

Englefield Parish News

June - July 2026



The Parish of St Mark's, Englefield

Rector: Rev Julia Myles 0118 9303595
rector@stmarksenglefield.org.uk

Churchwarden: churchwarden@stmarksenglefield.org.uk
Paula Fenwick 07850 603508

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

Parochial Church Council

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0118 9410808

Treasurer: Oliver Bodger treasurer@stmarksenglefield.org.uk

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

Englefield Parish Council

Chairman: 0118 302504
Edward Crookes cllr.e.crookes@englefieldparishcouncil.gov.uk

Clerk: 07725 171223
Mel Taylor clerk@englefieldparishcouncil.gov.uk

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

Front cover: *A detail from one of the collection of beautifully embroidered altar frontals at St Mark's. This one was used for Pentecost Sunday on May 24th, the 'birthday' of the church.*

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

St Mark's weekly worship continues without fail every Sunday, rain or shine. I started my annual report to the church by saying, 'I never want you to underestimate the way that our gathering, our prayers, our worship, and our proclamation, hold and affect the community around but not in this church. They may not all be here - but they *would* mind if we weren't here!' I do hope that is true and that you are all glad that we are here! Also that you feel a bit of a part of what we do in church, even if you are a rare attendee. We pray for you, our community, as individuals and organisations. And we thank God for you!

You may not have heard the news that Paul and I will soon leave this community and move to Cornwall in August. This is my penultimate letter and I really want to explain how it happened and it is not because we don't love Englefield. It *will* be a real wrench to leave you all.

We had been asking God about where to buy our retirement home for the last two years since we sold on IOW. Our plans were to buy within two hours of here. Our search took us many places along the coast with no sense of rightness or a community or a suitable house. Then we celebrated our 40th wedding anniversary with a few days back at our honeymoon hotel in Falmouth. It was here that we realised, with our ongoing family connections and our history that this was one of the few places that felt like home to us. After several dashes down by Paul to view potential houses, God interrupted our plans and on one visit presented us with a final adventure by the sea *before* we retire completely. I will be Assistant Minister in Penryn Benefice without legal responsibility for a building or churchyard. This means that I hope to focus on my gifts and passion of telling people about Jesus and coming alongside those in need...hopefully with a bit of fun and creativity on the way.

There has never been the time to do many things I would have wanted to, and I have failed to do many things I would have loved to do – a monthly family service, consistent vibrant prayer meetings, in depth Bible and life discussion groups, and I have of course failed at things that are not my strengths. This 'interruption' was a surprise that we realised felt right. Though it was unexpected, it does feel like God's invitation. Sometimes God does the unexpected if we are open to Him interrupting our plans...and this brings me to you who remain. St Mark's will continue to meet, week in week out, and it will need you all to show your support and perhaps to get more involved. You might start by letting us know what you would value most in your new Rector.

Your Rector



Diary dates

Summer concerts at St Mary's Aldermaston, see page 10 for details.

Let's Talk Theology, 7.30pm, second Wednesday of every month, for more information contact Carol Boulter. Next dates June 10th and July 8th.

Evening Praise: last Sunday of every month, 6pm at Holy Trinity, Theale, next dates June 28th and July 26th.

Englefield Countryside Days for Schools: Wednesday 10th and Thursday 11th June.

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

Petertide parish picnic at St Mark's House following the morning service, Sunday 28th June, see opposite for more details.

Englefield School Fete: Saturday 11th July, 12 to 4pm.

Englefield Village Bingo and fish and chips: Friday 17th July, 6.30pm in the Village Hall, book in at the Village Stores.

Heritage Live concerts in the park: Thursday 23rd July to Sunday 26th July, see page 4 of this issue for more details or follow the links on the Englefield Estate website.

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/
Englefield Village Hall	https://www.englefieldvillagehall.co.uk/ info@englefieldvillagehall.co.uk
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/
Englefield Parish Council	www.englefieldpc.org.uk/
Theale Parish Council	www.thealeparishcouncil.gov.uk
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 Chris Gittins who celebrated his 80th birthday in February.

To Mary Jane Hawson and Peter Baldwin who were married at St Mark's on Saturday 28th March.

To Ray Stevens who celebrated his 80th birthday in April.

To Christopher and Paula Fenwick on their Silver Wedding anniversary in April.

To Catherine Walker and George Hawkswell who were married at St Mark's on Saturday 23rd May.

St Mark's events

Our Petertide Picnic is on Sunday 28th June. There will be coffee in church after the service, then you are invited to bring your picnics and chairs to St Mark's House where cold drinks and scones, strawberries and cream will be provided.

St Mark's is running a produce stall at the Englefield School Fete on Saturday 11th July. Please do come along and support the fete and the stall by donating whole cakes and produce items such as fruit, vegetables, eggs, jams and plants. We would also welcome volunteers to help sell the produce. Please contact Rev Julia.

A fond farewell and a new opportunity

This summer, Englefield Parish Council will be saying a sad goodbye to Paul Myles, as he and Julia set off for a new adventure in the West Country. Paul has been a valued and enthusiastic member of the Parish Council, always ready to contribute to discussions and lend his thoughtful voice to the topics that come our way.

While we will miss Paul enormously, both around the Council table and as a familiar face in village life, we send him and Julia off with our warmest wishes as they begin this exciting next chapter.

Paul's departure does, however, open up an opportunity for someone new to join the Parish Council. If you've ever felt that you might enjoy helping to shape the future of our community, this could be your opportunity. To find out more, simply drop an email to our Parish Clerk, Mel, at clerk@englefieldparishcouncil.gov.uk who'll be very happy to provide more information.

You can also explore the minutes of our meetings on our website: <https://englefieldpc.org.uk/>

Mel Taylor, Clerk to the Parish Council

Englefield summer concerts 2026

From Thursday 23rd until Sunday 26th July, a full programme of acts is set to entertain guests in the park in front of Englefield House as Heritage Live returns for another unmissable summer of live music.

Kicking off the concert series on Thursday 23rd July, Faithless will headline, bringing their iconic catalogue of dance anthems to Englefield for what promises to be a spectacular opening night. They will be supported by British electronic music group Leftfield and trip-hop pioneer Tricky.

On the Friday evening, Richard Ashcroft takes to the stage, joined by special guests Shed Seven, Tom Meighan and The Kairos, in a line-up packed with Britpop energy and singalong favourites.

Saturday sees Ministry of Sound Classical bring its acclaimed live show to the estate, featuring Example, Roger Sanchez, Tall Paul, Seb Fontaine and Utah Saints for an uplifting evening of orchestral dance classics.

To round off the weekend on Sunday 26th July, UB40 featuring Ali Campbell will headline with support from Bitty McLean, Gentleman's Dub Club, General Levy, Bushman and Channel One Soundsystem, closing the series in superb style.

Further details are available on the Englefield Estate and Heritage Live websites, where tickets for all four concerts can also be purchased.

Peter Carson, Events Manager



St Mark's Tower ringers with the new bell ropes which were installed in the bell tower earlier this year.



Come and join us for the
Englefield School Summer Fete
Saturday 11th July
, 12 - 4pm

If you able to help out in any way please contact
the school office 0118 9302337

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





New business in the parish

Founded in Tadley and now proudly based in Theale, we are a family-run business specialising in professional tree surgery and grounds maintenance services across Berkshire, Hampshire and the surrounding areas. After falling in love

with our new home on North Street, we relocated both our family home and business yard to the local estate, making us truly part of the community. You'll likely spot our trucks around the area, so please do give us a wave if you see us out and about!

We take great pride in providing reliable, professional and friendly services to both domestic and commercial customers. Our highly experienced teams are fully trained, fully insured and committed to maintaining the highest standards of safety and workmanship. We are also CHAS Elite accredited, demonstrating our commitment to health, safety and quality across all of our work.

We offer a wide range of services including tree surgery, hedge cutting, grass maintenance, site clearance and general grounds maintenance. Whether you need regular upkeep, help managing overgrown areas, or professional tree care advice, we are always happy to help.

As a local business, supporting our community is important to us, and we look forward to getting to know more residents and businesses in the area

Charlotte Bulley, Operations Manager



Cycling for Street Child

Once again Englefield resident and St Mark's Treasurer, Ollie Bodger, is part of a team taking part in The Big Ride this summer to raise money for Street Child. This is an international charity helping to keep children safe, in school and learning, working in 20 countries in sub-Saharan Africa and Asia.

The ride this year is in the Chilterns and will be taking place on 17th and 18th June. More information is on Ollie's Just Giving page https://www.justgiving.com/page/oliver-bodger-3?utm_medium=FR.

Anything that you are able to give to this cause would be greatly appreciated. Thank you in advance.

St Mark's APCM report

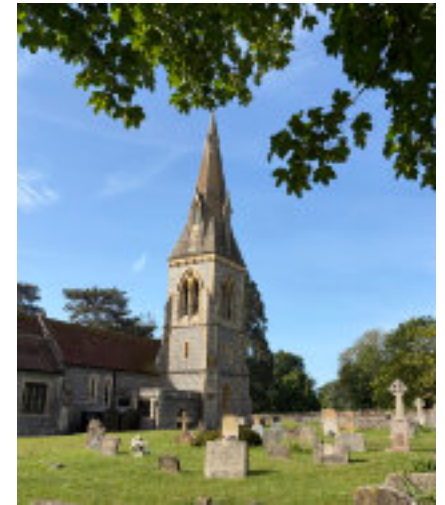
Following the morning service on Sunday 10th May 19 people stayed for the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in St Mark's Church which was chaired by Rev Julia. The first item was the Meeting of Parishioners which unanimously elected Paula Fenwick as Churchwarden for a further year. Torquil Montague-Johnstone stood down and was thanked for serving as Churchwarden since 2019.

The APCM was presented with and unanimously accepted the audited accounts January-December 2025 and the PCC Annual report on the PCC and church activities March 2025-April 2026. The Gift Aid Officer, Rosemary Ambrose, explained the charges about to be levied by Lloyds Bank for cash and cheque deposits and explained the alternatives for giving should parishioners wish to avoid the church being charged in future.

Lorraine Dehn, Peter Haig and Peter Hollands were re-elected to the PCC for a further three-year term. D Boddy stepped down as her term of office ended and was thanked for her service. Oliver Bodger and Rosemary Ambrose were both elected as PCC members for a three-year term and appointed as Joint Treasurers for the year, with Rosemary re-appointed as Gift Aid Officer. Deanery Synod representatives were due to be elected (every three years) but no nominations were received. Torquil and Paula were thanked for representing St Mark's for the previous three years as they were standing down as Deanery representatives.

After the recent revision the number on the Electoral Roll (ER) was confirmed as 63 and Richard Smith was thanked and re-appointed ER Officer. Other appointments were Penny Savage, Secretary; Lucy Roper, Parish Safeguarding Officer; Liz Marillier, DBS Verifier; Francis Wells, Independent Examiner; Paul Myles, Health & Safety Officer.

A vote of thanks was given to the bell ringers and the meeting concluded with a presentation by Rev Julia on the services and events over the past year. She explained the process which led up to her resignation and forthcoming move to Falmouth. She thanked everyone for their support and contribution to the life of St Mark's and hoped everyone would continue that support together as the body of Christ in Englefield.



Penny Savage, PCC Secretary

Please be water wise

As of early May 2026, parts of the UK, particularly in the south and east, are experiencing an exceptionally dry spring. While winter rainfall replenished supplies, the dry weather is causing falling river levels, giving rise to concerns about a potential summer drought. We would be grateful if everyone can continue to be mindful of water use, particularly those within the Parish who are served by the Estate's Private Water Supply.

Whilst we are not currently under the restrictions of a hosepipe ban, we would like, as far as reasonably possible, to keep it that way and would reiterate the need for all households and businesses, served by the Estate's private water supply, to remain 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 continues to be available from various bodies 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 or one of your neighbours spot or suspect a leak, however large or small, please report it immediately and we will repair it. Many thanks.

Englefield Estate



Concerts in Aldermaston

Music comes again to St Mary's, Aldermaston, this June. The lovely wall paintings and artefacts compliment an evening of music and its gorgeous acoustic puts you right in the middle of the sound. This year we have two concerts, the first from vocalist Charlie Greenwood and the second from guitarist Mat

Baker. The evenings on June 5th and 6th consist of a welcome glass of fizz or similar, two 45 minutes sets of music and nibbles provided in the interval. We have a pay bar as well.

The profits from the evenings go to maintaining the beautiful Grade 1 listed St Mary's Church in Aldermaston (see page 10 for booking information).

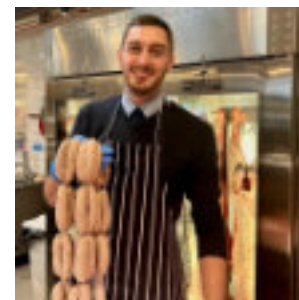
Englefield Flower Show

The Flower Show committee has decided, with deep regret, that there will be no Flower Show this year. Despite its best efforts to recruit the necessary support, the committee feels it is unable to safely produce the event this summer.

However, it remains optimistic that with further help, the Flower Show can return in 2027 - please do get in touch if you think you might be able to help.

As shown on page 5, the School and PTA will continue with their Summer fundraising event for 2026.

Gordon Fletcher (on behalf of the Flower Show committee)
GFletcher1973@outlook.com



Events at Cobbs

Book now for our hands-on sausage-making workshop on Wednesday 24th June from 6pm to 9pm. Get hands-on (literally!) in this fun and interactive workshop led by our skilled butchers. You'll learn traditional sausage-making techniques, create your own delicious sausages to take home, and enjoy a freshly made hot sausage bap on the night. Tickets are £55pp, booking is essential - please book online <https://www.cobbsfarmshops.co.uk/englefield-events>.

Discover the worth of your heirlooms or antiques effortlessly at Hansons Richmond Auctioneers' valuation days. These informal, fun events provide an opportunity to have items assessed by an antiques expert. There is no charge, and no appointment is necessary. Just pop along between 11am and 3pm to Cobbs, Englefield. If suitable for auction, your item can be consigned on the spot, with detailed communication regarding costs and achieved prices throughout the process. If not auctionable, Hansons friendly team will advise on the best alternative options.

The team at Cobbs

Summer Music @ Aldermaston



at St Mary's, Church Rd,
Aldermaston, RG7 4HR

**Come and listen to
some glorious music
in a beautiful setting**

Friday June 5th ,7pm

Charlie Greenwood –Vocalist

Saturday June 6th , 7pm

Mat Baker -Guitarist

Artist Information & Box Office :

<https://aldermastonconcerts.org>



£20 Adult Ticket, £5 Children in full time education, Under 12s free

Both Nights: £30 Adult, £10 Children, Under 12s free

includes a welcoming glass of fizz (or similar) and interval nibbles

All profits to St Mary's to help maintain this Grade I listed

Time in the natural world

We were standing looking over the buildings filled with wintered cattle at Rushall Farm. With me was Steve, the farmer, and Michelle Lyon from Queensland, Australia, a Nuffield Scholar.

She was here to learn more about how to welcome children on to farms so that they could understand more about where their food comes from. Steve explained the grazing system and the three herds he is running: Stabilisers, a mixed breed to produce beef that is very much in demand, and white-faced, brown Herefords as well as South Devons, both foundation stock for breeds throughout the world.

Michelle and her husband farm an area the size of West Berkshire (174,000 acres) with just family labour. They have 7,000 head of cattle; the best bulls being sold for breeding and the rest exported for finishing in Vietnam and Indonesia. All the heifers are retained for breeding. Her nearest town is 50 miles away but that does not stop her hosting residential camps for children to experience what it is like to stay on a cattle ranch. In the UK 25 Nuffield Scholarships are awarded to farmers and growers each year to broaden their understanding by studying different practices in other parts of the world. The same happens in Australia. Michelle went away with more understanding that coming to the countryside is an experience so different for most children these days, and that having a memorable, positive time in the natural world can change their lives.

We hope this was the experience of the thousands of people who came and enjoyed wandering through the bluebell woods on two weekends of remarkable weather. The bluebells started flowering quite early, but the very cold nights meant the woodlands were at their best, with wood anemones, violets, stitchwort, primroses, even orchids, and the freshness of hazel and oak leaves emerging, with ewes lambing close to the path.

At the same time the local MS Society was able to raise the much needed £12,000 for those they support. My own sister was cared for in an amazing way in a Cheshire Home near Norwich. It was a place where acceptance, love and care filled otherwise broken lives. Rushall Farm has raised well over half a million pounds for the MS Society with open events since 1986. Some of that money goes to research, which has meant that the much shorter life my sister experienced suffering from the disease is not the case for many diagnosed today.

John Bishop OBE
www.rushallfarm.org.uk





From Englefield Primary School

'Sowing the Seeds for a Flourishing Future'

It's been another busy term here at Englefield CE Primary School, with lots of preparation, activities and events taking place to enhance our children's learning and ensure our school is the best it can be.

At the beginning of the term, Year 4, 5 and 6 were lucky enough to be invited to St Andrew's School to hear a talk by the author Adam Kay and his illustrator Henry Paker. It was a brilliant event and the duo had the children and adults laughing from start to finish. Their creativity and imagination really inspired the children, who all had a go at drawing a scene from their book. One of our children even met Henry in person and had his own copy of *Dexter Proctor the 10-Year-Old Doctor* signed by him!



We are really lucky at Englefield CE Primary School to have a fantastically supportive governing body and this term we invited them into school to take part in 'Governors Day', a chance to build stronger relationships with the children, staff and parents. The governors spent the day meeting and greeting parents, learning in the classrooms with the children, observing our OPAL play scheme at breaktimes, talking with our different pupil groups such as School Council and they even got to taste our delicious new school dinners with the children. It was lovely to have them join us for the day and we hope to hold another similar day next year.

The highlight of our term was the special day we held to commemorate the 100th birthday of Sir David Attenborough. We invited an expert from Wild Science to bring in a small range of animals for the children to touch, hold and learn about. These included a snake called Sir Edmund, some giant cockroaches, Barbara the tree frog, a tortoise (who got to meet our very own Pebbles) and some super soft chinchillas. During the day, the children also enjoyed exploring our school pond, using nets to do some pond dipping where they found six newts amongst other



creatures. Year 5/6 dissected some owl pellets collected from the Englefield owls, and were fascinated to find small rodent skulls and bones, which they identified and classified using anatomy maps. The children loved talking about their day with friends during our whole school picnic, where they were surprised with an amazing, giant cake made by one of our talented parents from Fabu-lous Cakes. It was delicious! We then topped the day off with a House competition, where children in each of our houses (Athena, Demeter, Poseidon and Hermes) worked together to create their house animals using only natural items they found on our school grounds. The resulting art was brilliant!

As our term draws to a close, our Year 6's faced the challenges of their SAT tests, which they did with superb courage and resilience, making the school and their parents incredibly proud of them all. Years 3 and 4 are now getting ready to face their own challenge, with their two-night residential trip to Thirtover about to take place. We know they are going to have a fantastic time, with activities such as grass sledges, orienteering, low ropes and s'mores around a campfire to name only a few of the things we have planned for them.

On a sadder note, we would like to end our update by asking the community for its help once more, with some issues we are having with the misuse of our playground during non-school hours. We are so grateful for the contributions the community made towards funding our adventure playground a few years ago and we welcome families to come and use it in the evenings and at the weekends. However, after the last few weekends we have suffered some damages to school-bought play items and discovered graffiti on play equipment, sheds, the adventure playground and even the school building. Please can we ask that all the equipment and premises are used with respect and consideration so that we can continue to safely share the use of the adventure playground as a community. Thank you!

Kate Galvin, Headteacher





Time and funds for Five a Day

Garden: The variable weather has proved a little frustrating! It has not stopped our fantastic gardening volunteers in their work pruning, sowing, planting out and repairing such things as the roofs of the pergolas.

Thyme Together: Both groups have returned to the garden after the winter and have been very busy sowing and planting. They are also starting to erect the scarecrows that have been made over the cold months and visited the Englefield House gardens thanks to Emma. Thyme Together continue to run their free sessions on Thursdays – 10am to 12pm and 1pm to 3pm.



For details please contact Ali on ali@fiveaday.org.uk or 07555 184343.

Groups: The Ella's Explorers groups continue to enjoy the garden and the uniformed groups returned in May.



Workshops and events: Charlotte led our second Bat Walk in April which was very well supported again and we plan to run another in September when the bats go into hibernation. Liz held a talk on bees on 16th May which everyone enjoyed, sampling the locally foraged honey and making candles. If you can think of anything you might like to see take place at the garden please email 5adayevents@gmail.com with suggestions.

Finally, if you shop online, please consider using Easyfundraising to help us raise funds for Five a Day. It costs you absolutely nothing and all you have to do is join and nominate Five a Day Garden as your favourite cause. If the seller you are purchasing from (such as Amazon) is registered on the site we get a percentage of your spend. We have already raised over £200 this past year from people who have signed up. Here is a link to the site explaining how it works.

https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/how-it-works/t=cro1/?efr_source=website&efr_medium=easyfundraising&efr_campaign=header-navigation

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 visit our website, fiveaday.org.uk or follow us on Facebook or Instagram.

Wendy Cadman

Five A Day Management team member and trustee

Advertising help please

Englefield Parish News is funded by its generous community-minded advertisers who support the magazine by taking space in these pages. For the last couple of years Paul Myles has kindly overseen this side of the Parish News, sending out invoices and liaising with the Treasurer to make sure that payments are made - and we are very grateful to him. We are, however, now seeking a successor. Please do get in touch with Paul as soon as possible if you are able and willing to take this on: paul.myles@me.com 07764 335345. Thank you!

Schools Days 2026

Just a little reminder that The Street and the drive will be busy on Wednesday 10th and Thursday 11th June with over 1,500 children visiting for the annual Englefield Estate Schools Days. Classes will be diverted away from roads where possible but they will be visiting the Five A Day. There will be access on both days to the school for drop off and pick up, and to the Garden Centre.

Dr Liz Mattison, Education & Environment Officer

Summer is nearly here...

And afternoon teas will be served again this year at St Mary's Church, Aldworth, from July 1st, every Wednesday in July, August and September, from 2.30 – 4.30pm. Drop in for tea with 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.

Giving bowls a go

The Bowls Season is now underway, we have had two Bowls Open Days and a few more members joined up, however we still need more members to keep the Pangbourne club going. Anyone is welcome to have a go so if you are walking the dog or just walking by the river pop across the Recreation ground and see us. We aren't there all the time however as some games are played away. The best time is on a Monday afternoon when a group of members play an internal game, they will be happy to talk to you or contact me to arrange a convenient time. Why not give it a go, it's a good way to exercise, socialise and enjoy the fresh air.

Sue Jones, Chair, 07803 927767, jonesue1943@gmail.com

The inns of Englefield

Ever since the social club closed in 2018, Englefielders have had to go further afield in search of licensed premises, perhaps to Theale. This is ironic because when the social club's predecessor, the Workmen's Club, opened in 1886 the Rector hoped it would avoid the '...risk of noise, bad company and excess of drink...' to be found in the public house. At that time, while there were no such dens of iniquity to be found in Englefield village itself, in Theale the thirsty would have been spoiled for choice and nearer to home in North Street could be found two public houses within about a hundred yards of each other: the Thatchers' Arms and the New Inn.



The Thatchers' was in operation at least by 1851 when its patron Thomas Woodeson actually was a thatcher as well as a grocer and beer-house-keeper, as was his son John. Another son Amos seems to have taken over the running of the inn by 1871 but by 1891 he had moved next door and was occupied in the trade of thatcher. He was succeeded as licensee by Samuel Fisher, a blacksmith and a grocer as well as beer seller and who by 1911 had replaced the first two of these trades by that of a woodman. Perhaps all this might indicate that there was no more profit in running a pub in the late nineteenth century than there is today.

In 1876 James Knight, a labourer from Theale, was fined £1 with 11s 6d costs for being drunk and disorderly in the Thatchers' Arms after he became abusive and struck Amos Wooderson's daughter when Amos refused to serve him on the grounds that he had had sufficient. 1899 Samuel Fisher was fined £1 for selling alcohol during prohibited hours on a Sunday. He appealed on the grounds that these were 'bona-fide travellers', to whom the serving of alcohol was allowed. Rather than being bona-fide travellers, it turned out that these were a number of groups of people in traps who were simply on an organised 'pub crawl' but Fisher's appeal was successful on the grounds that he made the necessary enquiries to ascertain that the groups were bona-fide travellers, even though they turned out not to be. Earlier, in 1893, Fisher had been assaulted by William Knight, a carpenter employed by Mr Benyon, during a dispute over a one penny deposit on a bottle of beer to take out. Knight was fined one shilling with eleven shillings and sixpence costs. The Rector's reservations about public houses seem to have some foundation. The Thatchers' was the last to go, surviving until 2009.

The New Inn, just down the road at the junction with Piper's Lane, stood on the site of old house called the 'Timbered Cottage'. In this house was born in 1856

Mary Elizabeth Horn, the mother of Miss Bertha Winchcomb, both of them cradle to grave Englefield residents. Her mother's earliest recollection, said Miss Winchcomb, was moving across to the newly built houses on the opposite side of Piper's Lane when the Timbered Cottage was pulled down in 1860. For a while the New Inn was where once a year all the Englefield tenants would gather to pay their rent, after which they were treated to dinner by Mr Benyon but the life of the New Inn was a short one, for after its appearance in the 1860s it seems to have gone by 1891 when John Woods, the publican since the beginning, was a 71-year-old widower lodging at number 21 in The Street. By the start of the First World War the site had been levelled.

In the village itself for some time was the Crown Inn. This was the house that is now number 1 in The Street, an eighteenth century building that at the time of the 1841 census was occupied by the Parish Clerk James Mildenhall and his wife Harriet. In the same year an article in the Reading newspaper mentions the Crown Inn in Englefield. James Mildenhall died in 1843 at the young age of 34 and a year later the house, owned by Caroline Hopkins, was let to 'the widow Mildenhall' whose occupation in 1851 was 'beer seller'. In the 1861 census the house is identified as the Crown Inn with William Ham as the publican but 10 years later, when retired grocer Benjamin Webb was in occupation, it is listed as 'Private'. In 1881 the house is listed as 'Crown Cottage'.

The original and longest serving inn however was The Three Daggers. The name derives from the arms of the Marquess of Winchester ('three swords pilewise' in the correct heraldic terminology) so may be expected to date from the later 17th century and indeed there is a record of the Three Daggers in Englefield being kept by William and Elizabeth Chamberlayne in the second year of the reign of William and Mary (1690). The original building appears to have been, from the description of the line of the new turnpike in 1771, the first building in the then village street when coming from Theale – somewhere just in front of today's 'Old Rectory'.

When Richard Benyon pulled down the old village in the early years of the 19th century the Daggers went with it but was rehoused in perhaps the first house to be built in the 'New Village', number 27 in The Street. Until 1850 it was kept by Edward May and then by his widow Kitty. The next publican was John Woods and at that time the inn seems to have occupied the whole building (minus the two 'wings' across the end which were probably added in about 1890). Since Woods and his wife had four children and a 'nurse girl' living in the house as well as the public rooms this would not seem unreasonable. When the New Inn was built, Woods moved there and the Three Daggers ceased to be a feature of Englefield.

Richard Smith

Sunday	Sidesperson	First reading	Gospel	Prayers	Sacristan	Server	Sunday Club and crèche	Cleaners
June 7th 1st Sunday of Trinity	Graham and Pauline Harvey	Denny Hollands	Richard Benyon	BCP	Catherine Haig	Penny Savage	Denny Hollands	Liz McKean
June 14th 2nd Sunday of Trinity	Richard Benyon	Jean Rothery	Meryl Bonser	Denny Hollands	Penny Norris	Paula Fenwick	Liz McKean	Catherine and Peter Haig
June 21st 3rd Sunday of Trinity	Paula Fenwick	Mike Kimber	James Bamforth	Catherine Haig	Denny Hollands	Denny Hollands	Saffy O'Sullivan	Pete and Carole Ford
June 28th 4th Sunday of Trinity	Peter Haig	John Rothery	Paul Myles	Linda Price	Sue Smith	Saffy O'Sullivan	Meryl Bonser	Saffy O'Sullivan Penny Norris
July 5th 5th Sunday of Trinity BCP	Liz Marillier	James Meade	Kahlen Spaulding	BCP	Penny Savage	Peter Haig	Denny Hollands	Anji Higgins
July 12th 6th Sunday of Trinity	Linda Price	Carole Ford	Ronan O'Sullivan	Penny Savage	Catherine Haig	Torquil MJ	Saffy O'Sullivan	Pauline and Graham Harvey
July 19th 7th Sunday of Trinity	Torquil MJ	Graham Harvey	Peter Haig	Saffy O'Sullivan	Penny Norris	Penny Savage	Liz McKean	Liz McKean
July 26th 8th Sunday of Trinity	Penny Savage	Richard Benyon	Lorraine Dehn	Denny Hollands	Denny Hollands	Peter Haig	Meryl Bonser	Catherine and Peter Haig
August 2nd 9th Sunday of Trinity BCP	Richard Benyon	Denny Hollands	Aldo Guiducci	BCP	Catherine Haig	Paula Fenwick	Saffy O'Sullivan	Pete and Carole Ford
August 9th 10th Sunday of Trinity	Pauline and Graham Harvey	Saffy O'Sullivan	Paula Fenwick	Catherine Haig	Sue Smith	Saffy O'Sullivan	Denny Hollands	Saffy O'Sullivan Penny Norris
August 16th 11th Sunday of Trinity	Paula Fenwick	Torquil MJ	Jean Rothery	Linda Price	Penny Savage	Torquil MJ	Liz McKean	Anji Higgins
August 23rd 12th Sunday of Trinity	Liz Marillier	James Bamforth	Linda Price	Penny Savage	Penny Norris	Denny Hollands	Meryl Bonser	Pauline and Graham Harvey

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

The village: sounds and sights of long ago

High in the apple tree, the song thrush and the blackbird wake up the sun; the sun wakes those everyday birds: the sparrows, the chaffinch, and later on a lazy starling. Then the everyday workers of the village make their way to the kitchen garden, the farm gate, but most to Englefield estate yard. The children then sleepily walk up the street to the school and wake themselves and the village up with their chitter-chatter. Then the bell sounds and for just a moment there is silence. Then there are the sounds of the joinery shop in the yard — the planer and the bandsaw — and below in the sawmill there's the clank of heavy chains hauling the timber, then the whine of the saw as it cuts through a timber from high on the hill, by Englefield House, where a clock sounds the village hour.

At quarter past the hour, when the wind is from the south, there is the sound of the Cornish Riviera Express, which whistles as it races past Theale. The train is making its way to those far-off beaches in the west. Then one may hear one of the three cars of the street: a Humber, a Singer, or the Wolseley that is owned by Mr Cook of the post office. This car often fails to go, so is pushed to start by the school children. Then the car will drive down the street onto the Pangbourne road, then towards Theale, but seldom far beyond.

In these village workdays, in the estate yard, one of the two lorries will prepare to set out for Mortimer with a gate and fence posts. Then one of the heavy horses will start to pull an empty cart up the street, past the school, past the church, up the hill, then past the big house to where beech and oak trees stand tall. In village kitchens, women are busy with mops and brooms, then the washing — first in the copper, then the mangle — then out to the line in the garden. Now they cook on the new electric cookers but there may be a fire in the range on any Sunday for a roast dinner.



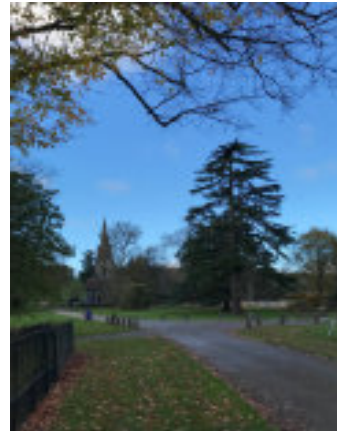
In springtime in the village, house martins swoop to gather mud to make cosy homes while in the park swallows just glide and speed low over the cricket pitch. Further away at that time, just by the river, there is an untamed hedge where all the small birds gather. Birds just arriving from far away: the warblers, whitethroats and, on a bright day, one may see a brilliant redstart flitting from branch to branch.

Then at one o'clock, it's dinner hour for all the village: for the children in the school and the men in the yard, when for a while my father will read Hardy's Wessex tales. Then all are back to work, planing oak, tending the plants in the kitchen garden. And in the fields a Fordson Major tractor, driven by Arthur Dance, will sail steadily up and down making a furrow on land close by Wimbleton cottages. And much later, that heavy horse will be making its way back down the street, now pulling timber from high on the hill. As it walks by, at something after three, on a warm summer

afternoon, there is a stillness between every heavy step; in that stillness there is a moment of silence where time seems to have stopped.

And so to tea at five o'clock, sandwiches and homemade cake. Then after tea, all summer long, there is the quiet evening sound of hoeing in cottage gardens. And after, just for an hour, in the Working Men's Club, there will be talk of the day; on Tuesday evening though, in summer, cricketers will pick a team of eleven good men. Then in the depths of winter, they will more earnestly attempt to find eleven for the football team: 'How many have we?' 'He's no centre forward.'

Men of the village work Saturday till dinnertime. After an hour maybe many are in the gardens again, busy working, planting in the spring and harvesting later. And in the football field young men will be playing for the village and the tractor driver's son, Norman, will again be scoring the winning goal. Then on summer weekends the cricketers will do their best. They play Sulhamstead, often on a too-cold day in April, and as the summer ends, there is the last melancholy game in fading light against Streatley.



Also, on summer Sundays, there can be seen in that fading light an elderly man, bent over, dressed in black, walking steadily up the coach drive, walking in time to the sound of the church bell, to evensong which has often a congregation of three: the old man dressed in black, the rector, and my father. The service just seems as some remembrance of another time; it has something about it of Blake and the ancients.

Then as darkness closes in on any Sunday the village street is quiet and empty, the village prepares to sleep, there is then all around a soft, still silence. This quietness is only broken by the sound of a far-off train, heading now to the far-off city, far off in every way. So, into and through the night, there is the chime of the clock in the tower of Englefield House, sounding every dark hour. Then from a high branch of an oak tree on the hill a tawny owl will call, and from the far-away valley, somewhere near Lone Barn, a call comes back, then silence, the silence of some Arcadia. It is as the silence and the stillness between the tread of the heavy horse on a summer afternoon, the silence after the last echo of the evensong bell; it is the still silent song of the eternal.

Robert Lamperd

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IMJ inw Mitchell

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.

'Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them.' (John 14 v 21)

What does it mean to be a Christian? What does an authentic follower of Jesus look like? To be saved, it is not enough to know facts about Jesus. Neither is belief in Jesus the same as taking out an insurance policy, where you make a decision once and then move on. John points to two things here that capture the essence of what it means to have faith in Jesus: a person must have Jesus' commands (ie know what Jesus expects of us), and also must keep them. This means two things for us if we take Jesus seriously and want to follow him. Firstly, we must know his commands; how he wants us to live. This means finding out for ourselves from the Bible what Jesus says. Then, we have to keep them – live out our daily lives in the light of these commands, trying to do what Jesus says. There is a promise to those who do this: Jesus will return the love that the believer shows him, and will reveal himself in the process. How much we want this is a direct measure of our faith.

'Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them' (Acts 2 v 2-4)

God has revealed himself and his purposes in human history. The Bible was written so that those of us living long after the events described can understand what he has done, and what it means for us. Sometimes however, we still find mystery amidst the revelation. The arrival of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost is an example of this. In this passage Luke, the author of Acts, tries to capture the experience had by the disciples – but this experience is so otherworldly, so outside normal human experience that he struggles to find the words. There was a sound like the blowing of a violent wind. There was a sight of what seemed to be tongues of fire. These descriptions are the closest he can get to expressing the reality of what happened that day, but there is still mystery here. What is clearer is the effect of the Spirit's arrival. We move away from simile to more concrete description: those present 'began to speak in other tongues [languages]' (v4).

The Bible doesn't explain everything exhaustively – there are still mysteries and some uncertainties if we look for them – but it does explain everything that we need to know. While we don't know exactly what it was like when the Holy Spirit



made his appearance at that first Pentecost, we know the outcome: that the disciples were supernaturally equipped to speak in a variety of other human languages (v7-11). This was important because Jews from across the world, speaking a variety of languages, were congregating in Jerusalem to celebrate the Feast of Weeks. What better way for the gospel message to be spread than for the apostles to be empowered to proclaim the good news about Jesus, miraculously in the local languages of all these people, just before everyone headed out from the city and back to their homes scattered throughout the Roman empire?

‘In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptised by John in the Jordan.’ (Mark 1 v 9)

John the Baptist was in the desert, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, and many people were going out to see him. They were going out because they recognised that they were sinners, and needed to repent and be baptised by him. In today’s passage, we see Jesus joining their number in going out to John and being baptised. Why?

John himself was surprised by this. We read in Matthew’s gospel account (Matthew 3:14) how John tried to deter Jesus, not understanding why he was baptising Jesus, rather than the other way around. Jesus was the more powerful one who was to come after John (Mark 1:7). So what was going on here?

Jesus was not being baptised because he needed to repent – indeed, he is the only person in history who didn’t have to repent. He was being baptised as a sign that he was associating himself with sinful humanity. He wanted to be marked out as one of us, so that he could fully represent us through his ministry, his death and his resurrection. We see an indication of this immediately after the baptism as God the Holy Spirit descends on Jesus (God the Son) as he hears the voice of God (the Father) affirming him. At the beginning of his earthly ministry, the three persons of the Trinity appear together to mark the start of a rescue mission that will see sinful humanity restored through Jesus’ completed work a few years later.

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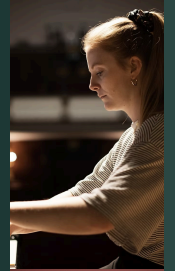
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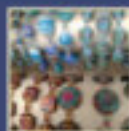
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