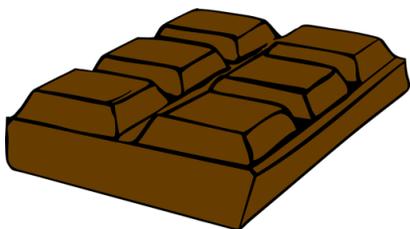


ASHBURY
COMPTON LONGCOT
FERNHAM
NEWSLETTER MARCH 2017



Giving up for Lent?

Thought for the month-GIVING UP!

No, not Rehab or the end of the road but Lent which will begin on Ash Wednesday at the beginning of the month. At my convent boarding school we all gave up sweets for Lent – quite a sacrifice when you consider that sugar had only recently 'come off ration' so sweets had been a real treat. Now we could buy sweets with our pocket money as well as relying on parcels from home and sometimes the day girls would share their break time sweets with us boarders. During Lent, any sweets that came our way were saved in special tins until March 17th, St. Patrick's Day which was a big event in our calendar, it being the feast day of our headmistress, Mother Pat, and therefore a chance to break our fast. But where did the idea of 'giving up' for Lent come from?

Originally the Lent fast lasted for two days with no food at all but later the Church extended it to forty days to commemorate Jesus' fasting in the desert. Fasting allows time for reflection and penitence. It is a practice common to many faiths the world over – in the Christian Church Friday was a no meat day at one time for example – and still today many Christians forgo something they enjoy such as chocolate, alcohol, TV and various other forms of entertainment. Why not make these small sacrifices more productive and positive?

Something else occurs to me too; most of us are in the fortunate position of being able to choose to 'go hungry' but what of the millions of people who have no choice, who are constantly hungry and probably homeless too? Let's follow Christ's example. He made the ultimate sacrifice for us on the cross but with the positive outcome of Easter Day. Instead of just 'giving up' this Lent, why not donate the money saved or one's time to a good cause?

Stella Tidmarsh

Shrivenham and Ashbury Benefice Services in March

Wednesday March 1st		Ash Wednesday
11.00am	Holy Communion with Ashing	Shrivenham

Sunday 5th March

Lent 1

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	Morning Worship	Ashbury
3.00pm	Joint Service	Longcot Chapel
6.30pm	Healing Service	Shrivenham

Sunday 12th March

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

Sunday 19th March

7.45am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Shrivenham
9.00am	Matins	Watchfield
9.00am	Matins	Compton
9.00am	Holy Communion	Fernham
9.30am	Prayer Group	Shrivenham
10.15am	Parish Communion	Shrivenham
11.00am	Family Service	Ashbury
6.00pm	Evening Worship	Longcot

Sunday 26th March

Mothering Sunday

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

Ashbury Evangelical Free Church

Wednesday March 1 st	2.15pm		Tea and Chat
Sunday 5 th	10.15am	Communion	
Sunday 12 th	10.15am	Communion	
Wednesday 15 th	2.15pm		Tea and Chat
Sunday 19 th	11.00am	Joint Service	St Mary's
Sunday 26 th	10.15am	Communion	



Tea and Chat, all welcome, free.

The Ashbury prayer cycle for March will be 5th Berrycroft, 12th Berrycroft Lane, 19th Chapel Lane, 26th Church Lane.

Ashbury News

Ashbury Pre-school: Trustees needed : Can you help?

Ashbury Pre-school has a proud history dating back to the 1970s and has offered a friendly, safe and stimulating start to education for generations of local children. We are a Charitable Incorporated Organisation with trustees who give their time voluntarily. Since September 2015 we have been based in the heart of the community at Ashbury Evangelical Free Church. We work closely with the School which is, of course, just across the road. Our regular Market in the Village Hall has become a very popular item on the Ashbury calendar.

I have been chair of trustees for the last five years and have really enjoyed the opportunity to work with staff, parents, children and fellow trustees on such a worthwhile project. But I am standing down this year as I plan to split my time between Ashbury and Normandy, and our only current parent-trustee will also be leaving as her children will be moving on to School in September. So we are looking for new recruits to join the team. Experience of early years education is desirable but not essential (I am a boring old lawyer!). If you would like to do something that will help keep our community strong and sustainable, please contact me to find out more about the role.

Liz Derrington, Chair of Trustees
01793 710813
07722867493
contact@ashburypreschool.org

Ashbury Market - Sunday 12th March - 10am to 12noon. 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, Gifts and more! 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.

Gardeners' Question Time

To be held on Friday 7 April at 7.30 for 8.00 at the Village Hall. Tickets £5 to include a glass of wine and refreshments can be purchased from the Village Shop. There will be a panel of professionals including two from Charlton Park Garden Centre, Wantage to answer all your horticultural questions. Telephone 710526 or 710055 for further information.

The future of this Newsletter:

Some residents of Ashbury have questioned the need for a monthly Ashbury (together with Longcot and Fernham) newsletter, while for others it is an essential part of village communication An electronic format would be preferable to some. In order to decide how best to proceed, the person distributing your newsletter would like to ask each household some quick questions, to get your views.

Longcot and Fernham News

Fernham & Shellingford WI

The meeting in March will take place in Fernham Church Hall on Wednesday 15th at 7.30pm.

This month is our AGM, and we also have Virginia Lawrence to talk about Denman College which we are very lucky to have nearby. Whether or not

you have visited Denman you will find Virginia's talk very interesting.
Enquiries to Joan Turner - 01367 820607 or Elli Wickham - 01367 820544.

Longcot Churches working together -Chapel News

SUN. 5th 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. 31st 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 £25 which will be added to the amount raised at another tea in aid of The Down's Syndrome Association and their current project 'Tell it Right' which trains midwives and doctors to break the news that a baby has Down's in a positive way rather than it being seen as a tragedy.

News Across the Villages

Safe and Well visits from Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service

Did you know that Oxfordshire County Council's Fire and Rescue Service offer free Safe and Well Visits? Our firefighters will visit you at home to see what they can do to help you reduce the risk of fire.

What does a visit cover? It combines a Home Safety Check to help reduce the risk of fire in your home, such as checking and fitting smoke alarms and helping you make a fire escape plan. We can also offer you advice and support to help your health and wellbeing.

During the visit firefighters are able to provide advice and support to reduce any immediate risk from falls, fire, flood or power cuts, along with advice to help protect you from scams and doorstep crime.

You can request a visit online at www.365alive.co.uk/safewell or call our Community Safety Helpline on **08000 325 999**. If a loved one or friend would benefit from a visit please let them know about our Safe and Well visits.

Do you have a fire safety concern or question? There's lots of great tips and advice to help keep you and your family safer at home on www.365alive.co.uk. Or you can call our Community Safety Helpline on 08000 325 999.

Community cinema

The Regent Cinema is run by Faringdon Town Council and is a not-for-profit community cinema provided to bring people together. Our prices are very low and we always have a licensed bar for our evening screenings along with an interval with ice-creams!

Our Matinee Club films are the first Weds of the month and cost £4 to include free tea/coffee and a biscuit. Lots of people bring their lunch with them and it's very informal.

For the children, we screen a film during half-term holidays. Prices are kept low to help families afford a nice experience without having to pay a fortune! Family tickets are £10. We provide popcorn, sweets for 50p and FREE squash.

Look out for posters in Ashbury Village shop and:

Cinema is always listed on our website: www.faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk/regent-cinema or on our Facebook page "Faringdon Regent Cinema".

Benefice News

Not a prayer this month, but two related thoughts on the value of friendship:

From **Rumi** (a 13th century Persian poet):

With friends you grow wings
 alone you are a single feather in disgrace
With them you master the world
 but alone you're blown in all directions

From **Ecclesiastes 4**:

Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up the other; but woe to one who is alone and falls and does not have another to help. Again, if two lie together, they keep warm; but how can one keep warm alone? And though one might prevail against another, two will withstand one. A threefold cord is not quickly broken.

Lent course: Risen

As usual, the Lent course in Ashbury is being held jointly with the Free Church and this year is based on the film Risen starring Joseph Fiennes.

Risen tells the story of the resurrection through the eyes of an unbeliever – the Roman tribune, Clavius, who has been instructed to ensure that Jesus' followers don't steal the body. When that fails, he must find the body, dispel rumours of a risen Messiah and present an uprising in Jerusalem. This is a film which inspires and entertains – do come and see it.

Each session stands alone, including a chance to see the film in full, so come along any time; more details from Richard & Norma (710055).

Meanwhile in Shrivenham there will be a series of films on Sunday evenings; again, more details from Richard and Norma (710055)

Women's World Day of Prayer

Friday 3 March in Shrivenham Methodist Church at 2.15

Breakfast Groups

No Bible study in March but the Men's breakfast will be held as usual on Saturday 4 March at 8am in Ashbury Village Hall – all welcome. Please let Norma and Richard know if you would like to come – 710055

Easter Crafts

Instead of a Good Friday morning activity for children, this year we will have an Easter crafts morning at the village hall on 21st April. But do join us at the other Easter services! Full details in next month's magazine.

Magazine delivery

We are most grateful to everyone who takes the time to deliver copies of this magazine in our villages and would like to invite those from Longcot and Fernham to tea in Longcot Chapel on Tuesday 9 May, during the Flower Festival. Watch out for more details.

The Big Sing with John Bell of the Iona Community and BBC4's Thought for the Day Sat 25 March Wesley Memorial Methodist Church, New Inn Hall Street Oxford OX1 2DH. 7.30-9.30. Come and join in-no experience needed! Tickets £7.50 Students/under 18 £5 from Oxford Playhouse 01865 305305 www.ticketsoxford.com or at the door.

Country Matters

Now that the Brexit process to leave the EU has begun there is a lot of work ahead unravelling the 47 years since we joined in 1957. Stay with me as I exceed even Rip Van Winkle's slumbers to emerge into a brave new world with a list for what might be happening in two years' time.

By this time the whole critical debate over tariffs or a free market should be clearer. Leaving aside the tariff issue the EU is likely to maintain its quality, health and welfare standards for exporters to match if they want to do business. Equally we in the UK want to be protected by our own standards from imports of lower quality that might swamp our markets here. An example is that our beef is raised free of hormones whilst the USA permits its use.

As we see our current agri support package (BPS) begin to be halved we are hoping commodity prices will take up the slack and rise. Currency movements are key here, however against all the forecasts Stirling could strengthen if the British economy continues to surge ahead to frustrate market increases leaving us the poorer.

When New Zealand abandoned agri subsidies there was initially hardship but their agri economy is now sound but critically they had a government that supported their agri industry in lifting regulations, controlling bovine Tb and helping exports. Let us hope that our agricultural voice is not sacrificed on the altar of expediency elsewhere.

Regulations which are unpopular here that might be rescinded to help us are:

The planned review in EU to ban the use of one of our most useful herbicides, glyphosate marketed as roundup hopefully decides to extend its license beyond 2018. This would be very welcome news allowing farmers to carry on controlling invasive grass weeds before planting their crops. At present farmers are not allowed to spread manures during a frosty spell, or in October when there would be least damage to soil structures. Similarly hedge cutting cannot begin until October by which time arable land starts to get wet. Changes here would help stop damage to soils. Some livestock enterprises and vegetable and fruit growers are desperate for foreign workers to be able to still come here from the poorer EU countries; they seem unable to recruit English workers to perform some of the jobs. Currently there is an imposed rule that for biodiversity all farmers must grow three different crops each year. This is fine for the big boys but very awkward if you only have a small farm and it is hoped this requirement will be a casualty of Brexit. Free from the EU we might wish to license genetically modified crops here with genes transferred to seeds that protect crops from disease, reducing our reliance on crop chemicals. Twenty years of use in the USA have not caused problems. There are many others that have come from the EU. We are not even allowed to shoot pigeons or rooks unless we have done a risk assessment!

Richard Green

Benefice Clergy

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

Newsletter entries for April 2017 Submit your entries for April by **17th March** to: M. Turner Claremont, Ashbury SN6 8LN. marionturner@me.com 01793 710302

Website www.ashbury.org.uk