



WELCOME

TO THE SHRIVENHAM AND ASHBURY BENEFICE

“Mirroring the hospitality of God”

Sunday 31st May Pentecost

The Vicar: The Rev'd Norma Fergusson. Tel 01793 784338

Licensed Lay Minister: Mr Richard Fergusson. Tel 07788 436831

www.shrivenhamandashbury.co.uk



Pentecost

Richard Fergusson is giving this week's talk.

Watch on our Facebook page or YouTube channel.

Available from 9am on Sunday 31st May.

11.00am Holy Communion. Live on Facebook.

You don't need
a Facebook or YouTube account to join in!
A 'How To' guide can be downloaded
from the services page on our website.

Monday

7:30pm Alpha. Live via Zoom.

Tuesday

9:00am Morning Prayer using the Iona Liturgy.
Live on Facebook.

Wednesday

10:30am The Prayer Course. Live via Zoom.
2:00pm ASK Holy Communion.
Live on Facebook.

Thursday

9:00am Matins (BCP). Live on Facebook.
11:00am Compton Beauchamp PCC via Zoom.
6.30pm Anthem of the Week (Choir)

Friday

Sunday 7th June Trinity Sunday

11.00am Holy Communion. Live on Facebook.

All links, orders of services and readings will be posted
on the services page of our website
www.shrivenhamandashbury.co.uk

Diocesan Survey – Online Services

Dr Simon Cross in Bishop Steven's office is looking at
the impact of churches being unable meet in person.

If you are attending online church services, you are
invited to complete this [short survey](#) as soon as possible
after the next online service you attend.

If you attend the Diocesan Church at Home service
and/or a number of other services from different
parishes, you are welcome to complete the survey for
each online service you've been to.

Other ways to join in with worship

Visit the 'other ways to worship' page on our website for
links to on-line services, phone apps for daily prayers
and other useful resources. If you know anyone who is
not on-line and would like a paper copy, let us know.
www.shrivenhamandashbury.co.uk

Re-opening our churches

People have been asking me when and how the
churches will re-open. The honest answer is that I still
don't know definitively, but we hope it may be possible
from 4 July. I am working with the churchwardens to find
a safe, sustainable way to make this possible and am
very grateful for the care and creativity they are showing,
but social distancing will mean that maximum numbers in
church at any one time will be much smaller.

There won't be an immediate return to the service
pattern we had before the pandemic: initially there is
likely to be one public communion service and one public
service of the word each Sunday. Some churches may
be open for private prayer; we will let you know where
and when. Meanwhile, the regular online services i.e.
Sunday 11am communion services; Morning Prayer on
Tuesdays and Thursdays; together with the monthly ASK
and Worship & Praise services will continue online.

I am writing this on 29th May; as you know, advice is
changing quite rapidly at the moment and we will try to
keep you updated. Thank you for your support during
these difficult times.

Blessings, Norma

Church Services by Telephone



Daily Hope offers music, prayers, and reflections as well
as full worship services from the Church of England.
Dial 0800 804 8044 to hear a special greeting from the
Archbishop, then choose from a range of options,
including hymns, prayers, reflections, traditional morning
and evening prayer and advice on COVID-19.

Calls are free of charge.

Church at Home services from the Diocese of Oxford
can be accessed by telephone.

Dial 01865 920930 to hear the latest service
(press 0= short service, 1= full service).

Normal call rates apply.

Please contact Rev'd Fergusson for pastoral issues,
and a churchwarden or the Benefice Administrator
(shrivenham.ashbury.benefice@outlook.com)
for other church enquiries.

A Message from Ashbury



Like all our local villages Ashbury has supportive groups working to help the more vulnerable through the period of lock down. We have all got to know each other during this time and we thank everyone for all that they are doing.

We were sad that St Mary the Virgin had to shut its doors, as did all our religious buildings, just as we finished the work in the vestry to install an accessible toilet and kitchenette. However, as soon as it is safe to open up the church again, we will be able to offer true hospitality to our visitors.

Whilst the church has been closed, we have continued to work to improve it. Thanks to a generous donation we now have new oak handrails up both sides of the church steps which will help access for many who find the cobbles difficult. In addition, we have been keeping the grass cut in both churchyards while leaving the areas of lovely wildflowers for all to enjoy.

Finally, we have applied for a Faculty which will allow us to install hot pipes under the central pews making the church a warmer and more welcoming place to be through the winter. Work on this can start as soon as we have all the necessary permissions and are able to work in the church.

St Mary's House in Chapel Lane which will be home to Rev'd Nina Summerfield when she moves to Ashbury, hopefully in August or September, has also had considerable work done. A new kitchen and shower room have been installed and a lot of garden maintenance has been undertaken.

We sincerely hope that we will be able to welcome everyone back into St Mary the Virgin as soon as it is safe to do so.

Maggie Simons, Churchwarden

Ashbury Cycle of Prayer

Please pray this week for all who live and work in Malthouse Close.



New handrails at St Mary's Ashbury

Although our buildings are closed, our churches still rely on donations to stay active and provide care and pastoral support to everyone. We would like to say a huge thank you to all those who already make a financial contribution towards our mission and ministry and the upkeep of our buildings during this difficult and uncertain time.

If you would like to know more about supporting us, please telephone our Treasurers on the numbers below.

Shrivenham, Watchfield and Bourton 01793 784756
Longcot and Fernham 01793 783324
Compton Beauchamp 01793 710889
Ashbury 01793 710208

If you would like to make a text donation, please to use the numbers below.

For Ashbury

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

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****

Your standard text message rate applies.

Light a Candle of Hope

Place a lighted candle in the window at 7pm on Sunday as a sign of solidarity and hope in the light of Christ that can never be extinguished.

Loving God,

We pray for all those who are suffering because of the coronavirus,

may they know your healing power.

When we are afraid for ourselves and our loved ones, give us your strength and courage.

When we feel alone and isolated, reassure us with a sense of your presence.

Give wisdom to those in authority

and may our community work together for the good of all.

We give thanks for those who care for others and ask you to bless them in all they do.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, healer and physician.

Amen