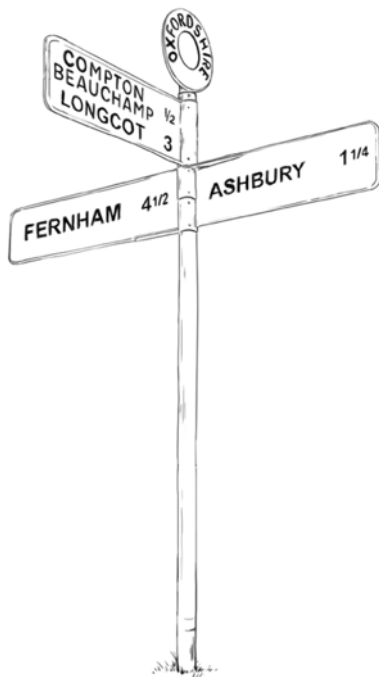


**ASHBURY
COMPTON LONGCOT FERNHAM
NEWS
MAY 2026**



**Longcot Spring Concert 2nd
Beat the Bounds 3rd
Prospect Plant and Cake sale 9th
Community Club 28th**

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

I was delivered into this world in a humble council house in the war-ravaged City of Coventry during the summer of 1949. The doctor who attended my dear mother was a Dr Weiner who was to be our wonderful family GP for many years. He had been fortunate to escape the persecution of the Jews in Nazi Germany, and despite being interned during the early months of the war, was eventually allowed to assist the overstretched medics in the bombed hospitals of the city.

After the war he established his GP practice in our very needy working class district, and became a leading figure of the community as it embraced the new National Health Service and the rising Phoenix of a powerhouse industrial city. He never forgot this country and city that had given him refuge, and was highly active in Coventry's pursuit of world peace and reconciliation famously inspired by the people of the city and its new Cathedral.

He brought his Jewish humour, compassion, and medical skills to the people of Coventry and was a leading voice in the city's interfaith dialogue and religious pluralism. A remarkable man who was such a strong advocate of forgiveness and reconciliation, despite so many members of his family failing to find refuge and falling victim to the holocaust.

The words of Emma Lazarus are still proudly displayed on the Statue of Liberty in New York Harbour:

"Give me your tired, your poor/ Your huddled masses yearning to be free/ The wretched refuse of your teeming shore". Compassion towards those men women and children who have so little yet need so much, not least hope and opportunity of a better and safer life, seems to be fading in certain quarters on both sides of the Atlantic.

Sadly there are politicians, even 81 years after the end of the war, whose choice of words inflame division in society and by so doing, sow the seeds of persecution. Historians see echoes of the 1930s and refer to Santayana, "Nations that do not learn from the mistakes of history are condemned to repeat them."

Tom Arnold.

Fernham.

Ashbury

Beat the Bounds Walk 2026

This year the annual 'Beat the Bounds' walk will take place on **Sunday May 3rd, starting at 8.30am in front of the pub**. This tradition of confirming the parish boundary is hundreds of years old, probably starting in Anglo Saxon times with the first written account we have for Ashbury being 'Abbot Beere's Terrier and Perambulation' of 1517. Everyone is welcome on this walk, including children. 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. The history of the boundary fields and boundary markers will be given en route. It's a circular walk and we are normally back at the pub by 3pm. 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!

Ashbury Village Hall AGM

We will soon be holding the Village Hall Committee Annual General Meeting ("AGM") on **12th May at 7.00pm**, which confirms the Management Committee members and agrees plans and priorities for the forthcoming year.

The Village Hall continues to be frequently used for events big and small and the Committee are much appreciative for your support of all of these local events. It's therefore important that our future plans work to preserve the hall as an important community space.

If you would like to come along to the AGM, you are most welcome. Alternatively, if you would like to support us in any way, please let us know.

On behalf of the Village Hall Committee, **Sandra Dagnall (sandrajdagnall@gmail.com) and Chris Millard (710352, Chris.Millard@btinternet.com)**

Plant and cake sale for Prospect Hospice Saturday 9 May 2 pm

We would be very grateful for donations of plants and cakes to raise much needed 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!

Some of you may have seen Prospect Hospice featured on ITV West news recently. The hospice is being forced to turn away dying patients every week because it can't afford to keep all of its specialist beds open. Half of the inpatient unit is closed. Here's the link to the news item.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ujMxUCxNMIM>

Margaret Smith and Sarah Loney

Christian Aid Week 10-16 May

All households in Ashbury, Kingstone Winslow and Idstone will receive a donation envelope. If you would like to help some of the world's poorest people please put your donation in the envelope and return it to your local collection point by 16 May (details will be on the envelope). Thank you.

Community Club

Thursday 28th May at 2.30pm , Village Hall

" A journey in photography from our rivers and oceans to deep space and Pennyhooks Farm."

Paul Colley will describe how he takes photographs in our rivers, oceans, forests and caves to support the preservation of wildlife and habitat by working with world-wide conservation agencies.

He recently discovered an incredible diversity of wildlife on our back doorstep at **Pennyhooks Farm** and is now volunteering much of his time there to document their wildlife and to support the associated charitable trust by working with autistic students in a wildlife group and by contributing to the Trust's fundraising efforts. Entrance fee of £2 includes tea & biscuits.

All welcome - no need to book, but if you have any questions or need a lift, phone Jackie, 01793 710358

LONGCOT

Spring concert with the Clarinet Collective – Music Around the World.

The Clarinet Collective will be giving their annual concert in **St. Mary's Church, Longcot** on **Saturday 2nd May at 6 pm**. The programme has as its theme the idea of global harmony through the unifying language of music, and will celebrate the richness and diversity of musical cultures from around the world, featuring music from many different countries including England, France, Germany, Austria, America, Israel and Russia. It will include works by a wide range of wonderful composers through the ages, from Bach and Mozart to Holst, Borodin, Dvorak, Bizet and Lennon and McCartney.

As always, admission is free with a retiring collection. Profits will be shared between St. Mary's Church, the Longcot Village Trust and the UNICEF Ukraine Appeal. Seats are un-numbered, but in order to help with seating and catering arrangements we ask that places are reserved in advance by emailing victorialmedcalf@gmail.com. Doors open at 5.30 pm and drinks will be available at the bar before the concert and at the interval.

CHURCH MATTERS

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

The service times are correct at the time of writing 15 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.

Sunday 3 May	9.30am	Morning Prayer	Longcot
	11.00am	Holy Communion by extension	Ashbury
Sunday 10 May	9.00am	Matins (BCP)	Compton
	9.30am	Holy Communion	Longcot
	11.00am	Morning Worship	Ashbury
Thursday 14 May Ascension Day	7.00pm	Choral Evensong With Choir	Ashbury
Sunday 17 May	9.30am	Morning Prayer	Longcot
	11.00am	Morning Worship	Ashbury
Sunday 24 May	9.00am	Holy Communion	Compton
Pentecost	9.30am	Holy Communion	Longcot
	11.00am	Holy Communion	Ashbury
Sunday 31 May	10.30am	Benefice Holy Communion with Choir	Fernham

All online Morning Prayer, Communion services and sermons can be watched on the Shrevenham 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 May:- 3 Ashdown Estate, 10 High Street,
17 Idstone Road 24 Idstone, 31 Kingstone Winslow

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 vicar@shrivenhamandashbury.co.uk (07471 434276) (or Rev'd Janet Anderson-MacKenzie associate.vicar@shrivenhamandashbury.co.uk (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.

Country Matters

Beef and lamb have been a bright spot with prices reacting to lack of supply; pigs, milk and cereals are languishing. Looking at the latter two, this is in denial of the old adage up corn, down horn and vice versa. It is unusual for corn and milk to be both friendless together, through oversupply. The Government is negotiating a reset with the EU over food regulations. This might be popular with some livestock sectors but would be further bad news for arable, which is struggling. Against this background, farming awaits the next round of support measures from DEFRA under the SFI banner (sustainable farming initiative) due in June for small farmers (up to 50 hectares) and in September for larger farmers aimed at increasing efficiency and rewarding environmental measures.

We know DEFRA have woken up that the former model was far too generous to farmers who wanted to give up farming for food. The new scheme is aimed at increasing efficiencies and assisting environmental measures but will now limit applications for environmental options to 25% of the land area. Since rents or mortgages have to be paid on every acre it is only right for government to help fund diversity on marginal land to help the environment. We are currently importing 40% of the food we need so there is scope for more home production generally and particularly for fruit and vegetables.

A Government's first duty is to keep its population safe with an adequate defence budget and second to arrange for an adequate food supply. With the current hike in the cost of transport and in an increasingly unstable world which can disrupt imports, the case for food security at home which discourages imports has never been greater. This message for self-sufficiency has been pressed but ignored over the last twenty years.

I am a keen supporter of farming the best land well. This can be organic. The poorer and awkward bits are best in environmental measures. In this way farmers can enhance the natural capital that already exists and help to join it all up, creating corridors of biodiversity. We can, with support do both, farm for food and nature. This is the golden bullet. Our margins in the vale harbour voles and help barn owls. Overwintered stubbles and tracks on the downs help skylarks, corn buntings, meadow pipits and linnets, also attracting passing migrants like wheatears and stonechats. The downland coombs of Ashbury, Bishopstone and Hinton protect the orchid sites. Our new woods and hedges harbour blackcaps, tits and finches. A summer fallow area provides nesting for lapwings.

"Lucky" the red calf I mentioned last September is now in the front field at Rectory Farm, still with its mother, also red.

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 [mail to:](mailto:mail%20to%3A%3A%3A)

vicar@shrivenhamandashbury.co.uk 07471 434276

or Rev'd Dr Janet AndersonMacKenzie

(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:](mailto:mail%20to%3A%3A%3A)

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 June 2026. Submit your entries by **May 25th** to: M. Turner Claremont, Ashbury SN6 8LN. marionlturner@me.com 01793 710302 see also www.ashbury.org.uk and the community page on Facebook.

All views expressed are those of the contributors.