



# The Shrivenham and Ashbury Benefice

'Mirroring the hospitality of God'

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## Sunday 28th November Advent Sunday



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

Wearing a mask and observing social distancing in church is encouraged but not mandatory.

Please sign in or use the QR code.

Hand sanitiser is available.

Holy Communion will be offered in one kind only.

### Advent Sunday 28th November

Rev'd Norma Fergusson is giving today's sermon.

Watch on [Facebook](#) or [YouTube](#) from 9:00am.

- 10:15am Shrivenham, St Andrew & Facebook  
Benefice Holy Communion with Choir for the Festival of Andrew the Apostle
- 5:30pm Longcot, St Mary & Facebook  
Advent Carol Service with Benefice Choir and Handbells

### Tuesday

- 9:00am Morning Prayer. Live on [Facebook](#)
- 1:00pm Bereavement Café  
St Andrew's Vicarage, Shrivenham

### Wednesday 1st December

- 9:00am Shrivenham, St Andrew & [Facebook](#)  
Morning Prayer
- 9:15am Song and Stories Toddler Group  
Shrivenham Methodist Church
- 10:30am Wednesday Study Group via Zoom
- 2:00pm Shrivenham, St Andrew & [Facebook](#)  
ASK Holy Communion
- 7:00pm Alpha at the Ahern's
- 7:00pm Wednesday Study Group  
St Andrew's Vicarage

### Thursday

- 9:00am Matins (BCP). Live on [Facebook](#)
- 9:00am Baby & Toddler Group in St Andrew's
- 3:15pm Messy Church in St Andrew's
- 6:00pm Benefice Choir Practice in St Andrew's
- 7:45pm Shrivenham, St Andrew & [Facebook](#)  
Compline for Advent

### Friday

- 9:00am Ashbury, St Mary & [Facebook](#)  
Matins (BCP)

### Saturday 4th

- 9:30am Compton Beauchamp PCC Meeting
- 10:00am Bourton, St James  
Family Service

### Ashbury Cycle of Prayer

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

### Sunday 5th December

- 7:45am Shrivenham, St Andrew  
Holy Communion (BCP)
- 9:00am Compton Beauchamp, St Swithun  
Holy Communion (BCP)
- 9:30am Watchfield, St Thomas & Facebook  
Holy Communion (BCP)
- 9:30am Longcot, St Mary  
Family Service
- 10:00am Shrivenham, St Andrew  
Family Service
- 11:00am Ashbury, St Mary  
Morning Prayer
- 3:00pm Benefice Sunday School  
Watchfield, St Thomas
- 3:00pm Longcot Methodist Chapel  
United Service
- 5:30pm Shrivenham, St Andrew & Facebook  
Vespers and Benediction

### Operation Christmas Child



Shoobox Sunday Service in St Mary's Church Ashbury

Thank you to everyone who packed shoeboxes this year. They have now been delivered to the Highworth Collection Centre for the next stage of their journey to children in need around the world.

There is still time to visit the Samaritan's Purse website to send a pre-packed shoebox.

[www.samaritans-purse.org.uk](http://www.samaritans-purse.org.uk)

### Benefice Sunday School – Sunday 5th December

St Thomas' Church Watchfield  
followed by refreshments in the Village Hall

For children aged 4 – 11 years of age  
Open to the whole Benefice

Drop your child off for a 3pm start, then at 4pm come and see what they have been doing and have a cuppa and cake as we celebrate their work with a short family service finishing at about 4:30pm.

Please contact the clergy 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.



### An Advent Calendar of Verse and Song

Join our countdown to Christmas as we share a carol or poem linked to Advent every day on [Facebook](#) from Advent Sunday until Christmas Day.

There will be a short video introduction by either

Rev'd Norma Fergusson, Canon Paul Richardson, Rev'd Rachael Wilson or Richard Fergusson and a link to a specially chosen version on YouTube.

You don't need a Facebook account to watch!

### Back to School



We were delighted to be back in Shrevenham School this week. We were talking to year 2 about vestments and they were amazing!

Richard and Norma



St Andrew's Shrevenham

Thursday 2nd December from 3:15 – 5pm

Messy Church is a church with a difference! A chance to be creative, hear Bible stories, eat yummy food and have fun with friends and family.

Suggested donation of £1.50 per child.

To book click [here](#) scan the QR code or email [standfast.shrevenham@yahoo.com](mailto:standfast.shrevenham@yahoo.com)

**Messy Church is open to the whole Benefice.**



### Advent Calendars, Candles & Christmas Cards

Margaret Hern has a good selection of Christmas Christian charity cards, and Advent calendars and candles from the Lighthouse Book Shop for sale.

Please ring Margaret to arrange a time to visit. 01793 782100

### Soup On Saturday

Saturday 4th December from 12 noon - 2pm  
St Andrew's Church Shrevenham

Come along for a mug of soup and a natter. A selection of Christmas cards, edible gifts, handicrafts and decorations will be on sale.



### St Andrew's Annual Brass Cleaning Morning



Thank you to everyone who helped polish the brass in St Andrew's last Saturday. Eleven people came along to help and they did a brilliant job!

If you can you help by providing "Christmas goodies" to sell such as jam, chutney, mincemeat, mince pies, handicrafts and decorations please contact Penny Hockley on 01793 783284 or [pennykh48@gmail.com](mailto:pennykh48@gmail.com)

In aid of St Andrew's Church.

## COLLECT

Almighty God,  
give us grace to cast away the  
works of darkness  
and to put on the armour of light,  
now in the time of this mortal life,  
in which your Son Jesus Christ  
came to us in great humility;  
that on the last day,  
when he shall come again in his  
glorious majesty to judge the  
living and the dead,  
we may rise to the life immortal;  
through him who is alive and reigns  
with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

## FIRST READING

**Jeremiah 33:14-16**

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

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfil the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

## PSALM Psalm 25:1-10

**R** *To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.*

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul;  
my God, I put my trust in you;  
let me not be humiliated,  
nor let my enemies triumph over me.  
Let none who look to you be put to  
shame;  
let the treacherous be disappointed  
in their schemes. **R**

Show me your ways, O Lord,  
and teach me your paths.  
Lead me in your truth and teach me,  
for you are the God of my salvation;  
in you have I trusted all the day  
long. **R**

Remember, O Lord, your  
compassion and love,  
for they are from everlasting.  
Remember not the sins of my youth  
and my transgressions;  
remember me according to your  
love  
and for the sake of your goodness,  
O Lord. **R**

Gracious and upright is the Lord;  
therefore he teaches sinners in  
his way.  
He guides the humble in doing right  
and teaches his way to the lowly. **R**

All the paths of the Lord are love  
and faithfulness  
to those who keep his covenant and  
his testimonies.  
For your name's sake, O Lord,  
forgive my sin, for it is great. **R**

## SECOND READING

**1 Thessalonians 3:9-end**

*A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Thessalonians.*

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith. Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

## GOSPEL Luke 21:25-36

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

Jesus said to his disciples: "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused

by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near." Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

## POST COMMUNION

O Lord our God,  
make us watchful and keep us  
faithful  
as we await the coming of your Son  
our Lord;  
that, when he shall appear,  
he may not find us sleeping in sin  
but active in his service  
and joyful in his praise;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.



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

# IN THE GOSPEL TODAY

Jesus wants us to stand tall and hold our heads high. Bad things might happen, but we don't need to be afraid, because God is with us.

## STAND TALL

Jesus tells us today that it is important to pray.

### Spot the 4 differences

Between these two people who are praying to God.



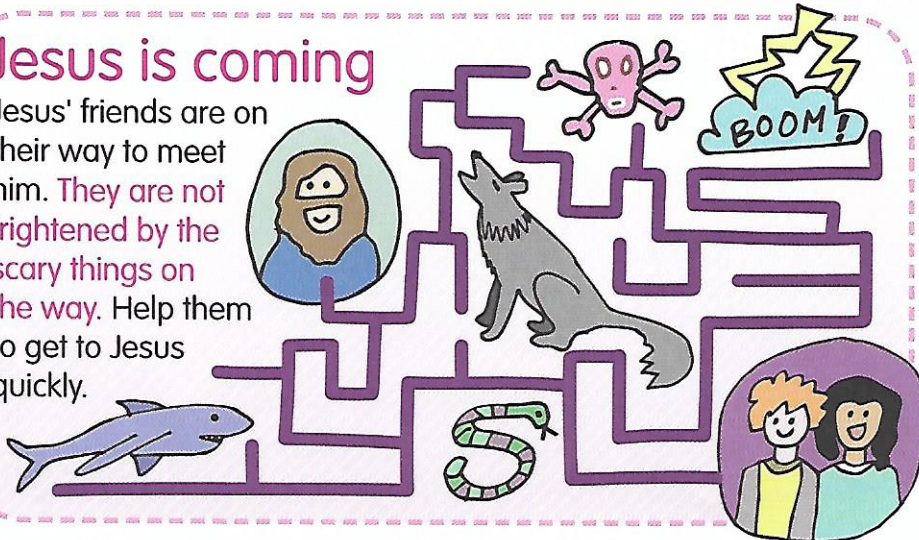
Jesus tells us so often in the Bible, **"Do not be afraid"**

Write down, or draw some things you are afraid of and then find out at the bottom why you don't need to be afraid any more!

I am afraid of

## Jesus is coming

Jesus' friends are on their way to meet him. They are not frightened by the scary things on the way. Help them to get to Jesus quickly.



But because God loves me, I am not afraid of these things any more!

## Word puzzle



Can you fit all these words in the grid?

- ADVENT
- AWAKE
- JESUS
- READY
- PRAY

## A PRAYER TO SAY

Please help me, Jesus, to take the time this Advent to get my heart ready to welcome you. Help me to say my prayers and to be kind and loving. Thank you for taking away my fears and always being with me. Amen.