



The Shrivenham and Ashbury Benefice

'Mirroring the hospitality of God'

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

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Sunday 12th December

Third Sunday of Advent

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

Wearing a face covering is mandatory.

Please sign in or use the QR code and continue to observe social distancing. Hand sanitiser is available.

Holy Communion will be offered in one kind only.

Sunday 12th December

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

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

- 9:30am Longcot, St Mary & [Facebook](#)
Holy Communion
- 10:15am Shrivenham, St Andrew
Holy Communion
- 11:00am Ashbury, St Mary
Holy Communion
- 3:00pm Watchfield, St Thomas
Carol Service with Benefice Choir and Handbells
- 5:45pm Shrivenham, St Andrew
Christingle followed by Carols Around Shrivenham Christmas Tree at 6:30pm

Tuesday

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

Wednesday

- 9:00am Shrivenham, St Andrew & [Facebook](#)
Morning Prayer
- 10:30am Wednesday Study Group via Zoom
- 2:15pm Shrivenham Methodist Church & [Facebook](#)
Afternoon Carol Service
- 7:00pm Alpha at the Ahern's
- 7:00pm Wednesday Study Group
St Andrew's Vicarage

Thursday

- 9:00am Matins (BCP). Live on [Facebook](#)
- 7:45pm Shrivenham, St Andrew & [Facebook](#)
Compline for Advent

Friday

- 9:00am Ashbury, St Mary & [Facebook](#)
Matins (BCP)
- 5:30pm Shrivenham, St Andrew
Worship and Praise

Saturday 18th

- 5:00pm Ashbury, St Mary
Carol Service with Benefice Choir and Handbells

Ashbury Cycle of Prayer

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

Sunday 19th December

- 7:45am Shrivenham, St Andrew
Holy Communion (BCP)
- 10:00am Bourton, St James & [Facebook](#)
Holy Communion
- 11:00am Ashbury, St Mary
Celtic Morning Prayer
- 12:30pm Longcot, St Mary
Baptism
- 4:30pm Shrivenham, St Andrew & [Facebook](#)
Carol Service with Benefice Choir and Handbells
- 6:00pm Longcot, St Mary
Village Carols with Handbells
- 6:30pm Compton Beauchamp, St Swithun
Carol Service

Another Covid Update

We seem to be re-entering a period when things change rapidly. Wearing face coverings in church is once again mandatory and further guidance from the Church of England is expected.

However, within the Benefice our priority remains simply to keep everyone as safe as possible so please continue to observe social distancing (especially if gathering for refreshments after services) and sign in or use the QR code so that you can be contacted in the event of infection.

For our part, we will continue to provide hand sanitiser at entry and exit points and ensure our buildings are clean and well ventilated.

Much as we love to see you, please don't come into church if you feel unwell.

At least one service is available online every Sunday, as well as the weekly sermon.

If you would like a home visit, do let us know.

At present, we are still planning the usual Christmas services but will keep this under review. Keep an eye on the [website](#) or [Facebook](#) for updates.

Blessings, Norma & Paul

Canon Paul Richardson is off duty from Monday 13th until Thursday 16th December.

Please contact Rev'd Norma Fergusson for pastoral issues, and your local Churchwarden or the Benefice Administrator for other church enquiries.

Condolences

Our condolences to the family and friends of the late June Karlake. Please keep them in your prayers.

Songs & Stories and Baby & Toddler Groups

The groups that meet on Wednesdays and Thursdays are now taking a break until after the school Christmas holidays and hope to restart in the new year.

Soup on Saturday – Thank You



Thank you to everyone who supported our first ever soup kitchen in St Andrew's Church last Saturday. With ten different soups on offer, great raffle prizes, home-made goodies and cards, and a very warm welcome for all who came along, we were delighted to raise £316 for church funds. We may even do it again!
Penny Hockley

Exciting News from Pennyhooks Farm



The BBC will be featuring Pennyhooks Farm in a new current affairs programme to be broadcast next year. The focus at Pennyhooks will be 'diversification in farming'. It is a wonderful opportunity to share the work the Pennyhooks Farm Trust does with young adults with Autistic Spectrum Condition (ASC) and the contribution these young people make to the daily life of a working organic dairy farm with close links to the local community.

Christmas Services

Tuesday 21st December

5:00pm Shrivenham, St Andrew Cloths for the Cradle

Wednesday 22nd December

10:00am Shrivenham, St Andrew Messy Christmas Drop-in

6:00pm Ashbury Village Stations of the Nativity

Thursday 23rd December

5:00pm Fernham, Elmside Green Village Carols

Christmas Eve

4:00pm Ashbury, St Mary Crib Service

4:00pm Shrivenham, St Andrew Crib Service

5:00pm Watchfield, St Thomas Holy Communion (BCP)

6:00pm Bourton, St James Crib Service

with Holy Communion

11:30pm Shrivenham, St Andrew Midnight Mass

11:30pm Longcot, St Mary Midnight Mass

Christmas Day

9:00am Compton Beauchamp Holy Communion (BCP)

10:15am Shrivenham, St Andrew Holy Communion

10:30am Ashbury, St Mary Family Service followed by Holy Communion

Remembering John Bunce of Ashbury



Last Sunday we had a little ceremony in the vestry of St Mary's to hang a certificate awarded to John Bunce in October 2013 for thirty years voluntary work ensuring that the church clock was kept wound and on time which entailed regularly climbing the tower steps. Canon Paul Richardson led the ceremony which was attended by John's widow, Anne, and our congregation. We hung the certificate beside the door he would have used to enter the tower.



Look who came to admire the Christmas Tree in Shrivenham!