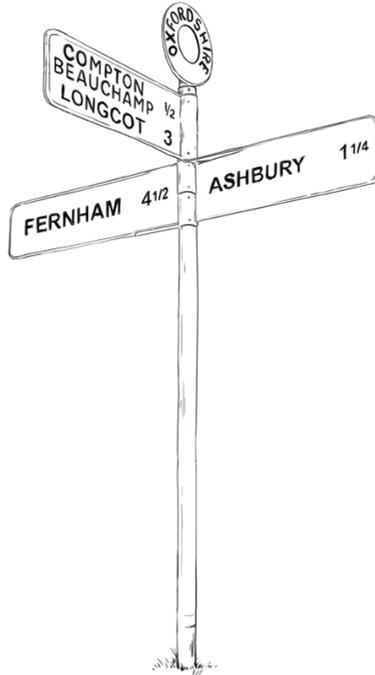


**ASHBURY
COMPTON LONGCOT FERNHAM
NEWS
JULY 2022**



Longfest at Longcot 2nd

Tea in St Mary's Longcot 15th -playground plans

Ashbury Community Club 28th

Thought for the month

We have recently celebrated Her Majesty's 70 years as our Queen. She is the longest serving monarch of the United Kingdom – ever. The Queen has renewed the pledge she gave in 1947 that her life will always be devoted to our service. Some here will have heard The Queen's speech on radio, aged just 14, to all those children who were evacuees as they left their homes and parents and I was struck that her service to our nation started well before 1952.

She served as a soldier during WW2, a great example to those modern Presidents that could not, or more likely did not want to, serve in their Armed Services.

The Queen likes to remind us of how much we can be thankful for. We live in a time where there is war, famine and great distress in parts of the world; we should be grateful that our own country is peaceful and stable and that, while there are challenges ahead, the United Kingdom is a great place to live and to bring up our children and grandchildren. Perhaps this central truth is too often forgotten in the cut and thrust of the daily papers vying for sensational headlines?

Perhaps too, this was a time to reflect on what the Queen has done for the country in other ways. In the local town of Faringdon, there are two organizations that have won the prestigious Queens Award for Voluntary Service, which, together with the Queens Award for Enterprise, were introduced as part of her Golden Jubilee celebrations.

Local BEMs and MBEs remind us that volunteer contributions are still very highly valued. And she also commissioned the Elizabeth Cross in 2009, a memento for the mothers (or fathers) of fallen Service personal who have died in the service of their country. Only a woman of exceptional insight and empathy would have thought of such an award.

After the recent agonies of Covid and the present crisis of living standards, the Jubilee was a powerful shot in the arm for Britain, a reminder that we are still a great nation with an unrivalled heritage and a special identity. Ours is a creative and dynamic country which has made a global contribution in many ways – science, medicine, art and through our Armed Services, to name just a few areas where Britain continues to excel.

But at the heart of our Platinum Jubilee festivities was I think a desire to honour her for seven decades of unstinting dedication and loyal service. She has carried her heavy burden heroically and for longer than most here can remember. She has been a wonderful agent for stability and solidarity over times of great change

I loved that wonderful cameo of her at the start of the London Olympics (2012) when James Bond escorts her from Buckingham Palace to the airplane for her ‘parachute jump’ into the Olympic stadium. “Good evening, Mr Bond” as calm as you please. And her recent tea party with Paddington Bear reminds us that, at 96, she retains her impish sense of humour. I believe we have been exceptionally lucky in having Elizabeth as our Queen.

Neil Sutherland
Fernham

Views expressed in “Thought for the month” are those of the contributors

Ashbury News

St Mary’s Tower Open Hour

Thank you to everyone who came to see us at the church on Sunday 5th June for our open tower hour. We were delighted to welcome over 20 visitors for Ashbury Platinum Jubilee Events Those who ventured up to the ringing chamber had the chance to feel the weight of the bells by pulling the ropes and those with a head for heights went up into the belfry to see where the bells are housed. If the visit has sparked an interest and you’d like to visit us when we are ringing on a Sunday, please email ashburytower@gmail.com

Special thanks to Colin, Ben and Fiona for their time to make the tower open hour possible.

Editor’s note: It was, indeed a worthwhile visit. Take the opportunity when it arises!

Ashbury Platinum Jubilee Events

Thank you to everyone who helped in any way to make Ashbury’s platinum jubilee celebrations a success – even the weather was far better than predicted!

We would like to thank Marion Turner for putting together the Village Hall Exhibition “Oil Lamps to Broadband, Seventy Years in the life of a village -a highly selective look”

We hope you all managed to find time to view it in the Village Hall over the Jubilee

weekend. We have photos of the various exhibits if anyone missed them and would like to see them.

We would also like to thank the school children for their wonderful Jubilee Celebration artwork which was also on display in the hall.

The bellringers deserve a thank you for opening up the church tower and for ringing the bells when we opened the party.

A lot of work was put in before the event and even more on the day by many different people so it is not possible to say thank you to everyone individually but please take this as a big THANK YOU to you if you were involved in any way including coming to the party to enjoy yourselves and support the event.

Maggie Simons

St Mary's Ashbury Parochial Church Council Vacancy

The annual meeting on 24 May marked the end of an era for Ashbury's Church when Roger Simons stood down both as a member and as secretary of the Parochial Church Council (PCC). We will all miss his wisdom and guidance, but at least he will still be available for advice when needed. Roger's retirement was toasted with champagne kindly provided by Dickie Green and the members of the PCC also gave him a gift voucher as a token of their appreciation. This does mean, however, that the PCC is looking for a volunteer to take over as secretary.

It is not essential that the new person is a churchgoer (although that would undoubtedly help make sense of some of the rules we have to follow) but they must be free to attend evening meetings and also to undertake some administrative tasks in between. For further details, please contact the Rev'd Norma Fergusson on 01793 784338 or email vicar@shrivenhamandashbury.co.uk.

Ashbury Community Club

A reminder that the Climate Change meeting on is on 30th **June at 2.30** in the village hall.

The next meeting will be on **28th July** - details nearer the time.

All welcome.

Entrance fee for non-members is £2 which includes tea & biscuits.

CHURCH MATTERS

JULY SERVICES IN ASHBURY, COMPTON & LONGCOT WILL BE AS FOLLOWS:

Sunday 3 July	9.00am	Matins	Compton
	9.30am	Holy Communion by Extension	Longcot
	11.00am	Morning Prayer	Ashbury
	3.00pm	United service	Longcot Methodist Chapel
Sunday 10 July	9.30am	Holy Communion	Longcot
	11.00am	Holy Communion with Baptism	Ashbury
	3.00pm*	Sunday School	Watchfield
Thursday 14 July	10.00am	Holy Communion (Iona)	Ashbury
Sunday 17 July	9.00am	Patronal Festival	Compton
	9.30am	Morning Prayer	Longcot
	11.00am	Morning Prayer	Ashbury
Sunday 24 July	9.30am	Holy Communion	Longcot
	11am	Holy Communion	Ashbury
Friday 29 July	9.00am	Matins	Ashbury
Sunday 31 July	10am*	Benefice service of Holy Communion, with choir	Watchfield

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

Covid Precautions at Services

Please do not come to Church if you have Covid symptoms

Our online Morning Prayer, Communion services and sermons can be watched on the Shrivenham and Ashbury Facebook

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 July: -3rd, Church Lane, 10th College Farm Lane, 17th Ashdown Estate, 24th High Street, 31st Idstone Road

Messy Church – is taking a break for the summer. Join us again on 29 September at 3:15pm in St Andrew's. For more information or to book a space contact standfast.shrivenham@yahoo.com

Benefice Sunday School at St Thomas' Watchfield – Sunday 10 July

Our monthly Sunday School aims to help children have fun whilst learning more about loving God and our neighbours, about Jesus, the Bible and the life of the Church. No need to book in advance, you can register your child when you turn up, but if you would like to register now or find out more, please contact our Benefice Administrator at info@shrivenhamandashbury.co.uk

Children's Clothing Exchange

This continues at St Andrew's Church on Saturday 9 July (and every second Saturday of the month) from 9-11am. Why not combine a visit with a trip to Café Inspire for cake and bacon rolls in Shrivenham School Hall?

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.

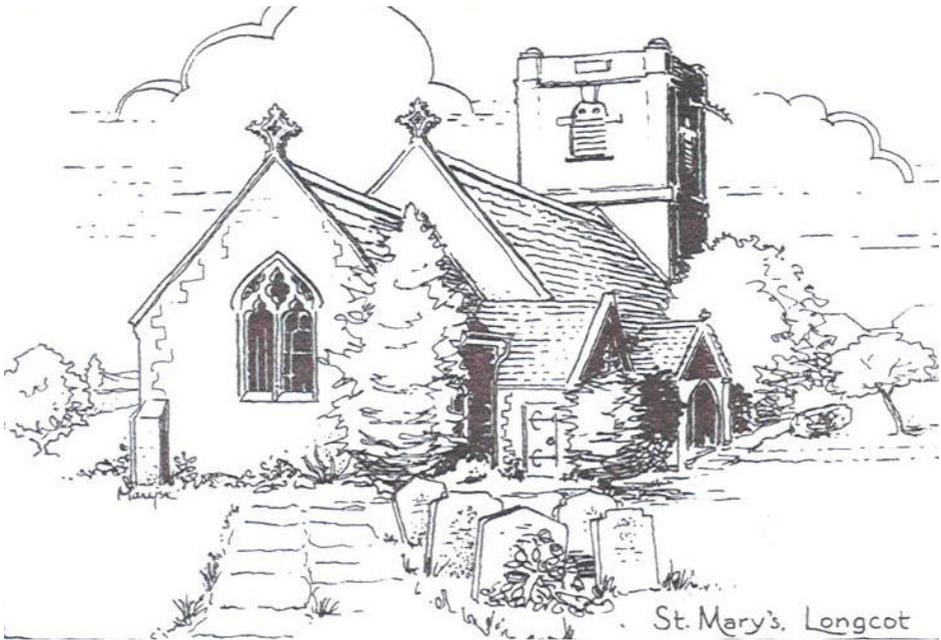
PASTORAL CARE

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.

Longcot News

Friday 15 July - Tea in St Mary's. Come and see the church, visit the bell tower (and have a ring if you would like!) but also learn more about the exciting plans for the playground. Representatives of Home Instead will be there, too, to talk more about how they support local communities – and if you are part of a local group, why not come along and share information about what you do? For more details contact Rev'd Norma Fergusson on 01793 784338

On behalf of all our churches Everyone is welcome to enjoy our beautiful churchyards, and we hope you will – but, please do clear up after your dogs when you're out and about. That would be very much appreciated.



LONGFEST

@LONGFESTLONGCOT  

FABULOUS FOOD
FAMILY FUN
LIVE MUSIC



LONGCOT SUMMER
MUSIC FESTIVAL

LONGFEST
IS BACK!



2ND JULY 2022
5PM - 11PM

THE DASH, KINGS LANE,
LONGCOT, OXFORDSHIRE,
SN7 7SY



FOOD & DRINK:

WHITE HORSE
BOX PIZZA



K&Q
THE KING & QUEEN

THE KING & QUEEN

ENTERTAINMENT:

YOUNG ROSIE
BLIND LEMON
WHITE RIDGE
ABSTRACTION ENGINE



TICKETS AVAILABLE ON EVENTBRITE: SEARCH 'LONGFEST 2022'

Adult £12 Under 18's £5 Under 5's FREE

ALL PROFITS TO THE VILLAGE

Longfest is back – Saturday 2 July- search 'Longfest 2022' on Eventbrite

LONGCOT CHURCHES WORKING TOGETHER – CHAPEL NEWS

SUNDAY 3rd 3pm- Our monthly united service will be led by Revd. Norma Fergusson and everyone is welcome to join us and to stay for tea and biscuits afterwards.

FRIDAY 29th 3pm - T TIME FELLOWSHIP – Do come and join us as we enjoy chatting and catching up with any local news over afternoon tea. There is no charge but donations to our chosen charity - Send a Cow - are always welcome.

NB There will be no T Time Fellowship on **Friday 26th August** but cream teas will be available **on 16th, 17th and 18th from 3 – 4.30pm.**

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.

Fernham News

Dedication of Fernham's new War Memorial

The Vice Lord-Lieutenant of Oxfordshire, Brian Buchan DL, was the guest of honour at the recent dedication of the new war memorial in Fernham. Commemorating 10 Fernham men who died in WW1 and WW2, the memorial is made from sheet steel with names cut out, as well as an outline of a WW1 soldier with 'arms reversed' (e.g. his weapon pointing at his toes). The Kohima Epitaph inscription "When you go home tell them of us; for your tomorrow, we gave our today". Surely as relevant today as it ever was. Wreaths were laid by village representatives of each Service – Royal Navy, British Army and Royal Air Force.

A large village congregation turned out for the event on 20 March, and included the granddaughter and two of the great grandsons of WW1 soldier (Pte Robert Richens) commemorated by a Commonwealth War Graves headstone in the churchyard.

A remarkable feature of the war memorial, which is made of special rusting steel (like the Angel of the North) is that in the late afternoon, the sun shines through the memorial and projects the names of the dead on the wall of the church. Well worth looking out for when visiting.

The memorial design was produced by Juicy Designs who also designed the superb Fernham village notice board, placed just on the green outside the Woodman Inn. Another reason to visit this popular pub!

Queen's Platinum Jubilee Tea Party

Like many towns and villages across UK, Fernham celebrated the Queen's 70 years on the throne by holding a tea party on the lawn outside St John's Church on Sunday 5 June 2022.

Two marquees were put up with (literally) hundreds of cakes and sausage rolls baked for the event. The village attendance was very high, the food was much enjoyed and the whole event a testament to the enduring power of a royal occasion to bring out the crowds. Decorations of union flags, and many types of bunting were much in evidence. Herbie Kay organised the event and the loyal toast to Her Majesty was proposed by Neil Sutherland.

Country Matters

Date markers have from time immemorial guided life in the countryside. Some, but not me used to say don't cast a clout 'til May is out perhaps because of the other saying that May can come in like a lamb but go out like a lion.

We are growing more winter barley than in the past in an attempt to plant the following crop, oil seed rape earlier and avoid the devastating flea beetle attacks to emerging crops at the cotyledon stage. However rooks can attack winter barley as it ripens and May 11th was traditionally "branchers day" when young rooks were shot in times past to limit numbers before they could fly properly. I can understand why these marauding rooks are sometimes referred to as the "black death". They take some shifting when they get the taste of ripening barley. I regret that I have never tried rook pie but perhaps that may be fortunate!

In the garden box hedging can be cut after Derby day (early June) and asparagus is best left to recover and build reserves for next year after mid- June. Final plantings of carrots need to be in by American Independence Day, July 4th. Partridges hatch during Ascot week (mid-June) and this year the weather was hot and favourable to insects, the food source for chicks. Alex our roofer disturbed a nest of nine eggs as he worked to reroof a building opposite Rectory farmhouse. Sadly this has been deserted.

There was better news when I peeped into our owl box at our old dairy farm at Zulu. Both parents flew off and one barn owl chick had just hatched and there were two other white round eggs.

We rent some fields from the National Trust adjacent to the Ashdown woods. Ravens are nesting there and maybe red kites and buzzards too. All three species were unknown here in my memory along with collar doves that came in in the 50's. My perception is that there are also more owls and woodpeckers than there used to be.

Black birds sing so lustily in our garden that I swear one in particular was trying to compete with music from the Palace concert on the Sunday night of the Platinum Jubilee, through the open French windows.

Meanwhile many of our smaller birds are in decline and farmers are often blamed. With the increase of raptors and corvids sometimes encouraged by the RSPB and the campaigning "Wild Justice" many feel this is no coincidence.

Richard Green



For very good reasons there is some anti-fox feeling in Ashbury, especially now, but this one is over 400 miles away. Leave the door open and he will come in!

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: Roger Simons 01793 710801 rogersimons1@outlook.com

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 August 2022. Submit your entries for August by **23rd July** to: M. Turner Claremont, Ashbury SN6 8LN. marionlturner@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.