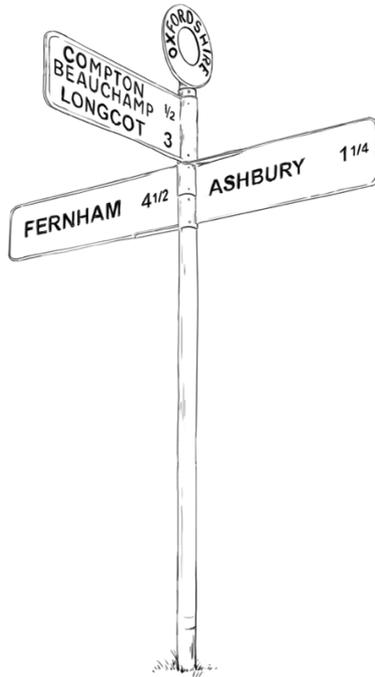


**ASHBURY  
COMPTON LONGCOT FERNHAM  
NEWS  
JUNE 2021**



**Normal services resumed for the churches**

**Freecycling June 6th**

## Thought for the month

“Oh - The - best book to read is the Bible

The best book to read is the Bible

If you read it everyday

It will help you on your way

Oh - the - best book to read is the Bible”

I remember singing this at Sunday School as a child but of course now we are older and wiser we all know that the Bible is a book of fairy tales for children and that as it was written thousands of years ago it does not contain anything even remotely relevant to life today.... And now we know that Science has replaced the need for God..... a pregnant pause as anyone who is reading this and who knows me wonders what I might say next..... after all this is a thought for the month in the Church magazine how can I say such things... it is not me who is saying it but I expect you have all heard others say it..... But I would hazard a guess that the person saying it has never actually read the Bible and taken the time to study and understand what it says.....I try to read a portion from the Bible every day and there is still so much I do not understand about it but, far from stopping me reading more it spurs me on to study it and try to understand it.....

The more I read it, the more I am convinced that it is the Word of God (as it claims) and that it is the most relevant and important book that anyone can read. I believe that it is the ONLY book which has the answer to life. It tells how God loves us and wants what is best for us but how we turned our back on him and rebelled. But instead of leaving us to pay the price of our rebellion He (Jesus) came to earth as a man and died in our place so that, if we accept Him we can live with Him in Heaven..... It also explains what the alternative to accepting him is and it does not make pleasant reading..... It says that it is appointed unto all men, once to die.... And then the Judgement. I don't have space here to fully explain what or why I believe these things but don't take my word for it read the Bible for yourselves I expect many people (if not most), received a Gideon New Testament and Psalms when they were at school..... I expect some still have that book somewhere in their homes..... I would urge you all to find it, dust it off and read it. If you can't find it I would be more than happy to let you have one..... Don't say or think the Bible is irrelevant until or unless you have taken time to read it and study it for yourselves. .... The children's chorus really is true.... “The best book to read IS the Bible!”

**Andrew Bunce**

*Views expressed in “Thought for the month” are those of the contributors*

## Ashbury News

### Ashbury freecycling

Thanks to everyone who got involved! We've had some lovely feedback from those who did. It seems to have been popular enough to go ahead and do it on a monthly basis so that everyone can round up whatever they would like to rehome and pop it outside on the first Sunday of every month. So, the dates will be:

**June 6<sup>th</sup> July 4<sup>th</sup> August 1<sup>st</sup> September 5<sup>th</sup>**

After this, owing to unpredictable weather, we can pause it until the following spring. 10 am till 4pm worked well, so let's stick to that!

A reminder in case you missed it – anything goes! You can rehome toys, books, household and gardening equipment, gifts and unopened cosmetics/smellies, plants, DIY materials... Whatever you no longer need. It could be just what someone else is after!

**Christian Aid Week** Generous residents donated an amazing £1067.29, for our annual fundraising and most of this was Gift Aided. Thank you!

## CHURCH MATTERS

**Normal Services resumed! (No services in Longcot- closed for building work)**

### JUNE SERVICES IN ASHBURY, COMPTON & FERNHAM WILL BE AS FOLLOWS:

Sunday <b>6 June</b>	9.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Compton
	9.30am	Holy Communion Online	Fernham
	11.00am	Holy Communion	Ashbury
Thursday <b>10 June</b>	10.00am	Holy Communion	Ashbury
Sunday <b>13 June</b>	9.30am	Family Service	Longcot
	11.00am	Morning Prayer	Ashbury
Sunday <b>20 June</b>	9.00am	Matins	Compton
	9.30am	Holy Communion	Fernham
	11.00am	Morning Prayer (Father's Day)	Ashbury
Sunday <b>27 June</b>	<b>11.00am</b>	<b>Benefice Holy Communion</b>	<b>Online Ashbury</b>

**Our churches are open once a week for private prayer**

Ashbury 10am – 4pm on Thursday

Compton Beauchamp 9am – 5pm daily

**All online services can be watched on the Shrivenham and Ashbury Facebook**

If you are unable to join us in person, do join online through services and study groups on the benefice Facebook page. You do not need a Facebook account to access these events.

**Ashbury Prayer cycle for June:**

6<sup>th</sup> Berrycroft Lane, 13<sup>th</sup> Chapel Lane, 20<sup>th</sup> Church Lane, 27<sup>th</sup> College Farm Lane

**LONGCOT CHURCHES WORKING TOGETHER – CHAPEL NEWS**

We're hoping that 4th July will see the return of our monthly united services in the Chapel and that T Time Fellowship will be able to start again on 30th July. Please keep an eye open for posters around the village and look in next month's issue of the Newsletter for details.

**Stella**

**PASTORAL CARE**

If you have need for prayer or pastoral support, do not hesitate to ring Canon Paul Richardson on 710241.

**A Message from the Associate Vicar:**

June already! Where has the year gone? This month, we hope, will bring an end to the restrictions we have all faced during the lockdown because of Covid 19. I arrived in the parish just before this latest lockdown so have not yet had an opportunity to meet many of you. I hope all that will change soon.

I am looking forward to being able to visit those who would welcome that, and to meetings at a range of social events we hope to enjoy over the summer. And of course, our church services will soon be back to normal with singing again – real joy! In the Church calendar we have just entered the season of Trinity, which began on Trinity Sunday on May 30<sup>th</sup>. Trinity reminds us that God's very being is one of relationship – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit a Holy Trinity of Persons united in One God. Love and relationship make up who God is. "God is love. Those who live in love live in God and God lives in them" (1 John 4.16). As we are made in God's image, we too are made for love. As we come out of these restrictions we can share that love once again with our friends and family.

Just as we are now being able to connect again with our close families and friends, so we can connect again as a family of church and parish. Let us give thanks for that and make the most of every opportunity to get together. **Paul**

### **Covid Precautions at Services**

We are doing our best to ensure that our church is COVID safe for anyone who would like to come to our services. We ask you to observe Covid safety rules, wear a mask, hand-sanitise on arrival (available inside church), sign in or use the NHS QR code and ensure social distancing. Please do not come into church if you think you have symptoms of Covid 19.

### **O.C.C. Public Notice : Share your life, change a life**

Could you give someone the opportunity to live the fullest life they can live? Help them grow in confidence? Encourage them to become more independent? The Shared Lives scheme matches people who need additional support to be independent, with carers and their families. Become a Shared Lives Carer for **Oxfordshire County Council** in a rewarding home-based, paid role - [oxfordshire.gov.uk/sharedlivescarers](http://oxfordshire.gov.uk/sharedlivescarers)

### **WELCOME PACK FOR NEW ASHBURY PARISH RESIDENTS**

**A pack has been prepared for new residents which contains useful information. If you have moved into the village recently and would like to receive a pack, or if you have a new neighbour please contact Roger Simons (710801) or Margaret Smith (710800).**

### **ARE YOU A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL TRUST?**

Did you know that there is a local supporter group? The Upper Thames and Ridgeway National Trust Association offers a variety of social activities – outings, coffee mornings, talks, an annual holiday and we make donations to local NT properties and projects. We have been enjoying talks on Zoom during Lockdown and more are planned for June and July.

**Interested? Please contact Gillian Miller on 01793 762559 Or [millerwrde@homecall.co.uk](mailto:millerwrde@homecall.co.uk)**

## A sad cautionary tale ...

From the Swindon Advertiser and North Wilts Chronicle 29 June 1895

### ASHBURY.

**SAD DEATH BY DROWNING.**—On Monday evening, Mr W. Clark Jotcham, deputy coroner for the district, held an inquiry at the Rose and Crown Inn, Ashbury, on the body of Henry James Greenwood, aged 36 years, under gardener at Ashdown Park. The jury, who selected Mr Asher Ball, schoolmaster, as their foreman, assembled at six o'clock to hear the facts of the case. Mr George Greenwood was called, and identified the body as his brother. It appears from the evidence given, that Charles Johnson and deceased went to bathe in Odstone Hill chalk pond, which is about 6 feet deep, at 10-15 a.m., on Sunday, and neither could swim. They waited about twenty minutes to get cool before pulling off their clothes. Three boys were in the pond bathing at the time. The deceased stripped first, walked through the pond, and rested on the opposite side for about three minutes. By this time Johnson was in the water, about up to his knees. Deceased now went into the water again, intending to re-cross the pond near the middle when he suddenly threw up his arms and sank. Johnson, was frightened to such a degree that he lost his presence of mind and could not do anything to assist the drowning person. News of the sad affair soon reached Ashbury, about a mile distant, and P.C. Styles, who was most energetic in the matter, also H. Dabney, and others were soon at the pond, and with the aid of grapplers got out the dead body, and conveyed it to Mr Carter's, of the Rose and Crown, to await the inquest. After due deliberation, the jury returned a verdict of "accidentally drowned," greatly deploring the very sad end of this young man. The funeral took place on Wednesday. Mrs Carter sending a nice wreath.

SALESBY

Henry was the son of Henry, a farm worker, and Harriett Greenwood of Kingstone Winslow. The weather was clearly a great deal warmer than of late!

## Country Matters

Writing for June but it's been so cold even into May. Even so, I heard chiff chaffs as early as March 31st, blackcaps in mid April but swallows and martins have come later. Though some were seen in April I did not spot them until May 8th. I hope we can agree that I am not an habitual moaner but this month I will share a number of frustrations.

The legal release of Chinese lanterns can cause fires and distress to farm animals. I see no reason not to make this illegal which has already happened elsewhere. Fly tipping and rubbish dumped onto gateways and verges is growing. Eight mattresses were thrown onto the Spence's fields between Ashbury and Ashdown. We had a load of builder's rubbish dumped to block the entrance to Lammydown Farm. Walking our roadside fields at Ashdown in preparation for silage making I collected six bottles and cans thrown into the field from passing cars. This tipped rubbish had to be moved from private property to the council verge when the council are obliged to collect. Full marks to Oxon CC for attending so quickly. I have recently been up to Liddington Clump where there are many memorial plaques to departed loved ones but peering into the old war time pillbox, I was met with a disgusting tip of bottles, cans and detritus. What a contrast for those who would wish to remember their loved ones there.

There are reports of livestock farmers who have had nasty threats from vegans and the animal rights brigade. Those farmers are just trying to make a living off grass which is an excellent carbon sink and still the most common crop in England. Nearly all farmers now have to lock everything up against theft. In rural south west France which I know well, this is not necessary. We have to protect our crops with trenches to stop 4 wheel drives and coursing cowboys violating our crops.

Lastly it was so disappointing to find that the protective deer fencing we have erected does not meet with someone's vision of the countryside. The countryside code requires the public to shut gates as they pass through. This deer gate on a by-way towards Lambourn on our farm has been vandalised with eye bolt hangers thrown away. Re-erected and in places welded, it still may not survive these vandals intact. I counted 90 fallow, all female does, up there this week in one herd. There will be more in June when they give birth.

Gilbert and Sullivan wrote that song about a policeman's lot not being a happy one. Nevertheless us farmers will persevere, stay happy most of the time and hope that this small minority who let the silent majority down will be brought to their senses one day for us all to enjoy the countryside responsibly.

**Richard Green**

## Contacts

### **Ashbury Parish Council**

Chairman: Christopher Prentice 01793 710821 [chair@ashbury.org.uk](mailto:chair@ashbury.org.uk)

Clerk to the council: Laura Evans email [clerk@ashbury.org.uk](mailto:clerk@ashbury.org.uk)

**Defibrillator:** On the wall by the School entrance

### **St Mary's Ashbury Parochial Church Council**

Associate vicar: Paul Richardson 01793 710241 (not Monday or Tuesday)

Church wardens: Maggie Simons 01793 710801 Richard Green 01793 791310

Secretary: Roger Simons 01793 710801 [rogersimons1@outlook.com](mailto:rogersimons1@outlook.com)

Vicar (Shrivenham) Revd Norma Fergusson 01793 784338

[rev.n.fergusson@btinternet.com](mailto:rev.n.fergusson@btinternet.com) (not Monday)

### **Ashbury Village Hall**

Maggie Simons 0193 710801 [maggiemsimons@outlook.com](mailto:maggiemsimons@outlook.com)

Secretary Margaret Smith 01793 710800 [mbsmith5@hotmail.co.uk](mailto: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>  
**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](mailto: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](mailto:elaine.ware@whitehorsedc.gov.uk) and Simon Howell 01793 784491

[simon.howell@whitehorsedc.gov.uk](mailto:simon.howell@whitehorsedc.gov.uk)

**County Councillor:** Yvonne Constance: 01235 751475/07976934884

[yvonne.constance@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:yvonne.constance@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

**M.P. for the Wantage constituency:** David Johnston [david.johnston.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:david.johnston.mp@parliament.uk)  
0207 219 3000

**Newsletter entries for July 2021.** Submit your entries for July by **18<sup>th</sup> June** to: M. Turner Claremont, Ashbury SN6 8LN. [marionlturner@me.com](mailto:marionlturner@me.com) 01793 710302 For more of "what's on" and local information see the Ashbury Village Website [www.ashbury.org.uk](http://www.ashbury.org.uk) and the community page on Facebook.