

Englefield Parish News

October - November 2025



The Parish of St Mark's, Englefield

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0118 9303595

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Parish Council

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

Front cover: *Colourful Harvest decorations in the porch at St Mark's, with flowers, fruit, vegetables and acorns arranged by the Flower Team, and one of a fine collection of vintage model tractors kindly loaned for the occasion by John Keeler.*

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 write to you as a global week of prayer comes to an end and a UK national week of prayer continues, I wonder when was the last time you said the Lord's Prayer?

A recent poll showed that people in the UK are more likely to identify a short extract from the Lord's Prayer than one from the National Anthem!

The polling, carried out for the Church of England, also found the reference in the prayer to being forgiven and forgiving others was the part people found most meaningful to them. Pollsters 'Savanta' surveyed more than 2,000 people across the UK. They asked them to match seven famous lines – spanning areas ranging from literature and history to popular culture – with their source, from a list of correct answers. Overall, the phrase from the Lord's Prayer was recognised correctly by the largest number of people (80.3%), just ahead of Star Wars (79.9%)! They were followed by Hamlet's 'To be or not to be' (73%), the extract from the National Anthem (63%), the line from Churchill's 'The Few' speech (61%), and *You'll Never Walk Alone* (58%).

Overall, 89% of those surveyed said that they had previously heard of the Lord's Prayer or the Our Father. This was highest among those who described themselves as Christian (95%), but also by 88% of those who said they had no religion.

The Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell, said: 'In a world of shifting cultures and changing circumstances, the Lord's Prayer remains a steady guide... Lines like "Give us this day our daily bread" speak powerfully to today's challenges, reminding us to seek sufficiency, not excess, and to consider what "enough" truly means.' Often though, familiarity can mean we don't say them deeply, or with real meaning so here is one Primary School's version to consider alongside the traditional translation. Jesus himself taught his disciples this prayer in Matthew chapter 6 and Luke chapter 11. It is a great start to every day!

Our Father in heaven, you are awesome!

Show us who you are

and how you want us to be.

Make earth more like heaven.

Please give us what we need to keep going each day. Give us this day our daily bread.

Help us when we are wrong

and clean us up on the inside.

Help us to let other people off and move on.

Keep us from bad stuff.

You're in charge!

You're strong and powerful

and always there. Forever! Amen.

Our Father, who art in heaven,

hallowed be thy name;

thy kingdom come; thy will be done;

on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation;

but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,

the power and the glory,

for ever and ever. Amen.



Your Rector, Julia

Diary dates

Evening Praise: last Sunday of every month, 6pm at Holy Trinity, Theale, next dates October 26th and November 30th.

Saturday 4th October: talk by Bishop Mary at Aldermaston Parish Hall, 9.30am, tickets £5 to include breakfast, details on page 15.

Tuesday 7th October: 'Arts & Creativity in Revolution and Spirituality', Bradfield Deanery SDG talk by Bishop Mary, 7.30pm at Bradfield College, details on page 7.

Wednesday 8th October and Wednesday 12th November: Let's Talk Theology.

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

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

Monday 24th November: St Mark's PCC meeting, 6.30pm.

Thursday 27th November: Englefield Flower Show AGM, details opposite.

Sunday 30th November: Advent Sunday (or Sherry Sunday!), 10.30am service at St Mark's, followed by a glass of sherry thanks to the churchwardens.

Sunday 14th December: St Mark's Carols by Candlelight, 4pm.

Local contacts

Englefield Estate Office	0118 930 2504; office@englefield.co.uk
Englefield Estate Yard	0118 930 2538 maintenance@englefield.co.uk
Englefield Stores & Tea Room	0118 930 2479 admin@englefieldstoresandtearooms.co.uk www.englefieldstoresandtearooms.co.uk/ https://www.englefieldvillagehall.co.uk/ info@englefieldvillagehall.co.uk
Englefield Village Hall	
Cobbs Farm Shop	0118 930 4064
Theale Medical Centre	0118 930 2513
NHS online coronavirus service	111.nhs.uk/covid-19 or call 111
Royal Berkshire Hospital	0118 322 5111
West Berks Community Hospital	01635 273300
Theale Pharmacy	0118 930 2542
Lloyds Pharmacy (Calcot)	0118 938 2265
NHS dentist Dentalcare, Pangbourne	0118 984 5894
West Berkshire Council	01635 551111 (out of hours 01635 42161) www.westberks.gov.uk/ www.englefieldpc.org.uk/ www.thealeparishcouncil.gov.uk
Englefield Parish Council	
Theale Parish Council	
Englefield Primary School	0118 930 2337; www.englefieldprimary.co.uk
Utility suppliers: Electricity - SSEN 0800 072 72; Oil - Ford Fuels 0148 872 829;	
Gas - National Grid 0800 111 999; Water - Thames Water 0800 714 614;	
Drainage - Total Drainage 0118 9421140	

Congratulations

To Victoria Savage and Tudor Price who were married on Saturday 6th September.

To Thomas and Rose Benyon on the birth of Nico, a brother for Sienna, born on Tuesday 16th September.

To Charlotte Rowden and George Picker who were married at St Mark's on Thursday 7th August.



Englefield Flower Show AGM

This will take place on Thursday 27th November starting at 7.30pm at Englefield Village Hall. Everyone is welcome. Please put the date in your diary and come along to support this community event. Refreshments to follow.

Gordon Fletcher, Committee Chairman

Singers please!

St Mark's Carols by Candlelight will take place this year on Sunday 14th December at 4pm. Please put the date in your diary and if you would like to join the choir for that service, under the direction of Daniel and Sandra Nicholls, email Sandra as soon as possible, sandranicholls64@outlook.com.

Harvest Festival

St Mark's annual Harvest celebration took place on Sunday 28th September this year and the church was beautifully, decorated with seasonal flowers, fruit and vegetables. Donations of foodstuffs and other items were requested for the West Berks Foodbank and the church collection went towards the work of Christian Community Action in Reading - see page 6 for more information about the inspiring work they do.





Autumn treats at the Store

What a great summer, lots of sunshine and happy faces in the Tea Room and Store. The flowers have looked wonderful this summer with so many compliments from customers - thank you Diane for all your hard work and Englefield Garden Centre.

We will soon go over to our autumn menu, so soups will be back along with some new Winter Warmers too! Did you know that we do loyalty cards for the hot drinks? Well, we are now doing them for the food too, each fully stamped food loyalty card earned throughout September, October and November entitles you to a HALF price meal on selected lines in January and February with us.

Christmas bookings are already in full swing, please give us a call if you wish to book with us and pay for your deposit. The Store is always full of locally produced beautiful craft items, so please have a look when you are next in. We also stock some really tasty jams, chutneys, biscuits and cakes as well as local honey and eggs and not to forget the Carte D'or ice cream.

If you're ever stuck for a gift idea for a loved one then we do Gift Vouchers for the Tea Room too!

I would like to give a shout out for the Tea Room ladies, they are a great bunch, working so hard to make it the wonderful place it is! As well as our lovely customers. It is such a fantastic place to be part of!

Liz and the Team

Why give to your local Foodbank?

- 400% increase in take up since March
- 16 tonnes of food parcels a month (up from 4 this time last year)
- A growing need in Theale

DROP OFF LOCATION:
Holy Trinity Church, Theale

WHEN?
SUNDAYS AND WEDNESDAYS
10.30AM TO 4.00PM

West Berkshire foodbank

Bulbs and bedding plants

There is an autumnal feel in the air. Now is the time to get your bulbs in ready for spring colour, we still have an amazing selection to choose from. It's also the perfect time to plant your bedding while it's still warm, giving them a great start before the cold weather sets in. We've recently invested in new benches within the garden centre to make your visit more enjoyable.

Our workshops for the people we support are growing again, which is fantastic. This is what we're all about, growing people with learning disabilities and helping them achieve whatever they want with the right support and mentoring. These workshops offer amazing opportunities to try new things and discover skills they didn't even know they had. Many of the plants grown here at the garden centre have been nurtured by the people we support.

We're already preparing for Christmas, with Christmas trees, poinsettias, and festive gifts on the way. Watch this space! If you don't yet follow us on Facebook, be sure to have a look to see all the lovely things we do.

Austin Crabbe, Garden Centre Manager



Awards for the Estate Office

Congratulations to the whole team involved with the refurbishment of the new Englefield Estate Office on being in the running for more awards this year. The project was shortlisted for the Architects Journal's Retrofit & Reuse Awards. In May, it won a British Council for Offices regional award and is now a finalist for the BCO national awards due to be announced in October. It is also a finalist

for the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors' Refurbishment/Revitalisation award, also due to be announced in October.

Talks by Bishop Mary

The new Bishop of Reading is giving two talks in the Bradfield Deanery. The first is a breakfast meeting on Saturday 4th October, at Aldermaston Parish Hall, RG7 4LW, where she will speak on 'The Four Movements of Reconciliation'. Tickets £5 to include breakfast, contact jmanley.awb@gmail.com. The second is the termly Spiritual Development Group lecture on Tuesday 7th October at 7.30pm at Bradfield College, when Bishop Mary will be speaking on the 'Role of Arts & Creativity in Revolution and Spirituality'. See the poster overleaf for details.



Restoring hope with God's grace

'My name is Clarie Lewis, and I have had the privilege of serving as Head of Operations for Christian Community Action Ministries for almost two years,' Clarie shares.

But her connection to CCA goes back much further. Fifteen years ago, when her life was 'interrupted', Clarie found herself in need, and CCA was there for her. That experience shaped her deeply: 'I know firsthand what it means to walk through those doors at your lowest point,

and I will never forget the dignity, hope, and practical help I received.'

Today, Clarie leads with empathy, overseeing safeguarding, HR, mental wellbeing, and compliance. At the heart of her role is a simple mission: ensuring every individual who turns to CCA feels seen, valued, and supported.

And the very items they reuse and recycle carry a special meaning:

'What makes our work so beautiful is its dual purpose. The recycled furniture and white goods we supply are not only strong, durable, and better made than many modern alternatives – they also embody stewardship of God's creation. By reusing and restoring, we protect the environment while transforming lives. Every sofa, every fridge, every table is more than an item – it's a piece of hope, a reminder that care and compassion can be woven into even the most practical of things.'

Transforming lives

CCA runs four community-focused charity shops across Reading, each helping to make a difference to the lives of local people. Perhaps the most powerful testimony to CCA's work comes from those who have been supported. One mother, who fled domestic violence, shared her story:

'I stood in our new permanent accommodation and cried. I told my children it was a new adventure, but the truth was – it was just an empty shell. No flooring, no white goods, nothing. The council referred us to CCA. I called them with an angry, defiant voice, expecting another charity just ticking boxes. But instead, I was met with kindness. The lady on the phone told me it was brave to ask for help – and foolish not to. She listened. She understood. She walked me through the process and helped me get the essentials. Slowly, CCA helped me build a home. Whenever I felt down, I called her – and she was there. Two years later, I'm stronger. My kids are flourishing. People say CCA just provides furniture. That's not true. They gave me hope. They kept me warm and safe in my darkest place. Thank you, CCA.'

We are more than furniture

As Clarie says, 'At Christian Community Action Ministries, we don't just save resources – we help save lives. And I am honoured, every single day, to be part of that calling.'



Imagining more: the Role of Arts & Creativity in Revolution and Spirituality

*A talk by The Right Reverend Mary Gregory,
Bishop of Reading*



Whilst Canon for the Arts and Reconciliation at Coventry Cathedral, Bishop Mary developed an understanding of reconciliation as being borne of 'rich storytelling and courageous listening' and of the place of the imagination and creativity in conflict resolution, kingdom change and spirituality.

*Tuesday 7th October 2025 – 7:30pm
at The Music Hall,
Bradfield College*

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



Spiritual Development Group BRADFIELD DEANERY
PUBLICITY OFFICER – Gordon Patterson E: gordonpatterson195@gmail.com M: 07764 476361

Join us for Christmas Lunch
Friday 2nd December - 7th December
12.30pm - 2.45pm
BOOKING ESSENTIAL - Please call to book

TWO COURSES

CIN ABETUAL
Traditional Christmas dinner

MAIN
Traditional Christmas dinner
Glazed Carrots, Gravy, Hot Potato, Brussels, Baked Potatoes, Cranberry, Truss, Cranberry Sauce, Baked Potatoes, Baked Potatoes, Baked Potatoes

DESSERT
Christmas pudding, creamed custard, mince pies

TO FINISH
Hot coffee or tea

E29.45 PER PERSON
Includes: all service charges, VAT, booking

CHRISTMAS LUNCH TO GO
US IN THE FESTIVE SPIRIT
Including mince pies, cranberry sauce, baked potatoes

Call welcome

Join us for Christmas Lunch

Join us for Christmas Afternoon Tea
only available on the following Saturdays:
24th November, 1st, 8th & 15th December
12.30pm - 2.45pm | Booking essential - Please call to book

A CHRISTMAS SANDWICH SELECTION
Including: Christmas sandwiches, mince pies, cranberry sauce, baked potatoes, cranberry sauce, baked potatoes, cranberry sauce, baked potatoes

E23.95 PER PERSON
Includes: mince pies, cranberry sauce, baked potatoes, cranberry sauce, baked potatoes, cranberry sauce, baked potatoes

ACCOMPANIED WITH
A glass of prosecco or still water

Join us for Christmas Afternoon Tea



Ride+Stride 2025

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

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

Walking for eight hours certainly provided me with ample time to reflect on life, appreciate what I have around me, and acknowledge the fact that I am able to do this. It also highlighted the value of the church community.



My marathon walk took me from St Mark's, Englefield, into Theale (Holy Trinity) and then along the Kennet and Avon Canal to St Mary the Virgin, Burghfield. From there, I continued along the canal and into Reading, where a fair few churches were clocked up! I then made my way back via Tilehurst, Sulham, and down into Tidmarsh before finally heading to the finish line and back to St Mark's, Englefield, where Julia Myles, our Rector, Paula Fenwick, one of our church wardens and other members of the congregation were there to welcome me back. Thank you.

I did spot a few additional participating churches in the listing this year and so I wanted to beat my record of 20 churches visited (not that I am at all competitive). Can you spot the additional three churches from last year? (See Parish News, same time the previous year).

Lucy Roper



On behalf of the Berkshire Historic Churches Trust and the PCC of St Mark's, we are extremely grateful for the support given to our Ride+Stride efforts. We would

like to thank you all, including those who have given anonymously who we are unable to thank personally. As you can see above, Lucy completed her marathon walk visiting 23 churches, whilst I managed to visit 22 churches across the Bradfield Deanery covering a distance of 60 miles with, as ever, grateful thanks to Peter Haig for the loan of his e-bike (you try doing it without e!). I sadly managed to miss the photo op and the champagne outside St Mark's due to time pressure and had to be revived with a large whisky thanks to Peter and Catherine!

We have so far raised approximately £1,500 but it is not too late to donate at <https://www.goodhub.com/go/berkshire-historic-churches-trust-15612>!

Torquil Montague-Johnstone

These are the churches visited by Lucy shown in the montage opposite:

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

Reading Central: 4 Christ Church; 5 St Giles; 6 Quaker Friends' Meeting House; 7 St Mary's Episcopal Chapel; 8 Reading Minster; 9 Greyfriars; 10 St Laurence; 11 Abbey Baptist; 12 First Church of Christ Scientist; 13 Wesley Methodist; 15 Holy Trinity; 15 All Saints; 16 St Mark; 17 Emmanuel Methodist

Reading West and Tilehurst: 18 St George; 19 St Michael; 20 St Catherine

Bradfield and District: 21 St Nicholas, Sulham; 22 St Laurence, Tidmarsh; 23 St Mark's

Special services at St Mark's

Join us for our annual Service of Remembering Our Loved Ones at 4pm on Sunday 2nd November.

A week later we will be marking Remembrance Day at the service on Sunday 9th November, with the Act of Remembrance and two minutes silence at 11am.

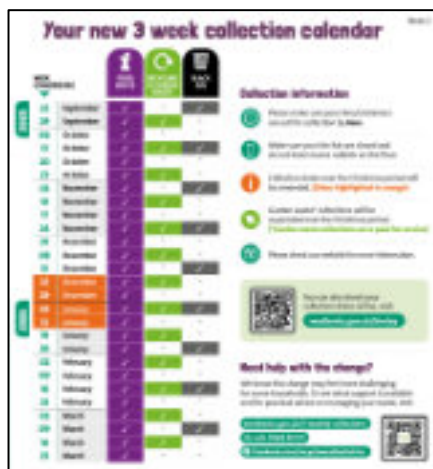


New black bin schedule

With the new three-weekly black bin collections now in place, a waste and recycling leaflet, including the new collection calendar, should have already arrived or will be arriving shortly by post. If you haven't received it or prefer a digital version, you can use West Berks Bin Day Finder to view your updated collection calendar and next collection dates at www.westberks.gov.uk/binday (as pictured here).

Collection days of the week are not changing so if your bin day is a Friday, it will still be a Friday, but the frequency that your black bin is collected will change from fortnightly to three weekly. Green waste and recycling will continue to be collected on a fortnightly basis, and food waste bins every week.

For FAQs and further details, please visit: www.westberks.gov.uk/3-weekly-collections.



Parish Council



All is not lost!

The start of this very dry summer brought back vivid memories of the summer of 1976. We had just moved into a newly-built, dark brick house with no shade, and an oil fired Aga for cooking. We roasted day and night. That year promise was high, with autumn and spring crops well sown. For some farmers yields were good but here there was plenty of straw but not much grain and no grass. This year the autumn and spring were very wet, and then no rain, so seeds were planted in bad conditions and developed poor root systems. Some crops did thrive, like oil seed rape, but generally wheat yields are down 5%, with very good quality but hugely variable yield. Prices have hardly altered, so it is challenging times for farmers. For those with cattle and sheep it has been hard to keep food in front of them, with no grass, and the ground too dry for the usual sowings of turnips and kale for autumn feed. Supplies of straw are also very short and expensive.

So, it is amazing that in spite of it all nationally the grain stores are full and we thank God for His provision. Of course there have also been masses of soft fruit, apples, pears and plums. The oak trees are laden with acorns.

But those of us growing vegetables have despaired. It seems to have been too hot for runner bean flowers to set or well-meaning cucumber plants to produce a cucumber. Even tomatoes have struggled with poor yields. And leeks; well they really want rain, don't they?

All is not lost though! I was encouraged when a child with her class was visiting the chickens and she asked me what I did. It always takes me a long time to answer questions but I did my best, without boasting. The child looked confused. The teacher standing by intervened, 'He is like the caretaker, like Mr Roberts who brought us here in the minibus,' she explained. So, it is a new sense of freedom and purpose that this autumn brings. Interestingly, I was cleaning the toilets a couple of days later when a young man came looking for a Thames Water meter. With our own bore hole and septic tanks I was able to send him on his way. As we parted, he said, 'I hope you have some glam this evening.' I said, 'It's OK, I've met the King.' He replied, 'Humble man, humble cleaning toilets when you have met the King.'



John Bishop OBE
www.rushallfarm.org.uk



From Englefield Primary School

'Sowing the Seeds for a Flourishing Future'

As always, the start of the academic year has been full to the brim of fun and laughter with a whole lot of learning sprinkled in! We have welcomed our lovely new FS2 class who are already fully embracing our values visibly in the way they are making friends, exploring their environment and taking on their new challenges with joy.

We have had our first Celebration Assembly of the year, during which we celebrated all the things the children have achieved over the summer...the hall was jam-packed with parents and grandparents sharing the celebrations. As always we have had a huge number of certificates for completing the library reading challenge. This is no small feat! In order to achieve the certificate, the reader must read SIX BOOKS! Nurturing a love for reading is always a main goal amongst staff at Englefield so when the certificates flood in the sense of pride is palpable.



At the beginning of each year the children are allocated jobs such as Worship Group, Buddies and Tech Team. The older children also have extra roles that they can put themselves forward for: House Captain and OPAL Crew. Each candidate bravely wrote and delivered a speech, stating why they should be chosen and the standard of speeches was exceptional this year! Congratulations to Oscar and Felicity on becoming Head Boy and Head Girl, and a huge congratulations to all of our candidates for the hard work and dedication they have put in to this process.

This term is a huge one for our 'famous' Englefield School Choir who have already started their practice for the Junior Music Festival which will be happening in November. The Autumn term is the time for the Harvest Festival and the choir are all set to sing their beautiful harvest songs at St Mark's before switching into Christmas mode for the next half term...and who doesn't love a Christmas carol!



Years 5 and 6 will be off to Rhos y Gwaliau in November. This is a week-long residential crammed full with adrenaline-filled activities such as gorge walking and high ropes, mountain climbing and scrambling through a mine. For some it will be their first time being away from home for a full week. It is a test of endurance but one that shows each child how resilient, brave and strong they are; they always come home with a huge sense of achievement and a bucketful of memories to keep forever.



We at Englefield are blessed to not only have kind, hardworking children but we are always amazed at the willingness of parents, grandparents and local residents to come in and help. It is going above and beyond for people to give up their free time and dedicate it towards helping other people's children who need that little extra support. These children are not only benefiting academically but they are witnessing first hand that kindness comes in so many ways. Much deeper than sharing with your friends or helping mum and dad with dinner, they experience people caring about others who they do not even know. Thank you to everyone who gives up their time to help us...we couldn't do it without you!

Hilary Latimer, Head teacher





Autumn plans at the Five A Day

Garden: Watering has again been top of the list of activities. We have been harvesting lots of produce, reaping the benefits of all our hard work which is lovely to see. We have picked apples and pears early before the wasps took advantage. We also cropped a plentiful supply of gooseberries, redcurrants and fruit generally and the plum tree has fruited this year to boot! Produce sold well again both from the garden and the gazebo at Englefield Garden Centre which is topped up regularly.

Thyme Together: Thyme Together continue to run their sessions on Thursdays – 10am to 12pm and 1pm to 3pm. For details please contact Ali on ali@fiveaday.org.uk or 07555 184343. The morning group started at the end of August with preparations for the new raised beds which will be on a hard standing base to accommodate wheelchair users. The afternoon group have been working hard cropping their produce, prepping beds and planning activities over the winter period.



Volunteers: We have welcomed Anna to the Friday group and are actively looking for anyone who would like to volunteer especially for the Thursday group.

Schools and uniformed groups: The Ella's Explorers continue to base their visits at Rushall Farm until November due to the road closure in Bradfield.

Workshops and events: The bat walk on 12th September was very successful with 25 people taking part and plans are afoot to run it again in late April next year. Five species of bat were identified! We are taking bookings for the Pumpkintastic carving session on Saturday 25th October 10am-12pm. Please tell all your friends with children/grandchildren about it. More details are on our website, www.fiveaday.org.uk. Contact 5adayevents@gmail.com to book.



Corporate groups: These last two months we have been privileged to welcome four corporate groups to the garden. AWE, Amazon, Newbury Building Society and Britannia all brought teams who, amongst other tasks, planted, turned the compost heap, clipped the long hedge, prepped the new Thyme Together wheelchair accessible area and weeded. Our grateful thanks go out to all of them.

Our popular Christmas wreath making workshops are being run again this year and dates have just been confirmed. Please see page 23 for details and keep an eye out on our social media and if you subscribe to our newsletter.

We are always looking for volunteers who may be able to support us in the garden or with workshops. 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 if you know of a business which supports staff volunteering please email info@fiveaday.org.uk or call 07555 184343. Please leave a contact number where you can be reached. You can also visit our website at Fiveaday.org.uk, follow us on Facebook and find us on Instagram at Five A Day Garden!

Wendy Cadman

Five A Day Management team member and trustee

The Four Movements of Reconciliation

You are invited to a talk

by the Bishop of Reading, the Rt Revd Mary Gregory

on Saturday 4th October at 9.30am at Aldermaston Parish Hall.

The Street, Aldermaston, Reading RG7 4LW



Bishop Mary grew up in rural Leicestershire and Lincolnshire. She went to university in Birmingham where she read English Literature. On graduating, Mary joined the Prison Service, serving for ten years as an officer and, latterly, as a governor. It was in the Prison Service that Mary first developed her interest in reconciliation, coming to understand that the first movement of reconciliation is personal; that we are to be each reconciled to ourselves. Mary was consecrated as Bishop of Reading on 27th February 2025

Tickets £5 each to include a continental breakfast

(gluten free options available)

Available from The Revd Jane Manley

jmanley.awb@gmail.com

01189 712 891

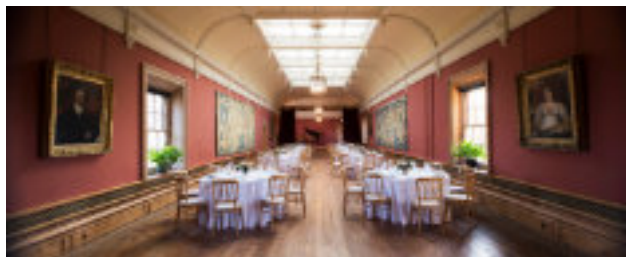
Sunday	Sidesperson	First reading	Gospel	Prayers	Sacristan	Server	Sunday Club	Cleaners
October 5th 16th Sunday of Trinity	Torquil MJ	Mike Kimber	Paula Fenwick	BCP	Denny Hollands	Penny Savage	No Sunday Club*	Anji Higgins
October 12th 17th Sunday of Trinity	Linda Price	Anne Edgar	Harry Benyon	Richard Benyon	Penny Savage	Peter Haig	Saffy O'Sullivan Liz McKean	Liz McKean
October 19th 18th Sunday of Trinity	Pauline and Graham Harvey	Lorraine Dehn	Meryl Bonser	Denny Hollands	Denny Hollands	Torquil MJ	Hatty Harley Saffy O'Sullivan	Peter and Catherine Haig
October 26th Last Sunday of Trinity	Peter Haig	Graham Harvey	Denny Hollands	Saffy O'Sullivan	Sue Smith	Denny Hollands	Liz McKean Meryl Bonser	Pete and Carole Ford
November 2nd All Saints BCP	Penny Savage	Ronan O'Sullivan	Paul Myles	BCP	Penny Norris	Paula Fenwick	Saffy O'Sullivan Denny Hollands	Graham and Pauline Harvey
November 9th Remembrance Day	Torquil MJ	James Meade	Torquil MJ	Penny Savage	Catherine Haig	Peter Haig	Hatty Harley Meryl Bonser	Penny Norris Saffy O'Sullivan
November 16th 2nd Sunday before Advent	Linda Price	Carole Ford	Jean Rothery	Paula Fenwick	Penny Savage	Penny Savage	Liz McKean Saffy O'Sullivan	Anji Higgins
November 23rd Christ the King	Paula Fenwick	Linda Price	Saffy O'Sullivan	Catherine Haig	Denny Hollands	Saffy O'Sullivan	Hatty Harley Denny Hollands	Liz McKean
November 30th Advent Sunday	Richard Benyon	Aldo Guiducci	Dinah Perkins	Linda Price	Sue Smith	Torquil MJ	Saffy O'Sullivan Meryl Bonser	Catherine and Peter Haig
December 7th 2nd Sunday of Advent BCP	Liz Marillier	Peter Haig	Kahlen Spaulding	BCP	Penny Savage	Denny Hollands	Liz McKean Saffy O'Sullivan	Pete and Carole Ford
December 14th 3rd Sunday of Advent	Pauline and Graham Harvey	John Rothery	Meryl Bonser	Richard Benyon	Penny Norris	Paula Fenwick	Saffy O'Sullivan Denny Hollands	Graham and Pauline Harvey
December 21st 4th Sunday of Advent	Penny Savage	Mike Kimber	Harry Benyon	Peter Haig	Catherine Haig	Peter Haig	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 (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.*

The fire at Englefield House

Some sources say that Englefield House was completely destroyed by fire in 1886 and rebuilt in the Tudor style. This is shown by all the records of the time not to be true, although the interior of the Long Gallery was burnt out on 12th August in that year – a not so glorious day! There had been an earlier fire (21st October 1843) in the scullery at about four o'clock in the morning but that was discovered by a carter going to market and soon put out before the Reading fire engine got there. No harm was recorded on that occasion except to some furniture damaged in its hasty removal to safety.



The 1886 fire was first noticed at about 3.30 in the afternoon by a bricklayer repairing a part of the house. Smoke and then flames were seen issuing from the roof of the Long Gallery (shown above as it is today), near a stack of chimneys from the servants' quarters below it. The alarm was raised and the first on the scene was Mr Rhind, the Clerk of Works, who with assistance got the manual pump into service from a standpipe in the front courtyard. At about the same time, Mr Shrimpton the bailiff from Chalkpit Farm arrived with the farm pump. The House servants also made good use of hose from the several hydrants around the building but the flames spread rapidly and the whole roof of the Long Gallery was soon in flames, which then worked downwards to the Long Gallery itself and then to the servants' bedrooms and the laundry below it. Luckily the gas (acetylene, made in the plant at the Timber Yard) was turned off at the meter preventing an explosion.

Mr Benyon who was suffering from rheumatism was at home at the time but Mrs Benyon and their daughter were being driven along the Bath Road to a garden party at Ufton Court. Seeing a large volume of smoke coming from the House she returned with all speed and persuaded her husband to go to the Rectory, where he remained that night. Mrs Benyon herself organised the household servants and the other estate workers who had arrived from the village and around the estate in removing the many art treasures from the Long Gallery into the garden – without significant harm this time. Along with Mr Rhind and Mr Shrimpton, others from the estate included Mr Coombes (Head Gardener), Mr Chiselham (the Butler) and Mr Jenkin Davies (Wickcroft Farm tenant). As the news spread, many people from the surrounding villages also arrived to help including farmers Mr Hart from Sulhamstead, Mr Chillingworth from Bradfield and Mr Bucknell from Ufton.

As the seat of the fire was so close to the wall separating the Long Gallery wing from the principal rooms of the House it was thought prudent to remove the contents of the rooms and the lawns were soon strewn with furniture, statuary, ornaments, pictures and other valuables including Mrs Benyon's jewellery. The latter being placed in the care of the Constabulary under Supt Pocock, who had fortuitously been in the area, suffered no harm but a number of other items were not well served in being thrown from the windows in the haste. It rained later in the night so there was a further scramble to find every scrap of covering to protect all the items on the lawns. Supt Pocock and his 12 men were further employed to prevent the large crowd which gathered from coming into the gardens.

The Reading Volunteer Fire Brigade with their steam engine arrived at about 6pm and, placing their hose in a pond to the rear of the conservatory on the east side of the House, soon made a noticeable effect on the extent of the fire. The 'County' engine from Reading arrived at about the same time and shared the same water source with their Volunteer comrades. Soon after came the steam engine from Maiden Erlegh, having been summoned by telephone from the Kennels on the Bath Road, and a manual engine that had been given by Mr Benyon to the people of Mortimer and stationed at Church Farm. These two drew their water from the lake in front of the House and ran their hoses across the terrace and into the courtyard to concentrate on that side of the building. Nonetheless, the fire assumed alarming proportions during the evening and the Newbury Brigade was telegraphed for, arriving at about 11.30. They too drew from the lake and brought the water to play on the roof of the burning wing, allowing the Maiden Erlegh crew to stand down.

These combined efforts eventually obtained mastery of the blaze and at about 4am all fears of the fire spreading came to an end. The Newbury crew left by 6am but some members of the two Reading crews remained until 8am, at which time the fire was out and they returned home, albeit with three of the Volunteer crew nursing injuries, luckily only minor ones, after the ceiling of one of the lower rooms fell on them.

The origin of the fire, whether the laundry, the kitchen or one of the servants' bedrooms, was not discovered but the whole wing including these rooms and the Long Gallery was completely gutted with only the bare walls remaining and the servants lost nearly all their belongings. In an unwanted supplement, the roof and attics of Mr Benyon's London house (17 Grosvenor Square) were also burnt out in a fire just three years later.

Richard Smith

The old hand-operated fire pump, above right, was superseded in 1894 by a horse-drawn engine with a steam-powered pump, operated by Englefield's own Fire Brigade.



Harvest Festival Puzzle Sheet

H	P	E	A	R	L	L	W	T
C	A	M	S	S	A	A	H	P
C	O	R	N	P	V	A	E	A
P	A	P	V	R	I	S	A	P
E	N	U	R	E	T	R	T	P
C	R	O	P	S	S	Y	E	L
R	B	Y	M	M	E	T	A	E
S	I	B	I	T	F	I	R	S
I	O	N	I	O	N	S	S	B

Word Search

HARVEST
FESTIVAL
CROPS
WHEAT

APPLES
ONIONS
PEAR
CORN

Harvest Sudoku

	4	2	3
2			1
			4

3	1		
	3		
	2	1	3

			2
2	4		3
3			
			1



Word Finder

V	R	S
A	H	T
E	O	C

How many words
can you find?

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.

'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.' (Luke 15 v 6b)

How much are you worth? How do you know? Many of us can easily slip into the world's methods of appraisal, and consider a person's value (including our own) by familiar metrics like income, popularity, job title, power or influence. Very quickly, this leads to comparisons and pride (or perhaps resentment and jealousy). No good can come from such assessments. By contrast, Jesus' parable here acts as an antidote to this approach, and turns the values of the world upside down. While the world would look at the 99 sheep and ignore the stray, Jesus focuses specifically on the lost one – each individual matters deeply to him. More than that, he ends his parable equating the one lost sheep with 'sinners' (those who have fallen short of God's standards, and feel it). For Jesus, finding the one lost sheep; the redemption of a single sinner who repents, is a matter for great celebration. We are intrinsically of great worth, and we know that because Jesus tells us so.

'Large crowds were travelling with Jesus, and turning to them he said: If anyone comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters – yes, even their own life – such a person cannot be my disciple. And whoever does not carry their cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.' (Luke 14 v 25-27)

Fads are nothing new. Novelty always attracts a following, and Jesus was no exception. As he travelled around news about him spread, and large crowds followed him hoping to see more of the amazing things he was doing. To these crowds, Jesus uses hyperbole to make his point. Following him is a serious matter. He isn't telling us to hate our families (which would contradict much of his other teaching); rather, he is emphasising the importance of having him as first priority in our lives. Compared to your love for me, Jesus is saying, your love for friends, family, even your own life will look like hate by comparison. He emphasises this in referencing the carrying of a cross. In his setting, Jesus isn't just talking about putting up with some hardship (as in the modern expression of having a 'cross to bear'). In the first century, those who carried their cross were condemned criminals being led out to their execution. Jesus is saying to a fickle crowd that following him is costly. It isn't a trivial matter to be one of his disciples; it will cost you everything you have. He says the same to us today. Following Jesus means putting him first in our lives; making everything else – our human relationships, our money, even our very lives themselves – secondary compared to him. But it is worth it. As he says elsewhere, 'whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will save it' (Luke 9:24).



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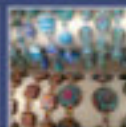
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