



# The Shrivenham and Ashbury Benefice

'Mirroring the hospitality of God'

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**Sunday 11th December 2022**

**Third Sunday of Advent**

**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.

## Sunday 11th December

Richard Fergusson is giving today's online sermon.  
Watch on [Facebook](#), [YouTube](#) or our [website](#) from 9am.

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

## Tuesday

- 9:00am Morning Prayer. Live on [Facebook](#)
- 2:00pm Garford Crematorium  
Cremation - Savitri Guha-Thakurta RIP

## Wednesday

- 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
- 2:00pm Shrivenham Methodist Church  
Village Carol Service
- 7:00pm Wednesday Study Group  
St Andrew's Vicarage

## Thursday

- 9:00am Matins. Live on [Facebook](#)
- 9:15am Ashbury, St Mary  
Ashbury School Christingle
- 6:00pm Benefice Choir Practice  
St Mary's Ashbury
- 7:45pm Shrivenham, St Andrew & [Facebook](#)  
Compline for Advent

## Friday

- 9:00am Matins. Live on [Facebook](#)
- 2:00pm Shrivenham, St Andrew  
Shrivenham School Christmas Concert
- 5:30pm Shrivenham, St Andrew  
Worship and Praise

## Saturday 17th

- 8:30am Men's Breakfast at the Prince of Wales  
Shrivenham
- 10:00am Bourton, St James  
Ashes Interment - Peter Jones RIP
- 5:00pm Ashbury, St Mary  
Carol Service with the Benefice Choir  
and handbells

## Sunday 18th December

- 7:45am Shrivenham, St Andrew  
Holy Communion (BCP)
- 9:00am Compton Beauchamp, St Swithun.  
Matins
- 9:30am Watchfield, St Thomas.  
Matins
- 10:00am Bourton, St James & [Facebook](#)  
Holy Communion
- 11:00am Ashbury, St Mary.  
Celtic Morning Prayer
- 4:30pm Shrivenham, St Andrew  
Carol Service with the Benefice Choir  
and handbells
- 6:00pm Longcot, St Mary & [Facebook](#)  
Carol Service with the Benefice Choir  
and handbells  
300th Anniversary of the Tower and Bells

## Tuesday 20th December

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

## Wednesday 21st December

- 10:00am Shrivenham, St Andrew Messy Christmas Drop-in
- 6:00pm Ashbury Village Stations of the Nativity

## Thursday 22nd 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)
- 5:00pm Bourton, St James Family Carol Service
- 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 with  
Communion by Extension

## Sunday 1st January 2023

- 11:00am Ashbury, St Mary Celtic Benefice Communion

### **St Andrew's Baby and Toddler Group**

The group that meets in St Andrew's on Thursdays  
is taking a break until after the school Christmas holidays  
and will restart on 19th January.

### **Community Cycle of Prayer**

Please pray for all who live and work in Idstone near  
Ashbury, and Ebbsworth Lane, Buckland Drive,  
Cozens Grove and Fuller Close in Shrivenham.

### What's Your Favourite Carol?



During Advent we are asking people to tell us about their favourite Christmas carol or hymn and are sharing one on our [Facebook](#) page every day until Christmas.

There is a short video introduction and a link to a specially chosen version on YouTube.

You don't need a Facebook account to watch.

### Shrivenham Warm Spaces Initiative

Are you struggling to heat your home?  
Would you like somewhere warm to go in the winter?

The following places will be warm and open at the times shown below.

St Andrews Church: every day until dusk except during services and Thursday mornings.

The Methodist Church: Wednesdays from 9am till noon, and Fridays from 10am to 1pm.

The Barrington Room at the Memorial Hall: weekdays from 1pm to 5pm.

### Flouring the Gravestones in Shrivenham Churchyard

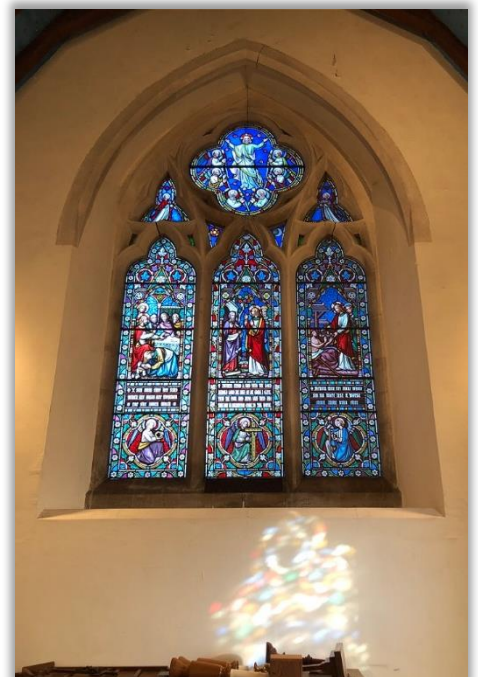
If you've walked through St Andrew's churchyard recently you may have wondered why some of the gravestones are turning white. They are being 'floured' as part of a project to record the inscriptions and locations of the graves which is being led by Neil Maw on behalf of Shrivenham Heritage Society. Applying flour reveals inscriptions that are otherwise unreadable. It doesn't damage the stones and washes off the next time it rains.



The inscription on the plaque on the wall near the porch is in Latin and translates to 'Beneath Lies the Ashes of William Hoare Changed to stone by Smallpox Distinguished in his intellect Proclaimed after death Died February AD 1722'

### Update from St John's Church Fernham

The work to return St John's Church to its former glory following the fire on Saturday 29th October is progressing well. As you can see from the photos below, the walls and stained-glass windows are now clean and showing no signs of permanent damage. The floor is also undamaged and will hopefully look as good as new after a final clean and polish. A certain amount of redecoration is still required and we are grateful to everyone who has helped over the last few weeks.





## COLLECT

O Lord Jesus Christ,  
 who at your first coming sent your  
 messenger  
 to prepare your way before you:  
 grant that the ministers and stewards of  
 your mysteries  
 may likewise so prepare and make  
 ready your way  
 by turning the hearts of the  
 disobedient to the wisdom of the  
 just,  
 that at your second coming to judge  
 the world  
 we may be found an acceptable people  
 in your sight;  
 for you are alive and reign with the  
 Father  
 in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
 one God, now and for ever.

## FIRST READING Isaiah 35:1-10

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

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you." Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

## PSALM OR CANTICLE

Either **Psalm 146:4-10**

**R** *Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help.*

Or

**R** *Come, Lord, and save us.*

Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help!  
 Whose hope is in the Lord their God;  
 Who made heaven and earth, the seas,  
 and all that is in them;  
 who keeps his promise for ever;  
 Who gives justice to those who are oppressed,  
 and food to those who hunger. **R**

The Lord sets the prisoners free;  
 the Lord opens the eyes of the blind;  
 the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;  
 The Lord loves the righteous;  
 the Lord cares for the stranger;  
 he sustains the orphan and widow,  
 but frustrates the way of the wicked. **R**

The Lord shall reign for ever,  
 your God, O Zion, throughout all generations.

Alleluia! **R**

Or **Luke 1:46b-55 (Magnificat)**

**R** *My spirit rejoices in God my Saviour.*

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord;  
 My spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,  
 For he has looked with favour on his lowly servant;  
 from this day all generations will call me blessed.

The Almighty has done great things for me,  
 and holy is his name. **R**

He has mercy on those who fear him in every generation.  
 He has shown the strength of his arm;  
 he has scattered the proud in their conceit. **R**

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones  
 and has lifted up the lowly.  
 He has filled the hungry with good things  
 and the rich he has sent away empty. **R**

He has come to the help of his servant, Israel,  
 for he has remembered his promise of mercy.  
 The promise he made to our forebears:  
 to Abraham and his children for ever. **R**

## SECOND READING James 5:7-10

*A reading from the letter of James.*  
 Be patient, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

## GOSPEL Matthew 11:2-11

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

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to Jesus, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me." As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.' Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

## POST COMMUNION

We give you thanks, O Lord, for these heavenly gifts;  
 kindle in us the fire of your Spirit  
 that when your Christ comes again  
 we may shine as lights before his face;  
 who is alive and reigns now and for ever.





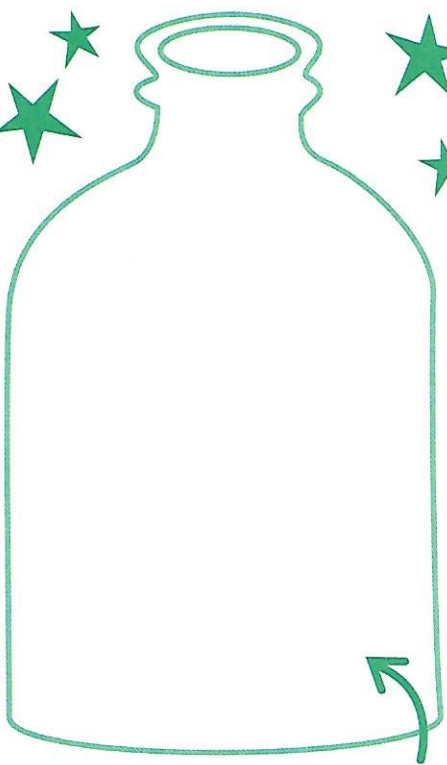
In the  
**GOSPEL TODAY**

**JESUS BRINGS US JOY!**

John the Baptist is God's messenger. He has been telling everyone about Jesus. Jesus is very special. He shows Jesus is special by what he does. Jesus brings life and goodness to everyone he meets.

Message in a bottle

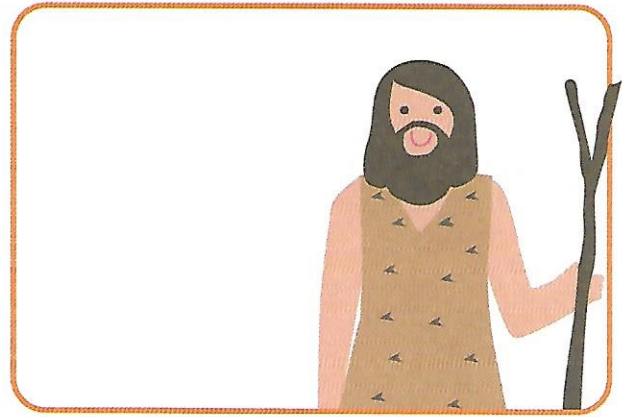
We can be God's messengers. We can show everyone what God's love is like. We can help people, just like Jesus did.



Draw a picture in this bottle of you helping someone this week.

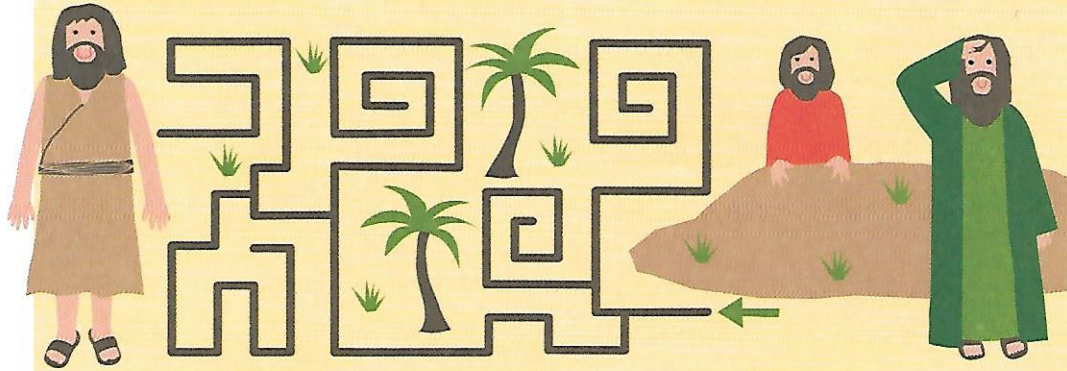
**Happy**

John the Baptist believes in Jesus. He is very happy. Jesus says everyone who believes in him is happy. Draw yourself next to John with a great big smile on your face too!



**Desert maze**

People went into the desert looking for John. They wanted to listen to him so that they could become better people. Can you help the people through the desert maze so that they can find John?



**A PRAYER TO SAY**

Help me, Jesus, to make the world a better place just like you did. Help me to bring the message of God's love to the people I meet, through what I do as well as by what I say. Amen.

**Miracles**

Jesus helped lots of people. Answer the questions about his miracles to fill the gaps.

1. The dead have new?
2. Deaf people could?
3. Lame people were able to?
4. Those who were blind could?

		M		
	1.	I		
		R		
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		C		
	3.	L		
		E		
		4.S		

Answers: Miracles: 1. Life, 2. Hear, 3. Walk, 4. See.