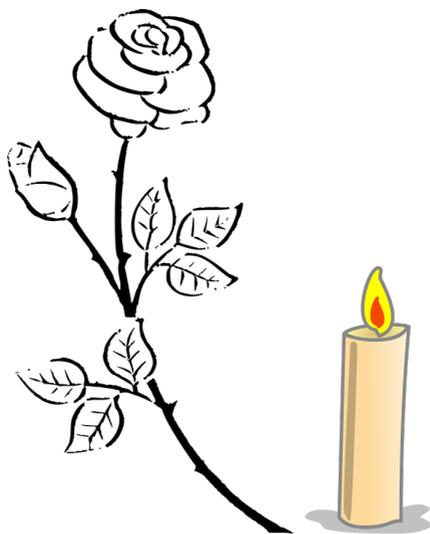


**ASHBURY  
COMPTON LONGCOT  
FERNHAM  
NEWSLETTER JULY 2017**



## Joy in All things.

As a Franciscan, joy is one of my guiding principles, along with love and humility. I was recently struck by a talk given at the Alpha Leadership Conference by Fr Raniero Cantalamessa O.M.F., Franciscan Brother and Preacher to the Pope. The title of his talk was 'Proclaiming together the joy of the Gospel in a troubled world'.

In his talk he lays out how negatively the western church has proclaimed the Gospel with its over-emphasis on sin. This has led to a Gospel of condemnation rather than a Gospel of freedom and of joy. It has led Western Christians from both the catholic and protestant traditions to preach a message of judgment rather than of God's loving salvation for all.

This is not to say that sin [or brokenness with one another and God] isn't a real problem, but rather than freeing people we have bound them in chains through slavish adherence to religious laws and doctrines; trying to strive for that which is impossible. However, St Paul teaches us in his letter to the Romans Chapter 8.1 that in Jesus we have been set free. 1Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, 2 because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death. The verdict is already in and the price has been paid for all eternity by Jesus on the cross because of God's overwhelming love for all his children.

St Paul also reminds us that slavishly following the law [or religious rules] does not make us right with God. In fact, it only condemns us more and in Romans 3.13-15 he uses Abraham as the prime example. 13 It was not through the law that Abraham and his offspring received the promise that he would be heir of the world, but through the righteousness that comes by faith. 14 For if those who depend on the law are heirs, faith means nothing and the promise is worthless, 15 because the law brings wrath. And where there is no law there is no transgression. Abraham is not made right with God because of any religious rules, because there weren't any at the time. The law that was given to Moses came much later. Abraham is made right with God through faith, or in simpler terms because he believed in God and more importantly God believed in him.

In Jesus' ministry and preaching we see him calling people back to a living relationship with God. Jesus encourages us to call God in very familiar terms Abba, Father, or more commonly Daddy. He knows that we are far from perfect but that's not a problem because of God's grace which is freely given and Jesus' sacrifice on the cross makes up what we lack. In other words, we can't reach up to heaven, but God like a loving Father reaches down and picks us up with his divine embrace of Grace. We are safely held, loved unconditionally and above all forgiven.

**Richard Hancock**

*Views expressed in the "Thought for the Month" are those of the individual contributors.*

### Shrivenham and Ashbury Benefice Services in July

#### **Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup>** July

7.45am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Shrivenham
9.00am	Matins	Compton
9.00am	Holy Communion (BCP) Patronal Festival of St Thomas	Watchfield
9.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Fernham
10.15am	Family Service with Baptism	Shrivenham
11.00am	Pet Service	Ashbury
3.00pm	Joint Service	Longcot Chapel
6.30pm	Compline and Benediction	Shrivenham

#### **Sunday 9<sup>th</sup>** July

9.00am	Morning Worship	Fernham
9.30am	Holy Communion	Longcot
10.15am	Parish Communion Choir Sunday	Shrivenham
11.00am	Holy Communion	Ashbury
6.00pm	Evening Prayer	Watchfield

### Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> July

9.00am	Matins	Watchfield
10.15am	Parish Communion	Shrivenham
10.30am	Patronal Festival St Swithun. Holy Communion (BCP)	Compton
11.00am	Café Church led by Free Church	Ashbury

### Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> July

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

### Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> July

10.30am	Benefice Service Holy Communion	Watchfield
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The Ashbury prayer cycle for July will be 2<sup>nd</sup> Ashbury Hill, 9<sup>th</sup>Berrycroft, 16<sup>th</sup>Berrycroft Lane, 23<sup>rd</sup> Chapel Lane, 30<sup>th</sup> Church Lane.

## Ashbury Evangelical Free Church

We will meet once a month for a communion service on Sunday mornings. This will be the **second** week of each month at the usual time of 10.15 am. so this month it will be:

### July 9<sup>th</sup> Communion Service 10.15 a.m.

Tea and chat will normally continue the first and third Wednesday afternoon of each month at 2.15pm. It's free and all are welcome.

## Ashbury News

### CHRISTIAN AID

Thank you to everyone who kindly helped with the Christian Aid collection, or donated money. This year residents from Ashbury and Kingstone Winslow raised the fantastic sum of £1062.59.

**Margaret Smith**

**Ashbury Market - Sunday 9th July - Ashbury Village Hall - 11am to 1pm.** In aid of Ashbury Pre-School (registered charity 1156122) Come and support our local businesses! Stalls will be selling: Meat, Bread, Milk, Vegetables, Rapeseed Oil, Jam, Cakes, Chutneys, Soaps, Jewellery, Cards, Sand Art, Books and Gifts! For more information contact: Kate Watkins 01793 710440 (Kate\_L\_Watkins@hotmail.co.uk).

Thank you for your continued support for our little market which raises vital funds for Ashbury Pre-School.

**ASHBURY VILLAGE FETE on SUNDAY 10th SEPTEMBER 12PM - 4PM.** To be held on the new village green

In aid of village projects and causes (e.g benches for the green space)

**FAMILY FUN DAY WITH GAMES, ACTIVITIES AND STALL SELLERS**

If you would like to join the fete planning committee or volunteer to run a stall or help out on the day then please contact Dianne Lovegrove on **710309** or use the sign up sheet at the shop

If you would like to book a car boot (without the car) pitch at £5 or for traders at £10 then again please contact Dianne on 710309 or sign up at the shop.

Emails can also be sent to the committee using [lola.halford@live.co.uk](mailto:lola.halford@live.co.uk)

**Fitness class, Ashbury village hall every Thursday 6.30pm** £5 per class. Pay on the day, no need to book. Fun workout as part of a very friendly group. Suitable for all levels of fitness, challenging but flexible. Come along or email [amandasaunders@mac.com](mailto:amandasaunders@mac.com) if you would like more details.

**Ashbury Community Club** Summer Programme

**Thurs July 27<sup>th</sup>** Wyvern Tea and Tour. An afternoon trip with a guided tour behind the scenes of the Theatre, followed by tea and cake.

**Thurs August 31<sup>st</sup>** A visit to Pendon Museum near Didcot to see a miniature landscape with model houses depicting village life in the Vale in the 1930s. Do join us for one, or more, of our events. Why not bring a friend? Everyone is welcome.

For further info. or to book a place-phone Jackie Baker on 710358 or email [jackie8walnuts@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:jackie8walnuts@hotmail.co.uk)

## **ASHBURY VILLAGE WIDE GARAGE SALE AND TABLE TOP SALE - 15 July - 9 am-12noon**

The Village Hall Management Committee are organising another village wide garage sale, plus a table top sale in the hall. This is an opportunity for you to make some money by selling all those unwanted items, such as toys, clothes, bric a brac, furniture, cakes, jams, vegetables, antiques and curiosities! The cost for inclusion in the village wide Garage Sale is a very modest £5 per seller, which will be collected on the day. Alternatively, there will be some tables available in the Village Hall for a charge of £5 - these need to be pre-booked. If you would like to take part (either garage sale or table top sale) it is essential that you let us know, and this will ensure that your details are included on the map. The map will be available from the Village Hall on the morning of the sale and this will help potential buyers locate the various sales and indicate what's on offer. The Garage/Table Top Sale will be widely advertised. Two years ago we found some buyers had travelled more than thirty miles to attend the sale! To book please email [mbsmith5@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:mbsmith5@hotmail.co.uk) or telephone 710800.

### **Longcot and Fernham News**

#### **Fernham & Shellingford WI**

There will be a members' Summer Party at Greenacres on 19<sup>th</sup> July; quizzes, music and nibbles!

#### **Longcot Churches working together -Chapel News**

SUN. 2nd 3pm -Everyone is welcome to our monthly joint service which this month will be led by Revd Richard Hancock. Tea and biscuits will be served after the service.

FRI. 30th 3pm - T-TIME FELLOWSHIP- Afternoon tea will be available from 3 – 4-30pm. Everyone is welcome and there will be no charge but if you'd like to make a donation, the money will go to one of the charities that we have supported over the years at our Coffee Mornings. Everyone is welcome and if transport would help or for more information then please ring Stella on 782584.

HUGE THANKS – to all who joined us at the last T-time Fellowship and contributed to the £45.75 which has been sent to the NSPCC.

## **Benefice News**

### **Breakfast Groups, open to all**

**Men's breakfast:** in the Ashbury Village Hall on Saturday 1 July. Everyone is welcome, the conversation is great and the English breakfast is free – we just ask for a donation if you can. Please call Norma (710055) if you would like to come.

**Breakfast Bible Study:** this monthly discussion group will meet again at 8am on Saturday 29 July at Roger & Maggie Simons' (Tower Lodge). Everyone is welcome to chat about anything and everything over a cup of coffee and a simple breakfast. Again, please call Norma on 710055 to confirm.

### **Vigil for Manchester**

Thank you so much to every who came together on the evening of 23 May to remember the victims of the Manchester bombing through flowers, candles and silence. Next morning, some of the candles were still alight – a sign of hope in dark times if ever there was one.

Since writing this, we have seen other tragedies in London and there is, as the Queen has said, a very sombre national mood. Our hearts go out to everyone affected by these events and my prayer this month is simple: God of love, turn our hearts to your ways; and give us peace. Amen.

### **Looking forward**

There will be a Pet Service in St Mary's, Ashbury, at 11am on Sunday 2 July. Hopefully the weather will be kind and the service can be outdoors.

# DEATH CAFÉ

A time to talk about life  
Tuesday July 11<sup>th</sup> 2 p.m. till 4  
Longcot Methodist Chapel



All are welcome to come and enjoy a drink and cake and talk about life and death.  
If you have any questions or if you want to book a place please contact  
[roseanne.o@outlook.com](mailto:roseanne.o@outlook.com) or  
[rev.n.fergusson@btinternet.com](mailto:rev.n.fergusson@btinternet.com)

**Norma**

## Country Matters

In the last few weeks jihadists have killed and maimed innocent people in Manchester and London. Against this background of senseless terror it seems rather trite and shallow to write about our own challenges and hates down on the farm in rural Vale of the White Horse. But, life must and will go on. Our crops are looking better for the welcome rain.

Number 1 are slugs and snails. I never used to have trouble at the farm growing vegetables but here in our cottage garden in Bishopstone they are a real nuisance. The saying goes “sow and ye shall reap” but I only get half of what I sow. I think the culprits are those are those little grey slugs that even seem to devastate lettuces as well as carrots and parsnips too. Also several times we have collected garden snails from 3m up chewing away at a new laburnum tree we have planted. On a visit to the impressive Forde Abbey gardens in Dorset I felt myself in empathy with the notice “resemble not the slimy snail, who with his filth proclaims his trail”. The only saving grace is we do have a visiting song thrush!

Number 2 is the scourge of TB in our cattle. Movement restrictions are now so tight that the major reasons for new infection must be from our wildlife. We have recently shot a deer that was badly infected with TB and badgers are so increasingly prevalent. They are thriving too well with no predators. It is most sad that our neighbours at Eastbrook Farm, Bishopstone have had to cull so many reactors to TB in their milking cows that their new grass based herd on the downs has had to close down already because of insufficient numbers.

Number 3 is the rat- nobody's friend. They have chewed away in our combine doing considerable damage despite us spending a fortune on baiting them around the buildings.

Number 4 are squirrels. As a youth I remember climbing to a dray, putting my hand into their nest and being horrified to discover these rat like creatures, so young their tails were then hairless. It is such a shame that they can do so much damage to trees because they are such agile, clean creatures. In the Millennium wood towards Idstone off New Town Lane in Bishopstone many of the silver birch have lost their tops due to squirrel barking. Trees in my own woods have been similarly spoilt and a number are dying. I can applaud Countess Bathurst at Cirencester Park, where they have significant woodland, who has I believe served roast squirrel at her dinner parties.

**Richard Green**

**Benefice Clergy**

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

Newsletter entries for August 2017 Submit your entries for August by **21<sup>st</sup> July**  
to: M. Turner Claremont, Ashbury SN6 8LN. [marionlturner@me.com](mailto:marionlturner@me.com) 01793  
710302

Ashbury Village Website [www.ashbury.org.uk](http://www.ashbury.org.uk)