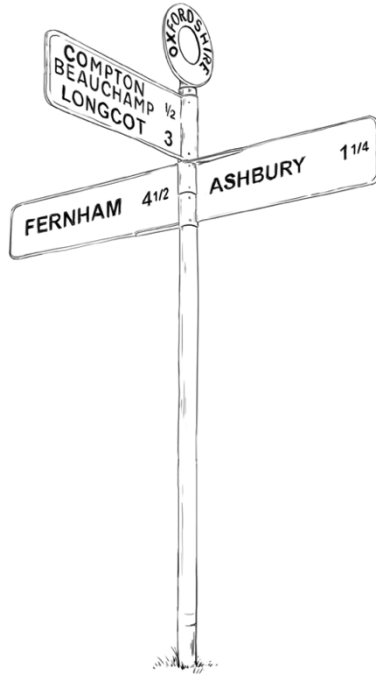


**ASHBURY
COMPTON LONGCOT FERNHAM
NEWS
NOVEMBER 2023**



Shrivenham- Sonare Choir 11th

Longcot -Torriano Ensemble 19th

Ashbury St Mary's Christmas Bazaar 25th

Community Club 30th

Thought for the month

The Bible Previously, I urged you to read the Bible to find out for yourselves the truth about God. God is Truth..... and truth is absolute.... This means that something is true whether or not we choose to acknowledge it. Believing and Trusting in God is the most important thing anyone can do, hence why I'm so passionate about warning everyone about the consequences of ignoring God.

After my June entry I felt compelled to try to visit every house in the parish to offer a free copy of the Bible, so you have the means of reading it. So far, I have visited about 150 homes and more than 35 people accepted a copy. (If I've not seen you, it's either because you were out, hiding(!?) or because I haven't got to your home yet!). I mention this, not for self-aggrandisement, but to encourage those who have taken a copy to read it and so they know they are not alone. It is a powerful book, but it is not a talisman, it is only beneficial if you actually read it and seek to learn from it! Many people turned down the offer because they already had a copy..... Sadly, the majority also admitted that they seldom or ever looked at it! (I thank everyone for the warm reception I received it was good to chat with old friend and meet new ones) While agonising about what to write this month I found a quotation by J.C. Ryle, (who was Bishop of Liverpool in the mid 1800's.) which I thought rang true:

“Be very sure of this – People never reject the Bible because they cannot understand it. They understand it too well;
They understand that it condemns their own behaviour;
They understand that it witnesses against their own sins,
and summons them to judgement.
They try to believe it is false and useless, because they don't like to believe it is true!”

It is true that the bible does, condemn and convict us of sin, and warns of the judgement..... It says every one of us is a sinner, deserving of punishment and there is nothing that we, ourselves, can do about it.....But it doesn't stop there..... It goes on to describe God's love for us and how, because of His love, He provided the only possible solution, which was to send His Son, Jesus, to live the only ever perfect life, so He could die in our place and take the punishment which we deserved. The bible tells us that Jesus will return to take his followers to be with him and to judge the world. Nobody knows when that will be, but one thing I know for sure, is that every day it is getting closer so don't delay. The bible prophesies that as His return approaches there will be wars and rumours of wars..... But don't be distracted by the wars and rumours of wars..... The real war is for your eternal soul!

Andrew Bunce

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

Ashbury

Church Christmas Bazaar and Raffle – Saturday 25 November 2 pm

Our traditional Christmas Bazaar and Raffle will once again be held in the Village Hall. We would very much appreciate items for the stalls listed below. Donations can be left at the Village Hall during the morning of the Bazaar (between 9-11 am) or prior to that delivered to the stall holder.

Please note this year tickets will not be sold door to door for our Grand Raffle but will be sold at the Bazaar. The Rose and Crown has provided the main prize of a night's stay with breakfast and there are many other prizes including a print framed by Kate Herbert.

CAKES - Clare McGlashan (01793 710754) and Les Fitchett

GIFTS - Anything **new** and unwanted. Anne Taylor (01793 710051) and Julia Blake (07760 238929)

TOMBOLA - Bottles of wine, spirits, soft drink, sauces etc. Carole Crook (01793 952124)

BOOKS – as new condition, please. Marion Turner (01793 710302)

BRIC A BRAC - Any used items but not clothing or electrical. Sue and Mick Stannard. Please deliver items to the hall or contact Sue for further information (710048)

CHILDREN'S TOYS - Madeleine Trussell. Please deliver items to the hall.

RAFFLE PRIZES - Margaret Smith (710800) and Audrey Tilling

Other stalls include: Children's Games (Diane and Bill Lovegrove) and Refreshments (Jane Worrall and Nina Tombs).

We look forward to seeing you on 25 November. All funds raised will go towards the upkeep of St Mary's Church.

Ashbury Community Club: Thursday 30th November Ashbury Village Hall 2.30pm
'A Life in Diplomacy'

Christopher Prentice will tell us about his role in the Foreign Office specialising in Middle Eastern & European affairs. He was posted to numerous cities and has been the Ambassador in Amman, Baghdad and Rome; he has also worked in the Cabinet Office. Christopher will be happy to discuss current affairs and also interested to hear any of our questions.

Everyone welcome to attend this talk - no need to book - just £2 to include tea & biscuits.

Ashbury Village Hall. Thank you to all those who supported the Badapple Theatre event on 23rd September. We hope you enjoyed the plays which raised enough money to cover the costs of the theatre company and a surplus of just over £300 for the village hall. We have had really good feedback from those who went and so we will hope to bring the company back to Ashbury sometime next year.

Congratulations to Roger Baker for winning the Community First Award for Community Project funded through the Landfill Communities Fund programme on behalf of the Village Hall Management Committee. This is the grant we received for renewing/redecorating the Village Hall windows and doors and Roger was nominated for the award because he led the project working with other committee members to make it happen.

It's Shoebox Time – Operation Christmas Child- shoebox gifts go to some of the hardest to reach locations in the world. From refugee camps in the Middle East and churches in war-torn Ukraine to remote villages in Africa and Central Asia; your shoeboxes offer hope and joy wherever they go. Can you pack a shoebox gift for a child this year? Full information on how to pack a shoebox is available online at Samaritans-purse.org.uk/shoebox2023. You can either pack a shoebox with gifts that you buy and then bring it to the church on or before Sunday 19th November for our Shoebox Sunday service and we will deliver to Highworth drop off collection point **OR** you can choose your gifts on line and they will pack the box for you. Full details are on their website. Any questions contact Maggie Simons.

Ashbury Information by email Ad hoc emails are circulated to residents with up to date particulars about Ashbury events and other relevant information. If you would like your name added to the circulation list please email: ashburyoxfordshire@hotmail.com

NEW RESIDENTS TO ASHBURY, IDSTONE & KINGSTONE WINSLOW A pack is available 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 Margaret Smith (710800) for Ashbury & Idstone or Anne Taylor (07491 035582) for Kingstone Winslow

CHURCH MATTERS: SERVICES FOR NOVEMBER

The service times are correct at the time of writing (7 October). For the latest news and information, please download the weekly Newsletter from our website.

The churches in Ashbury, Longcot and Compton Beauchamp are also open daily for private prayer.

Sunday 5 November	9.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Compton
	9.30am	Holy Communion	Longcot
	11.00am	Morning Prayer	Ashbury
Monday 6 November	7.30pm*	Welcome and Licensing of The Rev'd Patrick Mabhunu by Bishop Gavin (with Choir)	Ashbury
Thursday 9 November	10.00am	Holy Communion	Ashbury
Sunday 12 November	10.50am	Remembrance Sunday	Longcot
	10.50am	Remembrance Sunday	Ashbury
War Memorial			
	11.00am	Remembrance Sunday	Compton
War Memorial			
	3.00pm	Remembrance Sunday	Fernham
Memorial Garden			
Sunday 19 November	9.00am	Matins	Compton
	9.30am	Morning Prayer	Longcot
	11.00am	Shoe Box Sunday	Ashbury
Friday 24 November	9.00am	Morning Prayer	Ashbury
Sunday 26 November	10.15am*	Benefice Holy Communion With Choir	Shrivenham

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

Rev'd Patrick's Licensing

The Rev'd Patrick Mabhunu will be licensed to the benefice at a service in Ashbury St Mary on **Monday 6 November at 7.30pm**. Bishop Gavin will preside; the benefice choir will sing, and everyone will be welcome. Please let Norma or Maggie know if you would like to attend so we can be sure to have enough refreshments!

Covid Precautions at Services

Please do not come to Church if you think you may 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.

Benefice meeting in Shrivenham Memorial Hall

Sunday 19 November, 3.30 for 4pm

Many of you will be aware that Norma Fergusson, our Vicar, is retiring on May 19th next year. She and her husband Richard have been well known and much appreciated in their commitment to serving all the parishes across our benefice and we shall mark this and their retirement next spring.

We are now beginning to look to the future and are undertaking a wide consultation process. The process is being led for us by the Reverend Canon Charles Chadwick, Parish Development Adviser for the Dorchester Archdeaconry and Mission Department Lead for the Rural church.

He writes, 'Over recent years it has been found productive and beneficial for people across a benefice - both church attendees, other parishioners, those who represent schools, businesses and other institution such as parish councils - to come together and acknowledge what is going well and what we want to thank God for, to consider what might be the key areas to consider over the next few years that the churches may develop their work, and in the light of this to think about what gifts and skills we should be seeking in our next vicar. These occasions, which are informal and always positive, go particularly well when there is a broad range of people present.'

We shall be meeting on Sunday 19th November at Shrivenham Memorial Hall, starting with tea and cake being served from 3.30 pm, with the meeting beginning at 4.00 pm and we shall conclude by no later than 6.00 pm.

We would love to see you there and hear your thoughts and observations. To help us with the logistics please let our Benefice Administrator, Lucy Laird know at shrivenham.ashbury.benefice@outlook.com if you are coming along by Friday 10th November.

Ashbury prayer cycle for October- 5th Berrycroft Lane, 12th Chapel Lane, 19th Church Lane 26th College Farm Lane

Messy Church

If you haven't been to Messy Church yet, do give it a try. The next after-school session is on Thursday 30 November 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.

PASTORAL CARE

If you have need for prayer or pastoral support, or wish to discuss a wedding or baptism, do not hesitate to ring Rev'd Norma Fergusson on 01793 784338.

Caring for Creation - Christmas Cards

We will soon start thinking about Christmas and how many cards to buy. Many people do not consider the environmental impact of sending cards. Since a third of the paper is not recycled in the UK, most cards end up in landfill where they can take years to decompose. Emissions produced in the manufacturing and delivery processes are also a significant factor.

Perhaps this year we can cut down on the Christmas cards we send. Do we really need to send Christmas cards to everyone we know? Perhaps a phone call to people we haven't spoken to for a while, or a newsy email, would be much nicer and more environmentally friendly. Another alternative is to send up-cycled Christmas cards.

Locally, if you would like to send a card to friends in Ashbury, Kingstone Winslow and/or Idstone, how about hanging one card, with a message to all your friends and neighbours, on the 'Christmas Card Tree' in St Mary's Church or in the Rose and

Crown? It is estimated that approximately 1 billion Christmas cards are thrown away in the UK each year, let's do our bit to reduce this number and save the trees.

For other ways to **Waste Not this Christmas** check out tips by the Environment Agency [24 ways to waste not this Christmas - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

Support your local church or the Benefice as a whole with a text donation using the numbers below

For Ashbury

Text STMARYS 5 to 70085 to donate £5 or Text STMARYS 10 to 70085 to donate £10

For Longcot and Fernham

Text LONGCOT to 70085 to donate £4

For Compton Beauchamp

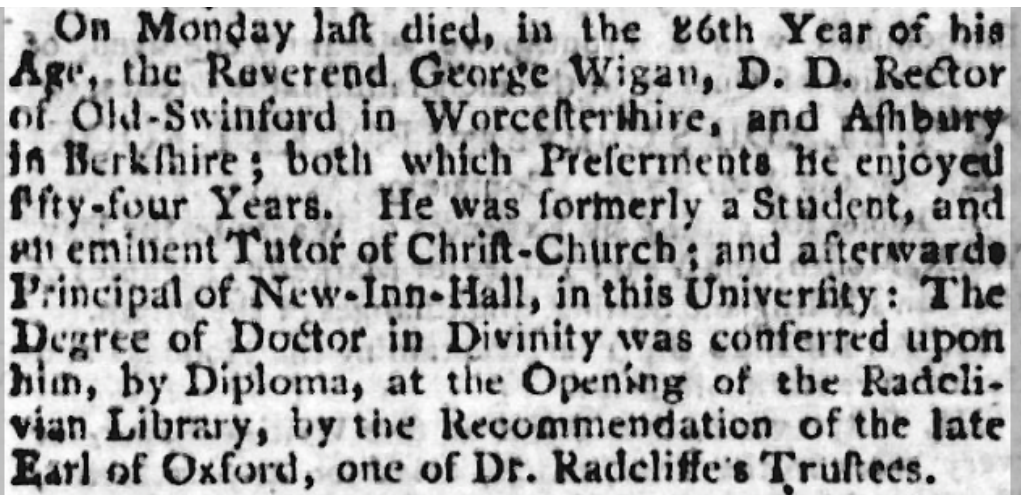
Text 5CB to 70450 to donate £5 or Text 10CB to 70460 to donate £5

For the Benefice as a whole

Text GIVEfive to 70470 to donate £5 or Text GIVEten to 70470 to donate £10

Your standard text message rate applies.

From the Oxford Journal 16th November 1776



On Monday last died, in the 86th Year of his Age, the Reverend George Wigan, D. D. Rector of Old-Swinford in Worcestershire, and Ashbury in Berkshire; both which Preferments he enjoyed fifty-four Years. He was formerly a Student, and an eminent Tutor of Christ-Church; and afterwards Principal of New-Inn-Hall, in this University: The Degree of Doctor in Divinity was conferred upon him, by Diploma, at the Opening of the Radclivian Library, by the Recommendation of the late Earl of Oxford, one of Dr. Radcliffe's Trustees.



Sc

SONARE CHOIR

The vocal quartet

*My Soul, There
is a Country*

The Best of British Choral Music

Saturday 11th November, 7:30pm

St Andrew's Church, Church Walk
Shrivenham, Swindon SN6 8AQ

ADVANCE TICKETS: WWW.SONARECHOIR.COM

LONGCOT

Concert by the Torriano Ensemble in St. Mary's Church, Longcot

On Sunday 19th November at 6 pm the Torriano Ensemble is delighted to be returning to St. Mary's Church, Longcot for an evening of music for flute, clarinet, bassoon, horn and string quintet.

The programme features two much-loved masterpieces from the classical period, Mozart's charming and effortlessly melodious Flute Quartet in D major K. 285 and the magnificent Octet by Schubert. It is thought that Schubert heard Beethoven's Septet and was inspired to write a similar work of his own, and indeed there are many similarities of structure and style between the two pieces.

Arrangements of three of Gershwin's most popular songs, 'Embraceable You', 'The Man I Love' and 'I've Got Rhythm', provide a contrast of style and mood.

The bar will be open from 5.30 pm and at the interval. As always, admission is free with a retiring collection, and all seats should be reserved in advance by emailing victorialmedcalf@gmail.com All donations will go to Longcot Village Trust and St. Mary's Church.

T TIME FELLOWSHIP, St. MARY'S CHURCH 3 - 4.30 FRIDAY 24th NOVEMBER

It was good to see plenty of regulars and some new faces when we enjoyed tea and chat in our new venue last month. Why not come and join us this time? you'd be most welcome. There's no charge but donations to our chosen charity are always welcome.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to last month's total of £35 for Macmillan.

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

Roger Evans is a retired Welsh dairy farmer who writes every Saturday for Western Daily Press. Roger tells a good story. His wife makes him a chicken curry. He eats the rice and curry sauce and finds himself pushing the small pieces of chicken around because the taste is different. They find the packaging from the bin and discover the “chicken” is made from plants. His left overs are deposited up the garden for the birds and cats. A week later they notice only the “chicken” pieces are left.

With the radio whilst driving, I was listening to an interview in a studio with a dog owner who claimed that his dog had decided to save the planet and eschew meat in favour of a vegan diet. The dog was present in the studio but seemed unable to express himself as convincingly as his master.

We are beef producers. Our neighbour, Helen Browning at Eastbrook farm is an organic dairy, beef, pork, and lamb producer. Quite obviously, the rise of veganism is not good for producers like us. It's a free country still so what we eat and what we choose for our diets is down to the individual but it's a shame that some vegan zealots have crossed the line and made threats to stock farmers. Farmers are always uneasy with these campaigners when they have large stocks of vulnerable straw that could be torched as arson.

Maybe, the rise of veganism has stalled. It was reported last week that Marlow Foods, the parent company of Quorn has crashed on lower sales and cost inflation. Quorn has a tie up with KFC selling vegan burgers. Quorn's problems have been shared with the Yorkshire based sausage firm Heck which has pulled its vegan products. Meatless farm is another that is in administration. Nevertheless, the RSPCA trustees have voted for 100% plant- based products at its functions yet benefits hugely but now with hypocrisy from its bespoke assurance schemes for livestock. By the time you read this the world rugby might be over but I doubt many of the players are vegan. And what would happen to England's green and pleasant pastures, with their role in capturing carbon without grazing livestock?

Richard Green

NB All contributors- next month's Newsletter will be a double issue, so items for both December & January will need to be submitted by 21st Nov. Ed.

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: Katherine Foxhall 07916 285305

katherine.foxhall@whitehorsedc.gov.uk and Viral Patel viral.patel@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 Dec/Jan2023/4. Submit your entries for the **double issue** by **21st**

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.