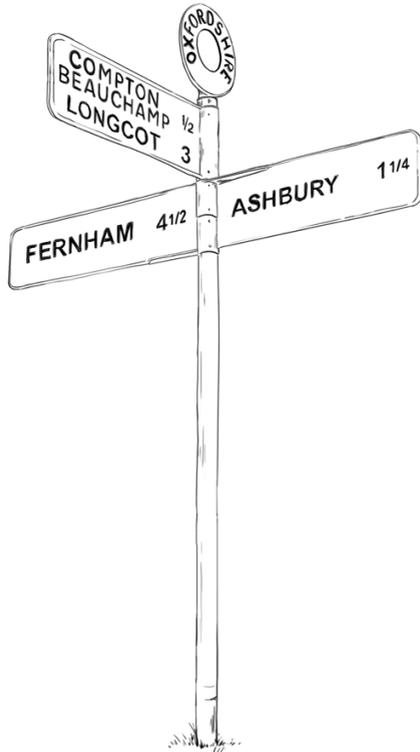


**ASHBURY
COMPTON LONGCOT FERNHAM
NEWS
October 2018**



Major Events this month

**New Alpha Course 1st Oct
Community Club 25th Oct**

Thought for the month

In case you were wondering ...

Richard Hancock has sent an update from Sixpenny Handley

We are settling in well. Around 75% of our boxes are unpacked and various rooms in the vicarage are taking shape and starting to feel like home. We have visited some of the local hostleries and starting to get to know the locals who are all very friendly. I can highly recommend the 6dH Ale brewed at the local micro-brewery which is only £3 per pint!

Kate has already made contact with one of the local head teachers, who happens to be married to one of the Church Wardens and is looking at the possibility of supply teaching in October. Ben has already started his 2nd year of Chef training at Wiltshire College in Salisbury and has a nice student group. However, with only 4 buses a day through the village, getting to and from college is challenging. We now realise how spoiled we were at Shrivensham with the 66 every 20 mins. Alex like most Cambridge English undergrads is sitting around reading and pondering the deeper questions of life, though reading Chaucer's Canterbury Tales in Old English can be a challenge.

My real purpose for writing to you all is to say a BIG thank you for all your kind words, cards and generous gifts as we left the benefice. As a family we were overwhelmed with the love that you showed us and we look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at my licensing service on Monday 24th September, but if any of you are heading down Dorset way please feel free to call in; there will always be a welcome for you here.

Finally, you will all be in our prayers during the interregnum and as you look to the appointment of a new incumbent.

Richard, Kate, Alex & Ben

That appointment process is now under way and groups representing all the churches are putting together a benefice profile which will form the basis of an advertisement in the Church Times – probably at the beginning of November. We would hope to be able to interview in January and to welcome our new incumbent round about Easter. At least, that's the plan!

Meanwhile I am most grateful to everyone who is taking on additional responsibility during the vacancy (especially the churchwardens and our growing team of lay worship leaders together with the Rev'd Robin Cardwell and the Rev'd Frank Parkinson) so that normal service - if you'll forgive the pun - can be continued.

Norma

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

Ashbury News

ST MARY'S CHURCH, GROUP CLEANING - Friday 12 October

Please join us between 10 am and 12 noon for an annual tidy and clean inside St Mary's Church. The more people who come along to help the more we can get done - even if you can only spare a little time you will be welcome. Coffee and biscuits will be provided.

Ashbury Community Club. Thursday 25th October. 2.30pm

"History of the Telephone"

This will be an illustrated talk by Lew Lawton with some hands-on science. Everyone is welcome to join us at the Village Hall. Only £2 which includes refreshments.

Details from Jackie Baker 01793 710358

WI - Inspiring Women

Still lots happening for our WI in the autumn and winter months ahead, so come along if you would like to join us.

Thursday 4th October we have a fun skittles evening at Bishopstone hall - £4 includes sandwiches and savouries, tea and coffee. 7.30 - 9.30pm.

Thursday 11th October we celebrate "Puddings and Poems" where you are invited to either bring a pud or read a poem (an old favourite or one you have made up for the evening). Bishopstone village hall at 7.30pm.

Thursday 8th November we warmly welcome our local dairy farmer and milk producer Josette Fiddes of Jo-Jo's milk, Lotmead Farm. We are so lucky to have such locally produced milk that is filtered, pasteurised, cooled and bottled in just 2 hours - ready for you to take home. 7.30pm in Hinton Parva hall.

Your local WI has members from the villages of Ashbury, Bishopstone, Hinton Parva, Wanborough and Liddington, and we always welcome new members.

Come along to one of our meetings on the second Thursday of each month to see if you like it - no obligation to join unless you want to!

Please contact Maggie Simons if you would like any further information.

Maggie Simons 01793 710801

Longcot

Longcot Church Wildlife Garden.

It is the time of year to say thank you to those who help keep the Longcot churchyard looking good. Eighteen years ago when we started the project we had a group of twelve people, and that is still the number of volunteers. Many are originals and

fortunately over the years new people have joined us so we usually have about eight people to our monthly work parties. Along with the mowing team in Summer they do a great job. Thank you all. And to Bernie Cooper who brings his tractor in September to cut the meadow and without his help we might not return each spring!

Looking at the diary, it has been a strange year getting off to a slow start with very little chance to work in the garden until April. Then everything grew like mad and we had to put in extra time to get the churchyard looking good for the flower festival and wedding in May before the heatwave hit and stopped work for two months. Now we are getting back in control and with the hay raked and stacked and work on the borders continuing we shall be ready for the autumn leaf clearing.

Work parties are from 10-1 on the first Sunday of each month, with coffee and biscuits mid-morning and we would be delighted if you joined us regularly or occasionally. There are always jobs to be done!

Jan 782265 or Shirley 782989. E-mail: sdm57@btinternet.com

Church Matters

Ashbury: Services are at 11am on Sundays at St Mary's except 14th, which will be at AEFC.

Compton: 9am on 7th (Harvest) and 21st

Longcot: 3.00pm on 7th, joint service .9.30am on 14th, and 28th 6pm.on 21st

Fernham: 9.00am. on 7th, 14th and 21st, 6.00pm on 28th

The Ashbury prayer cycle for October will be: 7th, Station Road, 14th, Malthouses, 21st, Walnut Trees Hill, 28th Wixes Piece.

Ashbury Evangelical Free Church

Sunday 14th at 11.00 a.m. Communion service.

Wednesday 3rd and 17th at 2.15pm. tea & chat.

Everyone is welcome!!

Longcot Churches working together

Sun 7th 3pm - This will be our Harvest Thanksgiving Service and everyone is welcome. Methodist Local Preacher, Mrs. Sheila Knowles will be our preacher and afternoon tea will be served after the service.

Fri. 26th 3- 4.30pm T Time Fellowship. Why not come and join us in the Chapel for afternoon tea in good company? We're a friendly bunch and share lots of laughs. There is no charge but donations to our chosen charity are always welcome. If transport would help or you'd just like to know more, please call Stella on 01793 782584.

Around the Benefice

Ride & Stride

A huge thank you to everyone who rode, strode, welcomed, baked, served refreshments, directed visitors to the nearest loo and generally participated in this year's event. And still made it into church on Sunday morning! This is a wonderful and simple opportunity to raise funds both for our own churches and for the Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust, which gives grants to churches so it's really a "win-win" arrangement. With so many exciting projects in all our churches at present, why not think about it for September 2019?

Breakfast Groups, open to all

Please note the change of day

Men's Breakfast: will restart in the Ashbury Village Hall on Saturday 27 October at 8am. Everyone is welcome (you don't have to live in Ashbury) and we provide a full English breakfast plus the chance to talk and put the world to rights. There is no charge but we do ask for a small donation to cover costs; any surplus is donated to charity at Christmas time.

Breakfast Bible Study: this monthly discussion group will meet again at 8am on Saturday 6 October at 8am (venue to be confirmed). Again, everyone is welcome; we generally have a simple (but excellent!) breakfast before looking at the bible passage for the following week and see where the conversation takes us.

Please call **Norma** (01793 710055) if you'd like more information or – better still – come and see!

Open the Book

Open the Book is a way of bringing Bible stories alive for schoolchildren which is great fun for adults, too. The group meets in Ashbury School at 8.45 on alternate Mondays for about three quarters of an hour and in Shrivenham at 2.15 on alternate Wednesdays. If you think you might wish to help with this, please contact **Richard Fergusson on 01793 710638.**



Alpha Course Monday evenings from 1st October

(7 - 9pm) at Shrivenham Methodist Church

Monday 1st October will be a taster session

so bring your friends, family and neighbours to give Alpha a try.

More information from Jane Ahern 01793 783521

thestable@protonmail.com or visit alpha.org

No pressure. No follow up. No charge.



Country Matters

With the corn harvest over the usual advice is sell 33% before harvest, 33% before Christmas and 33% after Christmas. Farmers need some money and it spreads the risks but this year that's a mistake. Prices are surging ahead on the back of droughts in Europe and elsewhere.

Rather than just produce into commodity markets we like to add value by aiming for the quality markets and premiums for bread wheat and malting barley, so we grow

the right varieties, with careful agronomy aim for the required protein and nitrogen levels, dry and store carefully and clean out the small grains to meet tight specifications.

Bread has always been a staple element in the nations' diet. As far back as 1202 King John passed laws governing prices, believing the miller was being greedy. But the wheat value in a loaf of bread has been declining from 12% in 1980 to 9% in 2008 to only 5% in 2016. It may have to rise a little this year with prices buoyant. It takes some believing that milling and baking with energy costs, several transports, marketing and retailing, packaging and wastage grab over 90% of the sale price. Similarly, with malting barley the barley cost element in a pint of beer is only about 6%. 1 tonne of barley will make 8,837 litres of ale.

It does not help that the family budget spent on food has been declining. Food and non alcoholic drinks in 2016 were in 4th place and only 11% of the weekly spend but eating out increases this to nearly 20%. Successive governments have not worried about food security and home production but a no deal Brexit would have a massive impact. They have aided and abetted this decline and the intense competition between supermarkets because it has suited them to keep the cost of living low. Do not doubt the power supermarkets exert over their supply chains. Hence attempts by farmers to cut out the middle man. This is not new. In 1931 at the height of the Depression the Wilson brothers (including Bob, grandfather of Robbie Selbourne) at Bishopstone hired a stall at Swindon market and sold 133 lambs on their best day "direct to housewife". In selling boxed beef or lamb and pork direct from farm there are costs but a £1,000 bullock can be sold for £2,000 with provenance assured.

Jojo Joseph at Lotmead near Swindon sells some of his milk via a vending machine for two or three times the 30p/ litre he would have received. David and Helen Sanderson add value to their rape crop with varied Stainswick farm rapeseed oils. Farmer Gow at Longcot and Roves farm, Sevenhampton are into the leisure business, the latter with a butchery. Helen Browning and Tim take it a step further with from "farm to plate" in their pub/restaurant at the Royal Oak besides encouraging "mozzarella" cheese production from their milk. The Brown family near Newbury produces and markets bird seeds. Ramsbury estates brew beer and make their own vodka and gin. In Dorset the Barbers are making vodka from their milk. Tyrells built a famous crisp business in Herefordshire from their potatoes. It's all about brand development.

Richard Green

Contacts

Ashbury Parish Council

Chairman Kate Watkins

01793 710440 chairman@ashbury.org.uk

Clerk to the council -TBA -meanwhile: email clerk@ashbury.org.uk

Defibrillator: On the wall by the School entrance

St Mary's Ashbury Parochial Church Council

Associate Vicar Revd Norma Fergusson 01793 710055 rev.n.fergusson@btinternet.com
(not Mondays or Fridays)

Church warden: Maggie Simons 01793 710801

Secretary: Roger Simons 01793 710801 rogersimons1@outlook.com

Vicar interregnum (Shrivenham)

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 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: Ed Vaizey. Contact information. House of Commons London SW1A 0AA. Bus. phone: 0207 219 6350. email: ed.vaizey.mp@parliament.uk.

Newsletter entries for **November** 2018. Submit your entries for November by **19th**

October 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.