



# The Shrevenham and Ashbury Benefice

'Mirroring the hospitality of God'

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## Sunday 7th January 2024

## Epiphany

### Sunday 7th January

Rev'd Patrick Mabhunu 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  
Holy Communion by Extension (BCP)
- 9:30am Longcot, St Mary & [Facebook](#)  
Holy Communion
- 10:15am Shrevenham, St Andrew.  
Family Service
- 11:00am Ashbury, St Mary.  
Morning Prayer
- 5:30pm Shrevenham, St Andrew & [Facebook](#)  
Compline and Benediction

### Tuesday

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

### Wednesday

- 9:00am Shrevenham, St Andrew & [Facebook](#)  
Morning Prayer
- 9:15am Song and Stories Toddler Group  
Back room, Shrevenham 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](#)
- 10:00am Ashbury, St Mary & [Facebook](#)  
Holy Communion
- 6:30pm Benefice Choir Practice in St Andrew's

### 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 14th January

- 9:30am Watchfield, St Thomas  
Matins
- 9:30am Longcot, St Mary  
Holy Communion
- 10:30am Shrevenham Methodist Church  
Joint Covenant Service
- 11:00am Ashbury, St Mary & [Facebook](#)  
Holy Communion

### Songs and Stories Toddler Group



#### Restarts on Wednesday 10th January

Action songs, nursery rhymes and stories  
for pre-school children and their carers.

Every Wednesday (term-time only) at 9:15am in the  
back room of Shrevenham Methodist Church.

Doors open at 8:45am for free play.

Tea and coffee are available and a healthy snack  
is provided for the children.

No charge, but a donation towards the cost of drinks  
and snacks would be appreciated.

### Baby and Toddler Group



#### Restarts on Thursday 11th January

The group meets in St Andrew's Church Shrevenham  
every Thursday (term-time only) from 8:45 - 10:45am.

All parents and carers with pre-school children are  
welcome, but please remember that you are at all  
times responsible for the children you bring along.

Only £1.50 per adult which includes refreshments,  
and snacks and craft activities for the children.

More information from Hazel Morris on 07931 225 530

### Community Cycle of Prayer

Please pray this week for all who live and work in  
Malthouse Close in Ashbury,  
and Ballingers in Shrevenham.

### Condolences

Our condolences to the family and friends  
of the late Audrey Pearce (formerly of Watchfield),  
Steve Honey and Philip Laird.  
Please keep them in your prayers.

### Coffee Morning

Friday 12th January from 10am to noon  
St Andrew's Church, Shrevenham.  
Feel free to bring your book, your knitting or stitching,  
or just enjoy a chat with friends.

### Pennyhooks Farm

Lydia Otter, Founder and CEO of Pennyhooks Farm Trust, has been awarded an MBE in the New Year's Honours List for her services to people with Autism and their families in Oxfordshire.



### Wednesday Study Groups

Both groups will restart on 10th January. The Zoom group meets at 10:30am, and the group that meets at St Andrew's Vicarage starts at 7pm.

If you would like to join either group, please contact Richard Fergusson

[richard.fergusson.ilm@btinternet.com](mailto:richard.fergusson.ilm@btinternet.com)

07788 436831

### 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 from 18th January at 7:45pm in St Andrew's Vicarage. All ages are welcome.

If you would like to make a text donation to support your local church or the Benefice as a whole, please use the numbers below.

#### For Ashbury

Text **STMARYS 5** to **70085** to donate **£5**  
Text **STMARYS 10** to **70085** to donate **£10**

#### For Shrivenham, Watchfield & Bourton

Text **SWB** to **70460** to donate **£5**  
Text **SWB** to **70450** to donate **£10**

#### For Longcot and Fernham

Text **LONGCOT** to **70085** to donate **£4**

#### For Compton Beauchamp

Text **5CB** to **70450** to donate **£5**  
Text **10CB** to **70460** to donate **£10**

#### For the Benefice as a whole

Text **GIVEfive** to **70470** to donate **£5**  
Text **GIVETen** to **70470** to donate **£10**

Your standard text message rate applies.

**Thank you!**



Nativity scene in St Mary's Church, Ashbury



Chris Taylor had a starring role at the Christingle service in St Andrew's Church, Shrivenham

Creator of the heavens,  
who led the Magi by a star to worship the Christ-child:  
guide and sustain us, that we may find our journey's end  
in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen





### COLLECT

O God,  
 who by the leading of a star  
 manifested your only Son to the peoples  
 of the earth:  
 mercifully grant that we,  
 who know you now by faith,  
 may at last behold your glory face to face;  
 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.

### FIRST READING Isaiah 60:1-6

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

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms. Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

### PSALM Psalm 72:1-9. 10-15

**R** *Kings bow down before him;  
 all the nations do him service.*

Give the king your justice, O God,  
 and your righteousness to the king's son;  
 That he may rule your people righteously  
 and the poor with justice;  
 That the mountains may bring prosperity  
 to the people,  
 and the little hills bring righteousness. **R**

He shall defend the needy among  
 the people;  
 he shall rescue the poor and crush the  
 oppressor.  
 He shall live as long as the sun and moon  
 endure,  
 from one generation to another. **R**

He shall come down like rain upon the  
 mown field,  
 like showers that water the earth.  
 In his time shall the righteous flourish;  
 there shall be abundance of peace  
 till the moon shall be no more. **R**

The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall  
 pay tribute,  
 and the kings of Arabia and Saba  
 offer gifts.  
 All kings shall bow down before him,  
 and all the nations do him service. **R**

For he shall deliver the poor who cries out  
 in distress,  
 and the oppressed who has no helper.  
 He shall have pity on the lowly  
 and poor;  
 he shall preserve the lives of the needy.  
 He shall redeem their lives from  
 oppression and violence,  
 and dear shall their blood be in his sight. **R**

### SECOND READING Ephesians 3:1-12

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

I, Paul, am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles – for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that is, the Gentiles have become fellow-heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in

Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

### GOSPEL Matthew 2:1-12

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

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'" Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

### POST COMMUNION

Lord God,  
 the bright splendour whom the  
 nations seek:  
 may we who with the wise men  
 have been drawn by your light  
 discern the glory of your presence in  
 your Son,  
 the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our  
 Lord.



# LOOK

Sunday 7 January 2024  
The Epiphany of the Lord  
Matthew 2:1-12

In the **GOSPEL TODAY**

## Presents

The wise men brought Jesus presents of gold, frankincense and myrrh. What present would you bring for the baby Jesus?

Can you draw it in the space below?

Why do you think this is a good present for the baby Jesus?

Three wise men follow a star until they find Jesus. When they find Jesus, the wise men fall on their knees to worship him. They give Jesus special gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

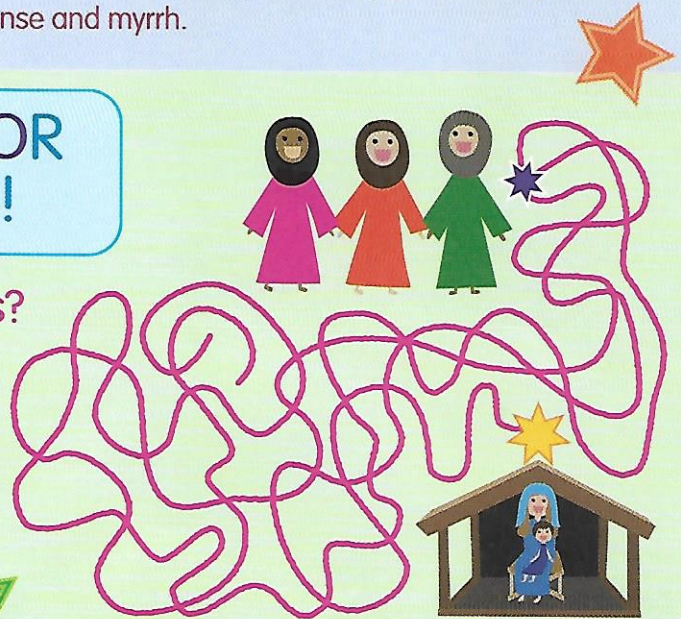
## GIFTS FOR JESUS!



## Where is Jesus?

The three wise men followed a star to find the new-born king.

Help them to find the way.



## Coded message

The three wise men came from a different country. They spoke a different language. Can you translate the code to find out what they said?



a=	★	J=	★	s=	★
b=	👉	l=	👑	u=	🌟
c=	★	m=	👉	w=	👉
e=	👑	o=	👉	y=	👑



## A PRAYER TO SAY

Dear Jesus, the wise men followed the star for a very long time until they found you. Help me always to look for you in my life, even if it is not easy to see you. Amen.

## Find the stars!

The three wise men followed a star that led them to baby Jesus.

How many stars can you find hidden on this page?



Answers: Code: Welcome baby Jesus! There are seven stars.