



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 10th March 2024 Mothering Sunday

Mothering Sunday 10th March

Rev'd Norma Fergusson is giving today's online sermon.
We are also sharing Bishop Steven's weekly
'Come and See' videos during Lent.
Watch on [Facebook](#), [YouTube](#) or our [website](#).

- 9:30am Longcot, St Mary
Holy Communion
- 9:30am Watchfield, St Thomas.
Matins
- 10:15am Shrivenham, St Andrew
Holy Communion
- 11:00am Ashbury, St Mary & [Facebook](#)
Holy Communion

Tuesday

- 9:00am Morning Prayer. Live on [Facebook](#)
- 7:00pm Shrivenham, Watchfield & Bourton PCC
- 7:30pm 'The Well at Watchfield'
The Prince of Wales, Shrivenham

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](#)
- 10:00am Ashbury, St Mary & [Facebook](#)
Holy Communion
- 6:30pm Benefice Choir Practice in St Andrew's
- 7:45pm Shrivenham, St Andrew & [Facebook](#)
Compline for Lent

Friday

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

Saturday

- 4:00pm Longcot, St Mary
Service for Deanery Bellringers AGM


Sunday 17th March

- 7:45am Shrivenham, St Andrew
Holy Communion (BCP)
- 9:00am Compton Beauchamp, St Swithun
Matins
- 9:30am Longcot, St Mary
Morning Prayer
- 9:30am Watchfield, St Thomas.
Matins
- 10:00am Bourton, St James & [Facebook](#)
Holy Communion
- 10:15am Shrivenham, St Andrew
Please join 10am service at Bourton
- 11:00am Ashbury, St Mary
Family Service with Baptism
- 5:30pm Shrivenham, St Andrew
Choral Evensong with the Benefice Choir
The service will include an illustrated talk by
Dr Peter Foot entitled 'Seeing Jacob's Ladder'

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

TWO TREES

Bearing fruit in God's kingdom



What kind of fruit are you bearing at this
stage of your life before God?

How are you responding to God's great love
for you in Jesus Christ?

Come and See this Lent.

oxford.anglican.org/come-and-see

COME
AND
SEE

What kind of fruit are you bearing at this time of your life?

'The Way of Love' takes a closer look at what Jesus called the two most important commandments: 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. oxford.anglican.org/come-and-see

Community Cycle of Prayer

Please pray this week for all who live and work in Berrycroft Lane in Ashbury, and Church Walk and Faringdon Road in Shrivenham.

Condolences

Our condolences to the family and friends of the late Chris Smith. Please keep them in your prayers.

Benefice Vacancy

The Diocese has announced the timetable for finding Norma's replacement. A number of meetings will take place during March with a view to advertising the post at the beginning of April. Any suitable candidates will be interviewed on Thursday 16th May. If we're successful, the post will be filled in Summer or early Autumn.

'The Well at Watchfield'

Tuesday 12th March at 7:30pm
The Prince of Wales, Shrivenham

We always liked the WW alliteration, but we have actually met in Shrivenham recently, enjoying the log fire and friendly welcome at the Prince of Wales.

'The Well' is a local gathering of like-minded people; who usually have armed forces connections, and share concerns about the aftermath of armed conflict, which sometimes leads to personal combat trauma, PTSD or moral injury. They may have served themselves or be closely related to service-people, serving or retired.

We have experienced and well-qualified people in our number and seek particularly to support "wounded spirits". Damaged bodies and minds get much good attention from the NHS and service charities.

Military-friendly spiritual support is harder to find.

So, if any of this strikes a chord, please join us for an enjoyable evening of friendly conversation, great banter, and meet good listeners who understand military life. Some finger food will be available free, but everyone pays for their own drinks - no big rounds!

More information from jeremyclare@hotmail.com

Church Electoral Rolls

Church electoral rolls will be revised before the annual parish meetings. Please let your parish Electoral Roll Officer know if your contact details have changed since last year. If you would like to join the electoral roll, please contact your church's PCC Secretary or Churchwarden, or pick up an application form in church.



EASTER EGG HUNT

Saturday 30th | **Starting at**
March 2024 | **St Thomas'**
1pm - 3.30 pm | **Church,**
Watchfield

Everyone welcome! **£1.50 entry**

All proceeds to St Thomas church

Congratulations

Congratulations to Tadi and Blessing who were confirmed by the Bishop of Dorchester, the Rt Rev'd Gavin Collins in St Mary's Church Longworth on Saturday 2nd March.



In case you are wondering, the Teddies were not candidates (though they were blessed by +Gavin). They will be placed at strategic points around Longworth church (pulpit, font, etc), each with a card attached explaining in child-friendly language the function of the location.



COLLECT

God of compassion,
 whose Son Jesus Christ, the child of Mary,
 shared the life of a home in Nazareth,
 and on the cross drew the whole human family
 to himself:
 strengthen us in our daily living
 that in joy and in sorrow
 we may know the power of your presence
 to bind together and to heal;
 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

Either **Exodus 2:1-10**

A reading from the book of Exodus.

A man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman. The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him for three months. When she could hide him no longer she got a papyrus basket for him, and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river. His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him. The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her attendants walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to bring it. When she opened it, she saw the child. He was crying, and she took pity on him, "This must be one of the Hebrews' children," she said. Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and get you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?" Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Yes." So the girl went and called the child's mother. Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages." So the woman took the child and nursed it. When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and she took him as her son. She named him Moses, "because," she said, "I drew him out of the water."

Or **1 Samuel 1:20-end**

A reading from the first book of Samuel.

Hannah conceived and bore a son. She named him Samuel, for she said, "I have asked him of the LORD." The man Elkanah and all his household went up to offer to the LORD the yearly sacrifice, and to pay his vow. But Hannah did not go up, for she said to her husband, "As soon as the child is weaned, I will bring him, that he may appear in the presence of the LORD, and remain there for ever; I will offer him as a nazirite for all time." Her husband Elkanah said to her, "Do what seems best to you, wait until you have weaned him; only – may the LORD establish his word." So the woman remained and nursed her son, until she weaned him. When she had weaned

him, she took him up with her, along with a three-year-old bull, an ephah of flour, and a skin of wine. She brought him to the house of the LORD at Shiloh; and the child was young. Then they slaughtered the bull, and they brought the child to Eli. And she said, "Oh, my lord! As you live, my lord, I am the woman who was standing here in your presence, praying to the LORD. For this child I prayed; and the LORD has granted me the petition that I made to him. Therefore I have lent him to the LORD; as long as he lives, he is given to the LORD." She left him there for the LORD.

PSALM Either **Psalm 34:11-20**

R *[Come, children, and listen to me:]*

I will teach you the fear of the Lord.

Come, children, and listen to me;
 I will teach you the fear of the Lord.
 Who among you loves life
 and desires long life to enjoy prosperity? **R**

Keep your tongue from evil-speaking
 and your lips from lying words.
 Turn from evil and do good;
 seek peace and pursue it. **R**

The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous,
 and his ears are open to their cry.
 The face of the Lord is against those who do
 evil,
 to root out the remembrance of them from the
 earth. **R**

The righteous cry and the Lord hears them
 and delivers them from all their troubles.
 The Lord is near to the brokenhearted
 and will save those whose spirits are crushed. **R**

Many are the troubles of the righteous,
 but the Lord will deliver him out of them all.
 He will keep safe all his bones;
 not one of them shall be broken. **R**

Or **Psalm 127:1-4**

R *It is the Lord who builds the house.*

Unless the Lord builds the house,
 their labour is in vain who build it.
 Unless the Lord watches over the city,
 in vain the guard keeps vigil. **R**

It is in vain that you rise so early
 and go to bed so late;
 vain, too, to eat the bread of toil,
 for he gives to his beloved sleep.
 Children are a heritage from the Lord,
 and the fruit of the womb is a gift. **R**

SECOND READING

Either **2 Corinthians 1:3-7**

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

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and the God of all consolation, who consoles us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to console those who are in any affliction with the consolation with which we ourselves are

consoled by God. For just as the sufferings of Christ are abundant for us, so also our consolation is abundant through Christ. If we are being afflicted, it is for your consolation and salvation; if we are being consoled, it is for your consolation, which you experience when you patiently endure the same sufferings that we are also suffering. Our hope for you is unshaken; for we know that as you share in our sufferings, so also you share in our consolation.

Or **Colossians 3:12-17**

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Colossians.

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

GOSPEL

Either **Luke 2:33-35**

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

The child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about Jesus. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed – and a sword will pierce your own soul too."

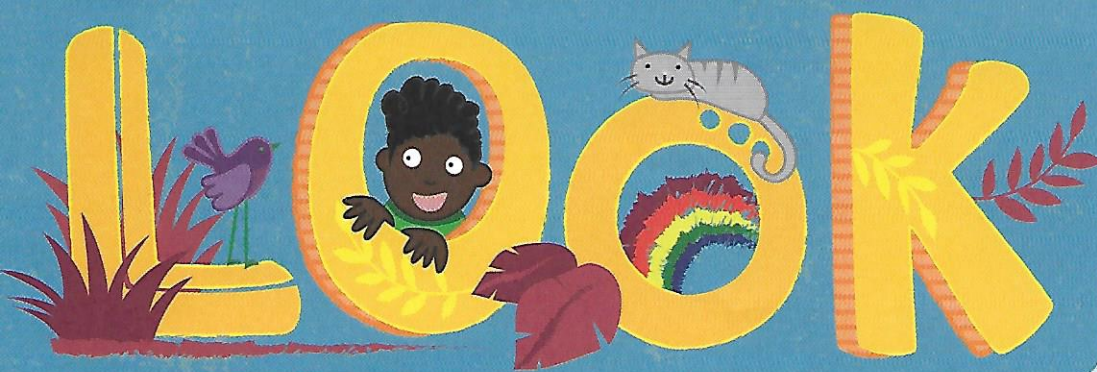
Or **John 19:25b-27**

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

Standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son." Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

POST COMMUNION

Loving God,
 as a mother feeds her children at the breast
 you feed us in this sacrament
 with the food and drink of eternal life:
 help us who have tasted your goodness
 to grow in grace within the household of faith;
 through Jesus Christ our Lord.



Sunday 10 March 2024
 John 3:14-21
 4th Sunday of Lent

In the
GOSPEL TODAY

LIGHT OF THE WORLD!

What did he do about it?

God loved the world so much that he sent his Son, _____, to bring light and love into the dark world.



I will bring light and love into the world this week when I...

A PRAYER TO SAY

Thank you, Jesus, for loving me so much. Thank you for showing me the way to live. Help me to follow your example and be even more loving to the people I meet every day. Amen.

God sent his Son Jesus to live with us in our world so that we can see and feel just how much God loves us. Jesus is the light that shines to show us the way to be good.

Light

Can you find all these sources of light in the word search?

CANDLE	C	A	N	D	L	E	FIRE
TORCH	L	A	M	P	B	T	SUN
LASER	G	S	X	F	U	O	BULB
LAMP	O	O	N	I	L	R	GOD
	D	N	U	R	B	C	SON
	L	A	S	E	R	H	

God loves the whole world!

God loves everyone

Jesus came into the world so that everyone could learn to love God and each other. Colour in Jesus. Help these people from all over the world find their way to Jesus.



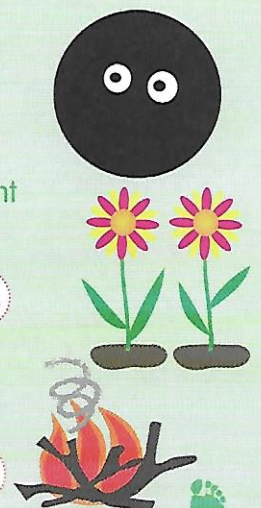
Jesus is the light of the world

Fill in the letters to find out some ways light is important. Draw a line to link the pictures to the right sentence.

We need light to _ e _ (se) in the d _ _ _ (rka).

Plants need light to g _ o _ (wr).

Light can bring us h _ _ t (ae) to stay warm.



Answers: God ... sent his Son Jesus. Ways light is important: see, dark, grow, heat