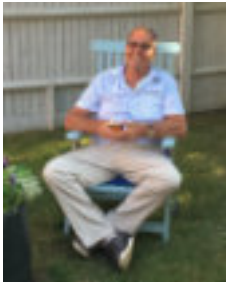
BRING TO CHURCH
ON OCT 13TH

DONATE MONEY



Join us for
Family Communion
10.30a.m. 13th October





Terry Perkins RIP

From the eulogy given by Terry's son, Ian, at the thanksgiving service for Terry's life at St Mark's on Friday 9th August.

Dad would have been surprised, humbled and, to use one of his words, chuffed to have seen so many people here to celebrate his life. He started his life at Mohuns Ottery dairy farm in Luppit, a village near Honiton in East Devon. He was

one of four children, all of whom have sadly now passed away but I like to think of them playing together somewhere and having a great time.

When Dad was about six, his father moved the family from Devon to the Cotswolds. Growing up in the countryside between Cirencester and Cheltenham, Dad and his brother, Colin, quickly realised it was the farming life for them and the brothers worked together for many years before Dad took up the position as Herd Manager at Mayridge Farm in the spring of 1970.

Mum and Dad had met a few years earlier and arrived at Mayridge with a baby on the way. June that year I arrived, followed by my sister, Kate, two years later. When Dad came to Englefield, he inherited a mixed dairy herd that was not in the greatest of health. After a short period, the cows were sold, a new dairy built, and a herd of Guernseys introduced at Mayridge. Dad adored the soft nature of the Guernseys and he and many colleagues worked with them for a large number of years until the decision was made to change to the higher milk yielding, taller and elegant Friesian herd. 38 years after arriving at Mayridge, the dairy cows were sold and Dad established the Englefield Herd of Pedigree Beef. This was a brand-new enterprise for him but he soon adapted to it and to the new breed of cattle, Herefords. As the herd became more established and with the help of Simon and Trevor they entered into four or five agricultural shows each year where they had a lot of success with the cows and the bulls, leading to a great success in selling the progeny from the herd. The Herefords were lovely cattle and Dad was extremely proud of what the Mayridge team had achieved. He worked closely with the Herefords Breeders Association and became chairman of the South of England Association where he met many like-minded farmers all of whom had a passion for the breed.

Over the years he met and worked with some incredible characters and made many life-long friends, some of whom are here today. One person in particular that became one of Dad's closest friends is Trevor Allen. I think I am right in saying that Trevor has worked with Dad and every breed they have had at Mayridge. A long-lasting friendship based on hard work, trust, laughter and a few high jinks.

At home and away from farming, Dad was a great family man, always supportive of Mum, Kate and I. Dad loved to see people grow and succeed in life and was a believer in us all following our dreams and would actively help as much as he could.

As an example, when we were both very young Kate wanted to learn how to play the organ so Dad took lessons as well and it was commonplace to walk into the house to find Dad sat at the organ playing *The Entertainer*.

Dad was a great gardener and so is Mum. At Mayridge Cottages they grew an abundance of flowers and vegetables which of course attracted the rabbits who often enjoyed the rich pickings. He also had a great passion for gadgets and had an inquisitive mind. He was great at fixing stuff but sometimes the ability would go awry and I most certainly have memories of Dad taking toys apart and them never quite working the same way again...

Holidays were always important to Dad and as a family we enjoyed many holidays but a firm favourite was Studland Bay and Swanage which still remains a go-to-place. As Kate and I got older and air travel became more accessible, Mum and Dad enjoyed many holidays abroad where they loved to swim, snorkel and walk in the sunshine. Buzzing around the Greek islands on a scooter, discovering new beaches, tiny friendly tavernas and places of historical interest were the perfect antidotes to the hard farming life.

St Mark's Church played a large and important part in Mum and Dad's lives and he was prepared to help in whatever way he could. It is without a doubt that Dad loved Englefield. He loved being part of the community and would encourage people to get involved. He loved the Flower Shows and was Chairman of the committee for many years. He would even do the PA announcements from time to time. Dad led a very busy life but always had time for family and friends. He loved and adored Mum and was very proud of Kate, Paul, Linda and I. As we are of him. As we know, Alzheimer's arrived to change the world for Dad but as a family we are remembering him as the loving, gentle and positive person that he was. Mum, Kate, Paul, Linda and I will remember him with a beaming smile on our face, and we hope you do too.

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

West Wiltshire foodbank

Ride+Stride 2024

Torquil Montague-Johnstone cycled and Lucy Roper did a marathon walk in aid of Ride+Stride in

September raising money for St Mark's and the Berkshire Historic Churches Trust. Many thanks and congratulations to them both!

Torquil writes:

We would like to thank all those who supported and donated to our Ride+Stride efforts on 14th September, particularly those that gave anonymously who we are unable to thank personally. Lucy completed her marathon walk of 26 miles visiting 20 churches and I achieved my mission of cycling to every participating church in the Bradfield Deanery, plus a couple more, to thank them for continuing to support the BHCT through Ride+Stride. We were blessed with the best weather conditions for the event in the past ten years.

As you may know the Trust was set up in 1984 with the vital objective of raising funds to help maintain the fabric of Christian churches in Berkshire of any denomination. It makes grants varying in size between £200 and £15,000. Participation in Ride+Stride and supporting the Trust by way of an annual subscription are components of the grant making approval process to churches. On a very positive note the Trustees are delighted that Richard Benyon has accepted the invitation to become a Patron to the BHCT.

It is not too late to donate, remembering that we get half the funds raised back, and the book for St Mark's will remain open for another month or so: <https://www.justgiving.com/page/torquil-montague-johnstone-1724760967219>.



Lucy pictured at the finish line at St Mark's with a family from St Nicolas' Church, Newbury, who had cycled 88 miles so far and had another 35 to go!



Lucy writes:

Ride+Stride is an annual event that takes place throughout the country (and normally occurs on the second weekend of September). It raises money for county Historic Churches Trusts, Berkshire in our case. This year, it coincided with the Heritage Open Day.

The Ride+Stride event runs from 10am until 6pm, and during that time participants are encouraged to walk, jog or cycle between churches and see how many they can clock up within the time. However, I always like to start and finish at my church, St Mark's, Englefield.

My marathon walk took me from St Mark's into Theale (Holy Trinity) and then along the Kennet and Avon Canal to St Mary the Virgin, Burghfield. From there I continued along the canal and into Reading, where a fair few churches were clocked up! I then made my way back via Tilehurst, Sulham and down into Tidmarsh before finally heading to the finish line and back to St Mark's, Englefield. In total 54,571 steps were completed and a marathon distance of 26 miles. The montage below shows the 20 churches I visited - how many do you recognise? Answers below! May I take this opportunity to thank everyone who generously supported both myself and Torquil.



Churches visited by Lucy:

Bradfield and District: 1 St Mark's, Englefield 2 Holy Trinity, Theale 3 St Mary The Virgin, Burghfield

Reading Central: 4 Christ Church 5 St Giles 6 Quaker Friends' Meeting House 7 St Mary's Episcopal Chapel 8 Reading Minster 9 Abbey Baptist 10 First Church of Christ Scientist 11 Wesley Methodist 12 All Saints 13 St Mark 14 Emmanuel Methodist

Reading West and Tilehurst: 15 St George 16 St Michael 17 St Catherine

Bradfield and District: 18 St Nicholas, Sulham 19 St Laurence, Tidmarsh 20 St Mark's, Englefield



Down memory lane

Rev Julia in conversation with Gill Barton about her recollections of life in Englefield:

When did you come to Englefield and why?

‘Edward Lamperd, my great-grandfather, was the first member of my family to come to Englefield. He lived with his family at Wimbleton’s cottages. His son Alfred, my grandfather, lived in North Street, where my father Frederick (Fred), born in 1910, and his younger brother Francis, known as Frank, grew up. On returning from

WW1 my grandfather did painting and decorating in the village. My father had been apprenticed in woodworking and became a joiner on the Estate. When he married Kathleen, my mother, they lived at Number 17 The Street.

There are several items in church made by my father including the wooden altar cross, the hymn board, the lower section of the war memorial board and almost certainly the lychgate. I was born in 1939 and my brother Robert in 1943. We moved as a family to No 8 The Street at the end of the war, in the summer of 1945.’

What was the village like and how is it different today?

‘In The Street, I remember, only five people had cars. Everyone knew everyone and it was a truly rural community. I did lots of walking and cycling. Before farming practices changed the environment was different, with more wildlife. In the park the lake covered a larger area, with a small island close to the drive and islands towards the other side of the park. It was fun sliding and going to those little islands. Some adults skated. Now the shape of the lake is quite different and covers a smaller area, due to a changed water table.



‘School was the original building close to The Street, with two classrooms, the infants under 7, then the 7 - 14’s classroom having a partition to a lunchroom or craft area. The girls had needlework one afternoon a week. Mr Turnbull was headmaster and Mrs Claydon the infant teacher. The sawmill and carpenters’ shop were part of the Estate Works in The Street. The old fire engine was kept there too but rarely used. There was no tearoom but a general store and bakery. Jack Gosling was the baker and his wife ran the shop. I went to Newbury County Girls Grammar School. It was a long journey! I had to cycle to Theale and leave my bike at my aunt and uncle’s in the High Street. Then I caught the bus to The Wharf in Newbury, and then a walk of a mile or mile and a half to school! It was

a journey of over an hour...I missed lots of assemblies!

One school friend was Violet Garton who lived in the Stable Cottage. Her father was chauffeur to Sir Henry Benyon. He also kept bees and I recall the treat of having honey at her house. I had another friend, Annette, who lived at Mile House Farm.’

Gill was in the church choir aged seven. Her granddad Alfred had also been in the choir and rang the bells. Her father was secretary at the Working Men’s Club which became the Social Club, now the Village Hall. He was also a churchwarden in Sir William’s time.



Of course there was a certain Don Barton who lived in Theale and went to St Bartholomew’s, the boys’ grammar school. He would come and play table tennis in the stables outbuilding. Sir William and Lady Benyon who had recently moved to Englefield attended Don and Gill’s wedding at St Mark’s on 22nd August 1964. Don and Gill moved to a flat in Southcote Road, Reading, before buying a house in Tilehurst. Don went on to be church treasurer for 13 years from 2004 to 2017.

Highlights for Gill are the 1953 Coronation Day of Queen Elizabeth II when they all watched the television in the Long Gallery and had tea and sports outside. Gill still attends St Mark’s having had an enforced break of several years caring for Don in his illness. Don, known and loved by so many, died in March this year and is buried in St Mark’s churchyard. Gill says, ‘We have lived in the best of times. There were so many blessings from living in Englefield’.

Can you help?

Englefield Primary School is in urgent need of a Clerk to the Governors. This is a paid post providing administrative and governance support to the governing body. For more information on the job and what it entails, please ring the School Office on 0118 9302337.

Let’s Talk Theology

Let’s Talk Theology meetings continue at 7.30pm on the second Wednesday of every month. The meeting in October will be in person at St Mary’s Sulhamstead, with meetings online during the winter months. For further details, contact carolboulter@ntlworld.com.



From Englefield Primary School

'Sowing the Seeds for a Flourishing Future'

We have had a super start back after the summer holiday. Our new FS2 children have settled in beautifully – with 12 out of the 16 being existing siblings, most of them already knew us well!

The FS2 children would also like to say a huge THANK YOU to last year's Year 6 and their families for buying the class a new and exciting water tray. It is very popular and will really help the children's learning.



Classes throughout the school have been working on their class rules and routines and there has been a lovely buzz of learning about the place. Playtimes have also been great with everyone playing in harmony.



This year we will be working with Outdoor Play and Learning (OPAL) to add more exciting learning opportunities at breaktimes, which amazingly take up a fifth of the school day!

Our Year 3/4 pupils have been finding out about the Christian view of creation and have been enjoying poetry and art linked to the Biblical narrative.

Our Year 5/6 children have just started their 3-day residential trip to Rushall Farm where they will be camping. More about their adventures in the next issue.

Please remember that we are always looking to build more community links, so if you think you have something to offer us, be it time, a skill or an interest, or you think we can support you in some way, please let us know.

Hilary Latimer, Headteacher

Thank you

We would like to thank the residents of Englefield Village for their patience and cooperation during the last two months when filming for *The Thursday Murder Club* was taking place at Englefield House.

The author of the bestseller is TV presenter Richard Osman and he was spotted on set alongside directors Steven Spielberg and Chris Columbus when they were photographed outside St Mark's church with the lead actors during the filming.

It's been hugely exciting to welcome the cast and production team to the Estate, and we look forward to seeing Englefield House on our screens in due course.

Peter Carson, Events Manager



The (temporary) sign at Appletons Corner snapped by a village resident, and a 'selfie' spotted on Richard Osman's Instagram feed, taken outside 'St Mary's Church' when Steven Spielberg helicoptered in to watch the filming in August.



Bags of action at the Store

Summer in the Tearoom has been another great one with lots of new and regular faces through the door. We opened on Tuesdays from May onwards and this has been very successful and we already have our Tuesday regulars!

The Store has been very busy with gifting, pizzas, paninis and of course the Carte D'or ice cream. We now have our very own Englefield Stores and

Tearoom bags. It would be lovely to see them out and about. It's a great way to support our little business too!

Christmas is now very much on our minds and we already have lots of bookings in, please call the Store number 0118 9302479 to reserve your places.

Liz and Team



Autumn plans at Five A Day

Throughout the summer we have waged a war against the squirrels, rabbits and mice helping themselves to the broad beans and runner beans! Our flowers have been very popular and the Thursday team are clearing the beds behind the polytunnels ready for next year.

The garden looks neat especially now the long hedge has been cut back giving us a few extra feet of garden! We had a very successful Open Day with lots of visitors. Thanks to our fantastic gardening volunteers, this summer was very good for produce sales both from the garden and the gazebo at the garden centre and we continue to stock our produce sales area. We are starting to dig main crop potatoes and harvest early apples. As we move into October more work will be done prepping the beds ready for the winter.

Four corporate groups visited in August and September with more to come in October. The teams have been doing lots of weeding, edging and woodchip spreading. Three of the uniformed groups (Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Squirrels) visited in September. We are looking forward to welcoming the schools back in early October and will be busy as we have 500 children visiting this term!

Tasks have been carefully planned in the Thyme Together area with the mix of weather. Numbers are building, bringing new people with lots of experience. There has been a lot of harvesting with produce added to the main stock for sale, bringing in extra funds. The group have been sowing winter veg and taking cuttings of geraniums while enjoying tea and cake for a well deserved break whilst making future plans. The sessions will continue to run in the garden throughout the coming months. If you know of anyone who might like to attend please email info@fiveaday.org.uk or call 07555 184343 to express an interest.



Our Annual General Meeting will take place on Tuesday 19th November in Englefield Village Hall between 6.45pm-8.45pm. Please join us to hear a full report of the last year's activities and plans for the months ahead. Light refreshments will be provided. We would like to find some more Trustees so if you are interested or know anyone who might be, please let us know. Trustees meet twice a year working alongside the management team to oversee the charity's business plan and activities.

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

SUFISM – An Exploration of Islam's Spiritual Tradition



A talk by Imam Monawar Hussain, MBE DL FRSA MCCT



Sufism has been called the 'Heart of Islam' and in recent times it has been in the line of violent onslaught from extremist movements. In this presentation, Monawar will outline the origins, history and beliefs of Sufis.

Monawar read Theology at the University of Oxford, trained as an Imam at the Muslim College, London and holds an MA in Abrahamic Religions from the University of London. He is a Muslim Tutor and Imam at Eton College, founder of the Oxford Foundation and Associate Director at Leadership Management International – UK.

He lives in Oxford, is a founding member of the Oxford Council of Faiths and served as the High Sheriff of Oxfordshire 2021-22. Beyond Oxfordshire he leads the national *United for Peace: Communities United Against Extremism* initiative.

Wednesday 16th October – 7:30pm
at The Music Hall,
Bradfield College

Car Parking is available at Bradfield College Sports Complex, RG7 6BZ



Spiritual Development Group BRADFIELD DEANERY
PUBLICITY OFFICER – Gordon Patterson E: gnpatterson@btconnect.com M: 07764 476361

Sunday	Sidesperson	First reading	Gospel	Prayers	Sacristan	Server	Sunday Club and crèche	Cleaners
October 6th 19th Sunday after Trinity BCP	Paula Fenwick	Ronan O'Sullivan	Carole Ford	BCP	Penny Savage	Torquil MJ	Saffy O'Sullivan Liz McKean	Angie Higgins
October 13th HARVEST FESTIVAL	Torquil MJ	James Meade	Jean Rothery	Dinah Perkins	D Boddy	Peter Haig	Saffy O'Sullivan Meryl Bonser	Pete and Carole Ford
October 20th 21st Sunday after Trinity	Peter Haig	Richard Benyon	Saffy O'Sullivan	Paula Fenwick	Sue Smith	Penny Savage	Liz McKean Denny Hollands	Peter and Catherine Haig
October 27th Last Sunday after Trinity	Pauline and Graham Harvey	Harry Benyon	Dinah Perkins	Denny Hollands	Catherine Haig	Paula Fenwick	Harriet Harley Meryl Bonser	Graham and Pauline Harvey
November 3rd All Saints BCP	Liz Marillier	Torquil MJ	Penny Savage	BCP	Penny Norris	Denny Hollands	Saffy O'Sullivan Liz McKean	Penny Norris and Saffy O'Sullivan
November 10th Remembrance Day	Penny Savage	Kahleen Spaulding	James Bamforth	Peter Haig	Denny Hollands	Saffy O'Sullivan	Harriet Harley Liz McKean	Liz McKean
November 17th 2nd Sunday before Advent	Torquil MJ	Denny Hollands	Anne Edgar	Penny Savage	Penny Savage	Torquil MJ	Liz McKean Denny Hollands	Angie Higgins
November 24th Christ the King	Pauline and Graham Harvey	Peter Haig	Aldo Guiducci	Ron Marillier	Catherine Haig	Peter Haig	Saffy O'Sullivan Meryl Bonser	Pete and Carole Ford
December 1st Advent Sunday BCP	Paula Fenwick	Lorraine Dehn	Mike Kimber	BCP	D Boddy	Penny Savage	Harriet Harley Liz McKean	Peter and Catherine Haig
December 8th 2nd Sunday of Advent	Peter Haig	Graham Harvey	John Rothery	Linda Price	Sue Smith	Denny Hollands	Saffy O'Sullivan Meryl Bonser	Graham and Pauline Harvey
December 15th 3rd Sunday of Advent	Penny Savage	Linda Price	Meryl Bonser	Dinah Perkins	Penny Norris	Paula Fenwick	Liz McKean Denny Hollands	Penny Norris and Saffy O'Sullivan
December 22nd 4th Sunday of Advent	Liz Marillier	D Boddy	Paul Myles	Catherine Haig	Sue Smith	Peter Haig	Saffy O'Sullivan Liz McKean	Liz McKean

Bible readings will be emailed to readers beforehand. If you swap duties, please email Rev Julia (rector@stmarksenglefield.org.uk), catherinehaig@gmail.com, and the churchwardens (paulapaloalto@yahoo.co.uk and torquilmj@newburyweb.net). A live version of this rota, including any swaps, can be found under the Resources tab on the church website.



The quality of perseverance

Tomorrow Andreas Hempel is throwing a party. He has been at Hillfoot Farm near Chapel Row for forty years now, arriving from Germany with his family to manage the land and livestock. He was immediately central in the farming community. With his German Class forage harvester and combine and Mercedes tractor he organised us to work together. And he was the key man, whether planting maize, foraging grass for silage, harvesting corn, cutting maize, and then on to trimming our hedges. We loved working with him,

stored a lot of his grain and supplied him with an extra tractor and my best man Turbo when necessary. At the end of the season it usually worked out that the work he had done for us equalled what we had done for him.

He wasn't averse to trying new crops: lupins for protein, rye for Ryvita. Next he ditched his cattle for a bio digester. He used to fatten 300 head each year but now supplies 360 households with electricity. The bio digester uses the same amount of food as the cattle did, and produces methane to power a stationary engine which generates the electricity. And always, in spite of difficulties and setbacks, he is a tremendous man of warmth and courage and perseverance.

Perseverance is an important quality of being a farmer. You have to be available 24/7 for the animals and land and in tune with the seasons. The Gospel writer Luke talks about it in the parable of the sower. The story is well known. A sower goes out and hand sows seed, as they did here at Rushall Farm as recently as the last century. The seed represents God speaking into our lives. Some lands on the path and the birds eat it up, some on stony ground. This germinates, but soon runs out of water and shrivels up. Some is planted among weeds which choke it BUT Jesus explains that the seed planted on good soil stands for those 'with a noble and good heart who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop'.

Harvest has again happened, as a result of the perseverance of Andreas and many in the farming community. Is it time to stop and thank God for the abundance of food, peace and security that we have living here? Join us in our churches this Harvest Sunday to celebrate God's amazing goodness and kindness to us.

John Bishop
www.rushallfarm.org.uk

Continuity in Englefield

A most unusual thing, certainly in modern times, is that the north side Lodge on the Pangbourne Road appears to have been lived in by only two families throughout the last 100 years and more. We have observed before that this sort of thing is perhaps not so unusual when it comes to Englefield and certainly there are a good few who were born, lived a long life and died without moving away from the village but they usually moved around inside the Estate a bit, so 50 years or more in one house perhaps deserves a mention – and there are one or two others who qualify in this category too.

The gate screen and lodges were built in 1862 and living in the north lodge in 1871 were groom George Allen (born in Englefield) and his wife Emma with five children, so it appears that they may have been the first occupants. Ten years later George, now promoted to coachman, and his family (now numbering seven children) had moved to what appears to be number 6 in The Street and one of



the two additions to the family since 1872 was Egbert. In 1891 they were all at number 27 (George now 'busted' to a garden labourer, as was 18-year-old Egbert) and in 1901 while George was still at number 27, Egbert married Ellen Cross who lived in North Street. By the time of the 1911 census, Egbert and Ellen had moved to the Lodges where they stuck. In Ellen's case that was until she died in 1956 and in Egbert's until he moved into Nazareth House at Speen, presumably one of the care homes run by the Sisters of Nazareth, although not there now, in about 1965.

Egbert was followed into the Lodge by Arthur Hunt and family, including daughter Angeline to whom we recently said farewell. Arthur died soon after moving in, aged only 57, and was buried in the churchyard on January 23rd 1969 – and now the really spooky bit – on exactly the same day as Egbert Allen, the preceding tenant of the Lodge, and they occupy consecutive entries in the burial register. Angeline continued to live at the Lodge (with her mother until 1989) until August this year, making nearly 60 years.

It will also be fitting to mark the longevity of another family just across the Pangbourne Road from the Lodges at Wickcroft Farm. Wickcroft is the newest of the three Englefield farms. Chalkpit Farm possibly originates from an early enclosure in the late 17th century and was always the estate home farm with a bailiff in charge while Mayridge was originally called Sulhamstead Farm, lying in the parish of Sulhamstead Bannister although shown as part of Powlett Wrighte's estate in 1762. Wickcroft Farm certainly didn't come into being until after the enclosure of the Great Field in 1774 and perhaps not until as late as 1808 when a cottage and 204 acres of land formerly part of Chantry Farm were leased as Wickcroft Farm. By

1844 Wickcroft had also subsumed the lands of the former Dunt's (or Dunts's) Farm (on the site of today's number 28) and also John Horn's farm, together making up all the land between the Englefield Road and Hogmoor Bridge.

An earlier notable tenant was Jenkin Davies who arrived at Wickcroft in 1857 from Glamorgan accompanied by his young son Ebenezer and, ostensibly, his wife Martha. In fact, he had married Martha's sister Anne Wiltshire, a servant girl in his village but originally from Studley in Wiltshire, and in 1855 Anne gave birth to twin boys, Ebenezer and Ezra. Anne died a fortnight later and Ezra followed her within six weeks. Martha had gone from home in Wiltshire to be with her sister at the end and stayed to help care for the surviving child. Jenkin and his sister-in-law became close and wished to marry. However, marriage to a dead brother's wife was forbidden by the Church (Leviticus 18:16) - although Henry VIII had done exactly that with the permission of Pope Julius II in 1509 when he married Catherine of Aragon, widow of his brother Arthur, at the instigation of her parents, Ferdinand and Isabella of Spain. Others who followed Henry were inventor Matthew Boulton and Charles Austen, brother of Jane. Unfortunately for Jenkin and Martha the practice had also been forbidden by civil law since 1835.

Jenkin Davies was an innovative farmer and an early adopter of machinery. His enthusiasm for modern practices would have struck a chord with Richard Benyon who was also a keen proponent of all the latest equipment and methods, which he tried out at Chalkpit. Davies was also an auctioneer and the firm of Jenkin Davies and Sons had a stand at the Reading Cattle Market. He was also a Guardian of the Bradfield Union of Workhouses and Overseer of the Poor and Overseer of Highways for the parish of Englefield. With Mr Benyon he was elected a County Councillor for Berkshire when the County Councils were introduced in 1888.

After 36 years at Wickcroft where they were regarded as man and wife and had 14 children together, Jenkin died in 1893. Although the census returns say they were married it is clear from the grant of probate to spinster '*Martha Wiltshire (commonly known as Martha Wiltshire Davies)*' that they were not. All of their 14 children (though not Ebenezer) had the middle name Wiltshire. Jenkin and Martha are buried at Englefield with three of their children (Margaret, Gwenllian and Henry) who had died in infancy. A single headstone commemorates all five of them although the graveyard plan shows a block of five separate graves, apparently some yards away.

Davies was succeeded at Wickcroft by messrs Grace, Bucknell and Osmond in succession until in 1921 or 1922 James Strang took over Wickcroft Farm and started a dynasty of local farmers, including at Wickcroft for 102 years.

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.

'But what about you?' [Jesus] asked. 'Who do you say I am?' (Mark 8 v 29a)

Mark's Gospel is a book which can be divided into two halves. In the first, we are introduced to Jesus and are confronted with the question of who he is. The second half of Mark's Gospel focuses on what Jesus came to do. Today's passage acts as the bridge between the two.

Many people today have divergent views of who Jesus is, just as there were many views about him held by those living at the time of his earthly ministry. Jesus asked his disciples what people were saying about him, and was given a variety of answers. We too might respond with some of the views of the people around us: Jesus was a good man perhaps, or a healer, a great moral teacher, a madman, a myth, a fraud, a con-artist. There have been, and will continue to be, many different assessments about Jesus' identity.

But the crux of the matter comes in verse 29, when Jesus then turns to his disciples and says 'What about you? Who do you say I am?' This is possibly the most important question they – and by extension we – can ever be asked. It moves from the generalised and abstract to the deeply personal and concrete. Jesus' question puts the disciples in the first century, and us in the twenty first, on the spot. Set aside everything the others say; who do you say I am? If Jesus is just another good teacher, one amongst many, we can get on with our lives and it doesn't matter a great deal how much attention we pay him. But if we answer him, as Peter did, 'You are the Messiah' (v29b), that changes everything. It means every aspect of our life has to be lived with reference to him, and we aren't in a position to pick and choose which parts of his teaching we like or dislike.

What we make of Jesus will determine the foundation of our lives. Either we are living with him as king, or else we are living with ourselves as king. There are no other options. Those two foundations will lead to very different looking lives. The question is, which one do we want to lead?



M4 closures at junction 12

National Highways has announced that the Bath Road/M4 junction 12 roundabout is to be closed while structural maintenance is carried out on the bridges. Each closure is to take place separately and there will be some slip road to/from the M4 closures as well. Work began on Monday 16th September and will continue until Saturday 30th November. The closures are expected to be in place on week nights from 9.00pm to 6.00am but there will be a full weekend from 9.00pm on Friday 11th October to 6.00am on Monday 14th October, and there might be a further weekend closure from 9.00pm on Friday 18th October to 6.00am on Monday 21st October. All enquiries should be directed to: Volker Laser on 0800 022 3292 and/or National Highways on 0300 123 5000.

Neighbourhood Watch survey

Neighbourhood Watch has asked for responses from residents to a Community Anti-Social Behaviour Survey. Please follow the link below:

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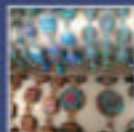
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