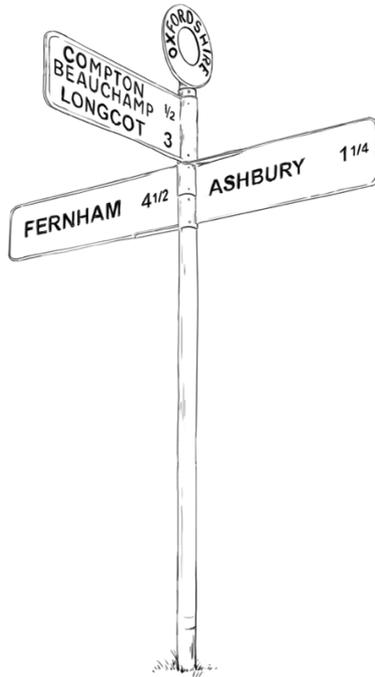


**ASHBURY
COMPTON LONGCOT FERNHAM
NEWS
AUGUST 2022**



Community Club 25th Conversion of the Old Dairy

“Hymns and Pimms” in September: help devise the programme

Thought for the month

Marion's reminder that it was my turn to contribute a "Thought" (thank you Marion!) arrived as I was chatting to the service manager of a hostel for homeless people where I had been working with a student that morning. There had been a real buzz to the place when I was there, as staff and residents were preparing for their first "celebration" event post lockdown, with banners, balloons and a BBQ for invited guests. As we chatted, two former residents came up and said that they had come in early to tidy up the garden area, and another resident stopped to show us her new haircut which a friend had done for her.

The service manager said that ten years ago the two who had come in to tidy the garden had been Class A drug users and homeless, and she could not have imagined that they would now be living independently. They had told her that they wanted to give something back to the place which had supported them when they needed it, and be part of this day of celebration. Simple acts like offering a haircut had also been important in making a person feel valued.

"It is days like these that make you realise why you do this job" my colleague said. I have worked with students there for many years and can testify to the selfless, non-judgmental, practical support which is given to residents to enable them to become independent and improve their life chances.

Homelessness happens for so many reasons, including relationship breakdown, debt, substance misuse and abusive or exploitative circumstances. It takes away choice and control from people's lives and often happens against a background of childhood trauma or neglect.

This organisation, like many others of its kind, works tirelessly to challenge the stereotypes of homelessness, by first offering a place of safety and shelter then supporting residents to achieve their goals, whether that is abstinence, accessing help with mental and physical health issues, or re-entering employment or education. That is why these times of celebration are precious for staff and residents alike, and after two years of lockdown it was especially significant.

The passage from Isaiah 61 quoted by Jesus in chapter 4 of Luke's gospel, which is effectively his "manifesto for ministry" is quite apt here: "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the

oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour." Jesus challenged stereotypes of marginalised communities, and in our often-divided society we should seek to do the same and reach out as best we can (and indeed as many people already do in often hidden ways) to offer help and support.

Isobel Weller

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

Ashbury News

ASHBURY COMMUNITY CLUB

Thursday 28th **July** - Afternoon Stroll

Stewart Smith will lead a gentle walk around Bishopstone and tell us about the history and folklore relating to the village.

We will meet at Bishopstone Church car park at 2.30pm.

(Access via West End Lane then Church Lane)

All are welcome but as there is limited parking space please contact sue_reade@btinternet.com or phone Jackie on 01793 710358 to arrange car share or lifts.

Thursday 25th August

Paula Symons will tell us about the conversion of The Dairy at Kingston Winslow.

CHURCH MATTERS

AUGUST SERVICES IN ASHBURY, COMPTON BEAUCHAMP, LONGCOT AND FERNHAM:

Sunday 7 August	9.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Compton
	9.30am	Holy Communion	Longcot
	11.00am	Morning Prayer	Ashbury
	3.00pm	United service	Longcot Chapel
Thursday 11 August	10.00am	Holy Communion (Iona)	Ashbury

Sunday 14 August	9.30am 11.00am	Holy Communion Holy Communion	Longcot Ashbury
Sunday 21 August	9.00am	Matins	Compton
Sunday 28 August	11.00am	Benefice Holy Communion*	Ashbury

*Although everyone is welcome to attend any services, those marked with an asterisk are designed as services for the whole benefice and will often be the only service on that day.

Covid Precautions at Services

Please do not come to Church if you have Covid symptoms

Watching online

Our online Morning Prayer, Communion services and sermons can be watched on the Shrivenham and Ashbury Facebook page. If you are unable to join us in person, do join online through services and study groups on the Benefice Facebook page. You do not need a Facebook account to access these events. Details of online services are on the weekly sheet and on Facebook

Ashbury Prayer cycle for August

7 Idstone 14 Kingstone Winslow 21 Malthouse Close 28 Odstone Farm & Cottages

Messy Church and Sunday School are taking a break for the summer.

Join us again on:

11 September at 3pm in St Thomas Watchfield for Sunday School
29 September at 3:15pm in St Andrew's Shrivenham for Messy Church
Children's Clothing Exchange

This continues at St Andrew's Church on Saturday 13 August (and every second Saturday of the month) from 9-11am. You will find a good selection of children's clothes (ages 0-13). It is free and you can donate on the day (clean clothing which is not stained or damaged please). You do not have to donate clothes to take some home.

PASTORAL CARE

If you have need for prayer or pastoral support, or wish to discuss a wedding or baptism, do not hesitate to ring Rev'd Norma Fergusson on 01793 784338. There is also a bereavement group which meets on the last Tuesday of the month; details available from Norma.

Date for your diary: 18 September Hymns and Pimms

Before the summer is over, join us at 5.30pm for a special Songs of Praise where we can enjoy singing some of our favourite hymns as well as a glass (or two!) of Pimms. What would you like to sing? We would love to know both the hymn and the story behind it. The benefice choir will join us to lead the singing. Please contact Norma (vicar@shrivenhamandashbury.co.uk) by 14 September to help us devise the programme.

Caring for God's creation

About a year ago, the Bishop of Oxford, Steven Croft, was appointed to the House of Lords Select Committee on the Environment and Climate Change. Their task is to hold the government to account across every department in this key area and government figures show that about 60 per cent of the action needed for the UK to reach net zero by 2050 involves some form of personal behaviour change, mainly in the areas of diet, transport, and domestic heating.

Over the year, Steven has become even more convinced that responding well to climate change "is the greatest global challenge of our age" and that "the Church should be leading, not following, on climate action in every place. Christians believe that this is God's world. We have a responsibility to care for the earth, for our neighbours, and for future generations. Care for creation needs to be written deeply into our liturgy and in our actions."

One of the actions for local churches is to become more actively engaged in this issue and we have been asked to sign up to the A Rocha Eco Church programme (see arocha.org.uk for more information) and to take the actions necessary to obtain at least a bronze award. St Mary's Ashbury has just begun that process and this article is a small part of that process: we will let you know how we are getting on and, every month, will include some simple ideas that you might like to follow if you're not

already doing this. If you are, please share your tips with us! No one person or organisation has all the answers.

To begin with, many of the products in our local co-ops are Fairtrade. Supporting them supports our local economy, but also helps to overcome unfairness in the food chain. They say “It’s our goal to make it easier for you to support communities around the world with every shop.”



Or, this from one of our parishioners, look how much plastic you can save by buying tissues in a box rather than in packs? Or use an old-fashioned handkerchief?

LONGCOT CHURCHES WORKING TOGETHER – CHAPEL NEWS

SUNDAY 7th at 3pm - This month our service will be led by Revd. Shirlyn Toppin, who is Superintendent Minister of the Methodist Upper Thames Circuit. Everyone is welcome to join us and to stay for tea and biscuits afterwards.

There will be no T Time Fellowship on Friday 26th August but:

CREAM TEAS WILL BE AVAILABLE 3 – 4.30 on TUES. 16th, WEDS.17th and THURS. 18th

As usual there will be no charge but donations to the charity Water Aid will be very welcome.

The Ambassadors Bible Church meet at what was the Ashbury Evangelical Free Church at 10:00 am each Sunday morning. All are welcome and there is also a Sunday School for the Children which meets at the same time.

Country Matters

Let's be clear I am no expert on global warming but all the evidence points to catastrophic damage in the future if we don't act to reduce carbon emissions. The irony of the problem is that whilst the western world may have led on causing emissions and it can lead now on new limits, we do need India and China on board too to effect real change.

Phew! It was hot on July 18th and 19th and there were few mad dogs and Englishmen sitting out in the midday sun. Oliver, our son and I collected ice cream for our men who were working on those days. They were picking up straw bales but it's all mechanised now and air con in the tractors helps. I am sure in 1976 we carried on lumping small bales, sweating hard without a cooling draught! And yet before air travel and most cars, 1911 and 1921 were very dry hot summers. I always had a picture in front of my desk of men cleaning mud from a very dried up pond on my grandfather's farm at Shellingford. That was in 1921 but there was still a puddle remaining there even in 1976. This year my cousin at Fairford has recorded nearly 16 inches of rainfall to date against his annual average of 26/27 inches. That's 10 inches (250 mm) to catch up in the next four months

With all the heat it looks like an early harvest. The winter barley is done and we have started the oil seed rape (July 22nd). It seems likely that many wheat fields will be cut in July, a fortnight ahead of usual. What is rather strange is that with fifty years of harvest experience I am still not confident to forecast how the extreme hot weather will have affected the yields of the wheat crop. It looked good a month ago with little fungal disease on the leaf to limit photosynthesis but will its roots have found enough moisture to plump the grain? In a few weeks the truth will be known. The chalk soils on our downs usually show greater resilience in a dry time.

On the livestock side grass is short and those cows calving in Feb/ March relying on grass look like having a short lactation unless it soon rains hard. Hotter temperatures are increasing interest in viticulture with the growing reputation of English white and sparkling wines. South facing chalky slopes here can compete with France. Perhaps we may even return to the days of old when the great estates took pride in producing pineapples for their guests from hot houses fuelled by coke. At Ashdown Park the high sarsen wall behind the stables would have supported glass houses and there is evidence of a fireplace within the wall that might have produced such fruits for the Cravens in their pomp during the 19th century.

Richard Green

Contacts

Ashbury Parish Council

Chairman: Christopher Prentice 01793 710821 chair@ashbury.org.uk

Clerk to the council: Laura Evans email clerk@ashbury.org.uk

Defibrillator: On the wall by the School entrance

St Mary's Ashbury Parochial Church Council

Associate vicar: Vacancy.

Church wardens: Maggie Simons 01793 710801 Richard Green 01793 791310

Secretary: Vacancy.

Vicar (Shrivenham) Revd Norma Fergusson 01793 784338

rev.n.fergusson@btinternet.com (not Monday)

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 with Compton Beauchamp CE(A) Primary School and little Berries Preschool

Headteacher Rachael Smith 01793 710259 www. <http://www.ashburyprimary.org.uk>
office.3851@ashbury.oxon.sch.uk

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: David Johnston

david.johnston.mp@parliament.uk 0207 219 3000

Newsletter entries for September 2022. Submit your entries for September by 20th

August 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.