



The Shrivenham and Ashbury Benefice

'Mirroring the hospitality of God'

Vicar: The Rev'd Norma Fergusson. Tel 01793 784338
vicar@shrivenhamandashbury.co.uk

Associate Vicar: The Rev'd Patrick Mabhunu. 07471434276
associate.vicar@shrivenhamandashbury.co.uk

Licensed Lay Minister: Mr Richard Fergusson. Tel 07788 436831



Sunday 19th November 2023 Second Sunday before Advent

Safeguarding Sunday 19th November

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

- 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
Shoebox Sunday Service

Tuesday

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

Wednesday

- 9:00am Morning Prayer. Live on [Facebook](#)
- 9:15am Song and Stories Toddler Group
Shrivenham Methodist Church
- 1:15pm Shrivenham, St Andrew
Funeral – Rachel Trolen RIP

Thursday

- 9:00am Baby & Toddler Group in St Andrew's
- 9:00am Matins. Live on [Facebook](#)
- 5:30pm Shrivenham, St Andrew
ASK Evening Prayer
- 6:00pm Benefice Choir Practice in St Andrew's

Friday

- 9:00am Ashbury, St Mary & [Facebook](#)
Matins
- 3:00pm Longcot, St Mary
Tea-time Fellowship
- 3:15pm Bourton, St James
Pinewood School Service

Community Cycle of Prayer

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

St Andrew's Annual Brass Cleaning Morning

Saturday 25th November at 9:30am.

Helpers would be appreciated. Coffee provided!

Our condolences to the family and friends of
the late Sylvia Jessica King and Ron Johnson.
Please keep them in your prayers.

Sunday 26th November

- 10:15am Shrivenham, St Andrew & [Facebook](#)
Benefice Holy Communion with Choir
for the Feast of St Andrew

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.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

The Torriano Ensemble Autumn Concert

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

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

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

Thank You

Thank you to everyone
who came along to
support the Royal British
Legion coffee morning
in St Andrew's on Friday
10th November.



It was great to see so many there, and the total
raised was £781.10 – amazing!

Thank You



Thank you to the 1st Watchfield & Shrivenham Scout Group who made all the beautiful poppies which adorned St Andrew's Church on Remembrance Sunday.



Watchfield Christmas Fayre

Saturday 25th November
from 10am to 2pm in the Village Hall

Lots of stalls including cards, toiletries, preserves, jewellery, garden gifts and craft items.
Tombola and Raffle.

In aid of Watchfield Village Hall and St Thomas' Church

Ashbury Church Christmas Bazaar and Raffle

Saturday 25th November at 2pm in the Village Hall

Lots of stalls including cakes, books, bottle tombola, gifts, toys and games, and refreshments.

If you are able to support this event by providing items to sell please contact Maggie Simons on 01793 710801

All proceeds to St Mary's Church

Confirmation

Bishop Gavin is coming to St Mary's Church, Longworth, on Saturday 2nd March for a service of confirmation.

. If you think you might be interested in being confirmed and would like to find out more, please talk to Norma or Patrick and we will arrange classes after Christmas.

Tea-time Fellowship

Friday 24th November
St Mary's Church, Longcot from 3 – 4:30pm

Everyone is welcome to join us for a chat and a laugh over tea and cakes.

There is no charge but contributions to our chosen charity will be very welcome

Operation Christmas Child



We are once again supporting Operation Christmas Child by collecting shoeboxes filled with gifts for children. Our Benefice collection points are St Mary's Ashbury and St Andrew's Shrivenham, where you can also pick up a 'How to Pack Your Shoebox' leaflet which gives guidance on what can and can't be included.

Bring your shoebox to the Shoebox Sunday service in St Mary's at 11.00am on Sunday 19th November, or drop it off in either church any time before that date. More information from Maggie Simons 01793 710801 or the Samaritan's Purse website where you can also purchase a pre-packed shoebox.

www.samaritans-purse.org.uk

Advent Calendars and Christmas Cards

Margaret Hern has a good selection of Christian charity Christmas cards and Advent calendars for sale from the Lighthouse Book Shop in Highworth.

Margaret lives in Shrivenham. Ring her on 01793 782100 to arrange a time to visit



COLLECT

Heavenly Father,
whose blessed Son was revealed to
destroy the works of the devil
and to make us the children of God and
heirs of eternal life:
grant that we, having this hope,
may purify ourselves even as he is pure;
that when he shall appear in power and
great glory
we may be made like him in his eternal
and glorious kingdom;
where he is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING Zephaniah 1:7. 12-end

A reading from the book of the prophet Zephaniah.

Be silent before the Lord GOD! For the day of the LORD is at hand; the LORD has prepared a sacrifice, he has consecrated his guests. At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the people who rest complacently on their dregs, those who say in their hearts, "The LORD will not do good, nor will he do harm." Their wealth shall be plundered, and their houses laid waste. Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them. The great day of the LORD is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter, the warrior cries aloud there. That day will be a day of wrath, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness, a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements. I will bring such distress upon people that they shall walk like the blind; because they have sinned against the LORD, their blood shall be poured out like dust, and their flesh like dung. Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to save them on the day of the Lord's wrath; in the fire of his passion the whole earth shall be consumed; for a full, a terrible end he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

PSALM Psalm 90:1-8 [9-11] 12

R *Satisfy us by your loving-kindness;
so shall we rejoice and be glad.*

Lord, you have been our refuge
from one generation to another.
Before the mountains were brought forth,
or the land and the earth were born,
from age to age you are God.
You turn us back to the dust and say,
"Go back, O child of earth." **R**

For a thousand years in your sight
are like yesterday when it is past
and like a watch in the night.
You sweep us away like a dream;
we fade away suddenly like the grass.
In the morning it is green and flourishes;
in the evening it is dried up and withered. **R**

For we consume away in your displeasure;
we are afraid because of your wrathful
indignation.
Our iniquities you have set before you,
and our secret sins in the light of your
countenance. **R**

[When you are angry, all our days are gone;
we bring our years to an end like a sigh.
The span of our life is seventy years,
perhaps in strength even eighty;
yet the sum of them is but labour
and sorrow,
for they pass away quickly and we
are gone.
Who regards the power of your wrath?
Who rightly fears your indignation? **R**]

So teach us to number our days
that we may apply our hearts to wisdom. **R**

SECOND READING

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Thessalonians.

Concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labour pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

GOSPEL Matthew 25:14-30

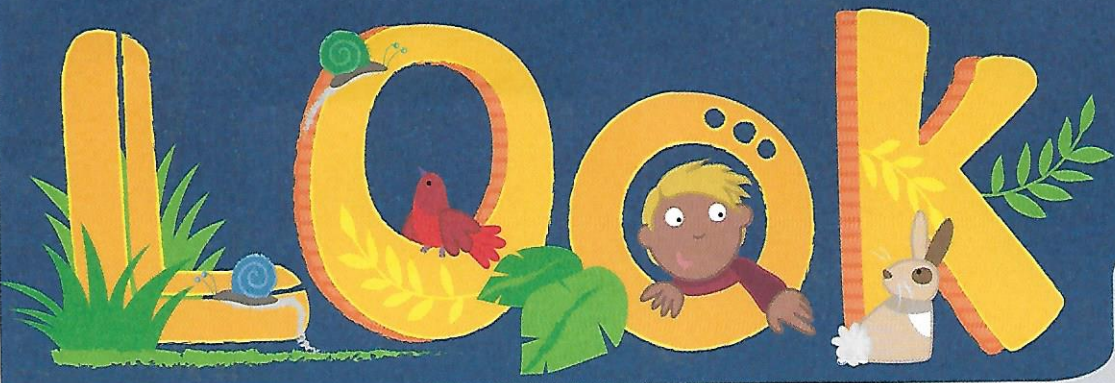
Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

Jesus said to his disciples, "The kingdom of heaven is as if a man, going on a journey,

summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'"

POST COMMUNION

Gracious Lord,
in this holy sacrament
you give substance to our hope:
bring us at the last
to that fullness of life for which we long;
through Jesus Christ our Saviour.



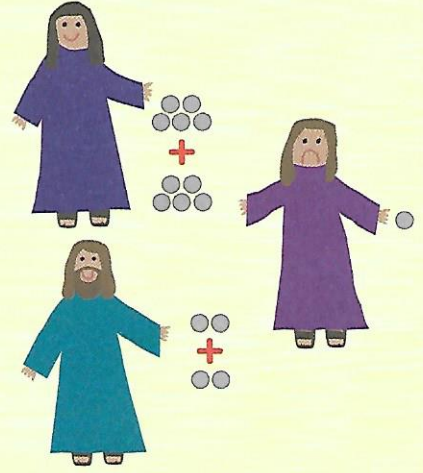
Sunday 19 November 2023
 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
 Matthew 25:14-30

In the
GOSPEL TODAY

USE YOUR GIFTS!

A man trusts his servants to look after his money. Two of them work hard and increase what they have been given, but one is too scared to use his gift at all. Jesus wants us all to use our gifts well.

Samuel, David and Amos



Here are the three men, with their talents. How many talents did each have in the end, to show their master? Write the answers in the boxes below.

Samuel used his money wisely and made 5 more talents. [] talents altogether.

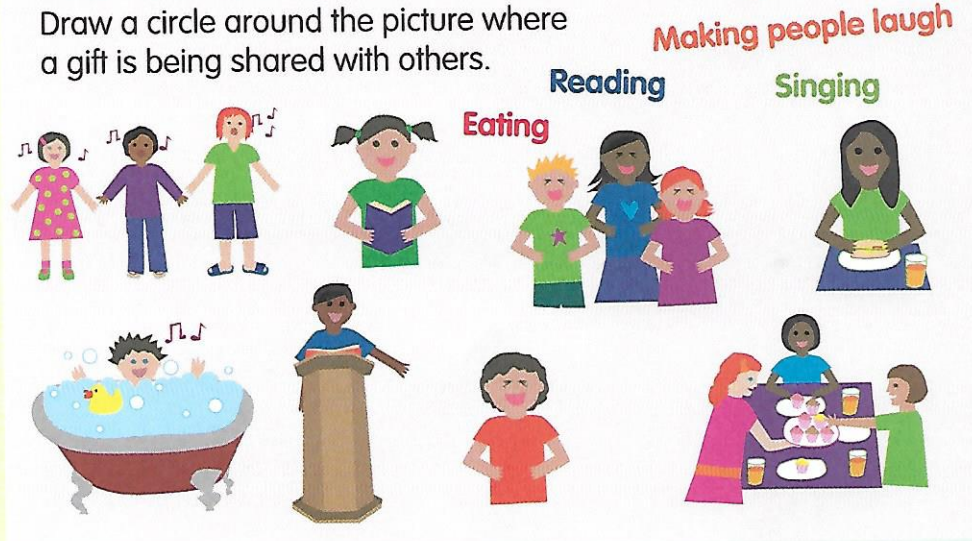
David worked hard and made 2 more talents. [] talents altogether.

Amos buried his money to keep it safe. [] talents altogether.

Which man did not use the gift he had been given?

God trusts us to USE our gifts

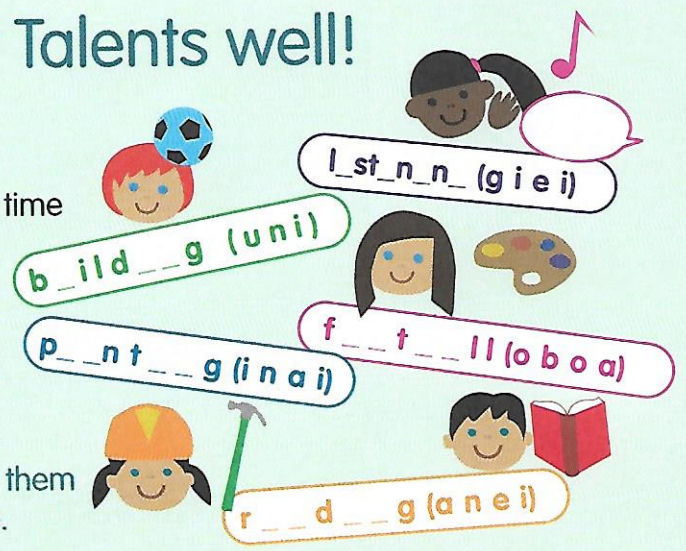
Draw a circle around the picture where a gift is being shared with others.



Use your Talents well!

Matching

A "talent" in Jesus' time was a sort of money. We use this word today to describe our skills and abilities. Unscramble these talents and match them to the right people.

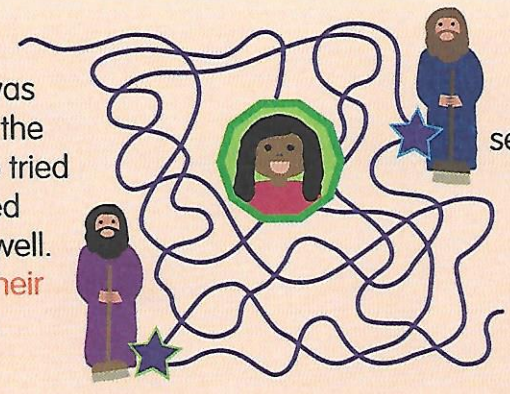


A PRAYER TO SAY

Thank you, Lord, for giving me so many gifts. Help me to use them well and generously. Amen.

Maze

The master was pleased with the servants who tried hard and used their money well. They joined their master in his happiness.



Help these hard-working servants join their happy master. Give them smiling faces when they reach him!