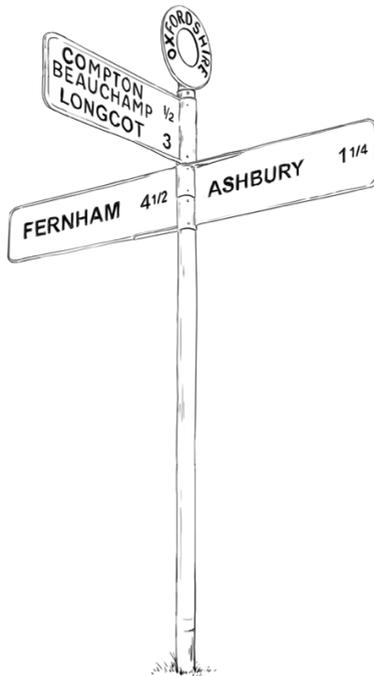


ASHBURY COMPTON LONGCOT FERNHAM NEWS

AUGUST 2019



Major Events this month

Rev'd Norma Fergusson appointed as Vicar of the Ashbury and Shrivenham Benefice.

Cream Teas in Longcot Chapel 20th-22nd

Thought for the month

The Lord Chancellor has announced the appointment of Reverend Norma Fergusson as Vicar of the Shrivenham and Ashbury Benefice. Norma will be installed as Vicar by the Bishop of Dorchester in St Andrew's on 11th September at 7.30pm and everyone is welcome to attend the service.

As background, Norma first came to Shrivenham during the summer of 2013, to broaden her experience of rural ministry; she moved to Ashbury as Associate Vicar with responsibility for Ashbury, Longcot and Fernham, in May 2014.

Since August 2018, Norma (with Richard's help) has taken on the responsibility for the running of the Benefice as a whole and was asked to take on the role on a permanent basis.

A new Associate Vicar, to be based in Ashbury, will be recruited as soon as possible. Until then, the life of the Benefice will continue much as it has done for the last 11 months. Richard and Norma will continue to take services in all the benefice churches and are very grateful to the lay worship leaders; to Rev'd Robin Cardwell, Rev'd Stuart Fisher, Padre Philip Burrows and Rev'd Frank Parkinson and to the churchwardens for all their support.

The 'Thought' for this month is more of a grateful acknowledgement than a point to ponder.

We'll be sad to see Norma and Richard leave Ashbury, even though it's only the short distance to Shrivenham. St. Mary's has benefitted enormously from their presence as, of course, has the entire benefice – and Norma's appointment as Vicar of Shrivenham and Ashbury is well deserved.

Norma has introduced us to some lovely different forms of worship, such as services taken from the Celtic tradition and Taizé. The monthly Thursday communion at St. Mary's is a short and very moving variation; it is quite beautiful.

And, of course, when Richard became a lay preacher, we were doubly blessed. There are so many things that Norma and Richard do that it is hard to enumerate them here (especially as it would be all too easy to leave something out accidentally). They have enabled a closer and valued relationship with the Free Church; they have run Study Groups and Lent Courses – and that's just to name a few. Richard's contribution to our musical life is yet another gift to us all.

They have been very much a part of the village and they will be missed as neighbours and friends.

I'm sure I speak for many when I say 'thank you', Norma and Richard, for all you have given us, and Congratulations on your appointment, Norma. It is wonderful that you will remain with the Benefice. We wish you a joyous and smooth transition.

Gail Loose

Views expressed in "Thought for the month" are those of the contributors

Ashbury News

Neighbourhood Plan Referendum

MESSAGE FROM CLIFF DAVIES, ANP STEERING GROUP

WHAT A GREAT RESULT

From an electorate of 448 registered voters: 207 votes were cast, giving a turn-out of 46.2%, of which: 195 [94.2%] voted in favour of the Plan: 11 [5.3%] were against, and there was one spoiled vote.

Very many thanks to all those that participated [even those that voted against as their votes serve to validate the process] and those that also encouraged others to vote, all of which produced such a decisive result - it is very much appreciated.

There will now be a short delay before the Plan is formally 'made' while the district council ratifies the result, but as of yesterday's vote the parish now has a valid neighbourhood plan.

Very many thanks once again.

Cliff Davies

Village Green update

We appealed at the Village Fete for the community to help us find the final funding needed to enable the Village Green project to go ahead, and the response has been wonderful! Thank you so much to all who have donated. We can now go ahead as planned to make the Playing Field the village has been asking for. As outlined in July

his will cause some disruption but I'm sure that you'll agree that it will be worth it for the long term benefit. We're calling at houses in Malthouse Close and Wixes Piece to give more information and to answer questions. **Liz Derrington**

elizabethderrington45@gmail.com or phone 710813)

Longcot News



Church Matters
SUNDAY SERVICES

Date	Ashbury	Longcot	Fernham	Compton
4th August Trinity 7	11.00am Lammas service	3.00pm Joint service (Methodist)	No service	9.00am NF Holy Communion [BCP]
11th August Trinity 8	11.00am Holy Communion	9.30am Holy Communion	9.00am Morning Worship	No Service
18th August Trinity 9	11.00am Iona Service	6.00pm Evening Worship	9.00am NF Holy Communion	9.00am Matins [BCP]
25th August Trinity 10	Join with Communion	St Andrews Benefice	Shrivenham Service	For Holy

In addition-Midweek services/ gatherings

Ashbury- St. Mary's

Saturday 3rd August- 8am- Bible breakfast- at Sue & James Reade's, Westlands, Idstone Road (01793 710208)

Thursday 8th August- 11am- short said service of Holy Communion in the Celtic tradition

Subject to other pastoral commitments, Morning Prayer is normally said at 8am on Thursdays

Prayer cycle- for August- 4th. Church Lane, 11th College Farm Lane, 18th. Ashdown Estate, 25th High Street

Ashbury- Evangelical Free Church

Wednesday 7th August- 2.15pm- Tea & chat-Everyone is welcome

Longcot- St. Mary's-

Subject to other pastoral commitments, Evening Prayer is normally said at 5pm on Tuesdays

OTHER:

Bereavement Support Group – drop in Café from 2.30-4pm on Tuesday 5th August

Longcot Churches working together-

Sunday 4th August-3pm.-This month's United service will be led by Phil Bunce. Everyone is welcome to join us and to stay for tea and biscuits afterwards.

Tuesday 20th, Wednesday 21st & Thursday 22nd August-3-4.30pm CREAM TEAS will be served in the Chapel. If transport would help or you need to know more, please ring Stella Tidmarsh on 01793 782584. (NO T Time fellowship this month)

St John's, Fernham: Change in service times from September 2019

The PCC has agreed a change in service times for St John's. With effect from 1 September, there will normally be one service a month and this will be a Family Service at 11.30am on the second Saturday. There will continue to be services for Christmas and Easter and St John's will also take it's turn in hosting 5th Sunday benefice services.

Services in **September** will therefore be:

Saturday 14th Family Service for Harvest at 11.30am

Sunday 29th Benefice Service of Holy Communion at 10.30am

Prayer taken from "I want to speak to God, please" pub 2009

Dear God, Thank you for the children: their smiles, their warmth, their laughter, their tears. Thank you for the joy they spread: their hope, their love, their faith, their kindness, their friendship, their future. Amen

Around the Benefice

Country Matters

Boring to many but gardeners and farmers cannot just ignore weeds. A weed has been defined as a plant out of place. I quite like looking at pretty Himalayan Balsam but in the wrong place it has a terrible reputation. In gardens the Black Bindweed (Convolvulus), Ground Elder and Mare's tail in sandy areas can be a real nuisance.

On the farm I am just old enough to remember the start of herbicide spraying of arable crops; the red blush of a field poppies above the crop, the vibrant yellow of invasive weeds such as charlock and corn marigold, the problems with the three polyganums, black bindweed, redshank and knotgrass. Recently on a wildlife holiday centred on the Cevennes plateau north of the Mediterranean in France I saw three more old arable weeds grown in organic cereals that I had only read of but had never seen before. These were pretty corn cockles and pheasant eye, also the lovely blue of corn flower. They were weeds, but I enjoyed seeing them and they were not doing much harm.

When I took over Rectory farm in 1973 our main arable weeds were couch grass, onion couch and wild oats. Before that couch was weakened, (killed is too definite a claim) by a summer fallow or by raking up into heaps and burning. Onion couch has bulbs instead of rhizomes and my college lecturer advised seven spring crops and November ploughing. Glyphosate (roundup) came to the rescue and has allowed control since. I have always had a crusade against wild oats. We are still rogueing them out by hand onto a bonfire and our fields a fairly clean but reinfection from fields around us is still a problem, so you have to be vigilant because the seeds are carried by birds and wind.

In late May and early June crops can look immaculate on a "drive by" and then the weeds start to spoil the party by getting above the crop for all to see.

Today our problem weeds are blackgrass which we can only try to reduce to manageable levels by rotation and by later autumn planting. We badly need a more effective herbicide. Cleavers or Goose grass can still be a problem. Cranesbill, a prostrate plant of the geranium species can be difficult. Very recently Fools Parsley is proving our latest difficult arable weed. We can control it in cereals but this year it is out of control above our oil seed rape crops in a significant area and the yield of rape will be minimal. By the time this appears the combine will hopefully be busy so a few more weeks of sunshine please.

Richard Green

Contacts

Ashbury Parish Council

Chairman Cliff Davies 01793 710712 chairman@ashbury.org.uk

Clerk to the council: Laura Evans email clerk@ashbury.org.uk

Defibrillator: On the wall by the School entrance

St Mary's Ashbury Parochial Church Council

Associate Vicar Revd Norma Fergusson 01793 710055 rev.n.fergusson@btinternet.com

(not Mondays or Fridays)

Church warden: Maggie Simons 01793 710801

Secretary: Roger Simons 01793 710801 rogersimons1@outlook.com

Vicar interregnum (Shrivenham) *See news on page 2.*

Ashbury Village Hall

Maggie Simons 0193 710801 maggiemsimons@outlook.com

Secretary Margaret Smith 01793 710800 mbsmith5@hotmail.co.uk

Bookings: Lin and Kevin Clarke 01793 710326

Ashbury with Compton Beauchamp CE(A) Primary School and little Berries Preschool

Headteacher Rachael Smith 01793 710259 [www. http://www.ashburyprimary.org.uk](http://www.ashburyprimary.org.uk)

office.3851@ashbury.oxon.sch.uk

Ashbury Village Shop 01793 710068

G.P. Surgeries Shrivenham 01793 782207 Lambourn 01488 71715/72299

Post Office at the Rose & Crown Wednesdays and Fridays 9.30-11.30am

Vale of the White Horse District Council 01235 422422

<http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/>

Recycling/Rubbish collection queries admin.vale@biffa.co.uk

Food waste is collected weekly, green/black bins alternate each week. Garden waste brown bins fortnightly. Mondays except Bank holidays.

Your Local District Councillors are: Elaine Ware 01973 783026

elaine.ware@whitehorsedc.gov.uk and Simon Howell 01793 784491

simon.howell@whitehorsedc.gov.uk

County Councillor: Yvonne Constance: 01235 751475/07976934884

yvonne.constance@oxfordshire.gov.uk

M.P. for the Wantage constituency: Ed Vaizey. Contact information. House of Commons

London SW1A 0AA. Bus. phone: 0207 219 6350. email: ed.vaizey.mp@parliament.uk.

Newsletter entries for **September** 2019. Submit your entries for September by **16th**

August to: M. Turner Claremont, Ashbury SN6 8LN. marionturner@me.com 01793

710302 For more of "what's on" and local information see the Ashbury Village Website

www.ashbury.org.uk and the community page on Facebook.