



The Shrivenham and Ashbury Benefice

'Mirroring the hospitality of God'

Vicar: The Rev'd Norma Fergusson. Tel 01793 784338

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Sunday 17th September 2023

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

- 7:45am Shrivenham, St Andrew
Holy Communion (BCP)
- 9:30am Watchfield, St Thomas
Matins
- 9:30am Longcot, St Mary
Morning Prayer
- 10:00am Bourton, St James
Holy Communion
- 10:15am Shrivenham, St Andrew & [Facebook](#)
Holy Communion
- 11:00am Ashbury, St Mary
Morning Prayer
- 5:30pm Compton Beauchamp, St Swithun
Said Evensong

Monday

- 11:00am Compton Beauchamp, St Swithun
Funeral – Rodney Elton RIP

Tuesday

- 9:00am Morning Prayer. Live on [Facebook](#)
- 7:00pm Ashbury PCC Meeting

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
- 7:00pm Shrivenham with Watchfield & Bourton
PCC Meeting

Thursday

- 9:00am Baby & Toddler Group in St Andrew's
- 9:00am Matins. Live on [Facebook](#)
- 12 noon Longcot, St Mary
Interment of Ashes – Ronald Pitts RIP
- 6:30pm Benefice Choir Practice in St Andrew's

Friday

- 9:00am Matins. Live on [Facebook](#)
- 10:00am Shrivenham, St Andrew
Coffee Morning Social

Saturday

- 11:00am Compton Beauchamp PCC Meeting

Community Cycle of Prayer

Please pray this week for all who live and work
in Pound Piece in Ashbury,
and Queen's Crescent in Shrivenham.

Enjoy a Cream Tea – Saturday 23rd September

2pm till 4pm in Watchfield Village Hall

£5.00 per person (payable on door)

Raffle, Cake Stall, Bring and Buy

In aid of St. Thomas' Church Watchfield

Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity

Sunday 24th September

10:30am Longcot, St Mary & [Facebook](#)
Benefice Holy Communion with Choir

Coffee Morning Social

St Andrew's Church Shrivenham
Friday 22nd September from 10am to 12 noon.

Come and join us for coffee and biscuits.
It will be a great opportunity to chat with old friends and
meet new ones, join others working on needlework, or
sit in a quiet corner with a book etc. All are welcome.

Wednesday Study Groups

The study groups
restarted last week.
They are looking at the
Bible Society's
Romans Course.

Explore the
letter to the
Romans

The
Romans
Course



It's not too late to join, but please let us know you're
coming so we can make sure we have room!

Please contact David Ahern (Zoom group)
01793 783521 davidmahern@gmail.com

or Norma Fergusson (Vicarage group)
01793 784338 vicar@shrivenhamandashbury.co.uk

The Well at Watchfield

Tuesday 19th September
7:30pm at AFCU Offices

Unit 24 in the Business Park, Watchfield SN6 8TZ
Our next meeting will include input from veterans who
have served in the armed forces. Their insights and
experiences are always so valuable. Some, but not all,
have had problems with post-traumatic stress or combat
trauma. All of them really appreciate the value of getting
together and being able to listen and talk with others
about their service years and any current issues.

All are welcome, refreshments will be served and
there is no charge! More information from

jeremyclare@hotmail.com

Community Macmillan Coffee Morning

Friday 29th September from 10am – 12 noon
St Andrew's Church Shrivenham

All welcome, but if you can't come along you can donate
online at <http://www.justgiving.com/cm23029876>

If you would like to make a cake for the event,
please contact Rosy Taylor on 07717 203 075.

**UK Visit of Ntombizethu Kuzwayo,
the Director of South African Charity Phakamisa**



Her full name is a bit of a mouthful, so she is known simply as Zethu. This is her first visit to the UK (indeed, her first journey outside South Africa). Zethu is very passionate about her work and her Lord. She seems to spend a lot of time laughing and is great company. She briefly visited Shrivvenham on Thursday and is pictured above in St Andrew's Church.

This week-end she will visit Cornwall, where she will attend the Cornwall District Methodist Synod on Saturday, returning briefly to Shrivvenham on Monday and Tuesday, where she will visit Refreshers at the Methodist Church on Tuesday morning. Do come along to meet her if you are able.

On Wednesday she flies to Belfast as a guest of the Irish Methodist Church. Please pray for safe journeys for Zethu and that all the logistics for the remainder of her time here come together smoothly.

Phakamisa is based in Pinetown Methodist Church near Durban in South Africa. The charity responds to the needs of adults and children from poor communities who are living with HIV/AIDS through uplifting and economically empowering programmes.

For further information, visit www.phakamisa.org

Harvest Fayre and Soup on Saturday

7th October from 10am – 2pm
St Andrews Church Shrivvenham

As well as homemade soup, stalls will include cakes, cards, paintings, raffle and lots more!!

Donations of any of the following gratefully received.

Soup: Penny Hockley (783284)

Cakes, tray bakes, cookies etc: Pip Dudley (783481)
or Brenda Garman (780725)

Raffle Prizes: Marilyn Jeans (782508)
or Daphne Willmet (782926)

Unwanted gifts, knitted items: Lindsey Skelt (783735)

Congratulations



Congratulations to Aimee Mayall and Craig Ash who were married at St Andrew's Church Shrivvenham on Friday 15th September.

COLLECT

God, who in generous mercy sent the Holy Spirit upon your Church in the burning fire of your love: grant that your people may be fervent in the fellowship of the gospel that, always abiding in you, they may be found steadfast in faith and active in service; 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 Genesis 50:15-21

A reading from the book of Genesis.

Realising that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, 'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

Or **Exodus 14:19-end**

PSALM Psalm 103:1-13

R *The Lord is full of compassion and mercy, [slow to anger and of great kindness].*

[Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name.

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits. **R**

He forgives all your sins and heals all your infirmities; He redeems your life from the grave and crowns you with mercy and loving-kindness; **R**

He satisfies you with good things, and your youth is renewed like an eagle's.

The Lord executes righteousness

and judgement for all who are oppressed.

He made his ways known to Moses and his works to the children of Israel. **R]**

The Lord is full of compassion and mercy, slow to anger and of great kindness. He will not always accuse us, nor will he keep his anger for ever. He has not dealt with us according to our sins, nor rewarded us according to our wickedness. **R**

For as the heavens are high above the earth, so is his mercy great upon those who fear him.

As far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our sins from us. As a father cares for his children, so does the Lord care for those who fear him. **R**

SECOND READING Romans 14:1-12

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarrelling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgement on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgement on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand. Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honour of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honour of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honour of the Lord and give thanks to God. We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. Why do you pass judgement on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgement seat of God. For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise

to God." So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

GOSPEL Matthew 18:21-35

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

Peter came and said to Jesus, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow-slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' Then his fellow-slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow-slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow-slave, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

POST COMMUNION

Keep, O Lord, your Church, with your perpetual mercy; and, because without you our human frailty cannot but fail, keep us ever by your help from all things hurtful, and lead us to all things profitable to our salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord.



Sunday 17 September 2023
 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time
 Matthew 18:21-35

In the
GOSPEL TODAY

KEEP FORGIVING!

Find these hidden words which show some of the wrong things we might need to forgive other people for doing.

- HIT
- PINCH
- STEAL
- GRAB
- KICK
- KNOCK

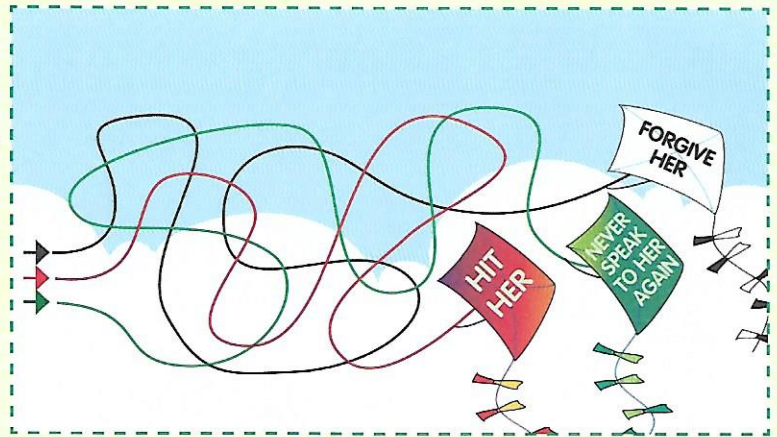


S	E	R	T	G	J	K
H	I	T	O	G	B	N
G	R	I	T	R	H	O
K	S	T	E	A	L	C
W	K	A	L	B	E	K
P	I	N	C	H	R	D
A	C	S	T	O	D	H
S	K	H	N	K	F	N

Jesus tells us that we must keep on forgiving. We must forgive not just seven times, or seventy-seven times – but forever! God has forgiven us, so we can do the same.

Puzzle it out!

Sam's little sister pulled his hair. He's not sure what he should do but he knows the right answer is on one of these kites. Which one is it?



Read this story that Jesus told about a servant and a king

Once there was a who owed a lot of € to the king. The let the off. The went out and met somebody who owed him a lot of €. But the didn't let the man off. He threw him into . The was very angry. He said the should have acted like the king, and should have forgiven the man.

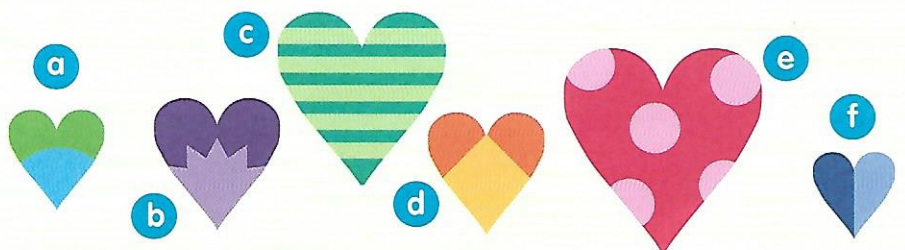
A PRAYER TO SAY

Thank you, Lord, for forgiving me, no matter what. Please help me to forgive anyone who hurts me, no matter what. Amen.

Grow in love When we forgive someone, our heart grows bigger with God's love.

Can you put these hearts in size order, starting with the smallest?:

Smallest **Biggest**



Answers: Forgive her! F is the biggest, then a, d, b, c, e.