



# The Shrivenham and Ashbury Benefice

'Mirroring the hospitality of God'

Vicar: Vacancy

Associate Vicar: The Rev'd Patrick Mabhunu. 07471 434276

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## Sunday 1st September 2024

## Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity

### Sunday 1st September

There is no online sermon this week.

- 7:45am Shrivenham, St Andrew  
Holy Communion (BCP)
- 9:30am Watchfield, St Thomas  
Holy Communion (BCP)
- 9:30am Longcot, St Mary  
Holy Communion
- 10:30am Shrivenham, St Andrew  
Family Service
- 11:00am Ashbury, St Mary & [Facebook](#)  
Holy Communion
- 5:30pm Shrivenham, St Andrew & [Facebook](#)  
Compline and Benediction

### Tuesday

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

### Wednesday

- 8:45am Song and Stories Toddler Group  
Back Room, Shrivenham Methodist Church
- 10:30am Shrivenham, St Andrew  
Funeral – Edna Day RIP
- 2:00pm Shrivenham, St Andrew & [Facebook](#)  
ASK Holy Communion

### Thursday

- 9:00am Matins. Live on [Facebook](#)
- 6:30pm Benefice Choir Practice in St Andrew's

### Saturday 7th

- 10:00am Bourton, St James  
Family Service

### **Community Cycle of Prayer**

Please pray this week for all who live and work in Idstone near Ashbury, and Mortree Court in Shrivenham

### Sunday 8th September

- 9:00am Compton Beauchamp, St Swithun  
Holy Communion (BCP)
- 9:30am Watchfield, St Thomas  
Matins
- 9:30am Longcot, St Mary  
Morning Prayer
- 10:30am Shrivenham, St Andrew & [Facebook](#)  
Holy Communion
- 11:00am Ashbury, St Mary  
Morning Prayer

### **Shrivenham Fete**

A big thank you to everyone who donated bottles for the Tombola (396 in total), helped with selling tickets, and especially those brave and very wet people who helped to put up the stall in challenging conditions! We raised £1070 for St Andrew's general church funds.

Thank you also to the Bellringers who ran the Coconut Shy and Tower Tours, raising £193.50 for St Andrew's Restoration Project.

### **Saturday 7th September from 2 – 4pm Watchfield Village Hall**



Image: GX6 from Pixabay

Cream teas, raffle, cake stall, bring & buy stall.

£5.00 per person (payable on the door)

**In aid of St Thomas' Church**

### **Songs and Stories Toddler Group**



### **Restarts on Wednesday 4th September**

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 Shrivenham 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.

### **Benefice Vacancy**

The Incumbent in our Benefice is appointed by the Lord Chancellor so neither we nor the Diocese can make any announcement until we have confirmation from that department.

# RIDE + STRIDES for Churches 2024

## **OHCT Sponsored "Ride & Stride" Saturday 14th September**

This annual event raises much needed funds for the Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust and our local churches, most of which have received generous grants from OHCT towards projects including bell restorations and the installation of kitchen and toilet facilities.

Participants are sponsored to walk or cycle around a number of churches and can nominate their own church to receive 50% of all the money they raise.

To find out more about taking part, or volunteer an hour to welcome visitors (particularly 10 & 11am, and 4 & 5pm in St Andrew's) please contact Tony Crabtree 01793 784064 [tony.crabtree@talktalk.net](mailto:tony.crabtree@talktalk.net)

## **Baby and Toddler Group**



### **Restarts on Thursday 12th September**

The group meets in St Andrew's Church Shrivenham 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

## **Friday 27th September at 6pm St Mary's Church, Longcot**

Tom Arnold will be giving a talk on the Titanic and will draw upon the links with both Longcot and Uffington.

More details to follow.

**In aid of St Mary's Church and Longcot Village Trust**

## **Saturday September 28th at 7pm St Mary's Church, Ashbury**

Avebury Vocal Ensemble Autumn Concert

A varied programme with pieces from Gabriel Fauré, Gustav Holst and Thomas Wilbye as well as more modern and seasonal pieces by Wood, Kosma, Brown, and Andersson and Ulvaeus of Abba fame.

Tickets £12, available on the door or online via the Avebury Vocal Ensemble website at [www.aveburyvocal.org](http://www.aveburyvocal.org)

Wine and soft drinks will be available before the concert and during the interval.

**In aid of St Mary's Church**

## **A prayer for this time of transition**

Faithful and loving God, we hold our Benefice before you in this time of uncertainty.

Be with us in our waiting, in our expectation and in our preparation as we seek our new Incumbent.

Be with our new incumbent as he or she also waits, expects and prepares.

Bring us together in love for you and for this Benefice, and be our light for the way ahead.

In Jesus' name, Amen

## **Wednesday Study Groups**

Both groups will restart on 11th September. The Zoom group meets at 10:30am, and the group that meets in person in Shrivenham starts at 7pm.

If you would like to join either group, please contact David Ahern

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

## **Sustainable Flower Arranging Workshop**

Saturday 28th September at 10am  
St Mary's Church Ashbury

Two places are now available for this two-hour flower arranging workshop focusing on creating a pedestal arrangement without using floral foam. The cost is £10.

To book a place, please contact Margaret Smith

[mbsmith5@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:mbsmith5@hotmail.co.uk)

## **Saturday 12th October at 6pm St Mary's Church, Longcot**

The Torriano Ensemble Autumn Concert



Image: Bob McEvoy from Pixabay

A programme of magnificent music featuring a large chamber ensemble of wind instruments with cello and double bass.

Overture and two arias from Don Giovanni  
arr. for Wind Octet – Mozart

Petite Symphonie for Wind Nonet – Gounod

Serenade Op. 44 for 10 wind instruments,  
cello and double bass – Dvorak

Admission free with a retiring collection.

All seats should be reserved in advance by email to [victorialmedcalf@gmail.com](mailto:victorialmedcalf@gmail.com)

**In aid of St Mary's Church and Longcot Village Trust**



## COLLECT

Almighty God,  
whose only Son has opened for us  
a new and living way into your  
presence:  
give us pure hearts and steadfast wills  
to worship you in spirit and in truth;  
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 **Deuteronomy 4:1-2. 6-9**

*A reading from the book of Deuteronomy.*

Moses spoke to the people; he said: So now, Israel, give heed to the statutes and ordinances that I am teaching you to observe, so that you may live to enter and occupy the land that the LORD, the God of your ancestors, is giving you. You must neither add anything to what I command you nor take away anything from it, but keep the commandments of the LORD your God with which I am charging you. You must observe them diligently, for this will show your wisdom and discernment to the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, "Surely this great nation is a wise and discerning people!" For what other great nation has a god so near to it as the LORD our God is whenever we call to him? And what other great nation has statutes and ordinances as just as this entire law that I am setting before you today? But take care and watch yourselves closely, so as neither to forget the things that your eyes have seen nor to let them slip from your mind all the days of your life; make them known to your children and your children's children.

Or **Song of Solomon 2:8-13**

## PSALM Psalm 15

**R** *Those who do what is right  
will dwell in the presence of the  
Lord.*

Lord, who may dwell in your  
tabernacle?  
who may abide upon your holy hill?  
Whoever leads a blameless life and  
does what is right,  
who speaks the truth from his heart. **R**

There is no guile upon his tongue;  
he does no evil to his friend;  
he does not heap contempt upon his  
neighbour.

In his sight the wicked are rejected,  
but he honours those who fear the  
Lord. **R**

He has sworn to do no wrong  
and does not take back his word.  
He does not give his money in hope  
of gain,  
nor does he take a bribe against the  
innocent.

Whoever does these things  
shall never be overthrown. **R**

## SECOND READING James 1:17-end

*A reading from the letter of James.*

Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. In fulfilment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures. You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls. But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act – they will be blessed in their doing. If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

## GOSPEL

**Mark 7:1-8. 14-15. 21-23**

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

When the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around Jesus, they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. (For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, "Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?" Jesus said to them, "Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written, 'This people honours me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me; in vain do they worship me, teaching human precepts as doctrines.' You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition." Then he called the crowd again and said to them, "Listen to me, all of you, and understand: there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile. For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person."

## POST COMMUNION

Lord God, the source of truth and love,  
keep us faithful to the apostles'  
teaching and fellowship,  
united in prayer and the breaking of  
bread,  
and one in joy and simplicity of heart,  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.





In the  
**GOSPEL TODAY**

**THINK ABOUT IT!**

Rules are made to help us and keep us safe because people care for us.

Are these good rules or bad rules? Tick the boxes of the good rules.

- ★ ★ ★ ★
- Look right, left and right again when crossing the road.
- Always think about myself
- Never talk to strangers
- Go to bed as late as possible
- Eat as many sweets as I can without sharing
- Do what my mum and dad say
- ★ ★

Lots of people have made up rules to help us to live as God asks. However, we mustn't get too bothered by human rules – love is what matters. If we have loving hearts and are kind and loving to the people we meet, we are doing just what God wants.

**Dot to dot**

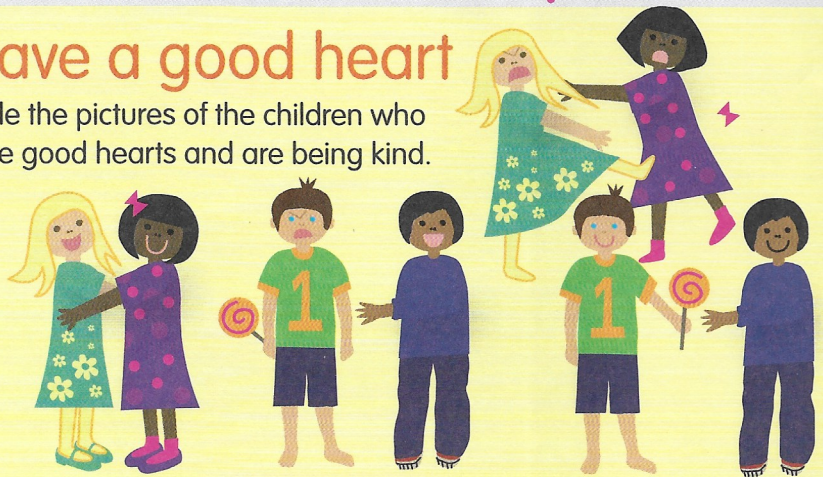
What is this shape? Inside are some bad things which you need to cross out.

Keep the good things and colour them in beautifully.



**Have a good heart**

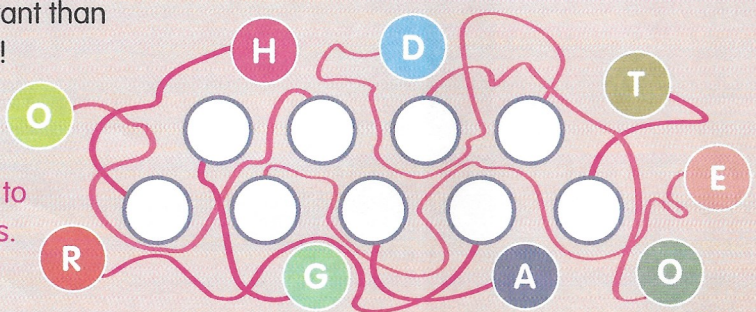
Circle the pictures of the children who have good hearts and are being kind.



**Even more important...**

Jesus says that something is even more important than clean hands!

Move each letter to its empty circle to see what it is.



**A PRAYER TO SAY**

Dear Jesus, please help me to have a loving and kind heart. Amen.