

# *Englefield*

## *Parish News*

February - March 2025



## *The Parish of St Mark's, Englefield*

**Rector:** Rev Julia Myles

During Julia's sabbatical, all enquiries to be directed via the churchwardens

**Churchwardens:**

Paula Fenwick

Torquil Montague-Johnstone

churchwarden@stmarksenglefield.org.uk

07850 603508

0118 9714536

**Safeguarding Officer:** Lucy Roper

safeguarding@stmarksenglefield.org.uk

07970 768528

### Parochial Church Council

**Secretary:** Penny Savage

office@stmarksenglefield.org.uk

0118 9410808

**Treasurer:** Ron Marillier

treasurer@stmarksenglefield.org.uk

0118 9305152

**Electoral Roll Officer:** Richard Smith

richard@transport-studies.org

0118 9833258

### Parish Council

**Chairman:** Edward Crookes

edward.crookes@englefield.co.uk

0118 302504

**Clerk:** Nia Rands

clerk.englefieldpc@outlook.com

07725 171223

**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:** *A carpet of spring crocus, photographed in March last year.*

### *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](mailto:catherinehaig@gmail.com) or hand in to the Village Stores by the 20<sup>th</sup> of the preceding month.

## *From St Mark's House*

*Dear friends*

Each week, during my brief time of looking after St Mark's, I have added a short reflection to the introduction to the weekly news sheet. I hope that you have found it welcome and hopefully, thought provoking.

It struck me, though, as I started to write this piece, that I have presumed to call you friends. What else might I call you without being either too formal or too matey? I'm happy with friends.

In the Gospel according to John there are a couple of occasions when Jesus grants this intimacy to his followers. John 5:19, 'I have called you friends because all things, whatsoever I have heard from my father, I have made known to you'. This is repeated in John 15.

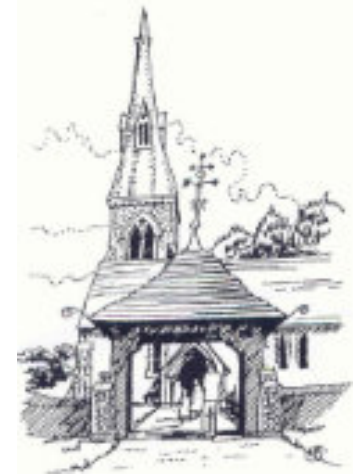
The graduation from disciple to friend appears to be about Jesus and his followers sharing the same enterprise by making God known to others.

I repeat, I am happy to call you friends, not because I claim to be Christlike, but simply because we too are engaged in the same enterprise, making God and his Son Jesus known to others.

Very soon you will be safely back in the careful hands of Reverend Julia. May I thank you for helping Margaret and I to feel so welcome over the past months. We have thoroughly enjoyed our stay among friends.

In the Father's love and mine,

*Reverend Alan*



## Diary dates

Ash Wednesday: March 5<sup>th</sup>, an informal service of Holy Communion will be held at 6.30pm at St Mark's to mark the start of Lent.

World Day of Prayer: Friday 7<sup>th</sup> March, see page 4 for more information.

West Berkshire Mobile Library: Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> March (no visit in February), 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 23<sup>rd</sup> February and 30<sup>th</sup> March..

Let's Talk Theology: Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> February and Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> March.

SDG lecture: the next termly lecture organised by the Bradfield Deanery Spiritual Development group is on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> March, with speaker, Professor Eleanor Nesbitt, see page 15 for details.

St Mark's PCC meeting: Monday 24<sup>th</sup> March, 6.30pm, in the church.

VE Day 80: Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May, see opposite for more information.

St Mark's APCM: Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> May. This is the annual meeting open to all parishioners, and will take place after the service at St Mark's. Please put the date in your diary and come along.

## Local contacts

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Englefield Estate Office   | 0118 930 2504; <a href="mailto:office@englefield.co.uk">office@englefield.co.uk</a>  |
| Englefield Estate Yard   | 0118 930 2538 <a href="mailto:maintenance@englefield.co.uk">maintenance@englefield.co.uk</a>   |
| Englefield Stores & Tea Room   | 0118 930 2479<br><a href="mailto:admin@englefieldstoresandtearooms.co.uk">admin@englefieldstoresandtearooms.co.uk</a><br><a href="http://www.englefieldstoresandtearooms.co.uk/">www.englefieldstoresandtearooms.co.uk/</a><br><a href="https://www.englefieldvillageball.co.uk/">https://www.englefieldvillageball.co.uk/</a><br><a href="mailto:info@englefieldvillageball.co.uk">info@englefieldvillageball.co.uk</a> |
| 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)<br><a href="http://www.westberks.gov.uk/">www.westberks.gov.uk/</a><br><a href="http://www.englefieldpc.org.uk/">www.englefieldpc.org.uk/</a><br><a href="http://www.thealeparishcouncil.gov.uk/">www.thealeparishcouncil.gov.uk</a>   |
| Englefield Parish Council  |  |
| Theale Parish Council  |  |
| Englefield Primary School  | 0118 930 2337; <a href="http://www.englefieldprimary.co.uk">www.englefieldprimary.co.uk</a>  |
| Utility suppliers: Electricity - SEN 0800 072 72; Oil - Ford Fuels 0148 872 829; |  |
| Gas - National Grid 0800 111 999; Water - Thames Water 0800 714 614;             |  |
| Drainage - Total Drainage 0118 9421140   |  |

## Congratulations

To Georgina Best and Robert Christou who were married at St Mark's on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December, followed by a reception at Ufton Court.

To James and Laura Meade on the birth of Bobby on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> January, a brother for Rory and Billy.

## RIP

Susan Holding who died on December 28<sup>th</sup> and whose funeral was held at West Berkshire Crematorium on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> January.

Diane Graham who died in December and whose funeral was held at St Mark's on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January.

## Giving envelopes

You may have noticed that there is a rainbow array of giving envelopes in the pews at St Mark's which may confuse both regulars and visitors alike.

If you are a member of St Mark's and regularly use the envelopes, please put your donation in a pink or green envelope, inserting your name and date of giving for the purposes of Gift Aid. The yellow envelopes are for visitors who are making an occasional donation and also qualify for Gift Aid. They need to put their name, address and the date on the envelope so that St Mark's can reclaim the extra 20%.

As ever, the collection basket is handed round during the offertory hymn and the contactless device is available at the back of the church. Thank you.

*Ron Marillier, treasurer*

## Save the date

Following on from the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of D Day last June, VE Day 80 falls on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May this year. Please save the date and have a look at the official website: <https://www.veday80.org.uk/>. Details of a beacon lighting at Englefield will follow nearer the time.

There will be national commemorations across the country on this day but it will not be marked by a public holiday.

## Englefield Echo

If you have not seen a copy of the *Englefield Echo 2024*, it is now available to read online at <https://www.englefieldestate.co.uk/our-publications>. Published annually at the end of each calendar year, the *Echo* shares news and insights from the teams on the ground across the Estate, looking at the issues affecting local communities, businesses and the environment. The magazine reflects the way staff, tenants and partners across the Estate are rising to new challenges while staying true to the Estate's principles and honouring its past, and celebrates the people who live and work here, as well as the guests who are welcomed during the year, from film crews to concert goers.



### World Day of Prayer 2025

'I made you wonderful' is the theme of the 2025 World Day of Prayer. This is held on the first Friday of March each year. We are part of the Burghfield and Mortimer group and each year a different church hosts it, using the service written especially for the day from different parts of the world. This year's service has been prepared by Christian women of the Cook Islands. It is based on the words of Psalm 139, and woven within the stories of three Christian women, this worship service invites us to recognise that God created each one of us with great attention and loving care.

Venue: St Oswald's RC Church, Burghfield Common RG7 3HQ

Date: Friday 7<sup>th</sup> March

Time: 2-3pm with refreshments afterwards.

Come and find out more about this fascinating part of the world in the centre of the Polynesian Triangle and be part of a wonderful wave of prayer which encircles the globe.

*Penny Savage*



### Marking the start of Lent

Shrove Tuesday or Pancake Day falls on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> March this year and the following day, the start of Lent, will be marked by an informal service of Holy Communion at St Mark's at 6.30pm. All are welcome.

Lent lasts for six weeks with Mothering Sunday on March 30<sup>th</sup>, Palm Sunday on April 13<sup>th</sup> and Easter Sunday on April 20<sup>th</sup>. There will be more information about these special services on the church noticeboard and the weekly pew sheets. Or please email [office@stmarksenglefield.org.uk](mailto:office@stmarksenglefield.org.uk) for details.



## New Bishop of Reading

The Revd Canon Mary Gregory is to be the new Bishop of Reading. Her nomination was announced by His Majesty The King on November 27<sup>th</sup> and she will be consecrated at a special service in the spring.

She was ordained in 2005 and served her curacies and early incumbencies in the Diocese of Sheffield and Leicester. Before becoming ordained, she worked in the prison service, including as a governor at Wakefield and Moorland prisons. She studied theology at Cranmer Hall, Durham. Most recently, Mary was Canon for the Arts and Reconciliation at Coventry Cathedral, which has a global reputation for its work on reconciliation.

On the announcement of her appointment, Mary said: 'It is a real privilege and a great joy to be joining the Diocese of Oxford as the Bishop of Reading. I'm looking forward to getting to know Berkshire, its towns and villages, and above all, its people. I am keen to understand how I can best lead our church communities in sharing the hope that we have in God, and in all that God is doing amongst us. There is so much for me to discover. I welcome people's prayers at this time of transition, just as I'm praying for all those amongst whom I will live and serve.'

The Bishop of Oxford, the Rt Revd Dr Steven Croft said: 'I am delighted that Mary has accepted the invitation to be the next Bishop of Reading. She brings great warmth, humanity and a profound understanding of the healing power of reconciliation in God's world. Given the tensions and conflicts in the world, this will be a significant area of focus as we all pray for peace in our communities. She is committed to the protection of the environment and the strengthening of our interfaith work.'

## Bradfield College road closures

Between now and December 2025, major repairs are taking place to Army House, one of Bradfield College's Grade II listed boarding houses on Ashampstead Road, just below the crossroads in the centre of the College. The necessary works to replace the roof will involve periods of full road closure and a lengthy diversion via Pangbourne. Details can be seen here <https://www.bradfieldcollege.org.uk/about/bradfield/cdf/> where you can also sign up for email notifications.

## Let's Talk Theology

Let's Talk Theology meetings continue at 7.30pm on the second Wednesday of every month. The meetings in February and March will be online. For further details, contact [carolboulter@ntlworld.com](mailto:carolboulter@ntlworld.com).



## Frank Whyman RIP

Frank was born in London on 28<sup>th</sup> January 1939 and died on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2024. He was a renowned gunsmith who trained at London's oldest established firm of gunmakers, Cogswell & Harrison. He moved his workshop to the Estate Yard in Englefield in around 1996, bringing his widespread and loyal clientele and running his business right up until his death. He will be much missed by

the shooting fraternity who beat a path to his door knowing that they would get the best possible care and craftsmanship for their guns.

*From a tribute to Frank published by gun care specialists, Napier of London:*

It is with profound sadness that we acknowledge the passing of Frank Whyman, a cherished friend, mentor and colleague whose influence shaped Napier and its products in immeasurable ways. Frank's involvement began in the early days, when his passion for precision and quality was matched only by his dedication to the shooting industry. He was instrumental in testing and refining the oils and cleaners that would become synonymous with Napier's trusted reputation. As the first UK professional to undertake this role, Frank brought a level of expertise and care that set the foundation for the high standards we continue to uphold today.

Frank's influence was not confined to formulas and finishes. It was his passion for excellence, his insistence on doing things the right way, and his deep respect for tradition that inspired those around him. Frank understood the soul of the tools he worked to preserve. He was a pioneer, a mentor, and above all, a friend. To everyone who knew him, his influence will be felt long after his passing.

Frank Whyman 1939-2024: technical expert - visionary - craftsman - friend.

*Dudley Fishburn remembers:*

I took my two 12 bore shotguns into Frank's workshop in the Yard for a service many years ago. As soon as Frank touched the guns he fell into silence. He almost froze as he turned them over in his hands. There was a horrible awkward pause. 'Oh, heavens,' I thought, 'he has found some terrible crack in the barrels. Or perhaps he thinks I've stolen them. Or is he having a heart attack?' No. In time he replied: 'I never thought I would hold these guns in my hands again. I recognised them at once. These are the pair that I made as the final part of my apprenticeship at the gunsmiths Cogswell & Harrison. I was 18 at the time. I worked on them day and night. And here they are in perfect shape 40 years later.' And he was right. My father had given them to me for my 21st. We went along to Cogswells together that day. And it was stuck in my memory as much as in Frank's. An Englefield moment!

## St Mark's Electoral Roll

In order for a person to be able to vote at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting\* and to stand for office, his or her name must be listed on the Electoral Roll. For regular communicants who live outside the parish there may also be other concessions available to those on the Roll that would not otherwise apply.

The Electoral Roll is reviewed and updated every year but every sixth year a completely new Roll is created. This year is a sixth year and therefore even if your name was on the Roll last year you must apply again to have it recorded on the new one. The creation of the new Roll will begin on February 20<sup>th</sup> and run until April 17<sup>th</sup>. Applications for listing on the new Roll must be received by the Electoral Roll Officer, Richard Smith, between these dates (inclusive).

Application forms will be found on the church website at the appropriate time, from where they can be downloaded and completed on any digital device. The form will also be available by email from the Electoral Roll Officer at [richard.smith.ufton@icloud.com](mailto:richard.smith.ufton@icloud.com). Paper copies will also be available in church and should be returned to the Electoral Roll Officer when completed.

*Richard Smith, Electoral Roll Officer*

*\*Please note the date for the next APCM which will take place at St Mark's after the morning service on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> May.*

## A very busy Christmas...

The Village Store was so busy with the lead up to Christmas. It was full of lovely local bespoke gifts. Janice and Sally behind the counter were kept very busy with peeling all the vegetables for the Christmas dinners too.

The Tea room was cheerfully packed each day for Christmas dinners throughout the week and then Christmas Afternoon Teas on Saturdays, as well as breakfasts in the mornings. It was great to celebrate a wonderful time of the year with our dear customers. We hope we didn't put you off too much with our singing and actions to *The Twelve Days of Christmas*, which was sung 37 times in total!

We have now had time with our families and recharged...and we are all ready to hit 2025 with a bang, bringing all that we did in 2024 as well as some new additions too for the new year. I would like to take this opportunity to thank my wonderful team of ladies here, who work so hard to bring together what you all know and love about the Village Store and Tea room - thank you ladies, I couldn't do this without you! Also to our lovely customers, as without you this wouldn't be possible. Happy New Year to you all.

*Liz Wirth*

## Minibuses available to local groups

Carebus, the affordable, accessible, volunteer-driven community transport service for Englefield and the other parishes in the eastern part of West Berkshire, has two minibuses seating up to 12 passengers which are often available to local clubs, societies, schools, retirement homes etc for trips of all kinds - social, sporting, charitable, community service and so on.

Carebus Community Transport was founded by the late Graham Reeves in Englefield over 40 years ago. All volunteer drivers are DBS checked, and are fully insured. A contribution is requested to help cover fuel and running costs, currently £1 a mile, from and back to the Carebus depot near Theale. The website [www.carebus.org](http://www.carebus.org) includes further details about seat layouts, accessibility etc under the Minibus tab. There is also an Enquiry Form under the Book a Trip tab.



Carebus also has two accessible cars designed to take people who need to travel in their own wheelchairs to medical and social appointments. Other volunteer drivers use their own cars to provide a similar service to elderly people who are unable to drive and where public transport is unsuitable or unavailable.

Further details are available from [www.carebus.org](http://www.carebus.org) or by emailing [info@carebus.org](mailto:info@carebus.org) or calling 0118 930 4837.

### 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**

## Wellbeing sessions

Did you know that some of these sessions, led by qualified instructors are available nearby? Aimed at older people, they are chair-based, designed to gently rebuild your strength, suppleness, skill and stamina and, more importantly, are an opportunity to reconnect and socialise with others. There are sessions at Theale Library on Wednesday afternoons at 3.30pm, and at the Dorman Room in Pangbourne at 6pm. More information and details of how to book are available from [kate.wiggins@getberkshireactive.org](mailto:kate.wiggins@getberkshireactive.org) or call Kate on 07706 357801.

### Wellbeing Sessions

Led by qualified instructors these chair-based sessions are perfect for gently rebuilding your strength, suppleness, skill and stamina and, more importantly, giving an opportunity to reconnect and socialise with others.

Call or email Kate to book or for more info: [kate.wiggins@getberkshireactive.org](mailto:kate.wiggins@getberkshireactive.org)

West Berkshire Social Services & Working Wellbeing  
Tuesday 10.30am - 12.00pm: Theale Library with Helen (0118) 930 4837  
Tuesday 10.30am - 12.00pm: Pangbourne with Kate (07706) 357801

Wednesday 10.30am - 12.00pm: Pangbourne with Helen  
Wednesday 10.30am - 12.00pm: Pangbourne with Helen  
Wednesday 10.30am - 12.00pm: Pangbourne with Helen  
Thursday 10.30am - 12.00pm: Pangbourne with Helen

**Online Virtual Session**



## Regular events at the Village Hall

It's a new year and here's a reminder of all the regular events that are held in the Village Hall every week!

- Monday, 10am: Baby College - Baby and Toddler classes - contact Georgina 07891 660962. Georgina offers a third off the trial price for local residents
- 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of each month, 6pm: Sound baths - Jo 07775 767486
- Tuesday, 10am: Bridge Club - Roger 07801 846900, [www.bridgewebs.com/bradfieldgroup/](http://www.bridgewebs.com/bradfieldgroup/)
- Tuesday, 4.30pm: Kids After School Yoga - Lizzie 07872 450544. Lizzie also runs regular weekend family yoga, next one is on February 15<sup>th</sup>
- Wednesday, 7pm: Adult Yoga - Kev 07784 600360 - Kev is happy to offer your first class for free
- Thursday, 11.15am: Pilates - Marianne - 07985 085597
- Friday, 10am and 1pm: Baby Massage - Helen 07881 807058
- Saturday, 9.30am: Adult Yoga - Kev - 07784 600360 - first class for free

All of these classes are very welcoming and would love to see you!

We are also getting lots of bookings for parties, baby showers, wedding anniversaries and christenings for the weekends. We do get booked up quite early so if you are thinking of hiring the hall anytime in 2025 then please do contact us.

*Lynn Dennison, Hall Manager, 07900 405438  
[info@englefieldvillagehall.co.uk](mailto:info@englefieldvillagehall.co.uk)*

## Rebuilding the wall

The history of the Englefield wall is the subject of Richard Smith's latest article, the first half of which is featured on pages 19-20 of this issue. In latter years the wall has been subject to occasional damage from vehicle collisions but another, slower, threat has come from the large trees, mainly oaks, that were planted many years ago just inside its perimeter along the A340, between the turnings into The Street and up to Chalkpit. As the trees have grown so they have pushed the wall upwards and outwards causing large cracks to appear. Careful remedial work has been carried out over the last couple of years by Englefield Estate's stonemason and bricklayer, Robin White, who has taken down the affected sections and rebuilt them - 'stepping out' the design around the trees and creating brick arches over the roots to allow for current and future growth, ensuring the stability of the wall as well as the safety of passing traffic.

## Pangbourne Bowls Club

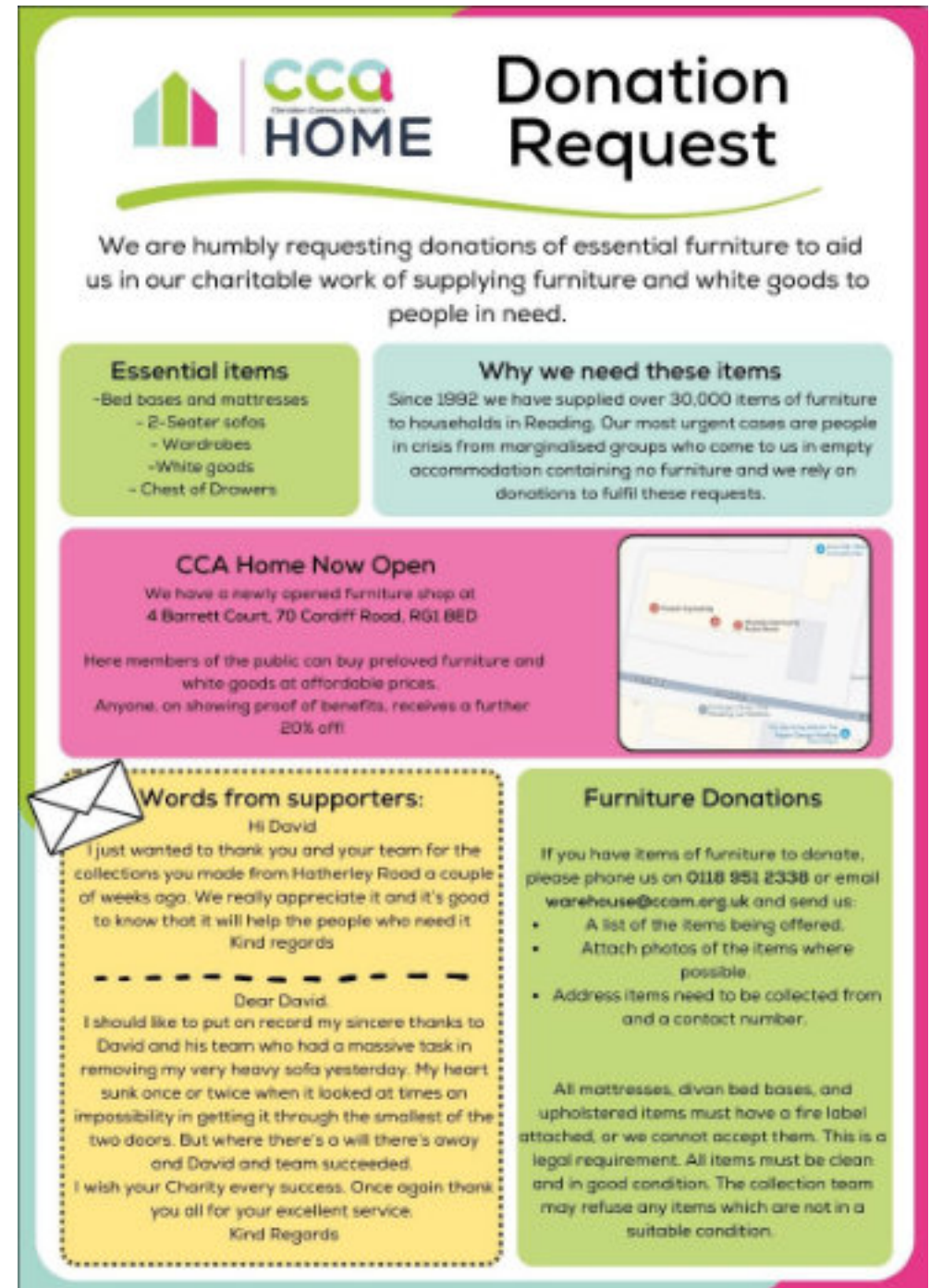
I'm sure many residents of Englefield visit Pangbourne village from time to time but are you aware that Pangbourne has a Bowls Club and has done for over 100 years? The green is at the far end of the Recreation ground, Thames Avenue, opposite the tennis courts.

We are a small but friendly bunch of ladies and gents who play throughout the summer and cater for all ages. Whilst we play in league and friendly matches everyone is encouraged to play as much or as little as they wish and to this end the plan is to offer casual roll ups either afternoon or evening to allow access for all. For those new to the game coaching will be provided by qualified coaches, as will equipment, however all we ask is that flat shoes be worn.

At this time of the year we are busy preparing for our new season - looking after the bowling green; arranging the match fixtures, planning social events etc. On Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> March you will find us serving the regular refreshments at The Art Cafe in the Old Stables, Whitchurch, from 10.00 to 12.00 so come along and meet us there.

Think you may be interested in coming along to give Bowls a try? We will be holding an Open Day on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> April at 2.00 and if you are unable to attend this date there will be a second chance, date to be publicised when arranged. If you can't get along to the Cafe or to the Open Day and would like further information please contact me on 07803 927767.

*Sue Jones*



The poster features the CCA HOME logo at the top left, with the text 'Donation Request' in large bold letters to the right. Below the logo is a green wave graphic. The main text reads: 'We are humbly requesting donations of essential furniture to aid us in our charitable work of supplying furniture and white goods to people in need.' There are two side-by-side boxes: a green one for 'Essential items' listing bed bases, 2-seater sofas, wardrobes, white goods, and chest of drawers; and a light blue one for 'Why we need these items' explaining the charity's history since 1992. A pink box in the middle says 'CCA Home Now Open' and provides the address '4 Barrett Court, 70 Cardiff Road, RG1 8ED', along with a map showing the location. Below this is a yellow box with an envelope icon containing 'Words from supporters' with two testimonials. To the right of the testimonials is a green box titled 'Furniture Donations' with contact information and a list of requirements for donations.

### CCA HOME

## Donation Request

We are humbly requesting donations of essential furniture to aid us in our charitable work of supplying furniture and white goods to people in need.

#### Essential items

- Bed bases and mattresses
- 2-Seater sofas
- Wardrobes
- White goods
- Chest of Drawers


#### Why we need these items

Since 1992 we have supplied over 30,000 items of furniture to households in Reading. Our most urgent cases are people in crisis from marginalised groups who come to us in empty accommodation containing no furniture and we rely on donations to fulfil these requests.

#### CCA Home Now Open

We have a newly opened furniture shop at  
4 Barrett Court, 70 Cardiff Road, RG1 8ED

Here members of the public can buy preloved furniture and white goods at affordable prices.  
Anyone, on showing proof of benefits, receives a further 20% off!



#### Words from supporters:

Hi David  
I just wanted to thank you and your team for the collections you made from Hatherley Road a couple of weeks ago. We really appreciate it and it's good to know that it will help the people who need it  
Kind regards

Dear David,  
I should like to put on record my sincere thanks to David and his team who had a massive task in removing my very heavy sofa yesterday. My heart sunk once or twice when it looked at times an impossibility in getting it through the smallest of the two doors. But where there's a will there's a way and David and team succeeded  
I wish your Charity every success. Once again thank you all for your excellent service.  
Kind Regards

#### Furniture Donations

If you have items of furniture to donate, please phone us on 0118 951 2338 or email [warehouse@ccam.org.uk](mailto:warehouse@ccam.org.uk) and send us:

- A list of the items being offered.
- Attach photos of the items where possible.
- Address items need to be collected from and a contact number.

All mattresses, divan bed bases, and upholstered items must have a fire label attached, or we cannot accept them. This is a legal requirement. All items must be clean and in good condition. The collection team may refuse any items which are not in a suitable condition.



# From Englefield Primary School

*'Sowing the Seeds for a Flourishing Future'*

January is here once again and the children are happily back into their school routine.

We waved 2024 off with a host of seasonal activities to get us all in the mood for Christmas. FS2 and KS1 put on a performance to remember with their version of *A Baarmy Christmas*. It was funny and festive but most importantly gave a beautiful rendition of the birth of Jesus and why we celebrate Christmas. We were all so proud of how hard they all worked, the effort they put in really showed to all who came to watch.



One of the things that stands out most about our Englefield pupils, particularly at Christmas, is their singing. We wowed the neighbours with our carol singing around the village, years 5 and 6 stole the show with a wonderful rendition of *Child in a Manger Born* at Douai Abbey and our choir warmed the hearts of the elderly residents in three local care homes. Finally, the whole school filled St Mark's with music at our end of term carol service.

Organised by our governor Mrs Barker, Mel and Richard Batten came in to talk to the children about The Huge Partnership. The Huge Partnership is a charity that supports the Nabugabo School in Uganda. They spoke to the children about the similarities between our two schools as well as the differences. The children were totally engaged throughout and gave some thoughtful responses. They particularly enjoyed seeing photographs of the children there wearing our pre-loved school uniform. We look forward to the children coming up with new ways to support the charity. So far the proceeds from the refreshment stand at our Santa Fun Run has been put towards this cause. We are also collecting clothes and stationery supplies that will be taken over there.



This term we have lots to look forward to. Our Football Champs are preparing for the next stage of the ESFA Small Schools Competition. In the first tournament they 'smashed' their competition with an astounding six match win! We hope they continue with their winning streak and we wish them the very best of luck.

For KS1, Woodland learning is back in full swing. The little ones are making the most of the crisp grass and heading out to see what they can find out in the wintery Englefield grounds. This is a great time to find shed antlers and frosty spiders' webs as well as to learn about how and why the trees lose their leaves before the first greenery of spring starts to reappear.

Years 3 and 4 are about to start swimming lessons and there is residential fun on the horizon, they are all looking forward to a couple of nights at Thirtover later in spring. For some this will be their first stay away from home but they approach this prospect with anticipation and bravery, encouraged by stories of the last trip's activities and adventures not to mention the excitement of those that have been before and can't wait to go again.

With spring comes Easter which means Easter productions, Easter crafting and a firm favourite amongst our children – our Easter Egg Hunt! It is also a time to reflect on the sacrifice that Jesus made for us and a time to appreciate new beginnings.

*Hilary Latimer, Headteacher*



## *Spice up your Valentine's Day!*

Try something new for Valentine's Day this year with a Cobbs Farm Shop sausage-making workshop! Get hands-on (literally!) in this fun and interactive workshop on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> February from 6pm to 9pm. Guided by our skilled butchers, you'll learn traditional sausage-making techniques, create your own delicious sausages to take home and enjoy a hot sausage bap on the night.

Tickets are £50pp and booking is essential. Please book online at <https://www.cobbsfarmshops.co.uk/englefield-events/sausage-making-february-2025>.

*The team at Cobbs*





## A belated Happy New Year!

We will soon be replacing the garden sign to reflect our charity status. The garden was prepped for winter and the garden volunteers have returned to begin planning the sowing/planting for the coming year.

We received a grant from the National Garden Scheme and have a plaque proudly displayed on the raised bed in the Thyme Together area.

Our hard working volunteers have had a bit of a well-deserved break with a few managing to get away. Glen and Wendy attended the Volunteer Bureau's annual Volunteer Fair in January at the Corn Exchange in Newbury chatting to everyone and picking up contacts. We have had an invitation to the relaunch of Greenfest in April so watch this space.

Our wreath-making sessions went ahead despite the dreadful weather. It was hard to hear one another in the polytunnel while the wind was whipping its way around the garden! We had a few cancellations but most of them kindly made donations to 5ADAY instead which was greatly appreciated.



Glen has already booked some corporate teams days which is good to see. They all work so very hard and make a huge difference in the garden. The schools will return in the spring and Ali is working hard making arrangements for fun and informative experiences for the children.



Katie has continued to run the Thyme Together sessions throughout the cold months. The sessions were run in the polytunnel and included wreath making, making fat balls for our feathered friends and planning how to develop the TT area. We have welcomed a number of new attendees which we are so pleased to see. If you know of

anyone who might like to attend these FREE sessions, please email [info@fiveaday.org.uk](mailto:info@fiveaday.org.uk) or call 07555 184343 to express any interest.

We would like to find some more Trustees or anyone who would like to join the management team. 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.

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](mailto: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](http://Fiveaday.org.uk).

*Wendy Cadman, Five A Day management team member and trustee*

## Why is Interfaith Understanding Important in Today's World?

### A tale of four elephants.



### A talk by Emeritus Professor Eleanor Nesbitt



Eleanor Nesbitt will be sharing ideas about interfaith understanding – how to understand other faiths and how to build understanding between people with different faith identities. She will point to the possibility of developing a personal understanding which is dynamically inclusive, i.e. interfaith.

Eleanor is a Quaker with Anglican roots and a Hindu family. After teaching in north India, she worked for many years at the University of Warwick. Her research has focused on Christian, Hindu and Sikh communities. She has received two lifetime achievement awards for her contribution to Sikh and Punjab studies. Her books include *Interfaith Pilgrims* (2003), *Sikhism: A very short introduction* (2<sup>nd</sup> edn 2016), *Open to New Light: Quakers and other faiths* (2023) and *Sikh: Two centuries of western women's art and writing* (2024).

**Thursday 20th March 2025 – 7:30pm**

**at The Music Hall,  
Bradfield College**

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



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| Sunday  | Sidesperson                  | First reading    | Gospel           | Prayers          | Sacristan      | Server           | Sunday Club and crèche           | Cleaners                         |
|---|------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| February 2 <sup>nd</sup><br>Candlemas BCP                       | Torquil MJ                   | Anne Edgar       | Paula Fenwick    | BCP              | Catherine Haig | Penny Savage     | Liz McKean<br>Denny Hollands     | Liz McKean                       |
| February 9 <sup>th</sup><br>4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday before Lent  | Pauline and<br>Graham Harvey | Harry Benyon     | Richard Benyon   | Paula Fenwick    | Denny Hollands | Peter Haig       | Saffy O'Sullivan<br>Meryl Bonser | Angie Higgins                    |
| February 16 <sup>th</sup><br>3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday before Lent | Paula Fenwick                | Torquil MJ       | Dinah Perkins    | Ron Marillier    | Catherine Haig | Saffy O'Sullivan | Liz McKean<br>Denny Hollands     | Peter and<br>Catherine Haig      |
| February 23 <sup>rd</sup><br>2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday before Lent | Peter Haig                   | Kahlen Spaulding | John Rothery     | Denny Hollands   | Penny Norris   | Torquil MJ       | Saffy O'Sullivan<br>Meryl Bonser | Pauline and<br>Graham Harvey     |
| March 2 <sup>nd</sup><br>Sunday before Lent<br>BCP              | Penny Savage                 | Peter Haig       | Paula Fenwick    | Dinah Perkins    | Sue Smith      | Denny Hollands   | Saffy O'Sullivan<br>Liz McKean   | Penny Norris<br>Saffy O'Sullivan |
| March 9 <sup>th</sup><br>1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent         | Liz Marillier                | Lorraine Dehn    | Graham Harvey    | Richard Benyon   | Penny Savage   | Paula Fenwick    | Hatty Harley<br>Denny Hollands   | Pete and Carole<br>Ford          |
| March 16 <sup>th</sup><br>2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent        | Torquil MJ                   | Linda Price      | Ronan O'Sullivan | Penny Savage     | Denny Hollands | Peter Haig       | Liz McKean<br>Meryl Bonser       | Liz McKean                       |
| March 23 <sup>rd</sup><br>3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent        | Pauline and<br>Graham Harvey | Carole Ford      | Richard Benyon   | Catherine Haig   | Catherine Haig | Penny Savage     | Saffy O'Sullivan<br>Liz McKean   | Peter and<br>Catherine Haig      |
| March 30 <sup>th</sup><br>Mothering Sunday                      | Paula Fenwick                | Meryl Bonser     | James Meade      | Saffy O'Sullivan | Penny Norris   | Saffy O'Sullivan | Hatty Harley<br>Denny Hollands   | Angie Higgins                    |
| April 6 <sup>th</sup><br>5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent<br>BCP  | Peter Haig                   | James Bamforth   | Dinah Perkins    | Paula Fenwick    | Sue Smith      | Torquil MJ       | Saffy O'Sullivan<br>Meryl Bonser | Pauline and<br>Graham Harvey     |
| April 13 <sup>th</sup><br>Palm Sunday                           | Liz Marillier                | Jean Rothery     | Denny Hollands   | Ron Marillier    | Penny Savage   | Paula Fenwick    | Liz McKean                       | Penny Norris<br>Saffy O'Sullivan |
| April 20 <sup>th</sup><br>Easter Sunday                         | Penny Savage                 | Paul Myles       | Aldo Guiducci    | Denny Hollands   | Catherine Haig | Peter Haig       | Easter egg hunt*                 | Pete and Carole<br>Ford          |
| April 27 <sup>th</sup><br>2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of<br>Easter   | Torquil MJ                   | Anne Edgar       | Mike Kimber      | Dinah Perkins    | Denny Hollands | Penny Savage     | Hatty Harley<br>Denny Hollands   | Liz McKean                       |

*Bible readings will be emailed to readers beforehand. If you swap duties, please email catherinehaig@gmail.com and the churchwardens (paulapaloalto@yahoo.co.uk and torquilmj@newburyweb.net). An up-to-date version of this rota, including any swaps, can be found under the Resources tab on the church website.*

*\*When there is no formal Sunday Club, there is always a selection of colouring sheets, books and toys available in church and in the vestry.*



## A special person

A number of years ago a lady from Theale asked me if we could look after her six turkeys and four chickens here at Rushall Farm. The Environmental Health officer had told her to remove them from her house because they were attracting rats. She cycled up from Theale every Sunday afternoon with quantities of treats, and would sit and talk to them in their new home as they ate shortbread biscuits, corn on the cob, lettuces and fresh rolls. Turkeys and chickens alike occasionally laid the odd egg.

As we expanded the chickens with different breeds, she started showing eggs and the birds at the Newbury Show, winning many rosettes. Gradually the turkey numbers fell and with the spirit of enterprise she bought an incubator to squeeze into her already overcrowded one-room flat. Of the first hatch only one survived, and on joining the flock here decided to beat up one of the hens. She was sent off to Burghfield Common to join another small flock. Two other hatchings were equally disappointing. As the years went on, the number of chickens increased from a dedicated breeder in Somerset. They were all chosen for special qualities like egg colour and size with a whole array of distinctive feathering. Most are friendly and happy for visiting children to pick up and hold. There are now 28, and all have names beginning with S: Spicy, Slightly, Shouty etc. Sunday afternoon's diet has now been supplemented with a very large water melon, cooked mince, vegetarian ham, mealworms and tinned spaghetti with the tomato sauce washed off. I would pick her up from Theale as I listened to *Gardeners' Question Time* and take her back after she had spent the afternoon talking to the chickens and feeding them treats in sequence. It was a time of complete contentment made even better by a coffee and her precious cigarettes.

She loved the countryside, could do *The Times* crossword in minutes, was a senior train controller before she retired, and thought about everything in detail. As a very young child she had pulled a saucepan full of boiling water down her chest leaving her life in the balance. She was a brilliant photographer and worked professionally taking portraits of show cattle and race horses. Growing up in rural Wales she spoke Welsh, was Secret Santa to the 52 flats where she lived and died on her own two weeks ago. The chickens and turkeys are now wondering why this special person doesn't come anymore (and where are the treats?), as do we all.

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

## The Wall

*'Miles of flint and good oak fencing...'* So begins the entry for Englefield in *Murray's Berkshire Architectural Guide* of 75 years ago, written by John Betjeman and John Piper. This referring to the wall that semi-surrounds Englefield and did seem to be *'against the envy of less happier lands'*. 'Semi-surrounds' is about right, for the wall (not all of which is flint) protects only the eastern and southern boundaries and actually not even all of them.

Its origin lies probably in Richard Benyon de Beauvoir's creation of his new deer park south-east of Englefield House and road-building to divert traffic around the estate instead of having it running through it, as it did when he came to Englefield permanently in 1802. The wall was apparently built in stages, possibly contemporary with the road-building and the first part of this *grand projet*, and the first part of the wall, may actually have come before 1802 for there is an undated plan in the County



Archives showing the straightening of the existing road up Blyth's Hill that clearly pre-dates the one for the new stretches of road on either side of it which is dated 1802. It may even be something commissioned by Powlett Wrighte when he built the turnpike and closed the road though the park, though we know it was Richard Benyon who had the work done.

What is now called Parker's Corner isn't shown, but it then actually was just a corner (though it wasn't Parker's) rather than the junction it was about to become, for the road past Cranemoor Pond to Appleton's Corner and the village of Englefield had been closed by the Turnpike Act of 1771. The

only option was turn left up what was then called Blyth's Hill, initially following the present course of what is now called Common Hill. The traveller would then have come onto our map here at a long double bend, left then right. This was almost certainly the real Parker's Corner. Google Earth has the access road around the back of the houses that are there now marked as Parker's Corner but though this looks a convincing line for the old road, comparison of a number of old maps shows that the corner was actually just beyond the houses.

Having negotiated Parker's Corner and gone further up the hill our hypothetical traveller encountered another pair of bends, in a sharper dog-leg fashion, right then left this time, a sort of public hernia protruding through the smooth line of the proposed park wall. After the dog-leg were some houses and here our doughty traveller was faced with another choice: straight on or turn right. Straight on, the road ran across the side of the hill into the piece of woodland known as 'Great Dilhams', then through a long grassy clearing in the wood called 'Piper's Green' to join the Beenham Lane just beyond 'Plain Andrews' at the top of Mayridge Hill. Turning right meant continuing up Blyth's Hill on a road that passed a few more houses and then meandered off to the right of the present course coming to a tee-

junction with the Beenham Lane just before the crest. Turning left here would take him (or her) towards Beenham; turning right would lead to the Bradfield Road at the back of Englefield House.

Some of the land here belonged to Mr Blyth, whose family had been here since at least the 17<sup>th</sup> century – hence Blyth’s Hill – and just along the road into Great Dilhams, where today is a small copse at the top of the long bed of miscanthus, was a pair of cottages known as Blyth’s Cottages. In 1871 the Headkeeper George Buckland lived there, though within a decade he was ensconced in the new Headkeeper’s house across the other side of Common Hill at Daintyland and one of the two cottages had acquired an alternative name of Guyatt’s Cottage, perhaps referring to Mary Guyatt who farmed 10 acres nearby. Or perhaps it was Henry Guyatt, publican at the Crown Inn just over the hill near Malthouse Farm in 1871 but the official Registrar of Births, Marriages and Deaths and living at Southend Bradfield near the Queen’s Head by 1881. The cottages were probably demolished in 1892 as were Goff’s Farm, just along the Beenham Lane, and Goff’s Cottages, home to underkeepers, a bit further along.

The plan shows that both the dog-leg and the meander were to be eliminated by two new, straight pieces of road. The one cutting out the dog-leg ran very close to one of the houses to join the existing road up the hill at the junction at the point where the road ran across to Blyth’s Cottages. The second one, cutting out the meander, started at the lower edge of the wood on the left of the road (‘Hill Close’) and ran up to meet the Beenham Lane a little way to the left of the old junction. One or both of these pieces of new road unwittingly crossed Mr Blyth’s land and Richard Benyon had to write to him in apology (explaining why the work must be his, if not the plan), although in his own defence he did say that there was already a track there that was used by waggons in dry weather.

Having reached the top of the hill, we now about turn and follow the new course of the road down again, observing the wall as we go. There is no wall alongside this part of new road and the gap today is fenced by chestnut palings. The wall starts level with the lower edge of Hill Close and the land between here and the Beenham Lane was not intended to form part of the proposed park. The wall, when it starts, is indeed of flint and continues all the way down to the old Parker’s Corner. This looks like one single continuous length of wall encompassing the straightened dog-leg and the line of the existing road on either side of it, but the section along the new road cutting out the dog-leg has a coping of ordinary bricks laid on edge while the pieces on either side have a half-round brick coping. Could it be that the parts alongside the old road on either side of the dog-leg were already built before it was straightened and when that middle section came to be built afterwards the half-round coping was not available?

*Richard Smith*

*The Wall continues...next time. For a bigger version of the plan on page 19 see <https://www.englefieldhistory.net/roads/common-hill>*

## 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.

**‘There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them all. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work. Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.’ (1 Corinthians 12 v 4-7)**

Diversity and inclusion is a key concept in our Western world’s thinking in our time. Our society champions the right of each individual to be distinctive and different, as well as to be fully included as part of the group. We should note that this is by no means a new notion; here in 1 Corinthians we find the apostle Paul emphasising exactly this concept as part of the way individuals are to make up the church.



The wide varieties of gifts each of us have make us unique, and able to fulfil a diversity of roles within the church family. Paul goes on to list some of them in the following verses; these are gifts that are freely given by the Spirit and as such we should not despise any of them, nor envy them in others, but recognise that we have been equipped by God to fulfil a role he has assigned to us. This is deeply personal, and shows that we matter to him as individuals.

Equally, we must recognise that whatever our gifts or roles, it is the same God who has empowered us with them. There is a fundamental unity that stands behind our diversity. God has

provided us with our gifts, not to serve ourselves selfishly, but for the benefit of the wider family; the whole of his church. Our inclusion in his body, being one together in fellowship, means that we are to support, encourage and build one another up in the service and activity we do. We shouldn’t compare ourselves with one another, trying to establish a pecking order or hierarchy of faith. Whatever our station or function within the community of God, it is the same God who has individually empowered and equipped us for the service and activity we do. We are together Christ’s body, the church, here in the world and no part is greater than any other.



## Herefords at Mayridge

Although the prize-winning herd of Herefords previously based at Mayridge Farm has now been sold, some of the cows will return to Mayridge during the summer months. Most of the herd was bought by neighbouring Rushall Farms, in Bradfield, which has leased the fields around Mayridge for summer grazing.

The Herefords were managed by Terry Perkins for many years and subsequently by Simon Strang. Simon has now retired from his farm at Wickcroft and he and Alison are moving away. We wish them all the best for the future.

As you may have spotted, there is a new equine business now operating out of the fields and barns at Wickcroft. Equibreed UK is run by vet Amber Clutton-Brock and is a world leader in equine reproduction services.

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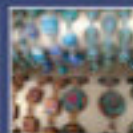
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