

**ASHBURY  
COMPTON LONGCOT  
FERNHAM**

**NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2016**



## How clean are your hands... how clean is your heart? (Faith in soap)

Have you ever stopped to think what a ridiculous faith we put in soap? A quick squirt of soap, perhaps a bit of a scrub, rinse off under the tap and all of a sudden our once filthy hands are quite clean again and are ready to pick up food and put it into our mouths. How clean are your hands really, after such a relatively superficial wash? Probably not as clean as you think, yet we have complete faith that there are no germs left. Are we doing a similar thing with our hearts?

Often, deep down, we know we have done wrong things or thought wrong thoughts, yet a quick visit to church and all is clean again or is it? What do you think has done the cleaning and how effective can it be? We seem to think that we can earn 'brownie points' with God, perhaps by going to church or doing good works, and we hope that if we get enough points he will overlook our shortcomings. I believe that the bible, God's word to us, tells us that even our best is not good enough....so it all sounds hopeless....but it isn't ..because Jesus came to earth to die for us, in our place, so he is the only one who can truly wash our hearts of all that is wrong ...all we have to do is put our faith in him and our hearts are totally clean....it is better than the best soap ....and far more effective!

**Andrew Bunce**

### Shrivenham & Ashbury Benefice Services in November

Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> November

7.45am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Shrivenham
9.00am	Matins	Watchfield
9.00am	Holy Communion	Fernham
9.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Compton
10.15am	Family Service with Baptism	Shrivenham
11.00am	Morning Worship	Ashbury
3.00pm	Joint Service	Longcot Chapel
6.30pm	All Souls Service	Shrivenham

Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> November Remembrance Sunday

9.00am	Holy Communion (BCP) and Act of Remembrance	Watchfield
9.00am	Remembrance Service	Fernham
10.15am	Remembrance Service	Shrivenham
10.30am	Remembrance Service followed by War Memorial	Longcot
10.50am	Act of Remembrance at War Memorial followed by Remembrance Service in Church	Ashbury

Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> November

7.45am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Shrivenham
9.00am	Matins	Watchfield
9.00am	Holy Communion	Fernham
10.15am	Parish Communion	Shrivenham
11.00am	Joint Service with Free Church	Ashbury
6.00pm	Evening Worship	Longcot

Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> November

Advent

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

The Ashbury prayer cycle for November will be 6<sup>th</sup>, Ashbury Hill; 13<sup>th</sup>, Berrycroft, 20<sup>th</sup>, Berrycroft Lane, 27<sup>th</sup>, Chapel Lane.

**See Ashbury also under Benefice News**

**Ashbury Evangelical Free Church**

Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> Nov.	2.15pm	Tea and chat	
Sunday 6 <sup>th</sup>	10.15am	Communion	
Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup>	10.15am	Communion	
Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup>	2.15pm	Tea and chat	
Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup>	10.15am	Communion	
Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup>	10.15am	Communion	

**Tea and Chat, all welcome, free.**



## **Ashbury News**

### **Ashbury Community Club.**

Thursday 24th November. Tom Lill-Arnold will be talking about the Titanic. He is a very entertaining speaker, concentrating on the stories of the families who sailed on the ship, and their reasons for being on board. Village Hall 2.30pm All welcome. Members free, visitors £2.00 Contact Sue Reade for more info.

### **Thank you**

Over the summer months members and friends of St Mary's, Ashbury took part in a "Talent scheme" to raise funds for the church. Participants were given £10 and asked to use their talents to make it grow. Twenty-one people took part, and showed a huge array of talents. The £210 given out was multiplied to just over £2,000. A fantastic achievement!

The annual running costs of the church are about £20,000 (this doesn't include major repairs which need to be carried out at times) and so this money is a very welcome addition to the regular generous donations and other fundraising activities that take place.

I would like to thank again all those who took part, and also those who contributed by supporting our talented people. **James Reade**

### **CHURCH CHRISTMAS BAZAAR - SATURDAY 26 NOVEMBER 2 PM**

This is St Mary's main fundraising event of the year, and we would be very grateful for your support by providing items to sell. These can either be left at the Village Hall during the morning of the Bazaar, or prior to that given to the following:

Cakes: Clare McClashan/Les Fitchett

Bric-a-Brac: Peggy Leon

Gifts: Diana Leppard/Gail Loose

Bottles: Sue/James Reade

Books: Marion Turner/Julia Blake

Children's Toys: Margaret Smith

Jewellery: Anne Disbury

Raffle prizes: Margaret Smith/Audrey Tilling

Other stalls include: Children's Games - Bill/Diane Lovegrove, Craft - Maggie Simons, Teas - Jane Worrall/Nina Tombs.

As in previous years, raffle tickets will be sold door-to-door prior to the Bazaar.

We look forward to seeing you on 26th!

### **HARVEST FESTIVAL PRODUCE**

The Women's Refuge were delighted with all the dried, packet, canned and fresh goods given to them after the Church and School Harvest Festivals. Thank you everyone for your support.

**Ashbury School Fundraising** - In anticipation of everyone starting their Christmas online shopping, the Friends of Ashbury would like to request that you register with [Easyfundraising.org.uk](http://Easyfundraising.org.uk) and select Ashbury School as your cause. Any retailers you shop with through it will donate a % of your spend to our village school. Happy Shopping!

**Ashbury School Christmas Fayre** - Thursday **1st December - 5pm to 7pm**  
Come and join us for a fabulous evening of Christmas cheer, Carols, Mulled Wine. Mince Pies, Santa's Grotto and Christmas Raffle hampers. There will be many beautiful stalls with gorgeous original goodies for all your Christmas shopping under one warm and welcoming roof! Free Entry - come and support our village school.

### **GIFTS FOR THE HOMELESS**

Not many miles from Ashbury there are a number of homeless people living rough in Swindon town centre and surrounding area. During November St Mary's Church invite you to make a contribution to help make the lives of these people a little more comfortable. Threshold Housing provide support and would be very grateful for any of the following items which will go directly to the homeless people they work with: hand gel, shower gel,

shampoo, toothpaste, thick woolly socks, hats, gloves, combs, shaving cream or foam, disposable razors, deodorant, ladies sanitary wear, bras, mens and ladies vests and pants.

A box for donations will be in St Mary's Church and your gift can be left there, or given to Revd Norma Fergusson or Margaret Smith.

**Ashbury Market - Sunday 20th November - 11am to 2pm.** In aid of Ashbury Pre-School (registered charity 1156122) Come and support our local businesses! Place your Christmas meat orders and start buying your Christmas gifts! 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).

Many thanks to everyone who attended the two Ashbury Markets in September. £302 was raised for Ashbury Pre-School. Thank you for your continued support for our little market which raises vital funds for Ashbury Pre-School.

## **Longcot and Fernham News**

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

SUN. 6<sup>th</sup> 3pm –Our monthly United Service, to which everyone is welcome, will be led by Revd. Norma Fergusson. Tea and biscuits will be served after the service.

FRI. 25<sup>th</sup> 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. Do come and give it a try – everyone is welcome and if transport would help then please ring Stella on 782584.

HUGE THANKS – to all who came to share in our first T-time Fellowship last month. As a result of donations made we were able to send £30 to Macmillan Cancer Care.

## Fernham and Shellingford W.I.

The November meeting will take place on Wednesday **16th** in Shellingford Hall at **7.30pm**. We start the evening with drinks and nibbles followed by some business. Then the speaker will talk for around 45 minutes. Our speaker this month is Chris Green who will give a talk entitled 'Birds in the Park & Their Conservation'. We will have a Christmas sales table and a raffle.

Visitors are welcome for a small fee. For information contact Joan Turner - **01367 820607** or Elli Wickham - **01367 820544**.

### Benefice News

Breakfast Groups at the beginning and end of the month as usual.

Men's breakfast: at 8am in Ashbury Village Hall on the first Saturday of the month. 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 on 710055 so we can be sure to have enough food.

Breakfast bible study: On the last Saturday of each month we meet to look at the readings for the first Sunday of the following month and discuss them over a simple breakfast, also at 8am. Again, everyone is welcome; please call Norma or Richard on **710055** for more details or to confirm attendance.

Alpha Course



Alpha has started but it's not too late to join us if you would like! It's at 7pm on Monday evenings in Shrivensham Methodist Church. There is no charge. If you are interested and would like to know more please contact Richard Hancock on [alpha@standrews-shrivensham.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:alpha@standrews-shrivensham.fsnet.co.uk).

## Services of Remembrance

Richard, Norma and Richard would like to invite anyone who has lost loved ones (whether recently or some time ago) to the Benefice All Souls service on Sunday 6 November at 6.30pm in St Andrew's, Shrivenham. This is a simple, prayerful service with music, prayer and the opportunity to light candles. Please talk to one of us if you would like to know more.

11 November of course is Armistice Day and the churches will mark Remembrance Sunday on 13 November with services in Ashbury, Fernham, Longcot and Compton Beauchamp. Please do join us.

### Prayer

O God of truth and justice,  
we hold before you those men and women  
who have died in active service:  
in Iraq, in Afghanistan and elsewhere.  
As we honour their courage and cherish their memory,  
may we put our faith in your future;  
for you are the source of life and hope,  
now and for ever. Amen.

### Café Church

**in Ashbury's Village Shop  
Sunday, 20 November at 11am**



**Do come and join us  
No service in St Mary's that day**

Norma

## Country Matters

With livestock inevitably there comes a time when you get deadstock and I share our recent experiences. We have had a good spell lately but the risks are less in our beef system. With no breeding cows, we are buying stores, usually yearlings and then growing them on to sell fat. Lately we have had two deaths. We reckon that the first casualty which we discovered dying up on our downland was as a result of ragwort poisoning. Usually cattle and horses avoid eating these poisonous leaves which can prove toxic to the liver.

Many years ago we had a Simmental Bull which was losing weight and I put this down to ragwort before sending him away for slaughter before he became noticeably ill. I surmised that perhaps there was an inbuilt tendency to eat wild flowers so prevalent in the Alpine meadows from whence the breed traditionally came. We have taken steps to reduce the prevalence of ragwort next year.

Our second recent casualty should never have occurred on our farm. The agent who buys our cattle delivered a Charolais steer, clearly with some endemic lung damage. We cannot really blame the agent who only has seconds to decide whether to bid; it was cheap and he took a chance. We soon contacted him reserving our position that we were not inclined take this animal. We did our best for it, but it did not respond and after a month it has been sent to the Old Berks Hunt kennels. They perform this useful service to farmers clearing up fallen stock to feed their hounds. I do blame the vendor and perhaps the auctioneers at the livestock market for accepting this animal in good faith to be sold in an unsatisfactory state.

These casualties have been balanced by an unexpected birth. An Angus calf was born to a small Angus heifer that came onto our farm last January with a passport that declared it only 13 months old at the time of her calving. Going back the nine months to conception means that the mother was only 4 months old then which is barely possible. In the circumstances the authority which was asked to issue a passport for the calf understandably has asked for confirmation from the breeder. It is good they have now

issued a passport; without one the calf would be worthless. It is suckling and doing fine and the men call it Jack which is a little strange because it's female! There could be two explanations for this mystery. Either and more likely the breeder has, perish the thought, been economical with the truth on the mother's birth date so that she was in fact older than declared or the mother could have been covered on our farm by a rigg. I did notice a steer exhibiting some testosterone signs whilst grazing in a bunch with the mother in late March. This rigg was immediately yarded and found to still have one testicle intact but had he indeed been potent, the calf would have been born well before full term and this did not seem likely either. These little insights show the challenges and joys of livestock farming.

**Richard Green**

### **Benefice Clergy**

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

Newsletter entries for December 2016

Submit your entries for December by **18<sup>th</sup> November** to: M. Turner  
Claremont, Ashbury SN6 8LN. [marionturner@me.com](mailto:marionturner@me.com) 01793 710302

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