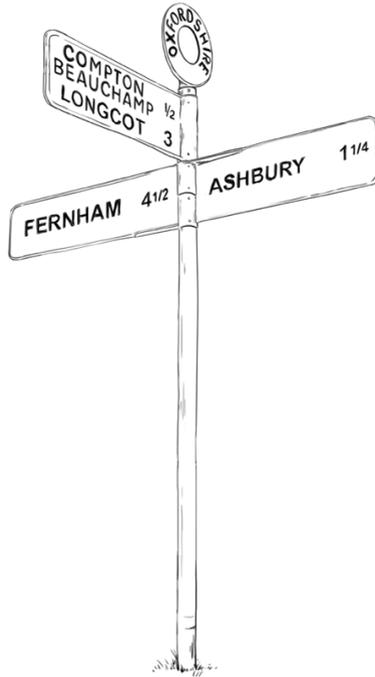


**ASHBURY
COMPTON LONGCOT FERNHAM
NEWS
March 2023**



**Village Quiz 11th
Churchyard spring clean 25th
Community Club 30th
The Rose and Crooners 1st April**

Thought for the month

Lent begins on 2 March this year, and something overheard in conversation made me think about how we perceive Lent in our society.

When I was still at school, all my friends and classmates would be talking about what they were “giving up for Lent.” Giving up chocolate, or another favourite sweet, was a popular choice. My parents would try to give up smoking. Others would give up drinking, or choose to fast (usually accompanied by the hope that they’d lose a bit of weight). There was a spirit of making resolutions in anticipation of a grand holiday at the end.

So, I decided to read a bit about the habits and practices of Lent. It was very interesting in all kinds of ways, but there were certain ‘everyday’ aspects that struck me. First of all, I read that “...many view Lent as a time in which to give up a particular vice, bad habit, or pleasurable thing. In the 21st century, Christians frequently use the fasting season to motivate them to continue with New Year’s resolutions in a blend of secular and Christian observance.”

Unsurprisingly, the article went on to suggest that this rather misses the point. The point is to attempt to develop a deeper relationship with God. That requires quiet, solitude, contemplation and prayer.

This is a worthwhile experience for everyone, whether actively Christian or not. We’ve all heard of the benefits of contemplation and meditation, of stillness and listening. So, perhaps it’s worth setting aside fifteen minutes a day for quiet contemplation and listening. You may get a great deal more out of it than you might expect – and you can still have chocolate.

Gail Haslam Loose

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

ASHBURY CORONATION CELEBRATIONS

At the open meeting in the Village Hall on Thursday 2nd February it was agreed that Ashbury would like to celebrate the Coronation on two days.

Sunday afternoon, **7 May**, we will have a traditional all ages Street Party afternoon tea in Chapel Lane with bring and share food, a few stalls and hopefully, some community singing led by Holly and our community choir. If you would like to run a small stall, a game or items for sale, please let me know - **Maggie Simons**

Bank Holiday Monday, 8 May, we would like to have a bring your own picnic lunch on the Village Green followed by sports and games. The village bought some new equipment with surplus money from the Platinum Jubilee event last year so this will be a good opportunity to use it. We do need a team of volunteers if this event is to go ahead, Nick Hatcliffe has offered to pull this together so please contact him with offers of help – hatcliffenick@gmail.com
Look out for more information closer to the event days.

MEMORIAL TO AIREY NEAVE MP

Airey Neave, who lived in Ashbury, was killed in 1979 whilst Opposition spokesman for Northern Ireland. There is no local memorial to him and it is suggested that we place a tablet on the lower steps of the war memorial. The legend would read: "Airey Neave MP 1979 - Killed by the INLA"

As far as possible it would match the tablet mounted on the south step to Falklands 1984 L/Cpl Peter Higgs

A planning application for this memorial plaque on the west step of Ashbury war memorial is going to be submitted to the Vale of White Horse Conservation Officer as the War Memorial is Grade II listed.

If you have any questions please contact Richard Green.

VILLAGE QUIZ - Saturday 11 March, 7pm

We've had a great response and teams representing most of Ashbury and Kingstone Winslow have already booked in. However, it isn't too late to take part! The cost of £6 includes a jacket potato supper. To purchase a ticket, or for more information, call 710800 or email mbsmith5@hotmail.co.uk

PLANT AND CAKE SALE - Saturday 13 May

This year we will be selling plants and cakes to raise funds for the Prospect Hospice. Perhaps you could sow a few extra seeds or divide some perennials and pot them up ready for the sale. More details nearer the time.

ASHBURY COMMUNITY CLUB Thursday 30th March, Village Hall, 2.30pm

TWIGS - A Therapeutic Garden

Alan Holland will tell us about the mental health benefits of working in the community gardens at Cheney Manor, Swindon.

Then, time for questions and chat over tea & biscuits.

Visitors welcome - £2

Jackie - tel. 01793 710358

CHURCH MATTERS

SERVICES AND EVENTS IN MARCH

Thursday 2nd March

3:15pm Messy Church Shrivenham, St Andrew

Friday 3rd March

2.00pm World Day of Prayer Ashbury, St. Mary. Also live on Facebook

Sunday 5th March

9:00am Holy Communion (BCP) Compton Beauchamp, St Swithun

9:30am Holy Communion by Extension Longcot, St Mary

11:00am Morning Prayer Ashbury, St Mary

3:00pm United Service Longcot Methodist Chapel

Thursday 9th March

10:00am Holy Communion Ashbury, St Mary. Also live on Facebook

Saturday 11th March

10am Café Inspire Shrivenham School Hall

Sunday 12th March

9:30am Holy Communion Longcot, St Mary

11:00am Holy Communion Ashbury, St Mary.

Sunday 19th March (Mothering Sunday)

9:00am Matins Compton Beauchamp, St Swithun

9.30am Morning Prayer Longcot, St. Mary

11:00am Mothering Sunday Service Ashbury, St Mary

Sunday 26th March

10.30am Benefice Holy Communion with Choir Watchfield. Also live on Facebook.

Friday 31st March

9:00am Matins Ashbury, St Mary. Also live on Facebook.

Midweek Services

Tuesday 9:00am Morning Prayer Live on Facebook

Wednesday 9:00am Morning Prayer Shrivenham, St Andrew. Also live on Facebook.

Thursday 9:00am Matins Live on Facebook

Friday 9:00am Matins Live on Facebook.

Also during Lent

Mondays

6.30pm

Compline

Shrivenham, St Andrew. Also

live on Facebook

Sunday Sermons and Online Services

Links to the weekly sermon and online services are posted on the services page of the Benefice website, where you will also find downloadable Orders of Service, Bible Readings and our weekly Newsletter. You don't need to have a Facebook account to access our online services; you can download a 'how to' guide from our website.

Ashbury Prayer cycle for March

March 5th- Chapel Lane, 12th- Church Lane, 19th - College Farm Lane, 26th - Ashdown Estate

WEDDINGS, BAPTISMS, CONFIRMATION

If you would like to make arrangements for any of these, please contact Rev'd Norma Fergusson (01793 784338).

There will be a confirmation service in St Andrew's, Shrivenham, on Sunday 18 June at 10.15. Confirmation classes will start on 2 March.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER Friday 3rd March at 2pm. St Mary's Church, Ashbury

The World Day of Prayer is a women led, global, ecumenical movement which raises awareness and fundraising to help the women of countries around the world which are part of the movement. This is mainly achieved by holding a special ecumenical Service in all these countries on the first Friday of March every year. Just imagine that in taking part you are part of a huge wave of prayer which circles the earth for at least 38 hours, beginning in Western Samoa and Tonga in the Pacific Ocean (when you were listening to yesterday's 6pm news) and will end at dusk in American Samoa (when you will be having breakfast tomorrow). It is amazing to be part of something so huge! This is what makes the Day of Prayer so special.

This year we are focusing on the women of Taiwan. A country that has for many years been caught in a superpower struggle. China continues to claim Taiwan as its sovereign territory. Although a large majority of Taiwanese reject reunification with China the country is being harassed by China almost on a daily basis at the moment. The Christian women of Taiwan have written this service themselves, with the theme of 'I have heard about your faith' taken from Ephesians, chapter 1 verses 15-19, and it includes letters from real women who are facing suffering and injustice.

Everyone is welcome to join us in St Mary's Church, Ashbury, on Friday 3rd March at

2pm or watch on our website: www.shrivenhamandashbury.co.uk either live or later.

If you would like a copy of the Service booklet there are some available inside St Mary's church, please help yourself. The World Day of Prayer motto is "informed prayer, prayerful action" and this year we can put that into practice by donating to the charities of Taiwan through the WDP Organisation.

SUSTAINABLE SHRIVENHAM HUB

They will be open every Saturday from 10am to 4pm. So far they have recycling bins, refill stations for washing-up liquid and laundry detergent as well as SPLOSH cruelty free products. You will also be able to recycle empty pouches. There will also be a THRIFTY story and a CRAFT SCRAP STORE and this will be the permanent home for the bay/children clothing exchange which was previously in St Andrew's. It is also hoped to have a REPAIR CAFÉ on the fourth Saturday of every month (provided there are enough volunteer repairers – could you help?) There is more to come – please keep an eye on the noticeboard/social media/website for further information or visit the Hub any Wednesday or Saturday.

JOIN US FOR BREAKFAST!

Further to last month's notice, Holly at the Rose & Crown is providing a full English breakfast at 9am on Saturday **25th March** at a very reasonable £10 per person. If this first gathering is a success, the group will continue to meet once a month. Holly needs to know how many to expect for planning purposes, so please contact Rev'd Norma Fergusson (vicar@shrivenhamandashbury.co.uk) if you would like to be involved.

MESSY CHURCH – Thursday 2nd March and Thursday 23rd March

Two chances to enjoy Messy Church this month. Two chances to be creative, hear Bible stories, eat yummy food and have fun with friends and family, starting at 3:15pm in St Andrew's, finishing at 5pm. For more information or to book a space contact standfast.shrivenham@yahoo.com.

Messy Church is open to the whole Benefice. There is no charge to attend, but a minimum donation of £1.50 per child towards costs would be appreciated.

BENEFICE SUNDAY SCHOOL at St Thomas' Watchfield – Sunday 12th March

Helping your child learn more about loving God and our neighbours, about Jesus, the Bible and the life of the Church. Helping you to give them a good direction in their lives. Bring them along to our monthly Sunday School, and "Come and See with Cake and Tea" to celebrate all they have done!

Children from across the Benefice are welcome to attend. Drop your child off at church for a 3pm start and then at 4pm come and see what they have been doing and have a cuppa and cake at Watchfield Village Hall, heading back home around 4.30pm.

Any parent/s who wish to stay for the whole time are very welcome to do so, as extra help is always appreciated.

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

BIBLE BREAKFAST

At 8.00am on the second Saturday of each month a small group meet in each other's houses for a simple breakfast before a short study of a section of the bible. This Spring we are looking at the prophet Elijah. If you would like to join us you will be very welcome. Please contact Graham Weller grahamandisobel@internet.com or 710665 for further information.

COME AND SEE

Come and See takes place during Lent each year. It's a warm, open, invitation to everyone, for everyone for an adventure in faith and trust. It's something for the local church and the whole community... including children and young people, families and schools. It's completely free and all are welcome.

This year Come and See starts on Ash Wednesday, 22 February 2023. Organised by the Diocese, you will be sent a short email each day, Monday to Saturday. And on Sundays during Lent you receive a short video from Bishop Steven exploring the theme for Come and See that year in a bit more detail. Each email begins with a short passage of text from the Bible.

If you've never opened a Bible before, please don't worry, just go with the flow as you settle into the journey. Further details are available on the Diocesan website and the Shrivenham & Ashbury Facebook page.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

CHURCHYARD "SPRING CLEAN"

Saturday, 25th March 10am- Noon

We would greatly appreciate as many helpers as we can to carry out our annual

Churchyard “Spring Clean” on Saturday 11th March at 10am. Usually we attract about 24 people such that as well getting the Churchyards ready for summer it is also a very social occasion. Hot refreshments will be available. As well as appropriate garden tools (secateurs, hard brush, trowel) it would also be helpful if, those who can, could bring a wheelbarrow or strimmer.

EASTER CONCERTS

Saturday 1st April

Following the success of the Christmas concert, a return appearance by the Rose & Crooners in Ashbury Village Hall with an afternoon and evening concert for Easter. Fun for all the family – more details to follow.

WELCOME PACK

A pack has been prepared for new residents of Ashbury, Idstone and Kingstone Winslow which contains:

Welcome letter,
Details of local organisations and activities,
Parish Council information,
Map of Ashbury indicating
Landmarks and various walks,
Copy of the current monthly newsletter
Postcard of the Ashbury Parish Textile Map.

If you have moved into the village recently and would like to receive a pack, or if you have new neighbour, please contact Margaret Smith (710800) or Roger Simons (710801) and we will deliver.

CARING FOR GOD’S CREATION

MONTHLY TIP

*Buying plastic-wrapped or packaged fruits and vegetables can be convenient, but unfortunately it creates plastic waste.
Instead, look out for loose fruit and vegetables in the supermarket,
or head to a farmers' market or local store where plastic packaging is less often used.
What do you do to save plastic? Let us know and we'll include it in a future edition.*

LONGCOT CHURCHES WORKING TOGETHER – CHAPEL NEWS

SUNDAY 5th MARCH 3pm - Our monthly united service will be led by Revd. Norma Fergusson and everyone is most welcome to join us. Tea and biscuits will be served after the service.

FRIDAY 31st pm – T Time Fellowship. Come and join us for tea, crumpets and cake and enjoy lots of friendly chat and laughter. There is no charge but donations to our chosen charity (currently Ripple Effect which is the new name of Send a Cow) are always most welcome.

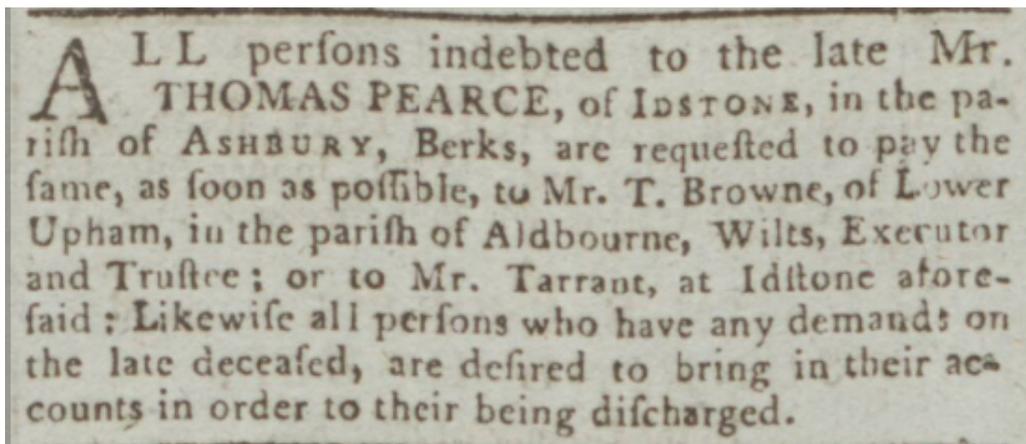
Stella Tidmarsh

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.

Former residents:

From the Reading Mercury 30th March 1795

Memorial tablets to both Thomas Pearce and Mr Tarrant can be seen in St. Mary's



ALL persons indebted to the late Mr. THOMAS PEARCE, of IDSTONE, in the parish of ASHBURY, Berks, are requested to pay the same, as soon as possible, to Mr. T. Browne, of Lower Upham, in the parish of Aldbourne, Wilts, Executor and Trustee; or to Mr. Tarrant, at Idstone aforesaid; Likewise all persons who have any demands on the late deceased, are desired to bring in their accounts in order to their being discharged.

DEATH OF AN OLD INHABITANT.—On Friday, the 26th ult., the remains of the late Joseph Garner, who died on the Tuesday previous, in his 84th year, were consigned to their last resting place in the parish churchyard. He had been an old ringer, a member of the church choir, and parish clerk, for about 50 years, having out-lived the late two Vicars of Ashbury, viz: the Rev. W. Chambers, and the Rev. B. Miller. Great respect has always been shown to him by the parishioners and others in the neighbourhood. The funeral was witnessed by many persons as a token of respect. The burial service was read by the Rev. J. Edgell, Rector of Compton Beauchamp. A muffled peal was rung on the church bells on the evening of the funeral, and on Sunday last hymn 264, "Thy will be done," was sung. It is worthy of notice that during the past six weeks the hand of death has removed the late beloved and respected Vicar, the late Churchwarden, Mr. James Lawrence, and also the late Parish Clerk all of whom worked together in their respective callings for a great number of years.

10th March 1906 An unhappy day for Charles Smith

Re Charles William Smith, in Bankruptcy.

The Manor Farm, Ashbury, Berks,

3 miles from Shrivenham and 6 from the Lambourn Stations.

**SALE OF THE WHOLE OF THE
LIVE AND DEAD FARMING STOCK.**

Messrs. TILLEY & PARRY

HAVE received instructions from the Trustee in Bankruptcy, to arrange to Sell by Auction, on the premises, on Saturday, March 10th, 1906, the whole FARMING STOCK.

Full particulars in Auction bills and future advertisements.

Dated February 22nd, 1906.

Auction and Valuing Offices—14, Market Place, Chippenham, and Walcot Street, Bath.

Country Matters

It's been a long time coming like an elephant's gestation period. I am referring to the eventual cessation of farming support based on hectares farmed. With Brexit, DEFRA's replacement is called the SFI (Sustainable Farming Initiative).

Both Boris Johnson and Michael Gove are on record that farmers would be able to earn similar levels of support by engaging in improving the natural environmental capital of their holdings. At long last there has been more clarity but full details are frustratingly still vague. We need to plan but calling blind at poker is a risky business! Up to now Mr Average farmer's profits have largely equated to the former support. Like a drug addict who cannot get his next fix there is no denying we will miss this a lot. Most of us would prefer a world with rewards from the market place. But as Jeremy Clarkson of *Didley Squat* has found, profits can be elusive. He is not Mr Average and spends money like water whilst we have to make a living. Any good farmer also wants to improve his soil, his buildings, his livestock; he also aspires to be a good steward environmentally.

This is where we now have the opportunity to look carefully at the new proposed ELM (Environmental Land Management) options under the SFI. Most farms have some land too steep, too wet, too awkward, too stony, which might be better pulling its weight in one of these new options. I think the way ahead is either organic or intensive non-organic but with wildlife corridors including hedges to join up environmental areas or woods, helpful to birds, bees, butterflies, invertebrates and flora.

As in a good marriage we both need each other. The Government has set their net zero targets on emissions and are also under pressure to evolve policies to stem environmental losses. Farmers need these options to help them face a tough new regime without land based support.

The trick to suit both parties will be getting the payments for the different options sufficiently generous to get proper engagement. The payments need to encourage us to plant more hedges and woods, to expand the existing non cropped areas for wildlife, bearing in mind that existing fixed costs then may work out more per hectare on the reduced cropping. Some owner occupiers with no debt may decide to go for all the options and give up farming altogether. Tenants will have to make the best of it!

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: Vacancy.

Church wardens: Maggie Simons 01793 710801 Richard Green 01793 791310

Secretary: Vacancy.

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 April 2023. Submit your entries for April by **24th March** 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.