



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 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.