



# 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



## Sunday 26th November 2023 Sunday next before Advent

### Sunday 26th November

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

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

### Tuesday

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

### 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

### Thursday

9:00am Matins. Live on [Facebook](#)  
3:15pm Shrivenham, St Andrew  
Messy Church  
5:30pm Shrivenham, St Andrew  
ASK Evening Prayer  
6:00pm Benefice Choir Practice in St Andrew's

### Friday 1st December

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

### Saturday

10:00am Bourton, St James  
Family Service  
3:00pm Cremation – Sylvia Jessica (Sue) King  
South Oxfordshire Crematorium

### Community Cycle of Prayer

Please pray this week for all who live and work in  
College Farm Lane in Ashbury, and Stonefield Close  
and Glebe Close in Shrivenham.

### Advent Sunday 3rd December

7:45am Shrivenham, 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 Shrivenham, St Andrew.  
Family Service  
11:00am Ashbury, St Mary  
Morning Prayer  
5:30pm Fernham, St John & [Facebook](#)  
Advent Carols with the Benefice Choir  
and St Andrew's Handbell Ringers

### Looking to the Future – Your Next Vicar

Thank you to everyone who came along to the informal  
consultation in Shrivenham Memorial Hall last Sunday,  
and to those who helped to make it so successful.

We will be reviewing your comments and suggestions  
as we prepare an updated Benefice Profile, the next  
step towards appointing a new Vicar.

There's still time to take part in the consultation  
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](mailto:info@shrivenhamandashbury.co.uk)

### Baby and Toddler Group



Please note that the group which meets in St Andrew's  
is not meeting this week (Thursday 30th November).

The last open session this term will be on Thursday 7th  
December. They will be having a Christmas party on  
Thursday 14th December, but places must be booked in  
advance. Please contact Hazel Morris on 07931 225 530

The group will restart on Thursday 11th January 2024.

### What's Your Favourite Carol?

We will once again be sharing  
a carol every day on Facebook  
from Advent Sunday until  
Christmas Day.

As last year we are inviting you to  
join in and tell us about your  
favourite carol and why you like it.

Record a short video (no longer  
than 2 minutes, but shorter is  
fine!) and email it to us.

Or get in touch and we'll do the filming for you.  
01793 783519 [info@shrivenhamandashbury.co.uk](mailto:info@shrivenhamandashbury.co.uk)

Each post will include a link to a specially chosen  
version of the carol on YouTube.



### The Torriano Ensemble Autumn Concert



Last Sunday evening saw the return of the Torriano Ensemble to St Mary's Longcot for their Autumn Concert.

It was a wonderful evening of music for flute, clarinet, bassoon and strings. It also proved to be an excellent fund raiser for Longcot Village Trust and St Mary's Church. Thank you to everybody who contributed to the success of the concert from those moving chairs and pews, selling drinks, handing out programmes, collecting donations, welcoming and closing the event, the highly appreciative audience, but most of all to the musicians.

### Operation Christmas Child



Thank you to everyone who packed a shoebox and brought it along to the service at St Mary's Ashbury last Sunday. They have now been delivered to the Highworth Collection Centre for the next stage of their journey. It's not too late to make a difference to a child in need this Christmas – visit the Samaritan's Purse website to pack your own box or purchase a pre-packed shoebox. [www.samaritans-purse.org.uk](http://www.samaritans-purse.org.uk)

### 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.



Shrivenham, St Andrew  
Thursday 30th November  
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](#), or email

[standfast.shrivenham@yahoo.com](mailto:standfast.shrivenham@yahoo.com)

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

### Advent Calendars and Christmas Cards

Margaret Hern has a good selection of Christian charity Christmas cards and Advent calendars for sale.

Margaret lives in Shrivenham.

Ring her to arrange a time to visit. 01793 782100

### Christmas Services

#### Sunday 10th December

- 3:00pm Watchfield, St Thomas  
Carol Service with the Benefice Choir and handbells
- 5:45pm Shrivenham, St Andrew  
Christingle followed by Carols around the Tree
- 6:30pm Compton Beauchamp, St Swithun  
Carol Service with the Benefice Choir and handbells

#### Saturday 16th December

- 5:00pm Ashbury, St Mary  
Carol Service with the Benefice Choir and handbells

#### Sunday 17th December

- 4:30pm Shrivenham, St Andrew  
Carol Service with the Benefice Choir and handbells
- 6:30pm Longcot, St Mary. Also live on Facebook.  
Carol Service with the Benefice Choir and handbells

#### Wednesday 20th December

- 5:00pm Shrivenham, St Andrew  
Cloths for the Cradle

#### Thursday 21st December

- 10:00am Shrivenham, St Andrew  
Messy Church Christmas Drop-in
- 5:00pm Fernham, Elmside Green  
Village Carols

#### Friday 22nd December

- 6:00pm Ashbury Village Crossroads  
Stations of the Nativity

#### Christmas Eve

- 9:00am Compton Beauchamp, St Swithun  
Holy Communion (BCP)
- 4:00pm Ashbury, St Mary  
Crib Service
- 4:00pm Shrivenham, St Andrew  
Crib Service
- 4:00pm Bourton, St James  
Village Carols
- 5:00pm Watchfield, St Thomas  
Holy Communion (BCP)
- 11:30pm Shrivenham, St Andrew  
Midnight Mass
- 11:30pm Longcot, St Mary  
Midnight Mass

#### Christmas Day

- 10:15am Shrivenham, St Andrew. Also live on Facebook.  
Holy Communion
- 10:30am Ashbury, St Mary  
Family Service with Communion by Extension

#### Sunday 31st December

- 11:00am Watchfield, St Thomas. Also live on Facebook.  
Benefice Communion

## COLLECT

Eternal Father,  
whose Son Jesus Christ ascended to the  
throne of heaven that he might rule  
over all things as Lord and King:  
keep the Church in the unity of the  
Spirit  
and in the bond of peace,  
and bring the whole created order to  
worship at his feet;  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

## FIRST READING

**Ezekiel 34:11-16. 20-24**

*A reading from the book of the prophet Ezekiel.*

Thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord GOD. I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice. Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep. I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. And I, the LORD, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the LORD, have spoken.

## PSALM Psalm 95:1-7

**R** *The Lord is a great God,  
and a great king above all gods.*

Come, let us sing to the Lord;  
let us shout for joy to the rock of  
our salvation.  
Let us come before his presence with  
thanksgiving  
and raise a loud shout to him  
with psalms.  
For the Lord is a great God,  
and a great king above all gods. **R**

In his hand are the depths of the earth,  
and the heights of the hills are his also.  
The sea is his, for he made it,  
and his hands have moulded the  
dry land. **R**

Come, let us bow down and bend  
the knee,  
and kneel before the Lord our Maker.  
For he is our God,  
and we are the people of his pasture  
and the sheep of his hand. **R**

## SECOND READING

**Ephesians 1:15-end**

*A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians.*

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love towards all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

## GOSPEL Matthew 25:31-end

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

Jesus said to his disciples: "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.' Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?' Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

## POST COMMUNION

Stir up, O Lord,  
the wills of your faithful people;  
that they, plenteously bringing forth the  
fruit of good works,  
may by you be plenteously rewarded;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

# Look

Sunday 26 November 2023  
 Our Lord Jesus Christ,  
 King of the Universe  
**Matthew 25:31-46**

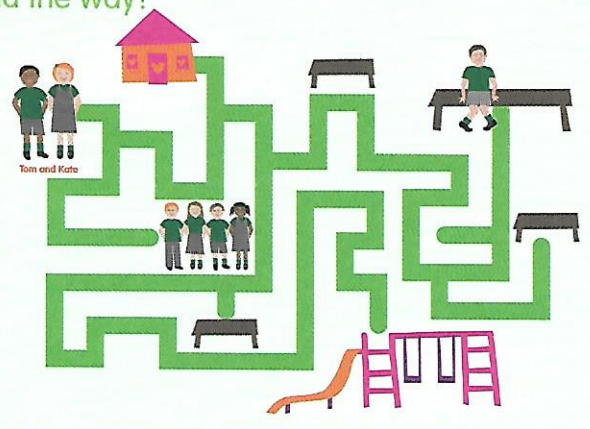
In the  
**GOSPEL TODAY**

## USE YOUR GIFT!

Jesus challenges us to look out for people who need our kindness, our help and our friendship. Jesus is in every sick person, every lonely person and every sad person. If we help someone in need in any way we are helping Jesus.

### Playtime maze

Tom and Kate are on the lookout for someone who needs a friend. Can you help them to find the way?



### We are the Church!

Some kings are very proud.  
 Some kings go to war.  
 Jesus is a different kind of king.

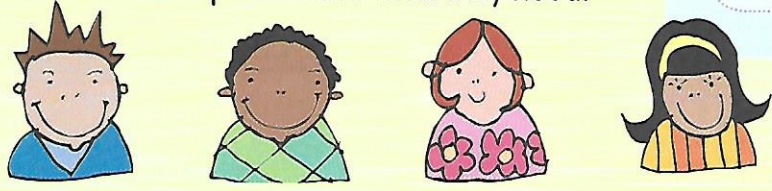
- POOR
- HUNGRY
- PRISONERS
- ILL
- FOREIGNER
- THIRSTY
- LONELY



Jesus wants us to honour him by honouring the people in this word search.

### Puzzle

Draw a line and help each person find what they need.



I am hungry      I am thirsty      I am cold      I am alone



### Spot the difference

Jesus says we will all be happy, or blessed, when we help other people.  
 Can you spot five differences between these blessed, happy children?



### A PRAYER TO SAY

Jesus, I know that you are our king in heaven, but you also need my help here on Earth. I want to help you now so that all people will know and love you. Amen.

These children are happy.  
 Jesus is their king and they are doing what he says.

Answers: stars, necklace, ear, hairside, eyebrows.

## Reading Sheet for St Andrew the Apostle

### The Collect

Almighty God, who gave such grace to your apostle Saint Andrew that he readily obeyed the call of your Son Jesus Christ and brought his brother with him: call us by your holy word, and give us grace to follow you without delay and to tell the good news of your kingdom; 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. **Amen**

### First Lesson

#### ***Romans 10:12-18***

There is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. For, 'Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.' But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, 'How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!' But not all have obeyed the good news; for Isaiah says, 'Lord, who has believed our message?' So faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the word of Christ. But I ask, have they not heard? Indeed they have; for 'Their voice has gone out to all the earth, and their words to the ends of the world.'

### Gospel Reading

#### **Introduction**

Alleluia, alleluia.

I have called you friends, says the Lord, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you.

All **Alleluia.**

#### ***Matthew 4:18-22***

As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, Jesus saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the lake - for they were fishermen. And he said to them, 'Follow me, and I will make you fish

for people.' Immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him.

### Prayer after Communion

Lord God, the source of truth and love, keep us faithful to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, united in prayer and the breaking of bread, and one in joy and simplicity of heart, in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

### St Andrew's Hymn

The fisherman of Galilee,  
Who with the Baptist trod,  
Responded to the herald's cry  
"Behold the Lamb of God".  
He summoned Simon, 'Come and see';  
And, pledging heart and mind,  
They left their nets, their boats, their homes,  
To fish for humankind.

In faith and trust he brought a lad  
To offer fish and bread:  
And through that little gift of love  
The multitude were fed.  
May we whose faith is all too small,  
Whose powers are all too slight,  
Place what we are in Jesu's hands,  
Relying on His might.

We thank you, Lord, for parents, friends,  
And teachers, by whose care  
We came to know the living Christ,  
His Glory to declare.  
May we who walk with Him through life,  
Who worship, serve, obey,  
Help others know Him as the Lord,  
The Life, the Truth, the Way.

Apostle of the risen Lord,  
He counted it no loss,  
To follow where his Master led,  
And die upon a cross.  
May we who call him patron saint  
Heed neither hurt nor shame,  
But, serving Jesus as he did,  
Rejoice in Andrew's name.