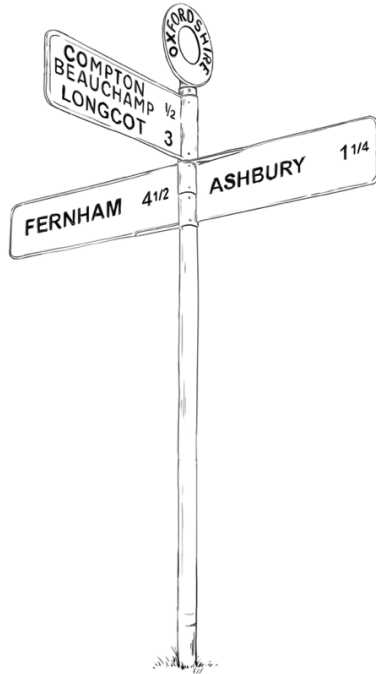


**ASHBURY
COMPTON LONGCOT FERNHAM
NEWS
April 2023**



The Rose and Crooners 1st April

Easter activities and services

W.I .13th (Bishopstone)

Thought for the month

As I write this, it is the Spring Equinox, one of the turning-points of the year, when the days first become longer than the nights. The daffodils are coming into full bloom, and we have just celebrated Mothering Sunday. A time, you would think, of joy and reawakening.

But, there's always a but, our news media are currently marking three anniversaries – definitely not ones to be celebrated. The first is the invasion by Russian forces of Ukraine just a year ago; the second is the invasion of Iraq by a US/UK coalition twenty years ago; the third the Provisional IRA bombings in Warrington, in which two children died, thirty years ago.

It is too early yet to try to make sense of Ukraine, only to lament the appalling human suffering, but for the others the question which I cannot avoid is whether the perpetrators (a loaded word, I know, but I use it nonetheless – you will find the usual caveat at the foot of the page) feel they achieved their objectives. Saddam and his hateful regime are gone, and there is a peace of a sort in Northern Ireland. But, forgive me, can any political outcome possibly justify the loss of those boys lives; the enduring harm to their families and to those of the others injured in Warrington – in Iraq – in Ukraine?

A group from one of our churches were recently discussing why people did – or did not – come to church. One of the group commented that the time when, more than any other, our churches were consistently full was during the Falklands campaign. And I understand that, but I can't help wondering why – why during that war, rather than any other? Perhaps because there were British territory, British people at risk. The realistic possibility of losing.

It is a sadder and a more troubled world in which we now live. So, having posed the hard questions, I'd like to be able to finish with some words of hope. One of the Gospel readings always set during Lent is the conversation late at night between Jesus and Nicodemus. In it, Jesus tells Nicodemus: "this is the judgement, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil." It is a reminder of two things: no matter how deep the darkness may seem, the light is always stronger; the darkness has never, can never, overcome it. And, as we kindle the new fire of Easter, the choice is always open to us, to step back into the darkness, or forward, into the light of Christ. **Richard Fergusson**

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

What's on

Bishopstone with Hinton Parva WI

We have a wide range of members with different backgrounds and interests and all find it a great way to connect with others in our villages and develop new friendships. In addition, we enjoy opportunities to learn from the variety of speakers and workshops we host each month.

New members are always welcome. If you are interested in joining please contact :
Jan Chappel: janatwan@tiscali.co.uk

Our April Meeting is on Thursday 13th April at 7:30 p.m. (doors open at 7:00 p.m.)
Hinton Parva village hall. Sarah Troughton, Lord Lieutenant of Wiltshire will be joining us to talk about this role and her recent appointment as a Queen's Companion to the Queen Consort.

KICK START EASTER!

Two interactive concerts, hosted by
The Rose and Crooners

Saturday 1st April Ashbury Village Hall

3pm - 4.30pm - including coffee and cake

5.30pm - 7pm - including wine and canapés

Fun for all the family

Tickets available from The Rose and Crown £2 each

Extra tea/coffee and cake available to buy at the first concert, wine to buy at the second, raffle tickets to buy at both, and donation buckets onsite, so bring your pennies, your sense of humour, and your Easter Bonnets **All profits will go to The Watchfield and Shrivenham Community Larder**

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 27th April

Lunch at Swindon's New College training restaurant.

We will have a 3 course meal prepared and served by the catering students (under close supervision) for less than £10 per person.

Bookings will be taken on 30th March after our talk about TWIGS therapeutic gardens.

Any members who cannot come to this meeting will be contacted at the beginning of April, with details of booking, car-sharing etc.

Visitors welcome - £2

Jackie - tel. 01793 710358

Coronation Street Party

Sunday 7th May 3.00pm – 5.00pm Chapel Lane outside the Village Hall. This stretch of Chapel Lane will be closed for the day between **11.00am and 6.00pm** to allow time to set up and clear away. Volunteers are needed as follows:

1. Muscle to help load the chairs from Richard Green's farm in Idstone, unload and set up in Ashbury, load and unload on the return. The tables will also need to be set up and put away. Those with bad backs and over 70's are excused but we do hope there will be 5-6 able bodied people to help or there will be no party!

2. People to help put up bunting before the event and take it down afterwards.

3. People to help set the tables, clear away and wash up.

Everyone welcome on the day – Just bring along a plate of food (cakes, biscuits, sandwiches, finger food - savoury or sweet) to be shared. We will provide tea, coffee and soft drinks. If the weather is bad the party will move into the village hall. There is no cost to this event, except a donation pot for the cups of tea provided outside Rose Cottage (thank you Pam and Steve Treadwell).

It would be lovely for the children if some people could run some games in tucked-away corners of the road (bat the rat/hook a duck available) - if anyone would like to run a stall, they would be more than welcome. As you can see, a few volunteers would help the whole afternoon be an event to remember so please consider giving an hour or two of your time. Please contact Julia Blake on 07760238929 or 01793 710776 if you have questions or are happy to help with something.

LONGCOT Flower Festival 6th-14th May 10am-4pm and Concert Sat 13th May at 6.30pm

To celebrate the forthcoming Coronation of King Charles III the village of Longcot is holding a special flower festival and concert in St. Mary's Church. The theme for the festival this year is 'Ring for the King' and will include displays inspired by the coronation colours of gold, purple and white and reflecting the joy of the occasion.

The concert by the Clarinet Collective will feature music from across the centuries with a royal connection, including works by Mozart, Handel and Benny Goodman. Admission to both events is free with donations; all profits will go to the Longcot Village Trust to help fund future community events. No booking is needed for the flower festival, however all seats for the concert will need to be reserved in advance by emailing victorialmedcalf@gmail.com Bar open from 6 pm and at the interval.

CHURCH MATTERS

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

Sunday 2 April	9.45am*	Palm Sunday procession from Methodist Church to St Andrews followed by	
	10.15am*	United Communion service	Shrivenham
Thursday 6 April	7.00pm*	Holy Communion with foot washing	Longcot
Maundy Thursday			
Friday 7 April	9am	Matins	Ashbury
Good Friday	Noon	Hour at the Cross	Longcot
	2.00pm	Hour at the Cross	Ashbury
Sunday 9 April	9.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Compton
Easter Sunday	9.30am	Holy Communion	Longcot
	11.00am	Holy Communion	Ashbury
	Sunday 16 April	9am	Matins
	9.30am	Morning Prayer	Longcot
	11am	Morning Prayer (Iona)	Ashbury
Sunday 23 April	9.30am	Holy Communion	Longcot
	11am	Holy Communion	Ashbury
Friday 28 April	9.00am	Matins	Ashbury
Sunday 30 April	11.00am*	Benefice Easter & Re-opening service with Choir	Fernham

**Although everyone is welcome to attend any services, those marked with an asterisk are designed as benefice services*

Covid Precautions at Services

Please do not come to Church if you have Covid symptoms

All online Morning Prayer, Communion services and sermons 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. Details of online services are on the weekly sheet and on Facebook

Ashbury Prayer cycle for April:-

2nd High Street, 9th Idstone Road, 16th Idstone, 23rd Kingstone Winslow, 30th Malthouse Close

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 Maggie Simons for further information.

COME AND SEE

Come and See continues until Easter Day, so it's not too late to accept the invitation to an adventure in faith and trust. It's completely free and all are welcome. 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.

PASTORAL CARE If you wish to receive prayer or pastoral support, or wish to discuss a wedding or baptism, please don't hesitate to ring Rev'd Norma Fergusson on 01793 784338.

SUNDAY SCHOOL & MESSY CHURCH

As Easter Day falls on the second Sunday of the month there will be no Sunday School this month. However everyone is invited to join the Palm Sunday procession from Shrevenham Methodist Church at 9.45am on 2 April. We are hoping that the donkeys will lead the procession as usual.

The next Messy Church will be on Thursday 4 May.



SUSTAINABLE SHRIVENHAM: THE 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.

CARING FOR GOD'S CREATION

Monthly Tip

By reusing old household materials you get twice the use for only one instance of packaging, and you only buy once too which makes it a budget option. Old flannel shirts and sheets, worn-out towels, socks and cotton t-shirts all make great cleaning cloths. Old toothbrushes provide the scrubbing power for tough to tackle built-up dirt. *Do you have a tip? Let us know and we will include it in a future edition.*

Our prayer this month continues the theme of sustainability – particularly the new 3Rs of Repair, Reuse and Recycle. It comes from The Green Heart of the Snowdrop by Kate McIlhagga.

For the harvesting of anvils
Rusting in barns
Creator God we thank you

For the singing of sewing machines
Put to new use
Creator God we thank you
For buckets and pails
For spanners and hammers
For forks and for spades
Rescued from dusty sheds
Creator God we thank you

For the harvest of tools, skills and hope
Bountiful God, we thank you

For those who give
And those who refurbish
Tools for self-reliance;
For those who will receive and use
The harvest not of our fields
but of our past
Lord of history, we thank you

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.

LONGCOT CHURCHES WORKING TOGETHER – CHAPEL NEWS

SUNDAY 2nd APRIL 3pm - Mrs Sheila Knowles will be leading our monthly united service and everyone is most welcome to join us. Tea and biscuits will be served after the service.

FRIDAY 28th APRIL 3pm – T Time Fellowship. Everyone is welcome to join us as we are chatting over afternoon tea. There is no charge but donations to our chosen charity (currently Ripple Effect which is the new name of Send a Cow) are always appreciated.

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.

From the Newspaper Archive.....

Swindon Advertiser 3rd April 1882

One wonders how much these fetched.....

ASHBURY, BERKS.

PRELIMINARY NOTICE OF SALE OF GROCER'S SHOP, HOUSE and GARDEN lately occupied by Mrs Terry; also 3 **COTTAGES and GARDENS**, in the several occupations of Messrs Wiggins, Skinner, and Spackman.

DORE, SMITH & RADWAY have received instructions to **SELL** the above **PROPERTY** by **AUCTION**, at the Rose and Crown Inn, Ashbury, on **THURSDAY**, the 13th, of **APRIL**, 1882.

Particulars of which may be obtained of the **AUCTIONEERS**, or of

A. W. BOODLE, Esq.,
Solicitor, New Swindon.

26th April 1913- Diphtheria in the village

INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

The Sanitary Inspector's report dealt with various matters which had come under his notice at Lougocot, Stanford, Watchfield, Ashbury and Shrevenham. Two cases of diphtheria were noticed at Ashbury, in one house.

Faringdon Advertiser and White Horse Journal

13th April 1918

The water supply in the village was a bone of contention for decades, until the Craven Estate finally arranged for it to be fixed in the 1930's.

ASHBURY WATER SUPPLY.

A letter was read from the Clerk to the Ashbury Parish Council respecting the very bad water supply in the village, and a letter from the Vicar of the parish dealt with the same subject, special mention being made of the schools, and stating that the managers considered that a proper supply should be provided.

Mr E. Tucker said that no doubt the water supply was very inadequate.

It was decided to leave it to the Ashbury Parish Council to suggest a scheme which would meet the requirements of the parish.

INCREASED CHARGES

Country Matters

Last month I tried to explain the new ELMS (Environmental Land Management) support for farming and the assertion that the new payment schemes could replace the former land-based regime which was basically an EU plan to keep the cost of food low. The elephant in the room on this new approach is that food does not feature. Empty shelves recently enhance the case for home agriculture.

My definition of a farmer is one who produces food and there's the rub. To recover the former support in full you would probably have to give up farming. Some will, as I indicated last month. They will be landowners with no debt who can let their worker's cottages and turn their buildings over to commercial lets, probably applying for organic conversion to top up the support. They will grow wild bird cover and nectar strips, plant woods and it could look pretty. The wealthy like the Knebb estate on the Weald and the Mapperton estate in Dorset have gone further to rewild with a fence round the lot.

Those who have good lowland farms with debt or rents to cover like my family farm have no choice but to carry on with a higher output system off most of the best land because the payments are mostly insufficiently generous.

ELMs is complicated with over 200 options which can absorb management time but we look like claiming on the intermediate to enhance arable soils at £40/h and risking to forego insecticides at £45/h. We do not have many small awkward fields to expand our existing areas on the other options for bird or nectar mixes so that's £95/h gained against £250/h lost from the previous support. More hedges look an attractive option at £23/m run and they lock up carbon long term. There is support for enhancing biodiversity over many farms. I would support a scheme on the Lambourn downs between the M4 and Wantage but it would need consents from several very large landowners. As I said last month, we are really going to miss that £155/h shortfall (£62,000 on a 1,000 acres)

In the hills and uplands losing their land-based support under the new regime could be even more threatening. Many are already organic and isolated so the opportunity to add further value is limited. Our local organic farm here is adding value to their livestock sales through retail and their pub/restaurant. This is what Jeremy Clarkson is trying to do if the west Oxon planners would cooperate. On camera he claimed to aim for £10,000 from one beef animal. We get £1,500 in a strong market so it surprises me that the uplift is this strong. Of course, there are many extra costs in running an eatery in Bishopstone or even in a lambing shed at Chipping Norton!

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 May 2023. Submit your entries for May by **22nd April** 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.