

ASHBURY

COMPTON LONGCOT

FERNHAM

NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2012



This round's on me! Water into Wine

*⁸Jesus said to them, "Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward." So they took it. ⁹When the steward tasted the water it had become wine, **John 2.8-9***

How many of us suffer from post-Christmas blues? The decorations have all come down and the credit card bills have come in.

However we should be celebrating as we enter the season of Epiphany where we hear once again in our Sunday readings of the many ways God has revealed himself to us both in the Old Testament and through Jesus in the New.

My favourite Epiphany reading and miracle is when Jesus turns water into wine at the wedding feast at Cana of Galilee, or as I like to think buys the largest round of drinks recorded in history, 120 gallons worth!

For me there are three key messages in this story. Firstly that Jesus wants to bring joy and celebration to our lives and show us how things will be when his kingdom comes. That through him we can now have a living relationship with God which should bring great joy to our lives and is a cause for celebration.

Secondly that Jesus demonstrates the transforming power of God to turn the ordinary into the special. If we walk with Jesus in our lives we should be filled with a spirit of joy and through his grace the ordinariness of our daily lives is transformed. The common task, the people we meet, our relationships, all take on a new significance because through adoption we are one with Christ; brothers and sisters, members and heirs of his eternal kingdom.

Thirdly Jesus demonstrates God's overwhelming abundance of love for us; the wine is freely poured out at the wedding banquet and not any wine but the best. Later Jesus again at a meal takes another cup of wine and says to his disciples "This is my blood poured out for you; do this whenever you drink it". He then allows his blood to flow freely for us on the cross so that we can be redeemed and freed from sin and the chains of death.

What does Jesus ask of us in return? Simply to love God and to love one another. I don't know about you but that is something worth raising a glass to.

CHEERS!

Richard Hancock

Shrivenham & Ashbury Benefice Services in February

Thursday 2nd February

7.00pm	Holy Communion	Shrivenham
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Sunday 5th February

7.45am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Shrivenham
9.00am	Matins	Watchfield
9.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Compton
9.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Fernham
10.15am	Family Service with Baptism	Shrivenham
11.00am	Joint Service with Free Church	Ashbury
3.00pm	Joint Service at Chapel	Longcot
6.30pm	Healing Service with Benediction	Shrivenham

Sunday 12th February

9.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Watchfield
9.30am	Morning Worship	Fernham
9.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Longcot
10.15am	Parish Communion	Shrivenham
11.00am	Holy Communion	Ashbury

Sunday 19th February

7.45am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Shrivenham
9.00am	Matins	Watchfield
9.00am	Holy Communion	Fernham
9.00am	Matins	Compton
9.30am	Morning Prayer	Longcot
10.15am	Parish Communion	Shrivenham
11.00am	Family Service	Ashbury

22nd February

Ash Wednesday

7.00pm	Benefice Service Holy Communion with Ashing	Watchfield
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Sunday 26th February

9.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Watchfield
9.30am	Holy Communion	Longcot
10.15am	Parish Communion	Shrivenham
11.00am	Holy Communion	Ashbury
6.00pm	Evening Worship	Fernham

The Ashbury prayer cycle for February will be: Feb 5th Malthouse Close, 12th Odstone Farm and Cottages, 19th Pound Piece, 26th Station Road.

Ashbury Evangelical Free Church

Wednesday 1st February

Coffee morning 10.30am

House Group 7.30pm

Sunday 12th February

10.15am Communion

Sunday 19th February

10.15 am Communion

Sunday 26th February

10.15am Communion

Sunday 5th February

10.15am Communion

11am Family Service St Marys

Wednesday 8th February

Women's Fellowship 2.15 pm

Wednesday 15th February

Coffee morning 10.30am

House Group 7.30pm

Wednesday 22nd February

Women's Fellowship 2.15pm

Wednesday 29th February

Women's fellowship 2.15pm

Ashbury News

The Parish Council asks residents of Pound Piece not to block access to the cul de sac for delivery and other large vehicles by leaving cars parked there permanently. **In an emergency this could cause real difficulties. Please use the car park.**

Thank you! Friends far and near donated £1980 to the Zaslowsya Project in memory of **Mary Charters**. Deprived children in Belorussia will benefit from this generous giving. On their behalf, thank you. I have, surplus to requirements, a four wheeled rollator with a seat, a three wheeler rollator, a bed back support and a commode. If anyone

can benefit from any of these, they are available free of cost. **Phone 710431** or call at **Four Winds, Church Lane. Philip Charters**

Dates for your Diary:

Ashbury Walking Group

We are not meeting for walks during the winter, but will start again after Easter.

Meeting to plan Ashbury Jubilee event on Wednesday 7th March at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. Please bring your ideas, offers of help and support.

Churchyard Spring Clearance – Saturday 10th March from **10.00am to midday.**

Village Litter Blitz Saturday 24th March. Meet 9.30am at Village Hall. Bags and gloves provided. Coffee at Claremont from 10.30.

The Village Hall Committee are organising another popular **Quizzical Pursuits** evening on **Saturday 25 February at 7 pm.** This will take the same format as last year with neighbours from different roads in Ashbury, Kingstone Winslow and Idstone pitting their wits against each other! The cost per person is £3 (teams of 8), which includes a light supper. If you would like more details please call **Margaret** on **710800**, or **Roger Baker** on **710358**. We hope you can join us.

What is Moebius Syndrome? Ashbury parents Polly and Mark

Cameron write: Our daughter is very special. I know every parent says and believes that, but Zoë really is. She is one of perhaps only 200 or so people in the UK with a rare condition called Moebius Syndrome.

Within hours of her birth she stopped breathing twice, so she spent her first weeks in Swindon's special care baby unit. She had a facial paralysis ;the right side of her face was drooped, her tongue and mouth were paralysed, she was cross-eyed and unable to blink. We had to feed her through a tube into her stomach

The John Radcliffe paediatric neurology department diagnosed Moebius Syndrome. We were told that the condition wouldn't change or improve, it was rare and their best advice was to go and find out about it on the internet.

Then something extraordinary began to happen. Zoë began to change and improve. She began to show signs of recognising us, to twitch the

left side of her mouth trying to smile, her eyes started to straighten and move up and down and eventually she could sit up by herself. She still has some facial paralysis, but at 2 1/2, she bosses her adoring big brother around, and makes us all laugh with her antics. We are so proud of her and what she has fought against in her little life. But no-one knows what causes Moebius Syndrome. It could happen to any family and until research finds the cause we'll never know how to cure it. We need £250,000 to begin the work. To find out more or to make a donation please visit the UK moebius syndrome website on <http://www.moebiusresearchtrust.org/>.

Fernham and Shellingford News

Fernham & Shellingford WI. Our meeting on Wednesday **15th February at 7.30pm** is in Fernham Church Hall. Tricia Nelmes is to speak on 'Women in the Air & Flying for the Disabled'. There will be light refreshments and a sales table. Visitors welcome. Enquiries to **Gillian Morley Tel: 01793 783083.**

Longcot News

Saving Longcot's Heritage Public House, closed for urgent rebuilding. The 200-year old "King & Queen" has closed this January, so that the owner can start working on ambitious plans for rebuilding and reopening, before the exciting Olympic Games this summer. Long Live the King and Queen! Meanwhile, owner **Bob Rose and staff apologise to all local loyal customers for the inconvenience** of sudden closure and event cancellations. Enough was enough, after a flat winter trading, despite the well supported Pub Carol Service enjoyed by sixty jovial parishioners, with brilliant hand bells and Rev Frank Parkinson on good form. Major work is urgently required on the old pub's decayed and unsafe upper floor, walls, electrics, stairs and roofing. Bob is determined to invest more to make a success of turning round the pub's fortunes, with a largely rebuilt structure and hopes this community resource with local support will serve the people for another one hundred years.

Doc John Forster

Longcot Churches working together-Chapel News

Sunday 15th 3pm United Service at the Chapel to which everyone is welcome. Refreshments afterwards.

Look out for further events to be arranged.

Benefice News

CARERS' GROUP for those in the general area of WATCHFIELD, FARINGDON, SHRIVENHAM, BUSCOT, COLESHILL & UFFINGTON We are a charity providing support for informal carers. It is held in the Village Hall, Watchfield.

Who is it for? Informal carers look after someone they are close to – usually an adult member of the family, but there are often stresses and strains involved in doing this for extended periods of time. The group is a chance to share some of these difficulties with others who will understand.

Meetings: We meet on the third Wednesday of each month, from 10am to 11.30am and the next date is **February 15th**.

What happens: We talk about subjects of the members own choosing, mostly related to caring. Other similar groups elsewhere focus upon sharing information, general support of each other and, sometimes, invited guests who can inform members of particular services. I usually bring along fresh information each month too. Contact Alan Steer Outreach Worker Tel. **07557 430876**

Benefice News – Country Matters

There is something rather satisfying about digging the kitchen garden, burying weed growth to leave a clean surface. Ploughing also captures the same imagination and the autumn matches are really well supported by the public and young contestants alike. We are now in a frosty period and digging always goes better when the soil declines to stick and I could just get my spade into the surface, nevertheless my thoughts turned to spring time round the corner even though there could be plenty of winter still to come. The afternoons are already lighter. Some snowdrops are just showing. On a good day I think we hear more bird song as territories are secured. Near my house rooks have already begun four nests and make a fair cacophony of sound as I walk past. I expect they will

make fifteen nests in this large chestnut tree in our village. So far I have not heard the drumming sound of our woodpeckers marking out their territory. It has been so mild in Scandinavia that some waders, ducks and woodcock have not even migrated. Those that are here like the field fares and redwings are still busy clearing up the abundance of berries and the fruit under the crab apple trees. Our wild bird cover planted with seed bearing plants to take little brown birds through the winter is attracting flocks of them and we also have some 10% of the farm in overwintered stubbles as another food source. It could be my imagination but this year I think I have seen more bullfinches than usual and owls have recovered; both barn and tawny the latter hooting their way through the dark evenings.

The farm animals are all inside except for 300 ewes and a few tups (rams) running with them. They are visitors making a good job of grazing surplus winter grass on the dairy farm. Sheep historically got the best food on a downland farm, but we look after our cows as first priority. The dairy youngsters and beef have to manage with what's left and this year they are having straw mixed into their ration to eke out our precious stocks. With the addition of some rolled wheat they are gaining nearly at the weights per day (up to 1 kilo) that would be expected on a diet including more silage.

The remorseless pattern of the farming year heralds a new beginning. In only a month's time it will be time to think about planting our spring crops once more.

Richard Green

Benefice Clergy.

Vicar	Rev Richard Hancock	01793
Curates	Rev Anne Bell (duty days Tuesday, Wednesday, Sunday.)	780183 01367 820091
	Rev Canon Edwin Clements (duty days Tuesday, Friday, Sunday)	01793 710811

Please Note: Newsletter entries for March 2012

Submit your entries for March to M. Turner at Claremont, Ashbury SN6 8LN, by **17th February**. mlt@mltgnt.com (01793 710302)