



# The Shrivenham and Ashbury Benefice

'Mirroring the hospitality of God'

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## Sunday 14th January 2024

### Sunday 14th January

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

9:30am Watchfield, St Thomas  
Matins

9:30am Longcot, St Mary  
Holy Communion

10:30am Shrivenham Methodist Church  
Joint Covenant Service

11:00am Ashbury, St Mary & [Facebook](#)  
Holy Communion

### Tuesday

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

7:00pm Shrivenham, Watchfield & Bourton PCC

### Wednesday

9:00am Shrivenham, St Andrew & [Facebook](#)  
Morning Prayer

9:15am Song and Stories Toddler Group  
Back room, Shrivenham Methodist Church

10:30am Wednesday Study Group via Zoom

7:00pm Wednesday Study Group  
St Andrew's Vicarage

### Thursday

8:45am Baby & Toddler Group in St Andrew's

9:00am Matins. Live on [Facebook](#)

6:30pm Benefice Choir Practice in St Andrew's

### 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

11:00am Compton Beauchamp PCC

## Second Sunday of Epiphany

### Sunday 21st January

7:45am Shrivenham, St Andrew  
Holy Communion (BCP)

9:00am Compton Beauchamp, St Swithun  
Matins

9:30am Watchfield, St Thomas  
Holy Communion (BCP)

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  
Taizé Morning Prayer

### Come and See – The Way of Love A course for Lent and for Life

Lent is early this year with Ash Wednesday on 14th February. Join us as we share the Diocesan Lent course, 'Come and See', which explores how God calls each of us into relationship with him, and how his love teaches us to love others. Through daily emails and a short Sunday video, 'Explore the Way of Love' takes a closer look at the Commandments and what they mean in the context of what Jesus called the two most important: you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and soul and mind and strength, and you shall love your neighbour as yourself. God's invitation is to walk the 'Way of Love' in relationship with him, while also showing his love to our neighbours. To find out more, talk to Norma, Patrick or Richard or visit [oxford.anglican.org/come-and-see](http://oxford.anglican.org/come-and-see)

### Confirmation Classes

The classes due to start on 18th January have been cancelled as no candidates have come forward.

### Welcome

Welcome to Albie Edward Hatherall-Machin who was baptised on Saturday 6th January at St James' Church Bourton.

### Community Cycle of Prayer

Please pray this week for all who live and work in Odstone Farm & Cottages in Ashbury, and Berens Road in Shrivenham.

### Men's Breakfast

Saturday 20th January at 8:30am  
The Barrington Arms, Shrivenham

For catering purposes, please let David Ahern know by Wednesday 17th if you plan to attend.

01793 783521 [davidmahern@gmail.com](mailto:davidmahern@gmail.com)

If you would like to make a text donation to support the Benefice churches please

Text **GIVEfive** to **70470** to donate **£5**

Text **GIVETen** to **70470** to donate **£10**

Your standard text message rate applies.

**Thank you!**

### Thank You from the Lamberts

Joanna and Philip Lambert recently visited a village in the High Atlas Mountains in Morocco which was devastated by the earthquake on 8th September 2023.



Many of you were incredibly generous-knitting wonderful hats, onesies, cardigans, gloves, donating Wellington boots and school exercise books, games and puzzles. The children and their mothers receiving them were incredibly grateful. The weather here is dry and sunny but perishingly cold at night so the woollies will be very welcome.

Thank you all so much for being so generous

With love, Joanna and Philip

Here are some photos of the damage. As you will see it is quite random, one untouched house next to a fallen one.



The Berber people are incredibly friendly, and the country as a whole seems remarkably peaceful.

Our guide said that the adversity of the earthquake had unified the people, with many coming from the unaffected coastal regions into the mountains to offer help. We are staying just outside Marrakesh and many of the staff here have never visited the mountains which are only an hour's drive, and a wonderful backdrop to the city.



**Collect**

Almighty God,  
in Christ you make all things new:  
transform the poverty of our nature  
by the riches of your grace,  
and in the renewal of our lives  
make known your heavenly glory;  
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.

**1 Samuel 3.1–10 [11–20]**

Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the Lord under Eli. The word of the Lord was rare in those days; visions were not widespread.

At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the Lord, where the ark of God was. Then the Lord called, 'Samuel! Samuel!' and he said, 'Here I am!' and ran to Eli, and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' But he said, 'I did not call; lie down again.' So he went and lay down. The Lord called again, 'Samuel!' Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' But he said, 'I did not call, my son; lie down again.' Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. The Lord called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' Then Eli perceived that the Lord was calling the boy. Therefore Eli said to Samuel, 'Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, "Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening."' So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

Now the Lord came and stood there, calling as before, 'Samuel! Samuel!' And Samuel said, 'Speak, for your servant is listening.'

[ Then the Lord said to Samuel, 'See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make both ears of anyone who hears of it tingle. On that day I will fulfil against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end. For I have told him that I am about to punish his

house for ever, for the iniquity that he knew, because his sons were blaspheming God, and he did not restrain them. Therefore I swear to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli's house shall not be expiated by sacrifice or offering for ever.'

Samuel lay there until morning; then he opened the doors of the house of the Lord. Samuel was afraid to tell the vision to Eli. But Eli called Samuel and said, 'Samuel, my son.' He said, 'Here I am.' Eli said, 'What was it that he told you? Do not hide it from me. May God do so to you and more also, if you hide anything from me of all that he told you.' So Samuel told him everything and hid nothing from him. Then he said, 'It is the Lord; let him do what seems good to him.'

As Samuel grew up, the Lord was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground. And all Israel from Dan to Beer-sheba knew that Samuel was a trustworthy prophet of the Lord. ]

**Revelation 5.1–10**

Then I saw in the right hand of the one seated on the throne a scroll written on the inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals; and I saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, 'Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?' And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it. And I began to weep bitterly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it. Then one of the elders said to me, 'Do not weep. See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals.'

Then I saw between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders a Lamb standing as if it had been slaughtered, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. He went and took the scroll from the right hand of the one who was seated on the throne. When he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell before the Lamb, each holding a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. They sing a new song:

'You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slaughtered and by your blood you ransomed for God saints from every tribe and language and people and nation; you have made them to be a kingdom and priests serving our God, and they will reign on earth.'

**John 1.43–end**

The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, 'Follow me.' Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, 'We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth.' Nathanael said to him, 'Can anything good come out of Nazareth?' Philip said to him, 'Come and see.' When Jesus saw Nathanael coming towards him, he said of him, 'Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!' Nathanael asked him, 'Where did you come to know me?' Jesus answered, 'I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you.' Nathanael replied, 'Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!' Jesus answered, 'Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these.' And he said to him, 'Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.'

**Post Communion**

God of glory,  
you nourish us with your Word  
who is the bread of life:  
fill us with your Holy Spirit  
that through us the light of your glory  
may shine in all the world.  
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ  
our Lord.