



# WELCOME

## TO THE SHRIVENHAM AND ASHBURY BENEFICE

“Mirroring the hospitality of God”

Sunday 12th July Trinity 5

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

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### **Sunday 12th July Trinity 5**

Richard Fergusson is giving this week's sermon.  
Watch on our [Facebook](#) page or [YouTube](#) channel.  
Available from 9am on Sunday 12th July.

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

9:00am Longcot, St Mary.  
Morning Prayer.  
10:00am Compton Beauchamp, St Swithun.  
Holy Communion (BCP)  
11:00am Holy Communion. Live on [Facebook](#).

**Monday Rev'd Fergusson Day Off**

**Tuesday**  
9:00am Morning Prayer. Live on [Facebook](#).

**Wednesday**  
10:30am Bible Study Course. Live via Zoom.  
See below for more information.  
5 - 6:00pm Private prayer in Longcot Church.  
6 - 7:30pm Private prayer in Watchfield Church.

**Thursday**  
9:00am Matins (BCP). Live on [Facebook](#).

**Friday**  
5:30pm Worship and Praise. Live via Zoom.  
Contact David Ahern for details of how to take part.  
01793 783521 [thestable@protonmail.com](mailto:thestable@protonmail.com)

**Sunday 19th July Trinity 6**  
9 - 10:00am Compton Beauchamp, St Swithun.  
Church open for private prayer.  
10:00am Bourton, St James.  
Holy Communion  
11:00am Holy Communion. Live on [Facebook](#).  
5:30pm Evensong (BCP). Live on [Facebook](#).

All links, orders of services and readings will be posted on the services page of our website  
[www.shrivenhamandashbury.co.uk](http://www.shrivenhamandashbury.co.uk)

### **Bible Study Course**

10:30am – noon on Wednesday.  
Live via Zoom.

Over the coming weeks, we will be studying Paul's Letter to the Philippians, using material by Tom Wright (former Bishop of Durham).

Contact David Ahern for details of how to take part.  
01793 783521 [thestable@protonmail.com](mailto:thestable@protonmail.com)

### **A Message from Fernham**



Fernham Caring was set up with the intention to ensure everyone in Fernham knew that help was available to them should they need it: we wanted to reduce the anxiety around feeling isolated and vulnerable.

Immediately that the idea was proposed, volunteers stepped forward to coordinate and support groups of houses. Leaflets were posted through every door and contact details shared. We knew we really were in this together and we all began to chat to our neighbours in a very different way.

It was clear that a daily prescription run was a priority, so volunteers were allocated for each day and during the early weeks of lockdown were kept busy.

Neighbours helped each other with shopping, running errands and walking dogs. We simply looked out for one another.

Meanwhile, of course, our village pub, The Woodman, was closed, but landlords Caroline and Francois were determined to help. They provided an incredible service, offering a provisions list every day and delivering to households: this proved to be an absolute lifeline for many of us. Basic foodstuffs were gratefully received and Caroline's chocolate brownies brought real joy!

Throughout lockdown, villagers enjoyed local walks and, whilst social distancing etiquette was observed, there was time to chat and share stories.

The legacy of lockdown is that our village has become a more caring and supportive community, relationships have been developed and friendships made. No one would wish lockdown had happened, but our village has certainly benefited enormously from the difficult situation. Fernham truly is a wonderful place to live!

Sally Russell (Fernham Caring Coordinator)

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

### **Ashbury Cycle of Prayer**

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

### Latest News on Re-opening our Churches

As you will see from the calendar, this week's public services will be held in Longcot (9am, Morning Prayer) and Compton Beauchamp (10am BCP Holy Communion). It seems strange to be saying that numbers are limited, but with social distancing this is now the case so please understand that, particularly in the smaller churches, it may not be possible to accommodate everyone who wishes to attend.

As I said last week, we are taking things slowly and seeing what works in these times of transition. Saturday 11th July marks the feast of St Benedict, who also began by taking things slowly but whose simple rules of life spread across the world and still have much to teach us today. This is what Malcolm Guite has to say about him in *The Singing Bowl* (published by Canterbury Press in 2013).

"You sought to start a simple school of prayer.  
A modest, gentle, moderate attempt,  
With nothing made too harsh or hard to bear,  
No treating or retreating with contempt,  
A little rule, a small obedience  
That sets aside, and tills the chosen ground,  
Fruitful humility, chosen innocence,  
A binding by which freedom might be found.  
You call us all to live, and see good days,  
Centre in Christ and enter in his peace,  
To seek his Way amidst our many ways,  
Find blessedness in blessing, peace in praise,  
To clear and keep for Love a sacred space  
That we might be beginners in God's grace."

Blessings, Norma

### Liberty Lockdown Quilt



Marilyn Jeans has made this beautiful quilt during lockdown and is raffling it in aid of St Andrew's Church. It is 41 inches square (104 cms). Tickets are £1. Choose a number between 1 and 100 and phone Marilyn to enter. 01793 782508

### Churches Open for Private Prayer

Our churches in Compton Beauchamp, Longcot and Watchfield are now open once a week for private prayer. See the services box above for details.

Ashbury and Shrivenham churches are closed while building work is undertaken.

Fernham church is also closed for worship to allow Annabelle's pre-school exclusive access.



### Still Lighting the Candle

One of the lessons of lockdown has been the reminder that God is everywhere – in our kitchens as

much as in our cathedrals and churches. The simple act of lighting a candle can help us focus on his presence alongside us as we pray.

This prayer from the Rev'd Barbara Glasson, President of the Methodist Conference, seems particularly appropriate as we resume services in our churches.

### God of all hope we call on you today.

We pray for those who are living in fear:  
Fear of illness, fear for loved ones, fear of other's reactions to them.

May your Spirit give us a sense of calmness and peace.

We pray for your church in this time of uncertainty.  
For those people who are worried about attending worship.

For those needing to make decisions in order to care for others

For those who will feel more isolated by not being able to attend.

Grant us your wisdom.

Holy God, we remember that you have promised that Nothing will separate us from your love – demonstrated to us in Jesus Christ.

Help us turn our eyes, hearts and minds to you.

Amen

### 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.

If you would like to make a text donation to support your local church, please 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**

## COLLECT

Almighty and everlasting God,  
by whose Spirit the whole body of the  
Church is governed and sanctified:  
hear our prayer which we offer for all  
your faithful people,  
that in their vocation and ministry  
they may serve you in holiness and truth  
to the glory of your name;  
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus  
Christ,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

## FIRST READING Isaiah 55:10-13

*A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.*

Thus says the LORD: As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it. For you shall go out in joy, and be led back in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle; and it shall be to the LORD for a memorial, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

## PSALM Psalm 65:[1-8]. 9-13

**R** *To you, O God, shall all flesh come, [and you will blot out their sins].*

[You are to be praised, O God, in Zion; to you shall vows be performed in Jerusalem.

To you that hear prayer shall all flesh come, because of their transgressions. **R**

Our sins are stronger than we are, but you will blot them out. Happy are they whom you choose and draw to your courts to dwell there! they will be satisfied by the beauty of your house, by the holiness of your temple. **R**

Awesome things will you show us in your righteousness,  
O God of our salvation,  
O Hope of all the ends of the earth and of the seas that are far away.

You make fast the mountains by your power;  
they are girded about with might. **R**

You still the roaring of the seas,  
the roaring of their waves,  
and the clamour of the peoples.  
Those who dwell at the ends of the earth  
will tremble at your marvellous signs;  
you make the dawn and the dusk to sing  
for joy. **R]**

You visit the earth and water it abundantly;  
you make it very plenteous;  
the river of God is full of water.  
You prepare the grain,  
for so you provide for the earth. **R**

You drench the furrows and smooth out the ridges;  
with heavy rain you soften the ground and bless its increase.  
You crown the year with your goodness, and your paths overflow with plenty.  
May the fields of the wilderness be rich for grazing,  
and the hills be clothed with joy. **R**

## SECOND READING Romans 8:1-11

*A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.*

There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law – indeed it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because

of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

## GOSPEL Matthew 13:1-9. 18-23

*Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.*

Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the lake. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen! Hear then the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

## POST COMMUNION

Grant, O Lord, we beseech you, that the course of this world may be so peaceably ordered by your governance, that your Church may joyfully serve you in all godly quietness; through Jesus Christ our Lord.





Sunday 12 July 2020  
 Matthew 13:1-23  
 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

IN THE **GOSPEL** TODAY

My name is \_\_\_\_\_

Jesus tells a story about a man who sows some seeds. The seeds fall on the path, on rocks, in thorns and on good soil. Only the seeds that fall on soil grow to become healthy plants. Those who listen to God's word and grow in love are like seeds in the good soil.

# GROW STRONG

Finding good soil. The sower scattered seeds on the ground. Find the right way so the seeds fall into the good soil.



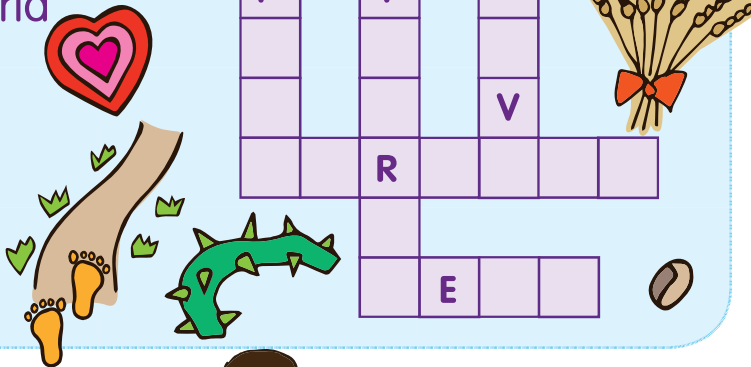
I am like the seed growing on good soil when I...



Cross out the words that don't belong.  
 Join the dots to help the seed grow into a strong, healthy plant.

Fit the words into the grid

- THORNS
- HARVEST
- PATH
- SEED
- LOVE



How many seeds?

A man sowed some seeds. Can you count how many seeds fell on the path, in the rocks, in the thorns, or on the good soil?



## A PRAYER TO SAY

Dear Jesus, sometimes I know the right thing to do but don't want to do it. At times like these, I am like the hard path, the rocks or the thorn bushes. Help me to be like the good soil and do the right thing, so that I can grow to be a good, strong, kind person. Amen.