



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 21st May 2023

Seventh Sunday of Easter



Please do not come into church if you think you may have symptoms of Covid 19.

Sunday 21st May

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 Longcot, St Mary Morning Prayer
- 9:30am Watchfield, St Thomas
Matins
- 10:00am Bourton, St James & [Facebook](#)
Holy Communion
- 10:15am Shrivenham, St Andrew
Holy Communion
- 5:30pm Ashbury, St Mary
Hymns and Pimms

Tuesday

- 9:00am Morning Prayer. Live on [Facebook](#)
- 12:30pm Ashbury, St Mary
Funeral – Hazel Ruby Hoare RIP

Wednesday

- 9:00am Shrivenham, St Andrew & [Facebook](#)
Morning Prayer
- 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
- 12 noon Ashbury, St Mary
Funeral – Elizabeth Ryan RIP
- 3:15pm Shrivenham, St Andrew
Messy Church
- 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
- 2:00pm Bourton, St James
Pinewood School Service

Sunday 28th May Pentecost

- 9:30am Longcot, St Mary
Holy Communion by Extension
- 9:30am Watchfield, St Thomas
Holy Communion (BCP)
- 10:15am Shrivenham, St Andrew
Morning Prayer
- 11:00am Ashbury, St Mary & [Facebook](#)
Holy Communion
- 2:30pm Shrivenham, St Andrew
Baptism

Hymns and Pimms at St Mary's Ashbury

Sunday 21st May at 5:30pm



Join us for a special Songs of Praise where we can enjoy singing some of our favourite hymns as well as a glass (or two!) of Pimms.

Community Cycle of Prayer

Please pray this week for all who live and work in Station Road in Ashbury and Days Ground Shrivenham.

Condolences

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

The Lectio Course: How to Hear God by Praying the Bible

Starts Wednesday 24th May

The Lectio Course is based on Pete Greig's book, "How to Hear God", and explores the ancient practice of Lectio Divina. Each 15-minute video session unpacks a different aspect of Lectio Divina, explaining very practically how to do it. The 5 sessions also feature remarkable guests sharing their experiences and wisdom in this area.

Join us in person at 7pm in St Andrew's Vicarage.
Contact Richard Fergusson for more information.

richard.fergusson.lm@btinternet.com

Or join us online via Zoom at 10:30am.
Contact David Ahern for more information.

davidmahern@gmail.com

The Well at Watchfield

Interest in our local Well has spread into neighbouring counties, and enquiries about digging new "Wells" have now come in from elsewhere!

The idea is simple: to offer a friendly and militarily-savvy gathering point, which welcomes veterans and families who are experiencing any form of post-combat trauma or stress, for a helpful, resourceful evening.

You are very welcome to join us at our next meeting, with refreshments, at 7:30pm on Tuesday 23rd May at the AFCU office, Unit 24 in the Business Park off Majors Road in Watchfield.

Please address any enquiries, or questions seeking further details to: jeremyclare@hotmail.com



St Andrew's Shrivensham
Thursday 25th May
from 3:15 – 5pm

Messy Church is a church
with a difference!

A chance to be creative, hear Bible stories, eat yummy food and have fun with friends and family.
Suggested donation of £1.50 per child.

To book click [here](#),
scan the QR code or email
standfast.shrivensham@yahoo.com

**Messy Church is open to
the whole Benefice.**



More from the Coronation Celebrations



Flower arrangement in St Andrew's.



Activities at the Messy Church held just before the Coronation included making bunting, flags, crowns and guardsmen.



COLLECT

O God the King of glory,
 you have exalted your only Son Jesus
 Christ
 with great triumph to your kingdom in
 heaven:
 we beseech you, leave us not
 comfortless,
 but send your Holy Spirit to strengthen
 us
 and exalt us to the place where our
 Saviour Christ is gone before,
 who is alive and reigns with you,
 in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
 one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING

The reading from Acts must be used as either the first or second reading.

Either **Acts 1:6-14**

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

When the apostles had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up towards heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up towards heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven." Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away. When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

Or **Ezekiel 36:24-28**

PSALM Psalm 68:1-10. 32-end

R *Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth; [sing praises to the Lord].*

Let God arise and let his enemies be scattered;
 let those who hate him flee before him.

Let them vanish like smoke
 when the wind drives it away;
 as the wax melts at the fire,
 so let the wicked perish at the presence
 of God. **R**

But let the righteous be glad and rejoice
 before God;
 let them also be merry and joyful.
 Sing to God, sing praises to his name;
 exalt him who rides upon the heavens;
 Yahweh is his name, rejoice before him! **R**

Father of orphans, defender of widows,
 God in his holy habitation!
 God gives the solitary a home
 and brings forth prisoners into freedom;
 but the rebels shall live in dry places. **R**

O God, when you went forth before your
 people,
 when you marched through the
 wilderness,
 The earth shook and the skies poured
 down rain,
 at the presence of God, the God of Sinai,
 at the presence of God, the God
 of Israel. **R**

You sent a gracious rain, O God, upon
 your inheritance;
 you refreshed the land when it was
 weary.
 Your people found their home in it;
 in your goodness, O God,
 you have made provision for the
 poor. **R**

Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth;
 sing praises to the Lord.
 He rides in the heavens, the ancient
 heavens;
 he sends forth his voice, his mighty voice. **R**

Ascribe power to God;
 his majesty is over Israel;
 his strength is in the skies.
 How wonderful is God in his holy places!
 the God of Israel giving strength and
 power to his people!
 Blessed be God! **R**

SECOND READING

1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11

A reading from the first letter of Peter.

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery
 ordeal that is taking place among you to
 test you, as though something strange
 were happening to you. But rejoice in so
 far as you are sharing Christ's sufferings,
 so that you may also be glad and shout
 for joy when his glory is revealed. If you
 are reviled for the name of Christ, you
 are blessed, because the spirit of glory,
 which is the Spirit of God, is resting
 on you. Humble yourselves therefore
 under the mighty hand of God, so that
 he may exalt you in due time. Cast all

your anxiety on him, because he cares
 for you. Discipline yourselves, keep alert.
 Like a roaring lion your adversary the
 devil prowls around, looking for someone
 to devour. Resist him, steadfast in your
 faith, for you know that your brothers
 and sisters throughout the world are
 undergoing the same kinds of suffering.
 And after you have suffered for a little
 while, the God of all grace, who has
 called you to his eternal glory in Christ,
 will himself restore, support, strengthen,
 and establish you. To him be the power
 for ever and ever. Amen.

GOSPEL John 17:1-11

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

Jesus looked up to heaven and said,
 "Father, the hour has come; glorify
 your Son so that the Son may glorify
 you, since you have given him authority
 over all people, to give eternal life to all
 whom you have given him. And this is
 eternal life, that they may know you, the
 only true God, and Jesus Christ whom
 you have sent. I glorified you on earth
 by finishing the work that you gave me
 to do. So now, Father, glorify me in your
 own presence with the glory that I had in
 your presence before the world existed.
 I have made your name known to those
 whom you gave me from the world. They
 were yours, and you gave them to me,
 and they have kept your word. Now they
 know that everything you have given me
 is from you; for the words that you gave
 to me I have given to them, and they
 have received them and know in truth
 that I came from you; and they have
 believed that you sent me. I am asking
 on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf
 of the world, but on behalf of those
 whom you gave me, because they are
 yours. All mine are yours, and yours are
 mine; and I have been glorified in them.
 And now I am no longer in the world, but
 they are in the world, and I am coming
 to you. Holy Father, protect them in your
 name that you have given me, so that
 they may be one, as we are one."

POST COMMUNION

Eternal God, giver of love and power,
 your Son Jesus Christ has sent us into all
 the world
 to preach the gospel of his kingdom:
 confirm us in this mission,
 and help us to live the good news we
 proclaim;
 through Jesus Christ our Lord.



Sunday 21 May 2023
John 17:1-11
7th Sunday of Easter

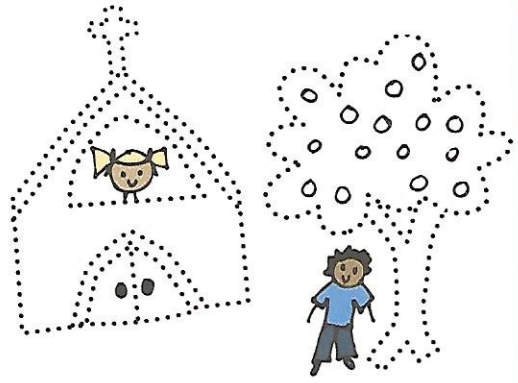
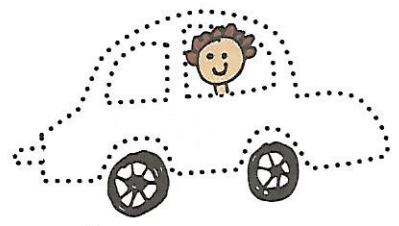
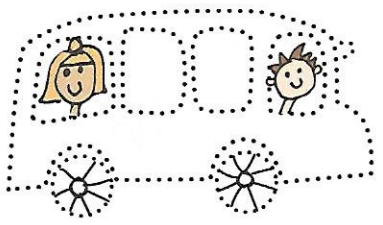
In the
GOSPEL TODAY

**SHARE
GOD'S LOVE**

Jesus prays for his friends. He is leaving them but he knows they will carry on his work, sharing God's love with everyone they meet. Jesus knows his friends will be happy. They know him and so they know God the Father. Nothing could be better!

**Pray
everywhere!**

These children are all praying.



Join the dots to see where they are.

How can I do Jesus' work?

When we love other people are carrying on Jesus' work. Put a circle around one of the ways you are going to show love to someone today.



Maze

Can you help these people find their way to happiness by helping them to find their way to God? Jesus is helping. He is showing you the right way to go.



A PRAYER TO SAY

Help me, Jesus, to share your love with everyone I meet. Amen.

PRAY!

Jesus promises his friends that he will always be with them, even when he goes to heaven.

How can we keep in touch with Jesus?

Cross out all the letters B, X, Z to find out!

**BIX ZCBAXNZ
PBRXAZY BTXOZ
BJXEZSBXUZS**

Answers: I can pray to Jesus