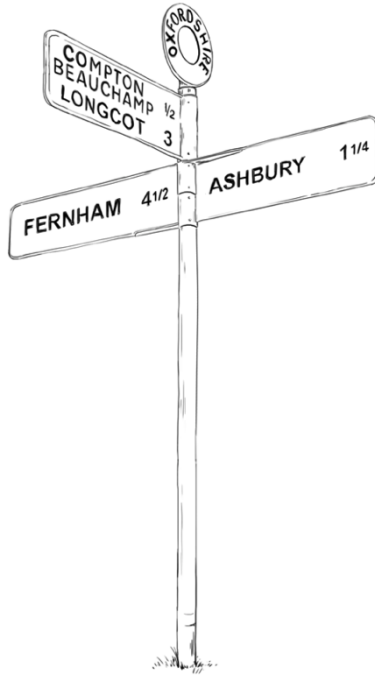


**ASHBURY  
COMPTON LONGCOT FERNHAM  
NEWS  
FEBRUARY 2024**



**Community Club 29<sup>th</sup>**

**Ashbury Parish Council vacancy**

## THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

'I remember, I remember the house where I was born.' There can't be many of us who can say that these days although I do know two or three people who can claim that privilege. I have actually seen the outside of the house where I was born in Chichester but as we moved to Bognor when I was three months old I obviously have no memories of it.

Families seem so mobile these days and from the nineteen fifties most babies seem to be born in hospital. However, I do have certain items in my house that remind me of times and people – a small chair that was the first piece of furniture I bought fifty eight years ago and which is still doing good service, a piece of kitchen equipment which reminds me of a favourite aunt and a Kenwood mixer recalls our two years in Singapore – I could go on but they and many others are all symbols of various stages in my life.

There are many symbols on public display which we all instantly recognise various road signs, the National Trust oak leaf etc. and, of course, the cross on buildings, flags, round people's necks, on lapels, or even in their ears. Some people must think it very odd that the Christian church uses an instrument of torture as the chosen emblem of a faith which preaches love, peace and forgiveness but whether it's a cross depicting Jesus hanging from it as a reminder of all that he suffered for humankind or an empty cross to remind us of the wonder and glory of his resurrection, both are instant reminders of him.

Easter's not so very far away and when it comes let's remember that chocolate eggs, cute lambs and fluffy bunnies are not the real symbols of Easter but that cross and all that it symbolises.

**Stella Tidmarsh**



### Councillors Corner

The Parish Council held our first meeting of the year on 15 January. There are three items to share with you in this newsletter. We decided our budget. We started the process of looking for new sub-tenants to run the Ashbury Shop and Café. And we agreed to put out a call for volunteers to take the sixth seat on the Council.

**On the budget**, we were mindful how tough it has been this year for many people to make ends meet. So we set our funding bid for the next financial year at a level just to protect what we can do for the community against inflation. This will mean a small increase of about 13p per month in the average household's contribution.

**On the Village Shop**, as is now public knowledge, we announced that Lorna Halford had given us notice to surrender her sub-lease. We recorded on behalf of all of you our warm thanks to Lorna for the service she had given to the community through running the shop since 2015, especially during the difficult Covid years when the shop was a life-line for so many in the Parish.

Looking ahead, we have formed a sub-committee headed by James Greenham to take forward the search for new sub-tenants. This will be done through a transparent open tender. As I write there are plans for a **first public meeting (on Thursday 25 January at 1900 in the Village Hall)** to explain the process and the timeline which we will follow. The Council is open to any model for the new sub-tenancy which will deliver a service, whether shop, café or both, which you, the Community, will support through your custom. Do please engage in this discussion and consider how you might help to renew this vital community asset.

Finally, after receiving notice from OCC that they had received no expressions of interest, we are now able ourselves to advertise a **vacancy on the Parish Council**, the sixth seat vacated at the end of last year. Do please consider joining us! We are not looking for anyone with a particular skill set, just for a parish resident wishing to do their bit to serve the community.

If you are interested, please contact one of us personally; that is James Greenham, Molly Westen, Eliza Lewis, Daniel Crowley or me, **Christopher Prentice**. Thank you!

### **Ashbury Community Club:**

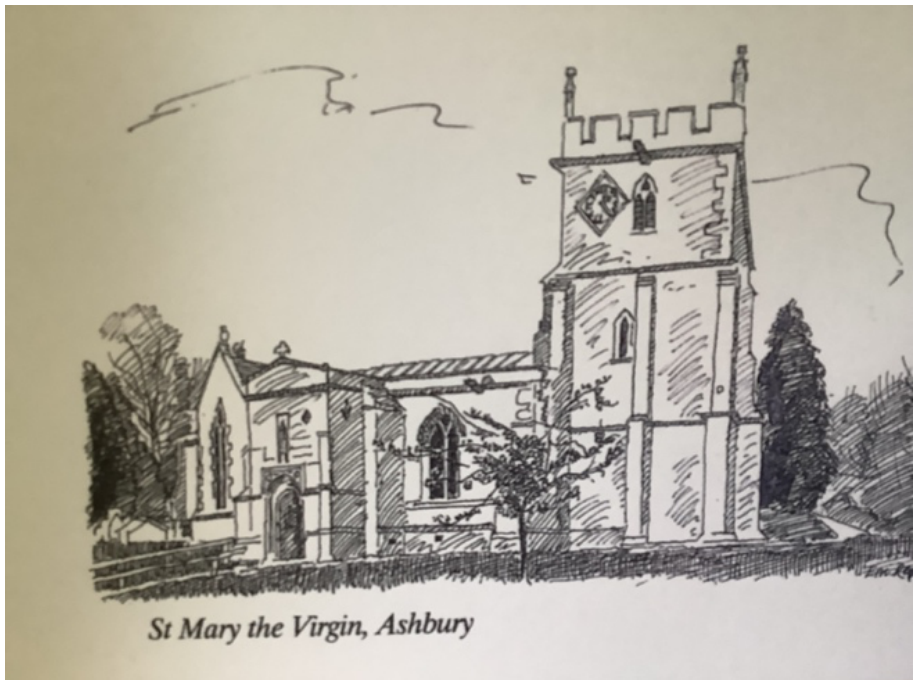
Thursday, 29th February at 2.30pm

This month's meeting will be in the Village Hall as usual. There will be a speaker (subject to be confirmed) followed by time for questions and chat over tea & biscuits. Meetings are open to all - entrance fee is just £2 /talk or you can pay £10 for a whole year.

To find out more - just phone Jackie on 01793 710358

### **Saturday 9th March from 10.00 – 12.00 Mothering Sunday coffee morning and bring a buy stall.**

We will be launching our appeal to raise funds to restore St Mary's beautiful stained glass windows. We need to raise approximately £1500. More details of our Saturday 9th March Mothering Sunday event will be in the March newsletter and on posters, Facebook and emails nearer to the date. If you know you are unable to join us on the 9th March but would like to make a donation to our appeal please contact me – my contact details are on the back page of the newsletter. **Maggie Simons**



**Ashbury Information by email** Ad hoc emails are circulated to residents with up to date particulars about Ashbury events and other relevant information. If you would like your name added to the circulation list please email:

[ashburyoxfordshire@hotmail.com](mailto:ashburyoxfordshire@hotmail.com)

**NEW RESIDENTS TO ASHBURY, IDSTONE & KINGSTONE WINSLOW** A pack is available for new residents which contains useful information. If you have moved into the village recently and would like to receive a pack, or if you have a new neighbour, please contact Margaret Smith (710800) for Ashbury & Idstone or Anne Taylor (07491 035582) for Kingstone Winslow

**CHURCH MATTERS:  
FEBRUARY SERVICES IN ASHBURY, COMPTON, LONGCOT & FERNHAM  
WILL BE AS FOLLOWS:**

*The service times are correct at the time of writing (11 January). For the latest news and information, please download the weekly Newsletter from our website.  
The churches in Ashbury, Longcot and Compton Beauchamp are also open daily for private prayer.*

<b>Sunday 4 February</b>	9.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Compton
	9.30am	Holy Communion	Longcot
	11.00am	Morning Prayer	Ashbury
	5.30pm*	Choral Evensong for Candlemas	Shrivenham
<b>Thursday 8 February</b>	10.00am	Holy Communion	Ashbury
<b>Sunday 11 February</b>	9.30am	Holy Communion	Longcot
	11.00am	Holy Communion	Ashbury
<b>Wednesday 14 February</b> <b>Ash Wednesday</b>	7pm*	Holy Communion with ashing	Watchfield
<b>Sunday 18 February</b>	9.00am	Matins	Compton
	9.30am	Morning Prayer	Longcot
	11.00am	Third Sunday service	Ashbury
<b>Friday 23 February</b>	9.00am	Morning Prayer (BCP)	Ashbury
<b>Sunday 25 February</b>	10.30am*	Benefice Holy Communion with choir	Longcot

**And, advanced notice, Friday 1 March at 2pm in Shrivenham Methodist Church  
World Day of Prayer\***

This year's service has been prepared by the Christian woman of Palestine and the theme is "I beg you, bear with one another in love." These services are prepared more than two years in advance, so there is no human hand in the timing. God, however, works in mysterious ways! All are welcome to the service and, even if you can't come, please pray for peace in this troubled land.

*\*Although everyone is welcome to attend any services, those marked with an asterisk are designed as services for the whole benefice*

**Covid Precautions at Services**

Please do not come to Church if you think you may have Covid symptoms.

**All 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 also on the weekly sheet and on Facebook.

**Ashbury prayer cycle for February-** 4<sup>th</sup> February, The Malthouses, 11<sup>th</sup> February, Walnut Trees Hill, 18<sup>th</sup> February, Wixes Piece, 25<sup>th</sup> February, Ashbury Hill.

**Messy Church 1<sup>st</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> February**

We're back! Please join us on the first and last Thursday of February at 3:15pm in St Andrew's, Shrivenham finishing at 5pm. For more information or to book a space contact [standfast.shrivenham@yahoo.com](mailto:standfast.shrivenham@yahoo.com) . Messy Church is open to the whole Benefice. There is no charge to attend, but a minimum donation of £1.50 per child towards costs would be appreciated.

**Come and See – a course for Lent and for Life**

As you will have seen from the list of services, Lent is early this year with Ash Wednesday on 14 February.

As usual, we will be sharing the Diocesan Lent course, *Come and See*, which explores how God calls each of us into a deep relationship with him, and how this love teaches us to love others well. *Come and See* offers a series of daily emails and a short video to watch each Sunday during Lent. Join thousands of people who take part each year,

whether you're exploring faith for the first time or have been coming to church for many years.

*Explore the Way of Love* takes a closer look at the Commandments and what they mean in the context of God's love for us. In three of the four gospels, Jesus speaks about the two most important commandments: you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and soul and mind and strength, and you shall love your neighbour as yourself. God's invitation is to walk the *Way of Love* in relationship with him, while also showing his love to our neighbours.

Find out more at [oxford.anglican.org/come-and-see](https://oxford.anglican.org/come-and-see) or talk to Norma, Patrick or Richard.

### Thank you

As this is the first Church Matters since Christmas, Patrick and I would like to thank everyone who made our services so very special: cleaners, flower arrangers, mince pie and mulled wine makers, singers and, of course, all of you for coming. We are particularly grateful to the cast of thousands without whom Stations of the Nativity could not happen in the way it does.

### PASTORAL CARE

If you have need for prayer or pastoral support, or wish to discuss a wedding or baptism, do not hesitate to contact Rev'd Norma Fergusson ([vicar@shrivenhamandashbury.co.uk](mailto:vicar@shrivenhamandashbury.co.uk) or 01793 784338) or Rev'd Patrick Mabhunu ([associatevicar@shrivenhamandashbury.co.uk](mailto:associatevicar@shrivenhamandashbury.co.uk) or 07471 434276).

**Caring for Creation** This may not be news to you, but I was pleased and surprised to learn that you can freeze bananas – after all, there is a limit to how many banana cakes one family can eat! It's simple – just peel, chop and freeze for use in smoothies (or cakes) or just as a cold treat on a hot day. You can also soak the peels in water before watering plants to give them an extra boost of nutrients.



**Norma's thought for this month** – not mine, but from Mother Teresa of Calcutta

Find the time to think  
Find the time to pray  
Find the time to laugh  
This is the fount of power  
This is the greatest power on earth  
This is music for the soul

Find the time to play  
Find the time to love and be loved  
Find the time to give  
This is the secret of eternal youth  
This is the privilege given by God  
The day is too short to be selfish

Find the time to read  
Find the time to be a friend  
Find the time to work  
This is the fount of wisdom  
and the road to happiness  
and the price of success

Find the time to charitable  
This is the key to Paradise

Blessings

Norma

**Support your local church or the Benefice as a whole with a text donation using the numbers below**

**For Ashbury Text STMARYS 5 to 70085 to donate £5 or Text STMARYS 10 to 70085 to donate £10**

**For Longcot and Fernham Text LONGCOT to 70085 to donate £4**

**For Compton Beauchamp Text 5CB to 70450 to donate £5 or Text 10CB to 70460 to donate £5**

**For the Benefice as a whole**

**Text GIVEfive to 70470 to donate £5 or Text GIVEten to 70470 to donate £10**

**Your standard text message rate applies.**



## LONGCOT

### **T TIME FELLOWSHIP 23rd FEBRUARY 3pm St. MARY'S CHURCH, LONGCOT.**

Everyone is welcome to join us as we enjoy a chat over afternoon tea. There is no charge but contributions to our chosen charity are always welcome.

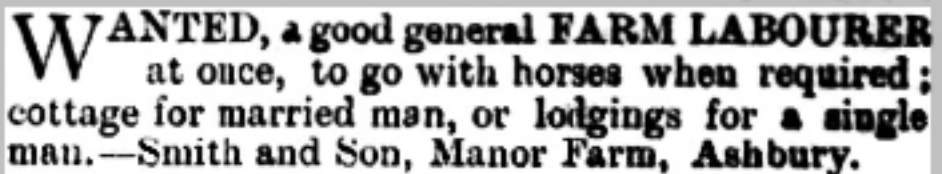
***Looking for a home-*** Longcot Chapel's Communion Table. This has a small plaque "in grateful and affectionate memory of Elsie Maud Pope, died January 10<sup>th</sup> 1952, who was a most loyal and devoted member of this chapel for many years and a much loved worker among the children."

Elsie Pope lived at Rambler Cottage in Longcot. Her maiden name was Cox and a relative of that name lived in Shrivenham into the 1970's. If anyone has a recollection of her or her family it would be pleasing to give them the opportunity to have this memorial to her.

**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.

### **From the Newspaper Archives**

**Changes in farming fortune: from 13 February 1904's Faringdon Advertiser.....**



**W**ANTED, a good general FARM LABOURER  
at once, to go with horses when required;  
cottage for married man, or lodgings for a single  
man.—Smith and Son, Manor Farm, Ashbury.

*Re* Charles William Smith, in Bankruptcy.  
**The Manor Farm, Ashbury, Berks,**  
3 miles from Shrivenham and 6 from the  
Lambourn Stations.

**SALE OF THE WHOLE OF THE  
LIVE AND DEAD FARMING STOCK.**

to ....24 February 1906

The Oxford Journal- 200 years ago this month

**MAIDEN ELM TIMBER.**  
**TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION,**  
By FIDEL & SON,  
On Monday, February 16, 1824, precisely at Twelve  
o'clock, at the Barrington Arms Inn, Shrivenham,  
Berks, 83 MAIDEN ELMS, on lands in the occu-  
pation of Mr. John Saunders, and Mr. Thos. Wilson,  
at Chapel-vick and Ashbury, near Shrivenham,  
Berks, to whom application may be made for viewing  
the timber. The whole of the trees are felled and  
divided into convenient lots, lettered and numbered  
with white paint.  
Catalogues will appear in due time, to be procured  
at the place of sale ; and of the auctioneers, Faringdon.

## Country Matters

When we bought Lammydown farm in 1991 above Bishopstone it was rolling downland and 330 acres. There was one small copse planted by the Smiths, the previous owners. There were two sites with an open shed and a dutch barn apiece, also unploughable downland of 70 acres. One barn site near the ridgeway soon fell foul to arson. I got seven small woods planted using Wessex forestry of Hungerford, got planning for a house, laid down an access of nearly a mile including a mains electrical supply and sunk a well 220 feet down for water.

Now, twenty-five years later ,the woods have grown and probably want thinning. The arable fields are much the same. The downland has been a source of interest with the wildflowers such as rock rose, milk wort, wild thyme, scabious, harebell, knapweed, restharrow, ragwort which we try to control and the four orchids, fragrant, common, pyramidal and burn tip.

The recent focus has been on measures to join up the woods by planting hedges and secondly to enhance the protective edges round the woods with shrub. Lonicera is box- like but establishes much faster to form a dense barrier if successful. I have tried laurel without much success. Over the years we have planted over three miles of hedge and this winter have now completed a further 700 yards. The species are hawthorn, privet, maple, hazel, spindleberry and dogwood. Deer predation means that the first three years will be critical if this effort is not to be wasted. So both sides will carry electric wire as a deterrent.

Watching the planting progress have been a pair of stonechats. They are pretty with a chestnut breast and black crown and they find a perch on fence posts moving ahead. Fieldfares and redwings are making great inroads into harvesting this year's exceptional crop of haws on the hawthorn bushes.

On my recent annual trip to the north York Moors I spotted a mistle thrush and on one drive many woodcock, also grouse, but our focus was on the very high and challenging pheasants and partridge coming off the tops. It was cold but a very pretty landscape especially so with a good covering of snow glistening in the low sun. Down at Thirsk it had all disappeared.

**Richard Green**

## Contacts

### Ashbury Parish Council

Chairman: Christopher Prentice 01793 710821 [chair@ashbury.org.uk](mailto:chair@ashbury.org.uk)

Clerk to the council: Laura Evans email [clerk@ashbury.org.uk](mailto:clerk@ashbury.org.uk)

**Defibrillator:** On the wall by the School entrance

### St Mary's Ashbury Parochial Church Council

Church wardens: Maggie Simons 01793 710801 Richard Green 01793 791310

Vicar (Shrivenham) Revd Norma Fergusson 01793 784338

[rev.n.fergusson@btinternet.com](mailto:rev.n.fergusson@btinternet.com) (not Monday)

Associate vicar: Revd Patrick Mabhuu [associate.vicar@shrivenhamandashbury.co.uk](mailto:associate.vicar@shrivenhamandashbury.co.uk)

07471 434276

### Ashbury Village Hall

Maggie Simons 01793 710801 [maggiemsimons@outlook.com](mailto:maggiemsimons@outlook.com)

Secretary Margaret Smith 01793 710800 [mbsmith5@hotmail.co.uk](mailto: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**

**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](mailto: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:** Katherine Foxhall 07916 285305

[katherine.foxhall@whitehorsedc.gov.uk](mailto:katherine.foxhall@whitehorsedc.gov.uk) and Viral Patel [viral.patel@whitehorsedc.gov.uk](mailto:viral.patel@whitehorsedc.gov.uk)

**County Councillor:** Yvonne Constance: 01235 751475/07976934884

[yvonne.constance@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:yvonne.constance@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

**M.P. for the Wantage constituency:** David Johnston

[david.johnston.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:david.johnston.mp@parliament.uk) 0207 219 3000

**Newsletter entries for March 2024.** Submit your entries for **March** by **22<sup>nd</sup> February** to:

M. Turner Claremont, Ashbury SN6 8LN. [marionlturner@me.com](mailto:marionlturner@me.com) 01793 710302 For more of

of “what’s on” and local information see the Ashbury Village Website

[www.ashbury.org.uk](http://www.ashbury.org.uk) and the community page on Facebook.