



# WELCOME

## TO THE SHRIVENHAM AND ASHBURY BENEFICE

"Mirroring the hospitality of God"

Sunday 5th July Trinity 4

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

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### Sunday 5th July Trinity 4

Rev'd Norma Fergusson is giving this week's sermon.

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

Available from 9am on Sunday 5th July.

9 - 10:00am Compton Beauchamp, St Swithun.  
Church open for private prayer.  
9:00am Watchfield, St Thomas.  
Morning Prayer (BCP).  
10:00am Ashbury, St Mary.  
Holy Communion.  
10:00am Family Service.  
Watch on [Facebook](#) or [YouTube](#).  
11:00am Holy Communion. Live on [Facebook](#).

### 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](#).

### Saturday

10:00am Bible story & craft activity for children.  
Watch on [Facebook](#) or [YouTube](#).

### Sunday 12th July Trinity 5

9 - 10:00am Compton Beauchamp, St Swithun.  
Church open for private prayer.  
9:00am Longcot, St Mary.  
Morning Prayer.  
10:00am Compton Beauchamp, St Swithun.  
Holy Communion (BCP)  
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](http://www.shrivenhamandashbury.co.uk)

### **A message from Rev'd Nina Summerfield**

Dear friends, you will know by now that I am unable to take up the post of Associate Vicar in the Benefice.

This decision was reached after several weeks of reflection and prayer and has not been easy, but the impact of coronavirus has made aspects of the post (and especially schooling for our daughter) unworkable.

I am sad not to be joining you and confess to some bewilderment that something which seemed so right in January is now just not possible. Every church felt so different and with something special and unique about it. And I will never forget how instantly at home I felt in

Ashbury on the day of the interview

However, God holds us in his hands and the verse that I cling to is Jeremiah 29:11 "For surely I know the plans I have for you says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope."

I absolutely know this is true for all of us, but living by that knowledge is hard for a natural forward planner like me who always likes to have dates in the diary and be organised for what next - so I would value your prayers for Norma and I to have the courage to wait for the future to be revealed in God's timing.

Bless you and thank you again  
for making me so welcome. Nina

### **Latest News on Re-opening our Churches**

This has been another week of updates, each one lengthier than the one before, as advice on re-opening churches for public services comes thick and fast.

There is a lot to take in: liturgy, theology and health and safety make strange bedfellows! The most helpful piece of advice has been to take things slowly and see what works - and that applies as much to those of you thinking about coming back into church as to those thinking about opening them up. If it doesn't feel right,

please take your time, knowing that we will be delighted to welcome you back when you are ready.

Three churches are open for private prayer this week (see opposite) and home pastoral visits are now permissible, so do get in touch if you would like one of these. Despite all the information, there are always more questions than answers, so it seems appropriate to be writing this on the feast of St Thomas, the patron saint of those who ask the difficult questions which, in the end, produce the best and most helpful answers.

His most famous question, "how can we know the way?" probably sums it up for most of us - and the answer he receives from Jesus is true for all of us,

"I am the way and the truth and the life."

If we follow him, even sometimes with faltering steps, all will, in the end, be well. Blessings, Norma

Please note that St Marys, Ashbury, will not be open for private prayer for the next few weeks, as the church will be closed from Monday 6th July onwards for improvements to the heating.

### **Bible Study Course**

Wednesday 8th July 10:30am - noon.  
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)

### Shrivenham Open Gardens

Sunday 5th July from 2 – 5pm



Eleven gardens will be open.

Ticket & map £5

Accompanied children under 16 – free

On sale at Shrivenham Post Office in advance and from the church on the day.

In aid of St Andrew's Restoration Project

### Churches Open for Private Prayer



Longcot Church, ready for worship and 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.

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

Meanwhile, the regular online services i.e. Sunday 11am communion services; Morning Prayer on Tuesdays and Thursdays; together with the monthly ASK and Worship & Praise services will continue.

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.

### Lighting a Candle of Hope

We all need hope and lighting a candle is one way of encouraging both ourselves and others.

The flame may not be as obvious in these lighter evenings, but it is good to know that it is still there.

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**

### Ashbury Cycle of Prayer

Please pray this week for all who live and work in Walnut Trees Hill.

## COLLECT

O God, the protector of all who trust in you,  
without whom nothing is strong,  
nothing is holy:  
increase and multiply upon us your mercy;  
that with you as our ruler and guide  
we may so pass through things temporal  
that we lose not our hold on things eternal;  
grant this, heavenly Father,  
for our Lord Jesus Christ's sake,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

## FIRST READING

### Zechariah 9:9-12

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

Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion!  
Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem!  
Lo, your king comes to you;  
triumphant and victorious is he,  
humble and riding on a donkey, on  
a colt, the foal of a donkey. He will  
cut off the chariot from Ephraim  
and the war horse from Jerusalem;  
and the battle-bow shall be cut off,  
and he shall command peace to the  
nations; his dominion shall be from  
sea to sea, and from the River to  
the ends of the earth. As for you  
also, because of the blood of my  
covenant with you, I will set your  
prisoners free from the waterless  
pit. Return to your stronghold, O  
prisoners of hope; today I declare  
that I will restore to you double.

## PSALM Psalm 145:8-15

**R** *I will exalt you, O God my king,  
[and bless your name for ever].*

The Lord is gracious and full of  
compassion,  
slow to anger and of great kindness.  
The Lord is loving to everyone  
and his compassion is over all his  
works.

All your works praise you, O Lord,  
and your faithful servants bless you. **R**

They make known the glory of your  
kingdom  
and speak of your power;  
That the peoples may know of your  
power  
and the glorious splendour of your  
kingdom.  
Your kingdom is an everlasting  
kingdom;  
your dominion endures throughout  
all ages. **R**

The Lord is faithful in all his words  
and merciful in all his deeds.  
The Lord upholds all those who fall;  
he lifts up those who are bowed  
down. **R**

## SECOND READING

### Romans 7:15-25a

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

I do not understand my own  
actions. For I do not do what I want,  
but I do the very thing I hate. Now  
if I do what I do not want, I agree  
that the law is good. But in fact  
it is no longer I that do it, but sin  
that dwells within me. For I know  
that nothing good dwells within  
me, that is, in my flesh. I can will  
what is right, but I cannot do it. For  
I do not do the good I want, but  
the evil I do not want is what I do.  
Now if I do what I do not want, it is  
no longer I that do it, but sin that  
dwells within me. So I find it to be a  
law that when I want to do what is  
good, evil lies close at hand. For  
I delight in the law of God in  
my inmost self, but I see in my  
members another law at war with  
the law of my mind, making me  
captive to the law of sin that dwells  
in my members. Wretched man that  
I am! Who will rescue me from this  
body of death? Thanks be to God  
through Jesus Christ our Lord!

## GOSPEL

### Matthew 11:16-19. 25-30

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

At that time Jesus said, "To what  
will I compare this generation? It is  
like children sitting in the market-

places and calling to one another,  
'We played the flute for you, and  
you did not dance; we wailed,  
and you did not mourn.' For John  
came neither eating nor drinking,  
and they say, 'He has a demon';  
the Son of Man came eating and  
drinking, and they say, 'Look, a  
glutton and a drunkard, a friend  
of tax-collectors and sinners!' Yet  
wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.  
I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven  
and earth, because you have hidden  
these things from the wise and the  
intelligent and have revealed them  
to infants; yes, Father, for such  
was your gracious will. All things  
have been handed over to me by  
my Father; and no one knows the  
Son except the Father, and no  
one knows the Father except the  
Son and anyone to whom the Son  
chooses to reveal him. Come to  
me, all you that are weary and are  
carrying heavy burdens, and I will  
give you rest. Take my yoke upon  
you, and learn from me; for I am  
gentle and humble in heart, and  
you will find rest for your souls. For  
my yoke is easy, and my burden is  
light."

## POST COMMUNION

Eternal God,  
comfort of the afflicted and healer  
of the broken,  
you have fed us at the table of life  
and hope:  
teach us the ways of gentleness and  
peace,  
that all the world may acknowledge  
the kingdom of your Son Jesus  
Christ our Lord.





Sunday 5 July 2020  
Matthew 11:25-30  
14th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

## IN THE GOSPEL TODAY

If we want to know more about God the Father, Jesus can tell us everything we want to know. If we are sad or tired, Jesus can help us feel better.

## LEARN FROM JESUS

### Work hard, find rest

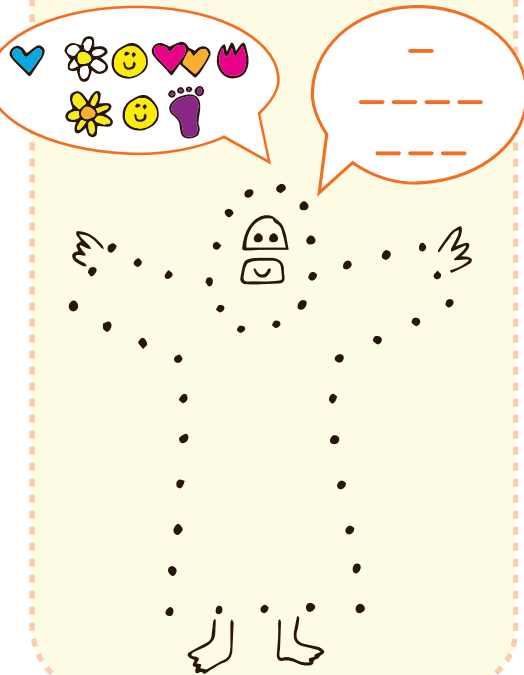
If we work hard and are tired, we can come to Jesus for rest. Can you match the item with the right worker?



### Jesus speaks to the children

Jesus says that anyone who has seen him has seen God the Father. Join the dots so that you can see Jesus. Decode the letters to find a special message:

e = flower, l = flower, u = footprint, y = flower  
i = heart, o = smiley face, v = heart



### Life with Jesus is good!

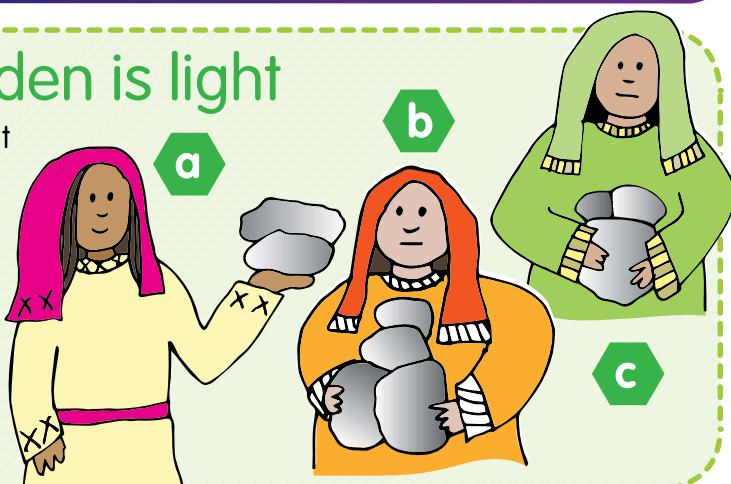
When we know that Jesus loves us we are very happy. Find all the words connected to enjoying life:

HAPPY REST  
JOY LIFE  
SMILE LAUGH

H	A	P	P	Y
E	F	I	L	O
R	E	S	T	J
L	A	U	G	H
S	M	I	L	E

### My burden is light

Jesus says that his burden is light. How many stones does each person have? Which person is holding the heaviest load?



### A PRAYER TO SAY

Dear Jesus, there are some things that only grown up people know. Thank you for letting us children know all about God, and for not just telling grown-ups. Amen.