

Englefield Parish News

October - November 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

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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: *The ancient Ginkgo tree below St Mark's Church in its full autumn glory, photographed by Cas Cramer.*

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.

Welcome from Rev Alan

Dear friends

At the time of writing Margaret and I are on holiday, a cruise that began in Malta. Over the years I have crossed paths with St Paul several times, figuratively speaking. Years ago, when covering a colleague's leave in Cyprus, I celebrated the Eucharist on the site where St Paul addressed the young Christian community in that place.

From there, if I remember rightly, he returned to Jerusalem where he would face the Jewish elders accused of blaspheming God through his Christian teaching. Moreover the religious leaders contrived for Paul to be accused of insurrection against the Emperor. To cut a long story short Paul, as a Roman citizen 'chose' to go to Rome to be put on trial before the Emperor as was his right.

It was on this journey when again I crossed paths with St Paul in Malta. It was here that the ship, on which Paul was travelling, floundered and sank. Through Paul's wise guidance of the ship's crew, not a soul was lost.

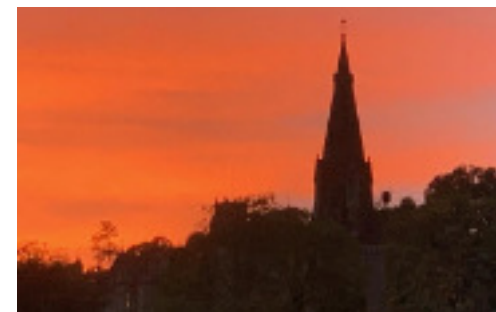
My favourite part of the Maltese story is when Paul was lighting a fire and how he was bitten by a snake as he sorted through the firewood. The locals expected him to die from the bite but he lived. The people declared that he must be a god to have survived. This declaration gave St Paul an opening to tell the people about the one true God and about his Son Jesus. Through his teaching many came to faith.

We may not all be bitten by snakes but we all experience chance encounters when we can tell people about Jesus and what he means to us.

Two things. One, if you already know Jesus as your Lord and Saviour, respond enthusiastically when people ask you about your faith. Two, if you either stand on the threshold of faith, or want to know more about the life of the church, ask a Christian friend or someone, a Christian, you encounter by chance.

In the Father's love and mine,

Rev Alan



Diary dates

Let's Talk Theology, 7.30pm, second Wednesday of every month, at 15 Swallowfield Gardens, Theale. For more information contact Carol Boulter, carolboulter@ntlworld.com. Next dates October 14th and November 11th.

Deanery Talk: Lt General Robin Brims on War and Christianity, Thursday 15th October, 7.30pm, Bradfield College, see page 9 for details.

Evening Praise: last Sunday of every month, 6pm at Holy Trinity, Theale, next dates October 25th and November 29th.

Remembrance Sunday: November 8th, service at St Mark's at 10.30am with Act of Remembrance and two-minute silence. Speaker: Richard Benyon.

Village Bingo and Fish & Chip evening: Friday 20th November, 6.30pm in the Village Hall, book in at the Village Stores.

St Mark's PCC meeting: Monday 23rd November, 6.30pm.

Christmas services: December 13th Carols by Candlelight at 4.30pm; December 24th Crib Service at 3pm and Midnight Service at 11.30pm; family service of celebration on Christmas Day at 10.30am.

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 - SEN 0800 072 72; Oil - Ford Fuels 0148 872 829;	
Gas - National Grid 0800 111 999; Water - Thames Water 0800 714 614;	
Drainage - Total Drainage 0118 9421140	

Congratulations

To Josh and Isabelle Montague-Johnstone whose marriage was blessed at St Mark's on Saturday 8th August.

To Harry and Harriet Bate on the birth of baby Wilfred, on Tuesday 1st September.

To Englefield Estate on successfully renewing its Silver Carbon Literacy Award, which recognises commitment to understanding climate change and taking practical action to reduce carbon emissions.

To Georgiana and Matthew on the birth of baby Eliza Aurelia Haig Goldhill on Thursday 24th September, a granddaughter for Peter and Catherine.

Ride+Stride

Congratulations to St Mark's Treasurer, Ollie Bodger, and his cycling colleague Shehzad, who took part in Ride+Stride on Saturday 12th September in support of the Berkshire Historic Churches Trust. You can follow their route on the St Mark's website as they cycled about 50 miles visiting 14 churches on the way round.



If you would like to support Ollie's fundraising, his sponsorship page can be accessed at <https://www.goodhub.com/go/berkshire-historic-churches-trust-245753>. Half of all the funds he raises will go to St Mark's.



Harvest Festival 2026

The annual Harvest thanksgiving service was held at St Mark's on Sunday 27th September. The church collection together with donations of non-perishable food and toiletries were combined with gifts from the school and given to the West Berkshire Food Bank.

It is hoped that this practical sign of faith in action will become a regular feature at St Mark's. The intention is to have a collection box in the porch Sunday by Sunday for weekly donations. We know that many contribute to food banks and the like in other ways, but physical gifts are an outward and visible sign of our love for our neighbour in need. Thank you.

RIP

Katie Montague-Johnstone who died on 14th July. A service of thanksgiving for her life was led by Rev Julia at St Mark's Church on Monday 24th August.



King's Foundation Visit to Englefield

On Thursday 24th September, the Estate hosted the King's Foundation Building A Legacy Annual Event with a theme of 'The Modern Estate Village'.

Through its Building A Legacy movement, the King's Foundation has built a network of leading landowners, small and medium scale regional housebuilders, and sector specialists to share knowledge about creating new sustainable settlements built on stewardship principles. More than a hundred delegates met in the Long Gallery before touring the village, including the Estate Yard, and the new homes at Ochre Meadows, Theale, where the Estate has partnered with Croudace Homes.

Edward Crookes, Chief Executive

The process of seeking a new Rector

The Diocese, in its wisdom, deemed Rev Julia's last day in post was 1st September 2026 and as such St Mark's was 'forbidden' to start the recruitment process until that date had passed. Rev Canon Paul Cowan, Associate Archdeacon, was designated by the Bishop of Reading to oversee the process with St Mark's.

The previous Parish Profile, being less than four years old, has proved a helpful template. The Profile is currently being updated and refined, new photographs and text added reflecting St Mark's requirements for the position.

Section 11 (held on 21st September) and Section 12 meetings are then held as part of the process, involving the Archdeacon, the Patron, representatives of the PCC and the PCC. The Section 12 meeting finalises the advertisements and timings of the position and subsequent interviews. Rev Paul Cowan will chair this meeting.

I would like to express huge thanks to all those who have helped, advised and prepared drafts along the way, playing significant roles in this process, it is much appreciated.

Watch this space, you'll be updated accordingly!

Paula Fenwick, Churchwarden

Changing seasons at the Store

We have a lovely summer although rather hot! Always busy with jacket potatoes on a hot day in the Tea room and the Store ladies have lots of muscles now from all the ice-creams that were scooped.

The autumn arch is now in place so it must mean we can now think about the half term Pumpkin Trail and Christmas lunches and Afternoon Teas too. Bookings are coming in fast now, so please book in with us soon!

The Food Loyalty cards are back for a second year, these were very popular last year. Every fully stamped card is a half price breakfast or lunch in January and February on selected lines.

In the Store, we have set up an Englefield Memories book as we have so many people tell us brilliant stories of the village. If you would like to contribute to this just pop in.

The next community Bingo and Fish & Chip evening is Friday 20th November, please let us know if you would like to attend.

Liz and the team











Holy Trinity Theale
Theale Church
celebrate the harvest

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:

'From Sea to Shining Sea'

On behalf of the American group from Reformation Tours, I would like to express our gratitude for the very warm welcome we received on our visit to St Mark's in September. It was a highlight of their trip, and they very much appreciated being able to worship and share the Lord's Supper with you all. Singing *The Star-Spangled Banner* was a fantastic surprise! They also really enjoyed the delicious homemade treats after the service.



I first came to Englefield many years ago with a group from Lee University in Tennessee, who have visited several times since. I know many of you remember meeting Randy Wood and the young people. I grew up in Great Clacton, when Rev Nick Wynne-Jones and his wife Harriet were there.

'Exploring the Christian Heritage of Scotland, England, and Ireland' was a two-week tour to look at the story of faith in the British Isles. The tour hosts were Pastor Eric and Karyn Sorenson from Community Covenant Church in Santa Barbara, CA. We visited Edinburgh, St Andrews, Ad Gefrin, Durham, Bishop Auckland, York, Cambridge, Bedford and Oxford. The final two stops were London and Canterbury and some of the group continued on to Ireland. As part of the tour, we said the Lord's Prayer and the Apostles Creed each day, along with hymns and prayers. It was, therefore, very special to be able to attend the morning service and pray and worship together. Although we live so far apart, we are united in Christ. Thank you so much to Paula and others for arranging the visit.

Rowena Drinkhouse, Reformation Tours



New use for the Agency

The former Estate Office on Englefield Road is opening as Juniper House, a new specialist school for children who find mainstream school environments challenging. Juniper House is the latest addition to Amegreen Children's Services portfolio of specialist schools in this area. One of the others is Haywards Farm School in Theale, also in an Englefield Estate property.

**Community Transport
for individuals & groups**

CAREBUS
community transport

**VOLUNTEER
DRIVEN**

TWO ACCESSIBLE MINIBUSES
TWO ACCESSIBLE CARS
PRIVATE CARS

Transport
lifeline
for elderly,
disabled,
isolated,
and
vulnerable
individuals

Affordable
travel for
community
group
social
and
cultural
excursions

**SERVING THE EASTERN PARISHES
OF WEST BERKSHIRE FOR FOUR DECADES**

0118 930 4837
info@carebus.org www.carebus.org

Could you help Cynthia?

Cynthia so wishes she had learnt to drive. Her husband always drove them everywhere together but since he died she's felt increasingly isolated...the children moved away and have their own lives, her friends are getting frail. It's a major problem getting on and off public transport, and the service is pretty infrequent anyway. And how can she afford taxis on a state pension, it's bad enough trying to keep pace with the rent.

There are hundreds of Cynthias, living quietly, often out of sight, in the eastern parishes of West Berkshire.

The volunteer drivers at the charity Carebus

Community Transport - founded over 40 years ago in Englefield by the late Graham Reeves - provide a lifeline for them to get to medical appointments, attend social gatherings and clubs. Using their own cars, or one of Carebus's own accessible vehicles, the volunteers get immense satisfaction from making a difference to elderly, vulnerable, isolated or disabled people.

No definite commitment is required, just a willingness to be asked if you can help a week or two in advance. Expenses paid. Training given.

A shortage of volunteers now means that we are sometimes unable to help people like Cynthia - so please consider joining our friendly team.

Find out more at www.carebus.org or email info@carebus.org with your email and we will send you a pdf leaflet, or call 0118 9304837 for a chat.

Kimble Earl, Volunteer Publicity Officer



Volunteer Treasurer Needed

Englefield Village Hall, a small charity, is seeking a volunteer to join the friendly team running our Village Hall - 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



Englefield
Pumpkin Trail
SATURDAY 24TH OCTOBER
UNTIL SATURDAY 31ST OCTOBER

CAN YOU FIND ALL SIX PUMPKINS?
Find all 6 pumpkins hidden around the village

PURCHASE YOUR PUMPKIN TRAIL SHEETS AT EITHER
ENGLEFIELD STORES OR
ENGLEFIELD GARDEN CENTRE.
PLEASE CHECK THEIR WEBSITES FOR OPENING HOURS.
£1.50 PER SHEET
CASH ONLY

Seedtime and harvest

Amongst the newly planted grass behind our house is a patch of thistles. Regularly a large flock of goldfinches arrive in the afternoon and nervously feed on the seedheads amongst them. Lines of fresh green grass growth emerging are the reward for the much prayed-for rain, which refreshed the land after such an extended hot dry run. Turnips have been planted just in time, with the hope of food for sheep and cattle in the autumn. It has been a long haul with nothing growing. Harvest yields nationally have been near the bottom of a ten-year average, with official reports using extreme statements like 'wide variation in performance' and 'variability cannot be overstated'. When Richard Plank's father moved to Severalls Farm in Stanford Dingley on his wedding day in 1938 he was warned that the land was OK provided it had a shower of rain every day and a shower of MUCK on Sundays. With generally light gravel soil and the middle England dome of heat over us it has been hard for farmers here. 'Variability cannot be overstated' means yields have been poor.

However, it would have been far worse had it not been for last autumn's excellent planting weather for winter crops, and that extended into the spring. There was a wonderful rain in mid-June just at the right time for grain fill, quality has been good and oil seed rape yields were the highest on record. Yields of grass for silage and hay were high and it was good stuff. And you will know that farmgate prices for lamb and beef are very high, or maybe you don't look anymore. So, all is not lost. 'Hot and dry weather Support' from the government is there to help. The price of wheat and rape went up because of uncertainty about exports from Ukraine, and then went down because it was OK. And then moved a bit because Iran and USA were again chatting. They say the soya harvest in the States is going to be good, and although the hot weather killed me off there is still plenty of good maize to be harvested in France. China has had a record harvest.

It is amazing that in spite of all that is happening God's promise is that 'As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease.' Genesis 8: 22.

Thank you for our food, Lord God.



John Bishop OBE
www.rushallfarm.org.uk



From Englefield Primary School

'Sowing the Seeds for a Flourishing Future'

What a busy and exciting start we have had at Englefield CE Primary School! The school gates have reopened, the playground is once again full of chatter and laughter (with the occasional lost jumper), and it has been wonderful to welcome everyone back for a new school year.

A very warm welcome goes to all our returning families, as well as those who are joining our school community for the first time. We are particularly delighted to welcome our new Foundation Stage children and their families. They have made a fantastic start, settling into school life and beginning to discover all that Englefield has to offer.



Our Foundation Stage children have already been busy exploring the local area and finding out more about their community. They have enjoyed visits to see St Mark's Church and Englefield House, making the most of the wonderful places right on our doorstep. There has been lots of curiosity, conversation and enthusiastic exploring along the way!

We have also welcomed a rather special new visitor to school this term — our very own therapy dog! Our new furry friend will be joining us each week to spend time with some of our KS1 children, who will have the opportunity to read to the dog. We are hoping this will provide a calm and enjoyable environment for the children to practise their reading, build confidence and develop their fluency. Of course, we also suspect that the dog may simply be here for the stories, cuddles and attention!

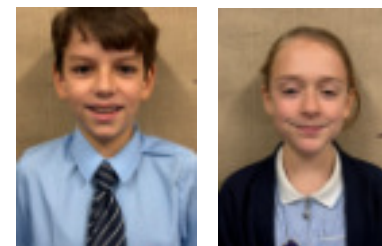
Our after-school clubs have also got off to a flying start, with Football, Multi-sports and Gardening club, just to name a few, now underway. There is certainly something for everyone, whether your preference is scoring goals, getting active or getting your hands gloriously muddy! We are looking forward to seeing what our budding gardeners grow over the coming months, as they will be contributing to the ingredients for our school meals.



We are also delighted to welcome George from USports, who has joined us to bring some extra energy and expertise to our PE lessons. George is working with every class in the school, giving all our children the opportunity to enjoy a specialist PE session. The children have been thoroughly enjoying getting active and trying out new skills.

Our pupils have also been busy taking on new responsibilities, with elections taking place for our various school groups. Children have put themselves forward to represent their classmates in the School Council, Eco Committee, Worship Group, House Captains and other important roles across the school. It has been lovely to see the enthusiasm and confidence shown by so many pupils.

A very special congratulations goes to Alfie Cheney and Evalyn Tomes, who have been elected as our new Head Boy and Head Girl. We are sure they will do a fantastic job in their new roles and look forward to seeing them help lead and represent the children of Englefield.



And finally, our attention is turning towards Harvest, which is already generating plenty of excitement! The children have been busy practising their Harvest songs in school, and we are looking forward to coming together as a school and parish community for our Harvest Service.

It has certainly been a full and lively start to the new school year and we look forward to a wonderful term ahead and to sharing many more highlights with our school and parish community.

Kate Galvin, Headteacher

CCA is hiring

Christian Community Action in Reading is looking for shop managers for its Oxford Road and Sonning Common community shops, and a marketing and fundraising manager. To arrange an informal chat about these roles or to request an application pack please email hr@ccam.org.uk or download an application form at www.ccam.org.uk.



Managing the heatwave

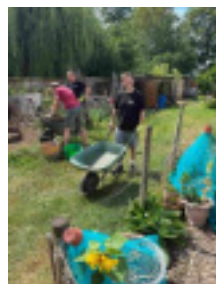
Garden: The heatwave continued to have a huge effect on the garden. Our wonderful volunteers came in early in the day when it was a bit cooler to tend to the crops and flowers. This helped massively towards keeping the garden up and ensuring we still had produce to sell.



Some crops were badly affected such as beans and fruit but our aubergines have done well. We are now thinking about crops to grow for next year should we experience another heatwave.

Thyme Together: Barring a couple of days when the sessions were cancelled due to the heat, Thyme Together continued to run free sessions on Thursdays – 10am to 12pm and 1pm to 3pm. For details please contact Ali on ali@fiveaday.org.uk or 07555 184343.

Volunteers: We welcomed Mags to the Tuesday team and Rose returned to the Friday group after the school holidays. We held a volunteer picnic in August in the sunshine and celebrated some long service awards. We need volunteers to support us with Thyme Together as well as workshops, gardening or events.



Schools and corporate groups: The schools returned the first week in September. We have missed them and look forward to a busy schedule of visits this term. We have welcomed a number of corporate groups with only a few days rescheduled due to the heat. They have been prepping the compost, painting our shed and trimming the long hedge – quite a task in itself! Where do they find the energy?!

We also hosted a visit from a gardening club who were very impressed with the



variety of crops we produce and the extent of activities held in the garden. The regular Bat Walk took place on Friday 11th September and was sold out again. Charlotte Alchin led the session on a beautiful evening. We really hope to make this a regular event as it seems there are a lot of you out there who are keen to learn about these amazing creatures.

If you are interested in volunteering or know of a business which supports staff volunteering please email info@fiveaday.org.uk or call 07555 184343, visit our website at Fiveaday.org.uk, and follow us on Facebook and Instagram. If you shop online, please consider using Easyfundraising to help us raise funds for Five a Day. It costs you nothing, just 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

Join us for Christmas Lunch

From 30th November - 22nd December
Booking essential - Please call to book

12.30pm - 2.45pm

TWO COURSES
Glass of Christmas fruit punch on arrival

MAIN
Traditional Christmas Dinner
with Sliced Turkey, Stuffing, Mini Pigs in Blankets, Parsnips, Roast Potatoes, Carrots, Peas, Sprouts and Lashings of Gravy

DESSERT
Christmas Pudding, Cheesecake or Mini Mince Pies

TO FINISH
Tea/Coffee with Mints
Additional drinks can be purchased from us on the day

£32.95 PER PERSON
£15 non - refundable deposit per person to secure booking (BOOKING ESSENTIAL)

CHRISTMAS GAMES TO GET US IN THE FESTIVE SPIRIT!
(nothing too taxing and all totally optional)

All welcome

Englefield Stores & Tea Rooms

Vegetarian option available, please discuss at time of booking.
To book either pop in during tea room hours or call. Deposit to be paid at time of booking.
Please contact us early for large group bookings.

The Street, Englefield, Reading, RG7 5ES | 0118 930 2479
admin@englefieldstoresandtearooms.co.uk  

The beautiful game (60 years ago)

The sun is setting on the summer, and the Englefield cricket team is preparing for the last beautiful game in the park. It's August bank holiday Monday. In the park, deer are losing their summer coats. Now the lake hardly glistens, and by the boathouse a moorhen treads warily while further out on the water coots dive into the muddy depths. Sandpipers and plovers patrol the shoreline of the lake and somewhere below a pike lurks, watching with prehistoric eye. Further away, on the water a swan moves slowly as if in quiet contemplation. And all around in the park the trees are just now remembering the changing of the season, so now leaves begin to turn pale so the trees reveal their wooded frame.



And there in the park, at just before ten o'clock, a pitch is being prepared, using another wooden frame to mark white lines twenty-two yards apart. Then the placing of shining stumps and bails, in readiness for the all-day cricket match. This is the great game between the players of Englefield village and the gentlemen of Warborough. It should just be added of the cricketers of Englefield, they are players, young and not so young

who have a connection with the estate, so it could be said are of an earlier age. While the players of Warborough are men of the coming world, being businessmen, academics and one or two players from a famous Oxford college. We were then village folk; and one could perhaps describe them as urbane. Yet despite our differences the fixture is always good-natured, so one always keenly anticipated, but just not quite so keenly fought, where the result just never quite matters.

We always seemed to field first in this late summer game, so we take the field with cheerful anticipation. If though you had happened to be looking from Englefield House down towards the cricket field you would have seen only 10 good men, mostly dressed in white, take the field. It's apparent that we are a man short, then usually after some minutes, there is a cloud of dust and an ancient Morris, seemingly held together by twine, speeds towards the ground. It's Peter, he jumps from the car and onto the field, there is laughter, even among the academics one feels though they don't quite know why.

We have another Peter, he always opens the bowling usually with Danny. The former is predictable, Danny fast but one has to say slightly less predictable. For some reason we often bowl Warborough out before lunch. This is as they often are rather cavalier, what could go amiss on such a day.

We would bat after a lunch of tea and sandwiches – Ken, the most yeoman of men, and myself open the batting for the village. We are the most boring of

cricketers, but on a good day we manage to exasperate the opposition's fast bowlers. Our first four or five batsmen often get some runs, then our number six comes in, it's Peter, owner of the dusty Morris, and at last there is entertainment. He hits the ball far and wide, sometimes into the pavilion, sometimes disturbing the deer. When he is out, there is, it has to be said, disappointment even among the gentlemen of Warborough.

Then they would bat again, now with more intent, with batting strokes probably out of a university textbook. We would be racing round the boundary as the ball flies mostly just beyond our reach. Then Warborough declare often leaving us just too many runs to make. Our most enterprising batsmen swing the bat, but with just not quite enough intent. So, the match between the village and Warborough is, as often happens, drawn – no one wins, no one loses, in a way this is just right for such a jolly game.

This match was often the last home game of the season. So now the cricket balls that have lost their shine, and bats which now have marked red edges are stowed away. The pavilion is locked, fencing is put in place; the beautiful games of cricket in the park are now over for another year.

This late summer evening in the park is quiet, the lake has a stillness, life now appears to have settled. The evening trees bow low to provide a sanctuary for deer, nature in the park prepares to rest. There is though still the far-off swan, so silent, now just seeming to defy the passing of time.

Many who played this last of summer game make their way past the great fern-leaf beech at Appleton's Corner to what was once the working men's club, where they still serve H & G Simonds' beer. All the cricketers drink and talk of the day, of its disasters, the occasional small triumphs, but mainly there is laughter at the eccentricities of the day. The game is again played out in words as the evening drifts into darkness. Long past matches linger in the memory, with images of the beautiful park. And how for a while there has been a certain harmony, of a beautiful game and of the pastoral, where the men dressed in white seem somehow in communion with the old green land.

The cricketers leave the park as the season changes, just when the swallows take their last swoop over the field and deer prepare for their noisy battles. Soon the people of Englefield will prepare for harvest festival, then the dark days of winter when nothing disturbs the cricket field and frost covers the land. Then Christmas, where the churchgoers of the village might look beyond the redwood trees and see the far-off now forlorn pavilion, while around all nature rests. Just waiting again for summer days, and the sound of cricket bat striking ball, the cry of 'How's that', and perhaps see dust clouds behind a rattling car. And where the far-off swan now is gliding, so white, seeming to have awoken and aware that time has passed.

Robert Lamperd

Sunday	Sidesperson	First reading	Gospel	Prayers	Sacristan	Server	Sunday Club and crèche	Cleaners
October 4th 18th Sunday of Trinity BCP	Richard Benyon	Ronan O'Sullivan	Linda Price	BCP	Penny Norris	Denny Hollands	Liz McKean	Liz McKean
October 11th 19th Sunday of Trinity	Pauline and Graham Harvey	Saffy O'Sullivan	Lorraine Dehn	Denny Hollands	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
October 25th Last Sunday of Trinity	Paula Fenwick	Graham Harvey	Rev Alan	Penny Savage	Sue Smith	Margaret Gates	Saffy O'Sullivan	Saffy O'Sullivan Penny Norris
November 1st All Saints Day BCP	Peter Haig	John Rothery	Rev Alan	BCP	Penny Savage	Paula Fenwick	Denny Hollands	Anji Higgins
November 8th Remembrance Sunday	Penny Savage	James Meade	Rev Alan	Linda Price	Penny Norris	Torquil MJ	Liz McKean	Pauline and Graham Harvey
November 15th Second Sunday before Advent	Torquil MJ	Carole Ford	Kahlen Spaulding	Saffy O'Sullivan	Denny Hollands	Saffy O'Sullivan	Meryl Bonser	Liz McKean
November 22nd Christ the King	Linda Price	Aldo Guiducci	Rev Alan	Denny Hollands	Catherine Haig	Denny Hollands	Saffy O'Sullivan	Pete and Carole Ford
November 29th Advent Sunday	Richard Benyon	Paula Fenwick	Rev Alan	Linda Price	Sue Smith	Penny Savage	Denny Hollands	Saffy O'Sullivan Penny Norris
December 6th Second Sunday of Advent BCP	Pauline and Graham Harvey	Jean Rothery	Mike Kimber	BCP	Penny Savage	Peter Haig	Liz McKean	Anji Higgins
December 13th Third Sunday of Advent	Liz Marillier	Richard Benyon	Rev Alan	Penny Savage	Penny Norris	Margaret Gates	Meryl Bonser	Pauline and Graham Harvey
December 20th Fourth Sunday of Advent	Peter Haig	Harry Benyon	Rev Alan	Catherine Haig	Denny Hollands	Paula Fenwick	Saffy O'Sullivan	Liz McKean

LAST EDITED 24-Sep-26 2:42 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.*



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What Happened to the Englefields?

Looking at some recent entries in the church visitors' book, the name Henry Englefield crops up, with the comment that his name brought him. Well it might, for a namesake in the early nineteenth century was the last of the family that took its name from the place to have a connection with it.

The Englefield family effectively lost the manor of Englefield in 1559 when the wishful regicide Sir Francis Englefield left the country and was subsequently dispossessed by Elizabeth I. Francis was a prominent Roman Catholic and had held a very high position in the household of Queen Mary but the accession of the Protestant Queen Elizabeth put a stop to that. After leaving England he became a key advisor to King Phillip II of Spain and was finally outlawed for treason following his involvement in the Throckmorton Plot organised by his cousin Sir Francis Throckmorton with the aim of killing Elizabeth I and replacing her on the throne with the Catholic Mary Queen of Scots.



However, a small property in Englefield, a house in the village and some land, separate from the main estate, had been given during his lifetime by Sir Thomas Englefield, Justice of the Common Pleas, to his second son, John, younger brother of Sir Francis, and that was not subject to seizure with the main estate. On John's death this property passed to his son Francis, nephew of the treacherous Sir Francis.

Separately, Queen Mary I had rewarded her loyal servant Sir Francis by giving him the manor of Wootton Bassett in 1555 but this was also seized by Queen Elizabeth on account of Sir Francis's treachery. This manor had been remaindered on Francis's brother John however, so when Sir Francis died in Spain in 1596 although John had already died, it was allowed to pass to his son and heir, Francis. So he was then in possession of both the small property at Englefield and the Wootton Bassett manor. This Francis was made 1st Baronet of Wootton Bassett in 1611. When he died in 1631 the Englefield property was settled not on his heir but on his seventh son, Henry, and so became separated again from the Wootton Bassett manor, and from the baronetcy. Henry Englefield's property at Englefield was at least partly sequestered during the Civil War but at the Restoration he regained it and on his death it passed to his son, also Henry. He died unmarried, so it reverted to Sir Charles Englefield, the 5th Baronet of Wootton Bassett.

On the way to Sir Charles, the Wootton Bassett manor had passed from Sir Francis the 1st Baronet through two more generations of baronets – both called Francis – until the second of these, the 3rd Baronet, died without surviving issue. Wootton Bassett had been willed to his widow, Honoria, for her life and at her death in 1676

should have reverted to his uncle, Sir Thomas Englefield who had become the 4th Baronet. Honoria however had married as her second husband Sir Robert Howard and he had acquired the reversion from Sir Thomas so when she died, he acquired the Wootton Bassett manor and promptly sold it to the Earl of Rochester.

Thus, Wootton Bassett was lost to the Englefields but Francis, the 1st Baronet, had in 1606 bought Whiteknights Park in Reading (now the main campus of Reading University) and it remained in the family. Both Whiteknights and the property at Englefield passed from Sir Charles the 5th Baronet to Sir Henry the 6th Baronet and then to his son Henry the 7th Baronet who had been born at Whiteknights and spent most of his childhood there. He sold the Englefield property to Richard Benyon in 1792 and thus finally severed the family's connection with the village from which they took their name.

Six years later he also sold Whiteknights Park, supposedly because of the anti-Catholic prejudices of his neighbours, and moved to Tilney Street in Mayfair, London. He never married but from about 1794 conducted an affair with Milburg Allpress, the wife of General Richard Crewe of Crewe Hall in Cheshire, by whom she already had four children. The only way to obtain a full divorce in those days was by a special Act of Parliament and in 1801 Gen Crewe petitioned the House of Lords for just such a thing on the grounds of his wife's adultery with Sir Henry, so all the details are preserved in the written records of the House of Lords and can be read online today. The General was also awarded £3,000 damages against Sir Henry by the Court of Common Pleas in a separate action for trespass, assault and criminal conversation. Within a year of the divorce a son (Henry) was born to Milburg and Sir Henry but Milburg died shortly afterwards. She is buried in the Englefield Chapel and commemorated by a white marble monument on the east wall. Sir Henry died in 1822 and their son, being illegitimate, could not succeed to the baronetcy so it became extinct and with Englefield and Whiteknights being already sold, nothing more is known of the family. Could the Henry Englefield of the visitors' book be a descendant?

Sir Henry, the seventh Baronet, is the last of the Englefields to be buried in the chapel that bears the family name in St Mark's Church. Although the original church was probably built by a very early member of the family, the Chapel was not added until 1514. The tomb of Sir Thomas Englefield, who died in that year, sits between the chancel and the chapel but the only representative of the family to have been Lord of the Manor of Englefield commemorated actually in the Chapel is his son Sir Thomas who likely built it, although his monument was seemingly lost during the Victorian rebuild. All the others buried and commemorated there are from Wootton Bassett or Whiteknights, although some did at least have the small Englefield property.

Richard Smith



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.

‘Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner’ (Matthew 20 v 10-11)

On first hearing this parable, you could be forgiven for thinking that this story is very unfair. Working in a vineyard is hard work, and those who had been hard at it since the early morning found themselves in a queue to get their wages along with some people who had only turned up shortly before it was time to down tools. It may have been a bit galling that the latecomers were paid first; it must have been very galling that they were paid exactly the same amount (a day's wage) as those who had been toiling all day.

If it seems unfair to us, it is because we are viewing what the labourers received as wages. Wages are earned, and it is instinctively wrong to us that people who do dramatically different amounts of work should receive the same wage. But – each worker agreed originally that the pay they were to receive was fair. It was only when they compared themselves to others that they began to grumble, as pride began to manifest itself.



When we view the parable through the lens of grace (undeserved reward) rather than wages, we see things differently. From the perspective of grace, we see a generous landowner who delights to give extravagantly. In the same way, Jesus reveals that the heart of God is filled with abundant generosity; his provision for his people is not dependant on how much they have done for him, but rather their willingness to follow him alone.

Let's make sure we avoid the temptation to compare ourselves and our lot with that of others – that leads to pride and resentment – and instead recognise that God owes us nothing, but gives freely and generously out of the abundance of his grace. Those who trust in Jesus have eternal life, not because of great works or sacrifices they have made, but rather because God is gracious to the undeserving.

‘Then his lord summoned him and said to him, “You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow-slave, as I had mercy on you?”’ (Matthew 18 v 32-33)

Why should we forgive other people when they do something against us? Forgiveness is costly: either they make reparation for what they did wrong, or else we have to. What is our motivation to absorb that cost, especially when we are dealing with a repeat offender?

Jesus answers this question with a parable that points to an uncomfortable truth. No matter how badly somebody has offended against us, it is a pale shadow of how much we have offended against God. The debt that we owe him, in our rejection and rebellion against our creator, is inestimably huge. We would never be able to pay it off if we had a hundred lifetimes. Yet, in his great mercy, through the death and resurrection of Jesus, God has absorbed that cost for us.

If we have grasped the extent of this mercy we have been shown, it becomes possible for us to show mercy to others. Recognising we have been forgiven such a large debt helps us to forgive those who owe us a small debt by comparison. This isn't always easy – there is still a cost we have to bear in forgiving others – but it is possible.

We should notice that this doesn't mean we need to forget as well as forgive. In some cases with serial offenders, when we have reason to believe they will do the same again, it will be wise to put them or ourselves in a position to prevent it. Helping somebody avoid temptation is every bit as godly as forgiving them – we see both of these contained in the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples to pray (The Lord's Prayer; see Matt 6:9-13).

Jesus' warning in this parable is serious though, and echoes how he concludes his passage on prayer (Matt 6:14-15) – if we are unforgiving towards others, it indicates that we have not accepted the value of the forgiveness Jesus offers us, and so are showing ourselves to still be rebelling against him. When we are struggling to forgive, we should spend some time reflecting on what God has forgiven us and see where that leads us.



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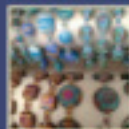
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