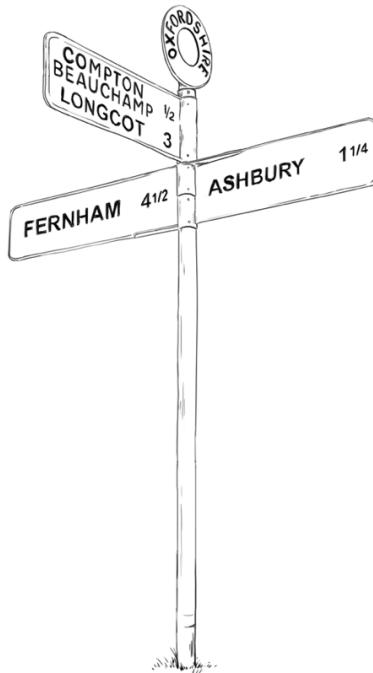


ASHBURY COMPTON LONGCOT FERNHAM NEWS OCTOBER 2022



**Torriano Ensemble Longcot 16th
Community Club 27th The Harbour Project
Harvest Festival collections for Faringdon Foodbank and
Swindon Women's Aid**

Thought for the month

As I write this, the coffin of the late Queen Elizabeth II has just begun its procession down the Mall to lie in state at Westminster Hall. We are at the heart of the period of national mourning, witnessing a process which few of us, less than 10%, have ever experienced, and fewer still would at the time have been old enough to remember. It has, I think, for many of us, a sense of unreality. Something which we have grown up to think of as eternal has suddenly come to an end. We are, many of us, not ready for that.

So let me focus for a moment on the person, not the Monarch. She was a person for whom her faith was at the core of her being, for whom the vow of service she made on her 21st birthday was unshakable, and defined the rest of her life.

While I am quoting statistics, over 30% of the population – almost one in three of us – will at some time in their lives have come into her presence. If you were fortunate enough to be one of them, the experience has probably never left you.

For me, it was the time, in the midst of a hectic state visit to Washington DC, when she insisted on giving up the little free time in her schedule to meet members of the armed forces working there, to thank us for the jobs we were doing.

Or the Sunday morning we chanced to see her drive out of Windsor castle across the Great Park. We learnt later that it was her habit on many Sundays to forego the splendour of the Chapel Royal, and instead to drive herself to All Saints Chapel, in the centre of the Park, to join those who worked alongside her in the Castle, to share hearing the word of God unwrapped in Morning Prayer.

And, of course, there *is* something eternal in all of this, which will never come to an end. The love of the God in whom she believed – for her, for the nation which she served, for every one of us.

When we think of her, let us, as it says in the bidding prayer, *look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen; for the things that are seen are transient but the things that are unseen are eternal.*

May the Lord bless her and keep her. May she rest in peace and rise in glory.

Richard Fergusson

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

APC Councillor's Corner

I cannot yet report on September's Council meeting, as it was postponed to respect the period of mourning for Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Her death, even though at a great age, was still a shock to the nation, from which we are still recovering. It seems strange to be turning again to normal matters. But there are a few items of news to share with you.

First, it is right to express here our whole community's thanks to the four volunteers who between them over the summer have restored the Bus Shelter in the High Street to such a splendid state. They have not only produced a result which is a credit to the village, in place of the near-wreck we had before, but they have also saved the community many thousands of pounds, which had been budgeted for a new replacement and can now be used by the Council for other purposes, in the interest of all. The expert craftsmen and heroes in this tale are Dave Jilbert, Tony Holland, Neil Crook and Tony Craddock. Our warmest thanks go to them all.

The second positive development over the summer was the Council's signature with Lorna of a further seven-year sub-lease on the Ashbury Shop. We have seen the shop develop, even through the last difficult Covid years, as a valued facility and meeting place in the parish; and the Council was glad to agree this extension of the sub-lease. We hope that all residents will do their best to support Lorna and her team in the years ahead. This is your Shop and Café. Please make use of it and help it to thrive and develop further. The more footfall there is, the more the Shop will be able to offer.

Finally, you may have noted that a discreet solution has been found and implemented at the Shop to the perennial difficulty of screening their waste bins. The Council were glad to organise this in the community's interest and were also grateful to Lorna and to Rob Selbourne for their contributions to the cost.

Looking ahead, we are all going to have to cope with the closure of the road to Wantage from late September for a long period for extensive repairs. This comes on top of the closure of Station Road for over a week in August after the water main burst. That created great difficulties, in particular for residents of Kingstone Winslow, who had to put up with the annoyance of a stream of vehicles, even a huge HGV, through their narrow lane. In this new case, our tolerance of the disruption will, I hope, be justified by the result, a safer road for all. The repairs are certainly overdue.

Ashbury Village Hall Committee is celebrating the news that we have received a substantial funding boost from Crapper & Sons Ltd. towards replacing and/or redecorating the external Village Hall windows and doors. The money has been made available through the Landfill Communities Fund (LCF) which is administered for Crapper & Sons Ltd. by Community First, the Rural Community Council for Wiltshire.

HARVEST FESTIVAL - Sunday 2 October 11 am at St Mary's Church, Ashbury
We will be decorating the Church on Saturday 1st and would welcome anyone who would like to come along and help. As in previous years **all donated goods will be given to Swindon Women's Aid**. This local refuge is always very grateful for our support. As well as fruit and vegetables, they appreciate tinned and packeted goods. Donations can be left in Church on Saturday morning or brought to the service on Sunday. Everyone is welcome at this service of thanksgiving. For more information please call Maggie Simons (710801)

ASHBURY COMMUNITY CLUB

Thursday **27th** October- Ashbury Village Hall 2.30pm

The Harbour Project.

Holly Grey, who lives in Ashbury, will be giving an illustrated talk on her work with this charity in Swindon. Harbour provides help and advice for young people seeking asylum or with Refugee status.

Everyone most welcome Non-members £2 incl. tea & biscuits

Monday 3rd October – Second Hand Item Collection. The Friends of Ashbury School have booked a collection with Bag2School for second hand clothes and other items. Our donations will be taken away and a payment will be made to the school based on weight. If anyone in the village would like to support us by donating then please put your items in black bin bags and leave in front of the school before 9am on Monday 3rd October. All good quality clothes, shoes and accessories accepted (No uniforms) – a full list of acceptable items will be published on the Ashbury Village Facebook page. A huge thank you in advance for your support and generosity.

Ashbury Baby & Toddler Group – Mondays (during term time) 10am-12noon at Ashbury Village Hall. Our village Baby and Toddler Group are meeting again every Monday and welcome any adult with a child 0-4years for a "Stay & Play" session. It is an informal group with a nice number of families who attend regularly with children of all ages. There is a cupboard full of toys so rotate which ones are out to be played with. We provide a hot drink for the adults and a snack for the little ones. First session is free and then £1.50 for subsequent sessions. Feel free to just turn up and join us.

Ashbury Baby & Toddler Group are looking for one or more people who can take on the running of the group. This would suit anyone who can regularly commit a couple of hours of their time on Monday mornings (during term time) to open the hall, get some toys out of the cupboard and make drinks/snacks. Our parent group are very friendly and helpful with packing away etc. so it isn't a huge job. If you think you might be interested in taking this on or sharing with someone else then please do get in contact with Kate at AshburyBabyToddlerGroup@hotmail.com or come along to the group one Monday morning.

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) or Roger Simons (710801). Several new arrivals who moved into the Ashbury area in the past year have found this information very helpful in making many varied contacts.

ASHBURY, BERKS.
TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION,
By Mr. FAULKNOR,

On the premises, on THURSDAY NEXT, the 31st day of OCTOBER, 1811, and following day, at 11 o'clock,

ALL the neat HOUSEHOLD-FURNITURE and other effects, belonging to Mr. Batt, who has taken to a boarding school near London; comprising 16 four-post, tent, wardrobe, and other bedsteads, 16 good feather-beds and bolsters, counterpanes, quilts, and blankets, mahogany chests of drawers, dressing tables, pier and dressing glasses, two capital grand pianos and one harpsicord, pair of globes, excellent sofa, with bolster and cover, mahogany dining and Pembroke tables, and chairs, stove grates, fenders and fire-irons, china, glass and stone ware, an excellent eight-day clock, 30 hour ditto, kitchen range, oven and stoves, large dining tables and forms, pewter, brewing and washing coppers, suitable mash tubs, wort tubs and coolers, good iron-bound hogsheads, &c. &c.

Particulars will be expressed in Catalogues, which may be had at the Inns in Faringdon, Highworth, Wantage, Lambourn, and of the Auctioneer, Hungerford.

Longcot News

Concert at St. Mary's Church, Longcot on Sunday 16th October

Following their performance of the Beethoven Septet for wind and strings last November, the Torriano Ensemble is delighted to be returning to St. Mary's Church, Longcot to give a concert of chamber music for wind instruments on **Sunday 16th**

October at 6 pm. The programme features music for the relatively unusual but very sonorous combination of two clarinets, two horns and two bassoons, which should sound particularly well in the lovely acoustic of St. Mary's. Beethoven's effervescent Sextet Op 76 and Mozart's sublime Serenade in E flat K. 375 are teamed with a contrasting 20th century work by the Hungarian composer Matyas Seiber, which was described in the Edinburgh Review as 'quite scrumptious: warmly lyrical, sometimes pastoral, with some influences from jazz rhythms and a lot of influences from Hungarian folk music.' As for all our previous concerts, entry will be free with a collection after the concert, and reservations should be made in advance by email to victorialmedcalf@gmail.com All profits from donations will go to help the Longcot Village Trust to support future community projects in the village. The bar will be open from 5.30pm for drinks before the concert and also at the interval.

We are very much looking forward to playing at St. Mary's again and hope very much that you will be able to come.

Fernham News

Fundraising Presentation by historian Tom Arnold, with cheese and wine

On the evening of **Friday 18 November**, historian Tom Arnold will be giving a presentation on "Unusual Things you didn't know about World War 2" – including how Britain stopped Japan from acquiring an atomic bomb, the submarine that sank a train and the greatest loss of life at sea (ever) (not the Titanic!).

The presentation will be in St Johns Church and Fernham Village Hall, High Street, Fernham, SN7 7NX at 7.30 pm on 18 November. Free parking.

No entrance fee but donations to this fascinating presentation, the food and drink would be very welcome; this is a fundraising event to meet the share and the village hall's expenses. We are very much looking forward to playing at St. Mary's again and hope very much that you will be able to come.

CHURCH MATTERS

OCTOBER SERVICES IN ASHBURY, COMPTON BEAUCHAMP & LONGCOT WILL BE AS FOLLOWS:

Sunday 2 Oct	9am	Holy Communion (BCP) for Harvest	Compton B.
	9.30am	Holy Communion by Extension	Longcot
	11am	Harvest Morning Prayer	Ashbury
	3pm	United service	Longcot Chapel

Sunday 9 Oct	9.30am	Holy Communion	Longcot
	11am	Holy Communion	Ashbury
	3pm*	Sunday School	Watchfield
Thursday 13 Oct	10am	Holy Communion (Iona)	Ashbury
Sunday 16 Oct	9am	Matins	Compton B.
	9.30am	Morning Prayer	Longcot
	11am	Taizé	Ashbury
	5.30pm	Choral Evensong*	Shrivenham
Sunday 23 Oct	9.30am	Holy Communion	Longcot
	11am	Holy Communion	Ashbury
Friday 28 Oct	9am	Matins	Ashbury

Sunday 30th Oct 10.am Benefice service of Holy Communion* Watchfield

*** BENEFICE SERVICES**

Everyone is welcome at all our services, but please note:

Sunday 9 October Sunday School in Watchfield St Thomas

Sunday 16 October Choral Evensong – if you enjoy singing evensong and would like to join the choir for this service, please contact Richard (01793 780057) for details of the music

Sunday 30 October Holy Communion in Watchfield St Thomas

Harvest services



As usual, we will be collecting donations for the Faringdon Foodbank and Swindon Women's Aid. If you would like to support this, please bring items to the churches either in advance or at the service.

Covid Precautions at Services

Care is still being advised in respect of covid, so we are of course still being careful when distributing the sacraments and if you do not wish to receive in both kinds (i.e. to share the common cup as well as receiving the bread) please feel free to do that. We will continue to wear masks and use hand sanitiser during the prayers of consecration and the distribution. This will also apply to lay administrators of the cup. The rim of the cup will be cleaned after each communicant has received. Intinction by communicants is not recommended and we will not be offering this, but we will keep the matter under review. Please talk to Norma if you have any questions and, of course, please do not come to Church if you have covid symptoms.

Watching online

Our online Morning Prayer (Tuesday to Friday each week), Communion services and sermons can be watched on the Shrivenham and Ashbury Facebook page. Our Wednesday study group also meets online on Wednesdays at 10.30am. You don't need a Facebook account to access these events. Details of online services are on the weekly sheet and on Facebook

Ashbury Prayer cycle for October: 2nd Wixes Piece, 9th Ashbury Hill, 16th Berrycroft, 23rd Berrycroft Lane, 30th Chapel Lane.

Messy Church and Sunday School are back! Join us again on:
9 October at 3pm in St Thomas Watchfield for Sunday School
3 November at 3:15pm in St Andrew's Shrivenham for Messy Church

PASTORAL MATTERS

If you have a 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. There is also a bereavement group which meets on the last Tuesday of the month; details available from Norma

LONGCOT CHURCHES WORKING TOGETHER – CHAPEL NEWS

SUNDAY 2nd at 3pm – This month our service will be led by Robin Phoenix-Stone. Everyone is welcome to join us and to stay for tea and biscuits afterwards.
T Time Fellowship 28 October - The kettle will be on in the Chapel and the sandwiches and cakes ready so why not come and join us for afternoon tea with plenty of chat and laughter.

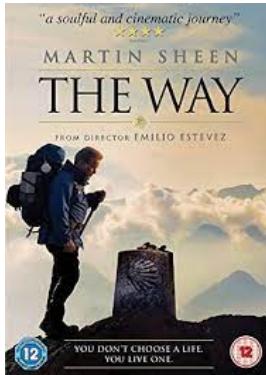
Caring for God's creation

Tip of the month: Do you know what your carbon footprint is? It could surprise you! Look at footprint.wwf.org.uk (other organisations are available) to see what it is and how to reduce it.

What's your tip of the month? Please email Norma Fergusson (vicar@shrivenhamandashbury.co.uk) and we'll include it in a future issue

Music in Longcot – Sunday 16 October at 6pm see above under Longcot News

Wednesday Study Groups continue online at 10.30am and 7pm in St Andrew's vicarage



Living in love and faith – a five week course starting on 8 October in St Andrew's vicarage

The course aims to help Christians think more deeply about what it means to be human. It provides a structured and accessible way for local groups to engage in and reflect on Living in Love and Faith, a major exploration of Christian teaching and learning about identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage. The five sessions of the course each address a key question:

- * What does it mean to learn together as followers of Jesus Christ?
- * How does our identity in Christ relate to sex and gender?
- * What kinds of relationships does God call us to?
- * Where do our bodies and sex fit in to all of this?
- * How do diversity and difference affect our life together as a church?

Each session includes an opening reflection about learning together, followed by teaching, time for discussion and Bible study. The sessions end with an invitation to reflect on our learning, bringing it to God in prayer.

For more information, contact Rev'd Norma Fergusson on 01793 784338

Children's Clothing Exchange

This continues at St Andrew's Church on Saturday 8 October from 9-11am. You will find a good selection of children's clothes (ages 0-13). It is free and you can donate on the day (clean clothing which is not stained or damaged please). You do not have to donate clothes to take some home.

Ride & Stride 10 September – Thank you to everyone who supported this whether by riding, striding or welcoming. We, and the Oxford Historic Churches Trust, are very grateful.



Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

Thank you to all the churches for responding so beautifully to the sad news of Her Majesty's death on 8 September. The flowers, photographs and books of condolence were very much appreciated

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.

Now is the time of year when we are hedgecutting. Laws to protect nesting birds prevent cutting in August. Most autumn crops have not been planted and with the ground still dry we are not damaging the soil. When all was brown during the hot weather these hedges stood out in contrast as vibrant and green. In many ways they are what defines our landscape as England's green and pleasant land, with a patch work of enclosures rarely seen in other countries.

In the last few decades I have planted two and half miles of new hedges to join up and border eight new woods that were planted in the 1990's. The motivation springs for a desire to form wildlife corridors between the woods and more recently this policy is endorsed by the news that hedges are good for carbon capture in our battle to fight climate change.

Historically the Enclosure Acts of the late eighteenth century must have changed the face of local landscapes. The strip systems of subsistence farming could not feed the expanding urban population driven by the Industrial Revolution. At the time it must have been highly unpopular as commoners' strips were expropriated by the lords of the manor and other landowners including the Cravens at Ashbury and Uffington who then enclosed their new lands with hedges.

Food production rose with more cropping and expansion of sheep flocks and cattle farming. The hedges defined different soil types, gave shelter to grazing flocks and herds and facilitated management.

It's well known that you can tell the age of a hedge by the variety of species and our downland tracks which probably predate the Enclosures Acts as droving routes are resplendent with dogwood, guelder rose, hawthorn, elder, blackthorn producing sloes, spindle berry, field maple, crab apple, viburnums or wayfaring trees, privet, sallow, hazel and sometimes holly.

We have to protect our new hedges with spiral guards against rabbit and hare. Deer and badger in numbers also threaten new plantings and sometimes I have had to fence and electrify them which is a cost and a bore. Ideally these new hedges should be trimmed onto an A shape so that in time the base fills rather than appear bare, with the wind whistling through.

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 <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 November 2022. Submit your entries for November by **22nd**

October to: M. Turner Claremont, Ashbury SN6 8LN. marionturner@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.