



The Shrivenham 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 18th December 2022

Fourth 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 18th December

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

- 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

Monday

- 6:00pm Shrivenham, St Andrew
Longcot School Carol Service

Tuesday

- 9:00am Morning Prayer. Live on [Facebook](#)
- 2.30pm Longcot, St Mary. Funeral
Barrington Michael Vaughan RIP
- 5:00pm Shrivenham, St Andrew
Cloths for the Cradle

Wednesday

- 9:00am Shrivenham, St Andrew & [Facebook](#)
Morning Prayer
- 10:00am Shrivenham, St Andrew
Messy Church Christmas Drop-in
- 3.00pm Kingsdown Crematorium
Cremation – Rosina Ellen Tilling RIP
- 6:00pm Ashbury Village Crossroads
Stations of the Nativity

Thursday

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

Friday

- 9:00am Matins. Live on [Facebook](#)

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 & [Facebook](#)
Midnight Mass
- 11:30pm Longcot, St Mary.
Midnight Mass

Sunday 25th December 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
with Communion by Extension

Midweek services resume on Tuesday 10th January

Sunday 1st January

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

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.

Community Cycle of Prayer

Please pray this week for all who live and work in Kingstone Winslow near Ashbury, and Hicks Close and Pound Close in Shrivenham.

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 will restart in the new year.

Cloths for the Cradle

Shrivenham, St Andrew

Tuesday 20th 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.

Watchfield Family Carol Service



We were delighted to welcome some of the children who attend the Benefice Sunday School to the family carol service at St Thomas' Watchfield last Sunday.

As well as helping to prepare the crib, they sang Away in a Manger (with a little help from the choir).

Thank You



Thank you to Shrivenham Primary School for this striking nativity display in the children's corner at St Andrew's Church.

Shrivenham Warm Spaces Initiative

St Andrew's Church is part of the Shrivenham Warm Spaces initiative. If you're feeling cold, please come in and help yourself to tea or coffee which is available in our kitchen at the far end of the church. The milk will be in the fridge. You are welcome to sit in the church and enjoy the peace and space of the building.

The church is generally open every day as a warm space except during services and on Thursday mornings during school term when we have a regular booking. Please check the weekly Newsletter in the notice board outside the church or on our website for information about what is happening each week.

Christmas Wreath Workshop

Following on from the September workshop 'Fun with Flowers' in the Longcot Community Hub in St Mary's, a Christmas wreath workshop was held last week on a very cold and frosty morning in the cosy Methodist chapel. Helen Pakeman did a magnificent job demonstrating how to weave a willow wreath from wands she had soaked in her bath for two days! Shirley decorated it mainly with foliage and berries before welcome coffee and warmed mince pies were served. A DIY session followed, and a lively group chatted away and produced beautiful Christmas decorations to take home. Shirley Dalton-Morris

Messy Christmas Drop In!

Pop along to St Andrew's Church on Wednesday 21st December anytime between 10 and 11.30 for some Messy Church Christmas crafts and mince pies!

No need to book but for any further info message standfast.shrivenham@yahoo.com



COLLECT

God our redeemer,
who prepared the Blessed Virgin
Mary
to be the mother of your Son:
grant that, as she looked for his
coming as our saviour,
so we may be ready to greet him
when he comes again as our
judge;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 7:10-16

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, "Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven." But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test." Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted."

PSALM Psalm 80:1-8. 18-20

R Restore us, O God of hosts;
show the light of your
countenance and we shall be
saved.

Hear, O Shepherd of Israel,
leading Joseph like a flock;
shine forth, you that are
enthroned upon the cherubim.
In the presence of Ephraim,
Benjamin and Manasseh,

stir up your strength and come to
help us. **R**

O Lord God of hosts,
how long will you be angered
despite the prayers of your
people?
You have fed them with the bread
of tears;
you have given them bowls of
tears to drink.
You have made us the derision of
our neighbours,
and our enemies laugh us to
scorn. **R**

Let your hand be upon the man
of your right hand,
the son of man you have made so
strong for yourself.
And so will we never turn away
from you;
give us life, that we may call upon
your name. **R**

SECOND READING

Romans 1:1-7

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord. Through Christ we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

GOSPEL Matthew 1:18-end

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

The birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

POST COMMUNION

Heavenly Father,
who chose the Blessed Virgin
Mary
to be the mother of the promised
saviour:
fill us your servants with your
grace,
that in all things we may embrace
your holy will
and with her rejoice in your
salvation;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.



Sunday 18 December 2022
Matthew 1:18-24
4th Sunday of Advent

In the **GOSPEL TODAY**

DON'T BE AFRAID!

An angel tells Joseph in a dream not to be afraid. Mary's baby is the saviour! Joseph has a special job now. He is going to look after Mary and the baby – and they will call him "Jesus". Jesus will be "God-with-us"!

Break the angel code

Find out what the angel said to Joseph.



3 10 9 14 2 4

1 5 12 1 7 3

8 10 13 4 11 6!

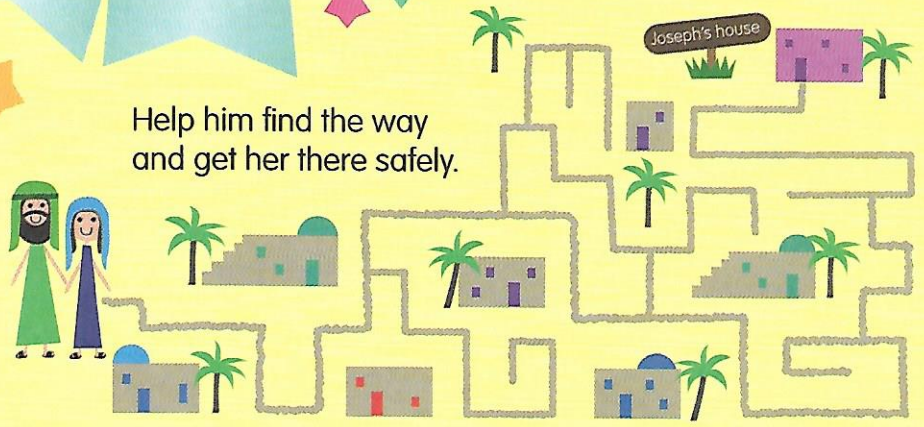


Good dad award

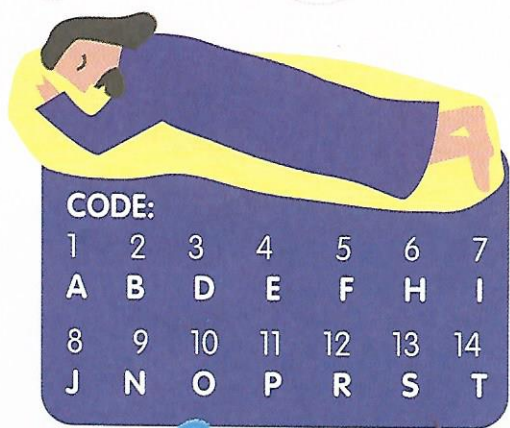
Joseph did what God wanted and looked after Jesus. What do you think makes a good dad? Draw or write your ideas on this award. You could award the rosette to Joseph or cut it out and give it to your own dad or a man who cares for you.

Find the way

Joseph is taking Mary to his house to look after her.



Help him find the way and get her there safely.



CODE:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
A	B	D	E	F	H	I
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
J	N	O	P	R	S	T

A PRAYER TO SAY

Jesus, help me not to be afraid. Help me to trust you and know that you are always with me, just like Joseph did. Amen.

Word search

Can you find these words?

- JOSEPH MARY
- FATHER DREAM
- KIND ANGEL
- CARE GOD

There will be five letters left. Put them together in the right order to make a very special name.

A	N	G	E	L	F
K	I	N	D	U	A
J	M	A	R	Y	T
J	O	S	E	P	H
E	S	C	A	R	E
G	O	D	M	S	R



Answers: The angel code: Don't be afraid, Joseph! The special name: JESUS