



The Shrevenham 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 24th September 2023

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

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

Tuesday

9:00am Morning Prayer. Live on [Facebook](#)
1:00pm Bereavement Café
5 Martens Road Shrevenham

Wednesday

9:00am Morning Prayer. Live on [Facebook](#)
9:15am Song and Stories Toddler Group
Shrevenham Methodist Church
10:30am Wednesday Study Group via Zoom
6:00pm Longcot with Fernham PCC Meeting
7:00pm Wednesday Study Group
St Andrew's Vicarage

Thursday

9:00am Baby & Toddler Group in St Andrew's
9:00am Matins. Live on [Facebook](#)
3:15pm Shrevenham, St Andrew
Messy Church
6:00pm Shrevenham, St Andrew
ASK Evening Prayer
6:30pm Benefice Choir Practice in St Andrew's

Friday

9:00am Ashbury, St Mary & [Facebook](#)
Matins
9:00am Shrevenham, St Andrew
School Harvest Service

Saturday

10:30am Compton Beauchamp, St Swithun
Baptism

Community Cycle of Prayer

Please pray this week for all who live and work
in Station Road in Ashbury,
and Raven Way in Shrevenham.

Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity

Sunday 1st October Harvest

You are welcome to celebrate in any of our churches

7:45am Shrevenham, St Andrew
Holy Communion (BCP)
9:00am Compton Beauchamp, St Swithun
Holy Communion (BCP)
9:30am Longcot, St Mary
Holy Communion
10:15am Shrevenham, St Andrew
Family Harvest Service
11:00am Ashbury, St Mary
Harvest Service
11:00am Fernham, St John
Harvest Service
3:00pm Watchfield, St Thomas & [Facebook](#)
Harvest Songs of Praise
followed by Holy Communion (BCP)
5:30pm Shrevenham, St Andrew & [Facebook](#)
Compline and Benediction

Community Macmillan Coffee Morning

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



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.

Harvest Fayre and Soup on Saturday

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

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)



St Andrew's Shrevenham
Thursday 28th September
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.shrevenham@yahoo.com

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



Cake Sale in Fernham

in aid of **McMillan Cancer Relief**

Saturday 30th September from 11am
Elmside Green opposite the Woodman Inn

Cakes are delicious and highly recommended
but they go fast!

COLLECT

O Lord, we beseech you mercifully to hear the prayers of your people who call upon you; and grant that they may both perceive and know what things they ought to do, and also may have grace and power faithfully to fulfil them; 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 Jonah 3:10 – end of 4
A reading from the book of Jonah.

When God saw what the people of Nineveh did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it. But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. He prayed to the LORD and said, "O LORD! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." And the LORD said, "Is it right for you to be angry?" Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city. The LORD God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, "It is better for me to die than to live." But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?" And he said, "Yes, angry enough to die." Then the LORD said, "You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labour and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand people

who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?"

Or **Exodus 16:2-15**

PSALM Psalm 145:1-8

R *The Lord is near to those who call upon him.*

I will exalt you, O God my King, and bless your name for ever and ever. Every day will I bless you and praise your name for ever and ever. **R**

Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised; there is no end to his greatness. One generation shall praise your works to another and shall declare your power. **R**

I will ponder the glorious splendour of your majesty and all your marvellous works. They shall speak of the might of your wondrous acts, and I will tell of your greatness. **R**

They shall publish the remembrance of your great goodness; they shall sing of your righteous deeds. The Lord is gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger and of great kindness. **R**

SECOND READING

Philippians 1:21-end

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians.

For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labour for me; and I do not know which I prefer. I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again. Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. For he has graciously granted you the privilege

not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well – since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

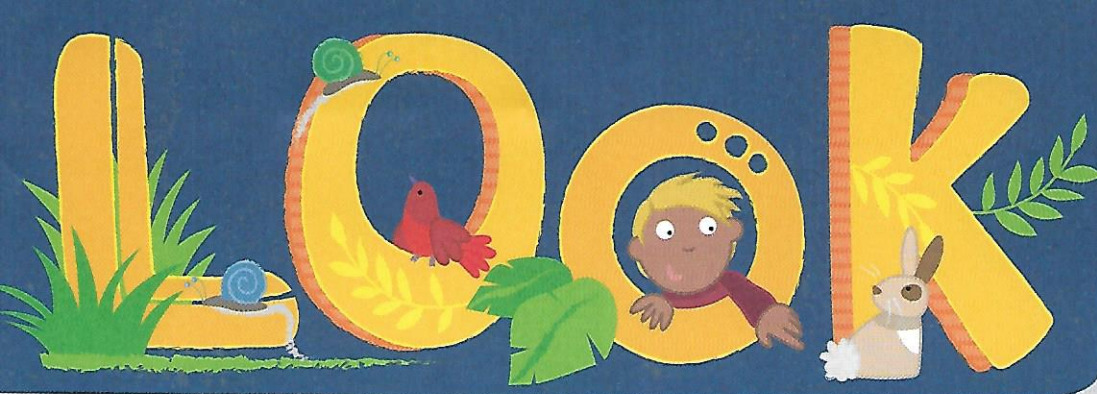
GOSPEL Matthew 20:1-16

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

Jesus said to his disciples: "The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire labourers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the labourers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the market-place; and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the labourers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

POST COMMUNION

Almighty God, you have taught us through your Son that love is the fulfilling of the law: grant that we may love you with our whole heart and our neighbours as ourselves; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

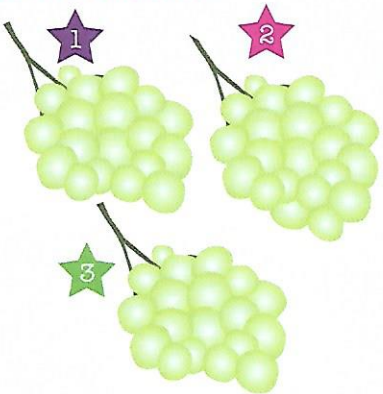


Sunday 24 September 2023
 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time
 Matthew 20:1-16

In the **GOSPEL TODAY**

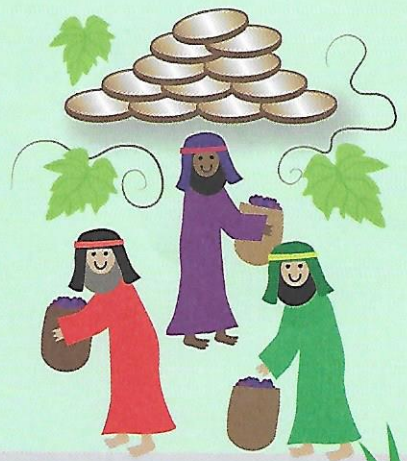
Odd one out

Look carefully at these bunches of grapes. Can you spot the one which is different?



Pay the workers

The landowner gives all the workers equal pay. Draw the right number of coins next to each worker.



A PRAYER TO SAY

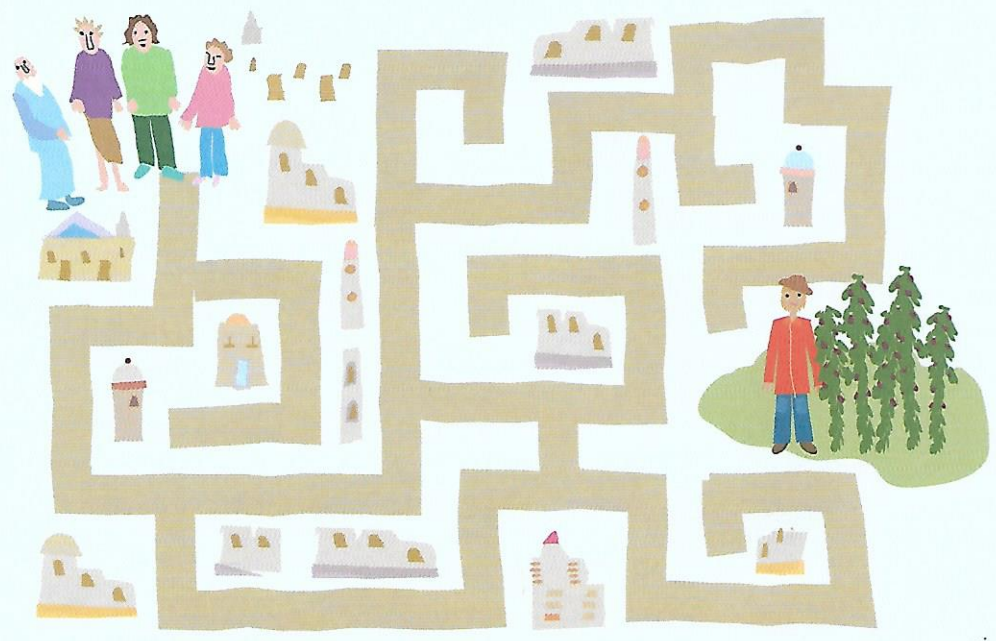
Thank you, Lord, for loving us all so much. Help me not to grumble when things go well for other people. Help me to be generous and to look at everyone with love and kindness. Amen.

God is generous and welcomes everyone into his kingdom. Jesus says God is like a landowner who hires workers for his vineyard. Some people start working early in the day while others only do a bit of work – but they all get the same pay!

BE GENEROUS!

Maze

The landowner has come to find some workers. Can you show them the way to his farm?



Please help

Sometimes, some people need more help than others. Find the types of people who need our help in the word search below:

SICK	K	P	B	I	B	I	A	K
SAD	H	O	M	E	L	E	S	S
POOR	L	O	N	E	L	Y	A	I
HOMELESS	S	R	K	L	B	D	D	C
LONELY	S	C	F	D	E	A	F	K

Answers: Odd one out = 2. The workers will all get four coins.