



The Shrevenham 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 10th December 2023 Second Sunday of Advent

Sunday 10th December

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

- 9:30am Longcot, St Mary & [Facebook](#)
Holy Communion
- 10:15am Shrivenham, St Andrew
Holy Communion
- 11:00am Ashbury, St Mary
Holy Communion with Baptism
- 3:00pm Watchfield, St Thomas
Carol Service with the Benefice Choir
and St Andrew's Handbell Ringers
- 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 St Andrew's Handbell Ringers

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
- 10:30am Wednesday Study Group via Zoom
- 7:00pm Wednesday Study Group
St Andrew's Vicarage

Thursday

- 9:00am Baby & Toddler Group in St Andrew's
Matins. Live on [Facebook](#)
- 10:00am Ashbury, St Mary & [Facebook](#)
Holy Communion
- 6:00pm Benefice Choir Practice in St Andrew's
7:45pm Shrivenham, St Andrew & [Facebook](#)
Compline for Advent

Friday

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

Saturday

- 8:30am Men's Breakfast
The Barrington Arms, Shrivenham
Shrivenham
- 5:00pm Ashbury, St Mary
Carol Service with the Benefice Choir
and St Andrew's Handbell Ringers

Sunday 17th December

- 7:45am Shrivenham, St Andrew
Holy Communion (BCP)
- 9:00am Compton Beauchamp, St Swithun
Matins
- 9:30am Watchfield, St Thomas
Matins
- 10:00am Bourton, St James & [Facebook](#)
- 11:00am Ashbury, St Mary
Celtic Morning Prayer
- 4:30pm Shrivenham, St Andrew
Carol Service with the Benefice Choir
and St Andrew's Handbell Ringers
- 6:30pm Longcot, St Mary & [Facebook](#).
Carol Service with the Benefice Choir
and St Andrew's Handbell Ringers

A Countdown to Christmas



We are sharing a carol every day on [Facebook](#) until Christmas Day. There is a short video introduction and a link to a specially chosen version on YouTube.

You can also watch the videos on the [Countdown](#) to Christmas page on the Benefice website.

If you would like to join in and tell us about your favourite carol you can either 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

Songs & Stories and Baby & Toddler Group



This week's Songs & Stories is the last before Christmas. The group will restart on Wednesday 10th January 2024.

The Baby & Toddler Group has a Christmas party this week. Places must be booked in advance.
Please contact Hazel Morris on 07931 225 530
The group will restart on Thursday 11th January 2024.

Community Cycle of Prayer

Please pray this week for all who live and work in High Street in Ashbury, and The Green in Shrivenham.

Christmas Greetings – One Card to All



Sometimes Christmas trees can look a little sad without their decorations, but we hope this one in St Mary's, Ashbury, will soon be full of colourful Christmas cards as people save both money and the environment by using one card to wish all their friends a happy and blessed Christmas. If you haven't bought your cards yet, upcycled cards (made by Sue Stannard) are available at the foot of the tree. Sue's lovely cards are available throughout the year and the money raised supports the ministry and mission of the church.

Crib Fest at Shrivenham Methodist Church



Wednesday 13th to Friday 15th December
from 10am till 12 noon

Come along and admire Cribs and Nativity scenes from around the world whilst enjoying a coffee and mince pie.

Men's Breakfast

Saturday 16th December at 8:30am
The Barrington Arms, Shrivenham

For catering purposes, please let David Ahern know by Thursday 14th if you plan to attend.

01793 783521 davidmahern@gmail.com

Christmas Services

Sunday 10th December

- 3:00pm Watchfield, St Thomas
Carol Service with the Benefice Choir
and St Andrew's Handbell Ringers
- 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 St Andrew's Handbell Ringers bells

Saturday 16th December

- 5:00pm Ashbury, St Mary
Carol Service with the Benefice Choir
and St Andrew's Handbell Ringers

Sunday 17th December

- 4:30pm Shrivenham, St Andrew
Carol Service with the Benefice Choir
and St Andrew's Handbell Ringers
- 6:30pm Longcot, St Mary & [Facebook](#).
Carol Service with the Benefice Choir
and St Andrew's Handbell Ringers

Wednesday 20th December

- 2:00pm Shrivenham Methodist Church
Village Carols
- 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 & [Facebook](#).
Holy Communion
- 10:30am Ashbury, St Mary
Family Service with Communion by Extension

Sunday 31st December

- 11:00am Watchfield, St Thomas & [Facebook](#).
Benefice Communion

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 from 18th January at 7.45pm in St Andrew's Vicarage. All ages are welcome.

COLLECT

O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power and come among us, and with great might succour us; that whereas, through our sins and wickedness we are grievously hindered in running the race that is set before us, your bountiful grace and mercy may speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, be honour and glory, now and for ever.

FIRST READING Isaiah 40:1-11

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken." A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand for ever. Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

PSALM Psalm 85:1-2. 8-end

R Show us your mercy, O Lord, and grant us your salvation.

You have been gracious to your land, O Lord, you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.

You have forgiven the iniquity of your people and blotted out all their sins. **R**

I will listen to what the Lord God is saying, for he is speaking peace to his faithful people and to those who turn their hearts to him.

Truly, his salvation is very near to those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land. **R**

Mercy and truth have met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

Truth shall spring up from the earth, and righteousness shall look down from heaven. **R**

The Lord will indeed grant prosperity, and our land will yield its increase. Righteousness shall go before him, and peace shall be a pathway for his feet. **R**

SECOND READING 2 Peter 3:8-15a

A reading from the second letter of Peter.

Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed. Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? But, in accordance with his

promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home. Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

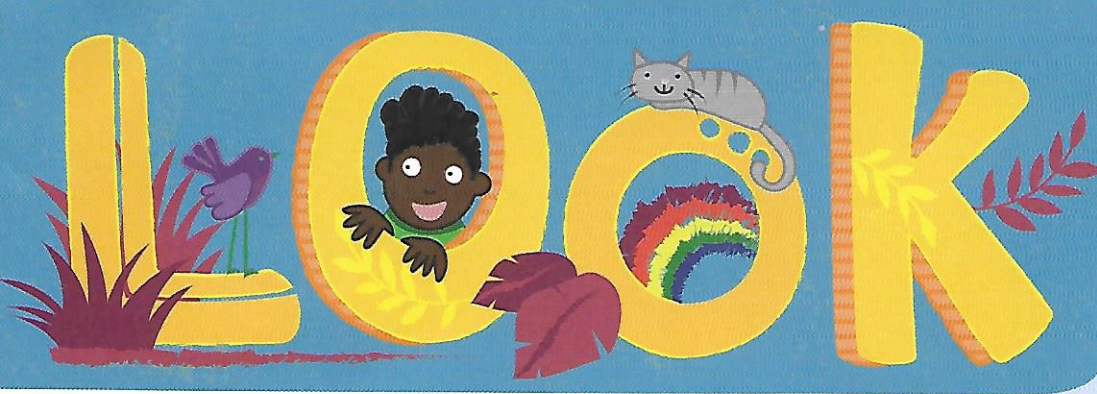
GOSPEL Mark 1:1-8

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

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'" John the baptiser appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptised by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptised you with water; but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit."

POST COMMUNION

Father in heaven, who sent your Son to redeem the world and will send him again to be our judge: give us grace so to imitate him in the humility and purity of his first coming that, when he comes again, we may be ready to greet him with joyful love and firm faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord.



Sunday 10 December 2023
2nd Sunday of Advent
Mark 1:1-8

In the
GOSPEL TODAY

JOHN THE BAPTIST

John the Baptist is the messenger sent by God. He is helping everyone to get ready to welcome Jesus. John baptises people in the River Jordan. He tells people that the one coming after him is far more important. The promised one will baptise them with the Holy Spirit.

wild honey

strong, loud voice

the wilderness

locusts

long hair & beard

string sandals

camel skin tunic

Colour the picture of John, then draw lines to connect the words to the picture.

Maze

John the Baptist is in the middle of the desert. People hear his loud, strong voice. They come from far and wide to hear God's message.

Can you help them find their way?



Baptism

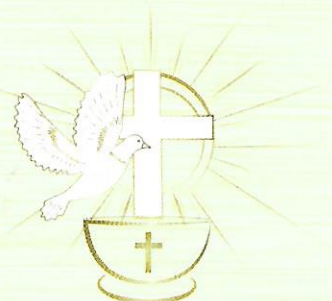
I was baptised in _____ church.

I can see the baptismal font in this church.

[] yes [] no

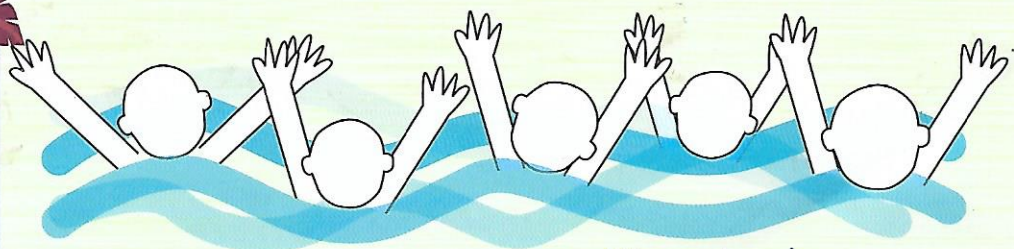
These people have changed their ways and become good! Give them happy faces.

John baptises them in the w_ _ _ _



A PRAYER TO SAY

Dear God, help me to get ready for Jesus: to help at home, to have fun with my family and to be kind to children who are sad. Amen.



River Jordan