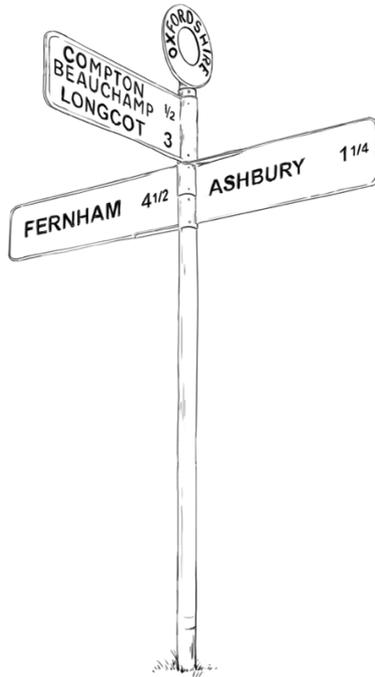


**ASHBURY
COMPTON LONGCOT FERNHAM
NEWS
FEBRUARY 2021**



Virtual wine tasting February 5th

Ashbury School foodbank

Thought for the month

Recently inspired by a rare glimpse of the sun on a grey January day, with the wind in the trees providing a good imitation of waves breaking on a beach, I longed to be by the sea once more, so may I invite you to join me on a virtual trip to the seaside?

In a daydream all things are possible so we have no trouble parking on this bright, sunny day in late spring. We find a good spot in the lee of a wooden breakwater, which is covered in bright green algae and draped with brown seaweed. We erect our folding chairs and are soon enjoying a nice hot coffee from our flask.

If we look to our right there's a bank of shingle with steps leading up to the promenade where a few early season visitors are enjoying the sea air. Behind them are beach huts and kiosks selling beach toys and postcards, and one offering hot food and drinks which is obviously proving more popular than the ice cream and candy-floss on offer next door !

In the opposite direction is the sea - quite far out as it's low tide we can just see small waves sparkling as they break on the sand. In the clear blue sky, seagulls wheel and cry and not far from the shore a cormorant is perched on a red and white striped marker buoy drying its outstretched wings. In bare feet we walk across the ribbed sand and chance a quick paddle in the chilly water.

Further along the beach there are rock pools where we enjoy gazing down into the water at limpets and sea-anemones waving their tentacles in the hope of ensnaring one of the tiny fish darting in and out of the feathery weed. Walking back up the beach we take care not to tread on half buried razor shells or discarded mussel shells before reaching our base where we enjoy our picnic lunch, giving thanks that there's no wind to blow sand in the sandwiches!

It's soon time to head home so we clamber up the steps to the car and, as we drive off, agree that our time by the sea has left us feeling relaxed, calmer and more positive.

Perhaps that's why Jesus spent time resting, praying, preaching and even cooking on the beach - even if the Sea of Galilee can be a bit rough at times. Let's give thanks to God for all our wide open spaces and especially for the beauty and majesty of our coast line.

Stella Tidmarsh

Views expressed in "Thought for the month" are those of the contributors

Ashbury News

Virtual Wine Tasting - A taste of Australia –

Join us via Zoom at 7.30 pm on Friday 5th February for a fun and informative wine tasting evening with wine expert and educator Abbie Bennington. Guided by Abbie, we'll be taking a virtual trip to sunny Australia - from the comfort of our own sofas! We'll be tasting a Shiraz and a Viognier. Abbie will be telling us about each wine and talking us through how to taste them like an expert.

Tickets are £10 per household and you will also need to purchase a bottle of each wine at approximately £10 each.

When you sign up you will receive details of Abbie's recommended wines which are available from Sainsburys. If you can't get those particular ones, any Australian Shiraz and Australian Viognier will be fine.

To book your place, email claireroutley@btinternet.com. Payment can be made via BACS, or via cheque/cash at Teallach Cottage, High Street, Ashbury.

In aid of St Mary's Church, Ashbury



ASHBURY SCHOOL FOODBANK

Dear Ashbury Community

With lockdown taking its toll on many in various ways, we would like to support our families through providing our own foodbank during this lockdown period.

We would like to invite you to support this by donating food items to our stand outside of the school grounds where anyone is welcome to come and help themselves to anything they may need to support their families.

We would welcome donations of tinned food, dried foods, packet foods, anything that will not go off or perish, as well as, any hygiene or sanitary products.

The aim will be to keep this topped up over the coming weeks to support everyone during the lockdown period.

Please help us to spread the word that the foodbank is there so that people know to help themselves or leave a donation should they wish to support the community. Thank you in advance for any support you are able to offer.

Kind regards

Rachael Smith

Headteacher Ashbury CE Primary School

Church Matters

Church Services

Services in Church are suspended at the moment in order to keep us all safe during the lockdown. We will review the situation regularly.

If you are able do join us online through services and study groups on the benefice Facebook page. You do not need a Facebook account to access these events.

At the time of writing our churches will not be open for services or for private prayer.

On-line services are planned to continue throughout February as follows:

Sundays 11.30am Communion and a Sunday Sermon;

Tuesdays 9.00am Morning Prayer;

Wednesdays 9.00am Morning Prayer;

Thursdays 9.00am Morning Prayer.

All these services can be watched on the Shrevenham and Ashbury Facebook

We hope to be able to welcome you back into our churches as soon as the Covid restrictions allow this to be safe. Please visit the Benefice website for up-to-date information - www.shrivenhamandashbury.co.uk

Pastoral Care

If you have need for prayer or pastoral support, do not hesitate to ring Canon Paul Richardson on 710241.

Come and See

'Come and See' is a new Diocesan programme, that our Benefice is signed up to, to help us all learn more about the basics of faith in Jesus.

Near the beginning of St John's Gospel, we read of two disciples who start to follow Jesus. When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them: "What are you looking for?" They said to him "Rabbi, where are you staying?" He said to them, "Come and see."

One in five people in online congregations across the diocese were not regular worshippers before COVID. So now we want to invite you to go deeper. We want to send out a big, warm, open invitation to everyone: Come and see.

We are going to offer that invitation over the next few weeks. Then in Lent, we hope that everyone will have the opportunity to go deeper as we explore the heart of the Christian faith together: through daily reflections, through weekly videos and podcasts, through one to one conversations and through small groups meeting online.

You can sign up for daily reflections and to walk this journey with us in the personal link. This can be for everyone. Walk with us as we walk with Jesus and come and see.

See the links on our benefice website and Facebook page and the diocesan website:

<https://www.oxford.anglican.org/come-and-see/>

Ashbury Prayer cycle for February: 7th Odstone Farmhouse and cottages, 14th Pound Piece, 23rd Station Road.

Rev'd Norma Fergusson (Vicar)	01793 784338
Canon Paul Richardson (Associate Vicar)	01793 710241
Maggie Simons, Ashbury churchwarden	01793 710801
Dennis Blease, Longcot churchwarden	01793 780708
Joanna Lambert, Compton churchwarden	07990 898175

LONGCOT CHURCHES WORKING TOGETHER – CHAPEL NEWS

Regretfully, the doors of the Chapel have to remain closed and we can only look forward to the time when ‘normal service will be resumed’. Until then be assured that the people of Longcot and the surrounding villages are held in prayer and may everyone stay safe and well.

Stella

Ambassadors Bible Church (at AEFC) While the current situation is so fluid please look at our website www.ambiblechurch.co.uk

Post-Traumatic Stress (PTS) and Combat Trauma

Discussions on health problems generated or exacerbated by huge stress and trauma are being aired every day in the news; many of those problems are connected directly with COVID-19 treatment and the restrictions of lockdown. This is very topical.

However, PTS is not new. Those who have served with the armed forces, police, medics and other inherently stressful professions have always known about it, along with their families. A century ago, “shell shock” was widely experienced and discussed during and after WW1, but so much more is now known about the nature of post-combat afflictions. PTS is a national (and international) issue, but the purpose in writing is to alert you to the fact that **a local response to help those suffering from PTSD, combat trauma or moral injury is being developed in a pilot scheme this year.**

This will be more fully explained in a later edition. A UK-wide group of retired service-people, sufferers, family members and service chaplains have been working quietly together on this for over two years. Many people living in the benefice have close or immediate connections with the military, some of whom may have had very difficult, life-changing, combat experiences. You may suffer yourself, or be living with someone who is troubled by combat trauma.

If you would like more information, or to hear more about what is planned for later in 2021, please email jeremyclare@hotmail.com initially. This brief communication will be entirely confidential, just establishing contact details of those having a possible interest in what lies ahead.

Country Matters

The success of a current best seller “The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse” must be down to its simple message of kindness and cheerfulness. With a Covid vaccine coming, produced in this country which is a testament to this nation’s abiding creative scientific ingenuity and a Brexit deal better than ever looked possible it is time for our country to unite and look forward.

There will be much to be thankful for, once we can only get through the next few bleak months. Sure, nothing’s perfect and the Brexit deal will have some unfortunate catches but most will now be able to plan ahead with more confidence, even perhaps that committed remainder at The Royal Oak. He will be able to sell pigmeat to Germany tariff free but must be well fed up with all the lockdowns.

The first job after School/College/ University can be vital as a stepping stone in a career and my sympathies are with those chasing those elusive opportunities just now. In my own case after College and through family connections I landed a farm job working for a remarkable man on a 400 acre farm he had just bought in north Norfolk. The farm had been purchased on a wing and a prayer and I was to live in, en famille, with Derek and Nancy Pearce while he left the farm each day earning a decent salary elsewhere.

Derek had left school at 14 to help his farming mother who had an invalid husband, with older brothers away on war service. When they returned a coin was tossed to see who would get the farm and Derek lost. From that uncertain start and being completely self-educated he soon became farm manager at Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester. His next position was estate manager of 8,000 acres in Cambridgeshire on fenland with vegetables. Whilst there, he was the first farmer to be accepted at Harvard, USA on their famous Business Course.

Later he was able to buy the Norfolk farm that I was helping on. He went on to be chief executive of the cooperative Eastern Counties farmers, was chair of The Farmers Club in Whitehall which holds seminars and where you can book a bed and meal if you are in London. He was also Master of the livery company, The Worshipful Company of Farmers, a prestigious organisation which helps train tomorrow’s agricultural leaders. The formula which he designed is still fit for purpose today. He has recently died and I was permitted by the family to zoom his funeral service. In his son’s eulogy he said that the family was aware that his father had left some funeral instructions but trawling his father’s files it took him some time to locate them. Eventually they came to light under the heading “cheer up “ which is where I started from. It has to get better. Happy New Year!

Richard Green

The author’s views, as always, are his own.

Contacts

Ashbury Parish Council

Chairman Cliff Davies 01793 710712 chairman@ashbury.org.uk

Clerk to the council: Laura Evans email clerk@ashbury.org.uk

Defibrillator: On the wall by the School entrance

St Mary's Ashbury Parochial Church Council

Associate vicar: Paul Richardson 01793 710241

Church wardens: Maggie Simons 01793 710801 Richard Green 01793 791310

Secretary: Roger Simons 01793 710801 rogersimons1@outlook.com

Vicar (Shrivenham) Revd Norma Fergusson 01793 784338

rev.n.fergusson@btinternet.com (not Monday)

Ashbury Village Hall

Maggie Simons 0193 710801 maggiemsimons@outlook.com

Secretary Margaret Smith 01793 710800 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

Ashbury Village Shop 01793 710068

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: Elaine Ware 01973 783026

elaine.ware@whitehorsedc.gov.uk and Simon Howell 01793 784491

simon.howell@whitehorsedc.gov.uk

County Councillor: Yvonne Constance: 01235 751475/07976934884

yvonne.constance@oxfordshire.gov.uk

M.P. for the Wantage constituency: David Johnston david.johnston.mp@parliament.uk
0207 219 3000

Newsletter entries for March 2021. Submit your entries for March by **19th February** to:

M. Turner Claremont, Ashbury SN6 8LN. marionturner@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.