



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 29th October 2023 Bible Sunday

Sunday 29th October

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

11:00am Ashbury, St Mary & [Facebook](#)
Benefice Holy Communion with Choir

Tuesday

9:00am Morning Prayer. Live on [Facebook](#)
1:00pm Bereavement Café
St Andrew's Vicarage

Wednesday 1st November

9:00am Morning Prayer. Live on [Facebook](#)
9:15am Song and Stories Toddler Group
Shrevenham Methodist Church
10:30am Wednesday Study Group via Zoom
2:00pm Shrevenham, St Andrew & [Facebook](#)
ASK Holy Communion
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 Benefice Choir Practice in St Andrew's

Friday

9:00am Matins. Live on [Facebook](#)
3:15pm Bourton, St James
Pinewood School Service

Saturday

10:00am Bourton, St James
Family Service

Sunday 5th November

7:45am Shrevenham, St Andrew
Holy Communion (BCP)
9:00am Compton Beauchamp, St Swithun
Holy Communion (BCP)
9:30am Watchfield, St Thomas & [Facebook](#)
Holy Communion (BCP)
9:30am Longcot, St Mary
Holy Communion
10:15am Shrevenham, St Andrew.
Family Service
11:00am Ashbury, St Mary.
Morning Prayer
5:00pm Shrevenham, St Andrew & [Facebook](#)
A Time of Reflection and Remembrance
All Souls Service with the Benefice Choir

A Time of Reflection and Remembrance

Sunday 5th November
St Andrew's Church
Shrevenham



The church will be open between 2pm and 6pm for anyone who wishes to come, be still and light a votive candle. At 5pm, the Benefice Choir will join us for a service of Remembrance for those we have loved and lost which will also include the opportunity to light a candle. If you are unable to attend but would like to have a candle lit on your behalf, please let us know.

If you would like to have the name of a loved one recorded in the Book of Remembrance that is on display in the Lady Chapel in St Andrew's Church, please contact the Benefice Administrator (Lucy Laird) 01793 783519 info@shrivenhamandashbury.co.uk

Their service does not have to have taken place in St Andrew's for their name to be included.

Community Cycle of Prayer

Please pray this week for all who live and work in Berrycroft in Ashbury, and Sandy Lane in Shrevenham.

Royal British Legion Coffee Morning

St Andrew's Church
Shrevenham
Friday 10th November
from 10am to noon.

A chance to support the Royal British Legion,
get your poppy and enjoy cake and a cuppa!

All welcome.



St Andrew's Annual Brass Cleaning Morning

Saturday 25th November at 9:30am.

Helpers would be appreciated. Coffee provided!

Licensing of Rev'd Patrick Mabunu as Associate Vicar, Shrevenham and Ashbury Benefice

Monday 6th November at 7:30pm
St Mary's Church Ashbury

The Rt Rev'd Gavin Collins, Bishop of Dorchester, will lead the service, which will be followed by refreshments.

All are welcome but for planning/catering purposes please let us know if you wish to attend.

01793 783519 or info@shrivenhamandashbury.co.uk

Limited parking is available in the church car park at the top of Church Lane. If parking in the village, please be mindful of our neighbours.

Sonare in Concert

My Soul, There Is a Country

Saturday 11th November at 7:30pm
St Andrew's Church Shrivenham



Photo © James Rose

Sonare are a renowned London-based choral quartet.

They will treat us to a joyous celebration of British choral music. The programme features unmissable favourites alongside underappreciated gems, with fascinating musical history commentary from the singers themselves.

Tickets £12 will be on sale locally in due course or buy online now for a 10% discount through www.sonarechoir.com

In aid of St Andrew's Restoration Project

Looking to the Future – Your Next Vicar

Rev'd Norma Fergusson is retiring in May 2024, and we are starting to look towards the future and the appointment of her successor.

As part of this process, we invite everyone in the Benefice, whether you are a churchgoer or not, to come along to Shrivenham Memorial Hall on Sunday 19th November to share your thoughts and observations on what we currently do well, what is less successful, and what you would like to see happening over the next few years.

Tea and cake will be served from 3.30pm with the meeting starting at 4.00pm. Following a short introduction, informal discussions will take place in small groups, ending no later than 6.00pm, but you are welcome to leave at any time.

Advising us of your intention to attend is not compulsory but will help to ensure we don't run out of cake!

We would love to see you there, but if you are unable to come along, you can still take part in the consultation process via our online survey which is available at <https://s.surveypal.com/v3h79lf9>.

If you would like a paper copy, please contact the Benefice Administrator (Lucy Laird) or pick one up in church. All survey responses are anonymous.

01793 783519 info@shrivenhamandashbury.co.uk

A New Member of the Fellowship of St Birinus



Bishop Gavin welcomed new members, including Rosy Taylor, into the Fellowship of St Birinus at a special service in Dorchester Abbey on Sunday 22nd October.

This award is given to people who have given exceptional service in some way or other to their church and community over a number of years. Rosy's citation read "With thanksgiving for your service to God and the Church at St Andrew's Shrivenham for revitalising youth ministry within the parish through the monthly Family Service and organising regular Messy Church sessions."

The Torriano Ensemble

Autumn Concert

Sunday 19th November at 6pm
St. Mary's Church, Longcot

An evening of music for flute, clarinet, horn, bassoon and string quintet, featuring two much-loved masterpieces from the classical period, Mozart's charming and uplifting Flute Quartet in D major K. 285 and the magnificent Octet by Schubert.

Arrangements of three of Gershwin's most popular songs, 'Embraceable You', 'The Man I Love' and 'I've Got Rhythm', provide a contrast of style and mood.

Admission free with a retiring collection in aid of Longcot Village Trust and St Mary's Church.

The bar will be open from 5.30pm for drinks before the concert and also at the interval.

Reservations should be made in advance by email to victorialmedcalf@gmail.com

COLLECT

Blessed Lord,
 who caused all holy Scriptures
 to be written for our learning:
 help us so to hear them,
 to read, mark, learn and inwardly
 digest them
 that, through patience, and the
 comfort of your holy word,
 we may embrace and for ever hold
 fast the hope of everlasting life,
 which you have given us in our
 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

Nehemiah 8:1-4a [5-6] 8-12

A reading from the book of Nehemiah.

All the people gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the LORD had given to Israel. Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law. The scribe Ezra stood on a wooden platform that had been made for the purpose; [And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. Then Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God, and all the people answered, "Amen, Amen," lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshipped the LORD with their faces to the ground.] So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading. And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and

the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn or weep." For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. Then he said to them, "Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our LORD; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength." So the Levites stilled all the people, saying, "Be quiet, for this day is holy; do not be grieved." And all the people went their way to eat and drink and to send portions and to make great rejoicing, because they had understood the words that were declared to them.

PSALM Psalm 119:9-16

R *Happy are they who walk in the law of the Lord.*

How shall the young cleanse their way?

By keeping to your words.
 With my whole heart I seek you;
 let me not stray from your commandments. **R**

I treasure your promise in my heart,
 that I may not sin against you.
 Blessed are you, O Lord;
 instruct me in your statutes. **R**

With my lips will I recite
 all the judgements of your mouth.
 I have taken greater delight in the
 way of your decrees
 than in all manner of riches. **R**

I will meditate on your
 commandments
 and give attention to your ways.
 My delight is in your statutes;
 I will not forget your word. **R**

SECOND READING

Colossians 3:12-17

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Colossians.

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has

forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

GOSPEL Matthew 24:30-35

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

Jesus said to his disciples: "The sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see 'the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven' with power and great glory. And he will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other. From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see all these things, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away."

POST COMMUNION

God of all grace,
 your Son Jesus Christ fed the hungry
 with the bread of his life
 and the word of his kingdom:
 renew your people with your
 heavenly grace,
 and in all our weakness
 sustain us by your true and living
 bread;
 who is alive and reigns, now and for
 ever.



Sunday 29 October 2023
 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time
 Matthew 22:34-40

In the
GOSPEL TODAY

LOVE IS THE ANSWER!

The religious leaders want Jesus to say which commandment is the greatest. Jesus tells them that love is the answer. First of all, love God and then love other people as much as we ourselves. By loving, we are keeping all the commandments!

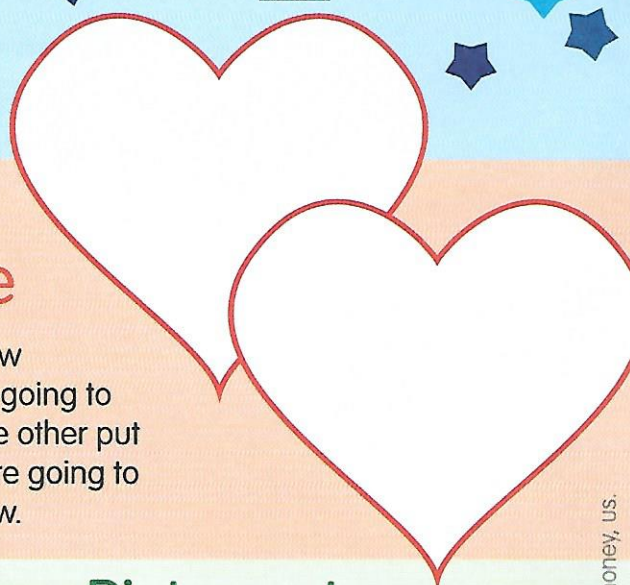
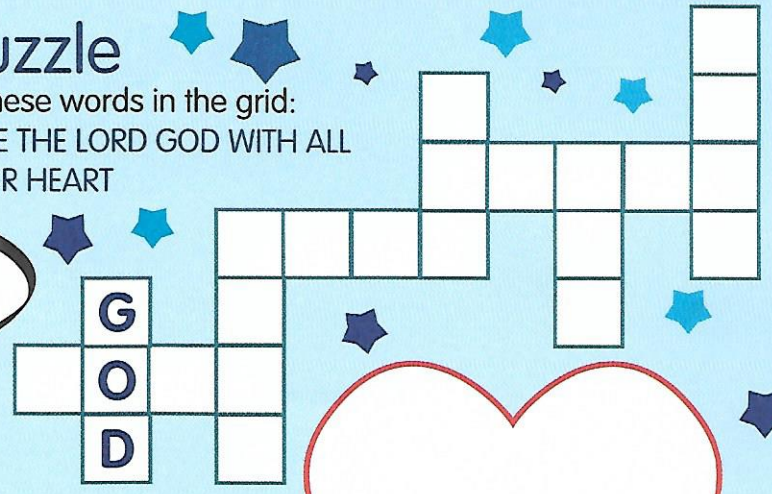
Love me!

Imagine this is you.
 Colour all the things you would like to say.



Puzzle

Fit these words in the grid:
 LOVE THE LORD GOD WITH ALL
 YOUR HEART



Heart puzzle

In one heart, write or draw one special way you are going to love God this week. In the other put something special you are going to do for someone you know.

Jesus says we must love other people just as much as we want to be loved.

A PRAYER TO SAY

Please help me, Jesus, to love you and other people. Help me to show my love by the things I do. Amen.



Picture story in a muddle

Michael is helping someone in school. He is doing what Jesus asked and is loving his neighbour. Can you put numbers on the pictures to show the right order for the story?



Answers: heart, feet, eyes, mouth, hands. Bread, wine, money, us.