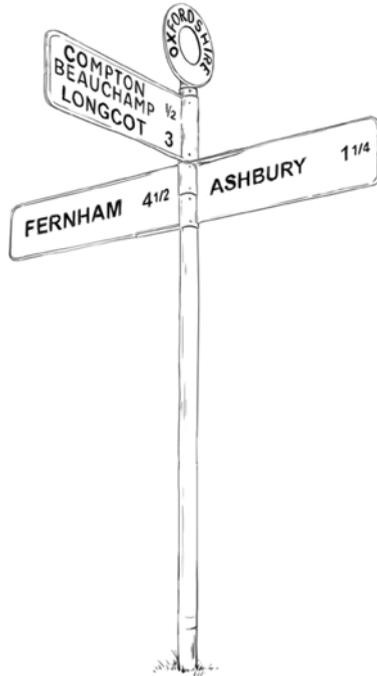


**ASHBURY  
COMPTON LONGCOT FERNHAM  
NEWS  
MARCH 2026**



**Women's World Day of Prayer 6<sup>th</sup>**

**Churchyard Spring Clean 21<sup>st</sup>**

**Community Club 26<sup>th</sup>: History of T.V.**

## THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

It's another wet, windy and gloomy day – the kind of weather that makes you want to roll over and return to the world of dreams.

My family across the pond are complaining about their weather, too – at least the adults are. It's cold and snowy, with no end in sight. But the children aren't bothered. Sure it's cold, and they have to bundle up in many layers to go outside. But then the fun begins!

They can build snowmen and igloos, and snow caves. They can roll down hills and *become* snow creatures. They can have snowball fights, and build fortresses from which to launch their attacks. And when they finally get so cold and wet that even they are shivering, they can go indoors and have steaming cups of hot cocoa with marshmallows melting on the top. "It's all good" is their perspective.

I was thinking about that attitude and wondering how they'd feel in this gloom we're having – and then I knew. They'd find a way to make it fun.

When I was their age, we had a big, high-ceilinged basement; typical for a New England house. On days when the weather was bad, we'd roller-skate or play ping-pong in the basement; or the neighbourhood fathers would clear the snow off a nearby pond and make it smooth. Before you knew it, the pond would be crowded with people of all ages, skating, or just sliding around in their boots. Of course, sometimes it would be raining and gloomy and no one would be out skating, but then we'd find some way to have fun indoors – like playing board games or singing or learning to bake. I thought about that today and realised that, as an adult, I've lost that easy childhood feeling of "okay, we'll do something else, then".

Time to bring out the games!

**Gail Haslam Loose**

## Ashbury

### **Friday 6 March at 2pm in Methodist Church - World Day of Prayer**

This year's service has been prepared by the Christian women of Nigeria. All are welcome to the service and, even if you can't come, please pray for the people of Nigeria.

### **Community Club**

#### **Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2.30 pm** in the Village hall

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



John Logie Baird's first public demonstration of a working television system took place almost exactly 100 years ago. In this talk Graham Turner will be taking a look, in not too much depth, at the technology in use from the first television broadcasts and then its development over the following century, ending with some thoughts as to where it is likely to be going in the next decade.

## CHURCH MATTERS

### MARCH 2025 SERVICES IN ASHBURY, COMPTON BEAUCHAMP, LONGCOT & FERNHAM

#### WILL BE AS FOLLOWS:

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

<b>Sunday 1 March</b>	9.30am	Holy Communion	Longcot
<b>Lent 2</b>	11.00am	Morning Prayer	Ashbury
<b>Sunday 8 March</b>	9.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Compton
<b>Lent 3</b>	9.30am	Holy Communion	Longcot
	11.00am	Holy Communion	Ashbury
<b>Sunday 15 March</b>	9.30am	Morning Prayer	Longcot
<b>Mothering Sunday</b>	11.00am	Morning Prayer	Ashbury
<b>Sunday 22 March</b>	9.00am	Matins (BCP)	Compton
<b>Lent 5</b>	9.30am	Holy Communion	Longcot
	11.00am	Holy Communion	Ashbury
<b>Sunday 29 March</b>	7.45am	Holy Communion	Shrivenham
<b>Palm Sunday</b>	10.00am	Palm Sunday procession from Methodist Church to St Andrews followed by	
	10.30am	Joint service	Shrivenham

**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 March-** 1 March-The Malthouses, 8 March-Walnut Trees Hill, 15 March-Wixes Piece, 22 March- Ashbury Hill, 29 March-Berrycroft.

## **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](mailto: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.

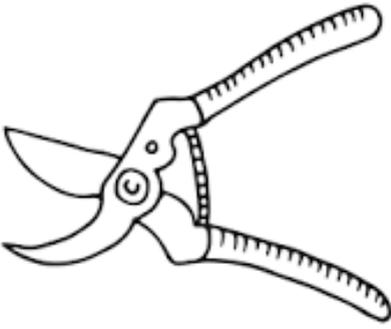
**Thank you!**

## **THANK YOU ASHBURY**

What a wonderful response to our request for donations for the Yeshua Pensioners in South Africa. Joanna Lambert will take 18 bags full of toiletries and gifts (that is two large suitcases!)

'**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.



### **CHURCHYARD "SPRING CLEAN"**

**Saturday, 21<sup>st</sup> March**

**10am- Noon**

We would greatly appreciate as many helpers as we can to carry out our annual Churchyard "Spring Clean" on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March at 10am. Usually we attract about 30 people such that as well getting the Churchyards ready for summer it is also a very social occasion. Hot refreshments will be available. As well as appropriate garden tools (secateurs, hard brush, trowel) it would also be helpful if, those who can, could bring a wheelbarrow or strimmer

Newcomers to the village are especially welcome where you can get to know other locals

From the archive: 16<sup>th</sup> March 1895 Vale of the White Horse Gazette

## **ASHBURY.**

**DINNERS TO SCHOOL CHILDREN. —** During the past three weeks, a dozen children, each in their turn, attending the Ashbury National School, are each morning at 11.30. supplied by the Rev. O. J. F. Yule, at the Vicarage, with excellent soup, which needless to say, this extended kindness is greatly appreciated by the scholars.

## Country Matters

Reading a later 1953 printing of Tom Brown's School Days first published 1897 I noticed this edition has a foreword by the first Baron, Geoffrey Elton, himself an Old Rugby. His son Rodney was a government minister for many years and from his country cottage at Compton Beauchamp was a much respected part of our church community both at Compton and Ashbury.

The book by Thomas Hughes, late of Kington Lisle whose father was vicar of Uffington, dealt with life at Rugby under the reforming head, Thomas Arnold (1795-1842). The book illuminates life at Rugby in the 1840's featuring the fictitious young Tom Brown's time there dealing with the birth of the game of rugby, bullying by Flashman and underlining the school's ethos in preparing young gentleman for life ready to display a strong moral code even it involved the need for personal risk., which he called "a muscular Christianity". The old Brown Squires of Uffington "go on believing and fighting into green old age" and the Tom Brown's museum in Uffington recalls memories of this era.

An early chapter describes the Vale of this time and White Horse Hill's dominance, overseeing eleven counties in exceptional light. "It is a land of rich pastures, bounded by ox-fences and covered with fine hedgerow timber, with here and there a nice little gorse or spinney. There is little ploughland and but few woods. The villages are straggling, queer, old-fashioned places, the houses being dropped down without regularity. They are built of good grey stone and thatched, though I see within the last year or two the red brick cottages are multiplying".

Now the elms are gone, such a feature, until the early 1970's. Besides aesthetics their timber was important for coffins, floor planks and chair seats. Ministry grants at up to 60% saw an explosion of underdrainage schemes with tile pipes and later plastic piping installed from the 1960's to turn grasslands into wheatlands. With this, the cows have gone, but the challenge remains over how to keep the vale's heavy soils fertile without a grass break. Even now more dairy herds are going in the vale, driven by recent heavy milk price cuts to exacerbate the challenge of what rotation is best for these heavy vale soils. Eastbrook Farm at Bishopstone bucks this trend with their two low cost organic dairies.

There are also two ticking time bombs facing farmers in the vale. How to maintain these drainage systems installed 40-70 years back and secondly dealing with asbestos roofing on grant aided barns of the same era. The asbestos is becoming more brittle with age. Years ago, high pheasants that were shot on shooting days behind Rectory Farm used to bounce off barns without damage. Later they cracked the asbestos.

Now, we no longer allow birds to be driven there.

**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)

**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 [mail to:](mailto:mail%20to%3A%20vicar@shrivenhamandashbury.co.uk)  
[vicar@shrivenhamandashbury.co.uk](mailto:vicar@shrivenhamandashbury.co.uk) 07471 434276

or Rev'd Dr Janet AndersonMacKenzie  
([associate.vicar@shrivenhamandashbury.co.uk](mailto:associate.vicar@shrivenhamandashbury.co.uk)) on 07821 474 711

### **Ashbury Village Hall**

Chris Millard [mailto:villagehall@ashbury.org.uk](mailto:mailto:villagehall@ashbury.org.uk)  
Secretary Sandra Dagnall 07773 379703 [sandrajdagnall@gmail.com](mailto:sandrajdagnall@gmail.com)  
Bookings: Laura 07766 338551 and Steve Pilkington 0773 9692076 [mail to:](mailto:steve_pilkington@yahoo.co.uk)  
[steve\\_pilkington@yahoo.co.uk](mailto: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](mailto: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](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:** Emma Markham [emma.markham@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:emma.markham@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

**M.P. for the Witney constituency:** Charlie Maynard:  
[charlie.maynard.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:charlie.maynard.mp@parliament.uk)

**Newsletter entries for April 2026.** Submit your entries by **March 23rd** to: M. Turner Claremont, Ashbury SN6 8LN. [marionturner@me.com](mailto:marionturner@me.com) 01793 710302 see also [www.ashbury.org.uk](http://www.ashbury.org.uk) and the community page on Facebook.

*All views expressed are those of the contributors.*