



# The Shrivenham and Ashbury Benefice

'Mirroring the hospitality of God'

Vicar: The Rev'd Norma Fergusson. Tel 01793 784338  
[vicar@shrivenhamandashbury.co.uk](mailto:vicar@shrivenhamandashbury.co.uk)

Licensed Lay Minister: Mr Richard Fergusson. Tel 07788 436831



**Sunday 19th February 2023**

**Sunday Next Before Lent**

**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 19th February

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 Longcot, St Mary Morning Prayer
- 9:30am Watchfield, St Thomas. Matins
- 10:00am Bourton, St James & [Facebook](#) Holy Communion
- 11:00am Ashbury, St Mary Taizé Service

## Tuesday

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

## Ash Wednesday

- 9:00am Morning Prayer. Live on [Facebook](#)
- 9:15am Song and Stories Toddler Group Shrivenham Methodist Church
- 10:30am Wednesday Study Group via Zoom
- 7:00pm Watchfield, St Thomas & [Facebook](#) Holy Communion (BCP) with Imposition of Ashes

## Thursday

- 9:00am Matins. Live on [Facebook](#)
- 9:00am Baby & Toddler Group in St Andrew's
- 6:00pm Shrivenham, St Andrew ASK Evening Prayer
- 6:30pm Benefice Choir Practice in St Andrew's

## Friday

- 9:00am Ashbury, St Mary & [Facebook](#) Matins
- 1:30pm Kingsdown Crematorium Cremation – Sheila Cook RIP

## Sunday 26th February

10:30am Shrivenham, St Andrew & [Facebook](#) Benefice Holy Communion with Choir

## Living Your Best Life?

### The vision

*What's the best way to live? What does it mean to be a disciple? Jesus tells us.*



**COME AND SEE**

Discover the guide for living a Christian life  
[oxford.anglican.org/come-and-see](https://www.oxford.anglican.org/come-and-see)

Everybody wants to know how to live their life in the best way possible, and we all need a vision for what it means to be human.

The Beatitudes, the incredible manifesto from Jesus recorded in the Sermon on the Mount, are our guide to living well and a great way of exploring faith... whatever stage of the journey we're on.

'Come and See' is a free series of daily emails throughout Lent which include a scripture reading, a reflection and a moment to pause and be encouraged before the busyness of the day begins.

On Sundays you will receive a link to short video from Bishop Steven exploring the theme for 'Come and See' that year in a bit more detail.

Whether you're exploring faith for the first time or have been coming to church for many years, just five minutes a day using the 'Come and See' materials promises to be life-giving, and life changing.

Visit <https://www.oxford.anglican.org/come-and-see/> to find out more and sign up for the daily emails.

## Community Cycle of Prayer

Please pray this week for all who live and work in Berrycroft in Ashbury, and Charlotte Close in Shrivenham.

**Rev'd Norma Fergusson is off duty from the afternoon of Friday 24th February until Monday 27th February inclusive.**

For pastoral emergencies please call 01793 783519. For other church enquiries please contact your local churchwarden or the Benefice Administrator.

## Update on Associate Vicar Vacancy

Unfortunately, we have not yet been able to appoint a new Associate Vicar. We will readvertise the post in April and hope to hold interviews towards the end of May. Please continue to pray for a successful conclusion to the appointment process.

## Lent Challenge 2023



Our Lent Challenge for this year is another Knitalong. Last year's pattern produced a cushion cover, and by the end of knitalong 2023, each knitter will have completed a scarf. The design is a surprise and should be achievable by knitters of all abilities. With thanks to the Victoria Methodist Church in Bristol for sharing their resources.

The knitalong will take the format of weekly emails throughout Lent, consisting of a set of daily knitting instructions (or 'clues') and specially written meditations for each day.

We've also set up a local Facebook [group](#) for participants to chat to other knitters, share their progress, ask for help etc.

Alongside each knitting clue will be a daily meditation which knitters may wish to use as they knit and enjoy some quiet, reflective time as they journey through Lent.

There is an information sheet, containing details of yarn/needles needed, and a practice swatch pattern to check gauge (for those worried about these things!)

Contact Norma for further information.  
01793 784338

[vicar@shrivenhamandashbury.co.uk](mailto:vicar@shrivenhamandashbury.co.uk)

We pray for the people of Central Turkey and North West Syria, whose lives have been devastated by the earthquake.

Be present, O Lord, our Good Shepherd, to bring comfort, relief, shelter and human kindness. Shield the people who suffer, console those who are bereaved, prosper the provision of relief, strengthen the work of emergency teams, and shine your light and hope in the midst of despair. We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

## Condolences

Our condolences to the family and friends of the late Susan Bull, Stephen Butler, Andrew Bailey and June Brooke. Please keep them in your prayers.

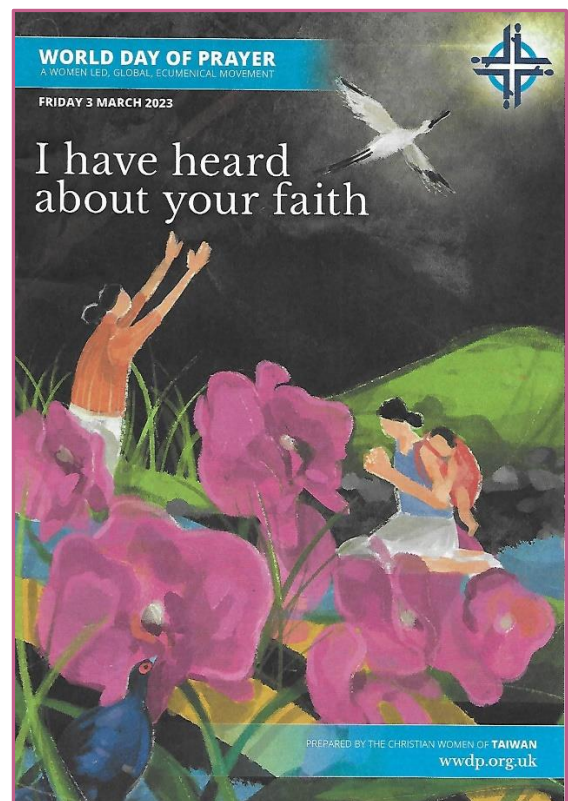
## Confirmation Classes

We are looking forward to hosting a Confirmation service in the Benefice on Sunday 18th June at 10.15am in St Andrew's. It will be led by Bishop Gavin, the Bishop of Dorchester, and we hope as many people as possible will attend to support our candidates, together with any who may come from other parishes in the Deanery.

Confirmation classes will begin on Thursday 2nd March from 7.45pm to 9pm in the Vicarage. If you think you might be interested and would like to find out more, please call Rev'd Norma Fergusson on 01793 784338 or email [vicar@shrivenhamandashbury.co.uk](mailto:vicar@shrivenhamandashbury.co.uk).

## World Day of Prayer – Friday 3rd March

World Day of Prayer is an international, inter-church organisation which enables us to hear the thoughts of women from all parts of the world: their hopes, concerns and prayers.



The Day of Prayer is celebrated in over 120 countries. It begins in Samoa and prayer in native languages travels throughout the world --- through Asia, Africa, the Middle East, Europe and the Americas before finishing in American Samoa some 38 hours later.

This year's theme is "I Have Heard About Your Faith" and the service has been prepared by our sisters in Taiwan. Taiwan is an island rich in natural resources and culturally diverse. The women of Taiwan share the issues faced geographically, politically and socially and also their hopes for the future. Let us join with them as we give thanks for the beautiful island and people of Taiwan and encourage one another in our faith.

All are welcome to join our local service in St Mary's Church Ashbury at 2pm on Friday 3rd March. The service will also be livestreamed – click the link on the [services page](#) of the Benefice website

**COLLECT**

Almighty Father,  
whose Son was revealed in majesty  
before he suffered death upon the cross:  
give us grace to perceive his glory,  
that we may be strengthened to suffer  
with him  
and be changed into his likeness, from  
glory to glory;  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

**FIRST READING Exodus 24:12-end**  
*A reading from the book of Exodus.*

The LORD said to Moses, "Come up to me on the mountain, and wait there; and I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction." So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up into the mountain of God. To the elders he had said, "Wait here for us, until we come to you again; for Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a dispute may go to them." Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. The glory of the LORD settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the cloud. Now the appearance of the glory of the LORD was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of Israel. Moses entered the cloud, and went up on the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

**PSALM Either Psalm 2**

**R** *You are my Son;  
this day have I begotten you.*

Why are the nations in an uproar?  
Why do the peoples mutter empty threats?  
Why do the kings of the earth rise up in revolt  
and the princes plot together,  
against the Lord and against his anointed? **R**

"Let us break their yoke", they say;  
"let us cast off their bonds from us."  
He whose throne is in heaven is laughing;  
the Lord has them in derision. **R**

Then he speaks to them in his wrath  
and his rage fills them with terror.  
"I myself have set my king upon my holy hill of Zion."  
Let me announce the decree of the Lord:

he said to me, "You are my Son;  
this day have I begotten you. **R**

Ask of me and I will give you the nations  
for your inheritance  
and the ends of the earth for your possession.  
You shall crush them with an iron rod  
and shatter them like a piece of pottery." **R**

And now, you kings, be wise;  
be warned, you rulers of the earth.  
Submit to the Lord with fear,  
and with trembling bow before him;  
lest he be angry and you perish;  
for his wrath is quickly kindled.  
Happy are they all  
who take refuge in him! **R**

**Or Psalm 99**

**R** *He spoke to them out of the pillar of cloud.*

The Lord is king; let the people tremble;  
he is enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth shake.  
The Lord is great in Zion;  
he is high above all peoples.  
Let them confess his name, which is great and awesome;  
he is the Holy One. **R**

"O mighty King, lover of justice,  
you have established equity;  
you have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob."  
Proclaim the greatness of the Lord our God  
and fall down before his footstool;  
he is the Holy One. **R**

Moses and Aaron among his priests,  
and Samuel among those who call upon his name,  
they called upon the Lord and he answered them.  
He spoke to them out of the pillar of cloud;  
they kept his testimonies  
and the decree that he gave them. **R**

"O Lord our God, you answered them indeed;  
you were a God who forgave them,  
yet punished them for their evil deeds."  
Proclaim the greatness of the Lord our God  
and worship him upon his holy hill;  
for the Lord our God is the Holy One. **R**

**SECOND READING 2 Peter 1:16-end**  
*A reading from the second letter of Peter.*

We did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus

Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty. For he received honour and glory from God the Father when that voice was conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased." We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain. So we have the prophetic message more fully confirmed. You will do well to be attentive to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, because no prophecy ever came by human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

**GOSPEL Matthew 17:1-9**

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

Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. Then Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, "This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!" When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Get up and do not be afraid." And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone. As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, "Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead."

**POST COMMUNION**

Holy God,  
we see your glory in the face of Jesus Christ:  
may we who are partakers at his table reflect his life in word and deed,  
that all the world may know  
his power to change and save.  
This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord.



Sunday 19 February 2023  
Matthew 5:38-48  
7th Sunday in Ordinary Time

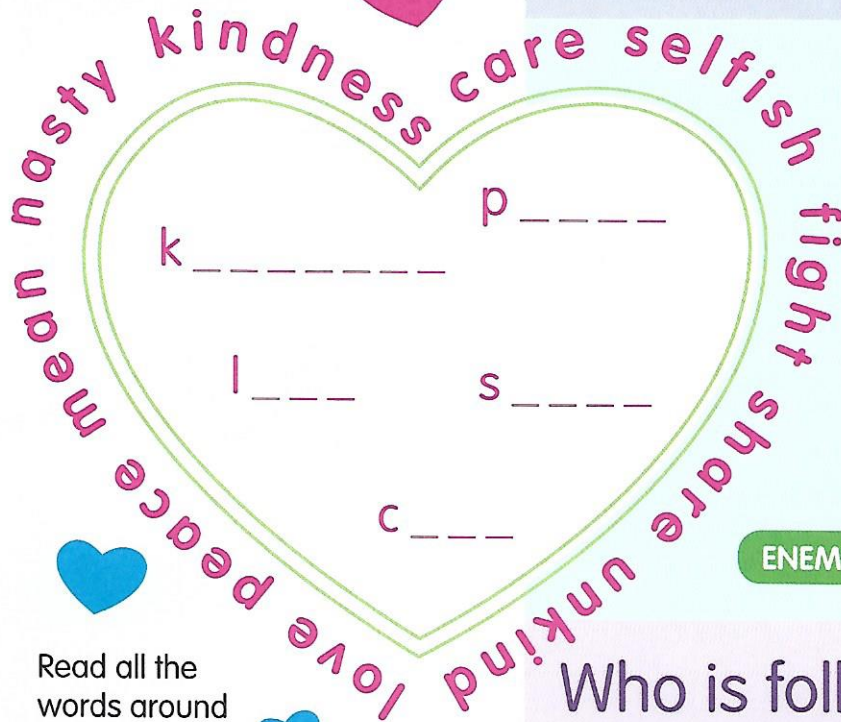
In the  
**GOSPEL TODAY**

**LOVE EVERYONE!**

Have a heart  
full of love



Jesus tells his friends that the old rules have changed. People used to think it was all right to get your own back if someone hurt you. Jesus says that is not right. He asks us to forgive people, even if they hurt us. Jesus even says that we should love our enemies and pray for them. Jesus will help us as we try to be like him, sharing love in the world.



### Missing words

Fill in the spaces in this sentence to show how we should behave.

\_\_\_\_\_ wants \_\_\_\_\_  
to \_\_\_\_\_ our \_\_\_\_\_  
and \_\_\_\_\_ for them.

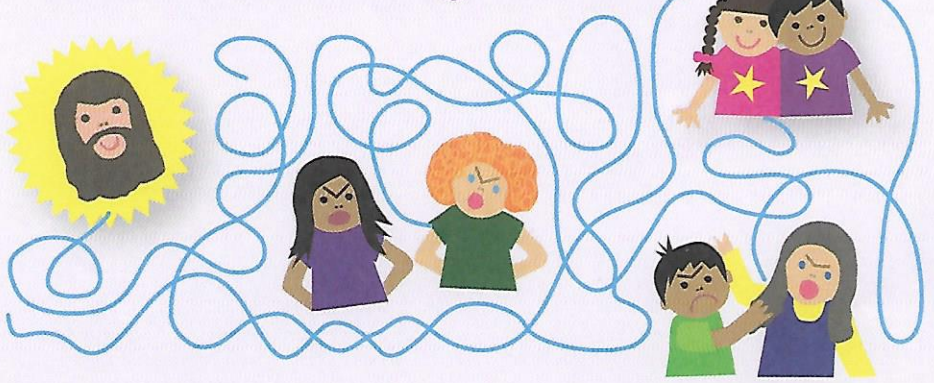
- ENEMIES
- US
- PRAY
- JESUS
- LOVE

Read all the words around the heart.

Use these words to help you finish the words that belong inside the heart. Cross out the words that don't belong.

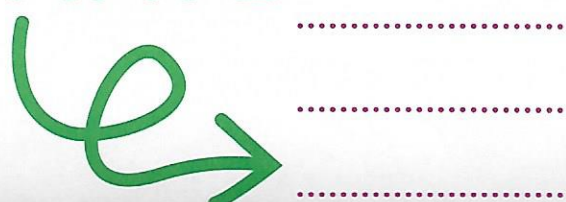


### Who is following Jesus?



### Change hate to love

**HATE**



Change one letter to make a new word on each row and you can change hate into love!

**LOVE**

### A PRAYER TO SAY

Sometimes it is hard, Jesus, to be kind to people who are unkind to me. I know that you will be with me as I try to be more loving. Please help me to be even more like you. Amen.

Answers: Changes: hate, have, live, love. Loving heart: kindness, peace, love, share, care.