

Englefield

Parish News

June - July 2025



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: *The spire of St Mark's Church, bathed in late afternoon sun, photographed from the top of the drive.*

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 learned a new word today! The reason I learned it was because I have been wondering. (I do recommend wondering as one of my favourite activities. You can do it anytime, anywhere, it costs nothing, takes very little effort and almost always leaves you the better for it.) I was wondering about the magnificent magnolia in St Mark's House garden. It is huge, its foliage dense and low and it is very wide as well as tall. I imagine it must be pretty old to be so established – but I'm no expert. When it blossoms, it is an eye-stoppingly gorgeous display that everyone comments on. It is as if a bit of heaven has landed in the garden. The blooms are stunning, large and pink and beautiful, and when they fall, they form a carpet of pale pink beneath (but not for long because the rabbits love to dine on them!). A few weeks later, after every bloom has gone and the tree is verdant green again, a second display begins! This is happening right now. There are not so many blooms, but being less of them means each is more significant. I look more closely at the spaced out flowers and discover their individual beauty. But what of my new word? It is '*remontant*'. I've never heard this word before, but I imagine many green-fingered residents of Englefield have. It means blooming again or repeat blossoming. As I read on, the definition spoke of the blooming from 'old wood' after the new stems' blooms.

Many people here comment to me about their age, about slowing down, and feeling old. I wanted to tell you about the magnolia to encourage you to be inspired by it. As we age we may not still be full of the vibrant beauty of our first blooms and yet *we* are capable of later, more individually beautiful blossoming... even from old wood! And in fact, it seems that especially those plants that have been cut back, as we might feel *we* are, this very cutting back means that more blossoming can result. I want to encourage you to wonder about and discover the small and no less beautiful ways that you might 'bloom again'.

I also discovered that '*remontant*' comes from the French mid 19th century verb '*remonter*' which means *coming up again*. What a perfect word for this post-Easter season! It reminded me of the verses in Romans 6:

'We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his.'

Until next time,

Your Rector, Julia



Diary dates

Evening Praise: last Sunday of every month, 6pm at Holy Trinity, Theale, next dates 29th June and 27th July.

Sunday 8th June: Pentecost Sunday - come and celebrate the birth of the church at 10.30 at St Mark's with cake and fizz afterwards.

Monday 23rd June: St Mark's PCC meeting, 6.30 in the church.

Sunday 29th June: 'Petertide Picnic' at St Mark's House following the Sunday service at St Mark's Church. Bring your rugs, chairs and own picnic lunch, dessert and drinks aplenty supplied.

Wednesday 11th June and Wednesday 9th July: Let's Talk Theology, see page 9.

Wednesday 18th and Thursday 19th June: Englefield Schools Days.

Saturday 5th July: Daisy's Dream Wellbeing Walk, Englefield House, see page 32.

Saturday 12th July: **Englefield Village Fete & Flower Show**, 2pm. Schedules available now - see page 7 for more details.

Thursday 17th to Sunday 20th July: Heritage Live Summer Concerts, see page 4.

Saturday 13th September: Ride+Stride in aid of Berkshire Historic Churches Trust, see page 8 for more details.

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
0118 930 2337; www.englefieldprimary.co.uk

Englefield Parish Council
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 Trevor and Lynn Allen who celebrated their Golden Wedding anniversary on Saturday 22nd March.

To Daniel Evans and Charlotte Bamforth married at St Mark's on 19th April.

To Rev Nick Wynne-Jones on his 80th birthday on April 1st.

To Jono and Lara de Jong on the birth of James on 6th April, a grandson for Ron and Liz Marillier.

Annual Parish Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting took place on Thursday 22nd May in Englefield Village Hall. The chairman, Edward Crookes, welcomed James Goodwin who joined the parish council in October 2024. Reports were given by Edward Crookes, clerk Nia Rands, Lynn Dennison on behalf of the Village Hall, James Meade on behalf of the Estate, and Rev Julia. District councillor Ross MacKinnon was unable to attend due to illness. The police report noted a very low crime rate over the past 12 months with just two incidents reported. The parish council reviewed seven planning applications over the year.

Grateful thanks were expressed to Nia Rands who is stepping down as clerk after many years of dedicated service.

Englefield Parish Council

Award for the Estate Yard

Congratulations to the Englefield Estate on winning a British Council for Offices award for the new Estate Office in the Yard. Englefield won Best Project up to 2,500m² in the South of England area. The citation noted: 'This pioneering project has transformed an historic, Grade II listed sawmill into a modern, energy-efficient office supporting local suppliers.

Combining natural materials and renewable energy systems, the project achieved an energy performance rating upgrade from G to A. Biophilic features, generous daylight access, and wildlife-supportive measures promote wellbeing and biodiversity. The judges applauded the building's balance of heritage conservation, community revitalisation and cutting-edge sustainability.'

The project was delivered by the Estate with: quantity surveyor, Cole+; architects ADAM Architecture; interior designer Kitesgrove; M&E engineer WB Shiels; structural engineer RSA Design; contractor Stonewood Builders; and technology consultant Flux London. Congratulations to all concerned.





Summer concerts in the Park

The line up for this year's Heritage Live summer concerts at Englefield House is now complete. In the last parish news we mentioned that The Jacksons are booked for Saturday 19th July with special guests Sister Sledge and Boney M, while on the Sunday night one of the most iconic bands in music history will be taking to the stage: The Beach Boys' only UK show as part of its global 'Sounds of Summer' tour will be at Englefield, also featuring special guests David Essex and Lulu.

In addition, on Thursday 17th July the Indie band, The Wombats will be performing alongside special guests Doves, Hard-Fi and Alfie Templeman, and they will be followed on the Friday evening by Ministry of Sound Classical, the awe-inspiring orchestral celebration of dance music. The show will also feature David Morales, Paul Oakenfold, Judge Jules, and getting the party started, Fish56Octagon!

This is the fourth year in a row that Heritage Live has presented a weekend of music in Englefield – further details can be found on the Englefield website www.Englefieldestate.co.uk/whatson, and at www.heritagelive.net/whats-on.

Peter Carson, Events Manager



Support for Englefield School

In 2018, we set up a pledge-giving scheme, the Englefield Support Fund, to help provide the resourcing, particularly staffing, that the school needed to operate effectively. Sadly this situation remains and has been worse in recent years because of high levels of inflation and escalating costs. As a school, we have worked hard over the past few years to save money and to make money. This has helped us to keep going through some tough times. All that we have done so far is not enough to prevent an annual in-year deficit which is quickly eating up our reserves.

We are asking parents, family and friends of the school to consider signing up to make a regular monthly donation to the Support Fund. The process is now online, very quick and easy to do, and entirely confidential. If you would like to help our school's funding by making a regular donation you can do so using the following link: <https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/11754>. Any donation/Gift Aid questions can be sent to Kayleigh Leftley (PTA Treasurer) at ptatreasurer.Englefield@gmail.com. We hugely appreciate your support and consideration of this request.

James Meade and James Menhenitt, Finance Committee and Governors

We have secured a number of organisations and charitable trusts who have already committed donations on the basis that they are matched funded. So, for every £1 committed through the support fund and raised through other fund-raising events, we can draw down on these donations, doubling the funding received.

St Mark's APCM

This important annual meeting, open to all congregation and parishioners, took place after the morning service on Sunday 11th May.

Church officers including both Churchwardens and the Secretary to the PCC, and some members of the PCC itself, were reappointed with no changes apart from our beloved Ron Marillier who has stepped down from the role of Treasurer and PCC member due to illness. We are most grateful that he had already been training Oliver Bodger to become the new Treasurer and Rosemary Ambrose as our gift aid officer. The meeting noted its thanks to all officers and especially to Ron.

The Annual Report and the latest set of audited accounts were approved - they are available to read on the St Mark's website under the Resources tab. The new Electoral Roll was confirmed at 62 members and Richard Smith was thanked and reappointed ER Officer. The Rector's report can be found on the homepage of the website - www.stmarksenglefield.org.uk - under Latest Talks.

Thank you to everyone who came and supported this event and particularly to Mary and Pauline for providing the refreshments.

Rev Julia Myles



Confirmation

Bishop Mary Gregory will be officiating at a confirmation service for the Bradfield Deanery on Tuesday 8th July, 8pm, at St James' Church, Pangbourne. If you are not confirmed and would like to be please contact Rev Julia. There will be one explanation session beforehand.

Baptism

William Simpson, son of Justin and Annabel and grandson of David and Penny Norris, baptised at St Mark's on Sunday 18th May.

RIP

Fiona Seaman who died on Thursday 10th April.

Richard Bonser who died on Monday 12th May. A celebration of Richard's life will be held at St Mark's on Wednesday 4th June at 11.30.

Help please!

St Mark's has signed up to run a cake stall at the Englefield Village Fete & Flower Show on Saturday 12th July. This will be selling whole cakes only to take away, in aid of school funds. Rev Julia says she is a terrible baker and she would love to hear from anyone who could bake a cake or two and/or who might be able to help on the stall for an hour or so on the day. Please let her know as soon as possible - rector@stmarksenglefield.org.uk.

Thursday Murder Club release

It has been confirmed that *The Thursday Murder Club*, filmed at Englefield last summer, will be released on the streaming service Netflix on Thursday 28th August. An adaptation of the first in the series of best-selling murder mysteries by Richard Osman, it stars Pierce Brosnan, Ben Kingsley, Helen Mirren and Celia Imrie, and was directed by Chris Columbus. Richard Osman has previously indicated that it will get a cinema release too but there has been no official announcement of this as yet.

A plea to fellow dog walkers

A stroll (with dogs) down the footpath opposite the Estate Yard, across the fields and through the wood to the Lodge gates, turned up no less than 36 dog poo bags, carefully knotted - and discarded along the path. Plus two more on the paths through the wild flowers on the drive. These supposedly 'compostable' bags take up to a year to decompose, quite apart from their contents... As well as the official dog poo bin by the village car park, a good neighbour has placed two more, one at Appletons Corner and one on the permissive path behind the Village Stores. PLEASE please for the sake of other walkers make use of them!



The Flower Show 2025

The Englefield Village Fete & Flower Show will take place on **Saturday 12th July** and Flower Show class schedules are available now. Please email efsentry@gmail.com if you would like one.

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 as soon as possible.

We look forward to receiving your entries and seeing you on 12th July for another wonderful Englefield Village event.

Flower Show Committee



We need your help – please use water carefully

All being well, by the time you read this article we will have had a spell of plentiful rain. However, a very dry March and April, with significantly lower levels of rainfall compared to the long-term average, served as a reminder of our community's reliance on the Estate borehole to serve the majority of the parish.

We would gently remind everyone in the parish to use water as carefully as possible please. If we all save a little bit of water now, given the limits upon the volume that can be abstracted from the borehole, this could help avoid restrictions should there be a drought this summer. Advice on how to save water is available from various bodies such as www.waterwise.org.uk and www.thameswater.co.uk. In particular, we would please ask residents on the private water supply not to use sprinklers and to use hosepipes very sparingly whether washing cars or watering the garden.

Water is a precious commodity that cannot be taken for granted anywhere, but especially at Englefield. The Estate, as your water supplier, has a part to play too by dealing promptly with wastage or leaks in the distribution system. If you or one of your neighbours spots a leak, please report it immediately and we will repair it. Many thanks.

The Englefield Estate

VE Day 80

The 80th anniversary of VE Day was marked in Englefield by the lighting of a beacon of peace in the top park. As the most senior veteran present, Trevor Allen lit the bonfire and Richard Benyon read the tribute which was read at every beacon lighting across the country:



Let us remember those who gave their lives at home and abroad, whose sacrifice enables us to all enjoy the peace we have today.

Let us remember those who came home, wounded, physically and mentally, and the friends and family who cared for them.

Let us remember those who returned to restore their relationships and rebuild their working and family lives after years of conflict and turmoil.

Let us remember the families that lost husbands, wives, sons, daughters and sweethearts.

Let us remember the servicemen and women of other nationalities and faiths from Commonwealth and allied countries who fought, suffered and died during six years of war.

Let us remember those in reserved occupations and the brave people who kept us safe on the home front – the doctors, nurses who cared for the wounded, the men and women who toiled in the fields, the fisherman who fished the seas, those who worked in the factories and the air-raid wardens, the police officers, firemen, ambulance drivers and the young people of the Scouts and Guides who played such a vital role in the war effort at home too.

God Save The King!



Ride+Stride 2025

Ride and Stride 2024 seems a long time ago but the final results are now in and, excluding Gift Aid, we raised over £22,000 for Berkshire churches, a very substantial achievement, and we're very grateful to all organisers, participants and of course sponsors who contributed to the success of the day.

We were particularly pleased to welcome a team from St Nicolas, Newbury, who were taking part for the first time. They made a real day of it, planning a variety of routes for the 'West Berkshire Parish Olympic Challenge', and involving over 80 members of the congregation and friends. Go to the Berkshire Historic Churches Trust website and you'll find a list of the routes and also a short video about it.

The date for 2025 is Saturday 13th September - please put it in your diaries and consider joining us on that day to raise funds for your own church and other churches in need across Berkshire.

Peter Durrant, BHCT Chairman

Volunteers needed for Thyme Together!

The Thyme Together project is a friendly social group for seniors over 65, with a focus on activities that enhance health and wellbeing in a natural garden environment. It is an inclusive group which incorporates many aspects of therapeutic horticulture and is comprised of attendees who face a range of issues, from limited mobility, sensory impairment, to cognitive issues, and feelings of social isolation. We are looking for more volunteers who would enjoy assisting and supporting this group and encouraging social interaction. The volunteers are essential to the running of this group, as this allows the senior attendees to have the support that they need. Activities range from sitting down tasks for those with limited mobility, eg potting on, and weeding/planting in the raised beds, often from a chair, to more active jobs such as hoeing, for those without mobility issues. It is a friendly, gentle-paced gardening session which includes growing vegetables, flowers, fruit, outings, chat, tea and of course cake.

'The current Thyme Together group is full and we have a waiting list of new people keen to join,' said Katie Andrews, session leader and horticultural therapist for the Thyme Together group which has just received a grant to fund and start up a second group. **'If anyone has two hours to spare on Thursday mornings to help volunteer with this new group, please do get in touch.'** It is a fantastic way to get out in a beautiful garden, meet new people and get involved in the local community.'

One of the current volunteers says, 'I love being at Five a Day Garden, it does me a power of good to be there. I love the rich soil and the wonderful vegetables and flowers we grow, and I get a great deal of pleasure from all the gardening jobs: planting out, composting, pruning, weeding and harvesting.'

To find out more about volunteering with the Thyme Together Group at Five a Day Garden, please contact Ali Luke on 07747 008641, email ali@fiveaday.org.uk, visit www.fiveaday.org.uk/volunteer or email info@fiveaday.org.uk (please mention you would like to help the new Thyme Together group for older people).



Let's Talk Theology

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



Schools Days 2025

Englefield Estate Schools Days are on Wednesday 18th and Thursday 19th June this year.

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

Englefield Parish Council

A vacancy has arisen for a part time Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer for Englefield Parish Council.

The main responsibilities of the role are:

- Support the smooth running of the Parish Council
- Prepare for, attend, and minute meetings of the Parish Council
- Financial record keeping and reporting, invoice payment, budget preparation
- Responding to emails and correspondence
- Providing procedural advice to ensure the Council complies with legislation
- Maintenance of the Parish Council website

The role is c.3 hours per week. It is home based, with the addition of in-person attendance at approximately six evening Parish Council meetings per year. More details of the Council's work can be seen on the website at: www.englefieldpc.org.uk. The role requires strong organisation, administration and communication skills, a proactive approach, as well as IT literacy. Salary is within the national pay scale depending on experience and qualifications. Candidates will preferably hold the CILCA or other relevant qualification, although training will be given where required.

If you are interested in further information or to have an informal discussion about the role, please contact Nia Rands at clerk.englefieldpc@outlook.com.

A meaningful connection

It seemed an obvious choice; sitting on a hillside on the Scottish Borders, a Highland cow with beautiful horns and a Blackface ewe with twin lambs at foot staring at me. I was twelve years old and my mind was made up, I would be a farmer. My background was dodgy as I was born in London and we were living near the centre of Glasgow. The impetus for this decision was that I wanted to do something useful in the world when then it was Chinese children starving, AND avoid the agony of a public transport commute which my six-foot-four dad continually complained about, along with endless moans about his boss in BP Clyde Tanker Company.

When we graduated in Agriculture years later we worked on a large University farm and, guess what, after three years my daily complaint was about my boss. So with the chance to work for a family farming company, with a Christian in charge and in an area of outstanding natural beauty, we both jumped at it and came to Rushall Farm.

As part of their annual programme, the Bradfield Young Farmers would come to St Andrew's Church and celebrate Plough Sunday, when an old horse plough would be carried into the church. Rogation followed in better weather, always fun with a tractor and trailer ride around the farms asking God to bless the crops, livestock, the River Pang and our homes and families. Lammastide came in summer, when a sheaf of corn and loaf of bread made from the new season's wheat were brought into the church at the start of harvest. And then the big Harvest Festival when thanks was given that all had been safely gathered in.

With two new homes and barns on a fresh site at Rushall, as newcomers on the block we were offered first stop on the Rogation Service. They prayed for the farm and that those living and working here would be blessed and be a blessing to the community and the world we are here to serve. They were big prayers and really we had no idea what that would mean. So the bumpy ride started with times of great sadness, lots of mistakes but always thankful to be living here. After 40 years of running the farm, I did learn how to look after cows and sheep and grow wheat, barley and beans. BUT we could never have imagined, when we stood with shiny buildings and new houses all those years ago, the thousands of children and people who would come to have a meaningful connection with Rushall Farm.

John Bishop
www.rushallfarm.org.uk





From Englefield Primary School

'Sowing the Seeds for a Flourishing Future'

Just before the Easter break, we all had a truly wonderful experience on our whole school trip to Ufton Court. The younger children learned about animals and their habitats whilst the older children learned about life in the Stone Age, having a go at creating sparks from a flint, spinning fleece into thread and building a wattle fence. The children listened well and participated with enthusiasm in all the activities.



We were then treated to some fabulous performances of the Year 3/4 production of *Porridge*. The children learned and performed their many funny lines brilliantly and sang with enthusiasm. A particular well done to Max, Alex and Evalyn for their touching solo singing.

Fifteen children entered the Team Kennet Cross Country held at Newbury Showground. With 1600 runners taking part and 52 schools, it was a massive event with a competitive field! The team embraced the experience and calmed the nerves, running with grit and determination over a bumpy and windy route cheered on by a huge crowd. As a team they came in third in Division 3 (for small schools) which was a brilliant achievement - well done runners! Individual achievements: Isla 7th, Stanley 19th, Luca 29th and Max 32nd.

A huge well done to our Year 4/5 football team who won The Oratory Football Tournament, collecting gold medals after winning their four matches. They showed super team spirit and excellent teamwork, thanks to the brilliant leadership of Ben Fabianczyk, a parent and a coach at Pangbourne Football Club.



Recently it has been so lovely to walk outside at lunchtime to see everything that is going on. We are blessed with space so the children have plenty of room for play, both alone and with their friends. One aim of OPAL is to create more social spaces and more creative play. We have now added dressing up, small parts (such as gutters and crates which the children can build with), frames and fabric to create dens and more small world such as dinosaurs and LEGO. Our sandpit is nearly complete and the mud kitchen is going in over half term. OPAL playtimes are full of enterprise and creativity...and the tidying up is pretty impressive too!

Such developments are time-consuming and are almost impossible in a small school. We are blessed with an extremely supportive parent body who give up their time to help us out on our TLC Days. On the most recent one tyres were washed, the sandpit dug, built and lined, the pond area weeded and topped up with water, the hedge trimmed, the music wall moved (though it now has to move again!), the cobwebs removed, the loose parts sorted and spare bits tidied away. Thank you to our committed group of 'TLC-ers' who even include the Hawthorns, a family who no longer have a child at the school - great commitment!

Hilary Latimer, Headteacher



Time to volunteer?

The West Berkshire Foodbank is desperately short of volunteers to work at their centres in Calcot, Newbury, Thatcham, Hungerford and Burghfield and Mortimer, from 1pm to 3pm on various days of the week. Full details can be found on their website or in the church porch. Volunteers will greet clients, give them a drink, sit and chat with them whilst making up a shopping list of needed items which will then be packed up for them to take away. Being a friendly listening ear is also very important.



Summertime at the Five A Day

It has been dry with some lovely sunny weather meaning we have been able to put our garden plans into place in a timely manner. The polytunnels have been given a good clean down courtesy of Vodafone's team day. Along with dahlias, early potatoes, leeks, cucumbers and peas were planted in March. We are trialling asparagus but have to wait two years for the first crop! We have new soft fruit shrubs and, in the run up to Easter established a new perennial flower bed. The rhubarb is doing well after a couple of years underperforming so we are glad to see it return. We also had funding for a new bench which is being installed shortly.



Volunteers: we sadly said goodbye to two volunteers as they either returned back to work or moved on to continue their good work in their own gardens. Thank you to them for both their hard work. We have a new Trustee, Peter Haig, who brings wide experience and knowledge. Welcome Peter!

Corporate groups: four corporate groups have visited so far this year installing timber posts for fencing near the soft fruit, mending wobbly fence posts, spreading woodchip, painting the sheds and digging out old fruit bushes and strimming.

Schools and uniformed groups: Ella's Explorers continue to base their visits at Rushall Farm until November due to the road closure in Bradfield. Uniformed groups are now booking their 2025 visits and we look forward to seeing them very soon.

Thyme Together: the group had a tour around Theale Fire Station including being treated to tea and cake. The group have been busy preparing seedlings, cuttings, herbs, planting potatoes and planting soft fruit in the new fruit cage.



Workshops: we held two willow workshops in March and May offering sessions constructing plant obelisks and supports which were well attended. We are planning to run further workshops this year and are looking for volunteers who may be able to support us at weekends to help at the 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

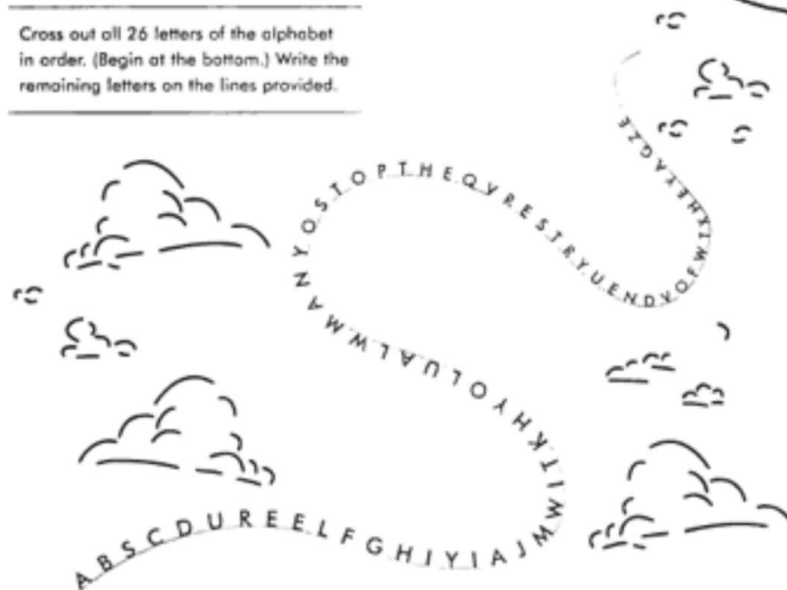
Sunday Club Puzzle Page



Jesus' Farewell

The Great Commission and Ascension
—Matthew 28; Acts 1

Cross out all 26 letters of the alphabet in order. (Begin at the bottom.) Write the remaining letters on the lines provided.



What was the last thing Jesus said to the disciples before He went into Heaven?

(Matthew 28:20)

Sunday	Sidesperson	First reading	Gospel	Prayers	Sacristan	Server	Sunday Club and crèche	Cleaners
June 1st Sunday after Ascension Day BCP	Penny Savage	Ronan O'Sullivan	Linda Price	BCP	Catherine Haig	Penny Savage	Saffy O'Sullivan Liz McKean	Liz McKean
June 8th Pentecost	Torquil MJ	James Meade	Paul Myles	Peter Haig	Penny Norris	Peter Haig	Hatty Harley Denny Hollands	Angie Higgins
June 15th Trinity Sunday	Pauline and Graham Harvey	Carole Ford	Torquil MJ	Richard Benyon	Sue Smith	Saffy O'Sullivan	Liz McKean Denny Hollands	Peter and Catherine Haig
June 22nd 1st Sunday of Trinity	Torquil MJ	Dinah Perkins	James Bamforth	Penny Savage	Penny Savage	Denny Hollands	Saffy O'Sullivan Liz McKean	Pauline and Graham Harvey
June 29th 2nd Sunday of Trinity	Penny Savage	Torquil MJ	Richard Benyon	Dinah Perkins	Denny Hollands	Torquil MJ	Hatty Harley Denny Hollands	Pete and Carole Ford
July 6th 3rd Sunday of Trinity BCP	Richard Benyon	Aldo Guiducci	Denny Hollands	BCP	Penny Norris	Paula Fenwick	Saffy O'Sullivan Liz McKean	Penny Norris Saffy O'Sullivan
July 13th 4th Sunday of Trinity	Peter Haig	Jean Rothery	Linda Price	Saffy O'Sullivan	Catherine Haig	Penny Savage	Liz McKean Denny Hollands	Angie Higgins
July 20th 5th Sunday of Trinity	Pauline and Graham Harvey	Anne Edgar	Mike Kimber	Catherine Haig	Sue Smith	Peter Haig	Hatty Harley Saffy O'Sullivan	Liz McKean
July 27th 6th Sunday of Trinity	Paula Fenwick	Penny Savage	Saffy O'Sullivan	Linda Price	Penny Savage	Saffy O'Sullivan	No Sunday Club*	Peter and Catherine Haig
August 3rd 7th Sunday of Trinity BCP	Penny Savage	Harry Benyon	Kahlen Spaulding	BCP	Denny Hollands	Denny Hollands	No Sunday Club*	Graham and Pauline Harvey
August 10th 8th Sunday of Trinity	Peter Haig	Lorraine Dehn	Peter Haig	Denny Hollands	Penny Norris	Torquil MJ	No Sunday Club*	Pete and Carole Ford
August 17th 9th Sunday of Trinity	Torquil MJ	Graham Harvey	John Rothery	Penny Savage	Sue Smith	Paula Fenwick	No Sunday Club*	Penny Norris Saffy O'Sullivan

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.*



Pangbourne Bowling Club

Your local Club is now fully up and running for the summer. At the time of writing we have already held two open days for locals to try their hand at the game. This was enhanced by our

hosting of the Houdan French Exchange visitors in early May, when, along with the adjacent tennis club, we gave visitors a chance to join us on the Green. All three events were very enjoyable and successful making more people aware of who we are and where we play. Maybe you came along?

The match season is also well under way. Both Ladies and Gents teams have had some success so far, whilst enjoying the opportunity to meet old friends and make new ones along the way. Regular roll ups take place on Monday afternoons and Friday evenings, giving everyone practice time. Friday evenings are also open to members and visitors to socialise around the Green or in the Pavilion afterwards. The bar will be open!

If you would like to know more please don't hesitate to give me, Sue, a ring on 07803 927767. An introductory session can always be arranged for you. All you need is a pair of flat shoes to begin with, as practice bowls can be supplied.

Sue Jones

Afternoon teas at Aldworth

Summer afternoon teas at St Mary's Church in Aldworth will start on 2nd July and then every Wednesday in July, August and September, 2.30 – 4.30pm. Enjoy delicious homemade cakes in the company of The Aldworth Giants. For further details and to book groups contact: Gill Wilding 01635 578624 or gillwilding@hotmail.com.

Painting with paper

Unleash your inner artist! We are running another course on Saturday 21st June from 10am - 12.30pm at Five a Day garden. The course is called Painting with Paper and is being run by one of our volunteers, Izzy, who is an artist. Last year's attendees produced some spectacular paintings, so why not give it a try and create your own unique picture.

The cost is £40 per person and all materials and refreshments are provided. Places are limited to 10 people for this session and will be booked on a first come, first served basis. If you would like to attend, please email to 5adayevents@gmail.com as soon as possible to book a place.

Glen Higgins, Five a Day Garden

The Parish boundaries

We have now finished the compilation of an entirely new parish electoral roll. This is something that is done every sixth year for reasons that may seem obscure but are certainly connected with good housekeeping since the renewal provides an opportunity to start afresh and remove all those who have moved away or for some reason stopped regular attendance, which is a requirement for being on the roll.

This electoral roll is, of course, a completely different thing from the one used for local and parliamentary elections, being confined solely to votes in respect of church business. Unlike the other electoral roll, the church one is open to people from outside the parish, although the conditions are different for those living in the parish and those living outside, and the application form has different boxes to tick. This usually occasions a certain amount of confusion over whether one lives in the parish or not. This confusion arises because there are actually two separate parishes: the civil and the ecclesiastical, and their boundaries are far from being the same.

How this situation came about was dealt with in an earlier edition (April 2022) but suffice it to say for now the ecclesiastical parish was something of centuries standing when the civil parishes were created by parliament in 1894. Originally the two parishes were the same but while the ecclesiastical parish has remained fixed, the civil parish boundaries have in many cases been subject to great change.



The ecclesiastical parish of Englefield is much smaller than the civil one now is and the reason our war memorial has only four names from the First World War is that those other men who died came from places associated with Englefield, indeed now in the civil parish, but then, and now, in other ecclesiastical parishes. The parish before 1894 – and still today as far as the church is concerned – is illustrated here. A colour version showing the adjoining parishes is at <https://www.englefieldhistory.net/the-village>.

In honour of Rogation Sunday (May 25th this year) we take a wander and beat the bounds of the parish shown here, also finding the old neighbouring parishes.

Starting at the top, Hogmoor Bridge on the Pangbourne Road, we follow first the River Pang and then the Bourne which also marks the boundary of the Old Deer Park ("Top Park") between the chalkpit and Common Hill. Crossing Common Hill we continue to follow the Bourne along the edge of the Englefield Common Wood, with Bournefield Farm to our right, as far as the first bridge over the Bourne where we turn left, cross the bridge and climb the steep track which will take us to Mayridge Hill Cottages. Leaving the cottages to our left we then descend the hill with the wood usually called Mayridge Wood today on our right. The wood is in fact called Ufton Wood on the OS Maps because all that land to our immediate right is actually in the parish of Ufton Richard.

Now going down the other side of the hill called Mare Ridge in former times we meet the road running between Mayridge Farm and Lambdens Farm and turn left on it to Mayridge Farm. The boundary now runs across the field behind Mayridge Farm Cottages and then along the road to Bostock Lodges, leaving all the land on our right, including both farm and cottages, in the parish of Sulhamstead Bannister Upper End. Hence the two Nash brothers, killed in the First World War, are on the memorial at St Michael's in Sulhamstead. Sandwiched in between this bit of Sulhamstead Bannister and Ufton Richard is a piece of Sulhamstead Abbots. Nowadays Abbots and Bannister are combined as simply Sulhamstead and Ufton Richard is combined with Ufton Robert to form Ufton Nervet.

At Bostock we cross the Bath Road and the railway line to reach the Kennet and Avon Canal at the penlocks – the weir where the River Kennet diverges from the canal for a while. We follow the north bank of first the river past Draper's Osier Beds then a small offshoot all the way to Hayward's Farm and Station Road at Theale. The field on the other side of Station Road is actually in the parish as well but we will acknowledge that and walk up Station Road to the railway where we then turn left and follow the down line (more or less) back to Draper's Osier Beds.

So far the boundary has been easy to identify on the ground by natural or man-made features but from now on there is little in that way to guide us so our wanderings become somewhat approximate. From the Osier Beds the boundary follows a somewhat jagged path (along field edges originally) back to the Bath Road, striking it to the side of Gravel Pit Cottages. We cross the road and follow the hedgerow to the back of the gravel pit where we pick up the field edge and follow it in a straight line through the corner of the wood to the Bushy Wigmore crossroads where Common Hill meets the Pangbourne Road. From here the boundary follows the Pangbourne Road but with a couple of serious diversions.

The first diversion comes just before the Lodge Gates where the boundary bulges right a small way to incorporate Wickcroft Farm – but not the old Agency – and then right a bit more to incorporate a larger slab of land before returning to the Pangbourne Road just before the bottom of The Street. On either side of The Street some oak trees are shown as boundary markers on the 1883 map.

Just before the motorway the boundary turns right again for a short way to follow it and then incorporates a block of land between Piper's Lane and the motorway down as far as Malpas Farm. From Malpas the boundary heads back north, over the motorway and picks up Piper's Lane on the other side, which takes us back to Hogmoor Bridge. All the land to the east of Englefield was originally the parish of Tilehurst and that included North Street, though by the First World War Theale parish had been created so Arthur Hazell, Herbert Marshall and Herbert Parsons, all from North Street, are commemorated on the Theale memorial.

So, if you live within that boundary you are in the parish for ecclesiastical purposes.

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.

'In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and teach until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen' (Acts 1 v 1-2)

The book of Acts follows hot on the heels of Luke's Gospel, and is actually the second volume of Luke's account (between which our modern Bibles have inserted John like the filling of a sandwich). Because the two books are divided in this way, we can sometimes lose the continuity of the narrative that Luke wrote. That continuity is highlighted here in verse 1. Did you spot it?

Luke concludes his Gospel with the ascension of Jesus (Luke 24:51), and repeats it here at the opening of the book of Acts. Yet in verse 1, we read that in his Gospel Luke wrote about 'all that Jesus began to do and teach'. Far from saying that Jesus' actions and teaching were complete when he ascended into heaven, Luke is clear that his activity and teaching continue through his apostles who form and lead the early church. His saving work, the rescue mission he came to accomplish, was completed at the cross and vindicated through the resurrection, but that was not all he came to do. Acts picks up the story as, empowered by his Holy Spirit, the apostles set out to transform the society around them.

This point is important because it shows that Jesus is at work in the world even today. Since Pentecost (Acts 2), the gift of God's Holy Spirit has been poured out upon all those who believe in Jesus, enabling them to respond to his prompting and live transformed lives. When we read the Bible we can be confident that the Jesus we encounter there is not just a historical figure trapped in its pages, but is alive today and able to teach us and act in our lives by his Spirit right now. Jesus has a plan for our lives here in the 21st century, and equips us to follow it if we are willing. Have we grasped this truth, and are we living in the light of it?

An invitation for Pentecost: The church celebrates the feast of Pentecost this year on Sunday 8th June - there is a service at 10.30am at St Mark's, with cake and fizz afterwards. All welcome.



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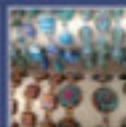
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