



The Shrevenham and Ashbury Benefice

'Mirroring the hospitality of God'

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

Licensed Lay Minister: Mr Richard Fergusson. Tel 07788 436831



Sunday 4th December 2022

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 4th December

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

7:45am Shrevenham, St Andrew
Holy Communion (BCP)
9:00am Compton Beauchamp, St Swithun
Holy Communion
9:30am Watchfield, St Thomas & [Facebook](#)
Holy Communion (BCP)
9:30am Longcot, St Mary
Holy Communion by Extension
10:15am Shrevenham, St Andrew.
Family Service
11:00am Ashbury, St Mary.
Morning Prayer
3:00pm Longcot Methodist Chapel. United Service
5:30pm Shrevenham, St Andrew & [Facebook](#)
Vespers and Benediction

Tuesday

9:00am Morning Prayer. Live on [Facebook](#)
11:30am Longcot, St Mary
Funeral – Julie Richards RIP
7:30pm All PCCs – Section 12 Meeting
Shrevenham, St Andrew

Wednesday

9:00am Shrevenham, St Andrew & [Facebook](#)
Morning Prayer
9:15am Song and Stories Toddler Group
Shrevenham Methodist Church
2:00pm Shrevenham, St Andrew & Facebook
ASK Holy Communion
10:30am Wednesday Study Group via Zoom
7:00pm Wednesday Study Group
12 Chapelwick Close Shrevenham
01793 783481

Thursday

9:00am Baby & Toddler Group in St Andrew's
9:00am Matins. Live on [Facebook](#)
10:00am Ashbury, St Mary & Facebook
Holy Communion
6:00pm Benefice Choir Practice
in St Andrew's Shrevenham
7:45pm Shrevenham, St Andrew & [Facebook](#)
Compline for Advent

Friday

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

Saturday

10:00am Café Inspire in Shrevenham School Hall

Please note there is no Children's Clothes Exchange this month.

Second Sunday of Advent

Sunday 11th December

9:30am Longcot, St Mary
Holy Communion
10:15am Shrevenham, 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 Shrevenham, St Andrew
Christingle
followed by Carols Around the Tree
6:15pm Compton Beauchamp, St Swithun
Carol Service with the Benefice Choir
and handbells

What's Your Favourite Carol?

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

There will be a mix of old and new, some familiar others less well-known.

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 for all who live and work in Idstone Road in Ashbury, and West End Road in Shrevenham.

St Andrew's Baby and Toddler Group



The session on Thursday 8th December is a pre-booked Christmas Party, and the last time the group meets before taking a break until January.

Bottle Tombola

in Aid of St Thomas' Church Watchfield

The church will be running a bottle tombola in aid of St Thomas at the annual Christmas Fayre at Watchfield Village Hall on Saturday 3rd December. It is open from 10am till 2pm.

St Andrew's Annual Brass Cleaning Morning



Thank you to all the polishers who helped to put the shine back on our brassware in St Andrew's.



Also special thanks to Chris Taylor for braving the ladder and scaffold tower to dismantle and reassemble the chandeliers!



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.



Community Art Club

Shrivenham Methodist Church

Every Friday from 10am - 12 noon

Coffee, chat and creative experiments.

Absolutely no skills or experience needed.

Equipment and art materials provided.

All are welcome to join us for fun and inspiration!

Opening 5th Dec

Watchfield & Shrivenham Community Larder



St Alban's Church - open to all

Mon: 1000 - 1200 | Wed: 1230 - 1430 | Fri: 1600 - 1800

The Community Larder has been created to ensure that everyone has enough food, waste is reduced, and no one has to go without.

Food donations welcome at the **Jubilee Centre, St Alban's Church** (during Community Larder opening hours), and **Building 43** for DefAc Staff.
Monetary donations gratefully received via bank transfer to:
Sort Code: 30-13-35 | Acc No: 01202538

Contact Leigh Hyde for any queries: leigh.hyde@da.mod.uk | 07920 162664

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Pathways Magazine

The Winter edition of the magazine will be arriving in our churches from 11th December.

Features include a useful piece on improving your resilience and speculation about what Jesus would do if he were chancellor.

An article on reconciliation will help anyone seeking to love their neighbour when that is challenging.

There's also a guide to finance in our Diocese and how that money helps our churches and schools to thrive.

Pathways is produced by the Diocese of Oxford



Condolences

Our condolences to the family and friends of the late Barrington Michael Vaughan, Julie Ann Richards, Rosie Tilling and Savi Guha-Thakurta. Please keep them in your prayers.



Advent Calendars, Candles and Christmas Cards

Margaret Hern has a good selection of Christian charity Christmas cards, Advent calendars and candles for sale from the Lighthouse Book Shop.

Margaret lives in Shrivenham. Ring her to arrange a time to visit 01793 782100

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 Isaiah 11:1-10

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

PSALM Psalm 72:1-7. 18-19

R *In his time shall the righteous flourish, [and peace till the moon shall be no more].*

Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to the king's son;

That he may rule your people righteously and the poor with justice; That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, and the little hills bring righteousness. **R**

He shall defend the needy among the people; he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.

He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure, from one generation to another. **R**

He shall come down like rain upon the mown field, like showers that water the earth. In his time shall the righteous flourish; there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more. **R**

Blessèd be the Lord God, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous deeds! And blessèd be his glorious name for ever! and may all the earth be filled with his glory. Amen. Amen. **R**

SECOND READING Romans 15:4-13

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name"; and again he says, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people"; and again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him"; and again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in

him the Gentiles shall hope." May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

GOSPEL Matthew 3:1-12

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

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.'" Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing-floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

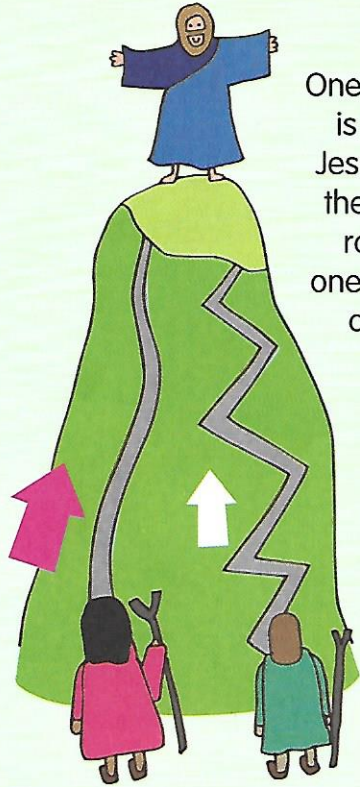
POST COMMUNION

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.



In the GOSPEL TODAY

Which way?



One traveller is going to Jesus along the straight road, and one is going along the crooked road.

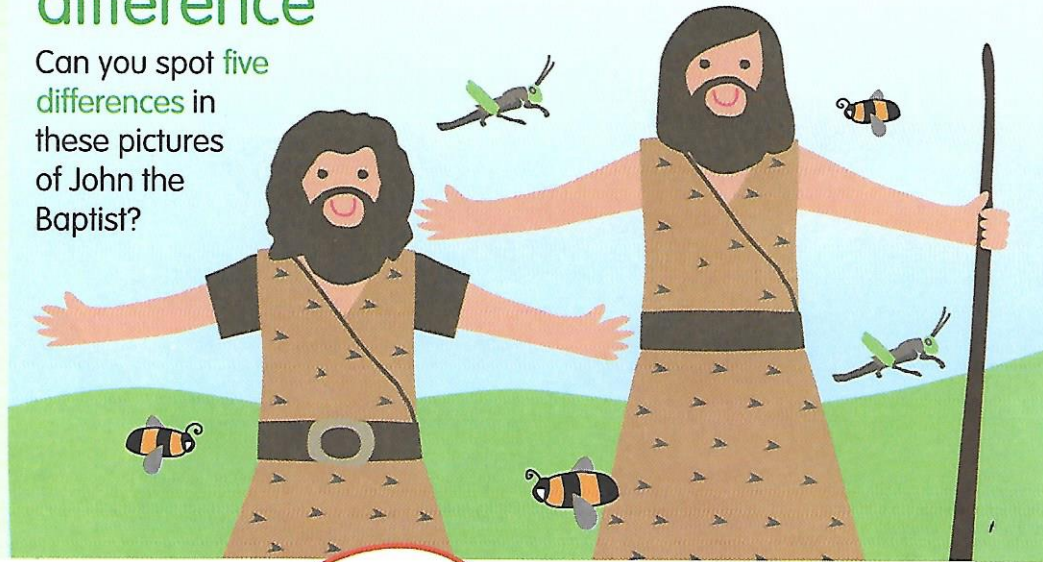
Which one will get to Jesus first?

John the Baptist is the prophet sent by God to tell us all to get ready to welcome Jesus. John asks us to repent, to turn away from anything that is bad and turn towards God. Anyone who is loving and kind is turning towards God and their hearts will be ready to welcome Jesus. Make Jesus' paths straight!

Spot the difference

PREPARE THE WAY

Can you spot five differences in these pictures of John the Baptist?

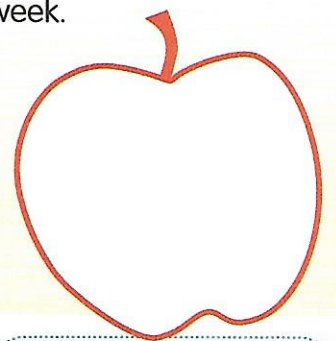


Good fruit

John wants everyone to stop doing bad things and do good instead. We show we are sorry and want to change by the good fruit in our lives.



Draw inside these fruits some of the good things you will do this week.



A PRAYER TO SAY

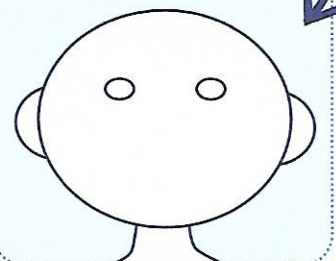
Jesus, help me to make it easy for you to come into my life. Help me to turn away from bad things and turn towards you. Amen.

Sorry

Fill in the gaps

- I want to say sorry to
- I made the wrong choice when I
- I forgot to

Draw a picture of you feeling happy.



Answers: The differences: Height, hair, buckle, staff and sleeves.