



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 8th January 2023

Epiphany

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 8th January

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

- 9:30am Longcot, St Mary & [Facebook](#)
Holy Communion
- 9:30am Watchfield, St Thomas
Matins
- 10:15am Shrivenham, St Andrew
Holy Communion
- 11:00am Ashbury, St Mary
Holy Communion
- 3:00pm Watchfield, St Thomas
Benefice Sunday School
- 5:30pm Shrivenham, St Andrew & [Facebook](#)
Compline and Benediction

Please note that St Mary's Church Ashbury will be closed on Monday and Tuesday this week to allow exclusive access for school pupils attending Prayer Space.

Tuesday

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

Wednesday

- 9:00am Shrivenham, St Andrew & [Facebook](#)
Morning Prayer
- 9:15am Song and Stories Toddler Group
Shrivenham Methodist Church
- 2:00pm Shrivenham, St Andrew & [Facebook](#)
ASK Holy Communion
- 10:30am Wednesday Study Group via Zoom
- 7:00pm Wednesday Study Group
St Andrew's Vicarage

Thursday

- 9:00am Matins. Live on [Facebook](#)
- 10:00am Ashbury, St Mary & [Facebook](#)
Holy Communion
- 6:00pm Benefice Choir Practice in St Andrew's

Friday

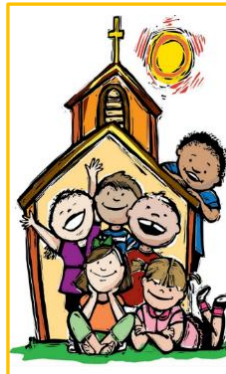
- 9:00am Matins. Live on [Facebook](#)
- 11:00am Shrivenham, St Andrew
Funeral – Florence Cole RIP

Saturday

- 10:00am Café Inspire in Shrivenham School Hall

Sunday 15th January

- 7:45am Shrivenham, St Andrew
Holy Communion (BCP)
- 9:00am Compton Beauchamp, St Swithun
Holy Communion (BCP)
- 9:30am Longcot, St Mary
Morning Prayer
- 9:30am Watchfield, St Thomas.
Matins
- 10:00am Bourton, St James & [Facebook](#)
Holy Communion
- 10:30am Shrivenham Methodist Church
United Covenant Service
- 11:00am Ashbury, St Mary
Morning Prayer
- 2:00pm Watchfield, St Thomas.
Baptism



Benefice Sunday School 8th January at 3pm

St Thomas' Church Watchfield
Drop your child off at 3pm, then come along at 4pm to see what they have been doing and have a cuppa and cake in the Village Hall. Parents are welcome to stay for the whole as extra help is always appreciated.

Open to all children aged 4 – 11 in the Benefice.

Baby and Toddler Group

The Baby and Toddler group that meets in St Andrew's Church Shrivenham restarts on Thursday 19th January at 9am.

Baby and Toddler Group – New Leader Required

One of the two group leaders is leaving in March and the group will have to close unless they can find another leader to assist with the organisation and weekly running of the group.

If you would like to volunteer or find out more about what is involved, please contact Jane Hollick on 07779 656 767.

Community Cycle of Prayer

Please pray for all who live and work in Pound Piece in Ashbury, and Berens Road in Shrivenham.

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

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 Shrivenham, 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!



St Andrew's Handbell Ringers at Great Coxwell on Christmas Eve, welcoming villagers to the Tithe Barn at the end of their Christmas Eve Procession through the village accompanied by Mary, Joseph and donkey.

Thank you!

Huge thanks to Beckie and her team at Shrivenham's One Stop for donating three very generous boxes of food to be shared between the three warm spaces in Watchfield and Shrivenham: the Watchfield & Shrivenham Community Larder in St Alban's Church Watchfield, Shrivenham Methodist Church and St Andrew's Church in Shrivenham.

The Community Larder is open on Mondays (10-12), Wednesdays (12.30-2.30) and Fridays (4-6). St Andrew's is open every day until dusk except during services and on Thursday mornings when there is a regular booking. The Methodist Church is open on Wednesdays (9-12), and Fridays (10-1).

Do call in and see any of us for a cup of coffee. You are always welcome.



COLLECT

O God,
 who by the leading of a star
 manifested your only Son to the
 peoples of the earth:
 mercifully grant that we,
 who know you now by faith,
 may at last behold your glory face to
 face;
 through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
 who is alive and reigns with you,
 in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
 one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING Isaiah 60:1-6

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

Arise, shine; for your light has come,
 and the glory of the LORD has risen
 upon you. For darkness shall cover the
 earth, and thick darkness the peoples;
 but the LORD will arise upon you, and
 his glory will appear over you. Nations
 shall come to your light, and kings to
 the brightness of your dawn. Lift up
 your eyes and look around; they all
 gather together, they come to you;
 your sons shall come from far away, and
 your daughters shall be carried on their
 nurses' arms. Then you shall see and
 be radiant; your heart shall thrill and
 rejoice, because the abundance of the
 sea shall be brought to you, the wealth
 of the nations shall come to you. A
 multitude of camels shall cover you, the
 young camels of Midian and Ephah; all
 those from Sheba shall come. They shall
 bring gold and frankincense, and shall
 proclaim the praise of the LORD.

PSALM Psalm 72:1-9. 10-15

R *Kings bow down before him;
 all the nations do him service.*

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**

The kings of Tarshish and of the isles
 shall pay tribute,
 and the kings of Arabia and Saba
 offer gifts.
 All kings shall bow down before him,
 and all the nations do him service. **R**

For he shall deliver the poor who cries
 out in distress,
 and the oppressed who has no helper.
 He shall have pity on the lowly
 and poor;
 he shall preserve the lives of the needy.
 He shall redeem their lives from
 oppression and violence,
 and dear shall their blood be in his
 sight. **R**

SECOND READING Ephesians 3:1-12

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians.

I, Paul, am a prisoner for Christ Jesus
 for the sake of you Gentiles – for
 surely you have already heard of the
 commission of God's grace that was
 given me for you, and how the mystery
 was made known to me by revelation,
 as I wrote above in a few words, a
 reading of which will enable you to
 perceive my understanding of the
 mystery of Christ. In former generations
 this mystery was not made known to
 humankind, as it has now been revealed
 to his holy apostles and prophets by
 the Spirit: that is, the Gentiles have
 become fellow-heirs, members of the
 same body, and sharers in the promise
 in Christ Jesus through the gospel. Of
 this gospel I have become a servant
 according to the gift of God's grace
 that was given me by the working of
 his power. Although I am the very least
 of all the saints, this grace was given to
 me to bring to the Gentiles the news
 of the boundless riches of Christ, and
 to make everyone see what is the plan
 of the mystery hidden for ages in God
 who created all things; so that through
 the church the wisdom of God in its
 rich variety might now be made known
 to the rulers and authorities in the
 heavenly places. This was in accordance
 with the eternal purpose that he has
 carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord,

in whom we have access to God in
 boldness and confidence through faith
 in him.

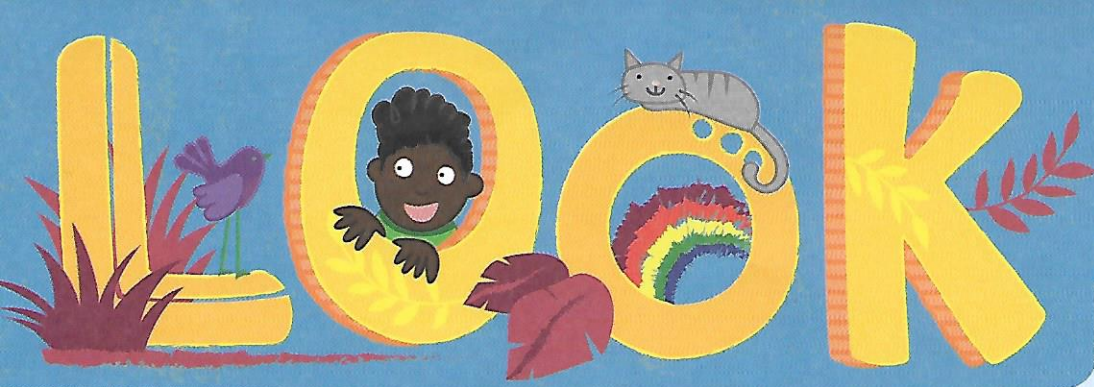
GOSPEL Matthew 2:1-12

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

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus
 was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise
 men from the East came to Jerusalem,
 asking, "Where is the child who has
 been born king of the Jews? For we
 observed his star at its rising, and have
 come to pay him homage." When King
 Herod heard this, he was frightened,
 and all Jerusalem with him; and calling
 together all the chief priests and
 scribes of the people, he inquired of
 them where the Messiah was to be
 born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of
 Judea; for so it has been written by the
 prophet: 'And you, Bethlehem, in the
 land of Judah, are by no means least
 among the rulers of Judah; for from you
 shall come a ruler who is to shepherd
 my people Israel.'" Then Herod secretly
 called for the wise men and learned
 from them the exact time when the
 star had appeared. Then he sent them
 to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search
 diligently for the child; and when you
 have found him, bring me word so that
 I may also go and pay him homage."
 When they had heard the king, they set
 out; and there, ahead of them, went the
 star that they had seen at its rising, until
 it stopped over the place where the
 child was. When they saw that the star
 had stopped, they were overwhelmed
 with joy. On entering the house, they
 saw the child with Mary his mother;
 and they knelt down and paid him
 homage. Then, opening their treasure-
 chests, they offered him gifts of gold,
 frankincense, and myrrh. And having
 been warned in a dream not to return
 to Herod, they left for their own country
 by another road.

POST COMMUNION

Lord God,
 the bright splendour whom the
 nations seek:
 may we who with the wise men
 have been drawn by your light
 discern the glory of your presence in
 your Son,
 the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our
 Lord.



Sunday 8 January 2023
 Matthew 3:13-17
 The Baptism of the Lord

In the
GOSPEL TODAY

Search party

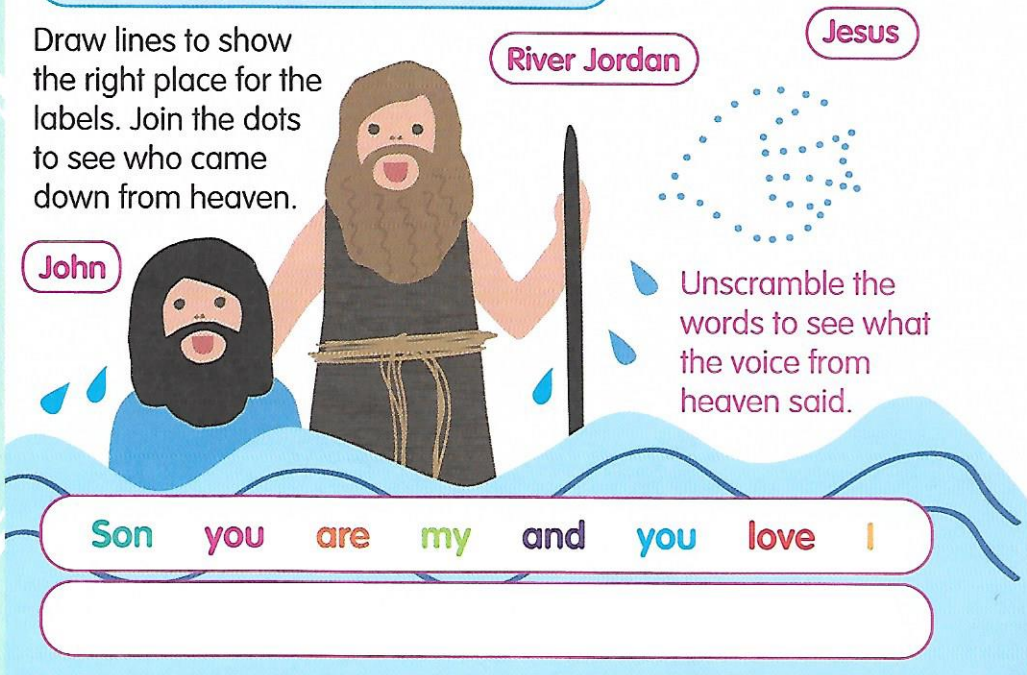
Can you find out who God has sent to guide us and protect us? Start with **H** and write down every other letter to find out.



Jesus is baptised by John in the river Jordan, just as God wants. When Jesus comes up out of the water, the Holy Spirit comes down like a dove. A voice from heaven says, "This is my Son, I love him and I am pleased with everything that he is doing."

JESUS IS BAPTISED!

Draw lines to show the right place for the labels. Join the dots to see who came down from heaven.

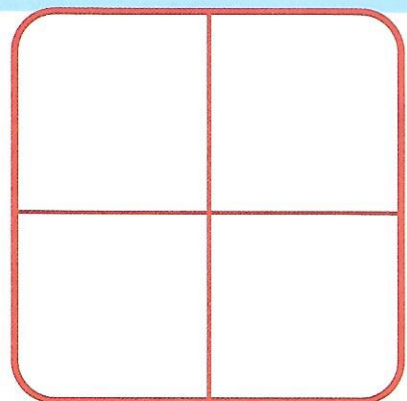
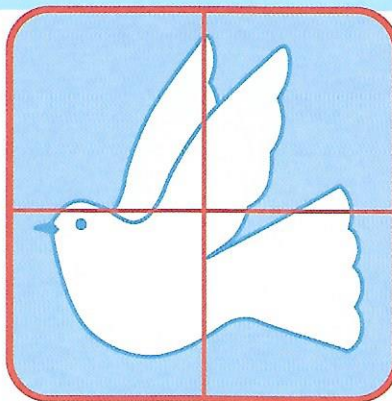


Unscramble the words to see what the voice from heaven said.

Son you are my and you love I

A dove to draw

The Holy Spirit came down in the form of a dove. Use the squares to copy the picture of the dove. Then perhaps you could have a go without the squares to help you.



A PRAYER TO SAY

Father God, thank you for loving me. Amen.

Listen with your heart

This is what God is saying to you. You can hear God speaking to you with your heart. Close your eyes. Imagine God saying these words to you. Use your heart to listen to God's words.

.....(your name), you are my child.
 I love you. I am proud of you.

Answers: You are my Son and I love you. Holy Spirit