



The Shrivenham 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. 07471 434276
associate.vicar@shrivenhamandashbury.co.uk

Licensed Lay Minister: Mr Richard Fergusson. Tel 07788 436831



Sunday 4th February 2024

Sunday 4th February

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

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

9:00am Compton Beauchamp, St Swithun
Holy Communion (BCP)

9:30am Watchfield, St Thomas
Holy Communion by Extension

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

10:15am Shrivenham, St Andrew
Family Service

11:00am Ashbury, St Mary
Morning Prayer

5:30pm Shrivenham, St Andrew & [Facebook](#)
Choral Evensong for Candlemas
with the Benefice Choir

Tuesday

9:00am Morning Prayer. Live on [Facebook](#)
6:00pm Longcot with Fernham PCC Meeting

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

2:00pm Shrivenham, St Andrew & Facebook
ASK Holy Communion

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](#)

2:00pm Longcot, St Mary
Thanksgiving Service – Bob Birtwhistle RIP
All welcome

3:15pm Bourton, St James
Pinewood School Service

Saturday

10:00am Shrivenham Primary School Hall
Café Inspire

Second Sunday before Lent

Sunday 11th February

9:30am Longcot, St Mary
Holy Communion

9:30am Watchfield, St Thomas.
Matins

10:15am Shrivenham, St Andrew & [Facebook](#)
Holy Communion

11:00am Ashbury, St Mary
Holy Communion

5:30pm Shrivenham, St Andrew & [Facebook](#)
Compline and Benediction

**Rev'd Patrick Mabhunu is off duty
from Tuesday 23rd January until Wednesday
7th February inclusive.**

Lent Knitalong 2024



If you're looking for a Lent challenge, this year the Knitalong groups will be making a shawl (can double up as a triangular lap blanket if you're not a shawl person!) perfect to wear to church on Easter morning or as a gift.

You will receive advanced information about needles, wool etc, plus a swatch pattern you can knit to check you're happy with your chosen yarns/needle size and that the gauge/fabric looks good. The knitting pattern and accompanying reflections will be then sent out weekly.

There is also a dedicated Facebook group (['Victoria Methodist Bristol Knitalongs'](#)) which you are very welcome to join!

The first email will be sent on Monday 12th February ready for Ash Wednesday (14th February). Thereafter, the documents will be released on Fridays, ready for the following week. Enjoy!

Community Cycle of Prayer

Please pray this week for all who live and work in The Malhouses in Ashbury, and Canon Hills Gardens and Catherine Close in Shrivenham.

Condolences

Our condolences to the family and friends of the late Coral Ann Dickinson. Please keep them in your prayers.

**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

**Ashbury with Compton Beauchamp Primary School
Courage Prayer**

Dear God, Thank you for giving us the strength to gain courage through challenges.

We are grateful to those who encourage us Thank you for guiding us to encourage friends and family, so that we can together, succeed in the future.

Sorry for taking the easy option, when we should show courage to take the more challenging path.

Sorry that we are not always trying to stand up to our fears.

We apologise for not always having the courage to help others, when they need it.

Please help us to have courage, to step out of our comfort zone.

Please help us to face our fears, no matter what. In the future, please guide us to use our courage to persevere and keep going. Amen

Messy Church

Messy Church met in St. Andrew's on Thursday 1st February.

The theme for this session was creation. We made paper flowers & fruit kebabs, printed moon and stars nighttime pictures, designed animals from junk and made heads with grass seeds in them, so that hopefully they'll grow green hair!

Our next meeting is Thursday 29th February, and all families from the Benefice are very welcome to attend. Check the Newsletter for sign up details or follow Standfast on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/standfast). We are always looking for volunteers to help so please get in touch if you can spare a few hours on a Thursday afternoon once a month.



COLLECT

Almighty God,
you have created the heavens and the earth
and made us in your own image:
teach us to discern your hand in all
your works
and your likeness in all your children;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who with you and the Holy Spirit
reigns supreme over all things,
now and for ever.

FIRST READING Proverbs 8:1. 22-31

A reading from the book of Proverbs.

Does not wisdom call, and does not understanding raise her voice? The LORD created me at the beginning of his work, the first of his acts of long ago. Ages ago I was set up, at the first, before the beginning of the earth. When there were no depths I was brought forth, when there were no springs abounding with water. Before the mountains had been shaped, before the hills, I was brought forth – when he had not yet made earth and fields, or the world's first bits of soil. When he established the heavens, I was there, when he drew a circle on the face of the deep, when he made firm the skies above, when he established the fountains of the deep, when he assigned to the sea its limit, so that the waters might not transgress his command, when he marked out the foundations of the earth, then I was beside him, like a master worker; and I was daily his delight, rejoicing before him always, rejoicing in his inhabited world and delighting in the human race.

PSALM Psalm 104:26-end

R *Send forth your Spirit, O Lord,
and renew the face of the earth.*

O Lord, how manifold are your works!
in wisdom you have made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures. **R**

Yonder is the great and wide sea
with its living things too many to
number,
creatures both small and great.
There move the ships,

and there is that Leviathan,
which you have made for the sport of
it. **R**

All of them look to you
to give them their food in due season.
You give it to them, they gather it;
you open your hand and they are
filled with good things.
You hide your face and they are
terrified;
you take away their breath
and they die and return to their dust. **R**

You send forth your Spirit and they
are created;
and so you renew the face of the earth.
May the glory of the Lord endure for
ever;
may the Lord rejoice in all his works.
He looks at the earth and it trembles,
he touches the mountains and they
smoke. **R**

I will sing to the Lord as long as I live;
I will praise my God while I have my
being.
May these words of mine please him;
I will rejoice in the Lord.
Let sinners be consumed from the earth,
and the wicked be no more.
Bless the Lord, O my soul.
Alleluia! **R**

SECOND READING Colossians 1:15-20

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

Christ is the image of the invisible
God, the firstborn of all creation; for
in him all things in heaven and on
earth were created, things visible
and invisible, whether thrones or
dominions or rulers or powers – all
things have been created through
him and for him. He himself is before
all things, and in him all things hold
together. He is the head of the body,
the church; he is the beginning, the
firstborn from the dead, so that he
might come to have first place in
everything. For in him all the fullness
of God was pleased to dwell, and
through him God was pleased to
reconcile to himself all things, whether
on earth or in heaven, by making
peace through the blood of his cross.

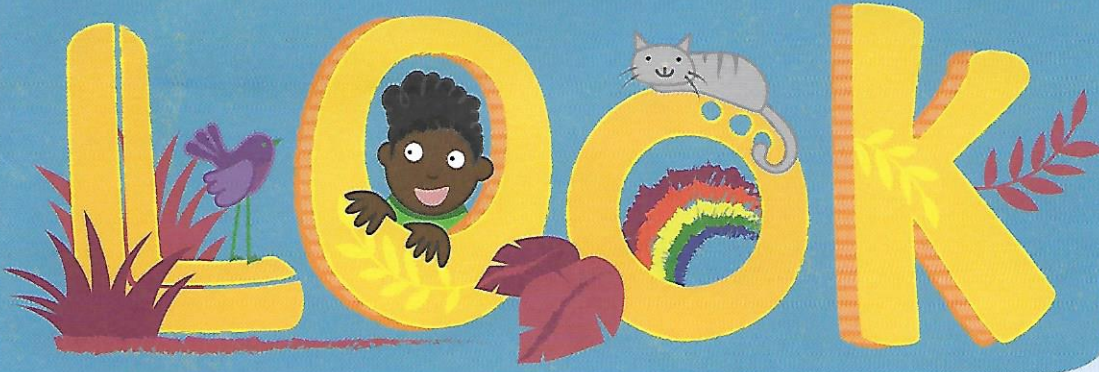
GOSPEL John 1:1-14

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

In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God, and
the Word was God. He was in the
beginning with God. All things came
into being through him, and without
him not one thing came into being.
What has come into being in him
was life, and the life was the light
of all people. The light shines in the
darkness, and the darkness did not
overcome it. There was a man sent
from God, whose name was John.
He came as a witness to testify to
the light, so that all might believe
through him. He himself was not the
light, but he came to testify to the
light. The true light, which enlightens
everyone, was coming into the world.
He was in the world, and the world
came into being through him; yet the
world did not know him. He came
to what was his own, and his own
people did not accept him. But to all
who received him, who believed in
his name, he gave power to become
children of God, who were born, not
of blood or of the will of the flesh or
of the will of man, but of God. And
the Word became flesh and lived
among us, and we have seen his
glory, the glory as of a father's only
son, full of grace and truth.

POST COMMUNION

God our creator,
by your gift
the tree of life was set at the heart of
the earthly paradise,
and the bread of life at the heart of
your Church:
may we who have been nourished at
your table on earth
be transformed by the glory of the
Saviour's cross
and enjoy the delights of eternity;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.



Sunday 4 February 2024
5th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Mark 1:29-39

In the GOSPEL TODAY

LOVE IS THE ANSWER!

Making dinner

Jesus healed Simon Peter's mother-in-law. She was so well she made Jesus and his disciples their dinner. Circle the things that you think she will use.

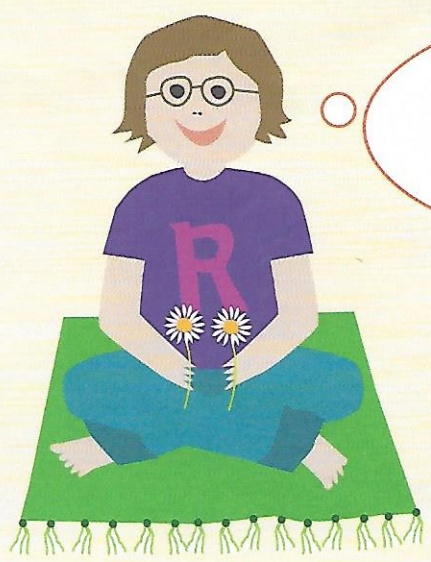
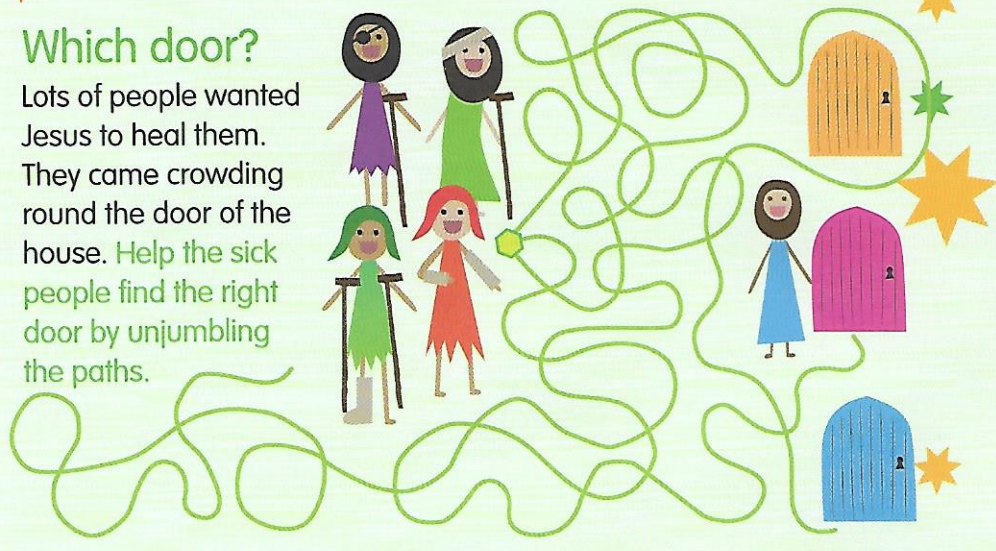


Simon Peter's mother-in-law is sick, but Jesus makes her better. People hear that Jesus can heal those who are sick. Lots and lots of people all come to find Jesus so that he can make them well. There are so many people that Jesus gets very tired. He goes away by himself to be quiet and pray.



Which door?

Lots of people wanted Jesus to heal them. They came crowding round the door of the house. Help the sick people find the right door by unjumbling the paths.



Imagine...

It can be nice to go somewhere different in our imaginations. Imagine you are somewhere peaceful and beautiful. Draw your special place in the thought bubble.

A PRAYER TO SAY

Jesus, you had hands that reached out and healed people. Help me to reach out to others too. Help me to use my hands for good, to bring love and kindness into the world. Amen.

Word search

- JESUS
- HELP
- HEAL
- LOVE
- GOD
- PRAY
- SERVE

J	H	E	L	P
E	E	G	O	R
S	A	O	V	A
U	L	D	E	Y
S	E	R	V	E