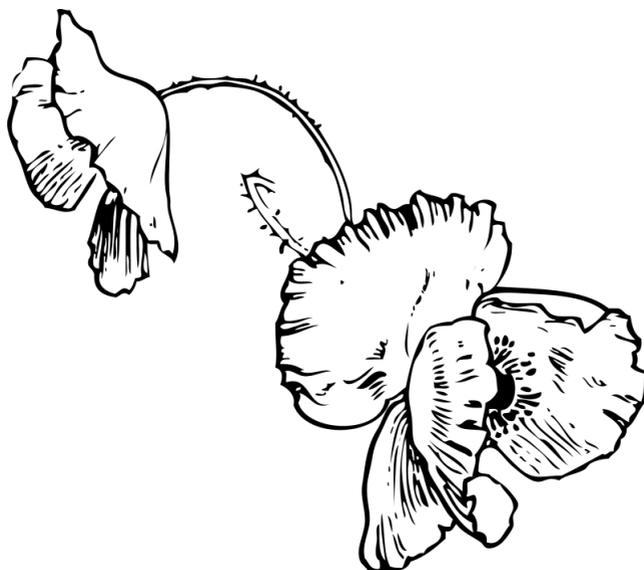


**ASHBURY
COMPTON LONGCOT
FERNHAM**

NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2017



11-11-11

Remembrance Day

Lord remember me

November is a time for remembering, as with the red Poppies we remember and honour the people who have given their lives that we might live in Peace and freedom.

When Jesus was hanging on the cross, one of the two thieves who was being crucified with Him, teased and taunted Him but the other one stopped him and said “Don’t you fear God as you are under the same condemnation? Yet we indeed justly because we deserve it, but this man hasn’t done anything wrong” ...then he turned to Jesus and said “Lord remember me when you come into your Kingdom”to which Jesus replied “Today you will be with me in Paradise”

It also says elsewhere in the bible that “perhaps for a good man one might die, but God demonstrates His love to us because Jesus died for us while we were still sinners.”

It is good to remember Jesus and what he has done for us (Which although two thousand years ago, is still vitally important to us today), yet we so often forget him....it is a great comfort to know that he will never forget us. We are all sinners and in need of his forgiveness so this November as we remember those who have died for us, let us remember Jesus’s death on the cross and pray to God for forgiveness and ask Him to remember us, as He has promised he will do ..all we have to do [is] ask!

Andrew Bunce

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

Shrivenham and Ashbury Benefice Services in November

Sunday 5th November

All Saints

7.45am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Shrivenham
9.00am	Matins	Watchfield
9.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Compton
9.00am	Holy Communion	Fernham
10.15am	Family Service with Baptism	Shrivenham
11.00am	Morning Worship	Ashbury
3.00pm	Joint Service	Longcot Chapel
5.00pm	All Souls Service	Shrivenham

Sunday 12th November

Remembrance Sunday

9.00am	Remembrance Service	Fernham
9.00am	Holy Communion (BCP) & Act of Remembrance	Watchfield
10.15am	Remembrance Service	Shrivenham
10.30am	Remembrance Service followed by War memorial	Longcot
10.50am	Remembrance Service at the War memorial, then village hall.	Ashbury
10.50am	Remembrance Service or join with Ashbury	Compton

Sunday 19th November

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

Sunday 26th November

St Andrew's Day

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

The Ashbury prayer cycle for November will be: 5th Ashbury Hill, 12th Berrycroft, 19th Berrycroft Lane, 26th Chapel Lane.

Ashbury Evangelical Free Church

There will be a communion service on Sunday 12th at 10.15am.
Tea and chat are on Wednesdays 1st and 15th November at 2.15 pm.
As usual, all are welcome.

Ashbury News

(See Ashbury also under Benefice News)

CHURCH CHRISTMAS BAZAAR AND RAFFLE-Saturday 25 November, 2pm

We hope you will come and support St Mary's annual fundraising event. Stalls will include: cakes (Clare 710754), gifts (Maggie 710801), bottles (Marion J 710526), books (Marion T 710302), bric-a-brac (Peggy 710273), toys (Julia 710776), jewellery (Anne D 710396), raffle (Margaret 710800) and there will be children's games, refreshments and more! Raffle tickets will be sold door to door prior to the Bazaar and the raffle will be drawn at the end of the Bazaar. If you have items for the Bazaar or Raffle please contact the stall-holder or bring them to the hall after 9 am on 25th. Many thanks.

CHRISTMAS WREATHS - Tuesday 12 December 9.30-12.30, Village Hall
Marianne Astor will be running another popular workshop. Participants are guaranteed to have a lovely time and to come away with a fabulous wreath for their front-door! The cost of this workshop is £25. If you would like more information, or would like to book a place please call 710800 or email mbsmith5@hotmail.co.uk.

CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR THE HOMELESS

Threshold Housing in Swindon provide survival packs for those in need on the street, and they would really appreciate the following items which should be in good condition: rucksack, sleeping bag, roll mat, torch, water/drinks bottle, lightweight waterproof jacket, gloves, woolly hat, socks. Plus: new underwear, small toiletries (toothbrush, toothpaste, small shower gel, small shampoo, dry shampoo), baby wipes and non-perishable food. During the last six months Threshold's outreach team in Swindon have worked with 144 rough sleepers and 29 sofa surfers. Any help you can give would be very much appreciated. Gifts can be left with Revd Norma Fergusson or Margaret Smith, or alternatively leave items in the box in St Mary's Church during the month of November. Thank you.

Ashbury Fete £530 was raised at the event on 10th September on the Community Open space, despite the bad weather. The sum has been

earmarked for benches for the space and this will be discussed at the next Parish Council meeting.

1st W&S Scouts Big Christmas Post 2017

Stamps will be sold in I V Florist in Shrivenham, Bloomfield's café in Watchfield and Ashbury Village Shop from Wed 1st Nov. for only 30p each.

The post boxes will be there from Monday 13th November.

Look out for posters around the villages for information about delivery areas.

Last posting date is on Tuesday 12th December -5pm in the Florists, 2.30pm

in Bloomfields Café & 3.30pm at Ashbury Village Shop

Ashbury Community Club

Thursday 30th November 2.30pm

"How to buy Jewellery"

Cherry Warren will show us how to gauge the quality of diamonds, pearls and gemstones.

Hints, tips and horror stories, followed by tea & biscuits.

Visitors £2. All welcome. Village Hall. Info. from Jackie Baker tel. 710358

100 years Commemoration of End of World War 1 - Ashbury, 2018

We would like to produce an altar kneeler for the Craven Chapel in St Mary's Church, which will include names of all the men from Ashbury who served in the Great War, including those who lost their lives and those who survived and returned home (names are on the Ashbury Village website). The design of the kneeler will be on display in the Village Hall after this year's Remembrance Service, and the plan is for the kneeler to be stitched by parishioners and organisations over the next year, and completed by Remembrance Sunday 2018. If you would like to make a donation towards the cost of materials, or you would like to help stitch the kneeler, please contact Revd Norma Fergusson (710055) or Margaret Smith (710800).

Remembrance Day in Ashbury, 2017

This year's Remembrance Day service (Sunday 12 November) will take place entirely around the war memorial, followed by refreshments in the Village Hall. We very much hope that you will be able to join us and have a chance

to look at the designs for the memorial kneeler. The service will start at 10.50 am as usual.

Christmas charity prize bingo organised for **7pm Saturday 25th November** in the village hall. There will also be a cash round, raffle and refreshments.

All in aid of the brighter futures GWH radiotherapy appeal.

Vale food waste recycling. Update. Biodegradable bags apparently now acceptable, according to VWHDC website.

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WI - Inspiring Women

Our monthly meeting on Thursday 9th November will feature guest speaker Tom Arnold with "Stories of those who sailed on the Titanic". Please join us at 7.30pm in Hinton Parva Village Hall.

Extra events this month include a craft afternoon on Thursday 16th November, 13.30 - 15.30 at Hinton Parva village hall, to make Christmas cards; a personal tour of Ramsbury Brewery & Distillery on Wednesday 29th November at 6pm. Our Art Lovers Group is proving so popular that in order to accommodate everyone we will be enjoying a repeat of our Art Study day (in Wanborough) with Jenny Lyall (art historian and member of NADFAS) on Wednesday 28th November - featuring "Ravilious and the art of Colour Red" as well as a day at The National Gallery in London on 9th November about the fascinating world of "Children in Art".

Our WI has members from the villages of Ashbury, Bishopstone, Hinton Parva, Wanborough and Liddington, and we always welcome new members to our monthly meetings which take place on the 2nd Thursday of the month

at 7.30 - 9.30pm in either Bishopstone or Hinton Parva village halls. Come along to one of our meetings to see if you like it - no obligation to join unless you want to! Please contact Maggie Simons for further information 01793 710801.

Ashbury Parish Council Meeting - Monday 13th November 2017 -
7.30pm - Ashbury Village Hall. If you are interested in local issues and how the Parish runs please come and attend, Everyone welcome!

Ashbury School Christmas Fayre - Thursday 30th November - 5pm-7pm
- Ashbury School

Join us for a fabulous evening of Christmas cheer, Carols, Mulled Wine, Mince Pies, Santa's Grotto, Cakes, Tombolas, Christmas Hampers, Raffle Prizes, Competitions and Games. There will also be many beautiful stalls with gorgeous original goodies for all your Christmas shopping under one warm and welcoming roof! Come along and support our little village school!

ASHBURY NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN :Public Meeting

What: The Future of Ashbury Parish

When: **Monday, 30 October at 7:00pm**

Where: Ashbury Village Hall

Why: To Hear about Your Neighbourhood Plan: To Meet the Planning Consultant: To put your questions Plus a welcome drink on arrival!

Please join us!

The Parish of Ashbury Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group.

Longcot and Fernham News

Fernham Christmas Bazaar 11am - 3pm, Saturday 11th November,

St Johns Church & Fernham Village Hall, Fernham, Oxfordshire SN7 7NX

Come along to the annual Fernham Christmas Bazaar and enjoy a fabulous range of finds from local artists and sellers. If you're bored of the same old thing on the high street, this is a great opportunity to find some unique crafts, gifts, jewellery, collectables, cards, art and more.

There will also be a selection of delicious light lunches and refreshments to keep you going while you shop - it's the perfect way to kick start your Christmas shopping! FREE entry & FREE parking.

www.fernham.info

Fernham & Shellingford WI

The November meeting is on Wednesday 15th. This month we will be in Fernham Church Hall. The meeting starts at 7.30pm, but we usually arrive earlier for wine, nibbles and a chat. Julia Miles is our speaker this month with "Ragbags & Cocktails"; anecdotes of life in the diplomatic service. We finish the evening with tea and biscuits and another chance to socialise. Visitors welcome, just drop in or contact 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 Norma Fergusson. Tea and biscuits will be served after the service.

FRI. 24th 3pm T Time Fellowship which is open to everyone who would enjoy the chance to chat to friends old and new over afternoon tea. There is no charge but contributions to our chosen charity are always welcome

Community News

Volunteers needed to teach digital skills

Your county council has launched a new campaign appealing for digital helper volunteers to teach basic digital skills to people in their community.

What are digital helpers? Digital helpers teach basic digital skills to people with little or no experience of using computers or the internet. They volunteer in libraries, providing one-to-one support and encouragement to boost confidence and help people to help themselves.

Digital helpers teach skills such as how to set up an email account, search for jobs, complete online forms, navigate the internet and find useful websites, and use e-learning courses.

Why volunteer? Teaching digital skills has lots of benefits. It enables others to access employment and training, use online services, become more independent and less isolated.

But starting to do anything online when you don't know how can be daunting. That's where digital helpers come in!

Could you volunteer? If you are patient, have good communication skills, enjoy working with learners of all ages and can spare a few hours a week, we want you! Schedules can work around you so that you can fit it around your busy life.

Visit www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/digitalhelper or contact your local library to find out about volunteering as a digital helper and helping people in your area.

SCOUT CHRISTMAS POST

There are many of you who have used this service in previous years, but for those of you who are new to the villages, here is how it works:

Each year, Swindon & District Scouts raise funds by operating a local Christmas post collection and delivery service for the public.

Scout Post stamps can be bought from Wednesday 1st November and are available to purchase from Bloomfields Café in Watchfield, I.V. Florists in

Shrivenham and Ashbury Village Shop until Tuesday 12th December at a cost of just 30p each!

(You are welcome to use any stamps left over from previous years)

There is no size limit, but only Christmas cards can be sent, and these must be left for collection in the post box at Ashbury Village Shop, the counter letterbox in Bloomfields Café or the large Scout post box in I.V. Florists from Monday 13th November until closing time on Tuesday 12th December.

We only cover a small area in the Swindon District – the postcodes SN1, SN2, SN25, SN26, SN3, SN4, SN5, and SN6 (our group delivery area covers Shrivenham, Watchfield, Longcot, Bourton & Ashbury.

Other Scout Groups deliver to all the other areas). For further information on the areas covered, please see the posters around the villages or ask for a leaflet at Bloomfields Cafe or I.V. Florists or at Ashbury Village Shop.

All letters are sorted and will be delivered before 18th December by the Scouts themselves.

So if you are thinking of sending Christmas cards to friends and family locally this year, save on the postage and help support your local Scout group by using the Scout Christmas Post!

Benefice News

Coffee Morning, Friday 17th November – in honour of National Kindness Day, coffee and cake in Ashbury Village Hall from 10-12. No catch, no charge just come and join us.

St Mary's Longcot – change to service times

With effect from Tuesday 7 November, there will be a short service of Holy Communion at 5pm on the first Tuesday of the month.

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.

Thanks to everyone for your support and to Margaret Smith for delivering all the produce.

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 5 November at 5pm 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.

Our churches will mark Remembrance Sunday on 12 November with services in Ashbury, Fernham, Longcot and Compton Beauchamp. Please do join us.

Advance notice

of Christmas events and services in Ashbury:

3 December	Cloths for the cradle – a reflective service for Advent
20 December	Stations of the nativity
21 December	Village hall carols
23 December	Carol service in church
Christmas Eve	Crib service
Christmas Day	Family Communion

and in Longcot and Fernham:

2 December	Fernham village carols
14 December	Longcot concert with Mary Jess
17 December	Carol services in church – 4pm Fernham, 6pm Longcot
Christmas Day	Holy Communion – 9am Fernham, 10am Longcot

Breakfast Groups, open to all

Men's Breakfast: in the Ashbury Village Hall on Saturday 4 November. 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'd like to come.

Breakfast Bible Study: this monthly discussion group will meet again at 8am on Saturday 25 November (venue to be confirmed). Again, all are welcome to chat about anything and everything over a cup of coffee and a simple breakfast. Just call Norma on 710055 to confirm.

Longcot Concerts

Thank you to everyone who worked so hard to make a success of our October concerts – and to the wonderful Mike Christie and the White Horse Whisperers. We look forward to the next event with Mary Jess on 14 December.

Science & Faith: Big Questions

A series of four talks hoping to shed some light on challenging issues from the perspectives of both faith and science; all at 7.30 in Faringdon Corn Exchange. Free entry and refreshments.

3 November: Creation or Evolution – do we have to choose? Dr Denis Alexander

11 January: Designer babies: should we play God? Bishop Lee Rayfield

8 February: God or the Big Bang? Rev'd Dr Rodney Holder

Prayer for the month

With All Souls, Remembrance Sunday and preparations for Christmas (which can sometimes be bitter-sweet) this prayer seemed appropriate:

Go softly on your way, beloved.

Let love call you home with the ebb tide.

May the moon light your way across the waters

and the breeze blow you swiftly.

Go softly home and know that our love goes with you.

FERNHAM EVENTS

3 November – Fireworks display

11 November Christmas Bazaar (11-3pm)



Café Church

in Ashbury's Village Shop Sunday, 19

November at 11am

No service in St Mary's that day

Norma

Country Matters

I have read that whereas in France and most other countries people don't want to live in the country, here it is the opposite with many aspiring to the freedom and peace of a place in the countryside. Here we are still blessed with open space, footpaths and panoramic views on the downs and the historic house and woods of Ashdown Park, the home since 1663 of many generations of the Craven family. With other estates extending over twelve counties their holdings in the 19th century ran to 72,000 acres with Ashdown prominent as a centre for hunting and racing.

Originally Ashdown was an enclosed deer forest. Old maps show the ditch and park pale of the enclosure to the south. Excavations at Alfred's Castle by Oxford University around the year 2000 also uncovered remnants of a Roman villa and former deep ditches to the north. A fine silk banner was

bequeathed to Ashbury Church in 1924 following the death of Countess Evelyn, the last Craven to live there. It has now been restored with charity funding and depicts a deer with St Hubert the patron saint of hunting and is soon to be displayed once more. Later the Cravens' interest turned from the deer to the fox. "The Kill at Ashdown Park" is a famous early painting of fox hunting by James Seymour 1784 acquired by The Tate, featuring the view on Weathercock Hill opposite the house. William 2nd Earl won an early Grand National with Charity in 1841 and the Derby with Wild Dayrell in 1855.

He also was an early pioneer of photography and granted land in Ashbury for the building of the original primary school in 1863. His heir George Grimston married Evelyn and was a long term master of the Old Berks Hunt. The Craven's wealth declined partly under heavy taxation and the "Curse of the Cravens" with only one son outliving his mother in ten generations. Ashdown Park was donated to the National Trust in 1957 and the Craven's legacy lives on, with the house open to the public on Wednesday and Saturday afternoons to the end of October. The fine stands of oak, ash and beech in the woods are still a home to fallow deer, woodpeckers and mistle thrushes in the spring; also more recently ravens and kites. The woodland walks today are a precious, well used facility on our doorstep for walkers to breathe in some pure downland air.

Richard Green

Benefice Clergy

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

Newsletter entries for December 2017. Submit your entries for December by **17th November** to: M. Turner Claremont, Ashbury SN6 8LN.

marionlturner@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](#).