



The Shrivenham and Ashbury Benefice

'Mirroring the hospitality of God'

Vicar: The Rev'd Norma Fergusson. Tel 01793 784338
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Sunday 26th February 2023

First Sunday of 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 26th February

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

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

Monday

6:30pm Shrivenham, St Andrew & [Facebook](#)
Compline for Lent

Tuesday

9:00am Morning Prayer. Live on [Facebook](#)
1:00pm Bereavement Café
St Andrew's Vicarage

Wednesday 1st March

9:00am Morning Prayer. Live on [Facebook](#)
9:15am Song and Stories Toddler Group
Shrivenham Methodist Church
10:30am Wednesday Study Group via Zoom
2:00pm Shrivenham, St Andrew & [Facebook](#)
ASK Holy Communion
6:00pm Longcot with Fernham PCC Meeting
St Mary's Longcot
7:00pm Wednesday Study Group
St Andrew's Vicarage

Thursday

9:00am Matins. Live on [Facebook](#)
9:00am Baby & Toddler Group in St Andrew's
Shrivenham, St Andrew
3:15pm Messy Church
6:30pm Benefice Choir Practice in St Andrew's
7:45 pm Confirmation Class, St Andrew's Vicarage

Friday

9:00am Ashbury, St Mary & [Facebook](#)
Matins
9:30am Shrivenham School Service in St Andrew's
11:30am Longcot, St Mary
Funeral – Susan Helen Bull RIP
2:00pm Ashbury, St Mary & Facebook
World Day of Prayer Service

Saturday

10:00am Bourton, St James
Family Service
11:30am Fernham Churchyard
Ashes Interment – Ian Gillies Bell RIP

Sunday 5th March

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

World Day of Prayer Friday 3rd March

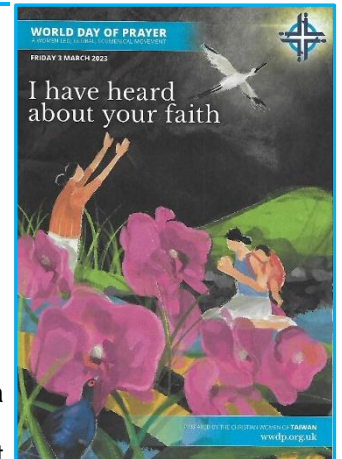
World Day of Prayer is an international, inter-church organisation which enables us to hear the thoughts of women from all parts of the world: their hopes, concerns and prayers.

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.



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.

Community Cycle of Prayer

Please pray this week for all who live and work in Berrycroft Lane in Ashbury, and Chestnut Gardens and Recreation Ground in Shrivenham.

Living Your Best Life?

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.

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.

Contact Norma for further information. 01793 784338
vicar@shrivenhamandashbury.co.uk

Royal Army Chaplains' Museum Shrivenham – Faith in the Forces

Last week, the study group that meets on Wednesday evenings at St Andrew's Vicarage enjoyed a visit to the Royal Army Chaplains' Museum to discover the surprising story of Faith in the Forces.



The Museum is open to the public and is located at the Beckett Gate entrance to the Defence Academy of the United Kingdom, outside of the perimeter fence. It is open from Monday to Friday between 1:30pm and 5pm and entry is free. Car parking spaces are available for visitors next to the S6 bus stop.

Visitors can see how clergy have accompanied the Army in times of war and peace.

Hear how those padres have guided and cared for troops.

Explore how soldiers in tough times have wrestled with religion and belief.

Remember and reflect on the biggest issues of life in the military.

Group visits can be arranged outside normal opening hours by contacting the curator, David Blake, on 07917 790916 or by email racm1796@gmail.com

COLLECT

Almighty God,
 whose Son Jesus Christ fasted forty days
 in the wilderness,
 and was tempted as we are, yet without
 sin:
 give us grace to discipline ourselves in
 obedience to your Spirit;
 and, as you know our weakness,
 so may we know your power to save;
 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

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

A reading from the book of Genesis.
 The LORD God took the man and
 put him in the garden of Eden to till
 it and keep it. And the LORD God
 commanded the man, "You may freely
 eat of every tree of the garden; but of
 the tree of the knowledge of good and
 evil you shall not eat, for in the day that
 you eat of it you shall die." Now the
 serpent was more crafty than any other
 wild animal that the LORD God had
 made. He said to the woman, "Did God
 say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in
 the garden?'" The woman said to the
 serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the
 trees in the garden; but God said, 'You
 shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that
 is in the middle of the garden, nor shall
 you touch it, or you shall die.'" But the
 serpent said to the woman, "You will
 not die; for God knows that when you
 eat of it your eyes will be opened, and
 you will be like God, knowing good and
 evil." So when the woman saw that the
 tree was good for food, and that it was
 a delight to the eyes, and that the tree
 was to be desired to make one wise,
 she took of its fruit and ate; and she
 also gave some to her husband, who
 was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes
 of both were opened, and they knew
 that they were naked; and they sewed
 fig leaves together and made loincloths
 for themselves.

PSALM Psalm 32

R *I will confess my transgressions to the Lord.*

Happy are they whose transgressions
 are forgiven,
 and whose sin is put away!
 Happy are they to whom the Lord
 imputes no guilt,
 and in whose spirit there is no guile! **R**

While I held my tongue, my bones
 withered away,
 because of my groaning all day long.
 For your hand was heavy upon me day
 and night;
 my moisture was dried up as in the heat
 of summer. **R**

Then I acknowledged my sin to you,
 and did not conceal my guilt.
 I said, "I will confess my transgressions
 to the Lord";
 then you forgave me the guilt of my
 sin. **R**

Therefore all the faithful will make their
 prayers to you
 in time of trouble;
 when the great waters overflow, they
 shall not reach them.
 You are my hiding-place;
 you preserve me from trouble;
 you surround me with shouts of
 deliverance. **R**

"I will instruct you and teach you
 in the way that you should go;
 I will guide you with my eye.
 Do not be like horse or mule,
 which have no understanding;
 who must be fitted with bit and bridle,
 or else they will not stay near you." **R**

Great are the tribulations of the wicked;
 but mercy embraces those who trust
 in the Lord.
 Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in
 the Lord;
 shout for joy, all who are true of heart. **R**

SECOND READING Romans 5:12-19

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

Just as sin came into the world through
 one man, and death came through sin,
 and so death spread to all because all
 have sinned – sin was indeed in the
 world before the law, but sin is not
 reckoned when there is no law. Yet
 death exercised dominion from Adam to
 Moses, even over those whose sins were
 not like the transgression of Adam, who
 is a type of the one who was to come.
 But the free gift is not like the trespass.
 For if the many died through the one
 man's trespass, much more surely have
 the grace of God and the free gift in
 the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ,
 abounded for the many. And the free
 gift is not like the effect of the one
 man's sin. For the judgement following
 one trespass brought condemnation but
 the free gift following many trespasses
 brings justification. If, because of the
 one man's trespass, death exercised

dominion through that one, much
 more surely will those who receive the
 abundance of grace and the free gift
 of righteousness exercise dominion in
 life through the one man, Jesus Christ.
 Therefore just as one man's trespass
 led to condemnation for all, so the
 act of righteousness of one leads to
 justification and life for all. For just as
 by the one person's disobedience the
 many were made sinners, so by the one
 man's obedience the many will be made
 righteous.

GOSPEL Matthew 4:1-11

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

Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the
 wilderness to be tempted by the devil.
 He fasted forty days and forty nights,
 and afterwards he was famished. The
 tempter came and said to him, "If you
 are the Son of God, command these
 stones to become loaves of bread." But
 he answered, "It is written, 'One does
 not live by bread alone, but by every
 word that comes from the mouth of
 God.'" Then the devil took him to the
 holy city and placed him on the pinnacle
 of the temple, saying to him, "If you are
 the Son of God, throw yourself down;
 for it is written, 'He will command his
 angels concerning you,' and 'On their
 hands they will bear you up, so that
 you will not dash your foot against a
 stone.'" Jesus said to him, "Again it is
 written, 'Do not put the Lord your God
 to the test.'" Again, the devil took him
 to a very high mountain and showed
 him all the kingdoms of the world and
 their splendour; and he said to him, "All
 these I will give you, if you will fall down
 and worship me." Jesus said to him,
 "Away with you, Satan! for it is written,
 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve
 only him.'" Then the devil left him,
 and suddenly angels came and waited
 on him.

POST COMMUNION

Lord God,
 you have renewed us with the living
 bread from heaven;
 by it you nourish our faith,
 increase our hope,
 and strengthen our love:
 teach us always to hunger for him
 who is the true and living bread,
 and enable us to live by every word
 that proceeds from out of your mouth;
 through Jesus Christ our Lord.

LOOK

Sunday 26 February 2023
Matthew 4:1-11
1st Sunday of Lent

In the GOSPEL TODAY

MAKE GOOD CHOICES!

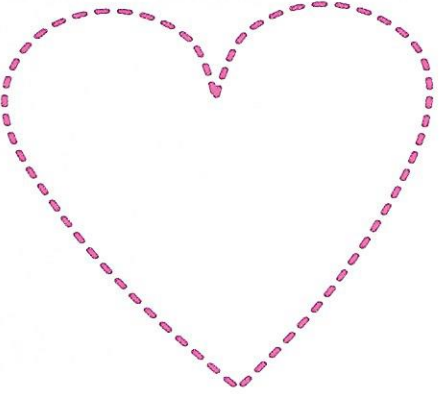
Jesus goes into the wilderness. He is tempted three times to do bad things. Jesus knows he must put God first. He makes the right choices and says "no" to temptation.



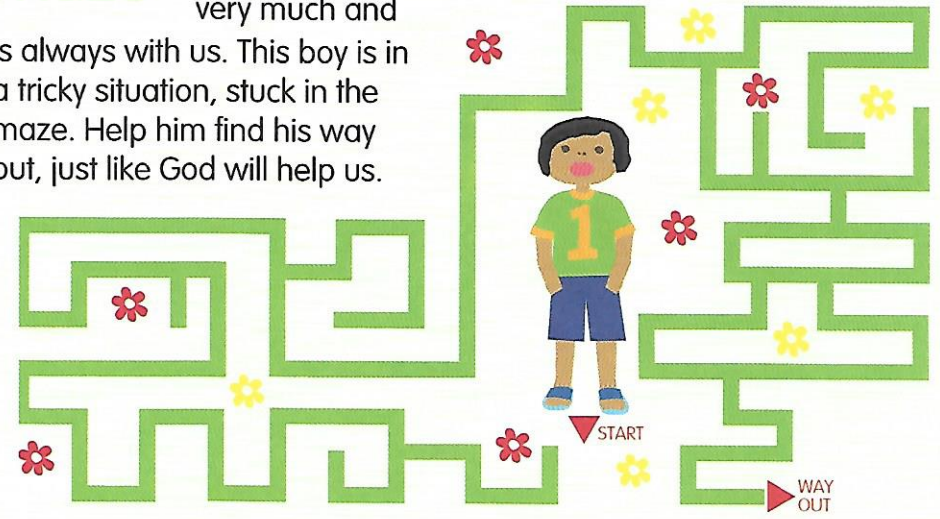
Loving God

Jesus loves God the Father very much. Jesus shows us how to love God too.

Draw yourself doing something which shows you love God inside this heart.



Maze God loves us all very much and is always with us. This boy is in a tricky situation, stuck in the maze. Help him find his way out, just like God will help us.



In Lent there are three ways we try to love God more. We try to love God when we...

(y a r p)
 (s a t f)
 give
 (n y e o m)

How many angels?

God the Father sent the angels to help Jesus. How many angels can you find on this page?



Say no to bad things

Put a tick or a cross in the boxes to say whether you would listen to these children or not.

Hit your friend hard
 Steal some money
 Hug and kiss your mummy or daddy
 Shares your sweets

A PRAYER TO SAY

Jesus, it is not always easy to make the right choices, Help me to be like you. Help me to say no to the things that aren't good for me. Amen.



Answers: Six angels. In Lent we: Pray, fast, give money.