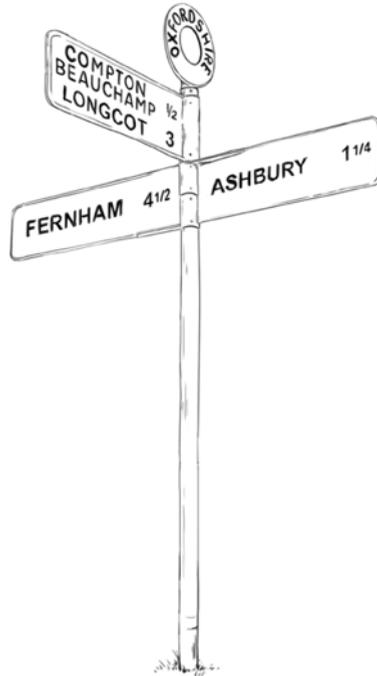


**ASHBURY
COMPTON LONGCOT FERNHAM
NEWS
NOVEMBER 2025**



Ashbury village quiz 8th

Remembrance Sunday 9th

Community Club 27th

St Mary's Christmas Bazaar 29th

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

November is always a very poignant time of year for many of us as we reflect on those who sacrificed so much serving their country in times of war and peace. For me, it stirs memories of my Grandfather and my father who were both seriously wounded in World Wars One and Two respectively, and for whom civilian life became very difficult thereafter. But despite their experiences of the horrors of war, they never lost their Christian faith. My friendship with the late Rev'd Frank Parkinson taught me a great deal about Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, and I know very many men and women benefited enormously from Frank's exceptional counselling skills and Christian ministry, both as an Army Chaplain, and as a much loved member of our Benefice team.

It was Frank who introduced me to the poetry of another famous Army Chaplain, the Rev'd Geoffrey Studdert Kennedy, better known perhaps as 'Woodbine Willie'. Kennedy served as an Army Chaplain throughout World War One, in the trenches of the Western Front. He won the Military Cross at Messines Ridge after entering no man's land under heavy machine gun fire to bring in wounded soldiers and minister to the dying where they fell. Initially he was an enthusiastic supporter of the war, and his charismatic personality and willingness to hand out cigarettes whilst engaged in his ministry made him enormously popular with the men he stood alongside in the trenches and as they went into battle. Their suffering was his suffering and he understood how to communicate and share the Christian faith. His poetry is also spectacular, often written in the dialect of the regiments he was supporting, portraying the reality of the men's experience, and addressing their doubts about Christian faith amidst the hell of war.

By the end of the war he had become embittered by the suffering and tragic loss of life. He embraced Christian Socialism and pacifism arguing for the love and truth of Christ to overcome war and greed. He was not afraid to have a "voice rather than an echo" and believed that Christianity demanded action for social justice as he devoted his final years working for the relief of suffering among the working class slums of our industrial cities. He argued forcefully that the Established Church should move out of its comfort zone, to comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable.

He is famously quoted as saying, "war is only glorious when you buy it in the Daily Mail and enjoy it at the breakfast table, it goes splendidly with bacon and eggs. Real war is the final limit of damnable brutality, and that's all there is in it."

We are very fortunate to have the Royal Army Chaplain's Museum on our doorstep at the Defence Academy in Shrivenham. It celebrates the work of 'Woodbine Willie' and all the Army Chaplains of the 20th Century and more recently. It is well worth a visit.

I close with the words of one of Kennedy's most famous poems :

Indifference,

When Jesus came to Golgotha, they hanged him on a tree,
They drove great nails through hands and feet , and made a Calvary,
They crowned Him with a crown of thorns, red were his wounds and deep,
For those were crude and cruel days, and human flesh was cheap.
When Jesus came to Birmingham, they simply passed him by,
They never hurt a hair of him, they only let him die,
For men had grown more tender, and they would not give him pain,
They only just passed down the street, and left him in the rain.
Still Jesus cried, "Forgive them for they know not what they do"
And still it rained the winter rain, that drenched him through and through,
The crowds went home and left the streets without a soul to see,
And Jesus crouched against a wall, and cried for Calvary.
Woodbine Willie.

Tom Arnold, Fernham



Ashbury



CHURCH CHRISTMAS BAZAAR and RAFFLE - Saturday 29 November 2 pm

We will be holding our traditional Christmas Bazaar and Raffle in the Village Hall on Saturday 29th November. 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.

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. Annemieke Steenbergen (07783 370561), Laurence Le-Gal, Jo Cholmeley (01793 710953).

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

JEWELLERY and SCARVES - Maggie Simons (01793 710801)

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

Other stalls include: Jigsaws and Children's Games - Diane and Bill Lovegrove plus Mary Davis

Refreshments - Jane Worrall and Nina Tombs

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

In addition there will also be a stall selling brand new hand knitted garments including socks, fine lace beaded scarves, mitts, hats and baby items.

For general queries please contact

Margaret Smith.

Community Club

Thursday, 27th November, 2.30pm, Ashbury Village Hall

'An Auctioneer's View from the Rostrum'

Pippa from the Kidson Trigg Auction Rooms will be giving a talk and slideshow about the changing nature of the world of auctions over the last 10 years.

Entrance fee £2 includes tea & biscuits.

Everyone welcome - no need to book - further info from Jackie, 01793 710358

Harvest donations – thank you to everyone who contributed to the harvest donations both at the church Harvest Festival and the School Harvest Festival – ten large bags of tins, dried foods, fresh fruit and vegetables etc. were taken to the Women's Refuge in Swindon where they were very gratefully received.

Remembrance Sunday – We will, as usual, commemorate Remembrance Sunday on 9th November at the war memorial starting at 10.50 with the act of remembrance, the roll of the fallen and laying of wreaths and keeping the two minute silence at 11.00am. At the end of the service the Village Hall will be open for tea and coffee provided this year by the Village Hall Committee. Everyone is welcome to join us.

Church Stonework – Those of you who go up past the church to go for walks will probably have noticed that the stone works to replace the badly worn areas continued during September and October while the bats were not breeding or hibernating. Our stonemason has also carved a beautiful new finial which will go back up on the top of the tower.

This was a £50,000 project which has been funded by several grant givers including TBH Brunner Charitable Trust, Oxford Historic Churches Trust, Benefact Trust, Lord Faringdon Charitable Trust and Rank Foundation Pebbles grant as well as by personal donations and a grant from our William Cash fund. The church would like to thank them all for enabling this work to be carried out to keep our historic church in good condition for the next generation

Maggie Simons

The Rose and Crown, Ashbury

As you may know, Holly Royale will shortly be leaving Ashbury for pastures new and it is fitting to call out how much we have valued her support and community spirit for the last 3 or so years. Whether you are involved in the choir, pop to the Post Office or enjoy a social evening in the pub, we recognise her contribution to strengthening our community and wish her well in her new adventures. We look forward to welcoming a new landlord to the pub in due course.

ASHBURY

QUOITS.—An enjoyable match was played on Wednesday evening at the “Crown and Thistle,” when the local players were opposed to a team brought by Mr Underwood, of the White Hart Hotel, Faringdon. After an interesting contest both games went in favour of the home team. The remainder of the evening was spent in harmony, songs being given by Major Davis, Messrs. T. Woods, W. Disbury, G. Hughes, and others, concluding with cheers for the host, Mr T. J. Carter, and Auld Lang Syne.

9th November 1912 Faringdon Advertiser

Ashbury Auction of Promises - what an amazing evening! A massive thank you to residents, neighbours, friends, businesses, our fabulous Auctioneer, lot donors and lot bidders, the organising team, Ashbury School PTA, cleaner uppers and all those involved who helped make our Auction night such a success.

A massive **£6,300** was raised and will be split between Ashbury with Compton Beauchamp School, St Mary's Church and the Ashbury Village Hall. This money raised will make a big difference to each of these pillars of our village, which provide learning, nurturing and community support and interests, in safe spaces, to our neighbourhood. We are hugely grateful to everyone who generously gave time, services, helping hands and, of course, their monetary support to this event. Thank you so much.

Ashbury Annual Village Quiz - The much coveted Ashbury Quiz Shield was won by Bunce's Dunces from Ildstone Road last year. This year, they defend their position at the 2025 challenge on **8th November**. Doors open 6.30pm.

Tickets are £10 from your street co-ordinator and will include a simple beef chilli (or cheese/coleslaw) and jacket potato supper. There will be a paying bar. Do get in touch soonest as we are restricted to 100 attendees in all and it was a very popular event last year. We look forward to seeing you there.

Please contact Sandra Dagnall on sandrajdagnall@gmail.com or 07773 379703 if you aren't sure who your contact is or have any questions.

Christmas Glass Painting Workshop - Create your own beautiful Christmas decoration. No artistic ability required! Saturday 22nd November 2-5pm in the Ashbury Village Hall. The cost is £30 which includes all materials and you can book your place with Anne Taylor 07491 035582 lowermill@hotmail.com. This is the second time that this event has been run and it was very much enjoyed so do book your place before they are snapped up!

Looking Ahead - Friday 23rd (not 24th or 25th) January 2026 - **Burns Night** in the Ashbury Village Hall. More info to follow.

Save the date: Friday 19th December. Stations of the Nativity-Ashbury once more turns into Bethlehem for this year’s Stations of the Nativity. Join the shepherds and follow Mary and Joseph as they search for a place to stay for the night before the birth of baby Jesus. More details in next month’s newsletter and social media.

Compton Beauchamp

St Swithun’s carol service, is Sunday 14th December 6pm, all would be very welcome. We offer drinks and nibbles afterwards...!

**NOVEMBER 2025 SERVICES IN ASHBURY, COMPTON, LONGCOT & FERNHAM
WILL BE AS FOLLOWS:**

The service times are correct at the time of writing (16th.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 2 November	9.30am	Holy Communion	Longcot
All Souls/ All Saints	11.00am	Holy Communion	Ashbury
Sunday 9 November	10.50am	War Memorial service	Ashbury
	10.50am	War Memorial service	Compton
	10.50am	War Memorial service	
		followed by Church service	Longcot
	3.00pm	War Memorial service	Fernham
Sunday 16 November	9.30am	Morning Prayer	Longcot
	11.00am	Third Sunday service	Ashbury
Sunday 23 November	9.00am	Holy Communion(BCP)	Compton
	9.30pm	Morning Prayer	Longcot
	11.00am	Holy Communion	Ashbury
Sunday 30 November*	10.30am	Benefice Holy Communion	
			Shrivenham

**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, Walnut Trees Hill, 10th November, Wixes Piece, 17th November, Ashbury Hill, 24th November - Berrycroft, 30th November – Berrycroft 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 (vicar@shrivenhamandashbury.co.uk) on 07471 434276) or Rev'd Dr Janet Anderson-MacKenzie (associatevicar@shrivenhamandashbury.co.uk) on 07821 474711`

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

This note is inspired by a chance meeting in Bishopstone. Walking my dog Flo off the lead we met a lady with a Collie on a lead. Both dogs were happy to calmly sniff. The lady explained she had friends in Crete where this dog had been abandoned. She had arranged for its transfer to the UK after rabies protection and to me after only a fortnight here, things were going swimmingly well for both parties. Dogs can be a great facility for social intercourse between owners! Most also have this enviable reputation for unconditional love.

Over a long life and only one at a time I have known Dazzle the Dalmatian, Scampie then Dabster, both Jack Russell Terriers, Flop a Springer Spaniel, Flic a Border Terrier cross, Fun a yellow Labrador. More recently Crumpet and now Flo, both Cocker Spaniels. Eight dogs. Dazzle was great growing up but as a dog he wandered which was his undoing. Scampie and Dabster were great mousers and ratters. Scampie in particular was a character. She loved going to ground and we had to dig her out several times, once after a couple of days despite trying to entice her back with meat poked down the hole. We were so busy stacking sheaves of corn into a dutch barn in 1958, the last harvest with a binder, that she got buried beside a stanchion and we had to dig her out alive the next morning. Getting old she had bad breath and the vet found a chicken bone wedged across the roof of her mouth. Flop was my first gun dog at Idstone and a lovely dog with our two young boys. She had puppies and we received a lovely picture back from Switzerland of the largest dog puppy standing on a wall at Lake Constance.

Flic was also a great ratter / mouser and very tough. She always had to have her head sticking out of the land rover window. She chased sheep once. I gave her a hiding and she never did it again. Fun had a good temperament but something went wrong with the training. We needed an electric collar and a buried wire round the curtilage of Rectory Farm to keep her in. Somehow, she would know if there was a power cut or the electricity was off. Friends christened her Porsche because of her speed out shooting. Tragically she had to be put down after getting under my land rover wheels. Crumpet and Flo have been great successes and good retrievers. There is something truly magical seeing your dog bring back a pheasant or a duck across water for the first time. Training Crumpet she was not that keen on dummies. Reluctant to lose this dummy which I had thrown in a gravel pit, it was drifting away and I found myself having to swim for it myself, complete with rubber boots. Fortunately, it was summer! Penny loved Crumpet who was blue roan. Flo is black and now a prima donna aged thirteen.

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 Mabunu
<mailto:vicar@shrivenhamandashbury.co.uk> 07471 434276

or Rev'd Dr Janet Anderson-MacKenzie (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:
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

NB: Newsletter entries for December AND January'25/26. Submit your entries by **22 November** 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.