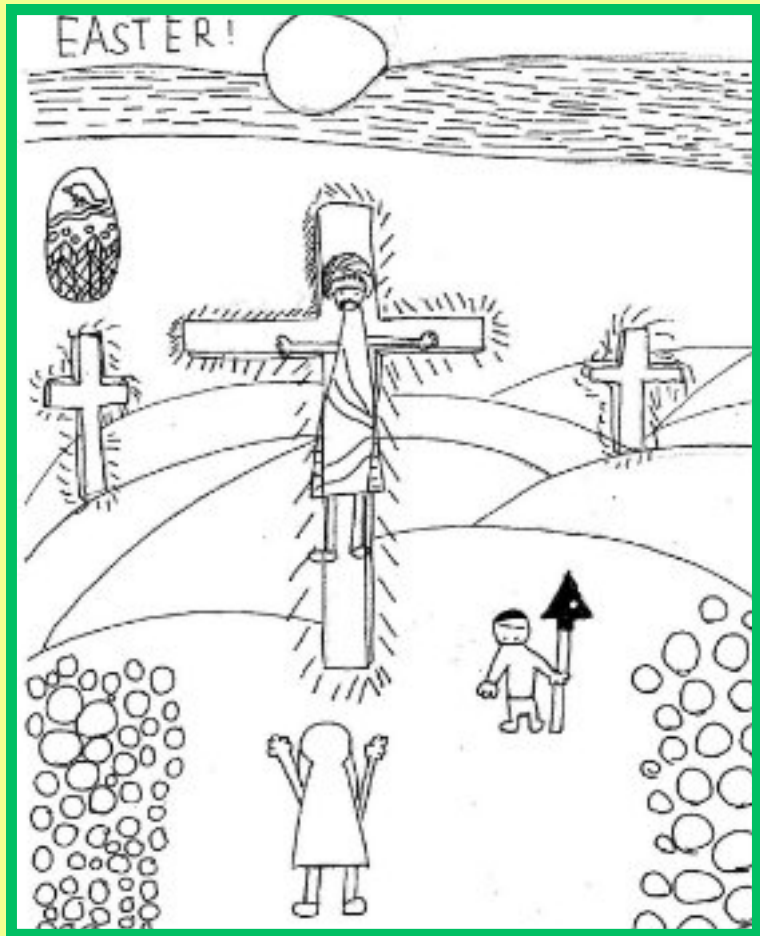


Englefield Parish News

April - May 2025



The Parish of St Mark's, Englefield

Rector: Rev Julia Myles rector@stmarksenglefield.org.uk
0118 9303599

Churchwardens: churchwarden@stmarksenglefield.org.uk
Paula Fenwick 07850 603508
Torquil Montague-Johnstone 0118 9714536

Safeguarding Officer: Lucy Roper safeguarding@stmarksenglefield.org.uk
07970 768528

Parochial Church Council

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

Treasurer: Ron Marillier treasurer@stmarksenglefield.org.uk
0118 9305152

Electoral Roll Officer: Richard Smith richard@transport-studies.org
0118 9833258

Parish Council

Chairman: Edward Crookes edward.crookes@englefield.co.uk
0118 302504

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

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

Front cover: *One of six Easter pictures by children at Englefield School - the other five appear elsewhere in this issue. A big thank you to all the artists.*

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 hand in to the Village Stores by the 20th of the preceding month.

From St Mark's House

Dear friends

I'm back full of huge gratitude to Rev Alan Gates and our Churchwardens for enabling my three month sabbatical in Western Australia.

We attended our friend's Baptist Church and although the point was to not be a Rector at Christmas, I did miss the lighting of the advent wreath, the candlelight, the lessons and carols, the organ, the crowds of people (your smiling faces!), our glorious Christmas tree, Nativingle fun...and yes...Englefield. There is nothing quite like a Church of England Christmas. And there is nowhere quite like Englefield! A BBQ on the beach on December 25th is most strange!

We had a wonderful time and there is much to process but I landed a few days before Ash Wednesday and was straight into Lent. Not a season of rejoicing but a time of self-reflection and often some form of self-denial. A time to focus on our own shortcomings and that of the world's; a recognition that we are dust and will return to dust. A recognition that all is not as God planned and made it to be. Wars continue, fragile ceasefires collapse, teenagers commit murder. There *were* some joyful births in my absence as well as sad deaths. As well as people dear to us struggling on through gruelling health treatment, others have been newly diagnosed.

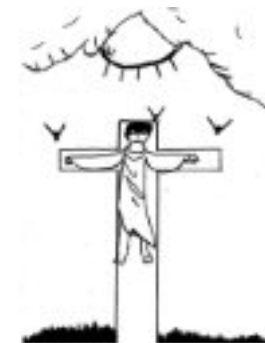
As we approach Holy Week, let's not rush too fast to Easter Day but keep Good Friday too; how Christ suffered and died on the cross of Calvary - of that there is no historical debate. Some may call it cowardly, but when I feel utterly helpless at the state of things, I hang on to my 'holding cross' as I pray and I focus on what Christ went through..and what it achieved.

This side of heaven it has to be enough.

I resolve to know	Upon the cross
Nothing but You crucified	Calvary's enough
Somehow in this room right now	Calvary's enough
It is enough	When I know nothing
The weight of the world	When I know too much
Too much for the souls of men	What I choose to know right now is
But somehow You hold it all	Calvary's enough*

Your Rector, Julia

**Words of my new favourite song by Brooke Ligertwood*



Diary dates

Evening Praise: last Sunday of every month, 6pm at Holy Trinity, Theale, next dates 27th April and 25th May..

Let's Talk Theology: Wednesday 9th April and Wednesday 14th May.

Greenfest: Saturday 5th April, 10.30 to 3pm, St Bart's School, Newbury, see page 9.

Bluebell Walks at Rushall Farm: 19th and 20th April and 26th and 27th April, 11am to 5pm, see details on page 32, inside back cover.

VE Day 80: Thursday 8th May, A beacon of peace to be lit in the park at 9.30pm, more details nearer the time.

St Mark's APCM: Sunday 11th May. This is the annual meeting open to all parishioners, and will take place after the service at St Mark's. Please put the date in your diary and come along.

Annual Parish Meeting: Thursday 22nd May, 7pm, at Englefield Village Hall.

Newbury Spring Festival: Saturday 10th May to Saturday 24th May, see page 18.

Englefield Schools Days: Wednesday 18th and Thursday 19th June, see page 10.

Englefield Village Fete & Flower Show: Saturday 12th July, see opposite and page 8.

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
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 Tom and Tory Russell on the birth of Lyla on January 30th, a granddaughter for Edward and Jen Benyon.

To Elizabeth Bamforth and Daniel Evans on their engagement.

To Penny Savage on receiving a High Sheriff's Award at Windsor Castle 'in recognition of dedicated service to the High Sheriffs of Berkshire'.

To Englefield Primary School on a glowing Ofsted report following a visit from inspectors in January, achieving Outstanding in two and Good in three of the five categories: <https://www.englefieldprimary.co.uk/ofsted-reports/>.

To Cobbs at Englefield on being a finalist in the Local Food & Drink category of the Countryside Alliance Awards 2025, known as the Rural Oscars.

VE Day 80

To celebrate the 80th anniversary of VE Day on 8th May, a beacon of peace will be lit in Englefield at 9:30pm, at the same time as others across the country. We would like to invite parishioners to this event, further details will be available closer to the date. The photo shows the Beacon lit in the top park in honour of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in June 2022.



Richard Edwards, Forestry Manager

Annual Parish Meeting

Please join us at the Annual Parish Meeting on **Thursday 22nd May**, at 7pm at Englefield Village Hall. Come and hear what's been happening in the parish over the past year, and enjoy some refreshments with other members of our community. It would be great to see a good turn-out again, so please do come along!

Nia Rands, Clerk



Get involved!

Want to contribute to your community?

Want to be part of a special event?

Join our team of volunteers to help us continue this family friendly, traditional village event. Call **Gordon** on **07939 504145** or **Mark 07551 981587**.

See page 8 for details of this year's show classes.



Summer concerts in the Park

The line up for this year's Heritage Live concerts at Englefield is taking shape. The Jacksons are booked for Saturday 19th July with special guests Sister Sledge and Boney M, while Sunday night will see one of the most iconic bands in music history taking to the stage: The Beach Boys. The Beach Boys has announced its only UK show as part of its global 'Sounds of Summer' tour will be at Englefield, also featuring special guests David Essex and Lulu. This is the fourth year in a row that Heritage Live has presented a weekend of music in Englefield - keep an eye on the Englefield website www.inglefieldestate.co.uk/whatson and on Heritage

Live www.heritagelive.net/whats-on for more details about these and the two further concerts that will be taking place on Thursday 17th and Friday 18th July.

Thatcham Repair Cafe

'Bin it? No way!' is the slogan of the Repair Cafe which takes place on the last Sunday of the month alternating between the Frank Hutchings Community Hall in Thatcham (RG18 4QH) and the Methodist Church Hall in Newbury (RG14 1AN). Skilled volunteers are on hand to repair electrical items, ceramics and jewellery, textiles, small items of furniture and other general household, toys and garden items. They also provide IT and mobile phone advice, and sharpen items such as scissors, secateurs, blades and shears. You can only bring one item to a session and repairs are free although donations are much appreciated and help to fund future events. The next date is Sunday 27th April, 10 till 12.30, in Thatcham. More information is available at <https://www.repaircafe.org/en//cafe/newbury-and-thatcham-repair-cafe/>.

Let's Talk Theology

Let's Talk Theology meetings continue at 7.30pm on the second Wednesday of every month. The meetings in April and May will take place at St Mary's Church, Sulhamstead. For further details, contact carolboulter@ntlworld.com.



WEDNESDAY 14TH MAY 2025

PLANT & CAKE SALE

* POTTERY * JAMS * CHUTNEYS
GARDEN TOOL SHARPENING

OUTSIDE YATTENDON VILLAGE STORES 9.00 - 11.30am

Newbury
RDA



Newbury Riding for the Disabled Registered charity 1121113
www.newburyrda.co.uk





Easter fun at the Stores

Spring has arrived at Englefield Stores and Tea Rooms. It's so nice to welcome a few sunny, warmer days recently. Diane has been working hard in the Tea room garden, getting it ready for the warmer weather and all the bulbs are shooting up with wonderful colourful flowers now. We have a brand new marquee, as unfortunately the last one didn't survive the windy weather earlier this year.

Janice has been working hard in the Stores and the windows look lovely once again, full of local crafts to buy.

In the Tea rooms we have celebrated Valentine's Day with afternoon teas as well as serving lots of breakfasts, jackets and soups to keep us all going on those cold days.

We held a special afternoon tea for Mother's Day as well.

Easter is not far away too. We will be holding an Easter themed afternoon tea for adults and children, as well as an activity sheet with child's happy meal special for the Easter holidays. And the Easter Trail is back again, just like last year - pick up the clues from the Stores or the Garden Centre (between April 7th and April 21st) and find the six eggs hidden around the village.

So, lots going on and we look forward to seeing you all soon.

Liz and Team



St Mark's Electoral Roll

Time is running out for applications to be added to the new Electoral Roll for St Mark's. This is reviewed and updated every year but every sixth year a completely new Roll is created. This is a sixth year and therefore even if your name was on the Roll last year you must apply again to have it recorded on the new one. You have until April 17th to apply.

Being on the Roll allows a person to vote at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting* and to stand for office. For regular communicants who live outside the parish there are other concessions available to those on the Roll that would not otherwise apply.

Application forms can be found on the church website, from where they can be downloaded and completed on any digital device. The form is also available by email from the Electoral Roll Officer at richard.smith.ufton@icloud.com. Paper copies will also be available in church and should be returned to the Electoral Roll Officer when completed.

Richard Smith, Electoral Roll Officer

**Please note the date for the next APCM which will take place at St Mark's after the morning service on Sunday 11th May.*

St Mark's Sunday Club

The run up to Easter is a busy time for the children at St Mark's. Mothering Sunday falls on March 30th with the traditional posies to be handed out to mums. This is followed a fortnight later by Palm Sunday on April 13th when the children process into church with palm branches and hear the story of Jesus's triumphal entry into Jerusalem. A week later it is Easter Sunday with a family service at St Mark's at 10.30am followed by an Easter egg hunt around the churchyard.



The photograph shows the Sunday Club displaying their gleaming silhouettes of Jesus appearing on the mountain to celebrate the Transfiguration (Luke 9).

Saffy O'Sullivan





The Flower Show 2025

The Englefield Village Fete & Flower Show will take place on **Saturday 12th July** and we are looking for volunteers for stalls such as the Coconut Shy, Hoopla and Bowling. Please contact **Gordon 07939 504145** or **Mark 07551 981587** if you could help us, even just for a few hours, all help would be appreciated. Any donations for the tombola, bric-a-brac, books or smash the china, would be gratefully received and can

be accepted at The Thatchers, North Street by prior arrangement (contact Mark). Please could the 2024 cup winners return their trophies to Gordon by June 1st.

Class schedules will be distributed shortly or email efsentry@gmail.com. Classes with themes for this year are listed below. We look forward to receiving your entries and seeing you on 12th July for another wonderful Englefield Village event.

NEW this year! A change to the **most loved garden** – simply submit six photographs of your garden, taken this year. **Wonky Veg** – have you grown some unusual looking vegetables? We'd love to see them, enter them in our wonky veg class. Of course we have our usual flower, fruit and vegetable and produce classes.

Wonky Veg A single item of wonky veg – unusual, amusing or rude vegetable

Floral Arrangement An exhibit to the theme '**Kindness**' not to exceed 24 inches/60 cm overall. May include accessories

Miniature Floral An exhibit, not to exceed 4 inches/10 cm in width or depth with height to be 'in reasonable proportion'

Arrangement An exhibit using mainly foliage

Floral Art An exhibit to the theme '**Mindfulness**'. 20 inches/ 50 cm x 20 inches/50 cm, with unlimited height. Accessories allowed

Novice Floral An arrangement to say '**Thank You**'

Lemon Drizzle (men only) Recipe provided in schedule

Chocolate Fudge Cake Exhibitor's own recipe

Bread – wholemeal buns Exhibitor's own recipe, four to be displayed

Cheese and Onion scones Exhibitor's own recipe, four to be displayed

Gin and Tonic Cake Recipe provided in schedule

Sausage Rolls Exhibitor's own recipe, four to be displayed

Blueberry Muffins Exhibitor's own recipe, four to be displayed

Lemon and Raspberry Cake (novice ladies only) Recipe provided, for exhibitors who have not won a first prize in EFS baking class

Handmade Card Handmade Card suitable as a '**Thank you**' card

Photography - 'Kindness' – standard print not enlargement, mounted

Two Standard Prints - 'You and Me', two related prints not enlargements

A Message An open class using the **initial** letters from the title '**Kindness Counts**' devise an acrostic message to be sent on a postcard



www.wbge.org.uk/greenfest.html

@greenfestwestberkshire

www.tiktok.com/@greenfestwb

@greenfest_west_berkshire

FACEBOOK



INSTAGRAM



TIKTOK



WEBSITE





Schools Days 2025

Preparations for the annual Englefield Estate Schools Days are well underway. This year's dates are Wednesday 18th and Thursday 19th June 2025.

The event provides a day trip for children aged 7-11 on the theme of Sustainability - the ability to meet our current needs without infringing on the capacity of future generations to meet their needs. Children

learn about a range of topics that are locally relevant, including woodland management, chalk stream wildlife, renewable energy, recycling and growing arable crops.

Our staff are busy preparing, and we couldn't run the event without the support of amazing organisations such as Countryside Learning, Butterfly Conservation, Ufton Court, Small Fire Big Adventure, Action for the River Kennet and Pang Valley Flood Forum.

Classes will be diverted away from roads where possible to maximise safety, but please note they will be accessing the Five A Day Market Garden at the end of The Street throughout the event. We ask that residents take care extra care and be patient when driving on these dates.

We'd like to make you aware that 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 1:45-2:45pm. Please avoid parking along The Street and make use of the village car park if needed. Following the morning school run, essential areas will be coned off to ensure access.

Please keep your fingers crossed for dry weather! We are really looking forward to introducing schoolchildren from across Berkshire to our beautiful surroundings. Once again, we are fully booked with over 1,500 children due to attend.

Dr Liz Mattison, Education & Environment Officer



There let us wallow

For those old enough to remember, Flanders and Swan wrote the 'Hippopotamus Song' with the haunting refrain:

'Mud, mud, glorious mud
Nothing quite like it for cooling the blood
So follow me, follow down to the hollow
And there let us wallow in glorious mud'

Before coming to Rushall Farm I looked after a 250 sow herd of outside pigs on top of the Downs at Blewbury.

There was nothing a big, heavily pregnant sow liked more than to wallow. Much to our frustration she would turn the low, heavy drinking trough over with her powerful snout and dig out a suitable hollow with what was now a sludge of sticky chalk and soil. Then, joy of joys, she would flop over one side then the other, eventually emerging caked beautifully with MUD. When we moved the pigs off their 40 acres we spent days with a digger levelling out the field ready for ploughing and planting winter wheat.

Mud has been the theme of the last few days of February here, and sums up the conditions of fields, roads, tracks, and footpaths. This week we had 60 nine and ten year old children on a soils visit. The rain was forecast to be heavy, and heavy it was. Nearly three quarters of an inch fell in just two hours. So children and staff were soaked from the start, with mud and puddles becoming the main feature of their studies, and they got back on the coach with clothing and footwear all one colour. There was not a moan or complaint throughout the day, and nobody noticed that it was also very cold, so there must be some truth in the therapeutic features of MUD.

Not so easy for the farmers though. Time to sow spring barley was when the soil was warm, and dry enough to get on the land without getting machinery stuck. Our neighbours Robin and Jem Plank, who plant several thousand acres each spring, were bemoaning the fact that they couldn't recall a warm, dry spring in recent years. Robin was despairing again at the prospect of damaging the soil and consequently the yield by using tractors and machinery in difficult conditions.

As a youngster I loved spending time with my friends, damming streams, returning home covered in mud. I guess that is what drew me to farming. It was probably the same for Robin and Jem and, let's be honest, most farmers?



John Bishop
www.rushallfarm.org.uk



From Englefield Primary School

'Sowing the Seeds for a Flourishing Future'

This year we have started OPAL – Outdoor Play and Learning.

Children spend about one-fifth of every school day playing outside and the aim of this initiative is to provide them with a wide range of play options which enable them to develop their skills across the curriculum. We started by allowing the use of the field right through winter which has led to some lovely mud play! We quickly realised a welly-wash was needed and the children are now really good at sorting this themselves. So far we have added a music wall, a digging pit and some Lego to our provision.



Coming soon are a sandpit, some social spaces, loose parts eg gutters, tyres and crates, outside music, dressing-up and water play. The children are absolutely loving it and playtime seems far more productive and purposeful; there are also fewer disagreements which is good for everyone!

It has been so nice to welcome Pebbles back into school after his 22 weeks of



hibernating in a fridge. He has come out full of energy. Mrs Harwood kindly donated a more enclosed box for him so he is kept much warmer in the library.



We were delighted that every child in the school learned a rhyme or poem to perform during Book Week; well done to our amazing poetry-performance finalists who entertained the whole school during the tense final – some even performed poems they had written themselves! They all did brilliantly and our two judges, Mrs Woodward and Mrs Fenwick, had a very difficult

time choosing the winners. We also had a competition to redesign a book cover and Mrs Kelley organised another of her brilliant library competitions which always creates a buzz around school.

Mrs Sheppard's FS2 class have been having a great time practising their PE skill with balloons - a super way to develop their physical skills whilst having fun at the same time! One little boy even overcame his fear of balloons!



Well done to the seven children who went to Elstree for their annual Year 2 football tournament. We had every season in one afternoon and the children just kept going, whatever the sky threw at them! Out of five games, they won one, drew two and lost two. We were so proud of the team and particularly pleased with the way they only used positive comments to each other and how they shook hands with every team they played, whatever the result.



Well done to our eight cross country runners from Years 5 and 6 who attended the Small Schools Competition at Elstree School. We split into an A and B team; both did really well, coming within the top six out of about 14 teams. The conditions were muddy and a few shoes were lost on the way round! After a superb first leg by Isla, the A Team remained ahead through the whole race and came in first beating the course record by nine seconds. The fastest individual lap went to Stanley. A truly spectacular achievement all round!

All of the children in school have been creating pieces of art and a selection will be chosen to exhibit in the Rotary Club Art Exhibition in Pangbourne Village Hall. This is a great opportunity for our families to visit the exhibition to look at the work of local artists as well as those from other schools.

Still to come this term are our Easter celebrations, including an Easter Egg Hunt and our Easter service. We would like to wish everyone in our local community a very happy Easter.

Hilary Latimer, Headteacher



Thank you to Englefield School for the wonderful Easter artwork featured in this issue.



Planning and prepping

We had a slow start to the year due to the weather but happily it has improved and we have been busy coppicing the hazel and cutting the willow to sell and use in planned workshops. The gardening volunteers have been busy prepping the garden and sorting the potatoes ready for chitting and planting on.

Glen and Wendy attended the VCWB Volunteer Fair at the Corn Exchange in Newbury and have already had enquiries from potential new volunteers. Some of our regular volunteers have been absent through illness, we wish them all a speedy recovery. We have welcomed two new volunteers to the Friday group, Gill and Ian. Thyme Together also has a new volunteer, Diane.

A group from Vodafone came to help with the willow and a few more group sessions are booked later in the spring. CROW did a great job of cutting the large willow bed despite the cold weather.



On the schools front, Ella's Explorers visits will be based at Rushall Farm this year due to the closure of Ashampstead Road in Bradfield until November so we have been busy creating a garden area on site with the added assistance of Vodafone who helped prepare compost to use in the new space. The 2025 visits started this month.

The Thyme Together group have been very busy sowing seeds and making plans for the year, including building a fruit cage which will be constructed in due course.



Our willow workshop on Saturday 29th March to learn how to make willow plant supports was fully booked! We are planning to run further workshops this year, including a willow obelisk workshop on Saturday 17th May (10-1pm, £40 per person, book at fiveadayevents@gmail.com), and are looking for volunteers who may be able to help at these weekend sessions. You could

have some very useful talents/skills to offer! Everybody is good at something!

If you are interested in any of the items mentioned, volunteering or know of a business who 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 and follow us on Facebook.

Wendy Cadman

Five A Day Management team member and trustee

Diane Graham RIP

Diane passed away peacefully at the Bagshot Avery Nursing Home at the beginning of December last year.



She was born in Southfields in London in 1938 to Dorothy and Ronald Seymour. When she was two years old they moved to Surrey and her brother Adrian was born shortly thereafter. She met John Graham in 1963 and they married a year later and moved to Rochester in Kent where Andrew, their first son, was born. After four years they moved back to Surrey and Neil, their second son was born in 1970.

Soon John was regularly travelling internationally for his company and there came an opportunity for them to relocate to Hong Kong for three years. This was a particularly happy time for Diane as she adapted very quickly to the expatriate lifestyle there. They returned to England at the end of the 1970s and purchased a property near Guildford which became their home for the next 30 years.

Diane and John both loved Italy and they additionally bought a house on the shores of Lake Garda where they spent at least eight weeks every year for the next ten years. With the subsequent arrival of grandchildren in the USA they sold the property in Italy and purchased a beachfront home on the Gulf of Mexico where they spent up to six months each year. In 2008 they sold the property in Guildford and retired to Breedons Hill in Pangbourne. Sadly, John died in 2012 after his battle with prostate cancer was lost. He is buried in St Mark's churchyard.

Determined still to live life to the full Diane continued to involve herself in many activities in Pangbourne including bridge, Tai Chi, art lectures, the Friends' Group and Italian lessons. She made many good friends in Pangbourne and in the wider local area who were a tremendous support to her after John died. Diane's brother, Adrian, moved to Pangbourne 15 years ago and still lives in the village.

She also travelled for several years overseas with The Art Society, going to France, Italy and Croatia. Music, art and literature were some of her many interests and she regularly went to London to stay with Neil and visited art exhibitions with him. She thoroughly enjoyed being a grandmother to Amanda and Jack and looked forward to her yearly stays with them in America.

St Mark's Church was a major part of her life where she was made to feel so welcome by the Benyon family and the entire St Mark's community. Apart from during the lockdowns occasioned by the pandemic she was a regular Sunday visitor and then always followed the services online when she could no longer attend in person. She was immensely grateful to all her friends at St Mark's where she was at her happiest and is now reunited with John in the churchyard.

Neil Graham

Sunday	Sidesperson	First reading	Gospel	Prayers	Sacristan	Server	Sunday Club and crèche	Cleaners
April 6 th 5 th Sunday of Lent BCP	Peter Haig	James Bamforth	Dinah Perkins	BCP	Sue Smith	Torquil MJ	Saffy O'Sullivan Meryl Bonser	Pauline and Graham Harvey
April 13 th Palm Sunday	Liz Marillier	Jean Rothery	Denny Hollands	Ron Marillier	Penny Savage	Paula Fenwick	Liz McKean	Penny Norris Saffy O'Sullivan
April 20 th Easter Sunday	Penny Savage	Paul Myles	Aldo Guiducci	Paula Fenwick	Catherine Haig	Peter Haig	Easter egg hunt*	Pete and Carole Ford
April 27 th 2 nd Sunday of Easter	Torquil MJ	Anne Edgar	Mike Kimber	Dinah Perkins	Sue Smith	Penny Savage	Hatty Harley Denny Hollands	Liz McKean
May 4 th 3 rd Sunday of Easter BCP	Pauline and Graham Harvey	Penny Savage	Saffy O'Sullivan	BCP	Penny Norris	Saffy O'Sullivan	Liz McKean Denny Hollands	Angie Higgins
May 11 th 4 th Sunday of Easter	Paula Fenwick	Harry Benyon	Kahlen Spaulding	Penny Savage	Sue Smith	Denny Hollands	Saffy O'Sullivan Liz McKean	Peter and Catherine Haig
May 18 th 5 th Sunday of Easter	Peter Haig	Lorraine Dehn	Peter Haig	Saffy O'Sullivan	Penny Savage	Torquil MJ	Hatty Harley Denny Hollands	Pauline and Graham Harvey
May 25 th 6 th Sunday of Easter	Liz Marillier	Graham Harvey	John Rothery	Linda Price	Denny Hollands	Paula Fenwick	Liz McKean Denny Hollands	Pete and Carole Ford
June 1 st Sunday after Ascension Day BCP	Penny Savage	Ronan O'Sullivan	Linda Price	BCP	Catherine Haig	Peter Haig	Saffy O'Sullivan Liz McKean	Liz McKean
June 8 th Pentecost	Torquil MJ	James Meade	Paul Myles	Richard Benyon	Penny Norris	Penny Savage	Hatty Harley Denny Hollands	Angie Higgins
June 15 th Trinity Sunday	Pauline and Graham Harvey	Carole Ford	Paula Fenwick	Peter Haig	Sue Smith	Saffy O'Sullivan	Liz McKean Denny Hollands	Peter and Catherine Haig
June 22 nd 1 st Sunday of Trinity	Paula Fenwick	Dinah Perkins	James Bamforth	Ron Marillier	Penny Savage	Denny Hollands	Saffy O'Sullivan Liz McKean	Pauline and Graham Harvey
June 29 th 2 nd Sunday of Trinity	Penny Savage	Torquil MJ	Richard Benyon	Paula Fenwick	Denny Hollands	Torquil MJ	Hatty Harley Denny Hollands	Pete and Carole Ford

Bible readings will be emailed to readers beforehand. If you swap duties, please email catherinehaig@gmail.com and the churchwardens (paulapalalto@yahoo.co.uk and torquilmj@newburyweb.net). An up-to-date version of this rota, including any swaps, can be found under the Resources tab on the church website.

**When there is no formal Sunday Club, there is always a selection of colouring sheets, books and toys available in church and in the vestry.*



Newbury Spring Festival

This year the NSF runs from May 10th to May 24th and as ever offers two weeks of world-class music with events scheduled all around the area.

The two taking place in the Long Gallery at Englefield House are: Wednesday 14th May: the Maxwell Quartet performing Haydn, Dvorak and a selection of their own interpretations of Scottish folk music; Thursday 15th May: Tama Matheson's musical retelling of Beethoven's life story, 'A Vision of Beethoven', with Jayson Gillham on the piano.

The full programme and details of how to book tickets can be found here: <https://www.newburyspringfestival.org.uk/>.

Mobile library update

As part of West Berkshire Council's 2025-26 Budget Proposals, approved on February 27th, it was decided to discontinue the Mobile Library service from April 1st 2025. The Council intends to expand its At Home Service and is investigating other venues for pop-up libraries, such as the one which has been running successfully for several months in Compton. See here for more details - <https://www.westberks.gov.uk/article/40388/Mobile-Library-and-At-Home-Service>.



Bowls Club Open Days

Two opportunities to try out the game of bowls this spring:

Burghfield Bowls Club Open Days for prospective members are on Saturday 19th

April and Monday 26th May, from 2:00 - 5:00pm. These are open sessions for people to visit the green in James Lane (behind BCSA) and try the game. All you need do is bring along some flat shoes, all other equipment is provided. More information at www.burghfield.bowls-club.co.uk or email burghfieldbowls@btinternet.com.

Pangbourne Bowls Club Open Days are on Saturday 12th April and Saturday 17th May at 2pm, for returning or prospective members. Playing will be weather dependent but the kettle will be on and the bar open for anyone wanting just to come and see who we are. On Saturday 5th April we will be outside Garlands in Pangbourne from 10am to 1pm to promote our club and the activities we enjoy so if you want to learn more come along and say hello. Contact Sue Jones for more information on 0703927767 or jonesue1943@gmail.com

The Wall (Part II)

We pick up the wall where we left it last time at the real Parker's Corner, which was left unaltered in the original plan. The later plan, clearly dated 1802 (the year that Richard Benyon sold Gidea Hall and made Englefield his permanent residence), shows that modifications to the upper part of Blyth's Hill had been made. This second plan is more ambitious and involves the extension of Blyth's Hill in both directions to link Bradfield with the Bath Road. The part down to the parish boundary at the Bourne Bridge need not concern us here for there is no wall, though we observe that the road runs through the former common wood of Englefield – hence Common Hill – presumably the derivation of the modern name for the entire road.

The plan still shows no intention to straighten Parker's Corner, probably because it did not interfere with the new park and its wall; indeed, the last few yards of the wall where we left it do start to curve away from the line of the modern carriageway as if to follow the old road. The next



piece of wall continues the same line and curves back to the edge of the road just beyond where the corner would have been. The corner had gone, though, by 1829. The wall past the corner is all of brick with no flint but with the half-round brick coping, as before. Just opposite the modern houses is a doorway into the park, though the door is now bricked-up. It was perhaps to provide access for an underkeeper housed at Parker's Corner. When George Wood left the estate in 1892, Goff's Cottages in the Beenham Lane (where the underkeepers

then lived) were pulled down and his successor as Third Keeper, one Neville, was to be housed at Parker's Corner. However, by the next census in 1901 the new pair of houses had been built at the top of Mayridge Hill with keeper Alfred Wigmore in one and no keepers at Parker's Corner. In 1911 Gamekeeper George Hopgood was in Bostock Lodge replaced in 1921 by William Newman. There was a keeper at Parker's Corner in the 1960s though.

This line of wall follows the road all the way down to the park gate, at which point the original Blyth's Hill ended. The gateway has a pair of stone pillars and the angle of it does not line up with the road across the park to Appleton's Corner (closed to the public since 1771) but does line up perfectly with the old course of Bostock Lane (running past the front door of Parker's Corner Lodge) and the carriage drive up to the front of Englefield House (where the main entrance then was) that was in use at least by 1829.

Beyond the gate, the new road and the wall initially follow the same course as an old access road into the Great Field. The wall is now in flint again but with a new design, having brick pillars every few yards and an ordinary brick coping. This section runs to just beyond Cranemoor Lake where the Great Field had been until

enclosure in 1774 so this wall may have already been in place in 1802. The brick pillars are then dispensed with until just before another gateway at the same place where until 1825 the turnpike road to Tidmarsh and Pangbourne ran. After the gate the wall ceases to have any connection with the park but continues all the way to Bushy Wigmores (Widemoor Wood) where today the road crosses the Pangbourne Road. The date of this last section of wall between the turnpike and its successor is unclear because the Pangbourne Road wasn't built until 1825 (so it celebrates its bicentenary this year) and the road from Common Hill didn't follow its present course until at least 1830. This section is in flint with brick pillars again although in two places it appears to end with a brick pillar and then start again only a few inches further on with another brick pillar, the gap in-filled with flint.



Turning the corner, the remainder of the wall follows the A340 and the first part from Bushy Wigmores to the Lodge Gates certainly looks to have been done in one go for there is no undue variation along its whole length, which is identical to the preceding stretch so they were probably done at about the same time after 1830. The Lodge Gates with their flanking walls we know were built in 1862 to commemorate the marriage of Richard

Fellowes Benyon to Elizabeth Clutterbuck so perhaps the next stretch, in plain brick, was built either after 1855 when the road was closed or after 1862 when the gatescreen was built. Whichever it was, it runs only as far as Wickcroft Farm where its duty is taken over by a short length of some of that 'good oak fencing', (though this is of fairly recent date) with two field gates. I wonder what the modern traffic would make of the twice daily crossing and recrossing of the road here by John Strang's cows in the 1950s?

After the second gate the fence is replaced in its turn by a hedge as far as The Street where it now stops well short of the junction and is replaced by an iron fence in the interest of 'visibility splay' for modern traffic conditions. The fence replaces a plain brick wall that ended with a stone pillar which, with its pair opposite, matched those at the Parker's Corner gate into the park, as the picture from the mid-nineteen fifties shows. On the other side of The Street the pillar and the first part of the wall have also gone, but most of the wall remains as the garden wall for number 27 (the old Three Daggers Inn). Beyond that the wall reverts to the same style of flint with brick pillars and coping as that before the Lodges and this runs all the way to Chalkpit Corner where the wall is briefly picked up on the other side as the garden wall of Chalkpit Lodge (built about 1825) but there it ends.

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.

Jesus answered, 'It is written...'... Jesus answered, 'It is written...' (Luke 4 v 4, 8)

How should we resist the devil's temptations? What should our strategy be, where should our ammunition come from to help us detect his lies and point us to the truth? In these verses, Jesus shows us explicitly: our defence against the enemy's temptations is God's word, the Bible. By becoming well acquainted with what it says, with what God has revealed in his word, we will be equipped to take our stand against temptation. If Jesus, God's only begotten Son, looked to Scripture to show what pleases God, how much more should we rely on God's word rather than our own thoughts and opinions when faced with temptation!

'Or those eighteen who died when the tower in Siloam fell on them – do you think they were more guilty than all the others living in Jerusalem? I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish.' (Luke 13:4-5)

As we consider the pain and suffering we see in the world around us, and try to make sense of it, we are doing what all people down through history have attempted to do – understand why some seem to suffer greatly, and others do not. What are we to make of this? A naive view is that suffering is directly correlated with the wickedness of an individual – think of Job's 'comforters' in the Old Testament, who argue that his hardships must have been caused by secret sinfulness on his part, or the idea of karma; that misfortune and misery now are caused by past wickedness, and that 'what goes around comes around'. When we suffer more than the next person, is it because we are more wicked than the next person?

Jesus here issues an emphatic 'No' to this question. While it is true at a general level that suffering in the world is caused by sin, Jesus refutes the idea that specific suffering is directly caused by specific sins of the sufferer. We live in a fallen world in which the consequences of sin cannot be easily traced, and do not fall neatly onto those we might think deserve them. Jesus warns us against simplistic thinking which would lead us to condemn, rather than reach out and support, those that suffer.

But he also warns us not to be blasé about sin. Sin matters, and although there is no direct link between the severity of the symptoms and the underlying disease, Jesus tells us here that the disease of sin is universal and is fatal. Everyone, regardless of the degree of suffering they endure in life, is called by him to repent else they ultimately perish.



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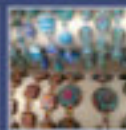
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