

**ASHBURY
COMPTON LONGCOT
FERNHAM**

NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2016



Thought for the month-September

'Praise God from whom all blessings flow, praise Him all creatures here below.....';

May I invite you to join me for a 'virtual' walk? It's about 7.30am on a beautiful summer's morning fresh and cool before the heat of the day descends – how great not to have to bother with boots, coats and so on! The dog trots happily along as we turn down the lane and we enjoy the scents and colours of the flowers and shrubs growing in the front gardens on either side. Newspaper boys and girls whizz past on their bikes and we greet fellow dog-walkers as we pass. A horse hangs its head over the gate into the field and I grab a handful of grass from the verge and offer it to him on a flat hand, marvelling anew at the noble head and expressive eyes of the lovely animal.

On the TV aerial of the last house on the left a blackbird sings and as we pass into the tunnel made by the trees overhead we hear the distinctive call of the wren, informing us that this is his territory. Overhead the mewing call of a sparrow hawk can be heard.

Once in the field the dog runs free and we can enjoy the patchwork of meadow flowers growing in the long grass. Down by the canal a pair of mallards flap past just above head-height and land with a subdued splash on the surface of the water, the iridescent green of the feathers on the drake's head catching the light. On the opposite bank a heron stands motionless on his long, spindly legs looking very smart in his grey suit but he rises into the air at our approach, wings beating and long neck outstretched.

In the distance are the downs with the white horse just visible through the mist which still hangs about in the morning air. All too soon it's time to start for home and as we wait for the dog to saunter up to have his lead put on we watch all the butterflies on the nettles and thistles by the gate, the patterns on their wings rivalling any digital design.

Such a walk is a daily event for me, not always in such kind weather, and it's usually my 'quiet time' which can mean that, caught up in my thoughts, I don't always appreciate the wonders of nature around me and I'm sorry about that. Not for an instant should we take all that God has given us for granted and if you look at the petals on a flower, the feathers in a bird's wing, listen to the sounds of the natural world and feel the sun (or even the wind and rain!) on your face then we have every reason to praise our Creator.

Stella Tidmarsh

Shrivenham & Ashbury Benefice Services in September

Sunday 4th September

7.45am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Shrivenham
9.00am	Matins	Watchfield
9.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	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	Compline and Benediction	Shrivenham

Sunday 11th September

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

Sunday 18th September

7.45am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Shrivenham
9.00am	Matins	Watchfield
9.00am	Matins	Compton
9.00am	Holy Communion	Fernham
10.15am	Parish Communion	Shrivenham
11.00am	Café Church	Ashbury Village Shop
6.00pm	Evensong with St Andrew's Choir	Longcot

Sunday 25th September

9.00am	Harvest Holy Communion (BCP)	Watchfield
9.30am	Harvest Holy Communion	Longcot
10.15am	Harvest & Parish Communion, Choir Sunday	Shrivenham
11.00am	Harvest Family Service with Holy Communion	Ashbury
6.00pm	Evening Service with Harvest Thanksgiving	Fernham

The Ashbury prayer cycle for September will be: 4th Idstone, 11th Kingstone Winslow, 18th Malthouse Close, 25th Odstone Farm and Cottages.

See Ashbury also under Benefice News

Ashbury Evangelical Free Church

Sunday 4 th	10.15am	Communion	
Wednesday 7 th	2.15pm	Tea and chat	
Sunday 11 th	10.15am	Communion	
Sunday 18 th	10.15am	Communion	
Sunday 25 th	11.00am	Harvest thanksgiving	St Mary's

Tea and Chat, all welcome, free.



Ashbury News

Kingstone Winslow Farm development proposals will be on the agenda at the **Parish Council Meeting on Monday 12th September in the Village Hall at 7.30pm.** Do come along. This is your opportunity to have your say in all matters which affect the wider Parish.

Smith-Diamond Wedding Anniversary-25th August 1956 -60 years

Reg and Joyce would like to thank family and friends for making it a day to remember. We were married at St Mary's and lived here for 60 years.

Longcot and Fernham News

Fernham and Shellingford W.I.

In September Fernham & Shellingford WI will meet in Shellingford School Hall on **Wednesday 21st at 7.30pm.** Liz Woolley will give a talk entitled "Beer, Sausages and Marmalade: Food, Drink & Politics In 19th Century Oxford"

We will have our usual sales table, raffle and light refreshments. Visitors are always welcome for a small fee.

For information contact - **Joan Turner - 01367 820607 or Freda Dawes - 01367 820454.**

The following notice appeared in the Oxford Times on Thursday 18 August, 2016

GARDEN OF REMEMBRANCE: ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, FERNHAM

Notice is hereby given that the Parochial Church Council of the parish of Longcot with Fernham propose to petition the Consistory Court of the Diocese of Oxford for a Faculty authorising the permanent re-siting of certain monuments (nb: monument includes headstones and ledgers/tablets commemorating a person and any kerb or part thereof) within the churchyard of St John the Evangelist, Fernham, for the purpose of creating a Garden of Remembrance.

A plan of the churchyard showing the work proposed, together with a list of the names of the deceased, has been placed in the church porch and may be inspected at any time from 19 August 2016 to 18 September 2016. The list of names is also available on application to the PCC Secretary at the address below.

Any descendant of the persons commemorated on the monuments, or any person who is aware of the identity of a descendant, should contact both the PCC Secretary and the Diocesan Registrar (details below).

If you wish to object to any of the works or proposals you should write, stating the grounds of your objection, to the Diocesan Registrar at 16 Beaumont Street, Oxford OX1 2LZ

Richard Fergusson, PCC Secretary

St Mary's House, Chapel Lane, Ashbury SN6 8LS

Longcot Churches working together-Chapel News

SUN. 4th 3pm – Revd. Norma Fergusson will be leading our monthly united service. Everyone is welcome to join us and to stay for refreshments afterwards.

FRI. 30th 3pm - TEA TIME -a change from our previous Friday Fellowship and at a later time. 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**.

Benefice News

John Forster We are sorry to announce that John Forster died peacefully in Prospect Hospice this morning (20 August) - he was a lovely man and will be greatly missed by everyone who knew him.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Dorothy and the family at this time

Breakfast Groups, open to all

Men's breakfast: in the Ashbury Village Hall on Saturday 3 September. 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 would like to come.

Breakfast Bible Study: this monthly discussion group will meet again at 8am on Saturday 24 September at St Mary's House. 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.

Choral BCP Evensong in Longcot, 18 September

After an experimental period with evening services in alternate months, the Longcot with Fernham PCC has agreed that the third Sunday of the month in Longcot will always be an evening service. To celebrate this, we will have a special choral evensong on Sunday 18 September led by the choir from St Andrew's, Shrivenham. Everyone is welcome and we hope you will stay for a glass of wine or cup of coffee after the service.

Harvest Festival Celebrations, 25 September

09.30	St Mary's, Longcot
11.00	St Mary's, Ashbury
18.00	St John's, Fernham

Meteorologically, **Autumn begins on 1 September**, so this month a prayer from John Birch, www.faithandworship.com

We bless you,
God of Seed and Harvest
And we bless each other
That the beauty of this world
And the love that created it
Might be expressed though our lives
And be a blessing to others
Now and always.
Amen.

Café Church
in Ashbury's Village Shop
Sunday, 18 September at 11am



Do come and join us

No service in St Mary's that day

Norma

Country Matters

Well we have had a touch of summer at last. Harvest began at Rectory Farm with the oil seed rape crop on the 25th July after two weeks of good weather. Nearly everyone dessicates their rape crops pre-harvest with glyphosate (Roundup) to reduce the moisture held in the stalks as an aid to good separation leading to less losses over the back of the combine and lower drying costs back at the barn. Everyone has been disappointed with the rape yields this year down to 1t/acre or 2.5 t/ hectare and those who had grown winter barley fared no better. Both seeds were below size.

Our spring barley crop which is a malting variety called Propino was not ready until Monday August 8th and we had a good week's weather to knock this crop on the head by the end of the week with better, average yields around 3t/acre or 7.5 t/hectare. This year skinning of the grain has been a problem which can lead to rejection by the maltsters but after cleaning hard to take out the thin grains we hope our crop will get a premium and be accepted. The maltsters also reject crops that have too high a nitrogen content. The first field was high at 1.9% but the rest seems

fine at 1.6%. The good weather allowed the lovely bright straw to be baled and either sold to neighbours or stacked into our barns without a drop of rain.

Lammas tide was celebrated on August 14th, a celebration of the first bread from the harvest and we began cutting our bread wheat, a variety called Crusoe the next day. We have had a glorious week with the crop coming in dry and in four days have cut half our wheat fields and have been able to clear all the straw behind the combine. Yields have been better than expected, up to 3.75 t/acre or 9 t/hectare and with brilliant quality. The millers require a good specific weight, this year a high reading of 80kg/ hectolitre, high proteins above 12.5% and ours is 13% and a high hagberg reading which controls their ability to make good bread that rises properly in the baking and they like it above 250 and ours has tested 300.

So far, so good. As I write this on August 21st we have another weekend off as some wet weather intervenes and hope we can get going again before long with the remaining crops gathered in before the quality is ruined by rain. Beans are always the last crop to harvest. Barring a weather disaster, harvest should be all wrapped up well before our harvest festival on September 25th. I wish more villagers could support and affirm their thanks for this annual celebration from our crops and gardens. Our own garden has been a battle with slugs this year so I pass on an organic cure. Boil two garlic bulbs in 1.5 litres water, mash and strain the liquid to protect against slug damage.

Richard Green

Benefice Clergy

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

Newsletter entries for October 2016

Submit your entries for October by **16th September** to: M. Turner Claremont, Ashbury SN6 8LN. marionturner@me.com 01793 710302

Website www.ashbury.org.uk