



# The Shrivenham and Ashbury Benefice

'Mirroring the hospitality of God'

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**Sunday 5th December**

**Second Sunday of Advent**



**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.

## Sunday 5th December

Canon Paul Richardson is giving today's sermon.

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

- 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

## Tuesday

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

## 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
- 7:00pm Alpha at the Ahern's

## Thursday

- 9:00am Matins (BCP). Live on [Facebook](#)
- 9:00am Baby & Toddler Group in St Andrew's
- 10:00am Ashbury, St Mary & Facebook  
Holy Communion
- 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 11th

- 9:00am Children's Clothing Giveaway  
in St Andrew's Church Shrivenham
- 10:00am Café Inspire. Shrivenham School Hall

## Ashbury Cycle of Prayer

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

## Sunday 12th December

- 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

## **Covid Update**

As you know, due to the uncertainty about the new variant of coronavirus, the government is advising caution and, in particular, a return to wearing face coverings in shops and on public transport.

Within the Benefice our priority remains one of keeping everyone safe so we would ask you please to wear face coverings in church and to observe social distancing – especially when gathering for refreshments after services.

Please also 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 planning the usual Christmas services but please keep an eye on the [website](#) or [Facebook](#) for updates – or do it the old-fashioned way and pick up the phone!

Blessings, Norma & Paul

## **Soup On Saturday**

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

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

In aid of St Andrew's Church.

## **Condolences**

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

### Can You Help to Assemble the Christingles?



We plan to assemble the Christingles at the December Café Inspire as in previous years, apart from adding the sweets which we will do later in the day.

If you can spare an hour to help with this, please come along to St Andrew's Church Room at 2pm on Saturday 11th December.

### Update on Benefice Sunday School

We have been delighted by the response of willing volunteers to support the work of the Benefice Sunday School, both working alongside the children and by offering cakes and preparing refreshments for "Come and See with Cake and Tea".

Having made a full cycle of the churches across the Benefice where we thought there might be a need, we found poor, or no, attendance at Shrevenham, Ashbury, and Longcot, but Watchfield, St Thomas came up trumps. Twelve children came the first time and others joined on our second visit there, as a result of some of the children encouraging their friends to come: a good example that us grown-ups might follow!

So, we have decided to concentrate our efforts at Watchfield. Once a month the Sunday School will meet at St Thomas', followed by "Come and See with Cake and Tea" in the Village Hall.

Every Sunday School family will also receive a weekly activity sheet from the "Roots" resource we are using for our Sunday School sessions.

The next sessions are on December 5th and January 9th, and children from across the Benefice are welcome to attend. Drop your child off for a 3.00pm start and then at 4.00pm 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. Please keep the Sunday School in your prayers.

### 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

### Ashbury Church Christmas Bazaar

Thank you to everyone who helped make last Saturday's event so successful.

It was lovely to see so many people of all ages just enjoying being back in the Village Hall with friends, family and neighbours.



We are both amazed and delighted to have raised just over £1000 in aid of St Mary's Church.

### 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 our [website](#) and [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.

### 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.

## COLLECT

O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power and come among us, and with great might succour us; that whereas, through our sins and wickedness we are grievously hindered in running the race that is set before us, your bountiful grace and mercy may speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, be honour and glory, now and for ever.

## FIRST READING

Either **Baruch 5:1-9**

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

Take off the garment of your sorrow and affliction, O Jerusalem, and put on for ever the beauty of the glory from God. Put on the robe of the righteousness that comes from God; put on your head the diadem of the glory of the Everlasting; for God will show your splendour everywhere under heaven. For God will give you evermore the name, "Righteous Peace, Godly Glory." Arise, O Jerusalem, stand upon the height; look toward the east, and see your children gathered from west and east at the word of the Holy One, rejoicing that God has remembered them. For they went out from you on foot, led away by their enemies; but God will bring them back to you, carried in glory, as on a royal throne. For God has ordered that every high mountain and the everlasting hills be made low and the valleys filled up, to make level ground, so that Israel may walk safely in the glory of God. The woods and every fragrant tree have shaded Israel at God's command. For God will lead Israel with joy, in the light of his glory, with the mercy and righteousness that come from him.

Or **Malachi 3:1-4**

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

Thus says the LORD God: See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight – indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

## CANTICLE Luke 1:68-79 (Benedictus)

**R** *Blessed be the Lord, who sets his people free.*

Blessèd be the Lord, the God of Israel, for he has come to his people and set them free.

He has raised up for us a mighty Saviour, born of the house of his servant, David. **R**

Through his holy prophets he promised of old, that he would save us from our enemies, from the hands of all that hate us. He promised to show mercy to our forebears and to remember his holy covenant. **R**

This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham: to set us free from the hands of our enemies, free to worship him without fear, holy and righteous in his sight, all the days of our life. **R**

You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way, To give his people knowledge of salvation, by the forgiveness of their sins. **R**

In the tender compassion of our God, the dawn from on high shall break upon us, To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace. **R**

## SECOND READING Philippians 1:3-11

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

My brothers and sisters, I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your

sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defence and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

## GOSPEL Luke 3:1-6

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

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'" **R**

## POST COMMUNION

Father in heaven, who sent your Son to redeem the world and will send him again to be our judge: give us grace so to imitate him in the humility and purity of his first coming that, when he comes again, we may be ready to greet him with joyful love and firm faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord.



Sunday 5 December 2021  
 Luke 3:1-6  
 2nd Sunday of Advent

In the  
**GOSPEL TODAY**

John the Baptist tells us to get ready to welcome Jesus by making his path straight.

## Listen to John the Baptist

John the Baptist says it is our job to make Jesus' path straight and smooth. We need to get ready for Jesus. What is John saying to you? Put the words in one or more of the speech bubbles. Colour the bubbles you are going to do this week.

### Share my things

say a prayer

care for others

speak kindly

help at home

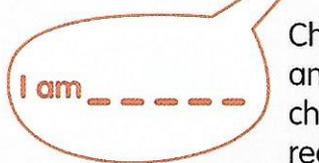
try hard

smile



## Put it right

These children are doing something wrong. Unscramble the letters to find out what they need to say.



Choose one of the children and draw how he/she will change to show that they really mean they are sorry?



## Make his path straight

Jesus wants to get to the people. Can you help him choose the quickest, easiest way?



## A PRAYER TO SAY

Please help me, Jesus, to make the way to my heart easy for you. Help me to say "sorry" when I need to and to change the way I behave if I am selfish. Amen.

## Word shapes

Which word fits the shape?

path

road

way

track

