

Englefield Parish News

December 2023 - January 2024



Diary dates

Advent Sunday: Sunday 3rd December, come and celebrate the start of the Advent season and enjoy a glass of sherry after the service.

Carols and Lessons by Candlelight, Sunday 17th December, 6.30pm at St Mark's, followed by mulled wine and mince pies.

'Nativitingle', all-age service on Christmas Eve, 3.30pm, at St Mark's.

Midnight service, Christmas Eve, 11.30pm, at Holy Trinity, Theale.

West Berkshire Mobile Library: Wednesday 17th January (no visits in December) outside the Old Fire Station Nursery, Englefield, 2pm to 2.25pm.

Time to Pray: half an hour of prayer, Bible reading and reflection in the Englefield Chapel, first and third Mondays of the month, 6.00 - 6.30pm: 4th and 18th December, 15th January (no meeting on January 1st).

St Mark's PCC meeting: Monday 15th January, 6.30pm, at St Mark's.

Evening Praise: last Sunday of every month, next date 28th January (no service in December), Holy Trinity, Theale, 6pm.

Local contacts

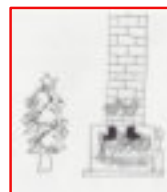
Englefield Estate Office 0118 930 2504; office@englefield.co.uk
Englefield Estate Yard 0118 930 2538 maintenance@englefield.co.uk
Englefield Stores & Tea Room 0118 930 2479

Englefield Village Hall
admin@englefieldstoresandtearooms.co.uk
www.englefieldstoresandtearooms.co.uk/
<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
Police 101 or 999 (for emergencies)

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

On the birth of Ezra James Morris on 27th September to Emily (Strang) and James, a brother for Mia.

To Sarah and Daryl Andrews on the birth of Phoenix George on 4th October, a brother for Aurelia and third grandson for Paula and Chris Fenwick.

To Mary Johnson on the occasion of her 90th birthday on Sunday 22nd October.

To Nick and Harriet Wynne-Jones who celebrated their Golden Wedding anniversary in November.

To Eliza Watts and Liam Dowker married at St Mark's on Friday 10th November.

To Ella Hogarth and Jack Marsh on their recent engagement.

Baptisms

Rufus Rands, baptised at St Mark's on Sunday 15th October.

RIP

Jean Tynan who died on 2nd October and whose funeral was held at Holy Trinity Church, Theale, on Monday 23rd October.

Christmas Services

Sunday 17th December, 6.30pm, Lessons and Carols by Candlelight followed by mulled wine and mince pies

Christmas Eve, 10.30am, A quiet Book of Common Prayer
Holy Communion, no hymns

Christmas Eve, 3.30pm, 'Nativitingle' All-Age Nativity & Christingle

Christmas Day, 10.30am, Christmas Communion for all the family



Church is open each day until dusk for quiet reflection



'Twenty is plenty'

Following an increase in the number of people raising concerns about the speed of cars driving along The Street, the Parish Council would like to politely remind parishioners to please be mindful of your speed when driving within the village. Statistics show very clearly that 50% of all pedestrian fatalities and 80% of serious injuries, due to the frontal impact of a car, happen at 21-30mph, but only rarely at 20mph or below. Thank you.

Englefield Parish Council

Temporary gates

The new gates now installed at the junction of the front drive and the A340 are a temporary measure. They will remain in place until repairs to the original gates, damaged in a collision earlier this year, are completed. It is hoped that the original gates will be returned and refitted soon.

Following the Snowman Trail

The Englefield Estate Snowman Trail will be back for 2023. Wrap up warm and head out with family and friends and see how many you can find!

The 19 wooden snowmen have been painted by local children, and you can find them in the Englefield Estate woodlands near Mortimer West End, Mortimer, Silchester and Burghfield Common.

This year's trail will be open every day from Thursday 21st December 2023 until Friday 5th January 2024. To help you track down the snowmen, a printable map and an online interactive map will be available on the Englefield Estate website before the trail starts. This can be viewed on your mobile device while you're out and about.



*Rich Edwards
Forestry Manager*

Remembrance Day 2023

St Mark's joined in the annual nationwide act of remembrance in November, marking the end of the First World War when the guns fell silent at the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month, and remembering all those who fought and died in both world wars and in conflicts around the world since. The WWI 'soldier' again stood on the drive just below the lych gate, this year with a special note of remembrance (below) from the children of the Old Fire Station Nursery with some ceramic poppies that they had made and decorated. On the grass inside the churchyard was the 'Field of Remembrance', shown here: one tall poppy surrounded by 14 small crosses. These were St Mark's tribute to the men of Englefield, North Street, Mayridge and Lone Barn who fell in the two world wars, 13 in the First World War and one in the Second World War. These crosses were scattered randomly as were the bodies on the battlefield, while the single tall poppy at whose feet they lay, represents Christ's sacrifice made for us all, and as our example, so that evil should not prevail.



On Sunday 12th November, the morning service at St Mark's included the two minutes' silence, the Last Post and Reveille, and the moving words of the Exhortation and the Kohima Epitaph, read by Richard Smith. The talk was given by a former member of the congregation, a veteran who spoke movingly about his service in the armed forces, with particular regard to the bravery and example of two bomb disposal colleagues.



Date for your diary

Advance notice of the date for the World Day of Prayer 2024 which is to be held on Friday 1st March at Burghfield Methodist Church, starting at 2pm. The service, this year prepared by the Christian women of Palestine, is entitled with poignant relevance, 'I beg you, bear with one another in love'.

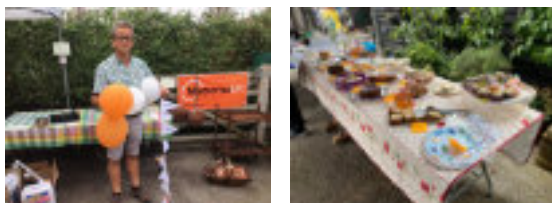
Penny Savage

Fundraiser in North Street

We held a coffee morning at The Thatchers to raise funds to support Myeloma UK, to raise awareness and fund vital research into myeloma. Myeloma UK is the only charity in the UK dedicated to research and funding for blood cancers.

We had a magnificent spread of cakes to choose from, serve yourself teas and coffees, a vintage stall and a tombola. We were blessed with magnificent weather, welcomed over 60 people - family, friends and neighbours - during the morning and are proud to say that we raised over £1,100. Huge thanks and heartfelt gratitude to all who came and all who donated. And it was just a great occasion for mingling and connecting.

Jackie Postles



Cleaners please!

Your help is needed! We have a wonderful band of people who ensure that St Mark's Church is clean for our services and we really need more helpers to do a duty. If you feel you might be able to offer an hour for this every six weeks please email catherinehaig@gmail.com for more details.



Christmas at the Village Stores and Tea Room

Summer months have now left us and at the time of writing we only have one week to go before our Christmas lunches start. We are now fully booked for the lunches but still have a few tables left on 2nd and 9th December for the Christmas Afternoon Teas.

The Tea room will be open for breakfasts, drinks and cake in December on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays 10-11.30am and also Saturdays 10-3pm, but the rest of the time the Tea room will be closed due to Christmas lunches which start at 12.30 each weekday and are only pre-bookable.

However, throughout December and January, as the Tea room is closed, takeaway drinks and food from the Stores can be purchased and eaten in the Tea room marquee if needed.

In the Stores we have some beautiful Christmas present gifts and chocolate, so well worth a visit!

We will be decorating this week and would like to give a big shout out to Englefield Garden Centre for the amazing trees and also to Five A Day for the beautiful table decorations that we will use on the tables in the Tea room.

The team and I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas.

Liz Wirth

Sunday school at St Mark's

The children are looking forward to a busy Advent and Christmas season. As we light the Advent candles each week which represent God's people, the prophets, John the Baptist, and Mary, we will remember the promise of the nativity for each one of us.

All children (and their families!) are very welcome - we would love to see you.

Saffy O'Sullivan

Thank you to the children of Englefield Primary School for the Christmas drawings in the magazine this month.



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



Christmas at Cobbs

Get into the swing of Christmas at our LIVE music night with Adam Winslet & Band on Saturday 16th December, 7pm till late. Tickets £25, including a drink on arrival.

The closing date for Christmas meat orders is Sunday 17th December. This year's beautiful birds come from Starveall Farm which uses traditional rearing methods where the welfare and quality of their birds are paramount. They enjoy

a natural diet and are free to roam in grassy fields. Our Christmas turkeys are supplied in a carry-home box with ideal cooking instructions to help your Christmas day run smoothly. Top tip: A 5 - 6kg bird will provide 6 - 8 servings.

Whether you prefer turkey or not, we offer a variety of tasty meat options that you can order for Christmas Day. This includes free-range poultry (cockerel, chicken, duck and geese) and pork, our delicious 28 dry-aged beef, locally sourced lamb, and those all-important pigs in blankets. You can view our price list online, and order forms are available from the butchery counter.

Christmas lunches in our cafe are available until Wednesday 20th December. Book now online at <https://www.cobbsfarmshops.co.uk/blog/christmas-parties-2023>.

And if you are stuck for a special present, let us prepare a Christmas food hamper for you with a mix of all your favourite festive food and drinks.

The team at Cobbs

Christmas collections

This year the collections taken at St Mark's Christmas services will be divided between two special charities: the Salvation Army's Christmas appeal for the homeless, and PACT - Parents & Children Together - which works with vulnerable families in our area. You can give by cash or card, contact treasurer@stmarksenglefield.org.uk for more details.



Last posting dates

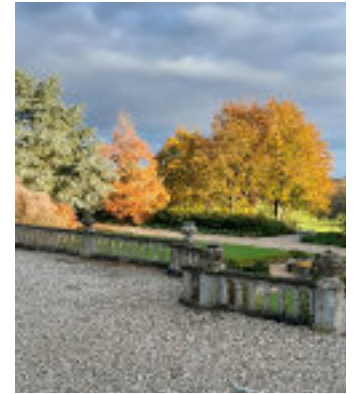
International destinations: 6th December for Australia and New Zealand, 11th December for the USA and Canada and 13th December for Europe.

UK destinations: 18th December for second class, 20th December first class.

Winter gardening

I love working in the garden at this time of the year, although it does have its difficulties due to the rainy weather we have experienced this year. In the woodland, particularly, it becomes increasingly wet underfoot as the falling leaves form soggy paths. We spend time collecting these and creating leaf mulch which we can use on our flower beds next year.

We're also busy digging up and dividing the perennials to fill spaces in the border, this also regenerates the plant so that it has more flowers next year. Another task we like to do at this time of the year is to plant spring bulbs, November is a great time to add tulips and daffodils. The range gets better each year and it becomes harder to choose!



Recently we added sawn logs from an oak that was felled, for safety reasons, to the children's garden. These have formed a small 'stepping' trail for our young visitors. (the picture shows Mark Jackson one of our gardeners and the tree team!). We also plan to add a living willow tunnel to this garden which will be fun. It will have different size 'windows' and wind down the slope by the slide.

Rich leaf colours, bright blue skies, red berries on holly trees, these are the things I notice and enjoy seeing in the autumn. In the winter the good collection of winter flowering and evergreen shrubs giving structure and scent also add interest to the garden. The bark on trees, such as the silver birch and the stem colour of cornus, some are red, whilst others are yellow, are worth considering when you go shopping at this time of year as these plants will create another dimension in your garden. Garden centres also have super amaryllis bulbs available now and I love to grow these indoor plants at home and to give them to friends and family as gifts at Christmas.

Englefield is a garden to visit throughout the year, so wrap up warm and put on your welly boots and enjoy a walk on a Monday with us!

Susan Broughton, Head Gardener



A big thank you from the Nursery

We would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank all of our parents, children and team for a wonderful year spent at the Old Fire Station Nursery.

There wouldn't be enough room to tell you all about the opportunities that have taken place this year throughout the setting including our excursions on the minibus, the most recent being our annual pantomime visit to Newbury's Corn Exchange to watch *Beauty and the Beast*.

We continue to be proud of the team's efforts. This year alone we have supported two members of our team to qualify as level three practitioners with distinctions, two of the team enrolled on to an apprenticeship programme and one member of the team joined Reading University to complete her degree.

Sophie@theoldfirestationnursery.co.uk



Christmas at the Garden Centre

Well the Christmas season is fast upon us, and the team have been working really hard getting all the Christmas gifting and plants together creating fantastic displays which we are all proud to see. Again this year the team have been getting creative, making Christmas wreaths of all styles to meet lots of different customer tastes. We are also selling items so you can have a go at making your own. Once again we are being

responsible selling UK grown Christmas trees to reduce the carbon foot print. We also have UK grown poinsettias in a massive array of colours so hopefully they will work with your colour combinations at home. We also have amaryllis, Christmas cacti and hyacinths too.

As soon as Christmas has passed we get ready for the start of the season with our seed potatoes due to arrive mid January (weather dependant). We will be selling these loose so you can pick as few or as many as you like. With over 25 varieties to choose from, the only problem you will have is deciding which ones to choose. The team at Englefield Garden Centre would like to thank you for your custom over the last year in supporting what we do, and look forward to seeing you all in 2024.

Austin Crabbe, Manager



A momentous year!

It doesn't seem possible that we are coming to the end of another year in the garden with a lot having happened throughout 2023.

We have had a momentous year firstly becoming a registered charity with the new Trustees settling into their roles. We have recruited eight new volunteers to add to our fantastic team and have successfully recruited a Service Development Manager who will start at the beginning of January which we are very excited about.

We have two new ponds, the small one by the seating area and the large one which has been relined, and now look forward to the local wildlife settling into their new homes. The big shed has been replaced with the addition of new seating and we now have a toilet on site.

The Ella's Explorers school visits finished at the end of November and will return in the spring. A total of 18 schools have visited this year. The children have had a wonderful time this summer despite the variable weather.

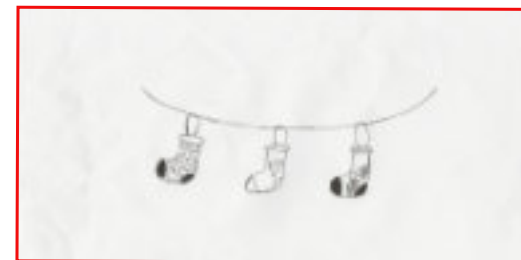
We were successful in securing further funding for Thyme Together and are keen to fill places for the sessions. Should you know anyone who might be interested in joining these free sessions for over 65's please let them know about us either by phone on 07555 184343 or email to info@fiveaday.org.uk.



Finally there are a few places left for our popular annual wreath making sessions on Fridays 1st and 8th December. Please email expressing an interest to 5adayevents@gmail.com and we will do our best to accommodate you.

If you are interested in any of the items mentioned, volunteering or know of a business who supports staff volunteering please email info@fiveaday.org.uk or call 07555 184343. Please leave a contact number where you can be reached.

Wendy Cadman, Five A Day management team member





From Englefield Primary School

'Sowing the Seeds for a Flourishing Future'

In early October, the school grounds got some serious TLC thanks to our merry band of volunteer parents and staff. The weather was on our side and we had a really sociable time which included a good chat over bacon rolls and cuppas. Ruby's garden and the adventure playgrounds were weeded; ivy, nettles and brambles were cut back; new ride-ons were built; footballs were blown up; the dishwasher and a leaky tap were fixed; Pebbles' boxes were washed and put away until next spring; the grit box was cleared out; our dead tree was removed; benches were tightened up, and finally the pond area had a massive prune and clear-out so we can actually see water again!! On top of that, all the garden waste was either composted or removed.

We celebrated Harvest at St Mark's Church as a school community. Songs were sung, poems performed and readings and prayers shared. Rev Julia did a lovely talk about the importance of sharing food fairly across the globe. We collected lots of tins and packets which two parents kindly took to the West Berkshire Food Bank collection point. Hopefully this has reminded the children of the benefits to all, including themselves. of doing kind acts for others.

Four Year 5 pupils spent a morning and lunchtime at The Oratory for their Maths Challenge. They were competing against lots of other schools, solving maths problems and puzzles. Four Year 4 pupils then went to the St Edward's Maths Challenge. All children involved enjoyed the challenges and loved working alongside other schools.

All classes enjoyed a music and rhythm workshop with Marcel and Philippe from Bassistry Arts, before coming together for a whole school assembly at the end of the day. This is such a special day in our school calendar and some of the children remember their songs from year to year!



All classes spent time during Black History week finding out about key figures and events from the Civil Rights Movement and beyond. KS1 researched Mary Seacole. Rome and Luca explained: 'We learned that when Mary Seacole died, a statue was made in London to remember her because she was a really special person in the Crimean War.' Years 3 and 4 found out about Dr Martin Luther King Junior. They learned about the 'I have a dream...' speech, thought about

the current issues that mattered to them and then wrote their own speeches.

I have a dream that one day the Russia and Ukraine war will stop.

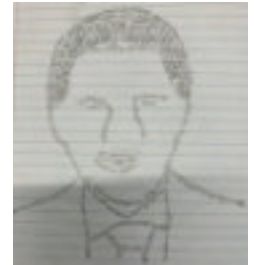
I have a dream that everyone will have peace.

I have a dream that we will plant more trees.

I have a dream that the whole world will love everyone and the world.

by Damian, Year 3

Year 5/6 learned about Nelson Mandela. Bo wrote: 'For Black History Week in Years 5 and 6 we read a book written about Nelson Mandela and learnt about how he spent his whole life fighting for freedom and protesting against racism. The next day we did a comprehension and read another text. Then we drew round Nelson Mandela's face and wrote sentences instead of drawing lines. It was very tricky but some people did it really well.' Amelia's picture is shown here.



Our Years 5 and 6 children had a truly adventurous time in Rhos y Gwaliau in North Wales. They enjoyed a night walk, canoeing, gorge-walking and a trip down a slate mine. On the day of Storm Ciaran, spirits were not dampened by the wind and rain however safety took first priority; instead of a mountain walk, the children did a hill walk followed by the 'via ferrata'. They had marshmallows on the camp fire and were able to buy souvenirs in the shop. The final day was spent enjoying a blustery beach with a mixture of rock scrambling, sliding and ice creams. What a great way to end a fantastic trip.

Hilary Latimer, Headteacher





Jeannie Tynan 1948 - 2023

Jeannie Tynan was born in Theale and lived all her life in the village. She had many friends in Englefield too and was known to generations of young people in the area through her work at Theale Green School.

At her funeral in October which was standing room only at Holy Trinity Church, Carol Boulter and Chris Gittins spoke movingly about Jean's life and immense contribution to the community. Carol recalled finding a note from Jean on the doormat when she first moved in to Lukers in the High

Street: 'My name is Jeannie Tynan and I'm the cleaner here'. And so she became both cleaner and good friend for many happy years. Her connection with Theale Green School first started when she took on a job as a cleaner there in around 1980. In 1986 her son, Brett, started at the school and Jeannie volunteered to work with her life-long friend Liz Reeves at the Theale Youth Club which was housed in the 6th Form unit at the school. Jeannie then became a lunchtime supervisor where her real talent with young people became apparent. This was recognised when she was asked to help set up the Learning Support Unit at Theale Green which became so important to so many young people. The unit closed in 2002 and Jeannie became a learning mentor and started training as a counsellor. As Chris Gittins noted, it is not only what is done to support young people with behaviour problems, it is the way it is done, and Jeannie had the instinctive skill to forge relationships which made such a difference to her students. She contributed in person to training sessions organised by Chris in his work after leaving Theale Green, helping train others to set up around 2,000 other learning support units around the country based on the model at Theale Green.

In the last few years Jeannie was a familiar sight in Theale on her mobility scooter, Hyacinth, with Goggles, her beloved dog, on the running plate. In Carol's words, 'She sort of processed down the High Street, everyone knew her and she was greeted on all sides.' She will be much missed but, as Carol concluded, 'I shall remember her like that as someone who was such great fun and completely integrated into the community. I celebrate her life with joy and thankfulness.'

What a day at Rushall Farm!

Graham, one of our teachers at Rushall Farm, had told me that the tyre on the people trailer looked a bit rough a few weeks ago. I wish I had listened to him rather than getting the phone call that 31 Year 11 children and four teachers were stranded at Bucklebury with a flat tyre. What a day!

It began with 13 tonnes of thatching straw being delivered from Devon for the Black Barn. The scaffolders were already there in preparation for the work on the roof which was starting the following Monday. Jason Morley, who thatched the barn 25 years ago, is doing the work. His son, just born when the first thatch went on, now works with dad, having served in the Royal Navy.

We are experiencing another open autumn season. The leaves turn so slowly before they fall, lengthening the colour and experience of what is now a gradual change to winter. So school visits go on well into November. Today a group from Castle Special School went to meet Heather and her horses and ponies for the first time as an exciting new venture. Another group was learning to use compasses and to work together with one another to design a marble run in the woods, which had to work. They found a dead chaffinch on their travels and decided to give it a decent burial. Finding a scrape made by a squirrel they placed it there on a soft bed of autumn leaves by the pond. It was just right for the day because one girl had lost her pet the previous night so there was some closure and understanding for her and her fellow pupils.

Fortunately, we had a second trailer to rescue those pupils from Bucklebury, so it was back to school on time. They had been doing their field work for Geography GCSE with waders, ranging poles, tape measures and stop watches and the all-important oranges to float down the river.. Jim from Staysure Tyres picked me up and took me to the tractor and trailer. He is in his late sixties and not very big, but I was privileged to watch a master class in how to change a huge tyre. I know he had all the gear, but with his life time of experience what else should I expect?



John Bishop
www.rushallfarm.org.uk

Thank you

To Torquil Montague-Johnstone, St Mark's churchwarden, who raised an amazing £1,200 on his bicycle ride for Ride+Stride. Half of this goes to support the work of the Berkshire Historic Churches Trust, the other half comes back to St Mark's. Thank you to him and to everyone who contributed.

Date	Sidesman	First reading	Epistle	Gospel	Prayers	Sacristan	Server	Sunday School and crèche	Cleaners
December 3rd Advent Sunday BCP	Paula Fenwick	Dinah Perkins Isaiah 64:1-9 (Psalm 80)	Aldo Guiducci 1 Corinthians 1:3-9	Preacher Mark 13:24-end	BCP	Penny Norris	Denny Hollands	Liz McKean Liz Reeves	Peter and Catherine Haig
December 10th Second Sunday of Advent	Liz Marillier	Mike Kimber Isaiah 40:1-11 (Psalm 85)	Carole Ford 2 Peter 3:8-15a	Preacher Mark 1:1-8	Denny Hollands	Penny Savage	Torquil MJ	Saffy O'Sullivan Meryl Bonser	Angie Higgins
December 17th 3rd Sunday of Advent	Torquil MJ	Penny Savage Isaiah 61:1-4,8-end (Luke 1:46-55 or Psalm 126)	Peter Haig 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24	Preacher John 1:6-8,19-28	Catherine Haig	Penny Norris	Penny Savage	Saffy O'Sullivan Liz McKean	Liz McKean
December 24th 4th Sunday of Advent	Liz Marillier	Paula Fenwick <i>Magnificat</i> Luke 1:46-55	Torquil MJ Romans 16:25-end	Preacher Luke 1:26-38	BCP	Dee Boddy	Peter Haig	NO SUNDAY SCHOOL (activities in church)	Pete and Carole Ford
December 25th Christmas Day	Peter Haig		Ron Marillier Isaiah 9:2-7	Preacher Luke 2:1-14	Richard Benyon	Catherine Haig	Torquil MJ Saffy O'Sullivan Penny Savage (Denny Hollands)	NO SUNDAY SCHOOL (activities in church)	
December 31st 1st Sunday of Christmas	Penny Savage	Dinah Perkins Isaiah 61:10-62:3 (Psalm 148)	Anne Edgar Galatians 4:4-7	Preacher Luke 2:15-21	Ron Marillier	Sue Smith	Denny Hollands	NO SUNDAY SCHOOL (activities in church)	Penny Norris Saffy O'Sullivan
January 7th Epiphany BCP	Torquil MJ	James Bamforth Isaiah 60:1-6 (Psalm 72)	Ronan O'Sullivan Ephesians 3:1-12	Preacher Matthew 2:1-12	BCP	Penny Savage	Paula Fenwick	Saffy O'Sullivan Liz Reeves	Angie Higgins
January 14th 2nd Sunday of Epiphany	Paula Fenwick	Angie Higgins 1 Samuel 3:1-10 (Psalm 139)	Lorraine Dehn Revelation 5:1-10	Preacher John 1:43-end	Penny Savage	Denny Hollands	Saffy O'Sullivan	Liz McKean Meryl Bonser	Liz McKean
January 21st 3rd Sunday of Epiphany	Peter Haig	Peter Haig Genesis 14:17-20 (Psalm 128)	Meryl Bonser Revelation 19:6-10	Preacher John 2:1-11	Denny Hollands	Dee Boddy	Penny Savage	Saffy O'Sullivan	Pete and Carole Ford
January 28th 4th Sunday of Epiphany	Torquil MJ	Dee Boddy Deuteronomy 18:15-20 (Psalm 111)	John Rothery Revelation 12:1-5a	Preacher Mark 1:21-28	Ron Marillier	Penny Norris	Torquil MJ	Saffy O'Sullivan	Peter and Catherine Haig
February 4th 2nd Sunday before Lent BCP	Penny Savage	Harry Benyon Proverbs 4:1,22-31 (Psalm 104)	Denny Hollands Colossians 1:15-20	Preacher John 1:1-14	BCP	Sue Smith	Paula Fenwick	Saffy O'Sullivan	Penny Norris Saffy O'Sullivan
February 11th Sunday next before Lent	Paula Fenwick	Graham Harvey 2 Kings 2:1-12 (Psalm 50:1-6)	Paula Fenwick 2 Corinthians 4:3-6	Preacher Mark 9:2-9	Catherine Haig	Penny Savage	Penny Savage	Liz McKean	Angie Higgins

If you have swapped duties, please contact Saffy O'Sullivan (saffyosullivan@gmail.com) and the churchwardens. Please send all prayer requests to Linda Price (pricelinda8@gmail.com).

Thoughts for the week

These reflections are just some of the short commentaries that are 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.

Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world.’ (Matthew 25:34)

Some five hundred years ago the Reformation turned the attention of the church back to the scriptures, God’s timeless word for his people through in all places and at all times. Through this focus on the Biblical text, the truth was rediscovered that salvation is a gift from God, which comes through faith alone. But just because it is by faith alone doesn’t mean that faith is unaccompanied by works. The famous story of the sheep and the goats illustrates this clearly; a person’s works are a clear indicator of that person’s faith, and it is very reasonable to conclude that ‘faith without works is dead’ (as James describes in detail in his book later in the New Testament). But verse 34 above reinforces that the reward for God’s people is a gift: firstly, the people are described as ‘blessed by my Father’ (not ‘owed by my Father’); secondly, their inheritance was prepared for them since the creation of the world – i.e. long before the works of the people had been performed, God had prepared them a kingdom. Never let us fall into the trap of thinking that God owes us anything – everything is a free gift which he willingly bestows because of his love for us.

‘For a thousand years in your sight are like a day that has just gone by, or like a watch in the night.’ (Psalm 90 v 4)

Though we are made in his image, God is nevertheless very different from us. This psalm gives us some pointers to what this otherness - this holiness - looks like. A major theme is his timelessness, and how that compares to our limited span of days. God is from everlasting to everlasting; though a thousand years seems like eternity to us, to him it can flash past like a day. As we start to get our heads around how long eternity is, how even centuries are insignificant by comparison, we will feel one of two responses, which are also found in this passage. For those who stand as sinners before God, the response is terror - eternity with an angry, almighty God is a frightening thought. But for those who stand as forgiven sinners before him, the response is deep comfort - eternity enjoying God’s favour will make all our troubles in this world pale by comparison.

‘Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed – in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.’ (1 Corinthians 15 v 51-52)

On Remembrance Sunday, we remember those who have fallen in war. We remember the sacrifice made by so many, who have laid down their lives for their country; we remember the grief and pain of those left behind. Death is a horrible reality, and one which all of us reading this know lies ahead of us. Yet there is hope.

In this closing section on his teaching about the resurrection, Paul points us to the certain fact that there will come a discontinuity from the present order. Our tendency is to think that what we can see of life today is all there is, and all there will ever be. This thinking is mistaken. As he looks ahead to the final day of history, Paul highlights two points.

Firstly, the end will be sudden and it will be unexpected. We will not all sleep, Paul says, pointing to the reality that the return of Jesus may happen during our lifetime – we may in fact not die before the Second Coming; we cannot be sure when the ‘trumpet will sound’. We should live in the light of this, as if we may be called to give account at any moment.

Secondly, we will all be changed. The end of history will usher in a new heaven and a new earth, and our experience of it will be new as well. We will still be ourselves, but different – finally free of the presence of the sin we have struggled with our whole lives, free to live perfected lives for eternity. This glorious future is held out as a sure and certain hope for everyone who trusts in Jesus, and who is looking ahead to his return. God has provided us with assurance of this, both by the evidence of Jesus’ physical resurrection from the dead, and the downpayment of the Holy Spirit who testifies to our spirit the truth of the gospel message.

You can find more of these weekly reflections on the website www.stmarksenglefield.org.uk. And, further down the home page, use the Latest Talks link to find recordings of Julia’s sermons which are uploaded to the website each week.



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Cranemoor House

One of the problems when researching the history of Englefield during and immediately after the reign of Elizabeth I is the fact that at that time there were actually three different estates and there is often confusion over the various owners – even without the odd red herring thrown in. There was, of course the main estate that Sir Francis Englefield Kt forfeited when he absconded to Spain and plotted the death of the Queen and as we have seen there was also a second Englefield estate that had been given to Francis's brother John by their father and inherited by John's son Francis, who became Sir Francis Bt - even more confusion with two Sir Francis (though note the difference in rank) around the same time.

The origin of the third estate is unknown and it really only pops up in 1597 when it was bought by Lord and Lady Norreys for £1,500 from Sir Thomas Sherley. In 1596 '*Certejne landes in Inglefield and Tydmarsb*' appeared on a list of property to be sold for Sir Thomas with a note that they actually belonged to his son Anthony but had been allocated for sale to the benefit of Sir Thomas, and Sir Thomas was certainly in need of all the benefit he could get just then as he was about to be declared bankrupt and imprisoned. His hobby was property speculation but unfortunately he funded this by embezzling the funds he was sent by the Crown in his day job as Treasurer-at-War in the Netherlands and this had just been found out.



Where Anthony Sherley got the estate from isn't clear but it was very small, consisting of '*a messuage, toft, dovecot, two gardens, two orchards, 44 acres of pasture and 4 acres of wood*'. It's possible that when Sir Francis Englefield was dispossessed, this property was sold or given to Anthony Sherley. It is also possible that this was the second, much smaller, manor detailed in the Domesday Survey of 1086 that somehow continued alongside the bigger one and escaped notice by historians until 1596 but that is perhaps less likely as the estate bought by Lord and Lady Norreys included Cranemoor House, now thought by most authorities to have been the manor house of the Englefield family up to the point when Sir Francis fled. The main estate was leased to Robert Devereaux, 2nd Earl of Essex, between 1589 and his execution in 1601.

Cranemoor House with its gardens and orchards was shown by Josiah Ballard on his map of 1762, on the shore of the lake near Parker's Corner. From the 16th century at least, this lake was a fishery, called Cranmere, intended to provide fish for meals on Fridays and other special days when the Englefields, as prominent Roman Catholics, would certainly have observed the custom of abstaining from eating meat. The proximity of the house to the fishery would make sense for fishponds were usually sited close to the manor house, as at Ufton Court and the site of the former Ufton Robert manor house near to it. Ballard shows the lake as a horseshoe

of ponds around the outer edge of that part of the modern lake that is sadly now only filled with water in wet winters, with two straight intersecting canals in the centre, more resembling the crossing runways of an airfield than anything.

Lord and Lady Norreys gave the property to their son Sir Edward in 1599 when he was recalled by the Queen from his duties as Deputy Governor of Ostend to comfort his parents after the loss of their three other soldier sons in the Dutch War of Independence when England was helping the Dutch to secure independence from Spain – thus anticipating the plot of the film *Saving Private Ryan* by some 400 years. Sir Edward Norreys claimed to have enlarged the house, ‘...the halfe as much as old Englefield’s building...’, which supports the view that this house had been the seat of the Englefield family.



The records of Queen Elizabeth’s annual Progresses show that she visited Sir Edward Norreys at Englefield in 1601 when she knighted his father-in-law John Norris (who was also his uncle) and Reade Stafford of Bradfield. Sir Edward died in the same year as the Queen, 1603, and his heir was a nephew, Francis (yet another one), but Cranemoor House was

left to Sir Edward’s widow Elizabeth for her life. Elizabeth subsequently married Thomas Erskine, Viscount Fenton (later the 1st Earl of Kelly), and Francis sold the property to him in 1608. Erskine acquired the main Englefield estate, which had reverted to the Crown on Essex’s death, from King James I in 1611 so the separate Cranemoor estate then became amalgamated with it.

John Powell, from a family established in Englefield before 1611, was, at the time of his death in 1756, residing in the house, then called ‘Cranmer’, with land spread around consisting of both enclosed land and holdings in the common fields. As well as Pound Close on the edge of the then village street, now the drive to Englefield House, the enclosed land included the Row Park, Great Crawley, Middle Crawley and Little Crawley. This formed a large block of land behind Cranemoor House that now makes up much of the new deer park to the south and west of Englefield House. There were also fields further away such as Jennett’s Field (the big field alongside The Street and the Pangbourne Road), and Blackeymoor alongside the Pangbourne Road near Hogmoor Bridge.

By 1762 these lands, though not Cranemoor House itself, were part of Cranemoor Farm owned or tenanted by Philip Wyatt, as was Chalkpit Farm. In 1779 Cranemoor House was the farmhouse of Chantry Farm then owned by Richard Carter and William Toovey, sons-in-law of John Powell. Cranemoor House was presumably demolished along with the old village by Richard Benyon when he created his new park at the beginning of the 19th century.

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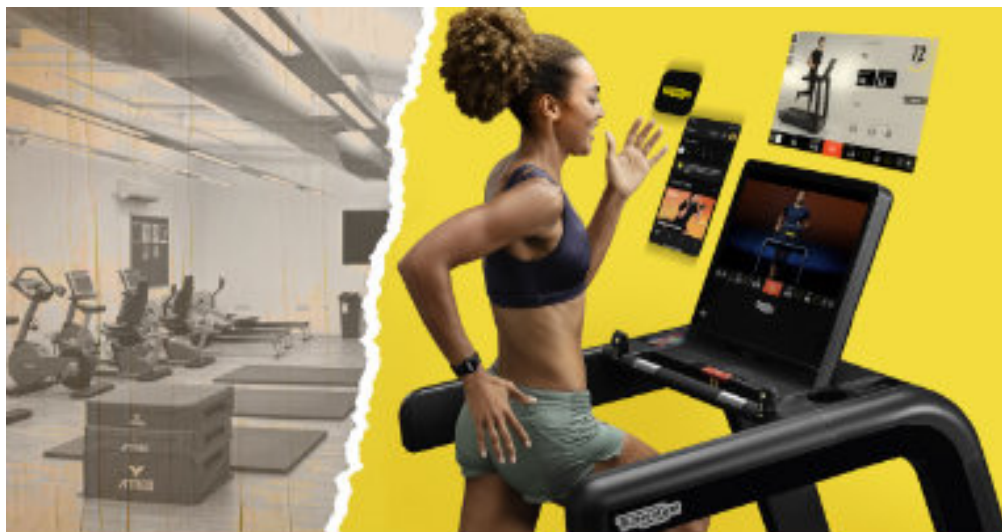
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