



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 5th February 2023

Candlemas



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 5th 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
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](#)
Choral Evensong with Benefice Choir

Tuesday

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

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 Wednesday Study Group
St Andrew's Vicarage

Thursday

- 9:00am Matins. Live on [Facebook](#)
- 9:00am Baby & Toddler Group in St Andrew's
- 10:00am Ashbury, St Mary & [Facebook](#)
Holy Communion
- 6:30pm Benefice Choir Practice in St Andrew's

Friday

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

Saturday

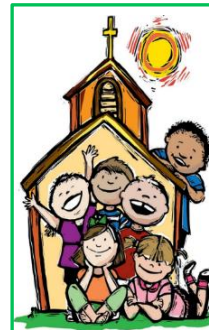
10:00am Café Inspire in Shrivenham School Hall

Sunday 12th February

- 9:30am Longcot, St Mary
Holy Communion
- 9:30am Watchfield, St Thomas.
Matins
- 10:15am Shrivenham, St Andrew & [Facebook](#)
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

Community Cycle of Prayer

Please pray this week for all who live and work
in Wixes Piece in Ashbury, and Chapelwick Close
and Cowleaze Close in Shrivenham.



Benefice Sunday School – 12th February at 3pm

St Thomas' Church Watchfield
followed by refreshments
in the Village Hall.
Open to all children aged 4 – 11 in
the Benefice.
Any parent/s who wish to stay for the
whole time are welcome to do so, as
extra help is always appreciated.

Safer Internet Day – Tuesday 7th February

Safer Internet Day 2023 Tuesday 7 February
Coordinated by the UK Safer Internet Centre
saferinternetday.org.uk

Want to talk about it?
Making space for conversations about life online

UK Safer Internet Centre | Safer Internet Day 2023 | Tuesday 7 February

For advice and resources to help parents keep their children safe online visit www.saferinternet.org.uk

Café Inspire

Saturday 11th February

10 – 11:30am

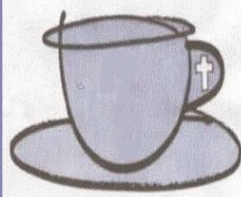
Shrivenham School Hall
All ages welcome

Chat or browse the newspapers.
Toys, craft-based activities and a
Wii to entertain younger visitors.

Free tea, coffee and squash.

Bacon rolls £1.50 and cakes 60p per slice.

Café Inspire



Preparation for Confirmation

We will be running a short course to prepare candidates for confirmation. If you would like to take part, please contact Norma for more information.

vicar@shrivenhamandashbury.co.uk 01793 784338

The confirmation service will be led by Bishop Gavin on Sunday 18th June at St Andrew's Shrivenham.

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.

Soup On Saturday – Thank You

Thank you to everyone who supported the soup kitchen in St Andrew's Church last Saturday. With a good choice of soups on offer, great raffle prizes, home-made goodies, cards and paintings, and a very warm welcome for all who came along, we were delighted to raise £422 for general church funds and £25 for the restoration fund.

Puzzles and Puddings Evening

Saturday 18th February at 7:30pm
Shrivenham Bowls Club in Martens Road

Tickets: £10 per person including puddings available from Bob Mawer on 01793 780038 or email bob.mawer.bm@gmail.com.

The Bowls Club bar will also be open.

Teams of up to 6 people will enjoy a mixture of quiz questions and puzzles. You may come as a team or as individuals (in which case you will be allocated to a team on the night). Early booking is advised.

The aim of this event is to raise much-needed funds for Phakamisa, a charity in South Africa which, through its Educare Project, educates and cares for around 10,000 children under the age of seven (mainly AIDS orphans) every week-day. More information from

www.phakamisa.org

Adventure in Lithuania

Friday 17th February at 6:45pm
St Andrew's Church Shrivenham

Family connections and a Church invitation to take Alpha to Lithuania has opened new opportunities for Geoff and Hope Price. They will share the joys and reality of Christian life in Lithuania today.

Free admission

St Andrew's Church – Flag of St George

Shrivenham residents may have noticed that the flag of St George, which normally flies from the church tower from Christmas until 6th January, came down early this year. Unfortunately, the wind was getting too strong and also it was beginning to show its age with a big tear developing. The flag, which includes the Diocesan coat of arms, is flown for at least 20 days a year, whereas our St Andrew's flag and Union flag make just one appearance each!

A new flag will cost about £160, and if anyone would like to make a donation towards the purchase, please contact David Watson on 01793 783405 shrivenhamchurchwarden@outlook.com



You can see this mounted and framed Diocesan emblem from a previous flag displayed on one of the window sills in St Andrew's Church.

The Arms of the Diocese of Oxford

The Arms of the Diocese comprise two parts. In the lower part the ox passing a ford represents Oxford. In the upper part, the three demi ladies are thought to be St Frideswide, c.650-727, the first Abbess of Oxford and her two patron saints, Cecilia and Catherine. The latter two may also be her companions who fled into hiding with her in an early account of her life. Frideswide was a Saxon princess and healer and her name means "Peace" (frithes), "Strong" (withe).

COLLECT

Almighty and ever-living God,
clothed in majesty,
whose beloved Son
was this day presented in the Temple,
in substance of our flesh:
grant that we may be presented to you
with pure and clean hearts,
by your Son Jesus Christ our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING Malachi 3:1-5

A reading from the book of the prophet Malachi.

Thus says the LORD God: See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight – indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years. Then I will draw near to you for judgement; I will be swift to bear witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired workers in their wages, the widow, and the orphan, against those who thrust aside the alien, and do not fear me, says the LORD of hosts.

PSALM Psalm 24:[1-6] 7-end

R *The Lord of hosts,
he is the king of glory.*

or

R *The Lord whom you seek
will suddenly come.*

[The earth is the Lord's and all that
is in it,
the world and all who dwell therein.
For it is he who founded it upon the
seas
and made it firm upon the rivers of
the deep. **R**

"Who can ascend the hill of the Lord?
and who can stand in his holy place?"

"Those who have clean hands and a
Pure heart,
who have not pledged themselves to
falsehood,
nor sworn by what is a fraud. **R**

They shall receive a blessing from the
Lord
and a just reward from the God of
their salvation."
Such is the generation of those who
seek him,
of those who seek your face, O God
of Jacob. **R]**

Lift up your heads, O gates;
lift them high, O everlasting doors;
and the King of glory shall come in.
"Who is this King of glory?"
"The Lord, strong and mighty,
the Lord, mighty in battle." **R**

Lift up your heads, O gates;
lift them high, O everlasting doors;
and the King of glory shall come in.
"Who is he, this King of glory?"
"The Lord of hosts,
he is the King of glory." **R**

SECOND READING Hebrews 2:14-end

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

Since the children share flesh and blood, Jesus himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

GOSPEL Luke 2:22-40

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

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, Mary and Joseph brought Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), and they offered a sacrifice

according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons." Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, "Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel." And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed – and a sword will pierce your own soul too." There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.

POST COMMUNION

Lord, you fulfilled the hope of Simeon and
Anna,
who lived to welcome the Messiah:
may we, who have received these gifts
beyond words,
prepare to meet Christ Jesus
when he comes to bring us to eternal
life;
for he is alive and reigns, now and for
ever.



Sunday 5 February 2023
Matthew 5:13-16
5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

In the **GOSPEL TODAY**

TRUST GOD!

I will shine

We shine with God's love when we are kind and helpful.

Draw yourself inside the lamp doing something kind today.



Jesus says that his friends are salt for the earth and light for the world. A small pinch of salt makes a big difference to the taste of food. Light gets rid of darkness. When we live as God asks, we will shine with God's light and love and make a big difference to the world.

Spot the difference

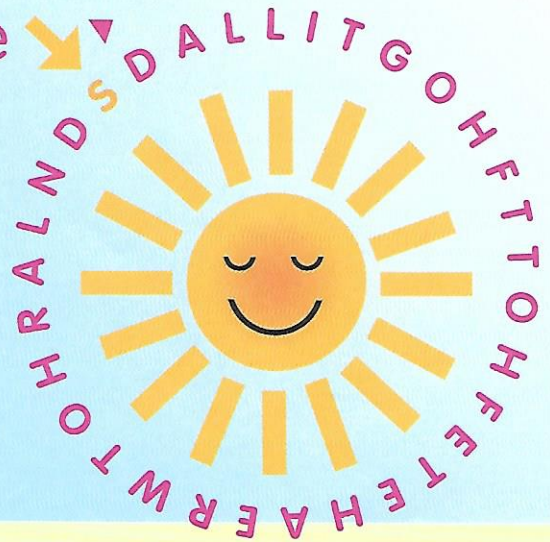


Can you find the **five** differences between these two candles?

Jesus' message

Start with the letter arrowed and use every other letter, skipping the **S** the second time around, to find what Jesus said in today's Gospel.

You are the _____



A PRAYER TO SAY

Help me, Jesus, to be like you. Help me to shine with your love and goodness, so that I will make the world a better place. Amen.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Each letter appears only once in each row and column.

Fill in this table so that the letters **SALT** fit in every square.

S			T
	T		
	S		
A			S

Answers: salt of the earth and light of the world