



The Shrivenham and Ashbury Benefice

'Mirroring the hospitality of God'

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

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Licensed Lay Minister: Mr Richard Fergusson. Tel 07788 436831

Sunday 19th December

Fourth Sunday of Advent



Covid Update

At the time of writing, we still hope to hold our services as planned. Please join us either in person or online.

Please do let us know if you would like Home Communion for Christmas.

Keep an eye on the [website](#) or [Facebook](#) for updates.

Blessings, Norma & Paul

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 19th December

Richard Fergusson is giving today's sermon.

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

- 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

Tuesday

- 9:00am Morning Prayer. Live on [Facebook](#)
- 5:00pm Shrivenham, St Andrew
Cloths for the Cradle

Wednesday

- 9:00am Shrivenham, St Andrew & [Facebook](#)
Morning Prayer
- 10:00am Shrivenham, St Andrew
Messy Christmas Drop-in
- 6:00pm Ashbury Village.
Stations of the Nativity

Thursday

- 9:00am Matins (BCP). Live on [Facebook](#)
- 11:30am Ashbury, St Mary
Funeral - Rosemary Anger
- 5:00pm Fernham, Elmside Green
Village Carols
- 7:45pm Shrivenham, St Andrew & [Facebook](#)
Compline for Advent

Ashbury Cycle of Prayer

Please pray this week for all who live and work in Odstone Farm & Cottages.

Christmas Eve

- 9:00am Ashbury, St Mary & [Facebook](#)
Matins (BCP)
- 3:00pm Bourton, St James Churchyard
Crib Service
- 4:00pm Shrivenham, St Andrew
Crib Service
- 4:00pm Ashbury, St Mary
Crib Service
- 5:00pm Watchfield, St Thomas
Holy Communion (BCP)
- 11:30pm Shrivenham, St Andrew & Facebook
Midnight Mass
- 11:30pm Longcot, St Mary
Midnight Mass

Christmas Day

- 9:00am Compton Beauchamp, St Swithun
Holy Communion (BCP)
- 10:15am Shrivenham, St Andrew & Facebook
Holy Communion
- 10:30am Ashbury, St Mary
Family Service
followed by Holy Communion

Sunday 26th December

- 10:15am Shrivenham, St Andrew & [Facebook](#)
Benefice Holy Communion



Cloths for the Cradle

St Andrew's Church
Tuesday 21st
December at 5pm

A short, but quiet and reflective service for the week before Christmas.

Christmas can be a bitter-sweet time as we remember those we love who are not around to share it with us, and worries about work, health or family can make it difficult to join in what seems to be compulsory jollity. The wise men brought gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh, all of which link Christmas to Holy Week and Easter; this is an opportunity for us to bring our cares, uncertainties, hopes and fears to the God who knows what it is like to be human.

The Benefice office will be closed from Friday 24th December until Monday 3rd January. Emails will be checked daily.

For pastoral emergencies please call 07799 545035



An Advent Calendar of Verse and Song

Have you been following our countdown to Christmas?

We are sharing a carol or poem linked to Advent every day on our [website](#) and [Facebook](#) from Advent Sunday until Christmas Day.

There is 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.

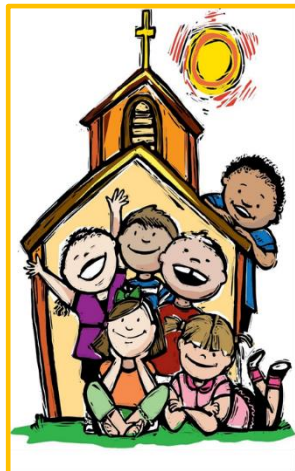
Songs & Stories and Baby & Toddler Groups

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.

Benefice Sunday School

Helping your child learn more about loving God and our neighbours, about Jesus, the Bible and the life of the Church. Helping you to give them a good direction in their lives.

Bring them along to our monthly Sunday School at St Thomas' Church Watchfield, and "Come and See with Cake and Tea" in the Village Hall to celebrate all they have done!



All Sunday School families also receive a weekly activity sheet from the "Roots" resource we use.

The next session is on January 9th, and children from across the Benefice are welcome to attend.

Drop your child off for a 3pm start and 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, heading back home around 4.30pm.

Parent/s who wish to stay for the whole time are very welcome to do so.

No need to book in advance, you can register your child when you turn up, but if you would like to register now, please contact our Benefice Administrator who can send you a registration form.

info@shrivenhamandashbury.co.uk

If you would like to make a text donation to support the work of the churches in our Benefice, please

Text GIVEfive to 70470 to donate £5

Text GIVEten to 70470 to donate £10

Your standard text message rate applies. **Thank you!**

Don't forget you can be twice as messy this month!

Messy Church Christmas Drop-in
Wednesday 22nd December
10 - 11.30am in St Andrew's



Everyone is very welcome - you don't need to have been to Messy Church before. Make a Christmas decoration or two, and eat mince pies!
No charge but donations welcome.

Messy Church is open to the whole Benefice.

Wednesday Study Groups

The online Zoom group will restart on 12th January at 10.30am. The group that meets at the Vicarage restarts on 19th January at 7pm.

We will be looking at 'Holy Habits', an adventure in Christian discipleship based upon Luke's picture of the early church in Acts 2:42-47. It explores and encourages the practice of ten disciplines, or holy habits: biblical teaching, fellowship, breaking bread, prayer, sharing resources, serving, eating together, gladness and generosity, worship and making more disciples. If you would like to join either group, please contact Norma.

vicar@shrivenhamandashbury.co.uk 01793 784338



Knitted nativity on a Watchfield post box