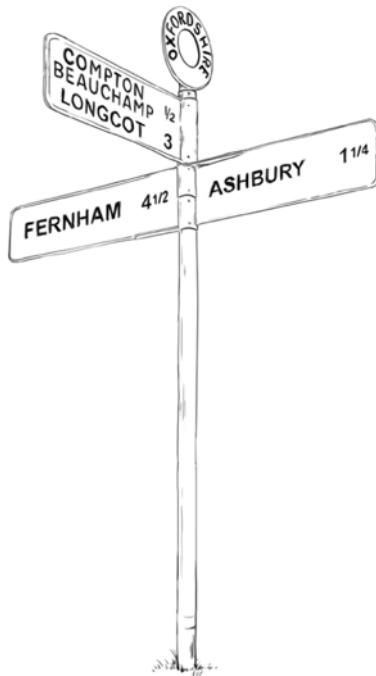


**ASHBURY
COMPTON LONGCOT FERNHAM
NEWS
FEBRUARY 2026**



Community Club 26th “Dentistry beyond the clinic”

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

“Put not your trust in Princes”

While cogitating about what to write for this section this month, someone helpfully suggested that perhaps I could consider the phrase “Put not your trust in Princes” as they said it seemed very apt considering recent news. I agreed that it seemed a good place to start from so here goes.

I don't feel here is the platform for making political comments about particular people or leaders because I try to avoid contentious distractions which are at the end of the day quite frivolous, divisive or inconsequential. I see the thought for the month as a place to stimulate spiritual thoughts which ultimately may have eternal consequences and although you may or may not agree with my views I would urge you to consider them.

The phrase is quite well known and is taken to mean that you should not put your ultimate trust in any world leader or any human as they cannot actually save you as they all die and their plans die with them. The same fate befalls the next leader who replaces them..... it could be summarised by saying “the dead are replaced by the dying (or the not yet dead!)....repeat...repeat”

What a lot of people do not realise is that the phrase (Like many other wise sayings) is taken from the bible (Psalm 146 v 3). What the chapter goes on to say is that instead of trusting any human we should put our trust in the one true God who is the maker of the whole universe.

Many may know that I love art and collect pictures. When I look at paintings, I'm often struck by how the artist uses the juxtaposition of horizontal and vertical planes to create a picture.

All human/human interaction is on the earthy or horizontal plane and is only temporary and of no lasting consequence. Contrast that with God to human interaction which is on the vertical or spiritual plane and is eternal. It is these contrasts which Psalm 146 uses and he urges Instead of putting our trust in humans who cannot save we should put our trust in God who is the only one who can.

So next time you hear someone say, “put not your trust in princes”, think about the rest of the chapter and consider where your hope and trust lies.

Andrew Bunce

Ashbury

Burns Night - Many thanks to everyone who joined us at the Burns Night supper on Friday 23rd January. We had a super evening with an amazing piper together with poems and songs wonderfully performed by residents.

The haggis was slain with suitable ceremony and, from feedback, the food went down a storm.

Any residual funds will be split between St Mary's Church and the Village Hall. Thank you for your support at this enjoyable community event.

Future Event - please keep the date:

The annual Ashbury Village Hall Quiz will be held on Saturday 17th October 2026. This is where our village streets are pitched against each other for the much coveted shield. We would love to ask our street co-ordinators to help out again and we will be in touch later in the year.

Sandra Dagnall

Community Club

Thursday, 26th February, 2.30pm. Ashbury Village Hall

'Dentistry Beyond the Clinic: A journey in Voluntary Service'

Peter Yesudian, an Oral Surgeon who lives locally, will be giving an illustrated talk about his trips to Africa to provide dental treatment for those in need.

Entrance £2 includes tea & biscuits after the talk with time for questions and chat. Everyone is welcome - there is no need to book but if you have any queries, just phone 01793 710358

R. I P. We remember Reg Smith, long-time resident of Ashbury. Also June Wilmers, formerly of Kingston Winslow, who has died aged 100.

CHURCH MATTERS

FEBRUARY 2026 SERVICES IN ASHBURY, COMPTON, LONGCOT & FERNHAM WILL BE AS FOLLOWS:

The service times are correct at the time of writing (2 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.

Sunday 1 February	9.30am	Holy Communion	Longcot
	11.00am	Morning Prayer	Ashbury
Sunday 8 February	9.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Compton
	9.30am	Holy Communion	Longcot
	11.00am	Holy Communion	Ashbury
Sunday 15 February	9.30am	Morning Prayer	Longcot
	11.00am	Morning Prayer	Ashbury
Sunday 22 February	9.00am	Matins (BCP)	Compton
	9.30am	Holy Communion	Longcot
	11.00am	Holy Communion	Ashbury

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- 1st February-Malthouse Close, 8th February-Odstone Farm & Cottages, 15th February- Pound Piece, 22nd February- Station Road

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 Patrick Mabhunu (associatevicar@shrivenhamandashbury.co.uk on 07471 434276) or Rev'd Janet Anderson-MacKenzie on 07821 474 711

Support your local church or the Benefice 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

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 £10

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.

Thank you!

'TEA & CHAT' 1st Tuesday of each month from 2.00 to 3.30pm 'Tea & Chat' will take place in 'the cabin' at **Ashbury** Ambassador Bible Church (known also as Ashbury Evangelical Free Church). Plenty of coffee and cake to be had as well as 'tea and chat'. Admission free. All welcome, including children.

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.

In the News : February 1903

TO THE EDITOR OF THE STANDARD.

Sir.—An unusual phenomenon occurred here on Sunday morning, about nine o'clock. The water caught off the roofs from a storm at that time was of a dirty milky colour ; the froth, too, was of a particularly tenacious character, lasting for many hours. I can only suppose that this must have been caused by volcanic dust from the eruptions in the West Indies. There would be no local dust on the roofs, as we had rain on the Saturday.

On inquiry, I find that the occurrence was noticed for several miles round. I have saved a bottle of the water if anyone would like it. The rain drops on the windows left a deposit of dirt on drying off.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

ROBERT POUND.

Ashbury, Berks, February 23.

Country Matters

Infilling some weak spots in a boundary hedge with new bare root hawthorn plants, a good flock of long tailed tits rose from a nearby bush. I am familiar with a “charm” of goldfinches but I had to look up the collective noun for long tailed tits. They are called a volery or zephyr. They may have 6-12 eggs but with a second brood the young of the first breed can remain together in the same company to form these larger zephyrs. I remember aged about ten finding my first long tailed tit nest. Volery can also apply to wagtails from the Latin to fly).

Collective nouns for birds are often onomatopoeic as in a murder of crows, a parliament of rooks, a mischief of busy magpies associated with the country doggerel “one for a boy two for a girl etc Choughs, as seen on some coastal cliffs or in alpine ski resorts are known as a chattering, owls a wisdom, and I include a picture of three young barn owls taken by me at Zulu farm just before they fledged in July 2011.

Memorably the force of nature of wheeling starlings at dusk is known as a murmuration and larks ascending as portrayed in music by Vaughan Williams are known as an exultation.

Digging my vegetable patch in the frost this morning because that's when it goes most easily, I was as you might expect, joined soon by a robin. The collective noun for robins is a worm! I have no idea why wrens are a chime and swallows a kettle or linnets a parcel. Linnets commonly also congregate together in winter as flocks of little brown jobs (lbj's). This is where the phone apps are so valuable in identification.

Perhaps I can understand why house martins are known as a circlage, sparrows a quarrel, snipe a wisp as they peel away showing their white belly and ptarmigan which I have seen in the Alps skiing are understandably known as an invisibilness against the snow.

Jays are a scold with their raucous cry and woodcock a fall, probably because of their flight pattern. Woodpeckers dipping flight is so similar to that of a jay that a friend of mine was so embarrassed to shoot one once by mistake. To remind him to be more careful I bought him a cap sporting a woodpecker motif. Though jays can be predators of birds' eggs and nestlings some shooting people like them about because jays bury acorns which may in time be oaks.

We once observed Mr and Mrs green woodpecker on our lawn at close quarters searching for ants, their favourite food. It was instructive to observe the different red head marking between the sexes and their noun is a descent, again obviously from their dipping mode of flight like a jay.



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

Defibrillators: On the wall by the School entrance and outside the Rose and Crown.

St Mary's Ashbury Parochial Church Council

Church wardens: Maggie Simons 01793 710801 Richard Green 01793 791310

Vicar (Shrivenham) Revd Patrick Mabhunu

<mailto:vicar@shrivenhamandashbury.co.uk> 07471 434276

or Rev'd Dr Janet Anderson-MacKenzie (associate

vicar@shrivenhamandashbury.co.uk) on 07821 474 711

Ashbury Village Hall

Chris Millard mailto:villagehall@ashbury.org.uk

Secretary Sandra Dagnall 07773 379703 sandrajdagnall@gmail.com

Bookings: Laura 07766 338551 and Steve Pilkington 0773 9692076 mail to:
steve_pilkington@yahoo.co.uk

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

Preschool Headteacher Tim Miller 01793 710259 mail to: office@ash.cambrianlt.org

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: Katherine Foxhall 07916 285305

katherine.foxhall@whitehorsedc.gov.uk and Viral Patel

viral.patel@whitehorsedc.gov.uk

County Councillor: Emma Markham emma.markham@oxfordshire.gov.uk

M.P. for the Witney constituency: Charlie Maynard:

charlie.maynard.mp@parliament.uk

Newsletter entries for March 2026. Submit your entries by **February 22nd** to: M. Turner Claremont, Ashbury SN6 8LN. marionturner@me.com 01793 710302 see also www.ashbury.org.uk and the community page on Facebook.

All views expressed are those of the contributors.