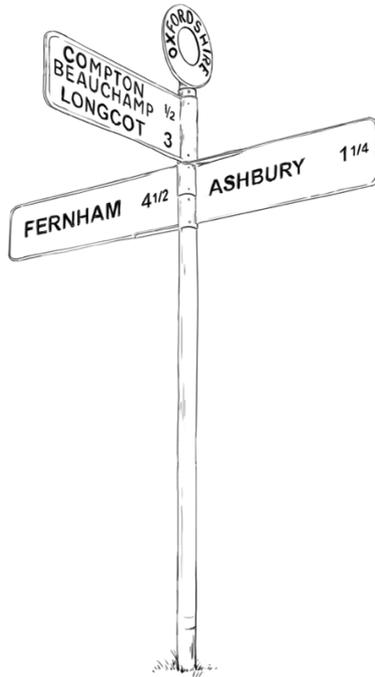


**ASHBURY
COMPTON LONGCOT FERNHAM
NEWS
NOVEMBER 2021**



St Mary's Ashbury Christmas Bazaar 27th

“Shoebox Sunday” 21st

Community Club 25th

Thought for the month

Valuable?

I am still an avid collector of paintings but unfortunately (or otherwise) none of mine are particularly valuable.... Not like some you hear about when they sell for record prices at auction. One such picture was when the Salvator Mundi (Which is a painting of Jesus as the Saviour of the World) sold in at Christies New York in 2017 for about 450 million dollars! What a lot of people don't know about that painting is that it was bought at Sothebys London in 1958 for about 72 dollars..... In 2005 it was sold again at a small auction house in the US for about 10 thousand dollars..... from 72 to 450 million dollars in such a short time....how or why did this happen..... On the two earlier occasions it was sold as a copy or by a follower of Leonardo Da Vinci

The buyers in 2005 did extensive research and now most (but interestingly not all!) experts agree that it was by Leonardo himself and there are only about 20 other surviving known works by him. So what makes this and other paintings or works of art so valuable..... it is often knowing who created it is what makes it valuable.

As a Christian, I believe that God created each one of us which is what makes each human life so valuable to Him. In today's world where so many have no time for God, many reject that God is their creator and by doing so I believe they undervalue human life which is evident by how little value is given to the unborn child or the sick and elderly..... each is a human life and is valuable to God. It says in the Bible that God's creation is evident in the world around us but some will chose to reject this and so reject God. At this time when we remember the fallen in world conflicts who died on our behalf, by recognising who has made each of us we can truly realise the value of each of those sacrifices. As humans we have turned our backs on God and so we are in conflict with him as we have all gone our own way with the dire consequences that that can bring.

On Remembrance Day when I gratefully remember those who have effectively died in my place and paid the ultimate price for it with their own lives, I remember the greatest sacrifice ever made when Jesus the God of the whole creation came down to earth to live a perfect, God focused life, and to die in our place.

The fallen in the world conflicts died so that we can have better and free lives now..... Jesus died so that we can once again be free to enjoy a relationship with the only true God and so live free lives forever! All we have to do is turn back to God, repent of our sins and accept the free gift of life which he offers us.

Andrew Bunce

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

Ashbury News

Ashbury Community Club

We are pleased to say that our monthly meetings in the Village Hall have returned.
Thursday **28th October** at 2.30pm

"Driving to Greece"

James Reade will be showing slides and telling us of his experiences driving an HGV in a convoy across Europe to deliver aid to refugees on the Greek Islands.

Admission is £2 which includes Tea & Biscuits

Thursday **25th November** at 2.30pm

"A Murder in Watchfield"

Dr John Clements will tell this tale of long ago . . .

Admission £2.

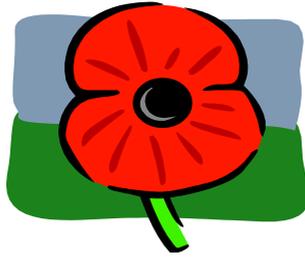
New churchyard bench

With grateful thanks to the Ashbury Village Fete Committee who donated money for a new bench in our churchyard. The bench is now in place (thanks to Richard Green & James Reade)

CHURCH MATTERS

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

Friday 5 November	9.00am	Morning Prayer (BCP) (New) Ashbury
Sunday 7 November	9.00am	Holy Communion (BCP) Compton
	9.30am	Family service Longcot
	3.00pm	Joint service Longcot Chapel
	3.00pm	Sunday School Watchfield
	5.30pm	Candlelit Choral Evensong Ashbury
Thurs. 11 November	10.00am	Holy Communion: Ashbury
Friday 12 November	9.00am	Morning Prayer (BCP) (new) Ashbury



Sunday 14 November	10.30am	Remembrance Sunday	Longcot
	10.50am	Remembrance Sunday	Ashbury
	10.55am	Remembrance Sunday	Compton
	3.00pm	Remembrance Sunday	Fernham

Sunday 21 November	9.00am	Matins	Compton
	9.30am	Morning Prayer:	Longcot
	11.00am	Shoebox Sunday followed by Communion by Extension	Ashbury
	3.00pm	Sunday School (TBC)	Longcot

Friday 26 November	9.00am	Morning Prayer (BCP) (new)	Ashbury
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Sunday 28 November	10.15am	Benefice Communion service with Choir	Shrivenham
	3.00pm	Sunday School (TBC)	Ashbury
	5:30pm	Advent Carols with choir	Longcot

Please do not come into church if you think you may have symptoms of Covid 19
Wearing a mask and observing social distancing in church is encouraged but not mandatory.

Please sign in or use the QR code.

Hand sanitiser is available.

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 November:-7th Ashdown Estate, 14th High Street, 21st Idstone Road, 28th Idstone.

HARVEST FESTIVAL PRODUCE

The Women's Refuge were delighted with all the dried, packet, canned and fresh goods given to them after the Church and School Harvest Festivals. Thank you everyone for your support.

PAUL'S MESSAGE

Dear friends

November is a season for remembrance. It begins with the feast of All Saints (All Hallows – so the eve on Oct 31st is Halloween). The day after comes the feast of All Souls, a reminder should we need it that God loves everyone -even the unsaintly! – and that we can hold our dear departed loved ones in our hearts and minds, as God holds them dear in his safe keeping. And of course in November we have Armistice Day on 11th, and Remembrance Sunday, this year on November 14th.

Remembrance Sunday this year is an opportunity for us all to give thanks for the work of the Royal British Legion. Celebrating its centenary this year, the RBL looks back on a hundred years of care and concern for armed forces veterans and their families. By far the most important source of fundraising for the RBL is the annual sale of Poppies. Collecting for Poppies is made much more difficult because of Covid, and the fact that a lot of people these days do not carry cash around with them. Go online to the RBL website and give what you can to support this work www.britishlegion.org.uk Jesus speaking about his own forthcoming sacrifice said "Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down their life for their friends" (John 15.13). So many have made a sacrifice of their lives, or have become severely injured physically or mentally, in defence of our nation and of our freedom.

We will gather at our War Memorials this month with pride and thanksgiving for sacrifices made, with prayers for peace and reconciliation for all the world, and with thanksgiving for 100 years of the Royal British Legion.

Paul.

Sunday School and "Come and See with Cake and Tea" family service.

The venue for the Sunday School will change each week as we move around the churches of the benefice from Ashbury, to Watchfield, Longcot and Fernham, but each week we start at 3.00pm and finish by 4.30pm. November 7th Watchfield, 21st Longcot (TBC), 28th Ashbury (TBC)

No need to book in advance, you can register your child when you turn up, but if you would like to register now, please contact our Benefice Administrator who can send you a registration form. info@shrivenhamandashbury.co.uk Further information from Revd Canon Paul Richardson, Associate Vicar. 01793 710241 or associate.vicar@shrivenhamandashbury.co.uk

PASTORAL CARE

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

LONGCOT CHURCHES WORKING TOGETHER – CHAPEL NEWS

SUNDAY 7th 3pm – Revd. Norma Fergusson will be leading this month's united service and everyone is welcome to join us and to stay for tea and biscuits afterwards.

FRIDAY 29th 3pm - T TIME FELLOWSHIP – Do come and join us for afternoon tea in the Chapel and enjoy plenty of chat and laughter. There is no charge but contributions to our chosen charity will be most welcome.

FUTURE EVENTS

Samaritans Purse shoeboxes.

In 2021, Operation Christmas Child hopes to collect enough shoebox gifts to reach another **9.7 million children**. Anyone can pack a shoebox. Individuals, families, churches and groups fill empty shoeboxes with school supplies, hygiene items and fun toys, such as dolls or soccer balls.

There are leaflets available in the church porch or from Maggie Simons which give guidelines on packing your shoebox and what to put into it and what can't be put into it. Shoeboxes need to be packed up by Sunday 21st November and delivered to the church porch or brought to our Shoebox Sunday service at 11.00am on Sunday 21st November. We will then deliver them to Highworth which is our drop off centre on Monday 22nd November.

More information can be found at Samaritans-purse.org.uk under Operation Christmas Child.

CHURCH CHRISTMAS BAZAAR – SATURDAY 27th NOVEMBER 2 PM

We are delighted to confirm that we are planning to run our annual Christmas Bazaar this year (subject to there being no further Covid restrictions).

We would be very grateful for your support by providing items to sell. These can either be left at the Village Hall during the morning of the Bazaar, or prior to that delivered to the following:

Cakes: Clare McGlashan (710754)/ Les Fitchett

Gifts and cards: Sue Stannard (Manor View, Berrycroft)

Bottles: Julia Blake (710776)

Books: Marion Turner (710302)

Children's Toys: Carole Crook (952124) / Anne Taylor

Raffle prizes: Margaret Smith (710800)/ Audrey Tilling (tickets available on sale at the Village Hall)

Other stalls include:

Handmade gifts such as fine beaded lace scarfs, socks, hats, mitts. A new stall by Linda Booth/ Janet Boden.

Children's Games - Bill/Diane Lovegrove, Teas – Jane Worrall / Gail Loose

Any other general enquiries please contact Roger Simons (710801).

We look forward to seeing you on 27th November. All proceeds go to St Mary's church.

Send your local Christmas cards for just 30p Scout Post stamps – costing 30p each – are available from I V Florist in Shrivenham, Lyall & Co café in Watchfield and in Ashbury village shop, where the special green post boxes will also be found.

Look out for posters around the villages for information about delivery areas. **Last**

posting date is Tuesday 14th December

5pm in the Florists in Shrivenham

3.30pm in Lyall & Co Café in Watchfield

3.00pm in Ashbury Village shop

The Scouts will deliver cards to the following postcodes:

SN1, SN2, SN3, SN4, SN5, SN6, SN25, SN26 and Longcot village before Christmas

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

After such a challenging year and after the two previous really wet and trying autumns farmers across England this year have enjoyed a benign time to plant their crops. It's been a real relief not to have the seeds flooded and rotting and soils too wet to plant. Above average temperatures mean the recent plantings will soon be showing including wheat planted after maize that was only just cut in time. As I write the winter rains are with us and we will need to be vigilant against slugs. We have been feeding our cattle outside but now in the third week of October they will be yarded. We have four bunches to gather. All have to be corralled and loaded and usually one or two give us the "runaround" before we can cajole them into the cattle box.

There are reports of the fieldfares and redwings arriving from Scandinavia to enjoy their annual feast on our hedgerow berries. I have spotted the pretty little stonechats with their black heads and rusty breasts stopping off here as part of their migration, but I have not seen any wheatears yet, another visiting autumn migrant. Nor have I personally seen the pretty golden plover but a friend near Ramsbury says that he has had a large flock of over a 100 roosting on his stubbles since harvest. Canada geese have been spending a lot of time since harvest on barley fields near Buckland. In numbers they can be a pest and need to be on the young side for good eating. You may have heard the recipe. Stuff with an onion and cook, wrapped in grease-proof paper. If still tough eat the onion and paper. Your dog may eat the goose!

Pheasants, partridge and wild duck are now fair game and our table and freezer are beginning to benefit. There are now more otters returning to our rivers and streams. The downside I have learnt is that where there are no fish or signall (American) crayfish as a ready food source, released carp or even ducks are vulnerable. I have heard of one pond where an otter has come up under water to bite the feet off the ducks and 150 have been lost. For the horse riders the Old Berks Hunt will have their opening meet as usual on Saturday Nov 6th on Baulking Green.

Chris Packham's Wild Justice group has just lost a review attempting to prevent grouse moors from operating controlled burning of heather on grouse moors. They are to appeal but the practice aimed at improving the heather as a food source actually prevents the wanton wildfires getting out of control to desecrate all the wild life. Bad spring weather with few broods has forced most grouse shoots to cancel shooting this year.

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

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

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 December 2021. Submit your entries for December by 22nd

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.