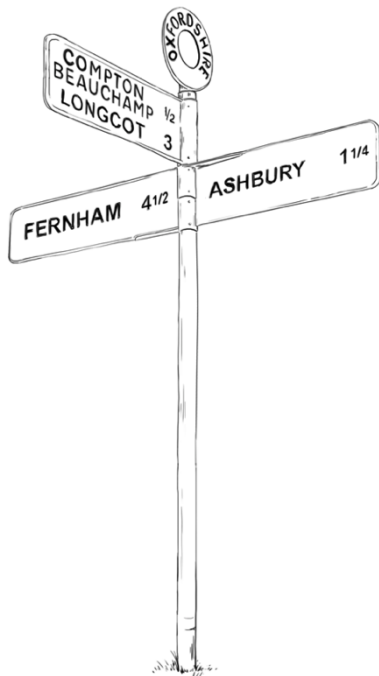


**ASHBURY  
COMPTON LONGCOT FERNHAM  
NEWS  
MAY 2024**



**6<sup>th</sup> Beat the Bounds**

**11<sup>th</sup> Plant Sale for Prospect Hospice**

**18<sup>th</sup> Longcot Clarinet Collective Spring concert**

**19<sup>th</sup> Norma & Richard's Benefice Communion**

## THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

The Christian value for our schools this term is friendship. You might wonder about that when these days we use the words so casually, but true friendship (as opposed to superficial acquaintance) encompasses many of the Christian values. Think about generosity, trust, respect, perseverance and truthfulness, for example. If we have these qualities, we will always be good friends to one another and to God.

It says in the Book of Proverbs “a true friend sticks closer than one’s nearest kin.” We learned the truth of that when living in the US all those years ago. We were far away from our families, but we made friends who supported and encouraged us while we were there, and who have remained friends ever since. That’s something else about friends: like the stars, you don’t have to see them all the time to know they’re there. It has been interesting to see that the children in our schools already know this. When asked for a definition of friendship, one of them said “friends lift you up when you fall” which we thought was perfect. True friends will always have our backs, even if they later tell us privately that we were foolish to fall in the first place. Honesty is a Christian value, too!

Over the next few weeks, we’ll be looking at friendship in terms of sticking together, encouraging and supporting one another, making time for each other and learning to listen to one another. All things which will be with them for life. The children will also be making friendship chains and bracelets. Longcot school have already made such a long bracelet that it’s hanging around the cross like a scarf – and isn’t that a beautiful image of friendship?

All of this is working up to thanking you for your friendship over the past ten years. We have very much enjoyed our time in the benefice, and it is hard to leave, but we know that the time is right. This is probably as long as we’ve lived anywhere in our married life, and those experiences have taught us the truth of the old saying that you never really leave the people and places you have loved. Part of them goes with you, and you leave a part of yourself behind.

At the time of writing, we don’t know whether there have been any applications for the post of incumbent. Whatever happens, we know that you are in good hands with Rev’d Patrick and that he is in good hands with you. Whenever they arrive, the new incumbent will be truly blessed to be part of this benefice. Thank you for sharing it with us and God go with you into the future.

Blessings

**Norma & Richard**

## Ashbury

### Beat the Bounds 2024

This year the annual medieval tradition to walk the parish boundaries will be on **Monday May 6th, meeting at 8.30am** in front of the pub. Following an Ashbury tradition that is at least 500 years old, the parish boundary walk was historically used to confirm the boundaries of the parish and ensure that neighbouring parishes hadn't encroached any of our land. Everyone is welcome on this walk, including children and dogs, and you can come for as much of the walk as you like. The history of the walk and more information on the route can be found at <http://www.ashbury.org.uk/beat-the-bounds-walk/> or call Steve Treadwell on 710369. Come and explore the parish with lovely views of the downs and vale that you will only ever experience on foot. And be part of history!

*A Glastonbury charter of 947 showing a grant of land by King Eadred in Ayssehudun to Edric, may describe the modern parish of Ashbury. **Don't be alarmed; you needn't be doing all of this!** [ed.]*

Erest of Buckansticke (*tree trunk*) west on Buckanmer' (*Bucca's pool-possibly on Frognam Down, Lambourn Corner*) to j an Ruancrundele (*Rough chalkpit*) j anon mide ward Burnestowe (*?bathing place*) to j an stone j anen west endlangsmalweyes (*along the narrow way*) on j are crundel (*chalkpit*) bi est j a Ertheburgh' (*east of the earthwork-though this may be an error for 'west'*) and so north on ritz to Hordenstone, j ane to elden berwe (*old barrow*) and so endlangdiches) (*along the ditch*) north to j an Whytestone, j an to Stanberwe (*stone barrow*) j are, j anen to j e litel berwe (*little tumulus*) j anen endelangmeres (*along the boundary*) to Middildych (*middleditch*) j anen north to ritz weye on j an ston on midderiztweyes (*north to the Ridge way to the stone in the middle of the Ridge way*) an so to Loppanscomb' (*the upper part of Loppa's valley*) j ar, forth endlangfurth (*furrow*) on ritz to Merewelle (*boundary stream-just north of Icknield way*) endlangstremes to Folanruwers (*uncertain*) over than ridde

(possibly 'clearing') to j an stone whytoute j ar Irwelond' (stone outside the ploughed land) j ar forth to j an beche (stream valley) j an to Piwanmer' (uncertain) of Piwanmer on Lippanstubbe (Lippa's tree stump) j ar on Kinggesdych (King's Ditch) endlangdych to Melanbrok' (mill stream-probably the mylen broc flowing through Shrevenham) of Melanbrok' on Lortanbrock (Lorta's brook, probably connected with Lertwell) j anen on Lortanberwe (Lorta's hill or tumulus), so up endlangfurtz (along the furrow) to Mereberwe (boundary hill or tumulus), j anen out to j an wydem yate (wide gate) of j an zate to j an horestonford (boundary stone ) to Rammesbury (raven's camp-likely to be on Weathercock Hill) yate, of Rammesbury so forth endlangweyes to Buckanstick'.



## **Plant and Cake Sale for Prospect Hospice - 2.00 Saturday 11 May pm**

We would be very grateful for donations of plants and cakes to raise funds for our local hospice - the hall will be open from 11.00-12.30 to receive these. As well as plants and cakes we will be selling second-hand gardening equipment. We hope you will be able to come and support the Prospect Hospice and find a bargain or two!

**Margaret Smith and Sarah Loney**

## **Ashbury Community Club**

Thursday 30th May 2.30 pm. Village Hall

' Root and Branch '

Our speaker will talk about how this independent charity, based near Watchfield, provides gardening and other craft activities to promote recovery for people with mental health difficulties.

Entrance fee £2 - includes tea & biscuits

No need to book - just turn up for an interesting talk followed by time for questions and socialising. Further info from Sue Reade, tel 710208

## **CHURCHYARD SPRING-CLEAN 2024**

Thanks to the time and work given by a record 35 people from across the Ashbury Parish it was possible to carry out our annual community spring clean of the New & Old Churchyards (& Car park) getting them ready for the coming year.

We were once again blessed again with a sunny, dry morning. Good gardening weather.

The work included-

clearing the footpaths of leaves and grass, getting them back to the path edges  
clearing back all the edges of the Churchyards so that all the gravestones can be seen  
and we can now mow / strim during the summer where practical.

generally strimming and removing most of the fallen branches and twigs, refreshing  
the area of planting at the bottom of the Church steps

removing all the growth and weeds from the wall (erected in 1877) adjacent to the  
footpath, clearing ivy off the trees. Weeding the mound and cutting back the  
vegetation at the bottom area of the Churchyard car park

As in previous years we are most grateful to Charlie Whigham for disposing of all the  
cleared vegetation on his bonfire

**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 Jackie Baker (710358) for Ashbury & Idstone or Anne Taylor (07491 035582) for Kingstone Winslow

## **Compton Beauchamp**

### **CAR BOOT ITEMS WANTED! CAN YOU HELP?**

We are looking to raise funds towards our running costs at St Swithun's Church, Compton Beauchamp. Suitable items would be bric-a-brac, crockery, DVDs, books, toys, clothing in good condition etc. **Please note** all items are freely given on the understanding that all unsold items will be given to other charities as we do not have the facilities to store.

If you have any items that you are willing to donate, please get in contact with either Louise Slater on [louise@louiseslater.net](mailto:louise@louiseslater.net) or Joanna Lambert on [jrjlambert@aol.com](mailto:jrjlambert@aol.com). Thank you.

### **From the archives**



**Ashbury children 1898**

## ASHBURY.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL TREAT.**—On Thursday, the 26th ult, the Vicar and Mrs Miller kindly entertained the choir boys, and the children attending the Sunday School, with a capital tea, in the Schoolroom. The teachers and visitors previously partook of tea at the Vicarage. The children assembled about six o'clock, and, after doing justice to the good things provided, games were resorted to in the play-ground, until the children were summoned again to the Schoolroom. 'Bran-tubs' now awaited them: and, as each child dipped for a prize, no small amount of excitement and pleasure prevailed amongst the scholars. The Vicar now gave a short address to the children, respecting the attendance at Sunday School, &c, and afterwards distributed prizes, consisting of Bible, Prayer, and Hymn Books, &c, to those children who had made the best attendances. After a scramble for nuts in the play-ground, the children, who appeared greatly pleased with their treat, were dismissed.

**ACCIDENT.**—Whilst Henry Dabney, of Ashbury—in the employ of Mr H Willis—was fag-gotting, his billock, in some way, appeared to twist and cut across his hand, making a severe gash on the middle finger. However, under the skilful treatment of Dr Nixon, Shrivvenham, the hand is progressing favourably.

## Longcot

### Spring Concert on Saturday 18th May 2024 at 6 pm in St. Mary's Church, Longcot

The Clarinet Collective returns to St. Mary's Church, Longcot on Saturday 18th May to present evening of relaxing and uplifting music to put a spring in your step! **The church will be decorated with seasonal flower arrangements on the theme of 'An English Country Garden' which can be enjoyed before and during the concert. The display will remain in the church till Friday 25th May.**

The Clarinet Collective is a group of professional freelance musicians who have worked with many of London's leading orchestras over the years. Their lively and eclectic programmes of music for clarinet sextet have been much enjoyed by audiences at St. Mary's Church since 2019. They are looking forward to performing some new arrangements of much-loved pieces by some of our greatest composers, including Bach, Mozart, Dvorak and Vaughan Williams. Guest flautist Peter Lewis will be joining the Clarinet Collective to perform the meltingly beautiful Adagio from Gounod's Petite Symphonie, and at the lighter end of the musical spectrum there will be dance music by Johann Strauss and classic hits from the 30's and 40's.

Admission is free with a retiring collection, however all seats should be reserved in advance by email to [victorialmedcalf@gmail.com](mailto:victorialmedcalf@gmail.com) Profits will be shared between St. Mary's Church and the Longcot Village Trust. The bar will be open from 5.30 pm and at the interval.





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

*The service times are correct at the time of writing (2 April). 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 5 May</b>	<b>Norma Fergusson's last Communion at Compton</b>		
	9.00am	Holy Communion (BCP) Compton	
	9.30am	Holy Communion	Longcot
	11.00am	Morning Prayer	Ashbury
<b>Thursday 9 May Ascension Day</b>	10.00am	Holy Communion	Ashbury
<b>Sunday 12 May</b>	<b>Norma Fergusson's last Communions at Longcot &amp; Ashbury</b>		
	9.30am	Holy Communion	Longcot
	11.00am	Holy Communion	Ashbury
<b>Sunday 19 May Pentecost</b>	<b>Norma &amp; Richard Fergusson's Benefice Communion</b>		
	10.30am	Benefice Communion with Choir	Shrivenham
<b>Sunday 26 May</b>	10.30am	Benefice Holy Communion with Choir	Fernham

*\*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 May-** 5<sup>th</sup> May Kingstone Winslow, 12<sup>th</sup> May Malthouse Close, 19<sup>th</sup> May Odstone farm & cottages, 26<sup>th</sup> May Pound Piece

**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.

**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) (until 19<sup>th</sup> May) or 01793 784338 or Rev'd Patrick Mabhunu ([associatevicar@shrivenhamandashbury.co.uk](mailto:associatevicar@shrivenhamandashbury.co.uk) or 07471 434276).

**Messy Church on Thursday's 2<sup>nd</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> May** 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.

**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 2.30pm FRIDAY 31st May**

Why not start the Bank Holiday weekend by joining us in St. Mary's Church for tea, cakes, chat and laughter and the chance to catch up with the local news? - you'd be most welcome There is no charge but donations to our chosen good cause are always welcome.

**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.

### **Country Matters**

The trouble with writing about the weather is that it will have changed markedly by the time your efforts are read. As I write we could be at last heading for high pressure. Our prayers for a good drying spell failed in February, March and until April 14th. That's getting rather late to begin spring planting. We had 300 acres of malting barley, spring beans and maize to plant. Adam Henson on Countryfile was recorded at the end of March forecasting how much lower his output of grain would be for every week's delay after the third week of March. There comes a time around the third week in April when it might be more cost effective to give up and miss a year or to try to establish a one year clover mix under the Government's new supported environmental options rather than harvest a disappointing cereal crop.

I have been looking back through my copy of JM Stratton's Agricultural Records AD 220-1977 for earlier wet springs. Aged five, I have memories then of my Uncle Jack spinning his Morris Oxford on the ice outside our house in 1947. It was a very severe winter and the book lists heavy snow from Jan 23rd. Feb was prolonged cold with heavy snow, indeed the coldest night since 1815. March snowy in the first half then with much rain following and severe floods. April wet and May unusually dry. Sounds difficult. The outcome was deficient harvests all round and I fear this year could be similar round here and in many other parts. However, we have just returned from a walking holiday in Dorset where the winter wheat and oil seed rape crops look very good on the high ground. On the vale ground here Oliver plans to replace our flood damaged winter wheat crops with forage maize destined for Alistair Wright's large herd of dairy cows at Russley.

Lambourn has had its sewer problems and you may have spotted a boat in the flooded field by the Park farm entrance showing how saturated the aquifers are. It's never an ill wind, and in patches in our villages the early roadside plant honesty seems to have flourished, showing bright pink, but it will soon be past its best.

**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) Rev Norma Fergusson .Vacancy after 19<sup>th</sup> May

Associate vicar: Revd Patrick Mabhunu [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 June 2024.** Submit your entries for **June** by **24<sup>th</sup> May** to: M. Turner Claremont, Ashbury SN6 8LN. [marionlturner@me.com](mailto:marionlturner@me.com) 01793 710302 For more 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.