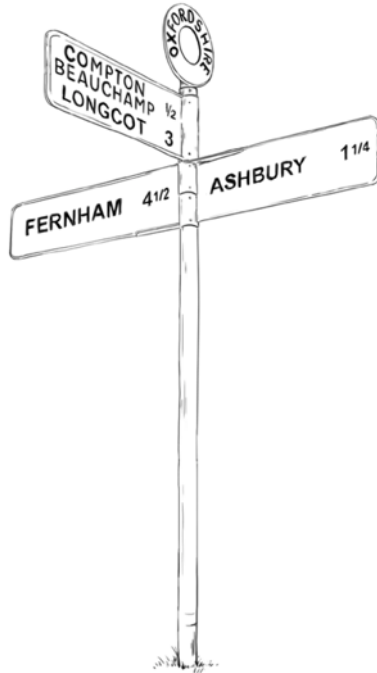


**ASHBURY
COMPTON LONGCOT FERNHAM
NEWS
NOVEMBER 2024**



**Installation and induction of Rev Patrick Mabhunu
6th St Andrew's Shrivenham**

Remembrance Sunday 10th

St Mary's Ashbury Christmas Bazaar 30th

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

I will always remember one of the first Sermons delivered by Patrick in the early days of his ministry in the Benefice. Full of his characteristic enthusiasm and passion, he based his sermon around 'John Chapter 13, vs 34', "A new commandment I give you. As I have loved you, so you must love one another." This was brought home to me in a very special way because of my experiences in the past two months.

How life can change so quickly. Celebrating Easter with the family this year we agreed the hotel and location for our annual Big Getaway (Crete) for the end of August and to celebrate my birthday. Unfortunately, on the big day, rather than jetting off to the sun, I found myself in the Medically Expected Unit at the Great Western Hospital about to embark on four long weeks of in-patient treatment for meningitis. Thus began an experience that will live long with me.

Four weeks with the same team of doctors, nurses and support staff brought about a unique bonding, and with the additional support of family and friends, eventually allowed me to return home to Fernham. The view from my hospital bed, was of a team of dedicated people intent on doing their absolute best for the patients in their care.

The staff in that team were drawn from all over the UK, India, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Ghana, Nigeria, Zimbabwe, The Philippines, Iran, and Malaysia. Some were Christians, others Muslims, some Sikhs, some Hindus, and probably others of private faiths or none. But what they all had in common was a solicitude, a love for their fellow human beings and a determination to do their very best, invariably with a genuine smile on their face.

I know the NHS has its problems, but I think we should be careful to hold a balanced perspective when so many people are intent on making it work, showing professionalism and compassion that reflects what Jesus urged of us in his new commandment.

Tom Arnold

Ashbury



Church Christmas Bazaar - Saturday 30 November 2 pm

We will be holding our traditional Christmas Bazaar and Raffle once again in the Village Hall. We would very much appreciate items for the stalls listed below. Donations can be left at the Village Hall during the morning of the Bazaar (between 9-11 am) or prior to that delivered to the stall holder.

Please note this year tickets will not be sold door to door for our Grand Raffle but will be sold at the Bazaar. The Rose and Crown has very generously provided the main prize of a meal for two. Other items include a Barnes Travel voucher, a family ticket to watch Swindon Wildcats play ice hockey and lots of other lovely prizes.

CAKES - Clare McGlashan (01793 710754) and Les Fitchett.

GIFTS - Anything new and unwanted. Anne Taylor (01793 710051) and Julia Blake (07760 238929)

TOMBOLA - Bottles of wine, spirits, soft drink, sauces etc. Carole Crook (01793 952124) and Janet Boden.

BOOKS – As new condition, please. Marion Turner (01793 710302)

BRIC A BRAC - Any used items but not clothing or electrical. Sue Stannard and Jo Cholmeley (710953). Please deliver items to the hall or contact Jo.

CHILDREN'S TOYS - Madeleine Trussell. Please deliver items to the hall.

JIGSAWS - Diane Lovegrove (01793 710309)

RAFFLE PRIZES - Margaret Smith (01793 710800) and Audrey Tilling

Other stalls include: Children's Games (Diane and Bill Lovegrove) and Refreshments (Jane Worrall and Nina Tombs).

All funds raised will go towards the upkeep of St Mary's Church. Thank you for your support.

For general queries please contact Margaret Smith.

Ashbury Walking Group

Do you enjoy walks in the countryside in the company of friendly people? If so join us for our **Sunday** afternoon walks which take place on the 3rd Sunday of every month. We meet at **2pm** at the bus stop near the pub in the centre of the village and walk approx. 4 miles on local footpaths around Ashbury, finishing before darkness falls. It's an informal group, and dogs are welcome. For more information contact Sue Reade 710208 / sue_reade@btinternet.com

This month's walk will be on **17th** November.



STATIONS OF THE NATIVITY

will take place this year on Fri 20th December.

It is very much an event for the community and only happens with the help of an army of volunteers. Please can you help with these tasks?

Traffic warden

Visitor guide

Help with set up lighting/sound system in the barn on the afternoon of the 20th

Service sheet hand out

Mince pies (making)

Mince pies (serving)

Collection bucket

Thank you

Judy Clarke

(07876 192727 or judithannclarke@outlook.com)

Ashbury Community Club 2.30pm Thursday 28th November in the Village Hall

Molly Westen will tell us how she takes some of her sheep, donkeys and ponies to care homes to provide enrichment for residents. They also travel to schools for educational talks and to parties and festivals.

There will be plenty of time to ask questions and find out more about her team of animals.

Visitors welcome for £2 which includes tea and biscuits.

Bishopstone with Hinton Parva WI – Our November meeting will be held in the Rose and Crown at 7.30. This meeting is a “Choir Practice” with members’ participation. A good opportunity to come and meet us and find out a bit more about the WI

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



Compton Beauchamp war memorial - Remembrance Day 10th November 2024
10.50 an Act of Remembrance - to which all cyclists, riders, walkers are warmly invited – will take place, starting at 10.55 ending 11.10. Large signs to slow traffic will be put on the B4507 (Wantage to Ashbury road – What3words for the war memorial: mourner.packages.vine)

I suggest any riders coming in a trailer or horsebox park at the small car park at the junction of B4000 and the Ridgeway (What3words: remission.pink.simmer) and hack along the Ridgeway and turn left down Knighton Hill (2nd left off the Ridgeway) – allow 25 minutes.

All enquiries: Joanna Lambert 07990 898175

**Induction and Installation of Rev'd Patrick Mabhunu as Vicar of
the Shrivenham and Ashbury Benefice**

**This service is on Wednesday 6th November at 7pm in St
Andrew's Church, Shrivenham followed by refreshments and
finger buffet.**

**All are welcome, but for planning/catering purposes please let
Lucy know if you will be attending.**

01793 783519 info@shrivenhamandashbury.co.uk

CHURCH MATTERS

**NOVEMBER SERVICES IN ASHBURY, COMPTON, LONGCOT & FERNHAM
WILL BE AS FOLLOWS:**

*The service times are correct at the time of writing (8th October). 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 November	9.30am	Holy Communion	Longcot
All Souls/ All Saints	11.00am	Holy Communion	Ashbury
Wednesday 6 November*	7.00pm	Patrick Mabhunu's Induction (see separate notice)	Shrivenham
Sunday 10 November	8.00am	Holy Communion (Said)	Ashbury
	10.50am	War Memorial service	Ashbury
	10.50am	War Memorial service	Compton
	10.55am	War Memorial service	
		Followed by Church service	Longcot
	3.00pm	War Memorial service	Fernham
Thursday 14 November	10.00am	Holy Communion	Ashbury
Sunday 17 November	9.00am	Holy Communion	Compton
	9.30am	Morning Prayer	Longcot
	11.00am	Iona Morning Prayer	Ashbury
Sunday 24 November*	10.30am	Benefice Holy Communion	Watchfield

**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 November: 3rd November-Ashbury Hill, 10th November-Berrycroft, 17th November-Berrycroft Lane, 24th November- Chapel Lane.

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 Patrick Mabhunu (associatevicar@shrivenhamandashbury.co.uk) on 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 £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.

'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.

Longcot

TIME FELLOWSHIP 2.30pm FRIDAY 29th NOVEMBER'24

Tea and chat (and cake as well!) happens in St Mary's Parish Church, Longcot, on the last Friday of each month and you are very welcome to join us. There is no charge but donations to our chosen charity are always welcome.

UPPER THAMES AND RIDGEWAY NATIONAL TRUST ASSOCIATION (UTRNTA)

Our next winter talk will be in Cirencester on 16th November when Dr. Gillian White will be telling us about 'The Most Dissolute Man in London, the Duke of Devonshire and the building of Chatsworth'.

UTRNTA is just one of the many local NT groups all over the country which support their local NT properties

and enjoy various activities throughout the year. Why not consider joining us? More details of our association are to be found on our website, www.utrnta.co.uk. If you are already a member of the NT and would like to join us please contact one of our membership Secretaries, Mrs Anne Baldwin on 07455413078 or Mrs Helen Clift on 01285 810172.

Editor's note: Next month will be a joint December/ January issue, so please ensure any January entries are with me by 25th November for inclusion.

Country Matters

Writing Oct 20th it's been wet.

Sept 7th 2" Sept 14th 4" Oct to date 4"

That's 10 inches (250 ml) and it's making life difficult down on the farm. We planted three fields on Oct 13th, earlier than usual down at Zulu on the heavy land to get a good start and the wheat seeds have been totally rotted by the deluge. Had the wheat had time to germinate and root the plants would probably have survived. This compounds last autumn's and this spring's misfortune when crops were also flooded out. We, in common with other farmers are making very slow progress in completing the rest of our autumn planting on the better drained downland soils. A few drying days are needed and they are few and far between. The heavy land looks like missing a harvest two years on the trot.

The fodder maize crop is another concern; grown mostly for cattle feed or to feed biodigesters generating electricity or bioethanol gas. There are many thousand acres within forty miles of here waiting for drier weather. The cobs needed to ripen so we were unable to harvest in early September and now the ground is too wet to harvest. Our crop is worth £25-£30,000 destined to be hauled to Russley Park for the Wright's farms who need it for their dairy herd this winter. Serious damage to the soil structure is likely with rutting and worse, were we to attempt to harvest at present.

There is a lot of truth in the saying that more people go bust in a wet time than a dry time. In a dry time livestock seem to survive and do reasonably well and light crops are cheap to harvest. In a wet time livestock fail to thrive and with mud everywhere it is depressing and adds to immediate and consequential costs.

Our local Victorian author from Coate Water, Richard Jefferies, summed up 1879 in his book *Wild Life in a Southern County*. "Drot this here wet weather! The 'ossies be all in the stable eating their heads off, and the chaps idling about and can't do no work: pretty penny for wages and not a job done. Them summer ricks be all rotten at the bottom. The ploughing engine be stuck fast up to the axle. The land be too soft and squishy. Us never gets no good old frosts now, like they used to have..... Us had better give up this here trade, neighbour"! The late 1870's and 1880's were a dire time for farming. Bad weather produced poor harvests and wheat and beef was pouring into the country from America for the first time to undermine our markets. Jefferies was also reputed to be the first to coin the word "wildlife".

Usually an optimist, we need to pray for a miracle and for some drying easterly winds.

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). From 6th November, Revd Patrick Mabhunu

Associate Vicar: Revd Patrick Mabhunu associate.vicar@shrivenhamandashbury.co.uk

07471 434276

Ashbury Village Hall

Chris Millard <mailto:villagehall@ashbury.org.uk>

Secretary Margaret Smith 01793 710800 mbsmith5@hotmail.co.uk

Bookings: Laura 07766 338551 and Steve Pilkington 0773 9692076 [mail to: 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

<mailto:office@ash.faringdonlearningtrust.org>**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 [Leave of absence]

M.P. for the Witney constituency: Charlie Maynard: charlie.maynard.mp@parliament.uk

Newsletter entries for Dec/Jan '25. Submit your entries for **December/January** by **25th November** 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.