

ASHBURY
COMPTON LONGCOT
FERNHAM

NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2017



Ride and Stride



for our historic churches on 9th September!

Thought for the month

I wonder how you feel about visitors to your home? One of my oldest friends is coming to stay for a few days and I recently had my sister-in-law from Australia with me for almost a week. One of the benefits of summer is that the warmer and longer days make it easier to go visiting and to receive visitors into our homes; you can even make a business out of welcoming strangers to stay – Airbnb is very popular. But are all visitors welcome? What about the unexpected ones? We'll be delighted to see some but others may not be so welcome – they might be associated with bad memories, are total strangers or challenge our status quo. Perhaps their appearance or behaviour make us suspicious. How ready are we to befriend people who don't fit in with our notion of what's acceptable?

In the Bible there are numerous instances of strangers turning up unannounced – Jacob arriving at his Uncle Laban's, Rahab sheltering the spies, Elijah arriving at the widow's home.

St Paul must have descended on many unsuspecting hosts during the years of his missionary journeys – no chance to phone ahead in those days! – and somebody must have taken Mary, Joseph and Jesus into their home when they arrived in Nazareth. An early example of hospitality in the Bible is the story of Abraham and Sarah entertaining the three strangers (angels) with no warning and must have given rise to the instruction in Hebrews Chapt. 13 – “Let brotherly love continue. Be not forgetful to entertain strangers, for thereby some entertained angels unawares.”

In today's world where we learn to view strangers with suspicion; it's hard to feel easy about keeping open house for anyone and everyone, but we see examples of people's generous hospitality daily on our television screens – people all over the world responding to the needs of those affected by natural and man-made disasters. It seems to me that the best place to start is in our own communities by ensuring that our homes are seen as havens rather than fortresses and where our neighbours know that there is always room for them and a listening ear is available when it's needed. You never know – you may be the beneficiary.

One more quotation, from the poet William Blake – “Then cherish pity lest you drive an angel from your door.”

Stella Tidmarsh

Views expressed in the "Thought for the Month" are those of the individual contributors.

Shrivenham and Ashbury Benefice Services in September

Sunday 3rd September

7.45am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Shrivenham
9.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Compton
9.00am	Matins	Watchfield
9.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Fernham
10.15am	Family Worship with baptism	Shrivenham
11.00am	Morning Worship	Ashbury
3.00pm	Joint Service	Longcot Chapel
6.30pm	Compline and Benediction	Shrivenham

Sunday 10th September

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

Sunday 17th September

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

Sunday 24th September

Harvest

9.30am	Harvest thanksgiving Holy Communion	Longcot
10.15am	Harvest thanksgiving Holy Communion+ Choir Sunday	Shrivenham
11.00am	Harvest family Holy Communion	Ashbury
6.00pm	Evening Service Harvest thanksgiving	Fernham
6.00pm	Harvest Songs of Praise	Watchfield

The Ashbury prayer cycle for September will be: 3rd Idstone, 10th Kingstone Winslow, 17th Malthouse Close, 23rd Odstone Farm and Cottages.

Ashbury Evangelical Free Church

There will be a communion service on Sunday 10th at 10.15 am but the venue will be the Gigg's home at The Old Forge.

Tea and chat resumes on Wednesday 20th September at 2.15 pm.

A new disabled toilet has now been installed making the building more user friendly.

As usual, all are welcome.

Ashbury News

(See Ashbury also under Benefice News)

Mrs Betty Day

We would like to thank everyone who attended the funeral of Mrs Elizabeth Day (Betty) on 31st July. Also, a particular thanks to everyone who helped out that day after the service. The donations generously given will go to the Village Hall for Crafts.

The Day Family.

Notice regarding Yellow "What's On" monthly magazine:

Faringdon Newspapers Ltd are cutting printing and distribution costs by producing fewer copies of this free magazine.

They have decided to remove Idstone and Kingstone Winslow from their distribution list.

From this month, the magazine will only be delivered to houses in Ashbury.

It is hoped that a few copies will still be available at the Shop and the Pub.

Ashbury Community Club

Thursday 28th September. 2.30pm Village Hall

THE HISTORY OF THE TELEPHONE by Lew Lawton

This is much more than a history lesson: it is an illustrated talk with added extras of sound effects and sound bites and an opportunity to operate a basic telephone system. All followed by tea and biscuits Further info. from

Jackie Baker. 01793 710358

Women's Institute - Inspiring Women

Our monthly meeting on Thursday 14th September includes a talk by Mark Ruddall and his lifelong love of "Steam Boating". There is something arresting about the smell of a steam engine, and Mark started his hobby to combine his love of steam with boating in 1994 when he bought his first steam boat wreck, which he rebuilt and called "Relative Peace". Join us to hear about his fascinating exploits at 7.30pm in Bishopstone Village Hall.

Our birthday party this year will be held on Thursday afternoon 21st September in the Bowls Club Pavilion at Hoopers Field Recreation Ground, Rotten Row, Wanborough. Our thanks to Mary Pribyl, Chair of Wanborough Bowls Club and members, who will be kindly hosting roll-up and taster sessions for WI members and their partners as part of our birthday celebration.

Our WI has members from the villages of Ashbury, Bishopstone, Hinton Parva, Wanborough and Liddington, and we always welcome new members. Our monthly meeting takes place on the 2nd Thursday of the month at 7.30 - 9.30pm in either Bishopstone or Hinton Parva village halls, and we have groups which also meet outside of our monthly meeting; e.g. Reading, Art Study and organise trips for members and their friends.

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 (710801)** if you would like any further information.

Ashbury Pre-school - Help still needed

I know that the village values our Pre-school and is keen for it to continue as a community-based charity. I'm delighted to say that, in response to my notices in the Parish Newsletter earlier this year, we now have five excellent volunteers to act as trustees. Unfortunately none of the trustees has enough time to take on the whole of the chair's role, so we're still looking for a new chair. If you can help it's not too late! Please either contact me now or come to our AGM on 15 September (see below).

Elizabeth Derrington, Chair of Trustees, Ashbury Pre-school Tel: 01793 710813 Mob: 07722 867493 Email: contact@ashburypreschool.org

Ashbury Pre-school AGM

Our Annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday 14 September 2017 at 7.30 pm at Ashbury Free Church. We shall be launching the new school year with new children, parents, staff and trustees, and looking ahead to the rest of 2017-18. If you're interested in Pre-school do come along. You will be most welcome.

Indoor Bowls - Friday 8 September 7.30 pm at the Village Hall

We have bowls, mat etc., but need some players! If you are interested in finding out what is involved, just turn up on Friday 8 September, and have a go. Don't worry if you haven't played before as there will be someone on hand to give you some guidance. There's no charge for this session.

Autumn Flower Arranging with Barbi Bunce - Saturday 14 October 9.30-12.30, Ashbury Village Hall

By popular request Barbi is running another flower arranging workshop. This time participants will be making an autumn wreath and an autumn arrangement using a pumpkin. Barbi will be on hand to give guidance but will be letting people use their own creativity! Barbi's workshops are always fun and people come away with some lovely arrangements. The cost is £25. Numbers are limited. If you would like to book a place please call 710800 or email mbsmith5@hotmail.co.uk

Christmas Cake Decoration- Saturday 9 December 9.30-12.30, Ashbury Village Hall

Do you make your own Christmas cake and then struggle to decorate it? If so, then this workshop is for you! You will need to bring your own cake, marzipan and icing. The cake should be made 6-12 weeks in advance - hence the early notification of this workshop. If you don't have a Christmas cake recipe one can be provided! To book please call 710800 or email mbsmith5@hotmail.co.uk. The cost is £5 and again numbers are limited.

Reminder :Ashbury Fete - Sunday 10th September 2017 midday-4pm

On the new village green accessed via Wixes Piece, Malthouse Close and Miller's Lane.

Longcot and Fernham News

Fernham & Shellingford WI

Our September meeting will take place in Shellingford School Hall on Wednesday 20th at 7.30pm. Bjorn Watson will welcome us back after the break with a talk on "Joan of Arc". There will be the usual wine & nibbles to start and tea & biscuits to round off the evening. Bring a friend along, visitors are very welcome for a small fee.

Contact - Joan Turner 01367 820607 or Elli Wickham 01367 820544

Longcot Churches working together -Chapel News

SUN. 3rd 3pm -Everyone is welcome to our monthly joint service which this month will be led by Revd. Richard Hancock. Tea and biscuits will be served after the service.

HUGE THANKS – to everyone who came along to enjoy a cream tea in Longcot Chapel on 15th, 16th and 17th August. Your generous donations resulted in well over £60 being sent to Practical Action, the charity that uses technology to help those in deprived communities who lack the most basic facilities like clean running water, safe and hygienic toilets etc.

Community News

The Affordable Warmth Network (AWN), is an independent charity supported by the County Council operating throughout Oxfordshire. AWN aims to improve the health and wellbeing of residents by tackling issues surrounding fuel poverty.

In the past we have helped people replace inefficient and faulty boilers, provided home energy efficiency hampers and helped residents find funding and grants for various domestic energy efficiency measures. One of the primary ways in which we do this is through our Affordable Warmth Helpline (0800 107 0044) www.nef.org.uk

Ride and Stride 9th September

Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust (OHCT) 31st Annual Sponsored Ride & Stride is on Saturday 9th September.

StRiders are sponsored for the number of churches they can visit in the day. Half of the annual sponsorship is held centrally by the OHCT and used as grants for repairs and renovations of Oxfordshire churches. -for example St Mary's Longcot. The other half of the annual sponsorship money for the StRide goes straight back to the churches nominated by the participants.

If you feel you can help your local historic church, by cycling or walking and visiting other churches on 9th, or by welcoming at your church that day, please contact your local church organiser. Welcomers at our local churches of Ashbury, Longcot, Fernham, Compton Beauchamp, Shrivenham, Watchfield and Bourton can also be sponsored.

Benefice News

Breakfast Groups, open to all

Men's breakfast: in the Ashbury Village Hall on Saturday 2 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 23 September (nb a week earlier than usual) 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.

Harvest Festival Celebrations, 24 September

You are welcome to join us at any of the Harvest services across the benefice:

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

St Swithun's, Compton Beauchamp, will celebrate Harvest in October; details in next month's magazine.

Trivia corner: The word harvest comes from the Anglo-Saxon word hærfeſt or "Autumn" but gradually came to refer to the season for reaping and gathering crops. But there are other kinds of harvest, too:

As a part of nature's wondrous cycle
Of new birth, growth, fruitfulness and death
We rejoice in the creation of new life,
For parenthood, the passing on of knowledge,
For understanding and the wisdom of years.
We are grateful for those who have gone before
Passing on to us our spiritual heritage.
May our lives blossom as the apple tree in Spring
May we become fruitful in thought and deed
And may the seed of love that falls to the ground
Linger beyond our time on this earth.

Longcot Ocktaves – Autumn and Winter Programme

Mike Christie - Autumn Tour 2017

St Mary's Church Longcot – Thursday 19th October 2017

Part of the Amick Vocal Concert Series 2017 starring Mike Christie in October and Mary-Jess on 14 December (details to follow).

Early Bird Tickets: £15 each or £28 both concerts. After 15th October: £17.50 each/£30 both Under 16: £12.50 each/£20 both. VIP Tickets: £35 reserved seat plus Meet & Greet at 6pm
Singer and composer Mike Christie is back on the road with an exclusive solo Autumn Tour!

Come and enjoy an evening of well-known classics including opera, pop, musical theatre and self-penned songs from Mike's debut album 'to the fore', plus songs by Gershwin, Elton John, Flanders & Swann, Rodgers & Hammerstein and many more.

Bass-baritone Mike Christie shot to fame as a member of multi-platinum selling vocal harmony group G4, who were Runners Up on the very first series of ITV's The X Factor. An alumnus of the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London, Mike has performed in musicals in the West End, pantomime across the UK and numerous operatic roles, and has just finished his second summer season at Opera Holland Park in London. He has also written an opera called The Miller's Wife, which premiered in London in 2013.

ALSO

The White Horse Whisperers

St Mary's Church Longcot – Friday 20th October 2017

Our own local contemporary folk band! Formed in 2013 these versatile multi-instrumentalists quickly established themselves on the local folk scene. With a growing repertoire of original material inspired by their diverse musical heritage, geographical and historical roots, and the world around them, the band combine strong vocals and harmonies with an ever growing collection of instruments to stirring effect. Contact Norma Fergusson (710055) for more details

AND ON 14 DECEMBER

Mary-Jess

Best-known as the winner of the Chinese 'X Factor' in front of 70 million viewers and singer of the official Downton Abbey theme, as well as being the UK representative of The GREAT Britain Campaign in 144 countries around the world. Enjoy winter favourites such as Joni Mitchell's 'River' and Frozen's 'Let it Go', as well as songs from Mary-Jess' winter album 'Prayer to a Snowflake', released last year to critical acclaim. Don't miss out on what promises to be an unforgettable evening.

Norma

Café Church
in Ashbury's Village Shop
Sunday, 17 September at 11am



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

Country Matters

Of this year's harvest, never was the line more truly spoken, "don't count your chickens"- Much was promised after a fine June and July. Now we see in early August an early harvest getting later and showery rain spoiling quality by premature sprouting of the grain in the standing ear. This renders wheats and oats unsuitable for bread making. In marketing terms we will probably lose the valuable premiums for bread making. I suspect that the hot weather on the continent has produced plenty of good wheats there. Losing quality is not uncommon in late August or early September with harvest by then well progressed but this year it has happened so early. But of course it has happened before.

I remember a harvest in the 70's when we had long sprouts in the ear on Maris Otter at the beginning of August and this crop, usually a top quality malting barley, was consigned to animal feed. Let us hope that by the time this is read we will have had some better weather. The silver lining is that our cattle now have grass when before some pastures were burning up.

By excavation and a small stream diversion we created a little lake or duck pond in 2012 in a quiet spot in the vale on Zulu Farm below Ashbury. Running water from a spring out of the chalk at Idstone has ensured that this has never dried up. I got busy and transplanted some rush and stinking iris or gladdon to establish vegetation on the banks but doubt this was necessary. I did ask Danny Finch from Bishopstone whether he would mind if I transplanted some of his king cups growing in the Dingle and he was agreeable but never did, fearing frost exposure. Visiting wildfowl also bring in seeds and now after five years the banks are a mass of rush, pink willow herb, water cress and some sallow withy. The latter will have to be checked.

This year there are a family of coots on the pond and it is a joy to watch dragon and damselflies quartering the water in sunshine. As many as 52 different species have been recorded in the British Isles. We have shot it only once. After feeding regularly an evening flight produced teal and mallard in January but we picked up only three. Wild duck are near the top of my favourite meals.

Richard Green

Benefice Clergy

Vicar NSM	Rev Richard Hancock Revd Norma Fergusson (Except Monday and Friday)	01793 780183 01793 710055
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Newsletter entries for October 2017. Submit your entries for October by **19th September** 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](#).