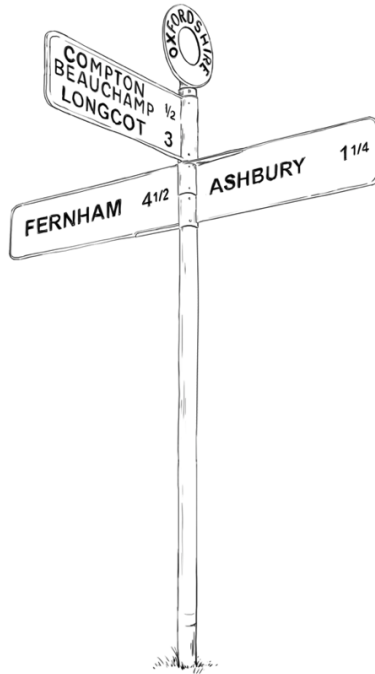


**ASHBURY
COMPTON LONGCOT FERNHAM
NEWS
DECEMBER 2021/ JANUARY 2022**



**Ashbury Carol Service 18th 5pm
Stations of the Nativity 22nd 6pm**

Community Club 27th January-relive the 70's!

Thought for the month

December 2021

I'm writing this, (late as usual - sorry Marion) in the time of the year when I start thinking about "Christmas for me" as opposed to "Christmas for the churches" – which, perforce, starts a lot earlier.

So, in our house, it's the time of year for buying the fruit (if not actually making the cake!); for looking at the list of people to send cards and presents to; and for gently mourning those who were on the list last Christmas but will not appear this. It's the time to look out the Christmas decorations and enjoy taking time to remember the places they came from or the people who gave them to us. Of course, it's the time to think about the coming of the baby in the manger – but before that, it's time to think about Mary and Joseph and the courage they showed in saying yes to God's incredible suggestion that they should become human parents to his son.

These rituals and more are, for me, essential preparations for Christmas. They stop me rushing straight into the festivities (wonderful though those will be when I get to them) and give me time to enjoy the waiting and expectation which marks the short but important season of Advent.

In Advent, the liturgical calendar imposes other rituals, such as lighting the Advent candles, which also encourage us to take the time we need to prepare ourselves for Christmas. It doesn't leap straight into the birth narratives on the first Sunday but encourages us to reflect on the messages of the patriarchs, the prophets and John the Baptist before we celebrate Mary on the fourth Sunday. Meanwhile, we have a chance to sing again the traditional Advent carols like Lo! He Comes with clouds descending and the magical, mysterious Let all mortal flesh keep silence. O come all ye faithful and We wish you a merry Christmas can wait a little longer.

So, on Advent Sunday, we will put up the "Advent calendar" (24 little Christmas stockings just big enough for those little bars of Green & Blacks chocolate – other chocolates are, of course, available), get out the Advent mugs, light the first of the Advent candles and enjoy the season.

And I will pray that you also will find peace and space this Advent, so that you will be ready to prepare to welcome the Christ child into your home and into your hearts on Christmas morning.

Blessings

Norma

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

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). Several new arrivals who moved into the Ashbury area in the past six months have found this information very helpful in making many varied contacts.

STATIONS OF THE NATIVITY

WEDNESDAY 22nd NOVEMBER at 6pm

Subject to any new Covid restriction we are delighted to announce that Stations of the Nativity should be back to its historic form on Wednesday, 22 December commencing at the cross roads at 6pm. As usual the procession will go along High Street and down Chapel Lane and finish, with the kind permission of Nina & Christopher Prentice, at Ashbury Manor, concluding with hot mince pies.

ASHBURY CHURCH CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Thank you to everyone who participated in any way with the Ashbury Church Christmas Bazaar on Saturday 27th November. We were thrilled to raise £1002 – a lot more than we had thought possible in the current circumstances. It was lovely to see so many people of all ages just enjoying being back in the Village Hall with friends, family and neighbours. A special thank you to all the stall holders, many of whom worked days before and after the bazaar as well as most of Saturday, and to those who generously donated items to sell or as raffle prizes. However, we could not have raised this amazing sum if you had not all come to browse the stalls - we hope you enjoyed it. The Ashbury St Mary's PCC thanks you all.

Ashbury Community Club

We meet on the last Thursday afternoon of each month and have a full programme of talks / outings / lunches planned for 2022.

Our first event on 27th January will be a chance to re-live the 1970's.

2.30pm in Ashbury Village Hall

Meetings are open to everyone:

No need to book / just turn up / bring a friend

If you'd like further info. you are welcome to phone Jackie Baker (710358) or Sue Reade (710208)

CHURCH MATTERS

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

Friday 3 December	9.00am	Morning Prayer (BCP)	Ashbury
Sunday 5 December	9.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Compton
	9.30am	Family service	Longcot
	11.00am	Morning Prayer	Ashbury
	3.00pm	United Carol service	Longcot Chapel
	3.00pm	Sunday School	Watchfield
Thurs. 9 December	10.00am	Holy Communion:	Ashbury
Friday 10 December	9.00am	Morning Prayer (BCP)	Ashbury
Sunday 12 December	9.30am	Holy Communion	Longcot
	11.00am	Holy Communion	Ashbury
Friday 17 December	9.00am	Morning Prayer (BCP)	Ashbury
Saturday 18 December	5.00pm	Carol service + Choir & bells	Ashbury
Sunday 19 December	11.00am	Morning Celtic service	Ashbury
	12.30am	Holy Baptism	Longcot
	6.00pm	Village Carol service + bells	Longcot
	6.30pm	Carol Service	Compton
Thursday 23 December	5.00pm	Carol service	Fernham Green
Friday 24 December	4.00pm	Crib service	Ashbury
Christmas Eve	11.30pm	Midnight Mass	Longcot
Saturday 25 December	9.00am	Holy Communion	Compton
	10.30am	Family service with Holy Communion	Ashbury
Sunday 26 December	10.15am	Benefice Communion	Shrivenham

Please do not come into church if you think you may have symptoms of Covid 19

We encourage you to wear a mask, use the hand sanitiser and observe social distancing where possible while in church.

Please sign in or use the QR code.

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 December:-

December-5th Kingstone Winslow, 12th Malthouse Close, 19th Odstone Farm & Cottages, 26th Pound Piece

ASHBURY REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY- BRITISH LEGION COLLECTION

We are pleased to let you know that the collection for the British Legion raised £60 and this has been forwarded to them.

PAUL'S MESSAGE

Dear friends

We look towards Christmas and the New Year with renewed hope this year. Last Christmas, with Covid 19 restrictions, our celebrations with friends and families were somewhat curtailed. Now we can meet together in greater numbers, thanks to the success of the vaccine roll out, even if we still need to take care in terms of hand hygiene, face-coverings, and remembering to respect distancing.

But, perhaps we learned a lesson last year that can make this and future Christmas celebrations even better. We learned that Christmas and New Year can be celebrated more simply, that it is not just about parties and family gathering together however good those things may be.

We learned not to take our friends and families so much for granted, and we learned that we can use this time as a time to re-connect in love and care with those most dear to us, and to share that love with those less fortunate than ourselves.

As I move, in January, to pastures new in the North of England, I will take with me a sense of the community here which rose to the challenge of Covid 19 lock-down and restrictions in support of all, and especially the vulnerable, in our community. May those lessons we learned inform us as we move into the "new normal" that lies ahead. Thank you all, for all that I have gained from being with you in this place, and God bless you all.

Paul.

PASTORAL CARE

If you have need for prayer or pastoral support, do not hesitate to ring Canon Paul Richardson on 710241 up to 16th January. Thereafter Rev'd Norma Fergusson on 01793 784338.

LONGCOT CHURCHES WORKING TOGETHER – CHAPEL NEWS

SUNDAY 3rd December 3pm- This month's united service will take the form of an Advent Carol Service and will be led by our new Upper Thames Circuit Superintendent, Revd. Shirlyn Toppin. Everyone is welcome to join us and to stay for tea and mince pies afterwards.

T TIME FELLOWSHIP - As the last Friday in December falls on New Year's Eve we will not be meeting this month but hope to see everyone joining us as usual at the end of January.

SUNDAY 2nd January. 2022 3pm - We look forward to Revd. Norma Fergusson leading our first united service of 2022. Everyone is welcome and we hope you will stay to share fellowship over refreshments after the service.

FRIDAY 28th January 3pm- T TIME FELLOWSHIP - tea/coffee, crumpets and cakes will all be waiting to be enjoyed as we chat, laugh and generally "catch up" a warm welcome is assured and there's no charge although donations to our chosen charity are always welcome.

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

Please note these details are correct at time of going to print but may need to be changed, please look on the church noticeboards or the website to check the latest position.

Sunday 2 January	9am	Holy Communion (BCP) Compton	
	9.30am	Family service	Longcot
	11am	Morning Prayer	Ashbury
	3.00pm	Joint service	Longcot Chapel
Friday 7 January	9am	Matins	Ashbury
Sunday 9 January	9.30am	Holy Communion	Longcot
	11am	Holy Communion	Ashbury

Thursday 13 January	10am	Holy Communion	Ashbury
Friday 14 January	9am	Matins	Ashbury
Sunday 16 January	11am	Benefice Holy Communion	
	Paul Richardson's last service		Ashbury
Friday 21 January	9am	Matins	Ashbury
Sunday 23 January	9.30am	Holy Communion	Longcot
	11am	Holy Communion	Ashbury
Friday 28 January	9am	Matins	Ashbury
Sunday 30 January	10.00am	Benefice Communion	Longcot

Ashbury Prayer cycle for January:-

January- 2nd Station Road, 9th the Malthouses, 16th Walnut Trees Hill, 23rd Wixes Piece, 30th Ashbury Hill

Messy Church, though held in St Andrew's, is open to everyone. Please come and join us - details in the poster



Messy Church in Shrivenham!



What - Messy Church is a church with a difference! A chance to be creative, hear bible stories, eat yummy food and have fun with friends and family!

When - **Thursday 2nd December 2021**
Thursday 3rd February 2022
3.15pm-5pm

Plus - Wednesday 22nd December 2021
Messy Christmas Drop-in 10:00-11:30

Where - St Andrew's Church, Shrivenham

Suggested donation £1.50 per child

For more info and to book your space contact

standfast.shrivenham@yahoo.com

Or scan the QR code to sign up



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 archives: Swindon and North Wilts Advertiser 29 January 1881

SEVERAL PEOPLE AND HORSES FROZEN TO DEATH AT ASHDOWN.

On Friday last, inquests were held at Ashdown Park, before Mr James Bathe Barnes, Deputy Coroner, touching the death of William Goddard, of Longcott, labourer, aged 19, and William Thatcher, a lad of the same place, aged 11. Thomas Patience, of Longcott, labourer, stated that he, in company with Thomas Daniels and the deceased man and boy, went to Lamborne on Tuesday, the 18th inst., to deliver coal. They had with them five horses drawing four carts. They left Lamborne on the return journey about three o'clock in the afternoon, when the snow was falling fast and a high wind blowing. The road by Maddle Farm and Knighton Bushes being the nearest way home, they took that route. After passing Maddle, the weather became so fearfully rough that it was impossible to see their way, and they became quite lost on the Downs, and wandered about for hours. The horses were obliged to be taken out of the carts, and after that he and his companions were frequently stopped by the snow drifts. The boy Thatcher was then taken ill, and after carrying him a long time he died. Patience then put the body on the ground, and, leaving the horses in charge of Goddard and Daniels, started again in search of help. After a time he at last reached Ashdown, and called upon Mr Jesse Jones, the gamekeeper, who went back with other helpers to the spot, when William Goddard was also found dead, as well as the boy Thatcher. Witness is still very ill at Ashdown from the exposure he suffered. Thomas Daniels, of Longcott, labourer, confessed

—Thomas Lambourne, of Longcroft, labourer, confirmed the evidence of the last witness up to the time he left for assistance, and added that Patience carried the poor boy on his back for about two hours before he died. After Patience was gone William Goddard fell down from exhaustion. Witness picked him up, but Goddard fell down again, and he could not help him further. About half an hour later, he died. The deceased man Goddard, who was 19 years of age, had not a top coat. Witness kept himself warm by keeping close to the horses, but Goddard was some distance away from them. Afterwards he became very ill himself, and, on Patience returning with assistance, he was carried to Ashdown more dead than alive. When at Lambourne he and his companions had some bread and cheese and only a quart of beer amongst them all. —Jesse Jones, gamekeeper to Lord Craven, at Ashdown Park, deposed that he was called up about one o'clock on the night of Tuesday, the 18th inst., by the witness Patience crying for help. He gave Patience some whisky, which revived him, as he was nearly overcome by cold and exhaustion. Through information received from Patience, he proceeded to call up his neighbours, and went to Knighton Bushes. Wm. Goddard and the boy Thatcher he found both frozen to death, but Daniels was still alive although very ill. He was taken with Patience and the boy's body to witness's house at Ashdown. The five horses were then alive. On going back for Goddard's body, they found one horse frozen to death, and two others died shortly after from the effects of severe cold and exposure. —James Alexander, of Ashdown, labourer, corroborated the evidence of the last witness. —The jury returned a verdict in each case that death was caused from the effects of severe cold and exposure. Through their foreman (the Rev H. Miller, vicar of Ashbury), the jury expressed the appreciation they felt at the help rendered by Mr Jesse Jones and his assistants, which resulted in saving the lives of Thomas Patience and Thos. Daniels; also the zealous efforts of Thomas Patience in trying to save the life of the boy Thatcher.

Ashdown under a dusting of snow



Scout post

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

Country Matters

With the COP 26 conference ending, a survey asked what changes would the public make to reduce their personal emissions. Top of the list was eat less meat. This is not good news for farmers either as graziers or for corn farmers. Yet have they got that right? As usual the issue is not black and white. Actually, grazing ruminants can heal the world's ecosystems by putting carbon back into the soil. The 10,000 microorganisms in a healthy soil can revitalise topsoils by absorbing CO₂ through plant growth and put carbon back.

That actually means eating more grass fed meat not less.

Then there is the methane which ruminants belch and fart. In the short term it might seem a clever fix to limit this risk but we need the grass and in the long term it would limit the soil's potential for sequestering carbon. Recent trials have given encouraging results where seaweed based products in cattle rations have been shown to reduce flatulence and methane emissions. So much of farming land in this country is grass and cropped land is expensive, so large investment groups are developing hydroponic farming factories under glass which may be easier to manage. This will be viable for horticulture where there is a low cost energy by product source available such as from aerobic digesting plants or nearby factories emitting heat. I have seen a plant in Wiltshire processing 250 tons of food waste every day that can heat 37,000 homes and also heat 8 acres of glass besides. This raises the question of whether we should be more serious at reducing food waste and also whether vegetables artificially so produced will be enjoyable to taste.

In like manner 3D –printed steaks created to mirror the characteristics of real meat in terms of fibre and taste are now a reality from an Israeli company called Redefine Meat made from soy, pea protein, chickpeas, beetroot for colour and coconut fat. It's going to appeal to vegans but the aim is more main stream to save the planet but hold on- critics say it's shy on flavour and is soya without blame?

We clearly need to think what we can all do over global warming. Many vegans find their enthusiasm wanes over time. Too much processed meat should be replaced by sensible amounts of quality red meat and occasional game such as venison and pheasant which remains good value. Do not have a conscience over eating good grass fed beef and lamb, and you will be saving the planet.

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 -until Jan.16)

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 February 2022. Submit your entries for February by 21st

January 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.