



WELCOME

TO THE SHRIVENHAM AND ASHBURY BENEFICE

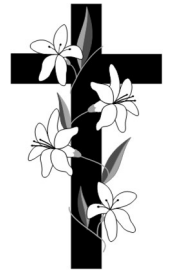
“Mirroring the hospitality of God”

Sunday 17th May Sixth Sunday of Easter

The Vicar: The Rev'd Norma Fergusson. Tel 01793 784338

Licensed Lay Minister: Mr Richard Fergusson. Tel 07788 436831

www.shrivenhamandashbury.co.uk



Sixth Sunday of Easter

Rev'd Rachael Wilson is giving this week's sermon.
Watch on our Facebook page or YouTube channel.
Available from 9am on Sunday 17th May.

11.00am Joint Holy Communion Service with
Shrivenham Methodist Church for
Christian Aid Week. Live on Facebook.
5:30pm Evensong (BCP). Live on Facebook.

You don't need
a Facebook or YouTube account to join in!
A 'How To' guide can be downloaded
from the services page on our website.

Monday

7:30pm Alpha. Live via Zoom.

Tuesday

9:00am Morning Prayer using the Iona Liturgy.
Live on Facebook.

Wednesday

10:30am The Prayer Course. Live via Zoom.

Thursday

9:00am Matins (BCP). Live on Facebook.
6:00pm Benefice Wardens' meeting via Zoom.
6:30pm Anthem of the Week (Choir)

Friday

Sunday 24th May

11.00am Holy Communion. Live on Facebook

All links, orders of services and readings will be posted
on the services page of our website
www.shrivenhamandashbury.co.uk

A Message from Rev'd Robin Cardwell

Christian Aid Week

This Sunday marks the end of Christian Aid Week.
Most of you who read this will know all about this – for
decades the Week has been as much a part of Spring as
blossom on the trees and cow-parsley in the hedgerows.
Many of you will have been involved in delivering and
collecting gift-envelopes round the streets – a practice
which has now almost stopped – even in normal years.

But Christian Aid still needs our donations.
And this year we'll have to do it by post or on-line.
I do hope we'll all think about doing that.

Christian Aid has been going for 75 years.
It was started by concerned Christians who wanted to do
something to help the millions of displaced refugees in
Europe at the end of the Second World War.
Over the succeeding years they tried to bring help to
communities to a wider and wider area, working on
behalf of 41 different Christian Churches. Now they are
involved in projects all over the world, working with
governments and a host of local organizations –
Christian and non-Christian.
They are trying to help in different emergency situations,
including the Coronavirus crisis, the Rohingya refugee
disaster in Bangladesh and the ongoing refugee crisis
caused by the war in Syria.

In one of George Eliot's novels, the main character sums
up his ambition in life: "I will try to make life less bitter for
a few within my reach". It's because we want to do this
too that we are marking Christian Aid Week.
Visit www.christianaid.org.uk for ways to donate.

A note from Rev'd Fergusson

Our Benefice churches will remain closed until it is
possible for everyone to enter for their private prayers.
God willing, that day will not be too far away as a task
force has been set up to provide more detailed guidance.
More information will be published as we receive it.
Blessings, Norma

Other ways to join in with worship

Visit the 'other ways to worship' page on our website for
links to on-line services, phone apps for daily prayers
and other useful resources. If you know anyone who is
not on-line and would like a paper copy, let us know.
www.shrivenhamandashbury.co.uk

Our condolences

to the families of the late Mrs Irene Charlesby, Mrs Hazel
Gooderson and Mrs Vera Tilling who have died recently.
The funerals have taken place.

Wednesday 20th May is national Thank a Teacher Day



Teachers (including home-schooling parents)
are doing a brilliant job. How will you thank yours?

Ashbury Cycle of Prayer

Please pray this week for all who live
and work in Idstone.



Photo by Erica Crabtree

Although our buildings are closed, our churches still rely on donations to stay active and provide care and pastoral support to everyone. We would like to say a huge thank you to all those who already make a financial contribution towards our mission and ministry and the upkeep of our buildings during this difficult and uncertain time.

If you would like to know more about supporting us, please telephone our Treasurers on the numbers below.

Shrivenham, Watchfield and Bourton 01793 784756
Longcot and Fernham 01793 783324
Compton Beauchamp 01793 710889
Ashbury 01793 710208

If you would like to make a text donation, please to use the numbers below.

For Ashbury

Text STMARYS 5 to 70085 to donate £5

For Shrivenham, Watchfield & Bourton

Text SWB to 70460 to donate £5

Text SWB to 70450 to donate £10

For Longcot and Fernham

Text LONGCOT to 70085 to donate £4
Your standard text message rate applies.

Light a Candle of Hope

Place a lighted candle in the window at 7pm on Sunday as a sign of solidarity and hope in the light of Christ that can never be extinguished.



Photo by Allison Christine on Unsplash

God of compassion,

be close to those who are ill, afraid or in isolation.
In their loneliness, be their consolation;
in their anxiety, be their hope;
in their darkness, be their light;
through him who suffered alone on the cross,
but reigns with you in glory,
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Virtual Bereavement Café



Image by Lolame from Pixabay

Monday 25th May from 7 – 8pm. Live via Zoom.

An informal online get-together for anyone who has been bereaved at any time, hosted by Rose-Anne and Norma. Open to all, regardless of faith or beliefs. Free of charge.

If you would like to 'drop in' please contact Rose-Anne or Norma and they will send details of how to take part.

Rose-Anne O'Hare

roseanne.o@outlook.com 01793 784017

Rev'd Norma Fergusson

vicar@shrivenhamandashbury.co.uk 01793 784338

Church Services by Telephone



Daily Hope offers music, prayers, and reflections as well as full worship services from the Church of England. Dial 0800 804 8044 to hear a special greeting from the Archbishop, then choose from a range of options, including hymns, prayers, reflections, traditional morning and evening prayer and advice on COVID-19. Calls are free of charge.

Church at Home services from the Diocese of Oxford can be accessed by telephone. Dial 01865 920930 to hear the latest service (press 0= short service, 1= full service). Normal call rates apply.



Shrivenham & Ashbury Benefice is on Facebook

Search: @shrivenhamandashbury

Like our page to keep up to date with news & events throughout the Benefice.



Please contact Rev'd Fergusson for pastoral issues, and a churchwarden or the Benefice Administrator (shrivenham.ashbury.benefice@outlook.com) for other church enquiries.

COLLECT

God our redeemer,
you have delivered us from the power
of darkness
and brought us into the kingdom of
your Son:
grant, that as by his death he has
recalled us to life,
so by his continual presence in us he
may raise us to eternal joy;
through Jesus Christ your Son our
Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING

Acts 17:22-31

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him – though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For 'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we too are his offspring.' Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

PSALM Psalm 66:7-18

R *[Bless our God, you peoples;]
let the sound of his praise be heard.*

Bless our God, you peoples;
make the voice of his praise to be
heard.

Who holds our souls in life,
and will not allow our feet to slip. **R**

For you, O God, have proved us;
you have tried us just as silver is tried.
You brought us into the snare;
you laid heavy burdens upon our
backs.

You let enemies ride over our heads;
we went through fire and water;
but you brought us out into a place of
refreshment. **R**

I will enter your house with burnt-
offerings
and will pay you my vows,
which I promised with my lips
and spoke with my mouth when I was
in trouble.

I will offer you sacrifices of fat beasts
with the smoke of rams;
I will give you oxen and goats. **R**

Come and listen, all you who fear God,
and I will tell you what he has done
for me.

I called out to him with my mouth,
and his praise was on my tongue.
If I had found evil in my heart,
the Lord would not have heard me; **R**

But in truth God has heard me;
he has attended to the voice of my
prayer.
Blessed be God, who has not rejected
my prayer,
nor withheld his love from me. **R**

SECOND READING

1 Peter 3:13-22

A reading from the first letter of Peter.

Who will harm you if you are eager
to do what is good? But even if you
do suffer for doing what is right, you
are blessed. Do not fear what they
fear, and do not be intimidated, but
in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord.
Always be ready to make your defence
to anyone who demands from you an
account of the hope that is in you; yet
do it with gentleness and reverence.
Keep your conscience clear, so that,
when you are maligned, those who
abuse you for your good conduct in
Christ may be put to shame. For it
is better to suffer for doing good, if

suffering should be God's will, than
to suffer for doing evil. For Christ
also suffered for sins once for all, the
righteous for the unrighteous, in order
to bring you to God. He was put to
death in the flesh, but made alive in
the spirit, in which also he went and
made a proclamation to the spirits in
prison, who in former times did not
obey, when God waited patiently in
the days of Noah, during the building
of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight
persons, were saved through water.
And baptism, which this prefigured,
now saves you – not as a removal of
dirt from the body, but as an appeal to
God for a good conscience, through
the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who
has gone into heaven and is at the right
hand of God, with angels, authorities,
and powers made subject to him.

GOSPEL John 14:15-21

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

Jesus said to his disciples: "If you love
me, you will keep my commandments.
And I will ask the Father, and he will
give you another Advocate, to be
with you for ever. This is the Spirit of
truth, whom the world cannot receive,
because it neither sees him nor knows
him. You know him, because he abides
with you, and he will be in you. I will
not leave you orphaned; I am coming
to you. In a little while the world will
no longer see me, but you will see me;
because I live, you also will live. On
that day you will know that I am in my
Father, and you in me, and I in you.
They who have my commandments
and keep them are those who love
me; and those who love me will be
loved by my Father, and I will love
them and reveal myself to them."

POST COMMUNION

God our Father,
whose Son Jesus Christ gives the
water of eternal life:
may we thirst for you,
the spring of life and source of
goodness,
through him who is alive and reigns,
now and for ever.



Sunday 17 May 2020

John 14:15-21

6th Sunday of Easter

IN THE GOSPEL TODAY

My name is _____

SPECIAL FRIEND

Can you find these words from today's Gospel?

FRIEND

- HOLY SPIRIT
- LOVE
- KNOW
- JESUS
- KEEP
- US

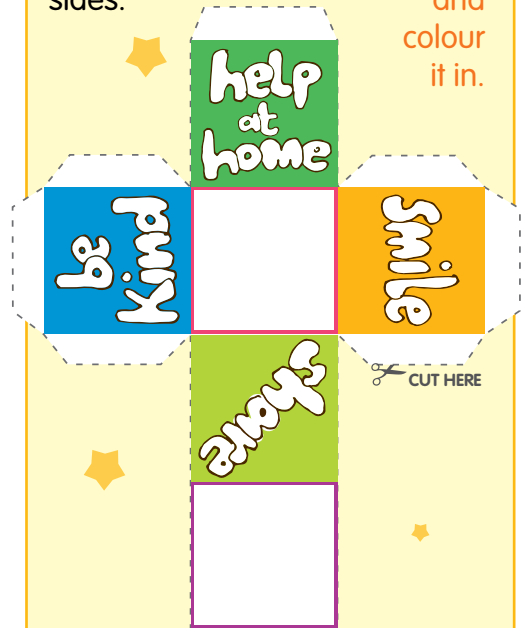
K	E	E	P	K	P
F	R	I	E	N	D
U	S	E	V	O	L
H	O	L	Y	W	K
S	P	I	R	I	T
J	S	U	S	E	J

"If you love me", Jesus says to his disciples, "you will keep doing all the good things I have told you". Jesus then tells them that he will leave them a very special friend, the Holy Spirit. We may not see the Holy Spirit, but we will know the Holy Spirit who lives in us and will help us.

Daily challenge

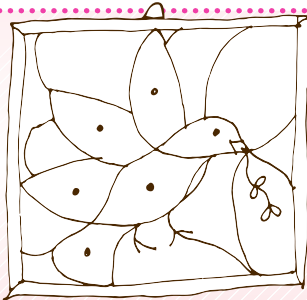
This box has some loving actions on its sides.

Add your own ideas on the blank sides and colour it in.



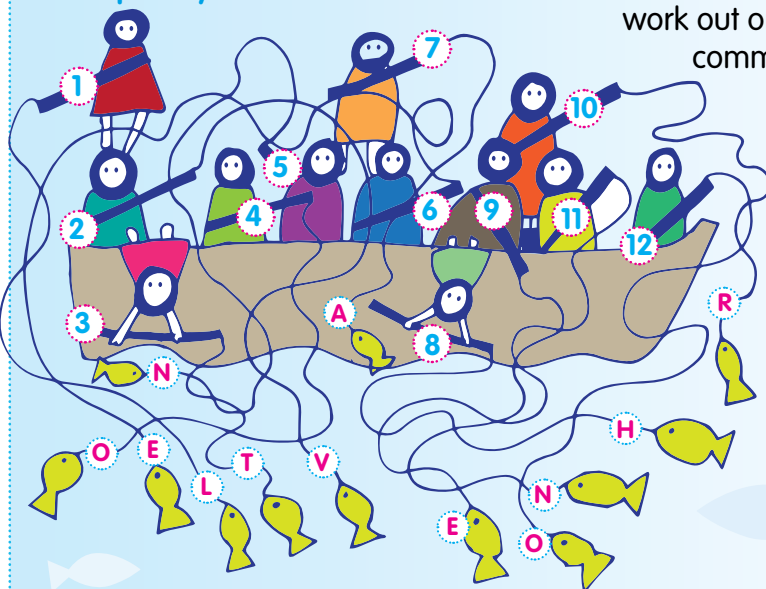
Ask a grown up to help you cut it out and fold into a little box. You can roll the box each day and then do the loving action!

Who is hidden?



Colour in the sections with a dot and you will find a symbol of the special friend Jesus promised, the Holy Spirit.

Keep my commandments The disciples are trying to work out one of Jesus' commandments.



Can you help them by putting the letters they have caught in the right order?

1 4 2 11 12 5 6 7 9 12 3 8 6 10

A PRAYER TO SAY

Dear Jesus, I love you and I know you love me too. Walk with me always and show me how to be kind and loving. Amen.