



# WELCOME

## TO THE SHRIVENHAM AND ASHBURY BENEFICE

“Mirroring the hospitality of God”

Sunday 26th July Trinity 7

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

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www.shrivenhamandashbury.co.uk



### Sunday 26th July Trinity 7

David Ahern is giving this week's sermon.

Watch on our [Facebook](#) page or [YouTube](#) channel.

Available from 9am on Sunday 26th July.

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

- 9 - 10:00am Compton Beauchamp, St Swithun.  
Church open for private prayer.
- 9:00am Ashbury, St Mary  
Morning Prayer.
- 10:00am Longcot, St Mary  
Holy Communion
- 11.00am Holy Communion. Live on [Facebook](#).

### Tuesday

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

### Wednesday

10:30am Bible Study Course. Live via Zoom.

5 - 6:00pm Private prayer in Longcot Church.

6 - 7:30pm Private prayer in Watchfield Church.

### Thursday

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

### Saturday 1st August

10:00am Bourton, St James  
Family Service

### Sunday 2nd August Trinity 8 Lammastide

9:00am Compton Beauchamp, St Swithun  
Morning Prayer (BCP).

10:00am Watchfield, St Thomas  
Holy Communion (BCP)

10:00am Family Service with Standfast.  
Watch on [Facebook](#) or [YouTube](#).

11.00am Holy Communion. Live on [Facebook](#).

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

### **Church Services by Telephone**

**Daily Hope** 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

Dial 01865 920930 to hear the latest service (press 0= short service, 1= full service).

Normal call rates apply.

### **New guidance on face coverings**



As you know, face coverings are currently mandatory on public transport and became mandatory in shops and in supermarkets from **24th July 2020**. It was also confirmed that we are being encouraged to wear face coverings in enclosed public spaces where there are people we don't normally meet, which includes churches. In the light of this, we have been "strongly advised" that face coverings should be worn by **all** those attending a place of worship where others may be present and, of course, reminded that they are mainly intended to protect other people, not the wearer, from coronavirus and that they are not a replacement for physical distancing and regular hand washing.

I shall be looking out for someone to supply face coverings in the correct liturgical colours!

Norma

### **Rev'd Fergusson is off duty from 27th – 31st July.**

#### **For pastoral emergencies**

please call 07799 545035 or 07788 436831

#### **For all other church enquiries**

please contact a churchwarden or the Benefice Administrator 01793 783519 ([shrivenham.ashbury.benefice@outlook.com](mailto:shrivenham.ashbury.benefice@outlook.com))

### Lockdown Life in London



What is it like, you ask, trying to maintain a religious life in two Parishes when stuck in one of them?

Not easy to answer. For us, as for you, everything is moderated by the new circumstances. As 'vulnerables' we were at first prisoners in our own home. Now we can get out of here, but access almost anywhere else is via IT, which has morphed from a useful gimmick into an infuriating obstacle course. The vanishing of the old routines means map reading each day's progress.

The combined effect of all this seems to have accelerated the slowing down of my faculties. Productivity is a third of what it was. Time for prayer at each end of the day must be fought for. I feel driven. The Devil drives, they say, Jesus leads. I long for the Summer Recess.

There is a single church in the London parish. The vicar here (Fraser) and curate (Vanessa) lead a congregation that is 'diverse', about 40% being white, but very much a community of equals. We are very warmly welcome but feel somewhere halfway between affiliation and full membership. It maintains a vigorous life on two channels of WhatsApp: one for notices, the other for copious chat. Fraser contributes often to the latter. He and Vanessa head-up services on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings and they lead times of reflection at noon, Monday to Friday. In effect I have three fixed points in spiritual life. An important one is a thriving discussion and prayer group (courtesy of Zoom) at the House of Lords. Richenda and I try to follow services in the Shrevenham Benefice and the London parish alternately. Today Fraser had fallen ill, Vanessa was on leave and for some reason we couldn't find the familiar IT route to St Andrew's evensong. We long for the time to come when we can be back amongst you.

Rodney and Richenda Elton, Compton Beauchamp

### Liberty Lockdown Quilt – and the winner is ...

Marilyn Jeans made a beautiful quilt during lockdown and raffled it in aid of St Andrew's Church, raising £77. The holder of the winning ticket (38) is Pip Dudley. Thank you to Marilyn and everyone who entered.

### Pathways

The latest edition of Pathways, the Diocesan magazine, focusses on the climate emergency.

Read it online at

[www.oxford.anglican.org/pathways-pdf-version/](http://www.oxford.anglican.org/pathways-pdf-version/)

### Ashbury Cycle of Prayer

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

### A Note from a Member of our Online Congregation

Just a little thank you note to Norma and the Ministry team here in the Benefice for enabling and providing a "church service and sermon" during this pandemic situation in which we find ourselves.

I am now finding it a familiar "event" and a comfort to my usual life which suddenly stopped when even the churches were all closed. It has helped me to cope with such uncertain times and I look forward to my Sunday mornings again and it focuses my mind and restores and replenishes my faith.

Thank you to Lucy for providing us with the "technical facility" to enable us to hear and see all the services. I do miss the contact with the congregation, and I know the online messages fill a need for many people here.

Helen Maley

### 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 for details.

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

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

### Light a Candle

The simple act of lighting a candle can help us focus on God's presence alongside us as we pray.

#### Dear God,

As we emerge from the lockdown that has closed our churches,

And we go once again into the House of the Lord,

We find much that we held dear taken from us,

The ones we love, the places we go, the things we do,

Be with us in our endings,

bring us peace and acceptance.

We find much that we have learnt to do,

That we had hoped to put behind us,

But with which we must persevere,

Be with us in our continuings,

Sustain us as we keep going.

As we step forward into things new and unforeseen,

Things which both challenge and inspire us,

Be with us in our beginnings,

And enfold us in your love.

Amen

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 Shrevenham, 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

Lord of all power and might,  
the author and giver of all good things:  
graft in our hearts the love of your  
name,  
increase in us true religion,  
nourish us with all goodness,  
and of your great mercy keep us in the  
same;  
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 1 Kings 3:5-12

*A reading from the first book of Kings.*

At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, "Ask what I should give you." And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart towards you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?" It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you."

## PSALM Psalm 119:129-136

**R** *Lord, how I love your law.*

Your decrees are wonderful;  
therefore I obey them with all my heart.  
When your word goes forth it gives  
light;  
it gives understanding to the simple. **R**

I open my mouth and pant;  
I long for your commandments.  
Turn to me in mercy,  
as you always do to those who love  
your name. **R**

Steady my footsteps in your word;  
let no iniquity have dominion over me.  
Rescue me from those who oppress me,  
and I will keep your commandments. **R**

Let your countenance shine upon your  
servant  
and teach me your statutes.  
My eyes shed streams of tears,  
because people do not keep your law. **R**

## SECOND READING

### Romans 8:26-39

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

The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified. What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come,

nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

## GOSPEL

### Matthew 13:31-33. 44-52

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

Jesus put before the crowd another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches." He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened. The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Have you understood all this?" They answered, "Yes." And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."

## POST COMMUNION

Lord God, whose Son is the true vine  
and the source of life,  
ever giving himself that the world may  
live:

may we so receive within ourselves the  
power of his death and passion  
that, in his saving cup, we may share his  
glory and be made perfect in his love;  
for he is alive and reigns, now and for  
ever.



Sunday 26 July 2020  
Matthew 13:44-52  
17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

IN THE GOSPEL TODAY

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

Jesus tells the story of a man who finds treasure in a field. The man sells everything he has and buys the field so that he can keep the treasure. Jesus says that the kingdom of God is like treasure in a field. God's kingdom is very special.

# TREASURES

Jesus joins the disciples

Help Solomon find his way to the treasure. Treasure is very special – but our beautiful world and everyone in it are the best treasures of all!



I will make God king today when I...

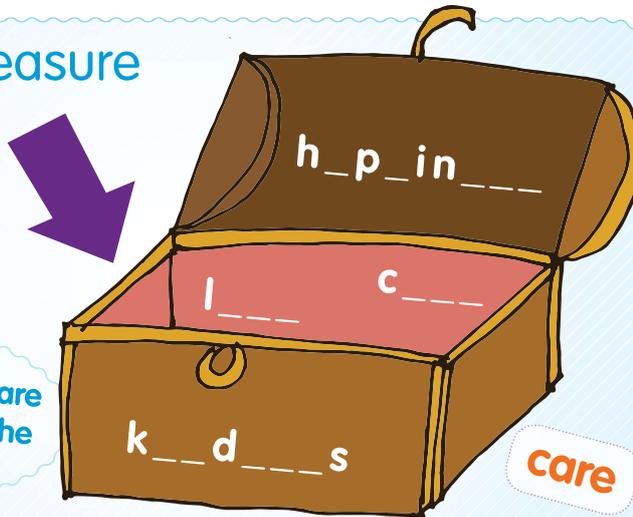
In God's kingdom, God is king and everyone follows God's rules. God asks us to share love and peace.



Draw, or write, in the crown one way you will make God king today.

## Words to treasure

Finish the words in the treasure chest that will help us look after God's kingdom.



Clue: the words are hidden around the page.

## Our beautiful world

Circle five things around Martha that are treasures in our world.



## A PRAYER TO SAY

Dear Jesus, thank you for all the treasures around me – my family, my friends, and the beautiful world. Help me to take care of them all. Amen.