



The Shrivenham and Ashbury Benefice

'Mirroring the hospitality of God'

Vicar: The Rev'd Norma Fergusson. Tel 01793 784338
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Associate Vicar: The Rev'd Patrick Mabhunu. 07471434276
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Licensed Lay Minister: Mr Richard Fergusson. Tel 07788 436831



Remembrance Sunday 12th November 2023

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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)
- 9:30am Watchfield, St Thomas
Remembrance Service
and Act of Remembrance at War Memorial
- 10:15am Shrivenham, St Andrew & [Facebook](#)
Remembrance Service
and Act of Remembrance at War Memorial
- 10:50am Longcot, St Mary
Remembrance Service
and Act of Remembrance at War Memorial
- 10:50am Ashbury War Memorial
Act of Remembrance
- 11:00am Compton Beauchamp War Memorial
Act of Remembrance
- 12 noon Bourton War Memorial
Act of Remembrance
- 3:00pm Fernham Garden of Remembrance
and War Memorial.
Act of Remembrance

Tuesday

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

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
- 6:00pm Longcot with Fernham PCC
- 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](#)
- 6:00pm Benefice Choir Practice in St Andrew's

Friday

- 9:00am Matins. Live on [Facebook](#)
- 10:00am Coffee, Cake & Christmas Cards
St Andrew's Shrivenham
- 3:15pm Bourton, St James
Pinewood School Service
- 5:30pm Shrivenham, St Andrew
Worship and Praise

Saturday

- 8:30am Men's Breakfast
Prince of Wales, Shrivenham

Community Cycle of Prayer

Please pray this week for all who live and work
in Chapel Lane in Ashbury, and Stallpits Lane
and Stallpits Road in Shrivenham.

Sunday 19th November

- 7:45am Shrivenham, St Andrew
Holy Communion (BCP)
- 9:00am Compton Beauchamp, St Swithun
Matins
- 9:30am Watchfield, St Thomas
Matins
- 9:30am Longcot, St Mary
Morning Prayer
- 10:00am Bourton, St James & [Facebook](#)
Holy Communion
- 10:15am Shrivenham, St Andrew
Holy Communion
- 11:00am Ashbury, St Mary
Shoobox Sunday Service
Bring along your shoobox filled with gifts for
children or drop it off in St Mary's or in
St Andrew's Shrivenham any time before.

Looking to the Future – Your Next Vicar

An informal consultation

Sunday 19th November from 3:30pm
Shrivenham Memorial Hall

Rev'd Norma Fergusson is retiring in May 2024, and
we are looking towards the future and her successor.

Come and share your thoughts and observations on
what we currently do well, what is less successful, and
what you would like to see happening in the future.

Tea and cake from 3:30pm, introduction at 4pm.

Informal discussions in small groups.

Ending by 6pm at the latest but leave earlier if you wish.

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.surveyplanet.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

St Mary's Church Longcot

has reverted to winter opening hours and will be
open on Sundays and Wednesdays until dusk.

Coffee, Cake and Christmas Cards

St Andrew's Church Shrivenham
Friday 17th November from 10am to 12 noon.

Come and join us for coffee and cake, and the opportunity to stock up on Christian charity Christmas cards and Advent calendars from the Lighthouse Book Shop in Highworth. All are welcome.

Men's Breakfast

Saturday 18th November at 8:30am
The Prince of Wales, Shrivenham

For catering purposes, please let David Ahern know by Thursday 16th if you plan to attend.

01793 783521 davidmahern@gmail.com

St Andrew's Annual Brass Cleaning Morning

Saturday 25th November at 9:30am.

Helpers would be appreciated. Coffee provided!

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

The Licensing of the Rev'd Patrick Mabhunu on Monday 6th November

A huge and heartfelt thank you to everyone who helped in any way to make Patrick's licensing service at St Mary's Ashbury so special. Readers; ringers; welcomers; presenters; clergy and singers (and what singing – Bruckner's Locus Iste and worship songs from Zimbabwe in the same service!). Also to the cleaners and flower arrangers who made the church so beautiful and the food fairies whose contributions managed miraculously to feed so many more people than we'd expected. And Maggie and Lucy – who worked so hard behind the scenes. I could have said "participants in the service" too – but that was everyone. There were no observers among the congregation, everyone was fully involved and engaged. And there were no strangers, only friends united by their support for Patrick. He and his family can be in no doubt about their welcome or their place within the life and worship of the Benefice and the communities it serves, so thank you for that, too.

A literal translation of Locus Iste is "this place was made by God" but you could also read it as "the Lord is in this place" and that was certainly true on Monday evening. Norma





Patrick stands before the Bishop of Dorchester to swear the oath of canonical obedience.



The Deputy Lieutenant of Oxfordshire, James Sibbald, welcomes Patrick on behalf of The King.

LOOK

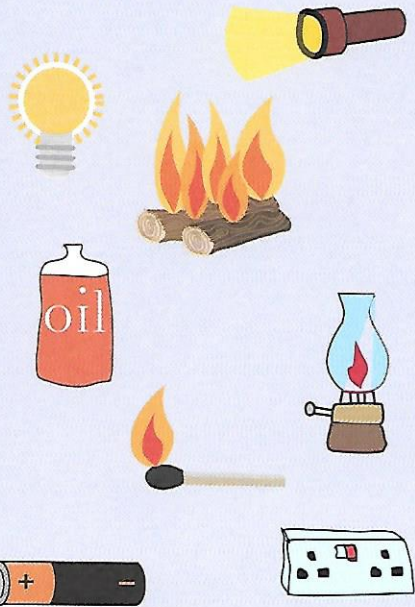
Sunday 12 November 2023
32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
Matthew 25:1-13

In the
GOSPEL TODAY

SHOW THE WAY!

Light

For there to be light, there needs to be something to give energy. Draw a line to link the object that gives light and its energy source.



For you to be light to others, what is your energy source? Unscramble the letters to find the answer:

S U E S J

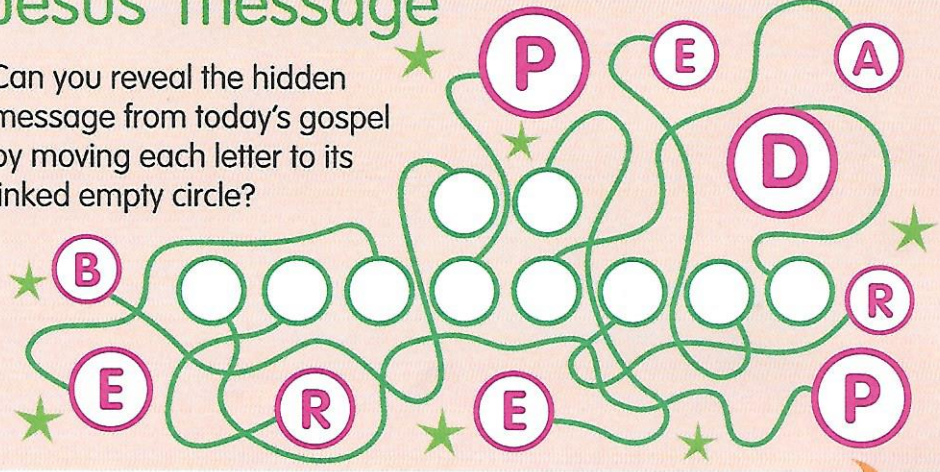
A PRAYER TO SAY

Help me to lead other people to you, Jesus. Help me to shine brightly with your love by being kind and helpful. Amen.

Jesus tells us a story about ten bridesmaids. Five of them were ready for the wedding but five were not, so they couldn't go to it. We can get ready to enjoy the party with Jesus by being kind and loving.

Jesus' message

Can you reveal the hidden message from today's gospel by moving each letter to its linked empty circle?



Be ready

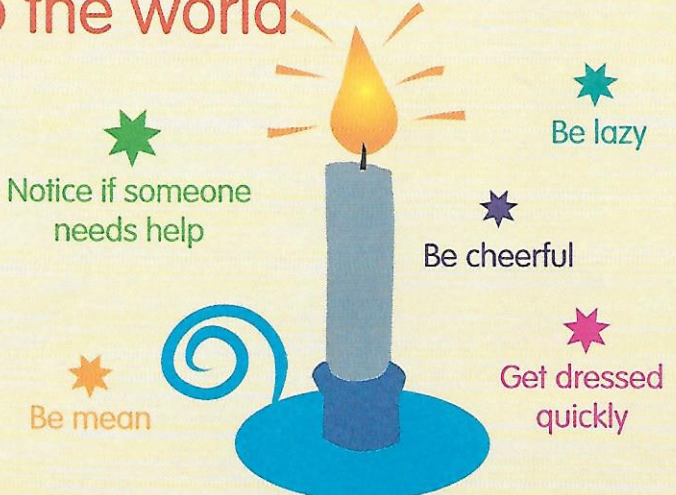
The bridesmaids need lamps to find their way as it is late at night. One sensible bridesmaid has oil in her lamp.



The other bridesmaid is foolish and has forgotten the oil for her lamp. Which bridesmaid meets the bridegroom? Make her lamp shine!

Light up the world

Jesus is like the bridegroom and we are like helpers at a wedding. Tick the ways we can light up the world today.



Answers: Jesus' message: Be prepared.

Collect

Almighty Father,
 whose will is to restore all things
 in your beloved Son, the King of all:
 govern the hearts and minds of those in
 authority,
 and bring the families of the nations,
 divided and torn apart by the ravages of sin,
 to be subject to his just and gentle rule;
 who is alive and reigns with you,
 in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
 one God, now and for ever.

Micah 4: 1-5

In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised up above the hills. Peoples shall stream to it, and many nations shall come and say: 'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.' For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He shall judge between many peoples, and shall arbitrate between strong nations far away; they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more; but they shall all sit under their own vines and under their own fig trees, and no one shall make them afraid; for the mouth of the Lord of hosts has spoken. For all the peoples walk, each in the name of its god, but we will walk in the name of the Lord our God for ever and ever.

Romans 8: 31-end

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.

John 15: 9-17

As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

'This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

Post Communion

God of peace,
 whose Son Jesus Christ proclaimed the kingdom
 and restored the broken to wholeness of life:
 look with compassion on the anguish of the
 world,
 and by your healing power
 make whole both people and nations;
 through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.