



The Shrivenham and Ashbury Benefice

'Mirroring the hospitality of God'

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Sunday 12th March 2023

Third 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 12th March

We are sharing Bishop Steven's weekly 'Come and See' films as our sermons during Lent.

Watch on [Facebook](#), [YouTube](#) or our [website](#) from 9am.

- 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

Monday

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

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
Confirmation Class, St Andrew's Vicarage

Friday

- 9:00am Matins. Live on [Facebook](#)
- 3:00pm Bourton, St James
Funeral – Richard Gleave RIP
- 5:30pm Shrivenham, St Andrew
Worship and Praise

Saturday

- 8:30am Men's Breakfast
Prince of Wales, Shrivenham
- 11:30am Bourton, St James
Ashes Interment – Fred Jefferies RIP

Mothering Sunday 19th March

- 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
Holy Communion by Extension
- 10:15am Shrivenham, St Andrew & [Facebook](#)
Holy Communion
- 11:00am Ashbury, St Mary
Mothering Sunday Service

Come and See

The portrait

From the beginning of his ministry Jesus invites women and men to follow him, to be his disciples.



**COME
AND
SEE**

Have you answered the call?
[oxford.anglican.org/come-and-see](https://www.oxford.anglican.org/come-and-see)

In this week's film the Bishop of Oxford asks us to consider the Beatitudes as a portrait of Jesus, the one the crowds have gone up the mountains to see. They sense something in Jesus which is unique, different. It's more than the miracles. It's more than the wisdom of his teaching. It is the person he is: somehow Jesus embodies and inhabits each of these qualities. Almighty God has become a person and shown us a different way to live.

'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.

If you prefer not to sign up to the daily emails, the Diocese posts a link to each day's resources on its website. There is also a link to a weekly set of resources especially for children and families.

Visit <https://www.oxford.anglican.org/come-and-see/>

Benefice Sunday School 12th March 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.

Condolences

Our condolences to the family and friends of the late Ronald Fone. Please keep them in your prayers.

Church Electoral Rolls

Church electoral rolls will be revised before the annual parish meetings. Please let your parish Electoral Roll Officer know if your contact details have changed since last year. If you would like to join the electoral roll, please contact your church's PCC Secretary or Churchwarden, or pick up an application form in church.

Annual Parish Meetings

Shrivenham, W & B	Tuesday 18th April 7pm
Compton Beauchamp	Saturday 22nd April 11am
Longcot & Fernham	Tuesday 25th April 6pm
Ashbury	Thursday 27th April 7pm

All welcome

Friday Morning Café

Shrivenham Methodist Church



The Café is open between 10am and 1pm on Friday mornings serving drinks, biscuits and soup. There is a toddler play area and Wi-Fi is available.

Everyone is welcome.

The Well at Watchfield

Tuesday 14th March at 7:30pm

The Well met at Rove's Farm in February, helping out again with the Wonky Veg project which supports the community. We shall be having another regular evening meeting at AFCU offices (Unit 24 in the Business Park) on Tuesday 14th March at 7:30pm.

The Well continues to grow (or deepen!) each month with new people attending - we have also established a link with the Swindon Drop-in Centre and that has proved valuable.

The Well gathering is a safe and resourceful space for anyone affected by issues around post-conflict trauma, moral injury or PTSD. That might be because of your own active military service or very possibly for those connected through family links. All are very welcome to just listen, or to be listened to, in friendly and militarily-savvy company. Refreshments will be included, and we finish by around 9:15pm.

If you have any questions please email jeremyclare@hotmail.com

Just when it seemed that Spring was on its way!



Ashbury crossroads post box. Photo: Maggie Simons



Daffodils peeping through the snow. Photo: Erica Crabtree

A Prayer for Renewal

Heavenly Father, in Jesus name we ask for a fresh outpouring of your Holy Spirit on our Benefice. Help us to grow in our experience of your love, forgiveness and healing.

Challenge our contentment to stay as we are. Renew our vision of what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ.

That through our words and the way we live, others may be drawn to his way.

Give us the wisdom to seek your will and grant us the joy that comes from wholeheartedly following it. For your Glory and the good of all your people. Amen

Revd Nicholas Gandy OGS



Ashbury churchyard. Photo: Richard Fergusson

COLLECT

Almighty God,
whose most dear Son went not up to joy but
first he suffered pain,
and entered not into glory before he was
crucified:
mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of
the cross,
may find it none other than the way of life and
peace;
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 Exodus 17:1-7

A reading from the book of Exodus.

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarrelled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?" But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" So Moses cried out to the LORD, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." The LORD said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarrelled and tested the LORD, saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"

PSALM Psalm 95

R O that today you would hearken to his voice!

Harden not your hearts.

Come, let us sing to the Lord;
let us shout for joy to the rock of our
salvation.

Let us come before his presence with
thanksgiving
and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.
For the Lord is a great God,
and a great king above all gods. **R**

In his hand are the depths of the earth,
and the heights of the hills are his also.
The sea is his, for he made it,
and his hands have moulded the dry land. **R**

Come, let us bow down and bend the knee,
and kneel before the Lord our Maker.
For he is our God,
and we are the people of his pasture
and the sheep of his hand.

O that today you would hearken to his
voice! **R**

"Harden not your hearts,
as your forebears did in the wilderness,
at Meribah, and on that day at Massah,
when they tempted me.

They put me to the test,
though they had seen my works. **R**

Forty years long I detested that generation
and said,

'This people are wayward in their hearts;
they do not know my ways.'

So I swore in my wrath,
'They shall not enter into my rest.'" **R**

SECOND READING Romans 5:1-11

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person – though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

GOSPEL John 4:5-42

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

Jesus came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon. A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming

here to draw water." Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back." The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!" The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshipped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem." Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us." Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one who is speaking to you." Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you want?" or, "Why are you speaking with her?" Then the woman left her water-jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, "Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?" They left the city and were on their way to him. Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, "Rabbi, eat something." But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about." So the disciples said to one another, "Surely no one has brought him something to eat?" Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. Do you not say, 'Four months more, then comes the harvest'? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. For here the saying holds true, 'One sows and another reaps.' I sent you to reap that for which you did not labour. Others have laboured, and you have entered into their labour." Many Samaritans from that city believed in Jesus because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I have ever done." So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there for two days. And many more believed because of his word. They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Saviour of the world."

POST COMMUNION

Merciful Lord,
grant your people grace to withstand the
temptations of the world, the flesh and the
devil,
and with pure hearts and minds to follow you,
the only God;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

LOOK

Sunday 12 March 2023
John 4:5-42
3rd Sunday of Lent

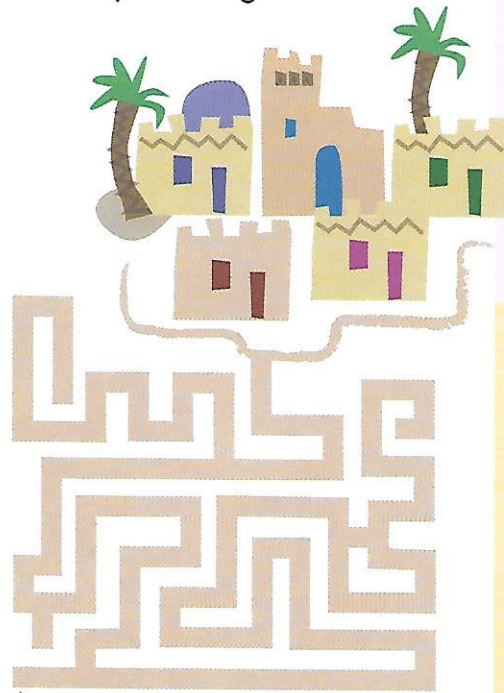
In the GOSPEL TODAY

WATER OF LIFE

Jesus asks a Samaritan woman for a drink. She gives him water and he gives her "living water" – the love of God! Jesus offers love to all of us, no matter who we are.

Maze

Help the woman find the quickest way back to town to tell everyone her good news.



Which jar?

The Samaritan woman has to lower a jar on a rope down the well to collect water. Which is her jar?



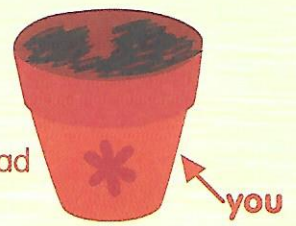
Growing

This plant has soil and sun. What else does it need to grow? W _____
(r t a e)

With water this plant will grow bigger, stronger and even more beautiful. With Jesus we will grow bigger, stronger and even more beautiful too!

Draw yourself with the plant. Show how beautiful and strong you will be with Jesus living in your heart.

Draw this same plant after it has had some water.



Unexpected kindness

The Samaritan woman did not expect Jesus to talk to her with such kindness.

This is because Jesus was a Jew, and Jews and Samaritans did not speak to each other.

Draw a picture of someone you will speak kindly to.

Today I will speak kindly to...

A PRAYER TO SAY

Thank you, Jesus, for loving me so much. Thank you for knowing everything about me and loving me just the same! Amen.