



The Shrivenham and Ashbury Benefice

'Mirroring the hospitality of God'

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Sunday 5th March 2023

Second 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 5th 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.

- 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

Monday

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

Tuesday

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

7:00pm Wednesday Study Group
St Andrew's Vicarage
Note change of day

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

11:00am Ashbury, St Mary
Funeral – Stephen Butler RIP

7:00pm Shrivenham, Watchfield & Bourton PCC
St Andrew's Shrivenham

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

7:45 pm Confirmation Class, St Andrew's Vicarage

Friday

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

Saturday

10:00am Café Inspire in Shrivenham School Hall

Sunday 12th March

- 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

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 mirror

The Beatitudes show us the very best of what it means to be human: how to live the most fruitful life we can.



COME AND SEE

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.

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/>

Condolences

Our condolences to the family and friends of the late Andrew Swale. 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.

Community Cycle of Prayer

Please pray this week for all who live and work in Chapel Lane in Ashbury, and Church Walk and Faringdon Road 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.

Café Inspire Saturday 11th February

10 – 11:30am

Shrivenham School Hall

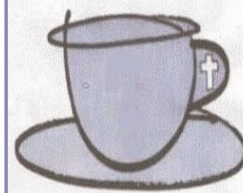
All ages welcome

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



Messy Church

Messy Church met in St. Andrew's on Thursday 2nd March.

The theme for this session was John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his only son so that all who believe in him should not perish but have everlasting life." So all the crafts this month were designed to help us remember that God

loves us. We made fridge magnets from hama beads in the shape of either a cross or a heart; collage pictures of the whole world; puzzles which when folded correctly made John 3:16; a cross from our hand prints to be displayed in church and iced heart shaped biscuits (which we ate after our hot dogs!)

Our next meeting is Thursday 23rd March (a week earlier than usual!), and all families from the Benefice are very welcome to attend. Check the Newsletter for sign up details or follow Standfast on Facebook. We are always looking for volunteers to help so please get in touch if you can spare a few hours on a Thursday afternoon once a month.

<https://www.facebook.com/Standfastshrivenham>





In the
GOSPEL TODAY

Helping and Healing

rtocdo

The disciples were frightened by the voice from heaven. Jesus touched them and took away their fear. These people use their hands to help and heal people.

Who are they? Match the jumbled word to the picture

enusr add umm



Can you think of any others?

.....

Jesus takes his friends up a mountain. Jesus changes and shines brightly with God's glory. Jesus' friends have a glimpse of who Jesus really is. A voice from heaven tells the disciples, "This is my Son. I love him. Listen to him."

Listen to him!

THIS IS MY SON, THE BELIEVED

Join the dots to find out what God said to Jesus.



Colour Jesus' clothes shining brightly.

How do you know?

Circle the pictures which show that someone loves you.



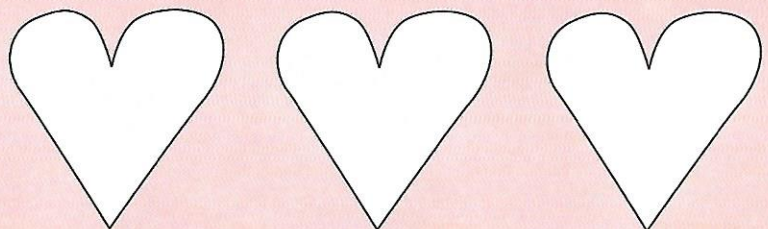
How do YOU show someone that you love them? Write down your thoughts.

.....

A PRAYER TO SAY

Thank you, Jesus, for loving me. Thank you for always standing with me and showing me that you love me. Help me to share your love with the people I meet today. Amen.

Jesus KNOWS that God loves him.



Who loves you? Write a name or draw a picture in the hearts.

COLLECT

Almighty God,
you show to those who are in error
the light of your truth,
that they may return to the way of
righteousness:
grant to all those who are admitted
into the fellowship of Christ's
religion,
that they may reject those things that
are contrary to their profession,
and follow all such things as are
agreeable to the same;
through our Lord Jesus Christ,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING Genesis 12:1-4a

A reading from the book of Genesis.

The LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him.

PSALM Psalm 121

R *My help comes from the Lord,
[the maker of heaven and earth].*

I lift up my eyes to the hills;
from where is my help to come?
My help comes from the Lord,
the maker of heaven and earth. **R**

He will not let your foot be moved
and he who watches over you will not
fall asleep.

Behold, he who keeps watch over
Israel
shall neither slumber nor sleep. **R**

The Lord himself watches over you;
the Lord is your shade at your right
hand,
so that the sun shall not strike you by
day,
nor the moon by night. **R**

The Lord shall preserve you from all
evil;
it is he who shall keep you safe.

The Lord shall watch over your going
out
and your coming in,
from this time forth for evermore. **R**

SECOND READING

Romans 4:1-5. 13-17

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

What are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness. For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation. For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations") – Abraham believed in the presence of the God who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

GOSPEL John 3:1-17

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

There was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God." Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the

kingdom of God without being born from above." Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."

POST COMMUNION

Almighty God,
you see that we have no power of
ourselves to help ourselves:
keep us both outwardly in our bodies,
and inwardly in our souls;
that we may be defended from all
adversities which may happen to
the body,
and from all evil thoughts
which may assault and hurt the soul;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.