

Englefield Parish News

August - September 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

Secretary: Penny Savage office@stmarksenglefield.org.uk
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: Produce grown in the Five A Day market garden on sale at the Open Day on Saturday 11th July. Five A Day produce is available to buy from the garden and also from the gazebo at the Garden Centre.

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

At the last 'Celebration Assembly' I told the pupils of our wonderful Englefield Primary School never to forget how lucky they are to attend this school, with its wonderful staff, in this wonderful environment, village and community. And I want to share a final message of thanks to everyone in this wonderful community—both inside and outside the church walls.

Thank you for welcoming Paul and I into your lives and your hearts. Thank you for your warmth and friendship and trust. We have shared moments of great joy and fun, and some very profound sorrows. We have grown closer to each other and I hope also grown closer to God. You will not be forgotten.

I remember the joy and life of the 2022 Schools Days when I was first allowed to help out, moving into 2 St Mark's Close and watching the car park being made and the Store & Tearooms remodelled and watching the polo ponies being exercised around the circle. Of course I remember, as we all will, the feeling in my stomach on September 8th as the death of our dear, lifelong Queen was announced at the start of my licensing service. We mourned her death together and later gathered for the glorious Coronation Tea Party. I remember commending so many of your dear ones into God's arms, now at peace. Gone but not forgotten.

And I remember the many special couples from among us that I have married, two whose babies I had the joy of baptising recently, as well as several of your grandchildren and our pupils. All this punctuated by Sunday worship, Tuesday school assembly and prayer and all wrapped around by the meeting and greeting in The Street and Stores & Tearooms and playground and Village Hall. People looking out for one another and staying connected. Englefield is a community full of stories and a favourite part of the job was getting to know those stories. I encourage church and village and school together to create opportunities to do that; simply make time to connect and talk. It really is good for us! I also encourage you to keep asking the big life questions and finding opportunities to connect with God more and with Jesus Christ His Son. He is the ultimate source of the love and community we all need...and His story is truly life changing.

Moving on feels too sad now, too many 'goodbyes' in this unique place called Englefield. We don't know how long it will be until you have a new Rector or who that will be. I hope like me you can put your hand into God's and know that 'He's got you'. I look forward to hearing your future stories!

May God truly bless this place and fill it and you with His joy and peace.

Your Rector



Diary dates

Let's Talk Theology, 7.30pm, second Wednesday of every month, for more information contact Carol Boulter. Next date September 9th (there will be no meeting in August).

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

Evening Praise: last Sunday of every month, 6pm at Holy Trinity, Theale, next dates August 30th and September 27th.

Home Start West Berkshire Englefield House Open Garden: Monday 31st August, 10-4, more details on page 15.

Ride+Stride, in aid of Berkshire Historic Churches Trust: Saturday 12th September.

St Mark's PCC meeting: Monday 21st September, 6.30pm.

Local contacts

Englefield Estate Office
Englefield Estate Yard
Englefield Stores & Tea Room

0118 930 2504; office@englefield.co.uk
0118 930 2538 maintenance@englefield.co.uk
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
Theale Medical Centre
NHS online coronavirus service
Royal Berkshire Hospital
West Berks Community Hospital
Theale Pharmacy
Lloyds Pharmacy (Calcot)
NHS dentist Dentalcare, Pangbourne
West Berkshire Council

0118 930 4064
0118 930 2513
111.nhs.uk/covid-19 or call 111
0118 322 5111
01635 273300
0118 930 2542
0118 938 2265
0118 984 5894
01635 551111 (out of hours 01635 42161)
www.westberks.gov.uk/
www.englefieldpc.org.uk/
www.thealeparishcouncil.gov.uk

Englefield Parish Council
Theale Parish Council
Englefield Primary School
Utility suppliers: Electricity - SSEN 0800 072 72; Oil - Ford Fuels 0148 872 829;
Gas - National Grid 0800 111 999; Water - Thames Water 0800 714 614;
Drainage - Total Drainage 0118 9421140

Congratulations

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

To Mark Sims and Laura Mannick who were married at St Mark's on Friday 12th June.

To Dudley Fishburn on his 80th birthday and to Pete Smythe on his 90th, both celebrated in June.

To William Moore and Isabella Brown who were married at St Mark's on Saturday 4th July.

Baptism

Henrietta Nicholls, Sunday 21st June

Roderick Walker, Sunday 21st June

Samson Norris, Sunday 5th July

Alfred Gavin, Sunday 19th July

RIP

Stan Briant, who died on 26th April and whose funeral was held at West Berkshire Crematorium on Friday 22nd May with interment of ashes at St Mark's.

St Mark's cake stall

An amazing array of cakes and other produce was provided for the church cake stall at Englefield School's Summer Fete and at the end of the day a total of £360 was made for school funds. A huge thank you to all contributors and all who manned the stall on a very hot afternoon!

Rev Julia



Cancellation of the summer concerts

We were very disappointed to learn of Heritage Live's decision to cancel its events this summer, including the four Summer Concert dates that were due to take place at Englefield House at the end of July.

Over the past five years, we have enjoyed working closely with Heritage Live and have been proud to host these popular events at Englefield. The last-minute announcement that this year's concerts could not go ahead was unexpected for everyone involved.

We understand that ticket agents have been contacting ticket holders regarding refunds. Anyone who has not yet received information is encouraged to contact their ticket provider directly for an update.

We sincerely hope this is not the end of live music at Englefield. It has been a pleasure to welcome both members of our local community and visitors from across the UK to enjoy unforgettable performances in the beautiful surroundings of Englefield House, and we look forward to the possibility of hosting similar events in the future.

Peter Carson, Events Manager

Record-breaking temperatures?

The paragraph below was spotted in the archive of the *Berkshire Chronicle*. The article is dated 4th August 1827. Perhaps the extravagant temperatures of the summer of 2026 are nothing new?

For the record, 98 degrees fahrenheit is 37 degrees centigrade and 87 degrees fahrenheit is 30 degrees centigrade, and at the time of writing, the highest shade temperature in this locality so far this year has been 32 degrees centigrade on one day.

Richard Smith

THE WEATHER.—The *Morning Post* states, that on Monday morning, at eleven o'clock, the thermometer was at 98 in the shade, and 109 in the sun.—The atmosphere in *this* neighbourhood has not obtained anything like that temperature: It has ranged from 107 to 109 in the sun's rays, but we have not noticed it higher than 87 in the shade.



St Mark's Churchwarden

Paula Fenwick was reappointed as Churchwarden at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in May. She was officially sworn in after the end of the service on Sunday 7th June.

Churchwardens in the Church of England are legally required to make a formal declaration and be sworn into office annually. This usually takes place at an Archdeacon's Visitation Service sometime between May and July but can be arranged privately. Until this oath is taken and they are admitted, newly elected wardens cannot legally act in their role.

Churchwardens have important legal responsibilities, but the office also has a vital spiritual, pastoral and missional dimension - the duty is to be foremost among the laity in the life and mission of the Church in the parish.

The PCC is very grateful to Paula for taking on this responsibility for another year.





Holy Trinity Church
Theale
and the surrounding area

Head to www.holytrinitytheale.org.uk/foodbank
to see what items are requested this week

Please leave your
donations in the church
porch

DROP OFF LOCATION:
Holy Trinity Church,
Theale

WHEN?
Monday to Friday
10am to 5.00pm



CALLING ALL COMMUNITY HEROES



NEEDS YOU!

MAKE A CHANGE BECOME A COUNCILLOR

TO FIND OUT MORE, CONTACT:

What does Englefield Parish Council do?

Englefield Parish Council has overall responsibility for supporting the wellbeing of the Englefield community. The Council meets five times a year and focuses on practical, local matters that directly affect residents, businesses and the wider Estate. The Council's work includes:

- Representing local views to West Berkshire Council and other authorities
- Monitoring local services and issues, including highways, speeding, parking and road safety
- Supporting community projects, such as school initiatives, environmental improvements and local events
- Managing contracts, including dog bin emptying
- Ensuring good governance, through financial oversight, policies, compliance and transparency
- Responding to planning applications, ensuring development is appropriate for the parish
- Working with partners, including Englefield Estate, the School and local organisations to address shared concerns

BECOMING A COUNCILLOR IN ENGLEFIELD

As a Councillor, you become a voice for Englefield, helping shape decisions that matter to residents and the parish environment. Councillors bring local knowledge, experience and enthusiasm, and work collaboratively to keep Englefield a safe, vibrant and well-managed rural community.

Councillor responsibilities include:

- Decision-making – setting priorities, approving spending, responding to consultations
- Monitoring – keeping an eye on local issues such as speeding, parking and road safety
- Getting involved locally – engaging with residents, attending meetings, and supporting community initiatives

CAN I STAND FOR ELECTION?

You can stand for election to Englefield Parish Council if you are:

- A UK or Commonwealth citizen; or a citizen of the Republic of Ireland; or a citizen of an EU Member State
- At least 18 years old
- An elector of the parish; or have lived in the parish or within three miles of it for the past 12 months; or have worked in the parish during the past 12 months; or have occupied land or premises in the parish during the past 12 months

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN JOINING ENGLEFIELD PARISH COUNCIL
PLEASE CONTACT: clerk@englefieldparishcouncil.gov.uk

Hosepipe restriction

You will be aware that several water companies including Thames Water have now implemented temporary use bans which prohibit the use of hosepipes for watering gardens, cleaning vehicles, filling pools, paddling pools and hot tubs, using fountains, cleaning windows or using pressure washers or sprinklers. The Estate is now requesting that everyone reliant on the Estate borehole complies with the same restriction until further notice.

If our community adheres to the hosepipe ban and uses water carefully, we can manage our stock of water and we do not expect to have problems of supply. If we did run out, there are contingency plans in place with a third-party supplier to ensure provision of drinking water but this would be a complex operation and we really do need your help to avoid that happening.

We cannot say for certain how long this restriction will last but it may remain in place until we receive significant rainfall to replenish the chalk aquifer which provides our water.

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 or excessive consumption anywhere on our network, please let us know immediately on 0118 9302504 and we will address it.

The Englefield Estate



Volunteer Treasurer Needed

Englefield Village Hall, a small charity, is seeking a Volunteer to join the friendly team running our Village Hall. See www.englefieldvillagehall.co.uk.

The Treasurer's responsibilities include liaising with our Bookings Coordinator to ensure payments in and out are accurate and timely, preparing monthly and year end statements and attending committee meetings. Applicants should be well organised and computer literate to manage records and online banking but do not need specific accounting experience. If you're able to commit to an average of three to five hours a month we would love to hear from you.

Simply email livimacey@hotmail.co.uk with your contact details and we will be in touch

WAR AND CHRISTIANITY

Are they compatible?

Lt. General Robin Brims

CB, CBE, DSO, DL

Thursday 15th October, 7:30pm

**The Music Hall
Bradfield College**

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



Lieutenant General Robin Brims spent 39 years in the British Army. His operational service included Northern Ireland, the Balkans and Iraq. In 2003, he had direct experience of war as the General who led British forces in the Iraq war, including the battle for Basra. He has been on the General Synod of the Church of England since 2021.



Spiritual Development Group

BRADFELD DEANERY

PUBLICITY OFFICER – Gordon Patterson E: gordonpatterson195@gmail.com M: 07764 476361



A new dementia hub for our community

Almost every one of us has been touched by dementia – whether it's a parent, a partner, sibling, friend or neighbour. And with numbers set to increase significantly in this area a new initiative has been launched to help meet this challenge.

The Dementia Hub will be a purpose-designed centre in the heart of our community, bringing together a wide range of dementia services under one roof, with the aim of enabling people with dementia in West Berkshire and north Hampshire to live as well as possible and providing better help and support to their family carers. The Hub is to be built on land to the east of West Berkshire Community Hospital (subject to planning). Centred around a café and courtyard garden, it will incorporate the NHS Memory Assessment clinics, alongside support services including one-to-one 'wayfinding' to help guide individuals and their families at every stage, plus activities focussed on brain health and rehabilitation, access to dementia technology, complementary therapies, legal and welfare advice, as well as peer support and friendship.



Greenham Trust has now officially launched the £4 million fundraising campaign to build the Hub, and is inviting donations via its giving platform, [The Good Exchange](#). More than £1 million of matched funding has already been secured through Greenham Trust and Englefield Charitable Trust, meaning that every pound raised will be matched, doubling the impact of your support.

The project has already attracted significant support from charitable funders. However, further fundraising is needed to help create this much-needed centre that will benefit thousands of people across West Berkshire and north Hampshire in the years ahead. If you are a local organisation or group which raises funds for charitable causes, please do consider supporting the appeal by making the Hub your chosen charity or fundraising cause.

For more information contact: Rob Daniels, Head of Grants, Greenham Trust, rob.daniels@greenhamtrust.com, 01635 936370, or James Wilcox, WBDH Project Lead, james@westberksdementiahub.org, 07972 058378.



A case of Dry-itis

I have to confess I have been suffering from Dry-itis as a direct response to the hot and dry conditions which have prevailed this year. The first time I had it was in 1976. We had planted autumn and spring crops well and the farm and stock looked a picture. By the middle of May we were into the 80's (29 C) and it did not rain here until mid-September, when it would not stop.

Our house had just been built, dark bricks and isolated in the full sun, with limited windows. It heated up wonderfully during the day and hot nights were reinforced by our only form of cooking, an oil-fired Aga. And harvest hardly existed, with lots of straw but very little grain. So back comes the Dry-itis, and in spite of being retired for 11 years my heart goes out to farmers trying to grow corn and rear cattle and sheep when pastures look like Indian Test Cricket grounds.

And the garden and growing vegetables hasn't been much fun, with radishes going tough and woody, peas ripening with tiny pods and squirrels eating green tomatoes. You can see cucumbers and courgettes gasping for breath in our polytunnel which has become an oven. For children here it has been different with staff carrying spray guns, a fine mist for cooling perspiring faces, more direct fire for those tending to lose concentration or drifting off. River studies have been great. The canopy of trees throwing shadows on the constantly cool water of the Pang; just slightly smellier and sweatier waders at the end of each day. Cool walks through the woodlands with shade becoming a premium when feeding chickens or chasing our pet lamb Woolliam or the two chicks which survived our latest hatching.

All this is a long way from our original ideas of education in the countryside. We now realise that just being here is such a special experience for those coming to Rushall Farm. It is a day away from phones and the often sterile, cramped school environment, a day which can arouse curiosity. One group watched smoke ascend to the sky from a bonfire in the woods. The smoke went straight up with not a hint of a breeze. It split the rays of sun and the children sat and marvelled and as the sun turned red through the smoke one child exclaimed 'Is Jesus coming back?'



John Bishop OBE
www.rushallfarm.org.uk



From Englefield Primary School

'Sowing the Seeds for a Flourishing Future'

We have had a very busy and exciting Summer Term here at Englefield CE Primary School. The whole school community came together on Saturday 11th July for our first Englefield Village Fete. Whilst we missed the range of competitions that the Flower Show used to provide, our fantastic PTA and fabulous parents came together to put on an amazing day. We had lots of fun games being run by the Year 5 and 6 children and our staff team including a Coconut Shy, Splat the Rat, Hook the Croc and a newly added Human Fruit Machine. One of our wonderful pupils from Year 4 ran a stall selling her own toys and handmade crocheted goodies. An entrepreneur in the making!



Our parents ran stalls selling preloved goodies, baked goods, cool refreshments and so much more, whilst our main arena gave stage to some beautiful singing from our pupils and exciting dance routines, from our talented Street Dance and Maypole clubs as well as a demonstration from our fencing coach.

The tractor rides provided by Rushall Farm, the bouncy castle slides and BBQ run by two of our fantastic families, were big hits, but the grand finale of a huge water fight, including children, parents staff and even a governor, was the favourite moment of many. 'It was the best fete ever!' has been heard numerous times since!

This year's Sports Day looked slightly different to usual, as due to the heat we decided to hold the races in the morning. We kicked off the event with a house parade waving our beautiful new house flags, hand-crafted by Year 6 with the help of one of our parents. Every single child put in a brilliant effort and we were proud of the incredible sportsmanship that was shown by all, especially in the house relay where everyone joined in and was getting cheered on. For many, the peak of the morning however, was the parents and staff egg and spoon races. The children loved cheering their mums, dads and grandparents on, although some were disqualified by the own children for questionable technique! After a well-earned family picnic and the dust from the very dry tracks had settled, it was announced that it was Demeter House who were this year's champions.



Year 5 and 6 starred in their production of 'I'm an 11-year-old Get Me Out of Here!', and what a show it was! The audience were in stitches, with the children's portrayal of the playground as a David Attenborough documentary and an embarrassing parent challenge! Every child learnt and performed their lines with brilliant comic timing and sang their hearts out. Well done to all the pupils and staff for putting on what Miss Galvin said was the best Year 5/6 production she had ever seen!



We rounded off the term with our Leavers Service in St Mark's Church. There were lots of misty eyes as we said goodbye to our some of our children, as well as our much-loved Reverend Julia and Mrs Kelley. They will all be missed so much.

Now the summer term has finally come to an end, and the school corridors and classrooms are empty and quiet, we wish everyone a happy summer holiday!

Kate Galvin, Headteacher



School Governors out! The last full governors meeting of the year.



Visitors to the Five a Day

Garden: the heatwave has made watering the big priority for the garden and heroic efforts have been made with Glen organising a rota especially over the weekends. We are harvesting a fabulous variety of produce now which is gratifying given the weather. The Open Day was a little slow but we want to offer huge thanks to everyone who visited especially our younger folk who enjoyed the pond dipping! The flower beds are especially beautiful with lots being sold in the gazebo in the garden centre.



Thyme Together: both groups have been busy planting and weeding. Thyme Together continue to run their free sessions on Thursdays – 10am to 12pm and 1pm to 3pm. Feel free to tell anyone who you think may be interested. For details please contact Ali on ali@fiveaday.org.uk or 07555 184343.

Volunteers: we are looking for volunteers to support us with Thyme Together as well as at workshops, gardening or to help at events. You could have some very useful talents/skills to offer. Everybody is good at something! We are also

holding a volunteer picnic in August to give an opportunity for all the volunteer groups to get together and enjoy the garden as one.

Schools and uniformed groups: the schools will be wrapping up their summer term and we have really enjoyed hosting their visits again this year despite some cancellations due to the weather. We look forward to seeing them again after the summer holidays. The uniform groups continue to attend and are awarded our special 5ADAY badges as part of their visit.

Corporate groups: We have welcomed a number of groups with only a few days rescheduled due to the heat. The teams have been busy cutting hazel, weeding woodchip, strimming and prepping the raised beds for Thyme Together. We are so grateful for the enthusiastic effort they all put in.



If you are interested in any of the above, in volunteering or know of a business which supports staff volunteering please email info@fiveaday.org.uk or call 07555 184343. You can also visit our website at Fiveaday.org.uk, and follow us on Facebook and Instagram. 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. We have already raised over £200 this past year from people who have signed up.

Wendy Cadman
Five A Day Management team member and trustee

raising funds for
Home-Start West Berkshire



ENGLEFIELD HOUSE
OPEN GARDEN
NEAR THEALE, WEST BERKSHIRE

AUGUST
MONDAY 31 10-4PM
2026

Explore the stunning
Englefield House Gardens
Pastries, delicious cakes and scones
Beverages available including tea and coffee,
Browse our exciting selection of stalls
Enjoy the children's crafts and activities

SUGGESTED £5 DONATION PER PERSON. RHS
AND NGS MEMBERS AND CHILDREN UNDER 12
GO FREE!



From the Old Fire Station Nursery

For all our wonderful school leavers,
We've got exciting days and memories to treasure!
Sport session fun and music with Heather,
Woodland walks whatever the weather!
Minibus trips and adventures galore,
With laughter, friendship and so much more!

We have preschool spaces available! Come and join our happy preschool family,
where every day is filled with fun, learning and discovery!

Contact Sophie@theoldfirestationnursery.co.uk

Summer holidays at Cobbs

Looking for an easy and affordable family lunch this summer? We've got you covered. From 13th July to 4th September 2026, children can enjoy a FREE meal from our Kids' Lunch Menu when accompanied by one paying adult ordering from Our Favourites Menu.

Whether you're meeting friends, taking a break from summer holiday activities, or simply treating the family to lunch, it is the perfect excuse to visit your local Cobbs café at Englefield.

The Cobbs team





12:30pm - 1:00pm
Floating Pavillion,
Arlington Park

**Every Wednesday
from September**

Open to all, whether you're
sceptical, Christian or just curious.

Time to chat, with a short talk from
the Bible about why Jesus is relevant
today.



BRING YOUR LUNCH
Free tea and coffee

Holy Trinity Church
Arlington Park
holytrinitytheale.org.uk/arlington



Kindly sponsored by



In aid of Newbury RDA

Thursday 1st October 2026
9.30am - 4.00pm
Manor Barn, Yattendon
RG18 0UR

Fabulous selection of stalls !
Coffee, tea & cake served all day

Entry £5 (children go free)

Click here for tickets 

Free parking available opposite Yattendon church

Sunday	Sidesperson	First reading	Gospel	Prayers	Sacristan	Server	Sunday Club and crèche	Cleaners
August 2nd 9th Sunday of Trinity BCP	Richard Benyon	Denny Hollands	Saffy O'Sullivan	Linda Price	Catherine Haig	Paula Fenwick	Saffy O'Sullivan	Pete and Carole Ford
August 9th 10th Sunday of Trinity	Pauline and Graham Harvey	Aldo Guiducci	Paula Fenwick	Denny Hollands	Denny Hollands	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 Norris	Torquil MJ	Liz McKean	Anji Higgins
August 23rd 12th Sunday of Trinity	Paula Fenwick	James Bamforth	Linda Price	Penny Savage	Penny Savage	Denny Hollands	Meryl Bonser	Pauline and Graham Harvey
August 30th 13th Sunday of Trinity	Liz Marillier	John Rothery	Denny Hollands	Catherine Haig	Susan Smith	Penny Savage	Saffy O'Sullivan	Liz McKean
September 6th 14th Sunday of Trinity BCP	Penny Savage	James Meade	Meryl Bonser	BCP	Catherine Haig	Peter Haig	Denny Hollands	Catherine and Peter Haig
September 13th 15th Sunday of Trinity	Torquil MJ	Carole Ford	Kahlen Spaulding	Saffy O'Sullivan	Denny Hollands	Paula Fenwick	Liz McKean	Pete and Carole Ford
September 20th 16th Sunday of Trinity	Linda Price	Aldo Guiducci	Peter Haig	Denny Hollands	Penny Norris	Saffy O'Sullivan	Meryl Bonser	Saffy O'Sullivan Penny Norris
September 27th 17th Sunday of Trinity	Peter Haig	Paula Fenwick	Jean Rothery	Penny Savage	Penny Savage	Torquil MJ	Saffy O'Sullivan	Anji Higgins
October 4th 18th Sunday of Trinity BCP	Richard Benyon	Ronan O'Sullivan	Linda Price	BCP	Susan Smith	Denny Hollands	Liz McKean	Liz McKean
October 11th 19th Sunday of Trinity	Pauline and Graham Harvey	Saffy O'Sullivan	Lorraine Dehn	Linda Price	Denny Hollands	Penny Savage	Denny Hollands	Pete and Carole Ford
October 18th 20th Sunday of Trinity	Liz Marillier	Peter Haig	Paula Fenwick	Catherine Haig	Catherine Haig	Peter Haig	Meryl Bonser	Catherine and Peter Haig

LAST EDITED 22-Jul-26 9:10 PM

*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.*



Rectors at Englefield

As we bid a sad farewell, but a hearty bon voyage, to the Rev Julia and Paul we might consider one or two of our previous Rectors and add some detail behind the names on the board in the church.

A 'Rector' was originally one who in return for celebrating services in the parish church received all the tithes, glebe land and offerings from the parish rather than a regular salary, or stipend, though he was also responsible for the upkeep of the chancel and the rectory, and for providing service books and vestments.

The 'advowson' or 'right of presentation', that is the right to propose such a Rector to a parish was usually vested in the local Abbey or a collegiate foundation. After the Act of Supremacy in 1534 and the subsequent dissolution of the abbeys the right of presentation was often the right of the landowner. The evidence is that this had been always the situation in Englefield for the original patron, William Englefield, having offered the advowson to Abbot Joseph of Reading Abbey in about 1175 subsequently quarrelled with him over it and rescinded the offer. While these later Rectors retained the income from the tithes and glebe they did not have the commitments of their predecessors.

Particularly in the 18th century, some Rectors collected a number of livings, and the income, as well as other appointments and arranged for someone else to do the parish duties on their behalf in return for a proportion of the tithes. This person was called a 'Vicar' because he acted vicariously for the Rector. A 'Curate' was originally one in full charge of a parish but receiving a stipend rather than tithes but later came to be simply a paid assistant to the Rector or Vicar.

Englefield had a number of these multi-tasking Rectors throughout the 18th century beginning with Samuel Norris in 1708 when he was already Rector and Vicar of Tilehurst. On his death in 1711 he was followed by Matthew Tate who was already the Rector of Liddington, a sinecure, and Vicar of Burnham. James Nind followed in 1759, having given up the living of Downham in Essex the previous year but remaining as Rector of St John, Hackney, and Rector of Ashwick in Norfolk. Nind died in 1770 and was succeeded by Thomas Knapp in the same year.

Englefield was Thomas Knapp's first and only living for he remained in it until his death. Knapp was clearly someone of consequence in Englefield for he, his wife and two daughters are commemorated by plaques in the Englefield Chapel. There used to be a house called 'Knapps' that apparently stood by today's A340 Pangbourne Road just before the M4 motorway crosses it. At his death in 1759, John Horne left to his wife and then to their second son William 'that messuage and tenement and land appurtenances thereon belonging and being and knowing by the name of Knapps in the parish of Englefield'. This was still there when the new road was planned in 1822 but had gone by 1844. Thomas Knapp died in 1817 and the old

order returned for a last hurrah with Edward Berens who was also Vicar of Shrivenham, where he was certainly living in 1851. He also became a Rural Dean at Abingdon, Prebend of Salisbury Cathedral and an Archdeacon. In 1821 Thomas Hulse, Richard Benyon's cousin, was licensed as a Stipendiary Curate at Englefield despite already being Rector of North Ockenden. Francis Eyre seems to have acted as Vicar in Englefield for Berens from about 1825 and while the Tithe Survey of 1844 shows Edward Berens as the owner of the Rectory and the glebe land, the occupier was Francis Eyre. Berens resigned in 1855, the year that the rebuilding of the church began and, the old system of tithes and glebe having by now been abolished, Eyre was appointed Rector on a stipend of £100 a year. The west window in the nave is dedicated to three of his children who died in their early 20s.



Francis Eyre retired to Tunbridge Wells on health grounds by 1861 but apparently initially remained as Rector with John Innes acting as Curate and living in the Rectory. He died at Tunbridge Wells in 1878 but is buried in a fine box tomb in the churchyard at Englefield. He was succeeded as Rector by Arthur Clutterbuck, Mrs Benyon's brother.

The first known Rector was Thomas Latham, though all that is known is that he died in 1542, the year that Clement Burdett was appointed. Burdett, whose brother Humphrey married Susan, the sister of Sir Francis Englefield, must have been the last Roman Catholic incumbent and achieved notoriety by being the foremost of those who condemned the 'Newbury Martyrs' to death in 1556 for 'denying the Pope's supremacy'. Burdett was an early exponent of multi-tasking for he was also Rector of South Morton with his work in Englefield being done by Nicholas Janson. Burdett was deprived of the living in 1560, the year after Sir Francis Englefield fled the country, following the accession of Elizabeth I and the passing of the Act of Uniformity.

In 1635, the year that Englefield is known to have been in the ownership of John Paulet, Marquis of Winchester, Gilbert Wimberley became Rector. He was also Chaplain to King Charles I and as a result was imprisoned in the Tower for a time, like John Paulet himself. At Wimberley's death in 1653 Elias Ashmole wrote in his diary 'My good friend and neighbour Dr Wimberley, minister of Englefield in Berkshire, died', a comment that might have been interpreted a little too closely by the Lysons brothers in their 1813 history of Berkshire to suggest that Ashmole actually lived in Englefield when his estate was at Bradfield House. These Lysons also seem to have been the source of the incorrect placing of Sir Francis Walsingham at Englefield by joining the dots from John Paulet's second wife back to her grandfather and erroneously supposing that Paulet gained Englefield in consequence of that.

Richard Smith

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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.

‘For I do not do the good I want to do, but the evil I do not want to do – this I keep on doing.’ (Romans 7 v 19)

Paul’s words here probably strike a chord with all of us who profess faith in Jesus, and are seeking to live as his followers. How often we set out with good intentions, yet find ourselves slipping into sin before we have gone very far! The struggle that Paul describes is a common war that rages in the life of all believers – the desire to live according to what we know we should do, battling against the selfishness and sin that lurks in the wings. This should be an encouragement to us all: if someone like Paul was not immune to these struggles, we shouldn’t expect to be immune either. Though we shouldn’t use this to justify our behaviour when we sin, we can nevertheless take some comfort that our struggle is not unique to us. But how can we be free of guilt and shame for the times we fall short? Paul answers this in verse 25 – thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord!

‘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 addresses the words of this passage, using 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 the lives of his followers. 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 contemporary 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).

‘And a voice came from heaven: “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.” At once the Spirit sent him out into the wilderness’ (Mark 1 v 11-12)

At baptism, we recognise the renewal of our spiritual life through water, which speaks of cleansing and (particularly with full immersion baptism) the symbolism of sinking down into death followed by our rising to new life. For many, the experience can give a powerful sense of being in God’s presence. But what are we to make of things when life gets hard and God feels distant?

The Bible provides us with many assurances that God has not abandoned us when we are going through tough times. At Jesus’ baptism (the point of which was for him to publicly associate himself with sinful humanity), we have a great picture of the love that exists within the trinity. God the Holy Spirit descends on God the Son, as God the Father proclaims his love and pleasure in the Son - a tremendous scene of deep, abiding love. But in the very next verse, we see God the Spirit sending the Son out into the wilderness to be put through hardship. This is a great encouragement to us: it confirms not only that times of trial are used by God for our good (the Father loves the Son, but puts him through Satan’s testing), but also that trials are not a sign of God’s rejection (the Father is ‘well pleased’ with the Son, but puts him through Satan’s testing). If God the Father saw fit to put his Son through testing, why should we think that testing is a sign of God’s withdrawal?

‘He told them still another parable: ”The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into about thirty kilograms of flour until it worked all through the dough.”’ (Matthew 13 v 33)

If Jesus really is the King, then why is the kingdom of God so hidden? Jesus explains this mystery using this parable of the yeast. Yeast is hidden when you put it into the dough, but it will permeate the whole loaf. The kingdom is the same. Obscure and hidden, it will nevertheless spread through society and, like yeast in a batch of dough, it will have a transformative effect.

Yeast had a bad press in first century Jewish culture. It had to be scrupulously removed from the house before Passover, and was often associated with uncleanness. So Jesus’ original hearers would have been surprised to hear yeast being used as an image of God’s kingdom. But this is just what his followers must have seemed to respectable Jews. Common, uneducated fisherman and farmers, carpenters and women, tax collectors and disreputable characters – it would all seem rather distasteful to the society of the time. But God is like that. He takes distasteful characters and transforms them, and then transforms society through them. Despite its various sins and failures, it is beyond question that the church has had an amazing record down the ages in medical care, social work, education, liberation of women and slaves, defence of prisoners, the aged, the helpless and those society neglects. Hidden and obscure the church may be, but it has had (and continues to have) an undeniable effect on society. It is yeast in the flour.



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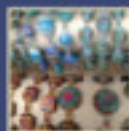
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