



The Shrevenham 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 3rd December 2023 Advent Sunday

Advent Sunday 3rd December

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

- 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
- 5:30pm Fernham, St John & [Facebook](#)
Advent Carols with the Benefice Choir
and St Andrew's Handbell Ringers

Tuesday

- 9:00am Morning Prayer. Live on [Facebook](#)
- 11:15am Cremation – Ron Johnson RIP (family only)
Service of thanksgiving to follow, date to be
advised.

Wednesday

- 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](#)
- 6:00pm Benefice Choir Practice in St Andrew's
- 7:45pm Shrevenham, St Andrew & [Facebook](#)
Compline for Advent

Friday

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

Saturday

- 10:00am Café Inspire
Shrevenham Primary School Hall

Sunday 10th December

- 9:30am Longcot, St Mary & [Facebook](#)
Holy Communion
- 10:15am Shrevenham, 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 Shrevenham, 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

What's Your Favourite Carol?



We will 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

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

Baby and Toddler Group



This week's session is the last one this term.
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.

Community Cycle of Prayer

Please pray this week for all who live and work in
Ashdown Estate in Ashbury, and Sywell Road
and Trajan Road in Shrevenham.

St Andrew's Annual Brass Cleaning Morning



Thank you to all the polishers who helped to put the shine back on our brassware in St Andrew's.

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 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 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

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.

Watchfield & Shrivenham Community Larder



St Alban's Church - open to all
Friday 1530 - 1800

The Community Larder is here for everyone, regardless of circumstance.
Offering a helping hand for anyone needing a little extra support.

Food donations welcome at the Jubilee Centre, St Alban's Church
(during Community Larder opening hours), and Building 43 for DefAc Staff.
Monetary donations gratefully received via bank transfer to:
Sort Code: 30-13-35 | Acc No: 01202538

Contact Leigh Hyde for any queries: leigh.hyde@da.mod.uk | 07920 162664

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COLLECT

Almighty God,
give us grace to cast away the works
of darkness
and to put on the armour of light,
now in the time of this mortal life,
in which your Son Jesus Christ
came to us in great humility;
that on the last day,
when he shall come again in his
glorious majesty to judge the living
and the dead,
we may rise to the life immortal;
through him who is alive and reigns
with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING Isaiah 64:1-9

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence – as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil – to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. Yet, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD, and do not remember iniquity for ever. Now consider, we are all your people.

PSALM Psalm 80:1-8. 18-20

R *[Restore us, O God of hosts;]
Show the light of your countenance
and we shall be saved.*

Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin and Manasseh,
stir up your strength and come to help us. **R**

O Lord God of hosts,
how long will you be angered despite the prayers of your people? **R**

You have fed them with the bread of tears;
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

You have made us the derision of our neighbours,
and our enemies laugh us to scorn. **R**

Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand,
the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.
And so will we never turn away from you;
give us life, that we may call upon your name. **R**

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

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

My brothers and sisters: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind – just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you – so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

GOSPEL Mark 13:24-end

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

Jesus said to his disciples: "In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. 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 these things taking place, 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. But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake – for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

POST COMMUNION

O Lord our God,
make us watchful and keep us faithful
as we await the coming of your Son
our Lord;
that, when he shall appear,
he may not find us sleeping in sin
but active in his service
and joyful in his praise;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

LOOK

In the
GOSPEL TODAY

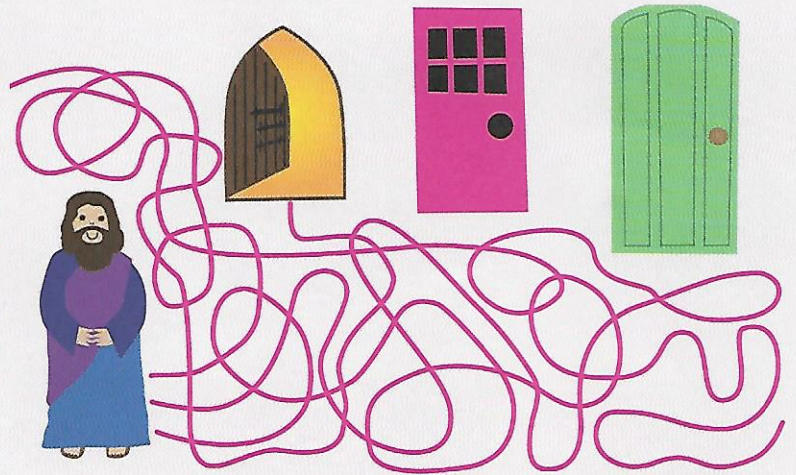
BE READY!

As we start Advent the Gospel tells us to be ready to welcome Jesus. It is like when a man goes away leaving his servants in charge. The doorkeeper needs to stay awake to welcome the master when he comes back. Jesus wants us to be ready to welcome him – and he is coming soon!

ADVENT is about WAITING for the coming of Jesus as a baby at Bethlehem.



Welcome the master



We wait
p _ i _ n _ l _ (t y e t)

We wait
h _ _ _ fully
(e p o)



There are 4 Sundays in ADVENT.

Spot the difference

Can you spot five differences in these pictures? What are the three different ways Ben knows it is time to wake up?

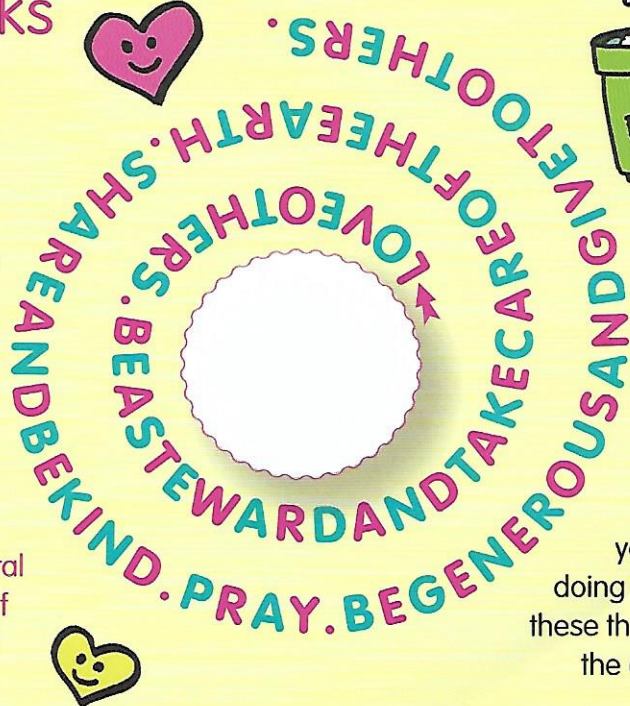


Jesus says the doorkeeper must be ready when the master comes home.

Which path leads to the door which is open to welcome him?

Our tasks

The master left his servants in charge. Each has their own job. God has given all of us jobs too.



A PRAYER TO SAY

I am really looking forward to welcoming you into my heart, Jesus! Help me to get ready for you by being kind and loving. Amen.

Follow the spiral to see some of the tasks God has given us.

Draw yourself doing one of these things in the centre.