



The Shrivenham and Ashbury Benefice

'Mirroring the hospitality of God'

Vicar: The Rev'd Norma Fergusson. Tel 01793 784338
vicar@shrivenhamandashbury.co.uk

Licensed Lay Minister: Mr Richard Fergusson. Tel 07788 436831

Sunday 16th July 2023

Sixth Sunday after Trinity



**The service times listed below were correct at the time of publication (15th July).
Our website will be updated daily to reflect any changes.**

Sunday 16th July

Rev'd Norma Fergusson is giving today's online sermon.
Watch on [Facebook](#), [YouTube](#) or our [website](#).

- 7:45am Shrivenham, St Andrew
Holy Communion (BCP)
- 10:00am Bourton, St James & [Facebook](#)
Holy Communion
- 11:00am Compton Beauchamp, St Swithun
Holy Communion (BCP)
for the Feast of St Swithun

Ashbury, Longcot and Fernham parishioners –
please join the congregation at Compton Beauchamp

Shrivenham and Watchfield parishioners –
please join the congregation at Bourton

Tuesday

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

Wednesday

- 9:00am Shrivenham, St Andrew & [Facebook](#)
Morning Prayer
- 9:15am Song and Stories Toddler Group
Shrivenham Methodist Church
- 9:30am Longcot, St Mary
School Leavers' Service
- 2:30pm Shrivenham, St Andrew
U3A Group Visit
- 3:30pm Compton Beauchamp, St Swithun
U3A Group Visit

Thursday

- 9:00am Matins. Live on [Facebook](#)
- 9:00am Ashbury Primary School
School Leavers' Service
- 9:30am Shrivenham, St Andrew
School Leavers' Service
- 6:00pm Longcot, St Mary
Longcot with Fernham PCC & FVT Meeting
- 6:30pm Benefice Choir Practice in St Andrew's

Friday

- 9:00am Matins. Live on [Facebook](#)
- 1:00pm Stainswick Lane Cemetery
Ashes Interment – Savitri Guha-Thakurta
- 5:30pm Shrivenham, St Andrew
Worship and Praise

Community Cycle of Prayer

Please pray this week for all who live and work in
Church Lane in Ashbury, and High Street in Shrivenham.

Sunday 23rd July

- 9:30am Watchfield, St Thomas
Holy Communion (BCP)
- 9:30am Longcot, St Mary & [Facebook](#)
Holy Communion
- 11:00am Ashbury, St Mary
Holy Communion

Shrivenham parishioners –
please join the congregation at Watchfield

Baby and Toddler Group

The group that meets on Thursday mornings in
St Andrew's Church is now taking a break until after
the school summer holidays.

Song and Stories Toddler Group

This week's Wednesday morning session at the
Methodist Church will be the last before the group takes
a break until after the school summer holidays.

Messy Church – Thinking about Times of Change

We made boats, fish,
permanent sandcastles
and friendship sticks.

We painted rocks and
helped to make a
collage picture of
Jesus's BBQ on the
beach to display in
church.



We listened to the story of
Jesus's BBQ on
the beach and thought
about how Jesus's friends
were going through a
period of great change and
Jesus appeared to them to
reassure them that he was
still with them - just like he
is with us now as we think
about changing classes
and/or schools.

Wednesday Study Groups Summer Break

The morning and evening study groups are taking a
break during the summer and will restart in September.

Bottles Please!

The Bottle Tombola at Shrevenham Village Fete at the end of August is one of the major fund-raising events for St Andrew's Church Shrevenham.

Can we beat last year's total?

Margaret Hern will be pleased to receive bottles of any kind, but no cans. She will collect from you if required.

Margaret 01793 782100



Shrevenham Open Gardens – Thank You

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the success of Shrevenham Open Gardens last Sunday. The event raised £1140.75 for St Andrew's Restoration Project.

Many commented how much they enjoyed the afternoon with the opportunity to see such a spread of gardens. (type and size – not distance!) and it was pleasing to welcome many newcomers who were on their first real tour of our village. Sorry about the heavy shower at 2pm. It was fine after that.

Thanks to all who agreed to open their gardens; to our Post Office for selling advance tickets; to those who supplied the wonderful array of cakes and served the refreshments in St Andrew's Church.

Julian Stevens

The Well at Watchfield

It is approaching two years since this initiative started in September 2021. Lockdown was just loosening up, yet the country was still suffering in so many different ways from the massive effects of both the pandemic itself and the consequent social disruption.

The Well has found favour with many people and we continue to dig down to where we can draw on those resources which are not visible at ground level!

The ongoing pressures, stresses and real-life traumas of our troubled world are often experienced through both physical and mental health challenges. These are widely reported, well-documented and effectively treated in most cases by our excellent medical services.

Gathering regularly at the Well, however, has developed significant agreement amongst participants: namely, that there is sometimes more in each one of us that needs healing. The damage is often revealed to be in our weary, wounded or broken spirit – something deeper down in us than our body or mind. Such damage can happen to anyone but is particularly true of those who have served in armed conflict zones, maybe seeing and experiencing dreadful traumas first hand.

The effects of such harmful legacies and memories can easily spread out to families and loved ones.

The Well exists to address such needs, especially amongst the armed forces community. The next meeting is on Tuesday 18th July at 7.30pm in AFCU's offices, at Unit 24 in the business park at Watchfield. Anyone is welcome to attend, refreshments are served, and the meeting is in a relaxed format. For more information please contact Jeremy Clare jeremyclare@hotmail.com

Farewell to Padre Phil Craven

Padre Phil Craven, the Defence Academy Station Chaplain, is leaving to take up a new posting at the end of the summer.

A farewell service, followed by a delicious bring and share lunch, was held at St Alban's Church in Watchfield last Sunday. We thank Padre Phil for his contribution to church life in our Benefice – including his monthly online sermons, involvement with Messy Church and participation in the Benefice Choir. We will miss him and wish him well for the future!



COLLECT

Merciful God,
 you have prepared for those who love
 you
 such good things as pass our
 understanding:
 pour into our hearts such love toward
 you
 that we, loving you in all things and
 above all things,
 may obtain your promises,
 which exceed all that we can desire;
 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 Isaiah 55:10-13

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

Thus says the LORD: As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it. For you shall go out in joy, and be led back in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle; and it shall be to the LORD for a memorial, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

Or **Genesis 25:19-end**

PSALM Psalm 65:[1-8]. 9-end

R *To you, O God, shall all flesh come,
 [and you will blot out their sins].*

[You are to be praised, O God, in Zion;
 to you shall vows be performed in
 Jerusalem.

To you that hear prayer shall all flesh
 come,
 because of their transgressions. **R**

Our sins are stronger than we are,
 but you will blot them out.
 Happy are they whom you choose
 and draw to your courts to dwell there!
 they will be satisfied by the beauty of
 your house,
 by the holiness of your temple. **R**

Awesome things will you show us in
 your righteousness,

O God of our salvation,
 O Hope of all the ends of the earth
 and of the seas that are far away.
 You make fast the mountains by your
 power;
 they are girded about with might. **R**

You still the roaring of the seas,
 the roaring of their waves,
 and the clamour of the peoples.
 Those who dwell at the ends of the
 earth
 will tremble at your marvellous signs;
 you make the dawn and the dusk to sing
 for joy. **R]**

You visit the earth and water it
 abundantly;

you make it very plenteous;
 the river of God is full of water.

You prepare the grain,
 for so you provide for the earth. **R**

You drench the furrows and smooth out
 the ridges;
 with heavy rain you soften the ground
 and bless its increase.

You crown the year with your goodness,
 and your paths overflow with plenty.
 May the fields of the wilderness be rich
 for grazing,
 and the hills be clothed with joy. **R**

SECOND READING Romans 8:1-11

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law – indeed it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit

of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

GOSPEL Matthew 13:1-9. 18-23

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

Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the lake. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen! Hear then the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

POST COMMUNION

God of our pilgrimage,
 you have led us to the living water:
 refresh and sustain us
 as we go forward on our journey,
 in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.



In the
GOSPEL TODAY

Spot the difference

Can you spot five differences between these two sowers?

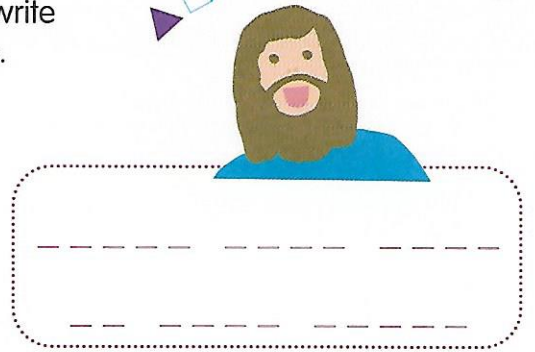


Jesus tells us a story about a man who sows some seed. Some seed did not do well but some seed landed on good soil. This seed grew big and strong. Jesus wants us to listen to his message of love. If we really listen with our hearts, we will grow strong in God's love.

Break the code

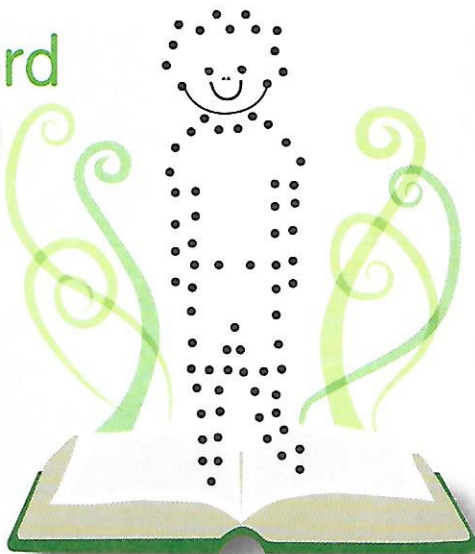
The disciples did not understand Jesus' story and had to ask him to explain. Decode the words and write what Jesus is saying on the lines.

- a = b = d = e = G = h = i = l = n = o = P = r = s = t = u = w = y =



God's word helps me grow

Jesus said we are like seeds. Just like a seed needs good soil to grow, we need to listen to God to grow.



JESUS WANTS TO HELP

When we listen to God and do as he asks, we will be the very best we can be!

Join the dots to see what is growing here.

Help the farmer with his crops

Help the sower find the best place to sow his seeds.

Answers: Plant God's word in your heart. Spot the difference: hat, basket, sandals, beard, height.

A PRAYER TO SAY

Dear Jesus, help me to grow strong in your love. Help me to listen to your message and do what I know is good and kind. Help me to bear good fruit. Amen.

