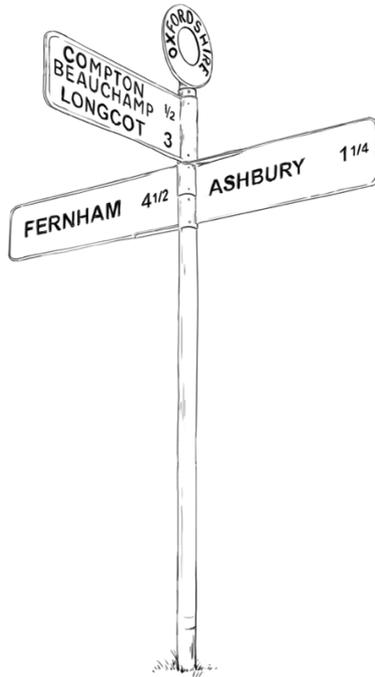


**ASHBURY  
COMPTON LONGCOT FERNHAM  
NEWS  
AUGUST 2021**



**Longcot Chapel re-opens**

## Thought for the month

From Revd Canon Paul Richardson, Associate Vicar, Shrivenham and Ashbury Benefice.

The month of August begins with the feast of Lammas, the loaf mass. This is a harvest festival, a celebration of the first bread from the first crop of grain. Long before “all is safely gathered in” folk brought the first fruits of the harvest as an offering to God and to pray that neither storm, nor pest would come their way throughout the rest of the harvest season.

As I write, floods have been sweeping Germany and Belgium with devastating impact and loss of life. Our concern for the weather and for the climate has never been so focussed. We can and should pray, but prayer is backed up with practical action. As we pray for good weather and for the climate, we can also join our voices to those encouraging our governments to legislate for zero carbon output. There can be no doubt that the increased carbon dioxide levels of our industrial society is contributing to global warming.

The Church of England’s General Synod has set new targets for all parts of the church to work to become carbon ‘net zero’ by 2030. At its February 2020 meeting, members voted in favour of a revised date encouraging all parts of the Church of England to take action and ramp-up efforts to reduce the emissions which cause climate change. To achieve this target, all of our churches will need to make some changes to cut our carbon output.

All of us can do our part, by cutting energy use using fossil fuel vehicles less frequently, ensuring our homes are properly insulated and switching off our electrical appliances at the wall where appropriate rather than leaving them on standby. As we give thanks to God for the first fruits of the harvest, let us work with God to treasure the earth, be good stewards of its resources, and care for the well-being of all creation.

Paul.

*Views expressed in “Thought for the month” are those of the contributors*

*A Sad Accident* occurred on Wednesday in last week, at the Rubble Pit on Ashbury Hill, where several men were engaged digging rubble for the new road from Ashbury to Shrivenham. They had excavated the pit to a considerable extent, leaving a pillar to support the roof, which, however, proved insufficient, for at about half-past ten in the morning, the roof (estimated at eight tons weight) fell, burying two men—Jesse Richens of Ashbury, and David Turner, of Idstone. The first-named has his leg broken in three places; the other has an arm broken, and both have sustained other severe injuries. Another man, Daniel Richens, of Kingston, was injured, although not so seriously. Assistance was promptly rendered, and the men were extricated as soon as possible. Had the accident occurred a few minutes sooner the effect would have been worse, as several men and a horse and cart had just left the pit.

“The new road from Ashbury to Shrivenham” August 1869

Longcot and Fernham

## **FERNHAM**

Faringdon Police v. Fernham. — The return match with the above teams was played on the ground of the latter, in favourable weather, on the 22nd inst., a most enjoyable game resulting in a win for **Fernham** by 41 runs on the first innings. Mr and Mrs L. Paine kindly entertained the teams to tea at **Fernham** House. Scores :—

24<sup>th</sup> August 1912

## THE CHILDREN'S DAY.

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Old Robert Gerring, of Longcot, loves children. So he does his best to make them happy. Seeing the young ones enjoying themselves gives him infinite delight. No wonder that, even at 80 years of age, he was so proud of the opportunity of getting out his tricycle to lead the village fancy dress procession.

The procession was the start of Longcot Festival. Ever since the war, when the village's ancient festivity was revived, Mr. Robert Gerring, acting as steward, has led the procession through the village on a tricycle. With the Kingston Lisle Band following up the rear, he again played his part at the festivities held on Saturday.

### **Revived after the War.**

They say that the gaieties originated following the dedication of the local church, back in the 16th century. Of course, there was a lapse during the war. Afterwards, Mr. Gerring, with Mr. Jack Read and one or two others, revived the custom.

Longcot Festival- August 1935

## CHURCH MATTERS

(No services in Longcot- closed for building work)

### AUGUST SERVICES IN ASHBURY, COMPTON & FERNHAM WILL BE AS FOLLOWS:

<b>Sunday 1 August</b>	9.00am	Holy Communion	Compton
	9.30am	Family Service	Fernham
	11.00am	Morning Prayer	Ashbury
<b>Sunday 8 August</b>	9.30am	Holy Communion	Fernham
	11.00am	Holy Communion	Ashbury
<b>Thursday 12 Aug</b>	10.00am	Holy Communion:	Ashbury
<b>Sunday 15 August</b>	9.00am	Matins	Compton
	9.30am	Morning Prayer:	Fernham
	11.00am	Taizé Service	Ashbury
<b>Sunday 22 August</b>	9.30am	Holy Communion	Fernham
	11.00am	Holy Communion	Ashbury (also online)
<b>Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> Aug</b>	1.00pm	Wedding	Ashbury
<b>Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> August</b>	<b>11.00am</b>	Benefice Service with Choir	Fernham (also online)
	11.00am	Baptism	Ashbury

### Covid Precautions at Services

We are doing our best to ensure that our church remains COVID safe for anyone who would like to come to our services. We request you continue to observe Covid safety rules, wear a mask during services, observe social distancing, hand-sanitise on arrival (available inside church) and sign in or use the NHS QR code. Should you feel you do not want to continue these protocols then we would ask you to respect the concerns of others in the congregation and give them the space they need. We know that people have missed singing hymns and we will re-introduce these into some services beginning on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> July.

Please do not come into church if you think you have symptoms of Covid 19 or have been asked to self-isolate because you have been close to someone who has the virus.

### As at 19 July our churches are open for private prayer as follows (but this may be updated)

Ashbury 10am – 4pm on Thursday

Compton Beauchamp 9am – 5pm daily

**All online services can be watched on the Shrivenham and Ashbury Facebook**  
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.

**Ashbury Prayer cycle** for August:

1<sup>st</sup> Kingstone Winslow, 8<sup>th</sup> Malthouse Close, 15<sup>th</sup> Odstone Farm & Cottages, 22<sup>nd</sup> Pound Piece, 29<sup>th</sup> Station Road.

## **LONGCOT CHURCHES WORKING TOGETHER – CHAPEL NEWS**

**SUNDAY 1st AUGUST 3pm –**

Our first service in the chapel for such a long time!

Mrs Pam Mullin will be leading our worship. The building will be well ventilated and seating will be arranged so there is plenty of space for those attending. We ask everyone to wear their mask but we shall be able to sing! If the weather is dry tea and cake will be served out of doors after the service.

**FRIDAY 27th AUGUST 3pm –**

Time Fellowship- Our August tea is usually replaced by a chance to enjoy a cream tea on any of three days but in order to play safe regarding any restrictions we shall serve a cream tea on one day only. Anyone is welcome to join us, there is no charge but donations to our chosen charity are always appreciated.

## **PASTORAL CARE**

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

## **NEW RESIDENTS TO ASHBURY, IDSTONE & KINGSTONE WINSLOW**

A pack has been prepared 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 Roger Simons (710801) or Margaret Smith (710800).

## Country Matters

Combines are sure to [be]rolling by the time this is read. Hot weather has hastened the start of harvest.

I have had ten days in south west France where the weather could not match the settled English spell. We had several days of drizzle which was beginning to discolour the golden ears but even so their wheat harvest was half way through by the middle of July. In addition maize, sunflowers and soya bean, all to be combined, are major crops there with the maize usually irrigated by historic watering systems available on most farms.

Our local farm has just turned organic and most farms are small family units probably with little paid help. Ducks for meat and foie gras and Charolais cattle are the common livestock enterprises. The whole rural scene feels like past years here. We had a turtle dove purring away in our garden and on a drive I think we may have seen a goshawk. Also Penny has come back from a bike ride saying a pine marten crossed the road in front of her. Coming back to England we have been caught up in the controversial covid isolation and testing dictats even though French cases appear less numerous than our own here.

Before this we could not refuse an invitation to join two other couples fishing the river Carron well north of Inverness meeting the sea at Bonar Bridge on Firth Dornock. Our beat was at the end of a road eight miles from the coast and from there it was only a further twenty to reach Ullapool on the west coast. A challenge for another day!

Harry Townshend has just walked 100 miles non- stop in 24 hours raising money for the Game Conservancy Charity. That's four consecutive marathons –what a feat. The weather in Scotland was glorious and no good for fishing so I am still a salmon fishing virgin! But leaping salmon maintains the interest. Autumn sportsman in the Highlands can still try to emulate John Buchan's 1925 hero John McNab in shooting a grouse, a stag and catching a salmon all in 24 hours and of the three the most challenging is always the salmon.

Cuckoos and curlews were still calling in the uplands and a grouse and ten chicks had been seen.

The arable farming was of a high standard on the Black Isle and further south in the Borders. Crops were cleaner with little black grass and I think that potatoes in their rotations helps the weed control.

**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)

**Defibrillator:** On the wall by the School entrance

### **St Mary's Ashbury Parochial Church Council**

Associate vicar: Paul Richardson 01793 710241 (not Monday or Tuesday)

Church wardens: Maggie Simons 01793 710801 Richard Green 01793 791310

Secretary: Roger Simons 01793 710801 [rogersimons1@outlook.com](mailto:rogersimons1@outlook.com)

Vicar (Shrivenham) Revd Norma Fergusson 01793 784338

[rev.n.fergusson@btinternet.com](mailto:rev.n.fergusson@btinternet.com) (not Monday)

### **Ashbury Village Hall**

Maggie Simons 0193 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**

**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](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:** Elaine Ware 01973 783026

[elaine.ware@whitehorsedc.gov.uk](mailto:elaine.ware@whitehorsedc.gov.uk) and Simon Howell 01793 784491

[simon.howell@whitehorsedc.gov.uk](mailto:simon.howell@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 September 2021.** Submit your entries for September by 20<sup>th</sup>

**August** 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.