

Englefield

Parish News

August - September 2025



The Parish of St Mark's, Englefield

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

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Paula Fenwick 07850 603508
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07970 768528

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Treasurer: Oliver Bodger treasurer@stmarksenglefield.org.uk

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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: *A colourful array of entries by Englefield School children in the 'Kindness colours' art class at the Englefield Village Fete and Flower Show on Saturday 12th July (see page 7 for this year's report).*

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

It was a pleasure to welcome Mary Gregory, the recently appointed Bishop of Reading, to preach and preside at St Mark's on Sunday 13th July. Bishop Mary then returned to Englefield on the following Tuesday to visit our school as part of her Deanery Day with the churches of Bradfield Deanery. The children learned a lot about what a bishop does and asked some very good questions. They also learned about the different parts of her 'uniform'.



A bishop carries a crozier or shepherd's crook as a symbol that the bishop must be a good shepherd. Bishop Mary's is very ornate and was made for her by woodcarver Judith Letchford (<https://www.jlwoodcarver.co.uk/>). Judith was with us in church that Sunday and we learned about the unique features of this very special crozier (and she kindly gave permission for us to use the detailed photographs shown below).

It is made in three pieces from a single piece of walnut, joined with hidden brass screw fixings. It has these words carved on it:

'When we were still far off you met us in your son and brought us home'.

This references the parable of the Prodigal Son that Jesus told, which encapsulates the Gospel message.

The crozier also has a sparrow and a swallow on it referencing Psalm 84 verse 3:

'Even the sparrow has found a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may raise her young - a place near your altar, Lord Almighty, my King and my God.'



The vine growing up the staff represents life and spiritual growth. The Bishop's mitre, her ring and her cross are also full of symbolic meaning. More next time!

Your Rector, Julia

Diary dates

Evening Praise: last Sunday of every month, 6pm at Holy Trinity, Theale, next dates August 31st and September 28th.

Wednesdays in August and September: summer teas at St Mary's Church Aldworth, 2.30 - 4.30pm, more information from gillwilding@hotmail.com.

Wednesday 13th August and Wednesday 10th September: Let's Talk Theology.

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

Monday 22nd September: St Mark's PCC meeting, 6.30pm.

Sunday 28th September: Harvest Festival, join us for a special family service of thanksgiving at St Mark's, 10.30am.

Sunday 2nd November: Remembering Our Loved Ones Together, 4pm, St Mark's.

Sunday 9th November: Remembrance Sunday, 10.30am service at St Mark's with Act of Remembrance and two-minutes silence.

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 Emily and Digby Don on the safe arrival of Livia, sister for Martha and granddaughter for Tom and Lorraine Dehn.

To Sophie Meadows and Hew Rous-Eyre who were married at St Mark's on Saturday 14th June.

To Adrian and Marilyn Elsey on their Golden Wedding anniversary.

Drought update - please use water carefully

With the drought continuing, Thames Water has implemented a hosepipe ban across a number of areas within the region, mirroring wider bans across the country. It is anticipated the hosepipe ban will be extended to cover further areas. We would like to reiterate the need for all households and businesses, served by the Estate's private water supply, to be vigilant and careful with water use. In particular, we would please ask residents on the private water supply not to use sprinklers, and to use hosepipes only where absolutely essential (this excludes washing cars and filling paddling and above ground swimming pools). Advice on how to save water is available from websites such as www.waterwise.org.uk and www.thameswater.co.uk. 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 spot a leak, please report it immediately and we will repair it. Many thanks.

The Englefield Estate

Harvest Festival

Please put Sunday 28th September in your diaries and come and join us at St Mark's Church at 10.30am, for this annual service of thanksgiving for God's provision. Together with the school, we will be collecting donations of items for West Berkshire Foodbank, more information will be provided nearer the time.

Baptism

Robert Charles Meade, baptised at St Mark's on Sunday 22nd June.

RIP

Charlotte Bamforth, who died on July 13th and whose funeral was held at St Mark's Church on Thursday 24th July.

New Headteacher for Englefield School

I am delighted to inform you that we have appointed a new Headteacher, Miss Kate Galvin, who will be starting with us after Christmas. Miss Galvin comes to us with a wide range of primary school experience. Her current role is as Assistant Headteacher in a similarly-sized school, where she is very highly regarded. She has previously held the role of Acting Headteacher in two schools at the request of her education authority. She greatly impressed all the governors at interview and we had no hesitation in offering her the post.

Miss Galvin is very excited to become part of the Englefield community and is looking forward to working with our dedicated staff team to continue to build on and enhance the many strengths of the school, further maximise community links and reinforce the values and traditions at Englefield.

Chris Gittins, Chair of Governors



Changes to black bin collections

From Monday 22nd September, West Berkshire Council will introduce three-weekly black bin collections. This change is part of our ongoing efforts to increase recycling rates, reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill or incineration, and protect vital local services.

This change is necessary because West Berkshire is currently among the top 10% of waste-producing areas in England, ranking 25th out of over 300 local authorities for waste generated per person (Defra, 2023/24). Recent analysis shows that 42% of black bin contents could have

been recycled, including 22% food waste. This presents a significant opportunity to improve our recycling performance.

The weekly food waste collections, fortnightly recycling collections, fortnightly garden waste collections (for subscribers) will stay the same and those collection days will not change. Replacement and extra recycling containers are available free of charge. Information leaflets and collection calendars will be delivered to households between August 25th and September 5th. For further details, support, and updates, please visit www.westberks.gov.uk/3-weekly-collections.

Waste Management Team, West Berkshire Council

Talking everything 'safeguarding'

'Protecting vulnerable people from harm and speaking up for their rights is an integral part of our scriptural mandate as Christians' (Proverbs 31:8)

Safeguarding is about the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults,

- **Protecting** from abuse and maltreatment
- **Preventing** harm to health or development, and
- **Promoting** a person's well-being, considering views, wishes, feelings and beliefs

As we are all aware, it has been a particularly challenging time for the Church of England, as it acknowledges failures in safeguarding practice, seeks to listen openly and carefully to the experiences of victims and survivors and commits to learning the lessons that have arisen. On Monday, 16th June, I was invited by The Right Reverend Mary Gregory, the new Bishop of Reading, as Safeguarding Officer for St Mark's Church, Englefield, to St Birinus House in Theale (shown here) for a time of listening to one another and as a way of saying thank you for all that we do.



Safeguarding at St Mark's Church, Englefield

We have always taken safeguarding seriously at St Mark's Church, Englefield. As with the Safeguarding team within the Diocese of Oxford, we are committed to safeguarding children, young people, and vulnerable adults, enabling them to worship and grow in Christ safely. We value and respect everyone we work with, and our safeguarding team endeavours to be as relational, transparent and proportionate as possible. (Diocese of Oxford, 2024)

Diocese of Oxford, Safeguarding

Further information and helpful resources are available via the Diocese of Oxford's designated safeguarding pages of their website - www.oxford.anglican.org/safeguarding/ or by scanning this QR code.



St Mark's, Englefield, Safeguarding Officer

Any concerns you might have, the designated contact, in the first instance, is me, Lucy Roper:

I have been a member of the congregation at St Mark's for around six years. I have experience with safeguarding through my current employer, the University of the Built Environment in Reading, and I also held the roles of Welfare Officer for Reading Swimming Club and Thames Valley Triathletes.

You can contact me on the following number: 0797 0768528 or via the designated email at safeguarding@stmarksenglefield.org.uk.

Lucy Roper



Activity at the Village Store

Another busy few months at the Store and Tea room. The team have been busy in the garden and it's looking beautiful.

The Store has lots of local crafts and is well stocked up on Carte D'or ice cream. Did you know that we do dog ice cream too? There have been changes to the Tea room kitchen too, the team are very happy! The Tea room is open every Thursday, so we are now open Monday - Saturday, 10-3pm each week. We have created a summer activity sheet and kids' lunch boxes ready for the summer hols and we are already working on the Christmas dinners and Afternoon Teas!

As a village we hosted a Bingo and fish & chip night at the Village Hall. It was a great evening with people getting together with old friends and connecting with new ones around the village. We were also able to donate £123 towards the Alzheimer's Society from the event.

Liz and the team



Music in St Mark's

What a treat for us, on such a hot June day, to spend time in a beautiful, cool church making music. It was a joy to play in St Mark's with its wonderful acoustics. Our 'quartet' comprising flute (Anthony), violin (Clair), cello (Anji) and organ (Brian) would like to extend a heartfelt 'thank you' to the Rector and Churchwardens for allowing us to play in St Mark's. Our repertoire, mostly from the Baroque period, seems particularly well suited to the ambience of the church.

Anji Higgins

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



The Flower Show 2025!

Yet again the small but dedicated committee pulled together another fabulous village show. Despite the blistering temperatures and blazing sun, we were still able to make our traditional village event take place.

The growing season for the exhibition tent had started promisingly in spring and early summer, but the intense temperatures in the weeks before the show made growing conditions exceedingly difficult. Judges were surprised that exhibitors were able to manage the quality of produce on display. Pupils at the school had worked hard on their entries, particularly in the handwriting classes and artwork depicting love and friendship. Well done to all the exhibitors and trophy winners.

Those that braved the sun were rewarded with the usual great atmosphere provided by Beenham Wind Orchestra, and the school traditional maypole dances and choir. Traditional teas, cakes as well as Pimm's and beers served by the PTA were as popular as the ice creams. The stalls and amusements did well. The pig was bowled for, crockery smashed, coconuts won, the bric-a-brac, books and toys were browsed through and purchased. Not forgetting two bouncy castles this year and the rerouted tractor rides. I must mention the church produce stall which raised over £500 for the PTA funds. What a fantastic effort!

A special mention must also be given to the Englefield Estate team who once again gave their time to set up and dismantle marquees, electricity, water etc despite the looming concerts. Grateful appreciation also for the many volunteers on the day, helping to man stalls, car parking or setting up and clearing away. It would not have happened without their commitment and support. Thank you to all those who braved the sun and came along on the day to enjoy this very special Englefield community event which will provide much-needed funds to support learning and enrichment at Englefield Primary School. To the small but incredibly dedicated committee, thank you for everything that you do.

Committee Chairman, Gordon Fletcher
Gfletcher1973@outlook.com, 07939 504145



Flower Show winners 2025

The Flower Show cups and shields were presented this year by Hilary Latimer.

PERPETUAL CHALLENGE CUPS (GIVEN BY)

Garden of the Year (Lady Benyon)

The Cox Cup (M & P Cox)

Rose Challenge Cup (F Lamperd & H. Wilkinson)

Bill Partridge Memorial Cup (Flower Show)

Kathleen Lamperd Memorial Cup (F Lamperd)

Bob Orchard Memorial Cup (Flower Show)

Senior Citizens Shield

Ambrose Setterfield Memorial Shield

Oliver Bridges Challenge Cup (HO Bridges)

Miniature Challenge Cup

Novice Challenge Cup (N Allen)

Floral Art Challenge Cup (M Hart)

Victor Brown Memorial Bowl (J Brown)

Queen Elizabeth Cup (Zoe Benyon & A. Strang)

Social Club Ladies Challenge Cup (Social Club)

Wendy Greaves Memorial Cup (C Roberts)

Photography Cup (T Perkins)

Des Allen Memorial Cup (N Allen and family)

Handwriting Shield Yrs 1 & 2 (J Dunn)

Handwriting Shield Yrs 3 & 4 (J Dunn)

Handwriting Shield Yrs 5 & 6 (J Dunn)

Joan Dunn Memorial Cup Yrs 1 & 2 (Flower Show)

Joan Dunn Memorial Cup Yrs 3 & 4 (Flower Show)

Joan Dunn Memorial Cup Yrs 5 & 6 (Flower Show)

The Mrs Black Memorial Cup (Mrs S Smith)

Children's Cup (JK Strang JP)

Sarah Fraser

Luke Goulden

Glen Hoggins

Luke Goulden

Sarah Fraser

Jan Fletcher

Jan Fletcher

Luke Goulden

Luke Goulden

Jacky Postles

Julia Hayton

Jacky Postles

Harry Benyon

Emily Postles

Veronica Cottrell-Lilley

Mark Postles

Luke Goulden

Luke Goulden

Lucas Prucha

Austin Phelps

Isla Cooksley

Rory Meade

Jack McErlane

Alice Perfect

Robin McErlane

Ron Marillier RIP

From the family tributes read at Ron's funeral, held on Monday 23rd June at St Mark's Church



From Kevin: Over the last weeks and months I have been proud to see and hear so many messages to my dad and the family from so many friends and family around the world. It emphasised for me how my dad will be remembered by the people he knew, he was always interested in those around him, engaging, chatty, and he had a real zest for life. He had a great impact on the lives of many, throughout his life. In Rhodesia and Zimbabwe in the army and in his post army career, through his service to communities in many different ways, and to his friends and family. One thing that I noticed a lot in the last years, was how generous dad was with his time and attention. He would often be visiting people in hospital or friends in different parts of the country. He believed in sharing and giving his time to people in need. He also always had a strong faith, even right up until the end his faith endured, and I could see the peace that it brought him.

From Lara: Dad liked to include us kids in many of his hobbies, wanting to instil good habits in us and give us skills that would bring us enjoyment in the future. We spent many hours on the tennis court and on the golf course, with Dad patiently coaching us. Dad loved to sing, he had a lovely voice and was a member of the choir at our church in Bulawayo, and for a few years here in Englefield. Our home was often filled with Dad singing his favourite songs, mostly hymns, at the top of his voice. Dad also learned to play the mouth organ/harmonica while he was in the army. He couldn't read music, but he could play many tunes by ear. Dad was a proud grandfather and took obvious delight in seeing his grandchildren play and grow. I will always have lovely memories of him with my little ones - reading stories to them, and cuddling them, and encouraging them in their interests. He was also known to them as having a soft touch, and they would always ask Grandpa first if they could have that second biscuit.

From Andrea: Some of my favourite memories of my Dad are of the adventures we had together. There are too many to mention in detail but here are just a few: the two of us heading into the Vumba mountains on his motorbike one winter's day; being dumped together by many a giant wave while body boarding in the wild sea on the KwaZulu Natal coast; our horseriding era, when dad and I spent entire Saturdays, from dawn to dusk, riding horses on a farm in Esigodini; and a dad-and-daughter camping trip when we had three close encounters with a puff adder, a cobra and pack of barking baboons. Dad was also a prolific reader and a deep and serious thinker, and I always appreciated the many conversations and debates we have had over the years about history, politics, faith and so on. We didn't always agree but we heard each other out and continued to debate things. Growing up, there was no doubt in any of his children about how important his



St Mark's cake stall

We were delighted we managed to sell every single cake during the afternoon, thanks to some creative marketing! Together with an amazing 35 jars of School honey, this raised a total of £542.70 for school funds. So I think that was three hours (and a bit) well spent and a huge thank you to all the kind bakers who contributed and to the team of volunteers who braved the heat to man the stall.

Rev Julia

faith was to him. I'll never forget seeing him weep openly during a Christmas carol service, because that made me understand how deeply he felt about it all.

From Liz: Ron and I were married for almost 40 years. We were married in Mutare, and spent most of our married life in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe, and in Englefield, with three wonderful children, two loving, caring and supportive son-in-laws, and five very special grandchildren. How blessed we have been. My loving husband, my very best friend and my mentor, but above all, remembering Ron's deep faith, where he is surely resting in peace with Jesus now.

The service also included a tribute to Ron's courageous and inspirational military service given by Pat Lawless, Chairman, The Rhodesian African Rifles Regimental Association, which concluded:

A combat-proven and gifted infantry and special forces officer. A leader. A loyal friend. A trusted colleague. A spiritual guide. A devoted and loving husband to Liz, father to Andrea, Kevin, and Lara; and grandfather to James Ronald, Eleanor, Joshua, Leila and Jodie. A gentleman. These were just some of Ron's qualities; what was rare was that they all resided in one extraordinary man. Ron was guided by an unwavering moral compass, his strong conviction shaping the compassion and thoughtfulness he brought to every aspect of his life. His passing casts a long shadow. Our deepest condolences to Liz and the wider family.

Thank You

Very many thanks to the Englefield community and Church family for all your lovely cards, messages and letters of condolence, offers of support in different ways, and general love shown to me and my family before Ron died and afterwards. It has been truly overwhelming, and comforting to know how much Ron was loved and appreciated in his surroundings.

*A very big thank you to you all.
With love from Liz and all the family*

Englefield Parish Council

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

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 successful rescue

Our granddaughters were here for a week. It was half term and their mum and dad had gone off seeking sun and surf. The phone went. 'It's James.' He walks with a very large but timid greyhound. 'There's a very poorly, abandoned lamb stuck behind a fence and it can hardly stand up.' Time to ring Steve, the farmer, as I have not been farming at Rushall Farm for over ten years. However, my attempts to get hold of Steve failed.



Granddaughter and I go up to the field with the simple objective of uniting the lamb with its mum. So I did my best, amidst a mixture of 'barren' ewes who seemed to be doing the opposite, and a number of young sheep who had fallen foul of an errant ram lamb. All to no avail, so we had no alternative but to bring this tiny, premature lamb home, warning that it was unlikely to last the night.

The lamb had other ideas and, safe in the hands of granddaughter, immediately started sucking from a bottle. He has not looked back. Six weeks later he is still living in the kitchen, has grown a lot, started gambolling and playing with our dog. Interestingly he has chosen parts of the house and garden which he enjoys at different times in the day; under the desk after the first morning feed, round the front of the house to graze the excuse for a flower bed, in the shade if it's hot, but quite keen on sun bathing. The bonus for us is that he has become a celebrity 'Come and see the chickens AND the lamb' who now has been named Woolliam.

I wish it could be as simple to rescue many children coming through our schools today. We have been working extensively with a school where, despite a nurturing environment, the transition for children to secondary school has not been good. This year 80 of the children from year 5 and 6 have come on a five-week Growing for Good course and both year groups have been here on enrichment days. We encourage leadership, self-confidence and mutual respect and the weeks here have shown remarkable improvement in these qualities, and school attendance has improved. The proof of the pudding will be how these children get on when they start new schools in September. We know that God cares far more than we do for each individual child so we pray that they would go on to live fulfilled and generous lives in the future.

John Bishop, www.rushallfarm.org.uk

Are you a bridge player?

If you know how to play bridge and can already play Duplicate Bridge, the Tuesday Bridge Club, which is a friendly relaxed group, has spaces for a few new members. They meet every Tuesday in Englefield Village Hall at 9.50am for start of play at 10am, finishing about 1pm. If you are interested please contact Roger on 07801 846900.



From Englefield Primary School

'Sowing the Seeds for a Flourishing Future'

The summer is upon us and the children are excitedly and anxiously anticipating their new beginnings. For some it's onwards to pastures new, for others a smaller step in to KS2, but no matter how big or small, to those waiting for it to happen it can feel more like a huge leap of faith.

This term has been filled with learning and sprinkled with fun. The children have been all over the local area making the most of the fair weather wherever they could.



Our little ones completed their village study, comparing our little Englefield village to the HUGE (in comparison) village of Pangbourne. They spent time discussing what the differences could be before visiting each village and having a good look around. Rex said 'Pangbourne is much bigger than Englefield; it was very busy and there were more cars and shops'.

Key Stage 1 were also very lucky to take part in Pangbourne Church's annual Schools Day. What a wonderful day they spent learning about the importance of wellbeing in body and soul and how things like spiritualism and music can play a huge part in that. We thank St James the Less for hosting such an important event for our children - they had a wonderful time. Rex said, 'It was great! We got to ring the bells.'

The staff at the Five-A-Day garden have also been shaping little minds about the importance of wellbeing by explaining to them about healthy eating. Every year our children enjoy a visit to the garden to see how healthy foods can be grown by our own hands and this year something wonderful happened. Our children tended to and grew their own potatoes and they were so good, our cook Anita was able to use them to make the Wednesday roast dinner. What an achievement!

Key Stage 2 have been extremely busy too - the Englefield Schools Day is always a huge hit! The Year 3/4 class stayed out all day, saw parts of the Estate they hadn't seen before and had a lovely picnic in the grounds. There was also an array of activities to do such as measuring trees and fishing but the favourite amongst the children was looking around Englefield House. Liz goes above and beyond to put on this wonderful event for our children and they always come back to school buzzing about all the exciting things they have learnt. Lily said, 'I loved making a dragon fly at the health and community stand.'

Our Year 5 and 6 children started the term with a great deal of hard work. Assessment week was in May and this can be a challenge both physically and mentally; firstly with the preparation and then having to apply all they have learnt.

Each and every one of them took on the task with great maturity and resilience. They should be very proud of themselves for all their effort, we couldn't be prouder.

Sports day was a huge success. Children and families came together once again for a huge picnic on the field, the sun was out and everyone had a wonderful time. There was very little in it in the end with all four houses being within a point of each other. Every house tried their absolute best but in the end it was Hermes that took the cup. Well done Hermes, you certainly are a very sporty house.



The Englefield Flower Show was another triumph with much-needed funds being raised for the school. It was a scorching hot day but plenty of people still came and spent a lovely couple of hours socialising and taking part in the activities on offer. As always, the Maypole Dancing was a highlight. A particular thank you to Rev Julia and the congregation of St Mark's for hosting a produce stall which raised over £500 for the school – true community spirit in action.

At the time of writing, we have two days to go until the end of term and have no doubt that they will be emotional ones. Firstly, the Year 6 children will be having their farewell Pizza and (water) Pistols party followed the next day by an emotional Leavers Service at St Mark's and a good bye and good luck celebration for our Year 6 class. Every child leaves a lasting memory here at Englefield; it is a privilege to watch them learn and grow, and to be a part of that. We are so proud of our children and we wish them the best of luck for their new school adventures.

Hilary Latimer, Headteacher



Ride+Stride 2025

The Berkshire Historic Churches Trust raises funds to help with the cost of repairs of Christian churches in Berkshire. The Trust is supported entirely by subscriptions, donations and legacies - and the proceeds of Ride+Stride, our annual fundraiser which takes place this year on Saturday 13th September.

On that day, I aim to cycle to as many churches in the Bradfield Deanery as possible to thank them for their participation - a distance of 50 miles - and Lucy plans to undertake a marathon walk. Please support us - or even join us if you feel so inclined! We shall provide a link to our GoodHub page in an upcoming Sunday Sheet.

Torquil Montague-Johnstone



Summertime at the Five A Day

Despite the hot weather, we are harvesting lots of produce, reaping the benefits of all the hard work which is lovely to see. We have had good crops of courgettes, redcurrants, carrots, beetroot, onions, potatoes, broad beans, lettuce, raspberries, gooseberries and blackberries. Produce is selling well both from the garden and the gazebo at Englefield Garden Centre which is topped up regularly. We have a new bench in place near the main shed to sit and soak up the peaceful atmosphere.

Thyme Together: Good news! Thyme Together are now running a second session on Thursday mornings 10am-12pm, contact Ali on ali@fiveaday.org.uk or 07555 184343. The afternoon group enjoyed a tour of the Englefield kitchen garden on 26th June. They had tea and cake in the cut flower garden and toured the vegetable growing area picking up lots of tips/trade secrets like keeping veg growing in a drought, pest control and growing sweet potatoes.

Open Day: We had a successful Open Day. We are really proud to show off the garden to new visitors and this reflected in us selling lots of produce, cakes and refreshments and holding a tombola. All funds go directly into the 5ADAY pot.

Schools and uniformed groups: We opened the garden to over 230 children during the Englefield Schools Days. 14 different groups visited over the two very hot days but it didn't stop the children taking part in a nature hunt and enjoying the space.



Corporate groups: These last two months have been very busy with five corporate groups lending their muscles and skills in the garden. AWE, Huntsman, Vodafone and Virgin Media came in June working hard on fencing, weeding, making up bean sticks, planting and netting, edging paths and laying plastic. Vodafone and the Fire Service visited in July helping prep for the Open Day and doing a lot of work on the beds. Thank you to all of them.

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 which supports staff volunteering please email info@fiveaday.org.uk or call 07555 184343. Please leave a contact number. You can also visit our website at Fiveaday.org.uk and follow us on Facebook and now on Instagram!



Wendy Cadman

Five A Day Management team member and trustee

Schools Days 2025

Schools Days this year took place on two beautiful but baking hot days, with 1,700 children and adults from 34 Berkshire schools taking part.

The theme of the event was Sustainability: meeting our current needs without infringing on the capacity of future generations to meet their needs. The natural and built environment of the Estate provides a brilliant context to teach sustainability topics in an interactive way, with 28 different activities run by a combination of Estate staff, local organisations and volunteers. Activities ranged from guided tours of Englefield House, to grinding wheat to make flour with Rushall Farm's John Bishop and HBH Farming's Mike Goodenough, to searching water samples from the River Pang for freshwater invertebrates with Anna and Glyn from Action for the River Kennet. The schools had a fantastic time, and children were more engaged than ever, with insightful questions and eager participation in every activity.



Highlights included reenacting the Battle of Englefield with Ufton Court's Head of History, Grace Clark, and exploring the colours, scents and textures of the Five A Day Market Garden with Glen and the team. On such a hot day, the children were especially grateful for the hospitality of St Mark's Church and the shady woodland retreat provided by Berkshire Bat Rescue.



Our Maintenance, Gardening, Forestry and Gamekeeping departments all ran interactive activities, demonstrating work on the Estate. Jan Murray from Newbury & District Agricultural Society and Rushall Farm's Steve Waters taught pupils about milk and meat production with the help of a Hereford cow and calf.

We were delighted to have sixth formers from both Theale Green School and Pangbourne College leading maths lessons using two of our biggest trees – giant sequoias – to calculate circumference and estimate height. The students were a credit to their respective schools.

We have had some lovely feedback from visiting teachers, who commented that the activities were well resourced, staff and volunteers were excellent with the children and that it was an absolutely fantastic and informative day, inspiring children to look after nature and care for our environment. Thanks go to Liz Wirth at the Village Store for providing lunch for staff and volunteers and to all our staff and wonderful local organisations, as well as Richard Smith, Peter Broomfield, Margaret Stevens, Sheila Foster, Cindy Fowler and Helen Townsend for their support.

Dr Liz Mattison, Education & Environment Officer

Sunday	Sidesperson	First reading	Gospel	Prayers	Sacristan	Server	Sunday Club and crèche	Cleaners
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	Denny Hollands	Torquil MJ	No Sunday Club*	Pete and Carole Ford
August 17th 9th Sunday of Trinity	Torquil MJ	Graham Harvey	Denny Hollands	Penny Savage	Sue Smith	Paula Fenwick	No Sunday Club*	Penny Norris Saffy O'Sullivan
August 24th 10th Sunday of Trinity	Linda Price	Ronan O'Sullivan	Paul Myles	Saffy O'Sullivan	Penny Norris	Penny Savage	No Sunday Club*	Angie Higgins
August 31st 11th Sunday of Trinity	Pauline and Graham Harvey	James Meade	Torquil MJ	Paula Fenwick	Catherine Haig	Peter Haig	No Sunday Club*	Liz McKean
September 7th 12th Sunday of Trinity BCP	Paula Fenwick	Linda Price	Peter Haig	BCP	Penny Savage	Saffy O'Sullivan	No Sunday Club*	Peter and Catherine Haig
September 14th 13th Sunday of Trinity	Peter Haig	Carole Ford	Jean Rothery	Catherine Haig	Denny Hollands	Torquil MJ	Saffy O'Sullivan Liz McKean	Graham and Pauline Harvey
September 21st 14th Sunday of Trinity	Penny Savage	Aldo Guiducci	Kahlen Spaulding	Peter Haig	Sue Smith	Paula Fenwick	Hatty Harley Denny Hollands	Pete and Carole Ford
September 28th HARVEST FESTIVAL	Richard Benyon	John Rothery	Richard Benyon	Linda Price	Penny Norris	Denny Hollands	Liz McKean Saffy O'Sullivan	Penny Norris Saffy O'Sullivan
October 5th 16th Sunday of Trinity	Torquil MJ	Anne Edgar	Paula Fenwick	BCP	Catherine Haig	Penny Savage	No Sunday Club*	Angie Higgins
October 12th 17th Sunday of Trinity	Linda Price	Mike Kimber	Meryl Bonser	Richard Benyon	Penny Savage	Peter Haig	Saffy O'Sullivan Liz McKean	Liz McKean
October 19th 18th Sunday of Trinity	Pauline and Graham Harvey	Lorraine Dehn	Harry Benyon	Denny Hollands	Denny Hollands	Torquil MJ	Hatty Harley Saffy O'Sullivan	Peter and Catherine Haig

Bible readings will be emailed to readers beforehand. If you swap duties, please email catherinehaig@gmail.com and the churchwardens (paulapalaoalto@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.*



In loving memory

On 22nd June 2025, a sunny Sunday morning, families of Ken and Irene Painting gathered at Englefield on what would have been the 78th anniversary weekend of their wedding day at St Mark's.

Kenneth Painting married Irene Turnbull (daughter of John Turnbull, headmaster of Englefield Primary School of some 30 years) on 21st June 1947. Just over a year later they emigrated to Rhodesia to start their married life there. Both

chose the graveyard of St Mark's in Englefield as their final resting place and have had their ashes interred there.

Family members gathered from near and far – Lincolnshire, Yorkshire, Gloucestershire, Bedfordshire and Berkshire. As well as Zimbabwe, where Ken and Irene's daughter Margaret joined in the service with her husband Pat and youngest son Tim. A true coming together to honour and remember Ken and Irene – mum and dad, Granny and Grandpa, aunt and uncle. Held in loving memory for the warmth and care that they shared with those around them and for the wonderful people that they were.



We felt truly welcome and very much at home at both St Mark's and Englefield village. Everyone showed such interest and kindness right from the very start of our inquiry if such a gesture of remembrance would be possible. Rev Julia greeted everyone at the start of the service and prayers were offered for the life of Ken and Irene as well as the family members gathered.

Afterwards Rev Julia led wonderfully heartfelt prayers, blessings and time for reflection at Ken

and Irene's headstone. Offering an opportunity of a more intimate coming together for the family.

Afterwards we all congregated at the hall of Englefield Primary School for a family lunch, sharing of photos and memories and simply an opportunity to catch up. Hours flew by and our time together was thoroughly enjoyed.

Our sincere thanks to Rev Julia and everyone at St Mark's, Hilary and her team at Englefield Primary School, Richard the historian and detective and everyone else who made this wonderful event possible for us all. We simply couldn't have asked for a more perfect way to honour and remember Ken and Irene.

Zane Sweetman

The Rectory Garden

In the last edition the Rev Julia recommends wondering as an activity so here we may wonder a little more about that magnificent magnolia in the St Mark's House garden. The subject of our wondering here is whether the magnolia might owe its presence to Barbara Skipwith, daughter of the Rev Granville Gore Skipwith who was Rector between 1904 and 1921 when the Rectors were housed in what we now call the Old Rectory and the walled garden now surrounding St Mark's House was its kitchen garden. Barbara was a keen gardener from an early age and was given a plot in the kitchen garden in the area where that magnolia now stands.



In fact, this kitchen garden with its serpentine wall (sometimes called a 'crinkle-crankle wall' – there's another one behind Partridge Gardens, shown here) pre-dates the Old Rectory by many years and obviously belonged to the house that stood in front of today's Rectory Cottage until it was demolished when both the Old Rectory and Rectory Cottage were built in 1870.

This house also acted as a Rectory from the early 19th century until 1870, taking over that role from the earlier example that stood just behind the church and can be seen in the print by Charles Tomkins that hangs on a column in the church. The exchange came about as part of the final enclosure of Englefield that started in 1809 and was confirmed by an Act of Parliament in 1829. The land between the walled garden and The Street, including that on which the school stands, is known as Lorings' Meadow so we might wonder some more about Joshua Loring, supporter of the British in the American War of Independence, who lived in Englefield, perhaps in this house, after he fled America in 1783. We might also wonder about the placing of the apostrophe (as copied from the parish magazine of November 1891) suggesting that the meadow belonged to the family rather than just Joshua. Or it might just be wrong. Whichever, that magazine entry tells us that Mr Webb (presumably James Webb the shopkeeper, who obviously had some sort of ownership of the meadow at that time) kindly allowed the boys of the school to gather walnuts off the 'grand old tree' standing there. During World War Two part of the meadow became the school garden and continued as such for about a decade afterwards. There was a village tennis court at the back of the meadow next to the garden wall for some years and later the whole meadow became an annual sea of colour, filled with Bill Partridge's dahlias.

Barbara Skipwith was not yet three when she came to The Rectory in 1904 and her first memory of the kitchen garden she said was when two large, almost grown-up, cousins pulled her at break-neck speed in a little wheeled chair around the gravel paths bordered with box hedges. For the garden was laid out in the classical walled

garden style and had peaches, nectarines and plums growing in the alcoves of the serpentine wall with a big flower border in front of them. The Rector's staff then included a gardener (Frederick Cox living in Rectory Cottage) and a garden boy as well as four live-in servants and a cook. The cook was Clara Annie Claydon who 'lived-out' with her parents at the Club and married William Milne, the chauffeur to the Rector's father-in-law in 1910. In retirement they lived in Rectory Cottage.



On the outside of the serpentine wall Barbara described a great planting of Jerusalem artichokes and a path known as the 'school path'. At the end of the serpentine wall the path was interrupted by a wall with a door in it and beyond this continued past the school-master's house and the school (and the boys' lavatories) to the village street. When St Mark's House was built in 1963 the school path was widened to a road to provide

vehicle access and this continued to the Old Rectory with the loss of the wall and door. This new 'back drive' to the Old Rectory replaced the original that ran between the south-west wall of the kitchen garden and the garden of Rectory Cottage out to join the drive to Englefield House. Along this wall in Barbara's time was a huge box hedge but that succumbed to an incendiary accident in the 1950s. The disused back drive was incorporated into the garden of Rectory Cottage.

Between the old back drive and the school path, was the potting shed. Barbara describes helping her mother sow seeds there on a day when both the nurse and nursery maid were absent. In later times this was a dark place with an earth floor, the only light coming from the doorway on one side and a small window opposite which by the 1960s was completely overgrown. It was then long disused for gardening purposes though not without other uses. Barbara Skipwith continued her gardening and left a memoir of which we only have chapter 11, detailing her time at Englefield, from which some of the information above comes. She married Gerald Kenyon-Slaney, then a subaltern in the Grenadier Guards on 23rd June 1928.

Richard Smith

Pangbourne Bowling Club

Another season of Bowling is in full swing. After our Open Days we welcomed some new players to our ranks. We hold practice times on Monday afternoons and Friday evenings and there are regular matches. If you have never played Bowls before don't let that stop you coming, we have qualified coaches and any member would assist you with the basics. I have been playing for over 15 years and have made friends with so many people both from our club and from other clubs. They say the outdoors is good for one's health so coupled with exercise and friendship - it's a natural winner. If you would like to find out more please give me a ring.

Sue Jones, 07803 927767

Thoughts for the week

These reflections are from the short commentaries 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.

'So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.' (Luke 11 v 9-10)

Just how generous do we think God is? Is he open-handed or grudging when it comes to providing for our needs? Do we need to wear God down with our prayers and supplications to extract small favours from him? In this passage, Jesus is asked about how we should pray, and the subtext he answers seems to hit exactly this theme. He sets up two scenarios: a friend who is reluctant to help, and a human father's love for his child. Both of these examples give helpful contrasts between people and God, which illuminate the central teaching of v9-10. The friend needs some cajoling to respond to the person seeking bread; not so with God. The 'evil' father – Jesus speaks in hyperbole here to make the point – gives good things to his child; how much more will the 'good' God give to his children.

God is abundantly generous, and delights to give to his children – but what is it that Jesus is talking about here? Money? Material possessions? Health? What does God give so freely and generously that Jesus uses three separate illustrations in v9-10 to describe it? The answer comes in v13: it is the Holy Spirit, God's very presence, that he pours out so lavishly. Far from being aloof and far off, God longs to draw close to his people in intimate relationship and be present and active in their lives. The promise here is that nobody who approaches God with empty hands asking for him to bless them will be turned away by him. God is the perfect Father who knows the deepest needs of his children and loves to meet them – as his children, all we need do is ask honestly and expectantly.

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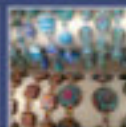
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