

COLLECT

Almighty God,
whose blessed Son was
circumcised
in obedience to the law for our
sake
and given the Name that is
above every name:
give us grace faithfully to bear
his Name,
to worship him in the freedom of
the Spirit,
and to proclaim him as the
Saviour of the world;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING

Numbers 6:22-end

A reading from the book of Numbers.

The LORD spoke to Moses, saying "Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, 'Thus you shall bless the Israelites: You shall say to them, The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace.' So they shall put my name on the Israelites, and I will bless them."

PSALM Psalm 8

R *Your name, O Lord, is exalted in all the world!*

O Lord our governor,
how exalted is your name in all
the world!
Out of the mouths of infants and
children
your majesty is praised above
the heavens.
You have set up a stronghold
against your adversaries,
to quell the enemy and the
avenger. **R**

When I consider your heavens,
the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars you have
set in their courses,
What are mortals, that you
should be mindful of them?
mere human beings, that you
should seek them out?
You have made them little lower
than the angels;
you adorn them with glory and
honour. **R**

You give them mastery over the
works of your hands;
and put all things under their
feet,
All sheep and oxen,
even the wild beasts of the field,
The birds of the air, the fish of
the sea,
and whatsoever walks in the
paths of the sea.
O Lord our governor,
how exalted is your name in all
the world! **R**

SECOND READING

(Alternative readings)

Either Galatians 4:4-7

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Galatians.

When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

Or **Philippians 2:5-11**

GOSPEL Luke 2:15-21

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

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel.

POST COMMUNION

Eternal God,
whose incarnate Son was given
the Name of Saviour:
grant that we who have shared
in this sacrament of our
salvation
may live out our years in the
power of the Name above all
other names,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

LOOK

Sunday 1 January 2023
 Luke 2:16-21
 Mary, the Holy Mother of God

In the
GOSPEL TODAY

MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD!

When the shepherds find the baby in the manger, they repeat what the angels said - he is the Messiah! Mary thinks deeply about all they say. Jesus is a very, very special baby.

Mary and Jesus

Jesus needed a mother to look after him and help him grow up.

Colour this picture of Jesus and Mary.



Maze!

The shepherds ran to Bethlehem to find Jesus. Can you help them find him?



What is Mary's treasure?

Mary treasured all things the shepherds said. When we treasure something we look after it and keep it safe. We know the things that we treasure are special. Mary pondered all these things in her heart. When we "ponder" something we think deeply about it.



Can you find out what Mary treasured in her heart?

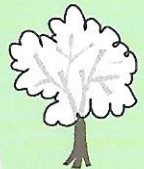
Add these missing letters to find out: a i s e h o s e r p

A PRAYER TO SAY

Help me, Jesus, to just get on with doing what you ask. Help me to be loving and kind with everyone I meet. I know you will be with me and you will help me. Amen.

Thank you, God!

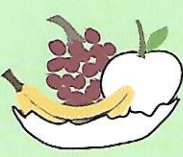
The shepherds were very excited when they had seen Jesus. They went away praising God. What wonderful things can you praise and thank God for? Here are some ideas for you to colour. Can you add your own ideas?



tree



water



fruit



family



your idea



The Shrevenham and Ashbury Benefice

'Mirroring the hospitality of God'

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

vicar@shrivenhamandashbury.co.uk

Licensed Lay Minister: Mr Richard Fergusson. Tel 07788 436831



Sunday 1st January 2023

The Naming and Circumcision of Jesus

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

Please respect the concerns of others in the congregation. Hand sanitizer is available.

No midweek services until Tuesday 10th January

Sunday 1st January

11:00am Ashbury, St Mary & [Facebook](#)
Benefice Celtic Holy Communion

Wednesday 4th January

9:15am Songs and Stories Toddler Group
Shrevenham Methodist Church

Saturday 7th January

10:00am Bourton, St James
Family Service

Sunday 8th January

9:30am Longcot, St Mary & [Facebook](#)
Holy Communion

9:30am Watchfield, St Thomas
Matins

10:15am Shrevenham, St Andrew
Holy Communion

11:00am Ashbury, St Mary
Holy Communion

3:00pm Watchfield, St Thomas
Benefice Sunday School

5:30pm Shrevenham, St Andrew & [Facebook](#)
Compline and Benediction

**Rev'd Norma Fergusson is off duty
from Monday 2nd January until Friday 6th January.**

For pastoral emergencies please call 01793 783519.

For other church enquiries please contact your
local churchwarden or the Benefice Administrator.

info@shrivenhamandashbury.co.uk

**The Benefice office will be closed from
Saturday 24th December until Saturday 7th January.**

Emails will be checked regularly.

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. Songs and Stories will restart on Wednesday
4th January at Shrevenham Methodist Church.

The Baby and Toddler group that meets in St Andrew's
Church Shrevenham restarts on Thursday 19th January.

Wednesday Study Groups

Both groups will restart on 11th January.

The Zoom group meets at 10:30am, and the group that
meets at the Vicarage starts at 7pm.

If you would like to join either group,
please contact the Benefice Administrator (Lucy Laird).

info@shrivenhamandashbury.co.uk 01793 783519

Community Cycle of Prayer

Please pray this week for all who live and work in
Odstone Farm and Cottages near Ashbury,
and Ballingers in Shrevenham.

If you would like to make a text donation to support
your local church or the Benefice as a whole
please use the numbers below.

For Ashbury

Text **STMARYS 5** to **70085** to donate **£5**

Text **STMARYS 10** to **70085** to donate **£10**

For Shrevenham, Watchfield & Bourton

Text **SWB** to **70460** to donate **£5**

Text **SWB** to **70450** to donate **£10**

For Longcot and Fernham

Text **LONGCOT** to **70085** to donate **£4**

For the Benefice as a whole

Text **GIVEfive** to **70470** to donate **£5**

Text **GIVEten** to **70470** to donate **£10**

Your standard text message rate applies.

Thank you!

Jesus, Lord of time,
hold us in your eternity.
Jesus, image of God,
travel with us the life of faith.
Jesus, friend of sinners,
heal the brokenness of our world.
Jesus, Lord of tomorrow,
draw us into your future. Amen.

