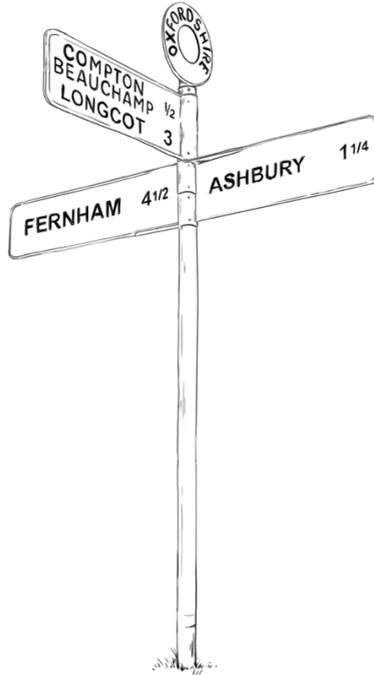


ASHBURY COMPTON LONGCOT FERNHAM NEWS

MARCH 2020



Major Events this month

World Day of Prayer 6th

Churchyard Spring tidy-up 14th

Community Club 26th

Ashbury Village Quiz 28th

Thought for the month

I was stopped at a red light the other day, and the car in front of me had a bumper sticker that caught my attention, and occupied my thoughts even after the light turned green. It read, "Peace on earth will come when we decide that the power of love is more valuable than the love of power."

That sentence stuck with me. It's simple and it's true. And yet, it is so hard to accomplish. We are taught this concept from childhood – "Love thy neighbour", "Turn the other cheek" to name just two examples that everyone knows. Tolerance and love are something we grow up learning about and believing in as a concept. And yet, it ends up being easier to follow the basic nature of all creatures – to protect ourselves, to (figuratively) hoard that which we have against a time of famine, to distrust the stranger. We are wired to win, to do what's necessary to stay alive. These instincts are primal. They work against what we know is right and true. It seems difficult, perhaps impossible, to rise above the instincts – especially as they are mostly subconscious.

And yet, it must be possible. As the bumper sticker suggested, we have to decide what is more valuable. It doesn't come naturally, but it is a choice we can make. And the more we allow our consciousness to evolve, the closer we can get to making that choice.

Imagine a world where the power of love is more important than the love of power. We might actually achieve peace on earth if we can turn that imagination into reality. It may seem insurmountable, but every journey does start with a single step.

Gail Haslam Loose

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

APPOINTMENT OF ASSOCIATE VICAR

Last year the Revd Norma Fergusson was installed as the Vicar of the Shrivensham and Ashbury Benefice. Following a recent interview, the Revd Nina Summerfield has accepted the position of Associate Vicar in the Benefice, and she will have particular responsibility for Ashbury, Longcot and Fernham.

Ashbury News

Ashbury Community Club Thursday 26th March. 2.30pm Village Hall

Josette Feddes will be telling us how she produces "JoJo's Milk" on her dairy farm near Lotmead. Everyone welcome. £2 entry, includes tea & biscuits.

Ashbury Parish Council – Vacancy Due to a change in circumstances one of our councillors has had to resign meaning that the parish council again has a vacancy.

To enable the council to continue to provide & improve the service offered to the community, it is important that we fill the vacancy as quickly as possible.

If you are able to spare a little of your time and wish to influence the way the council works for/within the parish, please get in touch as soon as possible with either:

Laura Evans: clerk@ashbury.org.uk or Cliff Davies: chairman@ashbury.org.uk

Village Quiz, Saturday 28 March, 7.00 for 7.30 pm, Village Hall

More details are now available. Teams should consist of six people all from the same road eg Chapel Lane, Idstone Road, Wixes Piece, High Street, Kingstone Winslow etc. The cost of £6 per person includes a supper, and a bar will be available. To book your team in, or if you have a query, please email either Margaret Smith (mbsmith5@hotmail.co.uk) or Roger Baker (rogerbaker.riba@btinternet.com).

Burns Night A huge thank you to everyone who attended our first Burns' Night Supper on Sat 25th January. It was a fantastic night – a real community event, which raised £518.20 to be split equally between the Village Hall and St Mary's Church.

Special thanks to Stewart Smith our charming MC for the evening, Richard & Norma Fergusson for their amazing musical and poetry renditions, barmen Graham Clarke and Pete Smith, caterers Julia Blake and Judy Clarke and Eliza Lewis for organising the Scottish dancing. Special thanks also to Margaret Smith, Maggie Simons, Clare McGlashan, Sue Reade, Marion Jefferys and Claire Routley for their contributions to the evening.

Churchyard Spring Tidy up-

Please join us on Saturday 14th March at 10am when we carry out an annual Spring tidy up of the old & new Churchyards-lasting about 2 hours. Ideally please bring a pair of secateurs or loppers. Free hot drinks and refreshments available. New helpers always welcome. Good social occasion.

Church Matters

World Day of Prayer

6th March, 2.00pm St Mary's Church, Ashbury

This service has been prepared by the Christian Women of Zimbabwe and the theme is "Rise! Take your mat and walk". The service will be followed by refreshments. This service forms part of a great wave of prayer encircling the globe which begins as the sun rises over Samoa and ends back in the Pacific as the sun sets over American Samoa. We will be joining with people in over 120 countries and islands around the world. Everyone is welcome.

For more information contact Maggie Simons.

SUNDAY SERVICES IN MARCH

Date	Ashbury	A.E.F.C./ Ambassadors	Longcot	Compton
1 st Lent 1	11.00am Morning Worship	10am Morning Worship Service 6pm Growth Course	3pm Chapel Joint Service	9am Holy Communion (BCP)
8 th	10.30am Benefice Holy Communion at Shrivenham	10.am Morning Worship Service 6pm Growth Course	10.30am As Ashbury	10.30am As Ashbury
15 th	11.00am Holy Communion	10am Morning Worship Service 6pm Growth Course	6pm Evening Worship	9.00am Matins
22 nd	11am Family Service	10am Morning worship Service 6pm Growth Course	9.30am Family Communion	No Service
29 th Passiontide Sunday	10.30am Benefice Service Holy Communion + choir	10am Morning worship Service 6pm Growth Course	10.30am Benefice Holy Communion at Ashbury	10.30am Benefice Holy Communion At Ashbury

In addition-Midweek services/ gatherings

Alpha: Mondays 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th March-10am (contact-- Jane Ahern-783521)

The Bible Course: Wednesdays 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th March- 10.30am at Ashbury Free Church- (contact- Maggie Simons 710801 or Graham Weller -710665)

Ashbury- St. Mary's

Thursday 5th March- 8am- said Morning Prayer

Thursday 12th March - 11am- short said service of Holy Communion in the Celtic tradition

Thursday 19th March - 8am- said Morning Prayer

Thursday 26th March- 8am- said Morning Prayer

Prayer cycle- for March – 1st – Walnut Trees Hill, 8th – Wixes Piece, 15th –Ashbury Hill, 22nd –Berrycroft, 29th –Berrycroft Lane

Ashbury- Evangelical Free Church

Wednesday March 4th & 18th, - 2.15pm- Tea & chat-Everyone is welcome.

March 12th, 19th & 26th 10.30am: Lent- the Bible Course Combined

Longcot- St. Mary's-

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

Fernham – St John's Saturday 14th March 11.30 am Family Service

Longcot churches working together – Chapel news

Sunday 2nd February 3pm- This month's service will be led by Mr. Phil Bunce.

Everyone is most welcome to join us and to stay for tea afterwards.

Tues. 20th, Wed 21st & Thurs. 22nd March Cream Teas will be served from 3- 4.30pm- so do come and enjoy some scones with cream and jam, home - made cake and tea or coffee. No charge- but donations to 'Send a Cow' will be much appreciated. No T time fellowship this month.

Lent message from The Rev'd Norma Fergusson

By the time you read this – Lent will have already begun and you may even be regretting the impulse to give up gin or biscuits or whatever will form your Lenten discipline this year. Or you may not even have started – because too often the language of Lent is the language of failure and that is not helpful to us or to God. And the whole purpose of Lent is to prepare us to welcome the risen Christ on Easter morning – which we can't do if we've just been grumpy for the previous 40 days! So, here are some ideas for observing Lent differently:

Doing something kind for someone every day (that can include yourself!)

Sorting through books and clothes and taking the things you don't want to a charity shop,

Writing letters or telephoning instead of sending emails and texts,

Going for a walk and praying or giving thanks for the people and things you see around you , **Reading** Mark's Gospel, **Listening** to Bach.

Whatever you choose to do, I wish you a happy and a holy Lent

Benefice Notices

Messages from Oxfordshire County Council .During March and April, your Household Waste Recycling Centre will be closing for two days to carry out a deep clean and essential maintenance. **Stanford (Faringdon) will be closed on - Tues 21st & Wed 22nd April 2020.**

Full details can be found at www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/wasteclosure including details of your nearest site during closures. Thank you in advance for your patience.

Get help with home repairs

There are services and funds available to help people (owners and private tenants) stay independent, safe and well in their homes, and Oxfordshire County Council has developed a referral service to help residents (or carers) access the right organisations in their area, to get the help they need, such as new boilers, repairs to boilers, loft or cavity wall insulation, access to a local and trustworthy repairs service and general advice on how to stay safe, well and affordably warm in your home.

For more information or to make a referral visit www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/homerepairs

Care for the environment? Get your waste to the right place

The Waste Wizard is a new online tool to kill the confusion around recycling and help Oxfordshire defeat General Waste. Type in your postcode and the name of any item to find out whether it can be reused, repaired, donated or recycled

- oxfordshire.gov.uk/wastewizard

SHRIVENHAM BEREAVEMENT CAFÉ:

NEXT ONE IS TUESDAY 17th MARCH 2.30 till 4pm at St Andrew's Vicarage

An informal get-together for anyone who has been bereaved at any time. A friendly, casual environment with a cuppa and cake for a chat and mutual support. Open to all, regardless of faith or beliefs. There is no charge.

Rose-Anne and Norma will be there at St Andrew's Vicarage, Shrivenham and the sessions will happen every 6 weeks.

Rose-Anne O'Hare is a therapist with 15 years' experience working in the NHS, including counselling and bereavement work. She also trained with CRUSE Bereavement Care and has run therapeutic bereavement groups in Shrivenham with Norma.

Norma Fergusson is the Vicar of the Shrivenham & Ashbury benefice; was a volunteer chaplain at Dorothy House Hospice and has experience of bereavement care with CRUSE and other organisations.

Please contact one of us if you want more information

Rose-Anne roseanne.o@outlook.com 01793784017

Norma rev.n.fergusson@btinternet.com 07799 545035

Country Matters

The book “Wilding” by Isabella Tree (2018) is the story of her and her husband’s large High Weald’s Knepp Castle estate in Sussex’s exit from farming in favour of a brave leap into the unknown, replacing it with a fenced- in return to the “jungle” with some grazing semi-wild livestock. Nightingales, turtle doves and purple emperor butterflies, all red listed species, are increasing. People are asking me “Can this be more widely replicated”? Even the “Archers” have worked in a story line!

This January in north Yorkshire I detoured to view Rievaulx Abbey, a vast, impressive Cistercian monastery dating from the 13th century. Those monks would have lived alongside wolves, bears and eagles but I learnt that they survived on a largely vegetarian diet. Recently a wolf has been spotted in the French Dordogne, having crossed from the Italian Appennines.

There is a proposal to reintroduce wolves into Scotland to control red deer numbers and assist forestry regeneration. Beavers have been introduced to a compound in Devon to aid river management and one has escaped.

I have seen Bear poo in the Slovakian Tatra mountains and a few are said to survive in the Pyrenees. Red Kites and Ravens are now common here. Great bustards are gaining a foothold on Salisbury Plain following careful reintroduction. Roz Boot of Bishopstone claims to have seen an eagle locally, and she may be right because some sea eagles have been released onto the Isle of Wight and one male was spotted in Oxfordshire recently.

Tottenham House on the edge of Savernake forest, Marlborough, today languishes but it used to be the seat of the Earls of Cardigan and later Hawtrey’s prep school. Following our son Toby, who was at Pinewood playing Hawtreys I remember in the 1980’s a fine golden eagle mounted in the hall there which was described as the last eagle shot in the forest about 1880. Global warming has seen some Mediterranean birds move north so that the strikingly colourful hoopoe and the white egret can be seen in southern England.

So should we rewild our farms? In the national interest not on the good land please. Wilding will not feed us or help our nation’s food security. One has to say that the introduction of apex predators is hugely controversial. There could be a good case for wilding on marginal land with a double win if carbon capture brings, as seems likely, incentives for new forests and tree planting.

Why not rewild these areas as new National Parks with wide open spaces for wild life regeneration, associated perhaps with limited access? But without containment fencing as at Knepp there will be conflicts with boundary agriculture if semi-wild animals play their part in managing the new landscape and ecological development.

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

House-for-Duty -*New appointment. See P.2*

Church warden: Maggie Simons 01793 710801

Secretary: Roger Simons 01793 710801 rogersimons1@outlook.com

Vicar (Shrivenham) Revd Norma Fergusson 01793 784338

rev.n.fergusson@btinternet.com (not Monday)

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>
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: David Johnston david.johnston.mp@parliament.uk
0207 219 3000

Newsletter entries for **April 2020**. Submit your entries for **April** by **20th March** 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.