

# *Englefield Parish News*

*April - May 2024*



# The Parish of St Mark's, Englefield

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**St Mark's Church website:** [www.stmarksenglefield.org.uk](http://www.stmarksenglefield.org.uk)  
**Englefield Parish Council website:** [www.englefieldpc.org.uk](http://www.englefieldpc.org.uk)



**Front cover:** All six eggs on the Englefield Easter Trail (see page 5 for details), thanks to Englefield Primary School (cover picture), Theale Primary School, the Old Fire Station Nursery, Tigers Day Nursery, and Gemini Beavers for their wonderful artwork.

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](mailto:catherinehaig@gmail.com) or [rector@stmarksenglefield.org.uk](mailto:rector@stmarksenglefield.org.uk), or hand in to the Village Stores by the 20<sup>th</sup> of the preceding month.

## From St Mark's House

*The door is open!*

I have been really heartened recently to hear several times from different sources that the congregation of St Mark's Englefield give new faces a really warm welcome. But you may ask 'Why do people even bother going to church?' and 'Why should I ever bother going?'

My own personal answer would be that learning what God is really like, and who Jesus really is and what He did (instead of presuming I knew), has utterly changed my life from the inside out. It still changes my life for the better every day... But what about church? Well it is never going to be perfect as it is full of imperfect

*Church is a bunch of people where I am known, loved and valued, and where I am nurtured and encouraged to become all God made me to be.*

people but, at its best, church is where I am reminded God loves me, where I learn about God's word and His risen Son, where I am resourced by His Holy spirit, uplifted by the worship and where my friends and I share the highs and lows of our lives. Church is a bunch of people where I am known, loved and valued, and where I am nurtured and encouraged to become all God made me to be.

Any response about the Christian faith must include the events of Easter we have just celebrated. Holy Saturday is the day between Good Friday when, after gruelling torture, Christ died and was laid in the darkness of a tomb, and Easter Day when He came back to life. The essence of those events is beautifully captured in the words of the traditional Holy Saturday service.

'This is the night that gave us back what we had lost...  
Evil and hatred are put to flight and sin is washed away,  
lost innocence regained, and mourning turned to joy...  
This is the night when hatred is cast out,  
peace and justice find a home, and heaven is joined  
to earth...  
This is the night that makes our darkness light...  
For Christ the morning star has risen in glory;  
Christ is risen from the dead and his flame of love  
still burns within us!  
Christ sheds his peaceful light on all the world!  
Christ lives...'

*This is the night that gave us back what we had lost...'*

That's worth believing in and that's why I go to church! The tomb is open and the door is open. You're welcome anytime.

*Your Rector, Julia*



## Diary dates

West Berkshire Mobile Library: Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> April and 1<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> May, outside the Old Fire Station Nursery, Englefield, 2pm to 2.25pm.

Englefield Easter Trail: from 27<sup>th</sup> March till 12<sup>th</sup> April, more information on page 5.

Dinner & Bingo Night: Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> April, starting at 6pm, Englefield Village Hall, £10 for dinner and 3 Bingo cards. Book in at the Village Stores (see page 10).

Time to Pray: half an hour of prayer and reflection in the Englefield Chapel, first and third Mondays of the month, 6.00 - 6.30pm, 1<sup>st</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> April, 6<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> May.

Evening Praise: last Sunday of every month, 6pm at Holy Trinity, Theale, next dates 28<sup>th</sup> April and 26<sup>th</sup> May.

Ascension Day: Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May.

St Mark's Annual Parochial Church Meeting, open to all, Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May, 6pm at St Mark's Church.

Annual Parish Meeting: Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> May, 7pm, Englefield Village Hall.

Pentecost Sunday: 19<sup>th</sup> May.

## Local contacts

Englefield Estate Office 0118 930 2504; [office@englefield.co.uk](mailto:office@englefield.co.uk)  
Englefield Estate Yard 0118 930 2538 [maintenance@englefield.co.uk](mailto:maintenance@englefield.co.uk)  
Englefield Stores & Tea Room 0118 930 2479

[admin@englefieldstoresandtearooms.co.uk](mailto:admin@englefieldstoresandtearooms.co.uk)  
[www.englefieldstoresandtearooms.co.uk/](http://www.englefieldstoresandtearooms.co.uk/)  
<https://www.englefieldvillagehall.co.uk/>  
[info@englefieldvillagehall.co.uk](mailto: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/](http://www.westberks.gov.uk/)  
[www.englefieldpc.org.uk/](http://www.englefieldpc.org.uk/)  
[www.thealeparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.thealeparishcouncil.gov.uk)  
0118 930 2337; [www.englefieldprimary.co.uk](http://www.englefieldprimary.co.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

## Baptism and Confirmation

Sienna Benyon, daughter of Thomas and Rose, baptised at St Mark's on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> February.

Patricia Shackelford, confirmed at Holy Trinity by Bishop Tim Wambunya on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> February.

## Congratulations

To Jan Fletcher who celebrated her 80<sup>th</sup> birthday in March.

To Doris Edwards on the arrival of her first great-grandchild, Louis Alfred.

To the Old Fire Station Nursery on being rated 'Good' in all five areas after its latest Ofsted inspection in December.



## Commemorative tree planting

After the service on Palm Sunday, the congregation moved down to Appleton's Corner where St Mark's Sunday Club helped the Estate plant two trees: a whitebeam to mark the passing of Queen Elizabeth II, and a hornbeam to commemorate the coronation of King Charles.

## D-Day beacon

Englefield will be joining communities across the country to mark the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of D-Day by lighting a beacon on **Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> June**. Look out for more information nearer the time and please put the date in your diary.



## Summer concerts

Heritage Live summer concerts are back in Englefield again this year. Madness, supported by Lightning Seeds and the Old Time Sailors, will headline on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July, followed by Pete Tong Ibiza Classics on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> and Elbow on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup>. Monday sees the return of Flackstock, the festival of comedy, dance and musical acts, celebrating the life of TV presenter Caroline Flack and raising funds for mental health charities. More details on these events and how to book are on the What's On pages of [www.englefieldestate.co.uk](http://www.englefieldestate.co.uk).

## *Bell ringing at St Mark's*

We have six regular bell ringers, and would love to encourage anyone to join us on a Tuesday evening to find out more about learning to ring. We practise on most Tuesday evenings from 7 to 8 pm. We are pleased that we are booked for ringing the bells at ten weddings this year, and we will be relying on ringers from other towers to help us ring all eight bells for the wedding couples. Last year we welcomed groups of ringers from Reading, Newbury and Hurst to ring at Englefield. Also the annual Bradfield Ringing Course in August encouraged new ringers from local counties to develop their knowledge and learn new skills.

*Janine Alston*

## *APCM and Electoral Roll*

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting will take place on **Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May** in St Mark's Church. Join us for refreshments from 6pm. The meeting will start at 6.30pm and usually lasts an hour. All members of the congregation and parish are invited to attend. The annual report and accounts of the PCC (Parochial Church Council) will be available in church on the previous two Sundays.

Each year the Church Electoral Roll is revised. The roll is a list of the names and addresses of those who can vote at the APCM. Those on the roll continue, but if you are a regular worshipper, over 16 and baptised, please apply to join the roll by completing a form available on the St Mark's website or from Richard Smith (in church, on 0118 983 3258, or richard.smith.ufton@icloud.com).

## *RIP*

Juliet Fenwick, sister of Christopher Fenwick, who died on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February.

Don Barton, who died on 5<sup>th</sup> March and whose funeral was held at St Mark's on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March.

## *30 years on*

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March was the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ordination of women priests in the Church of England. A special Eucharist is being held at Christ Church Cathedral on 28<sup>th</sup> April at 2.30pm, which will celebrate the journey, ministry and achievements of ordained women. It will be led by the Venerable Christine Allsopp, who was ordained in this Diocese in 1994 and now, in retirement, assists the team in the three parishes of the Lambourn Valley.



# INDIGENOUS CULTURES

## Spirituality and Sustainability



### A talk by Dr Carolyn Boulter



Dr Carolyn Boulter has had a distinguished academic career at London and Reading Universities, with a focus on the teaching of science at all levels. She has a particular interest in the relationship between environmental science and spirituality and especially the need to pay attention to the natural world in the quest to achieve a sustainable future for the planet.

Dr Boulter has spoken before about Darwin and Christianity and in this talk she will develop her ideas in light of recent experiences of indigenous cultures and interfaith spirituality. On the way, she will raise the need for a radical transformation of consciousness.

**Tuesday 14th May – 7:30pm**  
**at The Music Room,**  
**Bradfield College**

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



Spiritual Development Group

BRADFIELD DEANERY

PUBLICITY OFFICER – Gordon Patterson E: [gnpatterson@btconnect.com](mailto:gnpatterson@btconnect.com) M: 07764 476361



## Springtime at the Tea Room

We have had a lovely start to the New Year, welcoming all our regular customers back and seeing lots of new faces too. We will soon start our summer menu in the Tea room and we are very much looking forward to the summer ahead- the bulbs are in full bloom now and the horses have returned so this definitely means summer is just around the corner .... surely!

Lots of new additions have been added to the Tea room and still more to come, we hope you enjoy them! In the Store there are lots of really cute Easter gifts so please take time to have a browse when you next visit us.

We have also started doing takeaway milkshakes and the Carte D'or ice-cream is back by popular demand.

*Liz and team*

## Annual Parish Meeting

Please join us at the Annual Parish Meeting on **Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> May**, at 7pm at Englefield Village Hall. There will be updates on activities within the parish and an opportunity to raise what matters to you within the community, as well as plenty of refreshments to enjoy.

It would be great to see a good turn-out so please do come along.

*Nia Rands, Clerk to the Parish Council*

## Let's Talk Theology

Let's Talk Theology meetings continue on the second Wednesday of every month and from May 8<sup>th</sup> onwards will take place at St Mary's Sulhamstead, at 7.30pm. For further details, contact [carolboulter@ntlworld.com](mailto:carolboulter@ntlworld.com).

**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

foodbank



## Englefield Flower Show

The Englefield Village Fete & Flower Show will take place on **Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> July**, starting from 2pm and will of course feature all the usual classes, stands, stalls and entertainment. The school PTA will be providing their excellent tea and cakes as well as a beer/Pimms tent and a Grand Raffle. The school children will be running their own stands to raise funds for school activities.

The Class schedules will be distributed shortly or can be requested from [efsentry@gmail.com](mailto:efsentry@gmail.com). The classes with themes for this year are listed below.

The Show committee would very much appreciate any volunteers willing to help set up or run a stall etc and help contribute to this amazing and traditional community event. Please contact Allison on 078443 576064 or Gordon on 07939 504145 if you could help us. We look forward to receiving your entries and seeing you on 13<sup>th</sup> July for another wonderful Englefield Village community event.

Please could 2023 cup winners return their trophies to Gordon by June 1<sup>st</sup>. Many thanks.

Class	Entry	Description
36	<b>Arrangement</b>	An exhibit to the theme ' <b>Olympic Gold</b> ' not to exceed 24 inches/60 cm overall, may include accessories
39	<b>Floral Art</b>	An exhibit to the theme ' <b>Flower Tree</b> '. 20"/50cm x 20"/50 cm, with unlimited height, accessories allowed
40	<b>Novice</b>	An arrangement ' <b>In a tea pot</b> ' ( <i>For exhibitors who have not previously won a first prize in a floral art class</i> )
46	<b>Swiss Roll</b>	Men only, recipe provided
47	<b>Battenburg</b>	Exhibitor's own recipe
48	<b>Bread</b>	French Stick. Exhibitor's own recipe
49	<b>Honey and Ginger Scones</b>	Exhibitor's own recipe, four to be displayed
50	<b>Cherry and Coconut Slice</b>	Recipe provided
51	<b>Onion Tart</b>	Exhibitor's own recipe, 1 large or 4 small to be displayed
52	<b>Chocolate Muffins</b>	Exhibitor's own recipe, four to be displayed
53	<b>Upside Down Cake</b>	Novice ladies only. Recipe provided. ( <i>For exhibitors who have not previously won a first prize in EFS baking class</i> )
57	<b>Handmade Card</b>	Suitable for a ' <b>Wedding</b> '
62	<b>Photography</b>	Theme ' <b>Sport</b> ' – standard print not enlargement, mounted
63	<b>Two Standard Prints 'Old and New'</b>	two related prints not enlargements, mounted
67	<b>A Message</b>	An open class using the <b>initial</b> letters from the title ' <b>SPORTING EXCELLENCE</b> ' devise an acrostic message to be sent on a postcard

## Down memory lane

Rev Julia in conversation with Lin Sargeant, one of Englefield's longest-standing residents:

### What brought you to Englefield and when?

In 1968 Den and Lin (Lilian) Sargeant ran and lived on a mushroom farm in Wokingham, with sons David (4) and twins Gary and Dean (2). Unfortunately the owner lost it gambling and they were to be homeless. One night Den asked, 'How do you fancy being a barmaid, Lin?' He had seen advert in *The Evening Post* for a Steward to run the Englefield Working Men's Club..but they had never heard of Englefield! Ray Stevens was one of the committee who appointed them and they came and ran the Club for 10 years.

'It was just the old boys that came mostly,' says Lin. 'I was the only woman and I would forever ask, 'Why don't you bring your wives?!' Slowly the younger women began to attend. Lin describes the Club as full of 'the real' Berkshire rural accents. It cost '10 pence ha'penny' for a pint of IPA and there was no till, just a bowl for each type of coin. She recalls how one night a year the MOTHS - Members Of The



Tin Hat Society - from the war, came and the more they drank the more they remembered, with tears in their eyes, the things they had been through with long-lost buddies. Sylvia Faulkner would play the piano, but no-one would ever recognise the tune! George and Hilda always did a musical evening on Flower Show night. He played drums and she played piano. As the night went on his drumming got slower and her piano got faster!

### What are your memories of the village then?

David went straight to the school. He sat on benches with the nine other children and one teacher, Mrs Shuttleworth who lived in Lin's house, School Cottage. In fact everyone that lived in the village worked in the village. There was Joe Steel, the butler, who used to come into the Club for bacon butties after work. Mrs Lamb made the butter for the house using the Englefield butter-pat. Arthur Plumb was the Club Treasurer who kept the ledger in beautiful copperplate handwriting. Bob Orchard was the foreman in the yard and a wonderful carpenter. Harry Chandler was still the millwright, that made the wheels for the carts. Terry Johnson was the plumber. One of the Ware brothers was the sawyer operating the great big saw in the yard. Joe Telford was one of the gardeners at the house.

There were no phones in the houses so everyone queued up to use the phone box



outside the Club. The Club had a phone though...so they could order the beer! No one in the village had a car as they didn't need one. They never went anywhere and they used bikes to get around. The Fire Station had a lovely engine and the firemen wore brass hats.

On a Tuesday, Sylvia Faulkner and Lin would wait in the store queue for the Post Office to get the Family Allowance before going shopping in Theale.

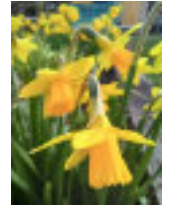
Englefield village now is unrecognisable. There was no Partridge Gardens or St Mark's Close. All the gardens of the houses grew vegetables so there were no lawns like today. Everyone knew everyone and you knew a stranger straight away.



## Spring activity at Five A Day

Since the last Parish News was published and despite the wettest February on record, the daffodils have flowered and look amazing with their cheerful heads popping up all over the garden. We have finished cutting and bundling the willow and replanted the broad beans to replace the crop the frost got to and are having a bit of a battle with the local wildlife helping themselves to seeds etc probably due to the wet weather.

Heather and her team have prepared bed 3 despite the dreadful conditions and potatoes have been taken home for chitting. Please can we put a shout out for any plastic trays for vegetable and fruit produce in the summer. They can be left under the table in the gazebo in the garden centre or handed in to a volunteer if you are passing on a day when the garden is open.



After serving us so well over the last 14 years we have finally replaced the Grub Shack thanks to Kris and Ian. I remember tacking the roofing felt to the old one and it seems incredible we have been here so long we are now replacing structures we originally put up. We have come so far.

Newbury Building Society have taken photos for use by their marketing department and donated money to buy new tools and equipment for the schools group. School visits resumed this month. Our new website is up. You can find it at [www.fiveaday.org.uk](http://www.fiveaday.org.uk). The winter Thyme Together sessions continue to take place in the village hall. Should you know anyone who might be interested in joining these free sessions for over 65's please let them know about us. We can be contacted either by phone on 07555 184343 or email [info@fiveaday.org.uk](mailto:info@fiveaday.org.uk). If you are interested in volunteering or if you know of a business which supports staff volunteering please get in touch and leave a contact number.

*Wendy Cadman  
(Five A Day management team  
member and trustee)*



# From Englefield Primary School

## 'Sowing the Seeds for a Flourishing Future'

As always, it is all go here at Englefield Primary. This week, our Year 3 and 4 children have done three performances of their production 'Sing Easter'. This has been both an uplifting and moving depiction of the Easter story. The first performance was to the school and local community who were all wowed by their excellent line-learning not to mention the outstanding singing. The other performances were for their parents who were very impressed with the efforts of both the children and the staff who coordinated such a wonderful show.

Nine of our Year 2 class joined Mrs Latimer, Mr Jarvis and some great parent supporters at the Elstree Football Festival. There were a total of twelve teams from local schools. Englefield played really well as a team and managed to win two and draw one of their five matches. It was cold and windy but the smiles didn't leave their faces. Well done to Cold Ash for being the victors.



The whole Englefield team made us very proud and there were stand-out moments including Thomas's and Louis's goals; Louis also made a fantastic save right at the end of our first match. Mention should also be made of Kaya, our most enthusiastic team member! The afternoon finished with the famous Elstree sausage rolls and a welcome cup of tea for parents. Thank you to Elstree...and well done team!



We enjoyed a fabulous Book Week 2024 with our poetry performance competition, paper plate competition, library competition and finally our dress-up day. We were also lucky enough to have a visit from author, Debi Evans, who spoke to us about the *Secret Adventures of Rolo* and what he gets up to in real life and in her books. She stayed at school

after her talk to sign copies that the children bought.

As part of our Book Week celebrations, we held a Scholastic Book Fayre and the PTA went above and beyond by designing and creating Wonkafield Bars to win books for the school; they were a huge success! Thank you to all



who supported this venture and to the PTA for all the effort they have put in to making it magical for the children. It's clear from the beaming faces of all our golden and silver ticket winners that it was a hit! Thanks to the efforts of our PTA, we now have over £300 to spend on books for the school.



Being out in this beautiful countryside is a blessing but we also have to be more aware of things like road safety due to the nature of the roads surrounding us. This month, our Year 5s have all successfully completed their Level One Bikeability course and our Year 6s have competed their Level 2. They are now able to ride with more awareness of the dangers they could face on the road and have learned how to have more control of their bikes.



The last week of term was spent looking forward to Easter - a time to celebrate and reflect with family while having a well-earned rest. Before we got there though, we had a busy week of excitement including after school football tournaments, tennis coaching from Pangbourne Tennis Club and a very much anticipated Easter Egg Hunt in the gardens of Englefield House! Our term was nicely brought to an end with a lovely Easter Service at St Mark's.

*Hilary Latimer, Headteacher*

### *Plea from the school...*

Please could we remind all our Englefield community and visitors to the village that, although the school grounds are there for people to use at weekends and in the holidays, we would be so grateful if everyone would respect the site and leave it as they find it. There have been regular incidents of damage to plants and school property such as sports equipment and outdoor tortoise run which we do not have the resources to keep replacing. Thank you.

**BLUEBELL WALKS  
AT RUSHALL FARM**

Come and enjoy a family walk  
in the bluebell woods at Rushall Manor  
**Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> April**  
**Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> April**  
**11am - 5pm**

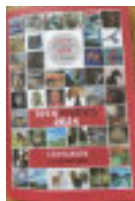
Walk up to 3 miles  
Wheelchair access to bluebells  
Family fun in the Barn  
Free treasure Hunt for Kids  
Refreshments - home-made cakes  
Hot & cold food  
Donations of £5 adults/£3 children  
(sorry, no card payments)

All proceeds to the Reading Multiple Sclerosis Society  
Rushall Manor is off Back Lane, Bradfield RG7 6BS



## Newbury Spring Festival events

Two NSF events are being held in the Long Gallery at Englefield House this year. On Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> May, the internationally renowned Kinsky Trio Prague returns to the festival with a programme of Brahms, Schubert and Smetana. The following afternoon, journalist, editor and columnist, Daniel Finkelstein will discuss his recent book, *Hitler, Stalin, Mum and Dad*, in conversation with novelist and political commentator, Robert Harris. The NSF runs from May 11<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup>. Tickets and further information available at [www.newburyspringfestival.org.uk](http://www.newburyspringfestival.org.uk).



## Open Studios 2024

This annual event showcasing the creative talent of artists in this area runs from May 4<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup>. The highlight is the Insight exhibition at The Base in New Greenham Park but you can also visit artists in their studios. More information on [www.open-studios.org.uk/](http://www.open-studios.org.uk/).

## What are your priorities?

Each year, Healthwatch West Berkshire creates a workplan based on garnered feedback, and local and national insights, to decide what projects it will work on to improve and shape the future of health services in this area. We are asking for your help in deciding what we will be working on from April 2024 to March 2025. Tell us the top three health issues that matter most to you. After all, if something matters to you, it probably matters to someone else as well. Please follow this link to complete the survey:

[https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/WhatMattersToYou\\_24\\_25/](https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/WhatMattersToYou_24_25/)

## Burghfield Bowls Club 2024

Burghfield Bowls Club would like to invite you to one of our Open Days, where you can try the sport of Lawn Bowls for free and without any obligation. Open Days for prospective members will be held from 2:00-5:00pm on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> April and Monday 27<sup>th</sup> May. These are open sessions for people to visit our green in James Lane (behind the BCSA), RG30 3RS, and try the game. All you need do is bring along some flat shoes, as all other equipment is provided. More information is available on [www.burghfieldbowls-club.co.uk](http://www.burghfieldbowls-club.co.uk), or email [burghfieldbowls@btinternet.com](mailto:burghfieldbowls@btinternet.com) or ring Gary on 0118 966 4911/07952 560781.



## A new chapter for Rushall Farm

It is always busy for Steve Waters as he looks after Rushall Farm, especially as his main man Adam Beavis has had to have surgery on his back. BUT February 29<sup>th</sup> was extra busy. Three hedge cutters were chasing to finish flailing the last of the miles of roadside hedges. Cutting is best done in January and February so that food from the hedges is plentiful for the birds. This year an early spring has stolen the show with daffodils and some hedges breaking into leaf. Mid-morning a load of straw arrived from Marcham as Steve's supplies were running low. Most of the ewes had just been housed, all ready to lamb this month. Scanning promised 650 lambs to come. Those having single lambs had joined the finishing lambs on turnips and hay, returning manure into the soil for the next crop of spring barley. Steve's dad and sister Elizabeth were busy converting a portacabin into a rest room for the veterinary students who had signed up to help with the lambing. The 40 cows were well through calving, and noise from the house was evidence of much-needed renovation for this busy family. Text messages and emails make sure that there is never a dull moment for a farmer today. Right now, the worry is that overdue fieldwork cannot be carried out as everything is so wet.

And this year is the start of new things. The farm has been accepted into a scheme for organic and stewardship payments for the next five years. This takes over from the previous one set up in 2011, and is essential if government payments for farming are to be received. 'Public money for Public good' was the bold statement by Michael Gove when he was in charge. The emphasis of the new scheme seems to be more on conservation than on producing the stuff that keeps us alive. It focuses on biodiversity, looking after soils and hedges, air quality, water quality and healthy farming practices. So, it is out with field margins, wildflower meadows and permanent grassland and in with specific wildlife areas; herbal, clover-rich grassland; minimum tillage of the land; more new hedges; managed woodlands and sustainable organic farming methods for Rushall Farm.

Bear with Steve as it all takes time to happen. School visits are still in the mix, with farm safaris from a trailer to get up close to crops, grassland, trees and hedges, cows and calves (what a beautiful sight), ewes and lambs. Another new chapter for farming in the Pang Valley!



John Bishop  
[www.rushallfarm.org.uk](http://www.rushallfarm.org.uk)

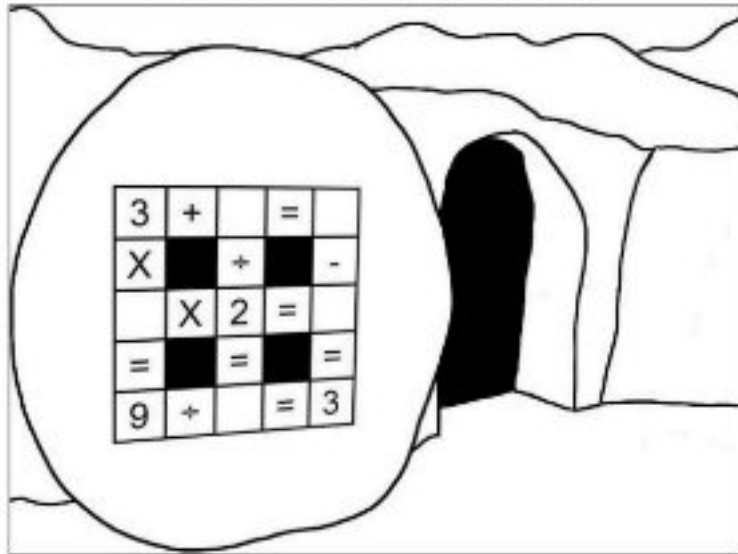
Date	Sidesman	First reading	Epistle	Gospel reading	Prayers	Sacristan	Server	Sunday Club and creche	Cleaners
April 7th Annunciation BCP	Graham and Pauline Harvey	Anne Edgar Acts 4:32-35 (Psalm 133)	Paul Myles Luke 1:26-38	Preacher	BCP	Penny Savage	Torquil MJ	Liz McKean Denny Hollands	Peter and Catherine Haig
April 14th 3rd Sunday of Easter	Paula Fenwick	Peter Haig Acts 3:12-19 (Psalm 4)	Meryl Bonser 1 John 3:1-7	Preacher Luke 24:36b-48	Saffy O'Sullivan	Penny Norris	Denny Hollands	Saffy O'Sullivan Meryl Bonser	Penny Norris Saffy O'Sullivan
April 21st 4th Sunday of Easter	Peter Haig	Mike Kimber Acts 4:5-12 (Psalm 23)	Dee Boddy 1 John 3:16-end	Preacher John 10:11-18	Catherine Haig	Dee Boddy	Saffy O'Sullivan	Harriet Harley Liz McKean	Angie Higgins
April 28th 5th Sunday of Easter	Liz Marillier	Torquil MJ Acts 8:26-end (Psalm 22)	Kahlen Spaulding 1 John 4:7-end	Preacher John 15:1-8	Paula Fenwick	Sue Smith	Penny Savage	Saffy O'Sullivan Meryl Bonser	Liz McKean
May 5th 6th Sunday of Easter BCP	Torquil MJ	Linda Price Acts 10:44-end (Psalm 98)	John Rothery 1 John 5:1-6	Preacher John 15:9-17	BCP	Penny Savage	Peter Haig	Liz McKean Denny Hollands	Pete and Carole Ford
May 12th Sunday after Ascension	John and Jean Rothery	Harry Benyon Acts 1:15-17,21-end (Psalm 1)	Lorraine Dehn 1 John 5:9-13	Preacher John 17:6-19	Linda Price	Catherine Haig	Paula Fenwick	Saffy O'Sullivan Liz McKean	Peter and Catherine Haig
May 19th Pentecost	Peter Haig	Graham Harvey Acts 2:1-21 (Psalm 104)	Penny Savage Romans 8:22-27	Preacher John 15:26-27, 16:4b-15	Ron Marillier	Denny Hollands	Torquil MJ	Saffy O'Sullivan Meryl Bonser	Penny Norris Saffy O'Sullivan
May 26th Trinity Sunday	Penny Savage	Dinah Perkins Isaiah 6:1-8 (Psalm 29)	James Meade Romans 8:12-17	Preacher John 3:1-17	Dinah Perkins	Dee Boddy	Denny Hollands	Harriet Harley Liz McKean	Angie Higgins
June 2nd 1st Sunday after Trinity BCP	Graham and Pauline Harvey	Peter Haig Deuteronomy 5:12-15 (Psalm 81)	James Bamforth 2 Corinthians 4:5-12	Preacher Mark 2:23-3:6	BCP	Sue Smith	Penny Savage	Liz McKean Denny Hollands	Liz McKean
June 9th 2nd Sunday after Trinity	Paula Fenwick	Ron Marillier Genesis 3:8-15 (Psalm 130)	Denny Hollands 2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1	Preacher Mark 3:20-end	Richard Benyon	Penny Savage	Peter Haig	Saffy O'Sullivan Meryl Bonser	Pete and Carole Ford
June 16th 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Trinity	Torquil MJ	Kahlen Spaulding Ezekiel 17:22-end (Psalm 92)	John Rothery 2 Corinthians 5:6-10	Preacher Mark 4:26-34	Linda Price	Catherine Haig	Saffy O'Sullivan	Harriet Harley Liz McKean	Peter and Catherine Haig

*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).*

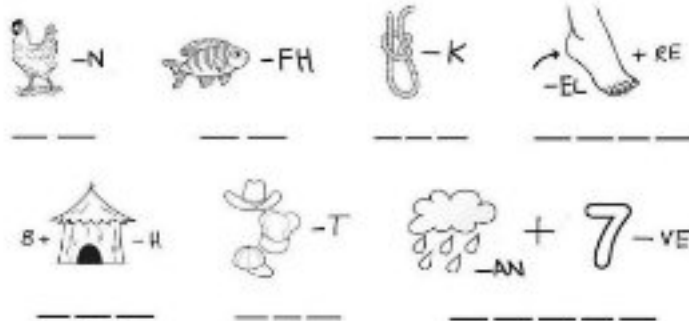
## Sunday School Puzzle Page

### Jesus is Risen!

Complete the sums on the tomb stone...



... then find the hidden message from Luke 24 v 6



Have a go, and bring to Sunday School for a prize!

## 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.

He began to be deeply distressed and troubled. ‘My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death,’ he said to them. ‘Stay here and keep watch.’ Going a little farther, he fell to the ground and prayed that if possible the hour might pass from him. ‘Abba, Father,’ he said, ‘everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will.’ (Mark 14:33-36)

Some have asked why there is such a difference between this attitude of Jesus to his impending death, and that of the many martyrs who have come after him. From the serenity of Stephen, the first Christian martyr (Acts chapter 7) to the calm acceptance of death by the countless martyrs who have followed him, there is a common thread of peace that underlies the final moments of many of those who trust in Jesus. Why should Jesus – the object of the faith that those martyrs are trusting in – have seemed so different in his contemplation of his own death?

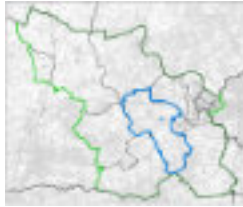
The answer lies in v36: ‘Abba, Father,’ he said, “everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will.’

The difference is the cup. The cup is an image from the Old Testament, and it speaks of God’s wrath and anger poured out against sin and wickedness. The prophets Isaiah and Ezekiel both make reference to it, and speak of those under God’s judgement drinking from the cup of his wrath, and being filled with sorrow. Jesus, living as he has eternally in intimate relationship with the Father, sees the cup of God’s wrath lying ahead of him, and recoils in horror. He knows exactly what the future holds; what it means for him to take up the cup of God’s wrath and drink from it. In going ahead with this course of action, he will bring on himself the rejection and righteous fury of his Father, and Jesus is devastated by the idea.

But here lies the dilemma. Jesus can choose what to do. He is able to get out from under the crushing blow that is about to fall. But if he does, how then can men and women be saved from that wrath falling on them? The whole point of Jesus’ mission is to save sinners – and that can only be done through the perfect, sinless sacrifice of a saviour in their place. Only if Jesus drinks from the cup can it be taken away from those he loves. And so Jesus finishes his prayer: ‘Yet not what I will, but what you will’. He understands that there is no other way in which God’s purposes can be brought to completion other than the way of the Cross, and that if it were possible, his Father, his Abba, would indeed take the cup away from him. But he can’t. Either Jesus takes the hit, or the world does. And so, in his great love, Jesus steps up and takes our place.

## Constituency changes at the next election

As soon as the next general election is called, Englefield will move from the Wokingham constituency, where it has been since the last boundary change in 2010, to become part of a new Reading West and Mid Berkshire constituency. This is the result of the latest Boundary Commission review, a process which is carried out regularly with the aim of equalising the number of electors in each constituency. The new seat is formed from parts of the current Newbury, Wokingham and Reading West constituencies. At the time of writing, the following candidates have been selected to fight the new seat: Helen Belcher (Lib Dem), Adrian Abbs (Independent), Carolyne Culver (Green), Ross MacKinnon (Conservative), Olivia Bailey (Labour) and Kate Bosley (Reform). The map shows the outline of the new constituency with the Bradfield ward and Englefield highlighted.



## A new fish hatchery at Lambdens Farm

A new coarse fish hatchery has opened at Lambdens Farm in a collaborative project between the Reading and District Angling Association (RDAA) and angling clubs and fisheries along the Kennet Valley. Anglers hope it will help to replenish stocks of coarse fish in the river Kennet.

It was officially opened by Richard Benyon on behalf of the Englefield Estate in February and is the latest measure designed to increase the number of fish in the river which have been decimated by a growth in the number of predatory signal crayfish. These non-native species eat their way through fish spawn, prey on the invertebrates that are vital to support young fish and burrow into the riverbanks, adding to the build-up of silt. Over the last ten years, one signal crayfish trapper has removed an estimated 100 tonnes of crayfish from the Kennet or around 2.5 million crayfish.



The hatchery will be run as a not-for-profit enterprise by the RDAA, with support from the Environment Agency and Institute of Fisheries Management. Local volunteers will assist with the day to day running. Brood fish will be temporarily removed from the river at the point of spawning and their eggs harvested and mixed with milt from the males, with the resulting fry nurtured in the hatchery until they are big enough to survive in the wild, when around 70% will be reintroduced to the river. The remaining 30% will be kept at the hatchery for longer, to be released later, as mature fish.

## Some Royal Commemorations

On Palm Sunday the children of the Sunday Club assisted in planting two trees at Appleton's Corner: a whitebeam in memory of Queen Elizabeth II and a hornbeam to mark the coronation of King Charles III. The whitebeam provides a



trees!

The record of her Royal Progresses around the country shows that the first Queen Elizabeth dined at Englefield with Sir Edward Norreys at Cranemoor House in late August 1601. Sir Edward's grandfather, Henry Norreys, had been beheaded on the orders of Henry VIII in 1536 for refusing to bear false witness against Anne Boleyn, saying that he would rather die a thousand deaths than ruin an innocent person so with her visit the Queen was showing appreciation for this support for her mother. By contrast, in February 1601 the lessee of the confiscated Englefield family's part of the estate, including Englefield House then only lately built, former favourite Robert Devereaux, 2<sup>nd</sup> Earl of Essex, had been executed for treason.

The Queen went on from Englefield to stay at Padworth with Sir Humphrey Foster and then to Basing House, the home of William Paulet, 4<sup>th</sup> Marquess of Winchester, on 5<sup>th</sup> September where she stayed for 13 days – much to Paulet's financial detriment.

Englefield seems to have forgotten to celebrate the coronation of Edward VII in 1902. Since James Herbert Benyon would, as Lord Lieutenant, be representing the county with Mrs Benyon at the actual ceremony, the Englefield festivities were always going to be deferred but the coronation was then postponed owing to the King suffering from appendicitis. It was eventually held on 9<sup>th</sup> August but with Mr and Mrs Benyon absent there was only a smoking concert on the lawn in front of the Workmen's Club by way of village celebration. There is no record of any other festivities except that in September the men joined in the (normally ladies-only) Harvest Home tea and the ladies joined in the (normally men-only) dinner later in the evening.

The coronation of George V in 1911 was celebrated fully by the village on the actual day, although Mr and Mrs Benyon were again absent in London. The day started with a celebration of Holy Communion at 8.15 and a special thanksgiving service at 10.30, in connection with which the Rector observed that *'at neither of these services was the attendance such as might have been expected on such an occasion'*.



This coronation was celebrated in times of great prosperity and plenty, and Victoria's Diamond Jubilee in 1897 even more so, although in Englefield the illness of Mr Benyon who died only four days later overshadowed the day. Queen Elizabeth's coronation, however, more resembled her father's in 1936 amid the Great Depression and forebodings of war. This time we were on the other side of that war, but austerity and rationing were still the order of the day.

None of the three previous coronations had seen particularly warm weather and this one was the coldest of them all with, according to the Met Office, a maximum temperature of 11.8°C. The day was not so wet as in 1936 and the sun shone for a whole 1.2 hours. All this was quite unlike Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee when the Rector observed that *'here was too much heat for any to wish to wander far from the deepest shade of the trees as the sun stole round to the west'*.

To celebrate the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II the school was closed for a week from 29<sup>th</sup> May 1953. The day itself began with a peal of bells and then for the first time villagers were able to see the coronation take place courtesy of a (relatively) large screen television provided by Mrs Benyon in Englefield House. The rest of the day followed the pattern established in 1911 and 1936 with sports in the park, followed by a children's fancy dress parade. On a personal note, this led to a rare disagreement between the management in the Smith household with mother refusing to go and stand in the cold, wet park. So father and son went and she stayed indoors where if it wasn't much warmer it was at least dry. After tea in the Long Gallery a cricket match took place between the ladies and the gentlemen and was won, just, by the ladies. A tug of war was followed by a broadcast of the Queen's speech, and then music and dancing until the firework display and bonfire.

Three years later, in November 1956, Queen Elizabeth II visited Englefield House and had tea with Mr and Mrs Benyon. Henry Benyon was also then Lord Lieutenant of Berkshire and had that day accompanied the Queen on visits to Abingdon, Wallingford and Benson. The village was decorated and a large 'Welcome' archway was erected at the entrance to the village street. Coloured lights, flags and other decorations lined the road by the school. Villagers and their friends filled the school playground and the schoolchildren lined the road. To a great cheer the car came to a halt outside the school, the Rector made a speech of welcome and Lorna Young presented Her Majesty with a bouquet of lily-of-the-valley and pink rosebuds. The church was floodlit and the lodge gates and lawns of Englefield House were illuminated.



In July 1980 the Queen Mother (shown in the photograph above) paid a second visit to Englefield, her first having been, when Queen Consort, to the hospital at Englefield House during World War Two. Villagers and their friends again gathered in the school playground and a bouquet was presented.

*Richard Smith*

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