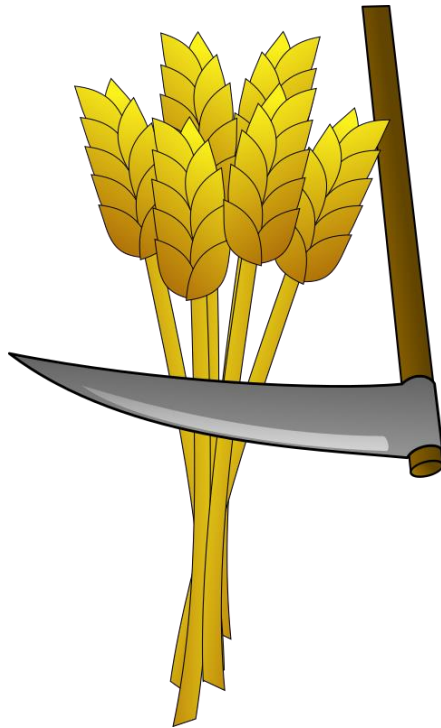


**ASHBURY
COMPTON LONGCOT
FERNHAM
NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2016**



Lammas

Thought for the month-August

We humans do a peculiar thing ... we spend more time, collectively, worrying about what might happen than we do appreciating what is happening. It seems to be in our nature to fear.

Since the "Brexit" vote, the news has been awash in dire predictions - about the economy, about possible legislative changes that might affect workers' rights, about the environment, about the possibility that the UK itself might break up. News reports that promote fear, insecurity or suspicion aren't new - it's just the current list of "things to fear" that varies. The list will change again. It has always changed. And most of the things we waste our time worrying about never actually happen, and were never especially likely to happen. They just sold newspapers and attracted television viewers.

Trying to learn how to live in the present - trying to not worry about what might happen tomorrow - is difficult. It's a bit like faith. Faith in anything, whether it is religion or an individual or a concept, is a challenge. Because in order to have faith, you must suspend the need for control - and we like to believe that we can at least control our own destinies.

The trouble is that complete control over your own destiny simply isn't possible. Events will occur that change all your plans. You might lose your job. Your house might burn down. You might win the lottery. You might make a new friend who changes your life.

Of course there's nothing wrong with making plans for the future: taking out insurance, making investments, maintaining your house, planning your next holiday. There's nothing wrong with carrying a jacket in case it rains. It's just that we should then go ahead and enjoy our days as they come, one at a time.

The Bible is, among other things, a social history. If we look at what was happening in the world more than two thousand years ago, if we try turning the language into a modern-day news report, we'll realise that, except for industry and technology, not a lot has changed. People still make war over differing ideologies. People still treat those who are different with fear, suspicion, or overt hostility. We are still tribal creatures - and perhaps we always will be.

Does that mean that all the important ideals we've tried to embrace and disseminate for the past two thousand years are wrong, or pointless?

I don't think so. I believe we just keep getting in our own way. The loud voices of fear and worry, anger and suspicion drown out the gentler tones of acceptance and trust.

Maybe we can evolve by learning how to live within the day we have, savouring the good, and accepting that we will get through the bad.

The world will change when we do.

Gail Haslam Loose

Shrivenham & Ashbury Benefice Services in August

Sunday 7th August

Lammas Sunday

9.00am	Matins	Watchfield
9.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Fernham
9.00am	Communion by Extension	Compton
10.15am	Morning Worship	Shrivenham
11.00am	Morning Worship	Ashbury
3.00pm	Joint Service	Longcot Chapel

Sunday 14th August

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

Sunday 21st August

9.00am	Matins	Watchfield
9.00am	Morning Prayer (BCP)	Compton
9.00am	Holy Communion	Fernham
10.15am	Parish Communion	Shrivenham
11.00am	Family Service with Baptism	Ashbury
6.00pm	Evening Worship	Longcot

Sunday 28th August

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

The Ashbury prayer cycle for August will be: 7th Church Lane , 14th College Farm Lane, 21st High Street, 28th Idstone Road.

See Ashbury also under Benefice News

Ashbury Evangelical Free Church

Wednesday 3 rd	2.15pm	Tea and chat	
Sunday 7 th	10.15am	Communion	
Sunday 14 th	10.15am	Communion	
Sunday 21 st	10.15am	Communion and	All age service (at St Mary's) 11.00am
Sunday 28 th	10.15am	Communion	

Tea and Chat, all welcome, free.



Ashbury News

Strictly Ashbury – Come along on two consecutive Wednesday evenings 24th and 31st August at 7.30 – 8.30 in the Village Hall, have fun and learn some cool moves. Judy Clarke will be teaching simple routines for Cha Cha Cha, Jive and Smooth Foxtrot which will allow you to confidently join in any dance event. Please join her over the two evenings to raise funds as part of the £10 fundraiser challenge for St Mary's Church. Everyone welcome, £15 per couple for the two evenings' tuition.

Total Body Workout Back at the village hall from Thursday 8th September. Everybody welcome! Please note new time-6.30-7.30. £5.00 per session. For further information please contact Jude on 07890 .

Children's Summer Holiday Craft Morning - 24 August 10 am-12 noon

As the school holidays draw to a close Mums/Dads/carers are invited to bring their child/children to Ashbury Village Hall to have a go at different craft activities. Adults will be provided with a cup of tea/coffee and have the opportunity to chat, while the children can be creative! There's **no charge**, as all craft materials have been donated. This craft morning is suitable for both boys and girls aged between 5-11. We look forward to seeing you! Norma, Sue, Margaret and Stewart.

Short Mat Bowls - 21 September 7 pm, Village Hall

This will be a fun social evening with an opportunity to try out short mat bowls, as well as raising money for St Mary's Church. Alex and Clare McGlashan, with the assistance of Stewart Smith, are organising the evening. The cost of £5 includes light refreshments. To book please call 710754 or 710800.

Ashbury Community Club. Thursday 25th August

Coffee morning in the village hall **10.30 – 12 noon.**

There will be a demonstration of easy, quick to make, salads.

All welcome. **Sue Reade 710208**

Church cleaning

We are extremely grateful to all the ladies who take it in turns to clean our lovely church each week. We would like to give it an extra special clean this month and if a group of us got together on **August 20th** between **10 and 12** we could make quite an impact on the harder to reach and more difficult bits. Please let me know if you would be prepared to come, for at least some of the time, to help. With plenty of people we could make a big difference. **Sue Reade 710208**

Longcot and Fernham News

Longcot Churches working together-Chapel News

SUN. 7th 3pm Our monthly service, to which everyone is welcome, will be led by Mr. Andrew Fleet. Tea and biscuits will be served after the service.

FRIDAY FELLOWSHIP AND COFFEE MORNING will be taking a break during August BUT CREAM TEAS will be available in the Chapel TUES 9th, WEDS 10th and THURS 11th 3-4.30pm.

Longcot Church Wildlife Garden.

We were touched to receive a donation from someone who stopped to say a thank you to the gardeners last month and the money will go towards replacement tools, seeds and bird food.

As a group we are stretched in this our 16th year! The numbers get fewer and the age greater! However, we shall continue while we can but with haymaking coming up **it would be great to have a few people we can call on for occasional help**. There are also other housekeeping jobs which we do not get round to at our monthly work parties such as refurbishing the notice boards, sorting the waste into the wheelie bins and feeding the birds in winter. If anyone could help with those tasks it would be greatly appreciated.

Work parties are from 10-1 on the first Sunday of each month, with coffee and chocolate biscuits mid-morning! Do drop in and see us or if we could add you to our occasional list please contact Jan **782265** or Shirley **782989**. e-mail: hirsley-village@mybtinternet.com

Benefice News

TRANSPORT Bookable Bus There is a bookable bus service called 'COMET' being run by Oxfordshire County Council. The bus could be useful to people in Fernham when the 67 service stops running at the end of July this year.

Details are on the website:

www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/oxfordshire-comet

Colin and Carole drive these vehicles which are normally used for school runs and to transport adults to day care centres. The bookable service is available from 10.15 to 2.30 in the afternoon.

Thank you, thank you, thank you ...

Lots of thank yous from me this month:

wonderful concert in the village hall by the Faringdon Singers on 10 July, so huge thanks to them for coming. The Singers were very impressed by the hall and by the warm, friendly reception they had from the village. As the Singers kindly so not charge a fee, we were able to raise £100 each for the village hall and for St Mary's.

the weather was on our side for the first Village Show on 17 July – not sure how much was raised at the time of writing, but the main idea was to organise an enjoyable afternoon around gardens, tea and cake. I think it worked brilliantly, so thank you to everyone who helped by opening or knitting, their gardens, sharing their knowledge at Berrycroft, baking cakes, being on duty in the hall and – of course, as they say on radio 4 – our Gardeners' Question Time panel.

thank you to Lorna for letting us use the shop for café church again – an informal, but no less meaningful, service. The next one will be on 18 September when we will celebrate the 5th anniversary of the covenant between St Mary's and the Ashbury Free Church.

and, not least, to everyone who continues to use their talents to have fun whilst raising money for St Mary's.

Meanwhile

we will celebrate the ancient feast of Lammastide in St Mary's on Sunday 7th August the breakfast groups will continue in August: Men's breakfast on Saturday 6th in the village hall (there is no Café Inspire in Shrivenham this month, so why not come along?) and bible study on Saturday 27th at St Mary's House

And finally

as people are preparing for their summer holidays, may you have a happy and blessed time, safe travel to and from your destinations and come back refreshed and renewed, ready to face whatever lies ahead. We will be thinking especially of those who are making new starts in September – moving house, school, college or work. God be with you all.

Norma

A message from the new Bishop of Oxford to the clergy and people of the Diocese

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Thank you for your various messages of welcome and for your prayers following the announcement of my nomination as the Bishop of Oxford. It's an enormous honour and privilege to be appointed to this role and I look forward very much to serving the communities of Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire in the coming years.

My Confirmation of Election as Bishop of Oxford will be held on 6th July. I am due to pay homage to Her Majesty the Queen later in July and resume my place in the House of Lords. I will continue to meet with the senior team in Oxford and plan for the autumn.

Ann and I hope to move to the new See House in Kidlington at the end of August and I will be working to a normal diary in the diocese from early September. My inauguration is set for Friday 30th September in the Cathedral. There will then be four Welcome Eucharists at which I will preside and preach, one for each Archdeaconry:

Episcopal Area	Date	Day	Time	Venue
Reading	5th October 2016	Wednesday	19.45	Reading Minster
Dorchester	9th October 2016	Sunday	15.30	Dorchester Abbey
Oxford	12th October 2016	Wednesday	19.30	Church of the Holy Family Blackbird Leys
Buckingham	13th October 2016	Thursday	18.00	All Saints High Wycombe

I would like to meet as many people as possible over the first few weeks in post so please put one of these dates in your diary and I look forward to seeing you there.

I hope to visit the parish clergy of the Oxford Area in October and November. I am also planning a series of Deanery Days from November to July to begin to get to know and to listen to the whole Diocese. During those visits I look forward to engaging with lay people and clergy and getting to know the wider community as well as the church. I also look forward to being out and about across the whole Diocese Sunday by Sunday.

You can discover something about me in advance from the Diocesan website, should you wish to do so. I was formed as a parish priest in Halifax. I was shaped as a

thinker and writer in Durham and through travelling the country as Archbishops' Missioner. I have been forged as a Bishop in Sheffield and South Yorkshire, seeking to recall the Church here and elsewhere to the mission of God.

I'm conscious I will have much to learn in my early years in Oxford. Please pray for me: for the gifts of humility, wisdom and gentleness for this new ministry. Pray in the words of the ordinal that my heart may daily be enlarged to love this great Diocese to which God has now called me.

I'm looking forward very much to working with Bishop Colin, Bishop Andrew and Bishop Alan in the coming years and with the rest of the senior team. I'm conscious that the Diocese owes a particular debt to Bishop Colin for his care and leadership during the long vacancy.

Based on the listening I have done so far, I will focus my ministry across the whole Diocese in three areas in the early years: on engagement with children, young people and young adults; on enabling lay discipleship in the world and on engaging with the poorest communities across the Diocese. These priorities are not a new Diocesan strategy. That may emerge over time. They are initial themes for my own engagement with the whole Diocese and I look forward to taking them forward with you.

I believe that the Christian faith and the Christian church will become ever more central in the life of our nation and the world in the 21st Century as people seek again for meaning, for values, for purpose and for hope.

God has called the Church to be a community of mercy and kindness, reflecting the nature of Jesus Christ and telling the good news of his love. Together we are called to be a community of missionary disciples: faithful, united, hopeful, creative and rejoicing in God's grace.

I look forward very much to meeting you, to knowing you and being known and to working with you,

In Christ

+Steven Oxford

Email: bishop.oxford@oxford.anglican.org

Twitter: @Steven_Croft

Blog: <http://blogs.oxford.anglican.org/>

Country Matters

Some of the best pubs are hidden away and want some finding. If we ever get some summer and you feel adventurous, a drive out one evening to any of these four could be rewarding and leave you with a sense of achievement if you are successful. My own experience is that many find difficulty in locating our local, the Royal Oak in Bishopstone, which unlike the four is actually in a village!

The Hatchet at Lower Chute south of Hungerford.

The Tunnel House near Coate, Cirencester.

The Harrow Inn at Steep, near Selbourne, north of Petersfield.

The Daneway Pub near Oakridge, west of Cirencester.

Most of these happen to be sited close to outstanding sites usually owned by the county wildlife trusts where rare butterflies and wild flowers may be seen. The Daneway banks, just up the road from the Daneway, is a site where the large blue butterfly was reintroduced in the 1980's after this species became extinct nationally in 1979. The reintroduction has worked and there are now nine active sites in the country for this blue butterfly with black markings on its upper wings.

It flies in June and July but disappointingly it is only just a little bit bigger than the common blue which can be seen around here on our downs.

The large blue has a remarkable life cycle. Eggs are laid on the seed heads of wild thyme and at Daneway, wild marjoram, both prolific, and the larvae burrow into the seed heads. When they reach about 4 mm they drop to the ground and secrete a special honey gland which attracts red ants which take them below ground into their chambers. The Daneway site is covered with raised ant hills. Below ground the larvae feed on ant grubs and hibernate there before pupating in the spring, with the newly emerging adults crawling to the surface in late May before expanding their wings to fly in June. Despite three attempts this wretched summer my luck has been out but I have spoken to others who have seen a good many of this rare butterfly at the Daneway Banks.

Richard Green

Benefice Clergy

Vicar	Rev Richard Hancock	01793 780183
NSM	Revd Norma Fergusson (Except Monday and Friday)	01793 710055

Newsletter entries for September 2016

Submit your entries for September by **19th August** to: M. Turner Claremont, Ashbury SN6 8LN. marionturner@me.com 01793 710302

Website www.ashbury.org.uk