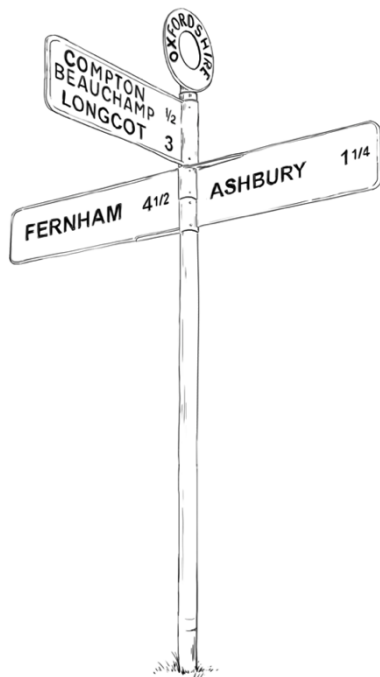


**ASHBURY
COMPTON LONGCOT FERNHAM
NEWS
MARCH 2024**



9th Coffee morning in aid of St Mary's stained glass

28th Community Club "400 years of Education in Uffington"

13th APRIL Churchyard spring clean

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

It's been a while since I've contributed to "Thought for the Month"; probably due to being away a lot. Most of our winters over the last few years have been spent "across the pond", as they say.

This year, we thought it was about time we spent the holiday season at home, and it was a good decision. There truly is nothing quite like village life.

It's not just the familiar surroundings, or the apparent 'changelessness' of everyday life – it's the sense of community. Even though the weather has been grim, and has inspired a lot of us to hunker down indoors, there is still this comfortable awareness of our neighbours. There's something cosy about doing the washing up of an evening and seeing the lights blinking on in nearby houses, or hearing the jingle of a dog's lead as someone walks past. There is something magical about recognising most of the faces you see, even if they're people you don't know well.

This sense of community has been greatly enhanced thanks to the landlady of the Rose & Crown. There are collections for charity, and there are various community-oriented events, especially the formation of the choir – "The Rose & Crooners". I've come to know, or at least sing alongside, a lot of people I hardly knew in the past. And there is nothing quite like community singing. Somehow, even those of us who have croaky voices can manage to blend in; and there is something joyous about group singing. If I've had a frustrating day, or don't feel energetic, somehow singing in the choir puts everything right.

And of course, last but definitely not least, there is the beauty of our surroundings. What a gorgeous place we live in, with the sweeping hills and the streams, the fields, and the animals. I've come to love the sound of a tractor rattling past on the road. It's an instrument in the music of the countryside, along with the birdsong and the clip-clop of horses' hooves.

I've lived in small towns and I've lived in big cities – but I can't think of a better place to be than here.

Gail Loose

Ashbury

Ashbury Village Hall

We are approaching the Village Hall Committee AGM, and looking to the future. Over recent years our committee has overseen the restoration of our village hall and we now have a first class facility for the village and community clubs and societies to use. We know that three of our team will be standing down at the AGM, after over 70 years of amazing collective service. We would love some new folk to join us to help us continue to improve, and also help us make the most of our Village Hall for the benefit of our community. If you are interested in supporting us in any way, please let us know. We aim to have some fun on the way.

On behalf of the Village Hall Committee, Maggie Simons (710801, maggiemsimons@outlook.com), Margaret Smith (710800, mbsmith5@hotmail.co.uk) and Chris Millard (710352, Chris.Millard@btinternet.com)

Ashbury Community Club

Thursday, 28th March at 2.30 pm in the Village Hall

An illustrated talk by the curator of Uffington Museum.

Karen Pilcher will tell us about "400 years of education in Uffington" and also the village's connections with Poet John Betjeman and Author Thomas Hughes.

Entrance fee is £2 which includes tea & biscuits.

NB There will be 'White Horse' merchandise for sale in support of the museum.

Visitors & Friends most welcome - no need to book.

Coffee Morning with Bring and Buy stall

Saturday Morning 9th March 10.00 – 12.00

Do come and join us for a coffee/tea, cake and chat. Everyone of all ages are very welcome.

Bring along any unwanted gifts or items you would like to donate to our Bring and Buy table. Maybe pick up a gift for someone – Sunday 10th is Mothering Sunday!

All proceeds will go towards cleaning the stained glass windows in St Mary's church.



ascend unto my father

and have power and to

my God and your God

To the glory of God and

in memory Miller

1860-1892

Advance notice of our Annual Churchyard Spring clean Saturday 13th April. Please leave that morning free if you can. More details to follow next month.

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

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 (7 February). 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.*

Friday 1 March	2.00pm* World Day of Prayer	Shrivenham Methodist church
Sunday 3 March	9.00am Holy Communion (BCP)	Compton Beauchamp
	9.30am Holy Communion	Longcot
	11.00am Morning Prayer	Ashbury
Sunday 10 March	9.30am Holy Communion	Longcot
Mothering Sunday	11.00am Holy Communion	Ashbury
Thursday 14 March	10.00am Holy Communion	Ashbury
Sunday 17 March	9.00am Matins	Compton Beauchamp
	9.30am Morning Prayer	Longcot
	11.00am Third Sunday service	Ashbury With Baptism

Sunday 24 March	8.00am	Said Holy Communion	Ashbury
	9.45am*	Palm Sunday procession from Methodist Church to St Andrews followed by	
	10.15am*	United service	Shrivenham
Thursday 28 March	7.00pm*	Holy Communion with foot washing	Compton
Friday 29 March	9.00am	Matins	Ashbury
Good Friday	Noon	Hour at the Cross	Longcot
	2.00pm	Hour at the Cross	Ashbury
Saturday 30 March	7.30pm*	Easter Vigil + Choir	Shrivenham
Sunday 31 March	9.30am	Holy Communion	Longcot
Easter Day	11.00am	Holy Communion	Fernham
	11.00am	Holy Communion	Ashbury

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

Ashbury prayer cycle for March- 3rd March, Berrycroft, 10th March, Berrycroft Lane, 17th March, Chapel Lane, 24th March, Church Lane, 31st March, College Farm Lane.

Covid Precautions at Services

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

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.

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.

Caring for Creation : Everyone is encouraged to take part in the Big Plastic Count which will take place in March. This will take place for a week, and everyone will be encouraged to collect and count all the pieces of plastic they throw away.

Come and See – a course for Lent and for Life

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 or talk to **Norma, Patrick or Richard**.

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 or 01793 784338) or Rev'd Patrick Mabhuu (associatevicar@shrivenhamandashbury.co.uk or 07471 434276).

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.

Easter message

As we prepare ourselves to celebrate the great feast of Easter, may the risen Lord bring us new life, joy in our hearts, healing to the sick, comfort to the bereaved and fulfilment of our dreams and plans. May your homes be protected by the mighty hand of the risen Lord now and forevermore. Feel free to join us at any worship programs lined up for this month of March and during the Easter days. Stay blessed.

Wishes from Norma, Richard, and Patrick.

LONGCOT

T TIME FELLOWSHIP won't be meeting on 29th March as that is Good Friday but we look forward to seeing everyone as usual in St Mary's Church, Longcot, on Friday 26th April and in the meantime we wish everyone a very happy and truly blessed Easter.

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.



Mimosa ; Strasbourg. Spring is on its way

ALL persons indebted to the late Mr. THOMAS PEARCE, of IDSTONE, in the parish of ASHBURY, Berks, are requested to pay the same, as soon as possible, to Mr. T. Browne, of Lower Upham, in the parish of Aldbourne, Wilts, Executor and Trustee; or to Mr. Tarrant, at Idstone aforesaid; Likewise all persons who have any demands on the late deceased, are desired to bring in their accounts in order to their being discharged.

Reading Mercury 30th March 1795. You can see Thomas's memorial in St Mary's.

The chancel of Ashbury Church has been beautified by a handsome memorial east window, placed to the esteemed memory of the late Vicar, the Rev. Henry Miller, by his wife, relatives, friends and parishioners. The subject is the "Ascension," and the following is inscribed thereon:—"Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into Heaven?" Underneath is the text "I ascend unto my Father and your Father, and to my God and your God." Also the following inscription:—"To the Glory of God, and in memory of Henry Miller, Vicar 1860--1892." The colors are beautifully arranged, and the window adds greatly to the appearance of the church.

Holy Thursday or Ascension Day was observed

Faringdon Advertiser and the VWH. Gazette Not March, but June 1895

It's high time it had a thorough clean!

Country Matters

Buried treasure is a word that used to exact excitement from youngsters before the days of phones and TV. It is still alive today with older sorts belonging to metal detecting clubs. Finders Keepers is a recent TV series in several parts featuring the dilemma faced by a metal detecting father and future son in law. They find a rare Saxon hoard of gold which corrupts them both absolutely.

In early January on a cold frosty morning there were sixty cars parked at Lower Ildstone farm, courtesy of David and Harry Williams. This was their second visit detecting over forty acres near the village and I spoke to one man. I was told that on a previous visit a coin had been dug up dating from Henry 1's reign (1068-1135), a rare find and he had driven down from Wigan no less, that morning hoping for more excitement!

Finds worth over £1,000 are classed as treasure trove and if sold or valued to a museum, the proceeds are split 50/50 between the finder and landowner. Our landlords, the church, have now banned metal detecting here but earlier finds at Rectory Farm include many examples of Roman coins and several 3rd -4th century bronze brooches, also a fine 14th century seal matrix in good condition showing a hawk attacking another bird with the inscription "Alas ie su pris".

Coins in our possession: Vespasian dupondius 1/8 denarius AD 69-79 Faustina Senior AD 131-161, Gallienus AD 253-268, Antonius of Valerian AD 253-260, Tetrions AD 270-273. Constantine the Great AD 307-337, Constantine II AD 337-340, Magnentius AD 350-353, Valens AD 364-378.

How these early Roman coins came here before occupation remains another mystery. More recently usually on an annual basis the club "Muddy Boots" from Newbury come to detect on our fields above Bishopstone, we call Lammydown. They also find Roman coinage and in 2011 found a fine bronze axe head said to date from 800 BC.

I am not sure how reliable this date was but such finds do point to these fields being farmed certainly for over 2,000 years. Several more teams have been out this year detecting on our neighbours Peter and Julian Cooke's land near the ridgeway above Church farm, Hinton Parva but news of their finds has not reached me.

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 Norma Fergusson 01793 784338

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

Associate vicar: Revd Patrick Mabhuu associate.vicar@shrivenhamandashbury.co.uk

07471 434276

Ashbury Village Hall

Maggie Simons 01793 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

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: 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 April 2024. Submit your entries for **April** by **22nd March** 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.