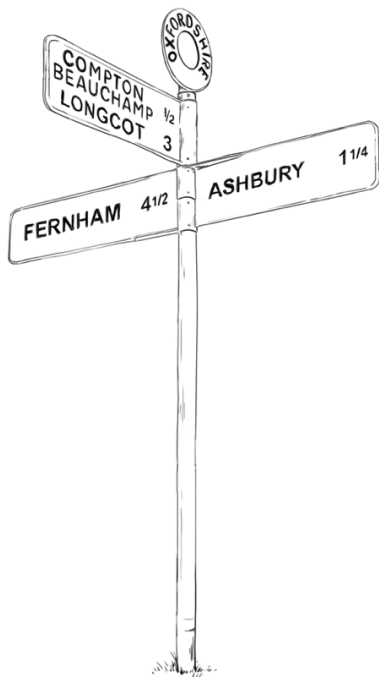


**ASHBURY  
COMPTON LONGCOT FERNHAM  
NEWS  
NOVEMBER 2022**



**Remembrance Sunday 13<sup>th</sup>**

**Fernham "Unusual Things you didn't know about World War II"  
18<sup>th</sup>**

**Ashbury Community Club 24<sup>th</sup>**

**Ashbury Christmas Bazaar 26<sup>th</sup>**

## Thought for the month

### The creation or the Creator

This a 'Bas-relief' sculptured image of our late Queen Elizabeth II and it has been used on every UK definitive series stamp since it was introduced in 1967 and is probably the most reproduced work of art in the world. (Estimates suggest it has been reproduced more than 320 billion times!). I doubt there is anyone in this country who does not immediately recognise the Queen, but I doubt there are many people who could name the artist.

number of times, this years despite the Queen on at least them in favour of artist produced a from 1971-1984



massive amount of

wouldn't know him or recognise him. (Just for the record his name was Arnold Machin. Although that fact is fairly incidental to the actual thought for the month). I have been looking at the book of Romans in the Bible recently and it says how we are all sinners and have fallen short of God's standard. It says that we will all be without excuse because God is clearly seen in all creation..... and yet we so often choose to ignore Him or even deny His existence and/or His involvement in creation. So many people enjoy the wonderful nature programmes on TV and yet don't acknowledge the God who made the animals etc which they are watching... it is a bit like the stamps; everyone recognises what has been created and yet chooses not to find out who actually made it. The Book of Romans goes on to say that "the wages of sin is Death..... but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord". All we have to do is repent of our sins and accept Jesus's sacrifice for us in the Cross, when he died in our place so we can enjoy God's free gift of eternal life. We live in such a beautiful area so next time you are out in the countryside or watching a nature programme look beyond the creation and seek for the Creator.... Deep down we all know He is there.

**Andrew Bunce**



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

## Ashbury News

### Dates for your Diary

With Christmas only just over two months away there are lots of Ashbury events you may wish to put into your diary so you don't miss anything

**Sunday 13th November** – Remembrance Sunday. Join us at the war memorial at 10.50 for a short service including the 2 minutes silence at 11.00 and afterwards in the Village Hall for refreshments

**Sunday 20th November** – Shoebox Sunday. See separate paragraph for full information

**Saturday 26th November** – Christmas Bazaar in the Village Hall 2.00pm See separate paragraph for full information

**Saturday 10th December** - Kick Start Christmas at our Interactive and Festive Celebration Concert in the Village Hall - 6.00pm to 8.00pm. Tickets: Adults £2.00 (Children Free) to include one glass of wine or soft drink and tea/coffee.

**Saturday 17th December** – Carol Service in St Mary's Church at 5pm with choir and hand bells

**Wednesday 21st December** – Stations of Nativity – Ashbury's retelling of the Christmas Story – meet at the crossroads at 6pm

**Saturday 24th December** – Crib Service in St Mary's Church at 4pm

**Sunday 25th December** – Family Service in St Mary's Church 10.30am

### ASHBURY COMMUNITY CLUB

Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> November at. 2.30pm **Ashbury** Village Hall

Fibre Art by Ushma Sargeant

Ushma has a Studio in Bishopstone where she creates stunning pictures using a wide variety of fibres.

She will be showing examples of her work and telling us about the methods she uses and her sources of creativity.

Everyone welcome

Entrance fee £2 includes tea & biscuits

For further info / help with transport tel. Sue Reade 01793 710358

**SAMARITANS-PURSE SHOEBOXES** – Ashbury is once again supporting the Operation Christmas Child shoebox appeal organised by Samaritan's Purse. Since the beginning of the war in Ukraine thousands of boxes have already been distributed at stations where evacuation trains stopped, in churches where families were evacuated overnight, in hospital and shelters. Anyone can pack a shoebox - individuals, families, churches and groups fill empty shoeboxes with school supplies, hygiene items and fun toys, such as dolls or soccer balls. If you want to join us you can either

pack a shoebox and leave it in the church, “How to Pack a Shoebox” leaflets are available in the church porch now or from Maggie Simons, and there are also a few empty shoeboxes just inside the church if you need one. Alternatively you can pack a shoebox online, go to [www.shoeboxonline.org.uk](http://www.shoeboxonline.org.uk). Shoeboxes need to be packed up by **Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> November and delivered to the church porch or brought to our Shoebox Sunday service at 11.00am on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> November. We will then deliver them to Highworth which is our drop off centre on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> November.** More information can be found at [Samaritans-purse.org.uk](http://Samaritans-purse.org.uk) under Operation Christmas Child.

## **Ashbury Christmas Bazaar – Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2pm**

Our traditional Christmas Bazaar will once again be held in the Village Hall this year. We would be very grateful for your support by providing items to sell. These can either be left at the Village Hall during the morning of the Bazaar, or prior to that delivered to the following:

**Cakes:** Clare McGlashan (710754)/ Les Fitchett

**Gifts:** Anne Taylor, Lower Mill House (710051)

**Bottles for Tombola:** Julia Blake, Wixes Piece (07760 238929)

**Books:** To Village Hall on the morning of the bazaar please

**Children’s Toys and Bric-a-Brac:** To Village Hall on morning of Bazaar or to Stewart Smith (710800)

**Raffle prizes:** Margaret Smith (710800)/ Audrey Tilling (tickets available on sale at the Village Hall)

**Refreshments:** Carole Crook – Cakes and Biscuits for sale with teas would be welcomed on the morning of the sale in the Village Hall

**Other stalls include:**

**Children’s Games** - Bill/Diane Lovegrove

Any other general enquiries please contact Maggie Simons (710801).

We look forward to seeing you on 26<sup>th</sup> November. All proceeds go to St Mary’s church.

## **Fernham News**

**Friday 18 November, 7.30pm** 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 Steet, Fernham, SN7 7NX. Free parking. No **entrance** fee but donations would be very welcome; this is a fundraising event to meet the share and the village hall’s expenses.

## Christmas is coming! Scout Post

1st Watchfield and Shrivenham Scout post will be running again this year from 1st November-13th December

Stamps will be on sale from 1st November at the following locations:

\*IV Florist Shrivenham Mon-Fri 9-5, Sat 9-12

\*Ashbury Village Shop Tue-Thur 10-2.30, Fri-Sat 10-4

\*Lyall&Co Cafe Watchfield Mon-Sat 9-4

\*Louise Uffindell Fern Cottage Bourton SN6 8JH

Stamps cost 35p each. Post boxes will be in place for you to post your cards from 18th November. Please only post in the special green post boxes.

**Last collection date Tuesday 13th December** (4pm IV florist, 2pm Ashbury, 3pm Watchfield, 5pm Louise) Any cards posted after this date will not be delivered. All cards will be delivered the weekend of 17-18th December.

**Please note** the scouts will only deliver to the following postcodes:

SN1, SN2, SN3, SN4, SN5, SN6, SN25, SN26 and Longcot and Fernham villages.

### CHURCH MATTERS

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

#### Sunday 6th

9am	Matins (please note change)	Compton Beauchamp
9.30am	Holy Communion by Extension	Longcot
11am	Morning Prayer	Ashbury
3pm	United service	Longcot Chapel

#### Thursday 10th

10am	Holy Communion (Iona)	Ashbury
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#### Sunday 13th Remembrance Day

7.45am	Holy Communion	Shrivenham
10.45	Act of Remembrance	Longcot
10.50am	Act of Remembrance	Ashbury War Memorial
11am	Act of Remembrance	Compton Beauchamp War Memorial
.....		
3pm	Act of Remembrance	Fernham

#### Sunday 20th

9am	Holy Communion (BCP) (please note)	Compton Beauchamp
9.30am	Morning Prayer	Longcot
11am	Shoebox Sunday	Ashbury

## Friday 25th

9am	Matins	Ashbury
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## Sunday 27th

10.15am	Holy Communion for the benefice*	Shrivenham
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5.30pm	Advent Carol service*	Fernham
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### \* BENEFICE SERVICES

Everyone is welcome at all our services, but please note especially the service for the beginning of Advent in Fernham St John : **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 .

**The Wednesday Study Groups** continue online (10.30) and in person (7pm).

Ashbury Prayer cycle for November    6   Church Lane 13 College Farm Lane  
20     Ashdown Estate 27     High Street

### Messy Church and Sunday School

Messy Church is in St Andrew's, Shrivenham at 3.15 on Thursday 3 November. All welcome. Even 'The Archers' are going to be celebrating Messy Church so come and see what it's about.

**Sunday School** – not this month as everyone is encouraged to support the services of Remembrance at their local church or war memorial. We will, however, be back in December thinking about Christmas.

### 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 at 3pm – This month our service will be led by Richard and Norma Fergusson. Everyone is welcome to join us and to stay for tea and biscuits afterwards.

T Time Fellowship - The kettle will be on in the Chapel and the sandwiches and cakes ready so why not come and join us for afternoon tea?

**FERNHAM NEWS**-see above, p. 4 Tom Arnold's presentation on 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Caring for God's creation Congratulations to St Swithun's Compton Beauchamp on becoming the first church in the benefice to receive a bronze award!**



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

### Children's Clothing Exchange

This continues at St Andrew's Church on Saturday 12 November 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.

**You are not alone.  
You have us!**

**YOUR FREE  
LOCAL  
ANXIETY &  
DEPRESSION  
SUPPORT  
GROUP**

**PEER TO PEER**

A safe place of like-minded people that support each other. A place to talk and share, help and listen.

**SHARED STRENGTH  
WE'VE BEEN THERE**

**FIRST SESSION TAKING  
PLACE:  
JUBILEE CENTRE IN  
WATCHFIELD  
30th September  
@ 18:30**

**NO PRESSURE. NO JUDGEMENT**

**Kick Start Christmas!** (again, if you don't have already) –

Advance notice of a concert in Ashbury Village Hall on Saturday 10 December from 6-8pm. Tickets: Adults £2.00 Children Free to include one glass of wine or soft drink and tea/coffee. Extra wine available to purchase. Tickets available at the Rose and Crown or from Maggie Simons (710801)

### **Thought piece**

“I’m writing this on Thursday 20 October (late again, sorry Marion!) and it seems important to mention this as who knows how the world will look by the time you read it. Between political crises at home and war in Ukraine, it is hard to pull oneself away from the tv news, even if I am at times watching it from behind a cushion – rather the way I used to watch Dr Who as a child. Many of us are at a loss for words – and perhaps more of us should be, as much of the ongoing commentary is as unhelpful as it is unkind.”

Well, that was as far as I’d got before the news broke that Liz Truss had resigned. If it is possible to complete the process in the timescale they’re talking about, we will probably have a new prime minister by the time you read this. Right now, it seems clear that the conservative party knows who it doesn’t want – it seems less clear about who it does. Not that it will be anything to do with me, I venture to make a suggestion ...

In our church schools, children learn about Christian values – things like truthfulness, compassion, generosity and dignity. They learn these primarily from their teachers, but Richard and I go in once a week to draw more explicit comparisons with scripture. This term, we have been thinking about wisdom and we asked today what they thought wisdom was all about. Their answers shouldn’t surprise us – making good choices; learning from others; being kind; learning from mistakes. In one sense these things are obvious yet, somehow, once people leave school, they seem to become less so even though, I suspect, few people deliberately set out to be unwise. The new leader of the conservative party does not have to be a Christian, but I believe it would help if he or she could commit to living out those basic human values.

I am saddened by the way the world seems to be going. On a personal level, I am even sorry for Liz Truss, but I never thought that being a vicar in the Vale of White Horse would involve discussions about food banks, the provision of warm spaces and child mental health. However, I am encouraged by the people I meet who are trying to do something about the problems. And I am energised every time I go into our



schools, because our children are amazing. Thoughtful, caring, funny and determined to make the world a better place. Our job, as I said in a sermon last week, is to do our best to look after it until they are in a position to make wise decisions. And I am uplifted by the knowledge that, despite what we think, God is ultimately in charge and will help us find a way forward.

**Norma**

**From the archives..... traffic accidents...Nov 1911 and  
Ashbury's first Parish council election. Swindon Advertiser & N. Wilts Chronicle  
18 November 1894**

**TRACTION ENGINE IN THE CANAL. —** Much excitement was caused in the village on Wednesday afternoon when it was known that a traction engine had crashed through the wooden drawbridge that spans the Berks and Wilts Canal, where it crosses the Ashbury Road. The engine, which belongs to Sir F. W. Carden, of Star Grove, East Woodhaye, was conveying a load of fodder in two trucks from the Home Farm to the Barrington Arms Hotel, Shrivenham, where the owner's horses are being stabled for the hunting season. Proceeding up the Ashbury Road the driver attempted to cross the bridge. The two front wheels landed safely on the other side, but the hinder part of the engine was precipitated into the water. Fortunately the men in charge of the vehicles sustained no injury, but considerable inconvenience is caused by the road being completely blocked to vehicular traffic. The work of extricating the engine by means of a steam crane is in progress.

## ASHBURY.

The meeting was held in the National Schoolroom, at 6.30 p.m. There were upwards of seventy parochial electors present. Throughout the meeting was very orderly. It was proposed and agreed to by those present, that the six persons nominated having the highest number of votes be elected as Parish Councillors. No pole demanded. The Rev. Charles J. F. Yule was present. The Chairman for the evening only was Mr. John Henry Lawrence, proposed by Mr. T. C. Carter, and seconded by Mr. Henry Tucker. The chairman for the council will be elected at its first meeting. The nominations resulted as follows:—

George Simpson, labourer, proposer, John Youens; seconder, Henry Greenwood; 41.

John Younes, miller, proposer, Henry Taylor; seconder, Thomas Chivers; 41.

John Page, labourer, proposer, John Youens; seconder, Henry Taylor; 39.

Henry Eley, labourer, proposer, John Youens; seconder, Henry Taylor; 38.

Henry Tucker, farmer, proposer, John Youens; seconder, John Henry Lawrence; 30.

Robert Pound, baker and greaser, proposer, John Henry Lawrence; seconder, Thomas Herbert Lawrence; 25.

## UNSUCCESSFUL.

Thomas Herbert Lawrence, farmer, proposer, Henry Tucker; seconder, Thomas C. Carter; 19.

Asher Ball, schoolmaster, proposer, Thomas Indge; seconder, George Stroud; 8.

Henry Treavson, farmer, proposer, John Henry Lawrence; seconder, Henry Tucker; 8.

Joseph Richens, blacksmith, proposer, Asher Ball; seconder, Thomas Charles Carter; 8.

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.

***Nota bene: Double issue next time: all entries for inclusion for January 2023 as well as December must be submitted in time for the December edition of the Newsletter-15Nov.***

## Country Matters

Writing this the weather is still kind, autumn planting is almost relaxed and cattle are still out and we again have some grass after the dry summer. Folk will be pleased not to start their heating up! My focus in retirement turns to sport and man's best friend our dogs, our hounds. Of Winston Churchill's many quotes he famously observed "that a cat can look down on you, a pig will look you right in the eye and dogs look up at you." Their eyes are constantly on their master, waiting one's next move. One of my favourite farming authors was AG Street who died in the 1960's. He wrote *Farmer's Glory* and had a dog called "Shadow", a good name.

The recent news story of a dog at Bristol caught on camera finding its way back home across the city on a journey of five miles illustrates their uncanny senses with extraordinary sat nav instincts to chart a way home. St Mary's Ashbury has a fine banner dedicated to St Hubert, the patron saint of hunting. The banner was woven by the sisters of St Mary the Virgin's convent at Wantage in the late nineteenth century to grace Evelyn, Countess Craven's chapel at Ashdown Park, a historic hunting lodge.

Following her death in 1924 these and other artefacts were donated to Ashbury church 1926. St Swithin's church, Compton Beauchamp sometimes has a service celebrating the life of St Hubert. I remember Rodney Elton once preaching there when he compared the life of a hound as it searches for scent, with the life of a Christian, also searching for the true path to find glory in pursuit of Jesus Christ's Christian teaching. He colourfully described a sporting dog/ hound's olfactory organs sifting and processing the information just as precisely as a computer. The Intelligence gained would immediately decipher the specific species followed, the freshness, the trail, and the stress factor of the quarry.

One problem can arise when a dog/hound hits the line of scent and struggles to discern its direction. Erroneously following a scent backwards is said to be a "heel scent". The Old Berks Hunt usually have their Opening Meet on the first Saturday in November at 11am on Baulking Green and all are welcome.

I would not be without my cocker called Flo on my shooting expeditions. Her acute senses for smell and hearing are so much better than humankind. Some dogs can even anticipate a visitor arriving with uncanny prescience. Lurchers and whippets are sight animals and love to gain high ground to survey the scene. Spaniels are brilliant at finding and retrieving wounded birds in deep undergrowth. We would be lost without them and my suppers will feature pheasant and partridge once more this winter.

**Richard Green**

## Contacts

### Ashbury Parish Council

Chairman: Christopher Prentice 01793 710821 [chair@ashbury.org.uk](mailto:chair@ashbury.org.uk)

Clerk to the council: Laura Evans email [clerk@ashbury.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto:rev.n.fergusson@btinternet.com) (not Monday)

### Ashbury Village Hall

Maggie Simons 0193 710801 [maggiemsimons@outlook.com](mailto:maggiemsimons@outlook.com)

Secretary Margaret Smith 01793 710800 [mbsmith5@hotmail.co.uk](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:elaine.ware@whitehorsedc.gov.uk) and Simon Howell 01793 784491

[simon.howell@whitehorsedc.gov.uk](mailto:simon.howell@whitehorsedc.gov.uk)

County Councillor: Yvonne Constance: 01235 751475/07976934884

[yvonne.constance@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:yvonne.constance@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

M.P. for the Wantage constituency: David Johnston

[david.johnston.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:david.johnston.mp@parliament.uk) 0207 219 3000

Newsletter entries for Dec/Jan 2022/3. Submit your entries for the **double issue** by 15th

November to: M. Turner Claremont, Ashbury SN6 8LN. [marionlturner@me.com](mailto:marionlturner@me.com) 01793

710302 For more of "what's on" and local information see the Ashbury Village Website

[www.ashbury.org.uk](http://www.ashbury.org.uk) and the community page on Facebook.