



The Shrivenham and Ashbury Benefice

'Mirroring the hospitality of God'

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Sunday 30th July 2023

Eighth Sunday after Trinity

The service times listed below were correct at the time of publication (28th July).
Our website will be updated daily to reflect any changes.

Sunday 30th July

Padre Phil Craven is giving today's online sermon.
Watch on [Facebook](#), [YouTube](#) or our [website](#).

11:00am Ashbury, St Mary & [Facebook](#)
Benefice Holy Communion with Choir
led by the Revd Dr Andy Angel

Wednesday

9:00am Shrivenham, St Andrew & [Facebook](#)
Morning Prayer
2:00pm Shrivenham, St Andrew & [Facebook](#)
ASK Service of the Word
6:00pm Benefice Wardens' Meeting
St Andrew's Vicarage

Community Cycle of Prayer

Please pray this week for all who live and work
on Ashdown Estate in Ashbury,
and Lawrence Avenue in Shrivenham.

Sunday 6th August

10:15am Shrivenham, St Andrew & [Facebook](#)
Benefice Holy Communion
led by the Revd Charles Chadwick

Fernham, St John

Scaffolding has been erected around the church
and work on the final phase of restoration following the
fire is underway. This should take about five weeks.

St Andrew's Harvest Fayre Planning Meeting

There will be a Harvest Fayre in St Andrew's on
Saturday 7th October (time to be confirmed) to raise
much needed funds for the church.

There will be an initial planning meeting at 10:30am on
Wednesday 2nd August in St Andrew's.

If you would like to be involved, do come along.
Suggestions for stalls and offers of help very welcome!

If you can't make the meeting but would like to help,
please contact Penny Hockley

01793 783284 pennykh48@gmail.com

or Lindsey Skelt

01793 783735 lindsey@skelt.plus.com

Midweek Online Services During August

There will be no 9am online services
on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays during August.

Bourton, St James

Please note that there are no services during August.

Wednesday Study Groups Summer Break

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

Songs & Stories and Baby & Toddler Group

The groups that meet on Wednesday and Thursday
mornings are taking a break until after
the school summer holidays.

Bottles Please!

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

Margaret Hern will be pleased to receive bottles
of any kind, but no cans.

She will collect from you if required.

Margaret 01793 782100

Bon Voyage!



Sarah Howell, Bourton Churchwarden, at her final
service in St James before the family move to America
for two years later this summer. A huge thank you for
all you have done for St James – we will miss you!

COLLECT

Almighty Lord and everlasting God,
we beseech you to direct, sanctify and
govern both our hearts and bodies
in the ways of your laws and the works of
your commandments;
that through your most mighty protection,
both here and ever,
we may be preserved in body and soul;
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING 1 Kings 3:5-12

A reading from the first book of Kings.

At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, "Ask what I should give you." And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart towards you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?" It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you."

Or **Genesis 29:15-28**

PSALM Psalm 119:129-136

R *Lord, how I love your law.*

Your decrees are wonderful;
therefore I obey them with all my heart.
When your word goes forth it gives light;
it gives understanding to the simple. **R**

I open my mouth and pant;
I long for your commandments.
Turn to me in mercy,
as you always do to those who love your
name. **R**

Steady my footsteps in your word;
let no iniquity have dominion over me.
Rescue me from those who oppress me,
and I will keep your commandments. **R**

Let your countenance shine upon your
servant
and teach me your statutes.
My eyes shed streams of tears,
because people do not keep your law. **R**

SECOND READING Romans 8:26-end

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified. What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height,

nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

GOSPEL Matthew 13:31-33. 44-52

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

Jesus put before the crowd another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches." He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened. The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Have you understood all this?" They answered, "Yes." And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."

POST COMMUNION

Strengthen for service, Lord,
the hands that have taken holy things;
may the ears which have heard your word
be deaf to clamour and dispute;
may the tongues which have sung your
praise be free from deceit;
may the eyes which have seen the tokens
of your love shine with the light of hope;
and may the bodies which have been fed
with your body be refreshed with the
fullness of your life;
glory to you for ever.



Sunday 30 July 2023
 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time
 Matthew 13:44-52

In the
GOSPEL TODAY

SEARCH FOR TREASURE!

How much is the pearl worth?

Jesus tells us that heaven is like a pearl that is so valuable that people would pay anything to have it. How much is the man on the left offering for the pearl?

How much is the man on the right willing to pay?

Who will own the pearl in the end?



Jesus tells us the kingdom of heaven is like the most special, valuable pearl that is worth searching for and finding.

My treasure

We can have many different types of treasure in our lives: it might be a person, a place, a memory, or a thing.

Draw a picture of your favourite treasure.

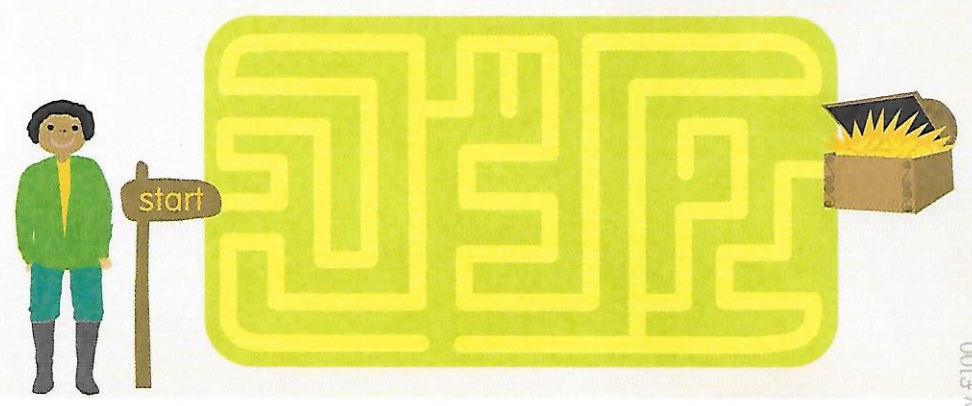


What is your treasure? _____

Why is this important to you? _____

Help the man find the treasure

Jesus told a story about a man who finds treasure in a field. He sells everything he has and buys the field because he wants the treasure.



A PRAYER TO SAY

Dear Jesus, thank you for inviting us to be part of your special kingdom. Help us to build your kingdom here, now, by treating other people with the same love and respect that you always showed. Amen.

Word search

Find the things that will help make our earth more like heaven.

- PRAYER
- PEACE
- CARE
- LOVE
- TRUST

P	R	A	Y	E	R
E	F	G	B	P	Z
A	D	H	Y	H	X
C	A	R	E	I	G
E	V	O	L	Q	R
Z	T	S	U	R	T

Answers: The one who is willing to pay £100.