

Englefield Parish News

August - September 2024



The Parish of St Mark's, Englefield

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

Front cover: *A view of the former sawmill in the Estate Yard now in the final stages of being converted into new premises for Englefield Estate Office (see page 4).*

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 rector@stmarksenglefield.org.uk, or hand in to the Village Stores by the 20th of the preceding month.

From St Mark's House

Did you know that August 13th is the anniversary of the death of two astounding Christian female social reformers – Florence Nightingale (1910) and Octavia Hill, housing reformer and co-founder of National Trust (1912).

The urgent need for decent, affordable housing is a hot topic these days. It was an even more urgent need in Victorian London, where the homes of the poor were tiny, cold, damp and infested with lice and vermin. Water came from an outside pump and filthy outside toilets were shared with several dozen neighbours. Labourers lived 22 years on average; more than half of babies died before their first birthday.

*We make a living by
what we get; we make a life
by what we give –
Winston Churchill*

Octavia Hill was determined to make a difference, and she did. She was well qualified for the job: though her family were comfortably off, they had a passionate interest in social change. Her grandfather was a national authority on sanitation and housing. Her father, a corn merchant and banker, worked hard for prison reform. Her mother managed a Christian Socialist co-operative in London, where the young Octavia met John Ruskin, and other notable figures with a passion for social change.

Octavia's first job was teaching poor children to make toys. It gave her grim first-hand experience of the horrors of life of the very poor. By 1856 she was helping run classes for women at the Working Men's College in Great Ormond Street, and she and her sisters also started a school for poor children. But what really grabbed her compassionate heart was the housing crisis. By 1864, with the help of John Ruskin, she had launched a business scheme for improving housing in London. Gradually her scheme and experience expanded until, in 1884, the Ecclesiastical Commissioners handed her part of their portfolio of properties to manage in Southwark. As time went by, Octavia's help and advice were often sought in connection with promoting social reform.

Octavia is remembered most for something surprisingly different: her joint initiative with Canon H D Rawnsley and Sir Robert Hunter in founding the National Trust in 1895. It has become Britain's leading charitable organisation for preserving historical buildings and places of natural beauty. Octavia's fame never affected her – she lived quietly with her sisters in Marylebone Road until her death. A woman with two great legacies- though I am certain the first impacted more lives more considerably. It has been said of Octavia that her Christian faith made her seek 'to make life on earth as positive an experience as possible, particularly for the poor and disadvantaged'. What a great motto to live by!

Your Rector, Julia

(Biographical information from www.parishpump.co.uk)



*For it is in
giving that we receive
– St Francis of
Assisi*

Diary dates

West Berkshire Mobile Library: Wednesday 14th August and 4th and 25th September, outside the Old Fire Station Nursery, Englefield, 2pm to 2.25pm.

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

Afternoon teas at Aldworth: every Wednesday till the end of September, 2.30 - 4.30pm at St Mary's Church.

Let's Talk Theology: no meeting in August, next dates September 11th and October 9th (see page 4).

Saturday 14th September: BHCT Ride+Stride in aid of St Mark's and Berkshire churches, more details opposite.

Monday 16th September: St Mark's PCC meeting, 6.30pm, in the church.

Thursday 19th September: Stroke, falls and home adaptations training event, 10.30am, Englefield Village Hall, see page 22 for details.

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

Congratulations

To Rosie Riall and Will Eden, married in Dorset on Saturday 25th May.

To Carys Ells and Oliver Nicholls, married at St Mark's on Saturday 22nd June.

To Edward and Emma Crookes on the arrival of granddaughter Rosie, daughter of Jake and Sophie Hall and sister for Lizzie.

To Lizzie Butler and Kolby Pistak, married at St Mark's on Saturday 29th June.

To Harriet Thresh and Harry Bate, married in Northants on Saturday 29th June.

To Georgia Rose and Russ Warman, who celebrated their marriage at Englefield House on Saturday 6th July.

To Lauren Wheeler and Ashley Smith, married at St Mark's on Saturday 13th July.

Baptism

Phoenix Andrews, baptised at St Mark's on Sunday 16th June.

Sienna and Gabriel Kemp, baptised at St Mark's on Sunday 14th July.



Helping Berkshire churches

Saturday 14th September is the date of Ride+Stride, the annual fundraiser for Berkshire Historic Churches Trust. Many of our beautiful local churches will be open for you to visit, and asking for sponsorship or a donation from friends and family will help support both St Mark's and churches across the county. More information is available at www.berkschurchestrust.org.uk/ride-and-stride-2/ or see Torquil MJ or Catherine Haig in church.

RIP

Terry Perkins, who died on June 18th. A service of thanksgiving for Terry's life is to be held at St Mark's on Friday 9th August at 12 noon (please wear a splash of yellow, Terry's favourite colour).

Clare Rumble, who died on June 21st and whose funeral was held at St Mark's on Tuesday 9th July.

Angeline Hunt, who died on July 25th.



Live music in the Park

The Heritage Live concerts returned to Englefield for a third year over one weekend in July. For four nights, from Friday afternoon to Monday night, Englefield was treated to an amazing line-up of live music. It started with the ever-popular Madness performing their spectacular 'C'est la Vie' show with new songs and lots of the old favourites, supported by the Old Time Sailors and Lightning Seeds. Saturday night saw Pete Tong and his unforgettable Ibiza Classics show, alongside Jules Buckley and The Essential Orchestra and preceded by The Grid and Groove Armada. Sunday was the turn of ELBOW, fresh from opening the new Co-op arena in their home city of Manchester, headlining alongside the Villagers and Hamish Hawk. And the weekend ended with the return of Flackstock, now in its third year, with a



wonderfully diverse array of song, dance and DJ acts, headlined by Olly Murs, all in memory of TV presenter Caroline Flack and aimed at raising awareness and funds for mental health charities.

The weather was kind and thousands of people came through the gates to enjoy the fun. Spotlit from below and illuminated within, the house made a wonderful backdrop and on the Saturday night a full moon rose over the stage. We hope that logistics worked well this year with not too much disruption down The Street and that everyone in the parish who took up the offer of tickets had a great time.

Peter Carson, Events Manager

Estate Yard project

The conversion of the sawmill (pictured on the front cover) to create the new Estate Office and renew the site wide services is heading towards completion following many months of hard work from the project team. The big move is being planned for the autumn when we're looking forward to welcoming visitors. Particular thanks are due to our fellow occupiers of the Yard, including our own maintenance team, for their patience and cooperation during what has been a very disruptive period.

Edward Crookes, Estates Director



Down memory lane

Rev Julia in conversation with Peter Smyth about his recollections of life in Englefield:

What brought you to Englefield and when?

Born in Bradfield, Peter moved into Rectory Cottage with his parents Francis Edward and Elizabeth May Smyth in 1939 when Peter was three. Francis was gardener to Rev McCready and had lived at Parker's Corner before Bradfield. Francis also worked on the gate of the ammunition factory at Theale as a policeman.

The St Mark's House that Paul and I live in now didn't exist then and the area was all garden, as well as the lawns, gardens and orchard at The (Old) Rectory. There was plenty to keep Francis busy and for Peter to help his Dad with.

What are your memories of the village then and how has it changed?

Peter admits to a foggy memory but remembers Mr and Mrs Gosling, the baker at the shop and Mrs Gosling in particular as she sold him illicit 'Nosegay' cigarettes when he was too young to smoke!

Peter went to Englefield Primary School with Mr Turnbull as Head and Mrs Claydon whose husband worked at the Yard. Mr Dry was the Clerk of Works and Mr Bath was the Head gardener at the time. He and his friend Peter Nash (who ended up as his brother-in-law) were in St Mark's choir together and then Peter pumped the bellows for the organ every Sunday (he remembers getting two shillings payment!).

Working with Ken Sims who lived in The Street, Peter also remembers designing and marking out, cutting and rolling out the ground for the tennis court at The Rectory...and then being allowed to play on it too!



When he left school, he worked for Parker Timber Company as a case maker. Aged 18 he joined the RAF, first at Cardington, near Bedford, training for motor transport, and then posted to RAF Wittering, Northants. His time included a two-year tour in Aden and then to Buxton. Demobbed in 1958, Peter worked at Smiths' Coaches. Not long after the family moved to Calcot and one of the Smiths' lorries came in handy for removals!

One tale Peter told me was being stopped once by Sir Harry Benyon who told him off for driving down his private drive.

Peter was able to show his driving licence and was let off with the direction to use The Street in future...but Peter maintains the reason was actually because 'He really didn't like my two-seater Ford 8!'





The Englefield Toile

Winter 2022. It was my birthday month and my first sojourn at Englefield Estate felt like a gift. I recall my first drive up that long driveway, flanked with majestic naked trees, gigantic and confident. I felt so small next to those veteran trees, which made a huge impression on me. I gasped at the dazzling charm of this place, in its raiment of verde, juxtaposed in the neutral tones of wintry woodlands which rendered it all the more vivid. I felt impassioned by this beauty and, naturally, needed to capture it!

This was one of many visits I made to Englefield, so I experienced it through the different seasons, each season bringing a renewed enchantment. My hugely enjoyable walks with Lady Benyon and Dodo (her beloved Jack Russell, so sadly now no longer with us) gave me so much insight, inspiration and joy, her long connection to Englefield being the source of fascinating storytelling.

And so the idea for creating an Englefield Toile was born. Toile de Jouy is a genre of design which began in 18th century France. A toile is characterised by a scenic pattern, usually printed on pure off-white linen or silk in monotone, telling a story of a rural landscape and its people. This classical style of design is timeless and still popular today - and what better way to portray the beauty of Englefield?

Silvana Russo

An example of the Englefield Toile in blue can be seen in the Village Tea Room. The fabric is 100% pure linen, suitable for light upholstery, curtains and soft furnishings, width 137cms, and comes in other colours, more information from Silvana Russo Designs, kikidesigner1@gmail.com.

Study the safety film carefully!

Should you be flying with British Airways anytime soon, look carefully at the new onboard safety video. BA has done a twist on a period drama for its latest version and some of the locations might be familiar. The five-minute video was filmed last year in the house and the deer park at Englefield, amongst other locations, and features professional actors alongside around 40 British Airways staff - playing themselves. It was created by Uncommon and Bang TV and directed by Sharon Maguire of Bridget Jones's Diary fame.

Mayridge 1987 - 2024



It seems hardly credible that we have spent more than half our lives at the very happy home we've just left. When we arrived 37 years ago, there was still a Guernsey milking herd producing wonderful creamy milk. This gave way to a more productive but less elegant team of Friesians, who in turn ceded their territory to the fabulous Herefords. For so many of these years, the cattle were stewarded by dear Terry Perkins, missed by so many, but particularly by our three children who bombarded him with questions, played in the hay and straw bales and generally got in his way. But he was never less than patient, charming and apparently amused, even if they added half an hour to his already long day.

William, Georgiana and Rachel had such happy childhoods at Mayridge and we couldn't have hoped for a better environment in which to bring up children. There was a succession of dogs, cats, guinea pigs and even goats; there were bicycle rides to and from cousins down the farm road and to school across the park; there were parties, and latterly Rachel's wedding reception (reduced to 30 due to the pandemic), as well as a 40th birthday party and a succession of lunches, dinners, and Christmas drinks with our neighbours between Parker's Corner and Admoor Lane.

It has been a truly spoiling place for us all, and we were sad to leave of course, but how fortunate were we to have the chance to move a mile away to Garden House in The Street. We've moved with (inevitably) far too much furniture, pictures, books and so on, and are in the process of finding what fits where. We have so many happy memories of lovely Mayridge and hope that a new family will love it as much as we did.

Peter and Catherine Haig

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

Englefield Village Fete and Flower Show 2024



This has been an annual event for many years and since it combined with school a few years ago it has gone from strength to strength and still keeps its traditional community feel.

This year was no different with the Beenham Wind Orchestra enhancing the atmosphere. The school team provided entertainment and laid on a super tea tent with many home-made cakes. They also indulged us adults with the Pimms and Beer tent. Both children and adults enjoyed the many traditional games like tombola, coconut shy and smash the chin. The children could enjoy the bouncy slide or a tractor ride, while the adults could pick up a bargain on the bric-a-brac and book stalls. On display in the big tent were all the entries from flowers, vegetables, crafts, drawing, home baking and the children's classes

which were well supported. The Brownies/Guides' toy orphanage also did well.

So with all this going on you will not be surprised to hear that the show was another great success, the weather was good, and the parking was managed well. We must thank everyone who helped before and after and on the day, as it would not happen without you. We would also like to thank the Estate for their continued support and help. The Flower Show committee work hard to put on the event, they also choose the classes and it is always lovely to see the entries from novice to expert. Thank you to all of you who entered, the judges in all classes are always impressed. To all of you who did not enter this year, we would encourage you to enter at least one class next year. Schedules will be available nearer the time from the Village Stores, or from the website which will be up and running for next year.

Sadly it is the last show on the committee for Simon and I as we are retiring and moving to pastures new. We have loved our time here and our involvement in the Flower Show. If anyone would like to join the committee and get involved in any way big or small we would love to hear from you please contact efsentry@gmail.com. We need a secretary to take the minutes and people with new ideas or just a wish to become involved so that we can carry on this lovely community event.

Allison Strang, retiring chairman

The Flower Show committee would like to thank all its volunteers and the Englefield Estate for their support. In addition we say a fond farewell to long term, stalwart committee members Allison and Simon Strang. Their retirement from the show is a great loss of amazing support, incredible commitment and knowledge from our small team and we will undoubtedly struggle to fill their shoes. We wish them best of luck in their new life and hope they will return to visit Englefield and the show in years to come.

Flower Show winners 2024

The Flower Show cups and shields were presented this year by Dudley Fishburn.

PERPETUAL CHALLENGE CUPS (GIVEN BY)

Garden of the Year (Lady Benyon)

The Cox Cup (M.& P.Cox)

Rose Challenge Cup (F.Lamperd and H.Wilkinson)

Bill Partridge Memorial Cup (Flower Show)

Kathleen Lamperd Memorial Cup (F. Lamperd)

Bob Orchard Memorial Cup (Flower Show)

Senior Citizens Shield

Ambrose Setterfield Memorial Shield

Oliver Bridges Challenge Cup (H.O. Bridges)

Miniature Challenge Cup

Novice Challenge Cup (N.Allen)

Floral Art Challenge Cup (M. Hart)

Victor Brown Memorial Bowl (J.Brown)

Queen Elizabeth Cup (Z.Benyon and A.Strang)

Social Club Ladies Challenge Cup (The Social Club)

Wendy Greaves Memorial Cup (C.Roberts)

Photography Cup (T. Perkins)

Des Allen Memorial Cup (N.Allen and family)

Handwriting Shield Yrs 1 & 2 (J.Dunn)

Handwriting Shield Yrs 3 & 4 (J.Dunn)

Handwriting Shield Yrs 5 & 6 (J.Dunn)

Joan Dunn Memorial Cup Yrs 1 & 2 (Flower Show)

Joan Dunn Memorial Cup Yrs 3 & 4 (Flower Show)

Joan Dunn Memorial Cup Yrs 5 & 6 (Flower Show)

The Mrs Black Memorial Cup (Mrs S.Smith)

Children's Cup (J.K. Strang JP)

No competition

Sarah Fraser

Emma Taylor

Mary Maclean

Mary Maclean

Glen Higgins

Fiona Carney

Luke Goulden

Luke Goulden

Sarah Fraser

Ann Tong

Marylyn Eksey

Christopher Higley

Veronica Cottrell-Lilley

Veronica Cottrell-Lilley

Sarah Fraser

Pippa Lynch

Pippa Lynch

Lucas Prucha

Austin Phelps

Aiva Jerome

Jack Mcerlane

Ollie Finnieston

Luke Mason

Scarlett Higley

Tess Higley





Clare Rumble RIP

The funeral of Clare Rumble (formerly Prichard) was a celebration of her remarkable life which took place on 9th July at St Mark's Church, Englefield. It was a celebration of a life helping others. She was brought up in Chiswick, reading Classics at Durham University and in 1979 married Peter Prichard, settling down in Yorkshire. They had three fine boys Charles, Andrew and David.

The family came down to Mortimer West End in 1987. Clare became a committed Christian and they joined St Mark's and entered into the life of the

church. Clare taught in Sunday school and it brought her much joy. She then taught herself the guitar so she could help the children with their songs as well as lead worship in small groups. She was an evangelist bringing many people to Christ and enriching lives. Peter died in 2002 and was buried at St Mark's. Clare then made a good life for herself and her boys surrounded by her many friends.

In 2006 Clare contracted Parkinson's disease which she bore throughout her life without complaint. She lived with the condition for over 18 years. She never asked 'why me?', but courageously carried on her life with quiet fortitude and courage trying to live as normal a life as possible.

Clare then met an engineer, Clive Rumble, at a London dinner party and after two years they married in 2011 with Clive relocating to Mortimer. She loved a project and she loved helping others, always looking for an opportunity to step in and support people. This included a range of activities from prison visiting to seeing just what was needed in people's lives. Her door was always open and the conversation was always positive, filled with faith and constructive, offering practical help to her friends.

Clare was a lover of opera, old black and white films, a book worm. Tending her garden and weeding was another of her passions and in the evenings in the summer picking raspberries with Clive, always competing that she had picked the most! She had a craving for chocolate cake and brownies and being a good cook she made some rather good ones. They went on trips abroad on a number of walking holidays. Clare was happiest walking with people and as always the chance of discussing her strong faith was evident.

Clare was a tall, elegant, very attractive and colourful person. She loved her life. She was so proud and supportive of her boys and adored them. She was a loving older sister to Corinna and Julia and always gentle, filling the house with joy in her hilarious and kind way. Clive felt so much admiration for her and her example is an inspiration to him for the future.

How to judge a grassland?

'What was it like,' they asked, 'judging grassland near Petersfield yesterday?' Well, it was like trying to compare a pair of shoes with a suit, with a tie, then a hat. Just four entries - the fifth had gone to Ascot for the day. My steward was Joe Atkinson. He looked young and pretty fit. He had just retired, having played professional rugby for ten years. He had now joined his dad to look after the sheep, drive the combine and learn the ropes. The Atkinsons first came to the farm in 1904, leaving 100 acres in the Lake District to farm 1,000 acres of chalk downland, covered with thorn bushes and rabbits. Now they run a profitable farming business operating over 2,000 acres with mainly family labour and no rent, so they have grown carefully and well.

Our first stop was to look at a four-year-old piece of grass with deep roots and late maturing varieties, with lots of clover and herbs. There was no need for artificial fertiliser, the mixture promoted good soil structure and soil microorganisms AND the flock of 800 ewes and their lambs were tucking into it well. This was in sharp contrast to the thick, almost waist-high crop of grass on the next farm. One huge cut of silage had already been taken and the field was ready for another cut to help feed 200 dairy cows and followers. Again, this was a family farm with the younger generation in charge, definitely 'High Farming' with lots of expensive nitrogen fertiliser to make the business work, and the cows and young stock were in superb condition. It was a job to find the third farmer but his young daughter led us to the top of his farm. He eventually arrived on an old tractor, the hay turner still spinning. He had been to Reading University in the '80s so we reminisced and stared at the view across the Meon Valley in wonder. His grassland was a stand of mainly Timothy, ideal for horses, with a good mixture of clovers and wildflowers, so perfect for pollinators.

Last of all was Joe's uncle. He showed us cattle owned by Sainsbury's grazing grass improved by stitching in better varieties and clovers. We looked to the hill where sheep grazed the South Downs and enhanced the biodiversity. We visited his newly mown campsite with Portaloos ready for action, a field with silage being baled and wrapped and finally viewed 15 acres being fenced around the River Meon awaiting the arrival of a family of beavers.

How do you judge that lot? Have a good summer!



John Bishop
www.rushallfarm.org.uk



From Englefield Primary School

'Sowing the Seeds for a Flourishing Future'

In May, our Year 3/4 children had a fantastic residential trip to Thirtover Place in Cold Ash. Activities included grass-sledging, orienteering, the Big Art Project, the low ropes course and a water activity - though it was wet enough already! We enjoyed some sun amongst the many showers and had a bonus visit to Beale Park on our way back to school. The children showed resilience and determination, supported each other brilliantly and were wonderful company for three days.



Bee-keeping Club has been active this term, even if the bees have been a little sluggish. The children even managed to spot the queen in the hive! Thank you, as always, to Serena Watts who gives our pupils such a unique experience.

KS1 enjoyed workshops at the Five-a-day garden in Englefield. They learned how easy and rewarding it can be to 'grow your own'. They talked about healthy choices and made rainbow pictures using flowers and leaves.

Year 3 and 4 had a super time at the Englefield Countryside Day. As usual, it was brilliantly planned and gave the children plenty to do and think about. A huge thanks to the Estate for putting this on – such a great event.



Our KS2 pupils have had a sporty term with football friendlies (all of which we won!) and two different Kwik Cricket tournaments, one at St Andrew's and one at SUN Cricket Cub. They also participated at Area Sports with every pupil (who wanted to) taking part in an activity. We were delighted to

come third out of seven, playing against some bigger schools.

Our own Sports Day was a wonderful occasion with the Englefield Mile, a carousel of sporting activities, family picnics and some highly competitive races. Well done to winning house, Athena.



The whole school had a great trip to the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford. We focused on sculpture, creating our own pieces of art after being guided around various pieces in the museum. The Year 3/4 class particularly enjoyed visiting the Ancient Egypt section as this has been their history topic this term.

We were absolutely delighted to present Mrs Wendy Newsome with a bouquet in recognition of her 25 years at the school - this shows tremendous commitment. Wendy has many different roles and spends a lot of her time supporting our more anxious pupils as well as running Barn Owls, our after-school club.



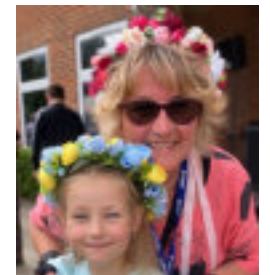
The whole community came together in July for the annual Englefield Flower Show. The weather was kind and the crowds enjoyed the games and stalls, the Beenham Wind Orchestra, the tea and cake tent and the excellent raffle. The exhibition tent was full of entries in the many different categories – congratulations to all the winners! There were



performances by the school choir, the Maypole Dancing Club and the Street Dance Club, and the afternoon was rounded off with prize-giving and the raffle. Thank you to everyone who makes the event such a success – the Flower Show committee and the school PTA along with all the many helpers.

By the time you read this, we will have finished the school year and will hopefully be enjoying the summer break. Between now and then we still have our Year 5/6 production, the thank you tea, our music concert and the Leavers Service, all of which are enjoyable events.

We wish our Year 6 pupils well in their new secondary schools – they will be greatly missed. We now look forward to seeing the remainder of the pupil body, along with our new starters, in September.



Hilary Latimer, Headteacher

Let's Talk Theology

Let's Talk Theology meetings will stop over August and begin again on the second Wednesday of September at St Mary's Sulhamstead, at 7.30pm. For further details, contact carolboulter@ntlworld.com.



Summer activities at Five A Day

While the weather has decided to dry out a bit we have been busy harvesting potatoes, courgettes, onions, garlic, peas and shallots. The garden is looking lovely and we enjoyed a successful Open Day which coincided with the Englefield Flower Show. We did very well in the vegetable and flower show coming away with a few prizes so are feeling very proud.

It is with a heavy heart that we will be saying goodbye to Yvonne at the end of July although she will continue to be a trustee of Five a Day. After much consideration, she has decided that she wants to spend more time in her retirement travelling and enjoying life outside of Five a Day. Yvonne has played such an important role over many years and we will all miss her but we wish her all the very best for her future adventures. Her husband Robert will also resign from his post as treasurer and we thank him for his valuable contribution in this role.



We would like to find some more trustees so if you are interested, or know anyone who might be, please let us know. Trustees meet twice a year working alongside the management team to oversee the charity's business plan and activities.

We have welcomed Vodafone, Konsentus and Rebound over the last month as well as a group from Priors Court. Their help has been invaluable in the garden. The uniformed groups (Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Squirrels) have enjoyed some warm evenings in the garden and will continue to visit throughout the summer. Ella's Explorers school visits have been taking place throughout June and July and we expect over 300 school children to have visited in the lead up to the summer holidays. The Thyme Together area has new raised beds built by Ian which have been filled and planted. Our new session leader Katie is settling in.

CHARITY OPEN GARDEN DAY

Carol and Michael Froud are holding a Open Garden Day and have kindly made 5ADAY Garden their nominated charity. The event will take place on **Sunday 25th August, 2pm to 5pm at The Nook, Routh Lane, Tilehurst, Reading RG30 4JY.** Please visit and enjoy the beautiful garden they have created.

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

Wendy Cadman, Five A Day management team member and trustee

SUFISM – An Exploration of Islam's Spiritual Tradition



A talk by Imam Monawar Hussain, MBE DL FRSA MCCT



Sufism has been called the 'Heart of Islam' and in recent times it has been in the line of violent onslaught from extremist movements. In this presentation, Monawar will outline the origins, history and beliefs of Sufis.

Monawar read Theology at the University of Oxford, trained as an Imam at the Muslim College, London and holds an MA in Abrahamic Religions from the University of London. He is a Muslim Tutor and Imam at Eton College, founder of the Oxford Foundation and Associate Director at Leadership Management International – UK.

He lives in Oxford, is a founding member of the Oxford Council of Faiths and served as the High Sheriff of Oxfordshire 2021-22. Beyond Oxfordshire he leads the national *United for Peace: Communities United Against Extremism* initiative.

Wednesday 16th October – 7:30pm

**at The Music Hall,
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 M: 07764 476361

Sunday	Sidesperson	First reading	Epistle	Gospel	Prayers	Sacristan	Server	Sunday Club and crèche	Cleaners
August 4th 10th Sunday after Trinity BCP	Peter Haig	Kahlen Spaulding	Meryl Bonser	Preacher	BCP	Penny Norris	Saffy O'Sullivan	Liz McKean Denny Hollands	Graham and Pauline Harvey
August 11th 11th Sunday after Trinity	Paula Fenwick	Anne Edgar	James Bamforth	Preacher	Linda Price	D Boddy	Paula Fenwick	Saffy O'Sullivan Meryl Bonser	Angie Higgins
August 18th 12th Sunday after Trinity	Penny Savage	Aldo Guiducci	Graham Harvey	Preacher	Denny Hollands	Penny Norris	Denny Hollands	Liz McKean Saffy O'Sullivan	Penny Norris and Saffy O'Sullivan
August 25th 13th Sunday after Trinity	Torquil MJ	Denny Hollands	Mike Kimber	Preacher	Ron Marillier	Sue Smith	Penny Savage	Saffy O'Sullivan Meryl Bonser	Pete and Carole Ford
September 1st 14th Sunday after Trinity BCP	Paula Fenwick	Kahlen Spaulding	Paul Myles	Preacher	BCP	Penny Savage	Peter Haig	Saffy O'Sullivan Liz McKean	Angie Higgins
September 8th 15th Sunday after Trinity	Graham and Pauline Harvey	Lorraine Dehn	Paula Fenwick	Preacher	Penny Savage	Catherine Haig	Torquil MJ	Saffy O'Sullivan Denny Hollands	Liz McKean
September 15th 16th Sunday after Trinity	Peter Haig	Dee Boddy	John Rothery	Preacher	Catherine Haig	Penny Norris	Denny Hollands	Saffy O'Sullivan Meryl Bonser	Catherine and Peter Haig
September 22nd 17th Sunday after Trinity	Liz Marillier	Dinah Perkins	Peter Haig	Preacher	Richard Benyon	Dee Boddy	Saffy O'Sullivan	Liz McKean Denny Hollands	Graham and Pauline Harvey
September 29th 18th Sunday after Trinity	Penny Savage	Linda Price	Torquil MJ	Preacher	Saffy O'Sullivan	Sue Smith	Paula Fenwick	Denny Hollands Meryl Bonser	Penny Norris and Saffy O'Sullivan
October 6th 19th Sunday after Trinity BCP	Paula Fenwick	Ronan O'Sullivan	Carole Ford	Preacher	BCP	Denny Hollands	Torquil MJ	Saffy O'Sullivan Liz McKean	Angie Higgins
October 13th HARVEST FESTIVAL	Torquil MJ	James Meade	Jean Rothery	Preacher	Dinah Perkins	Penny Savage	Peter Haig	Saffy O'Sullivan Meryl Bonser	Pete and Carole Ford
October 20th 21st Sunday after Trinity	Peter Haig	Richard Benyon	Saffy O'Sullivan	Preacher	Paula Fenwick	Catherine Haig	Penny Savage	Liz McKean Denny Hollands	Peter and Catherine Haig

Bible readings will be emailed to readers beforehand and can also be found at <https://almanac.oremus.org/2023-03-19> (click on the correct date and scroll down to Principal Service readings). If you swap duties, please email Rev Julia (rector@stmarksenglefield.org.uk) and the churchwardens. Please send prayer requests to Linda Price (pricelinda8@gmail.com).

Englefield Estate Schools Days 2024

This year, over 1,800 children and adults from 34 schools in Berkshire and north Hampshire visited Englefield for Schools Days. The theme of the days is sustainability: meeting our current needs without infringing on the capacity of future generations to meet their needs. This is a big concept to introduce to children, but the natural and built environment of the Estate provides a brilliant context to teach sustainability topics in an interactive way. In total, 28 different activities were run by a combination of Estate staff, local organisations and volunteers, including former staff and village residents.



At St Mark's Church pupils learned about important Christian milestones. Our Maintenance Team had teams of children practising roof tiling and groups of children worked together to design an eco-friendly village. The Estate's Gamekeepers taught sessions on farmland habitats for birds, predator control and the different species of deer at Englefield, while the Gardens Team had a busy

time running two activities on the importance of healthy soils. The Estate carpenters teamed up with the Barn Owl Group and worked with schools to build four new owl boxes that will be put out for local barn owls to nest in. Sixth formers from Pangbourne College conducted applied mathematics lessons using two of our biggest trees – giant sequoias – to calculate circumference and estimate height, and our Forestry Team ran activities covering the structure of trees and requirements for growth and the forestry production cycle of planting and thinning.

The children also learned about bats, bees, butterflies and moths, dragonflies, fishing, waste recycling, clean rivers and the water cycle, wind and solar energy, milk and meat production, arable crops, archaeology, bush craft and the Countryside Code and what it was like to live in the House in Victorian times. Thanks to all the organisations and volunteers who ran these activities.



We were very lucky with the weather! A lot cooler than 2023 and the rain held off until everyone had safely departed. Once again, a big thank you to Liz Wirth at the Village Store for providing lunch for all our staff and volunteers and to Richard Smith, Ron Marillier, Margaret Stevens and Dinah Perkins for helping Rev Julia Myles at the church. We have had some lovely letters from pupils who attended, thanking us for the variety of activities, the beautiful surroundings and the kindness of all the adults involved. I would like to add my thanks to all our fantastic helpers for providing such a lovely learning experience.

Liz Mattison, Education & Environment Officer

Englefield's New World connection

Seeing our recent American visitors in church on a recent Sunday one was tempted to point out our other connection with the New World but perhaps, given the context, it was wiser to resist the temptation. The tangible evidence of that connection is to be found in the Englefield Chapel in the shape of a memorial on the west wall to Joshua Loring.

Joshua Loring was born on 1st November 1744 in Roxbury, Massachusetts, a descendent of Deacon Thomas Loring who emigrated from Devon in 1634. Joshua's father, also Joshua, joined the Royal Navy and served with distinction until a cannon shot tore the calf of his right leg. He then established a large estate at Jamaica Plain near Boston, Massachusetts and the family occupied a prominent and esteemed place in local society until Joshua accepted appointment to the Governor's Council by General Thomas Gage, contrary to established tradition that Council members were elected by representatives of the people.



When the Revolutionary War started, Joshua took the English side. He fled to relative safety in Boston and never returned. When exactly this happened is disputed but whenever it was the departure was hasty, for everything was left behind: his house with all its furnishings and fittings and his estate with the crops standing and livestock running free.

The family later left Boston with Sir William Howe's fleet for Halifax, Nova Scotia and travelled on to England with Howe, having been named in the Massachusetts Banishment Act of 1776 and exiled on pain of death. Their property was confiscated by the state and sold at auction. Joshua Loring senior died in at Highgate in London on 5th October 1781.

Joshua the younger, our Joshua, served as an Ensign and later Lieutenant in the British Army with the 15th Regiment of Foot and then became High Sheriff of Suffolk County, Massachusetts, and subsequently Mayor of Hingham. Joshua junior went to Halifax with the Army and in 1777 was appointed Commissary General of Prisoners – an appointment it is said owed much to an affair that his wife Elizabeth (née Lloyd) was having with the British Commander in Boston, General Howe, and popular history has it that the loss of the American Colonies resulted from this dalliance, so much did it distract Howe from his duties. So perhaps our American friends might have been grateful for Joshua's indirect contribution to their ancestors' fight for independence.

As Commissary General, Joshua Loring junior is said to have been brutal towards the men in his charge and was accused of being responsible for the death of thousands of American prisoners from starvation and disease while they were held in ships moored in New York harbour. Other testimony, however, describes him to

have been *'diligent and attentive to his duty'* and *'of exceeding good character'*. Joshua continued in his post until the end of the war in 1783 when he left America to settle at Englefield.

It is likely that during his time in Englefield Loring lived in the old house that stood somewhere between the Old Rectory and St Mark's House because the land that lay between it and The Street, on which the 5-A-Day garden and the school and schoolhouse now are, was known as Loring's Meadow. This house was later given by Richard Benyon for use as a Rectory in exchange for the one that stood opposite the east front of Englefield House and can be seen on the print from about 1790 that hangs in the church. The house occupied by the Lorings was demolished after another new Rectory (now the Old Rectory) was built in 1870.

Although he was broken in health and spirit and short of money, Joshua and Elizabeth had three more children while in Englefield. William Loring served in the Horse Artillery and took part in the retreat from Corunna with Sir John Moore, from which he never recovered, dying in Madeira in 1812, and Henry Lloyd Loring became the first Archdeacon of Calcutta and died there from cholera on 4th September 1822. The youngest child, Robert Roberts Loring, was baptised at Englefield just a week after the death of his father in 1789 and later gained a commission in the 49th Foot (later to become the 1st Battalion Royal Berkshire Regiment) in 1804. He joined the Regiment in Quebec the following July and remained in Canada, becoming a distinguished Staff Officer in a succession of posts. He died at his residence, called 'Englefield', in Toronto on 1st April 1848. One of the children born in America was John Wentworth Loring CB, who served with the Royal Navy in the Napoleonic Wars, rising to the rank of Admiral and becoming Lieutenant-Governor of the Royal Naval College in 1819.

Joshua himself died at the age of only 45 on 18th September 1789 and his widow, with five children to support, was forced to appeal to the British government for financial compensation. Her petition was granted and she received a pension until her death at her house in Reading on 2nd October 1835, aged 83.

The truth about Joshua Loring's conduct, and that of his wife, is uncertain. Certainly in the case of Elizabeth's relationship with Howe there is far more evidence against any impropriety than for it. There was a great deal of animosity in America towards the family dating from the time of Joshua Loring senior's appointment by Gage and accounts have been much embroidered over the intervening years by those with a particular interest.

Richard Smith

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.

'For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name.' (Ephesians 3 v 14-15)

The family of God includes all who have believed in him in the past, all who believe in the present, and all who will believe in him in the future. We are all one family because we have the same Father. He pours out his blessings on us, promising his love and power in our lives, and he does so as members of his family. Although he loves us and blesses us each individually, he does it in the context of our being united together in one body, the church (eg Ephesians 2:22).

In our individualistic society, we too often forget that God calls us into relationship with him as part of a family. The Bible knows nothing of 'lone wolf' Christianity; the idea that a person can follow Jesus in complete isolation from anybody else is completely foreign to the New Testament writers. Each person has their own unique gifts and contribution to make to the life of the church, and it is important that we stay in contact with other believers in the body of Christ. Remaining connected in this way brings blessings on ourselves and upon others.



There is the story of the man sitting with the rector in front of a blazing coal fire in the rectory sitting room. The rector listens patiently as the man explains how he doesn't see the need to be part of the church family, and that he thinks he can pursue his walk with the Lord all by himself. Without saying a word, the rector reaches into the brightest part of the fire with a pair of tongs, removes a brightly glowing coal, and sets it down on the hearth away from the flames. Both of them watch in silence as the coal, removed from the fire and isolated from the other coals, dims from white to red, and finally goes dark. After a pause, the man says to the rector, 'I'll see you in church on Sunday'.

Those who isolate themselves from God's family and try to go it alone cut themselves off from God's power, and will find both their ministry in the world and their personal spiritual health suffer as a result. If we resolve to stay connected to our brothers and sisters in the faith, we will continue to blaze brightly for the Lord.



Join us for a life-saving training event

Learn how to recognise a stroke and act FAST!

Harino Care warmly invites you to an educational training event at 10.30am on **Thursday 19th September** in the Englefield Village Hall, that could help you save a life and ensure the safety and independence of your loved ones. Hosted by your local church, this event aims to empower you with knowledge and practical tips on:

- Recognising a stroke and acting FAST. Learn the FAST (Face, Arms, Speech, Time) method to identify the signs of a stroke and act swiftly to minimise risks.
- Falls prevention and how to fall safe.
- Home accessories and adaptations to support independence.

We'll be serving complimentary tea, coffee, and cake, making it a perfect opportunity to learn, share, and connect with fellow community members in a relaxed and welcoming environment.

This event is open to everyone, and we encourage you to bring family, friends, and neighbours. Your participation can make our community a safer, more informed and supportive place for everyone. We look forward to seeing you there!

Darius Papara, Harino Care



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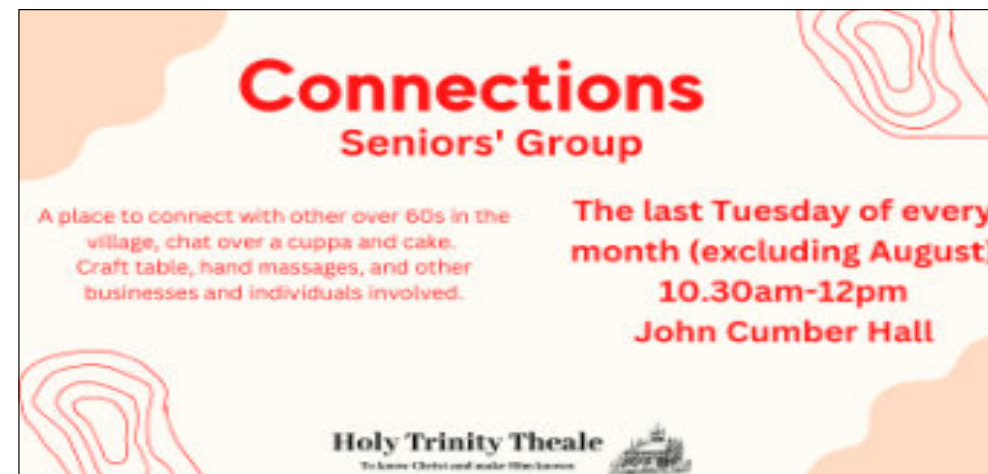
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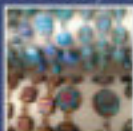
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