



WELCOME

TO THE SHRIVENHAM AND ASHBURY BENEFICE

“Mirroring the hospitality of God”

Sunday 9th August Trinity 9

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

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Licensed Lay Minister: Mr Richard Fergusson. Tel 07788 436831

www.shrivenhamandashbury.co.uk



Saturday 8th August

10:00am Bible story & craft activity for children.
Watch on [Facebook](#) or [YouTube](#).

Sunday 9th August Trinity 9

Richard Fergusson is giving this week's sermon.

Watch on [Facebook](#) or [YouTube](#).

Available from 9am on Sunday 9th August.

**Face coverings are now mandatory in churches.
Please read the updated information below.**

9 - 10:00am Compton Beauchamp, St Swithun.
Church open for private prayer.
9:00am Longcot, St Mary
Morning Prayer.
10:00am Ashbury, St Mary
Holy Communion
11.00am Holy Communion. Live on [Facebook](#).

Monday Rev'd Fergusson Day Off

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

Wednesday
5 - 6:00pm Private prayer in Longcot Church.
6 - 7:30pm Private prayer in Watchfield Church.

Thursday
9:00am Matins (BCP). Live on [Facebook](#).

Saturday **VJ Day** Details on page 2.

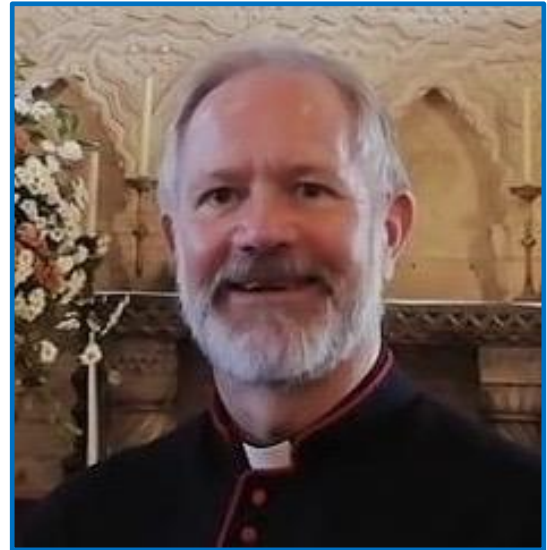
Sunday 16th August Trinity 10

9 - 10:00am Compton Beauchamp, St Swithun.
Church open for private prayer.
10:00am Bourton, St James
Holy Communion
11.00am Holy Communion. Live on [Facebook](#).
5:30pm Evensong (BCP). Live on [Facebook](#).

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

Introducing the Rev'd Canon Paul Richardson

We look forward to welcoming Paul to the Benefice as Associate Vicar with special responsibility for Ashbury, Longcot and Fernham later this year.



I am delighted that those who make these decisions have given me the opportunity to join you all in the Benefice of Shrivenham and Ashbury. Katriona and I look forward to moving into St Mary's House, Ashbury in the autumn.

My early years were in a mining village in Northumberland until the age of 8 when my father was ordained, leaving his job in a local factory to start his curacy in the Coquet valley. Here he served villages from Hepple to Pauperhaugh, Rothbury being the centre of the benefice. So I grew up in a rural, largely agricultural community in the foothills of the Cheviots, and with a strong sense of the presence of the ancient Northern saints, St Aidan and St Cuthbert. Moves took the family to Hexham, then to the coastal village of Chevington before I left home to study Botany at University in Cardiff.

During my time as an undergraduate my sense of vocation grew stronger, and I was selected for ordination training at Ridley Hall, Cambridge. Ministry has led me from a curacy to other posts in North West England, before moving down South to Wiltshire and Salisbury diocese 20 years ago. In my current post in Devizes, I met Norma and Richard who lived and served in the neighbouring parish of Bromham. It will be a real pleasure to be with them in the ministry team at Shrivenham and Ashbury. My wife Katriona and I, our two Jack Russell dogs, Rolo and Tala, and our three grown up and "fled the nest" sons look forward to our new life in Oxfordshire.

Yours, Paul

Updated Information on Face Coverings

Face coverings are now mandatory in churches. There is an exemption for those who are officiating at services and presiding at Holy Communion, and those who assist them (for instance by reading, preaching, or leading prayers) who do not always need to wear a face covering, although one should be worn if physical distancing cannot be maintained (such as at the distribution of Holy Communion).

In line with government advice, children under 11 and people with disabilities or certain health conditions are also exempt from wearing face coverings.

Please do not come into church if you think you may have symptoms of Covid 19.

News from the Bell Ringers



Little did we know in March that church bells could be silent for many months. Fortunately, Shrivenham clock was converted to electric winding in 1973. This gave the clock winder a respite from his twice weekly labours and meant our chimes could continue through the pandemic and remind everyone of St Andrew's.

Elsewhere, they had to climb the tower and stop the clock before the huge weights grounded and the wires unravelled. By amazing coincidence, the drain digging for St Andrew's toilet & kitchen revealed the old clock weights, redundant in 1973 and simply dumped in the churchyard, to the amazement of the digger driver who could not work out what he had unearthed.

We recovered 80% of the weights, or about ½ ton!

Now to decide how to display them!

The pandemic hasn't entirely stopped ringing. Instead of Longcot practice, a group assembles on Friday via Facebook using a tool called RingingRoom to socialise and practice change ringing. Needless to say, it isn't like the real thing, but has benefitted some learners who have developed new skills which they will try when practices eventually resume.

Ringing chambers were never designed to work during a pandemic with ringers in a smallish room, in some cases poorly ventilated, standing close together and sharing the same ropes. Nevertheless, I worked with the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers, who worked with CofE & PHE, and by early July, we agreed a method whereby many of the 7,000 churches with bells could return to service ringing under controlled conditions.

On Sunday 12th July, a selected group of five ringers including a family of three rang for the 11am service at Longcot, to the delight of those listening. By ringing an arpeggio rather than a scale and with open doors, we met distancing and ventilation requirements.

Our young learner then chimed another bell just before the service started!

Tony Crabtree

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



Commemorating VJ Day Saturday 15th August

Even in these uncertain times, VJ Day will be marked by commemorations at the National Memorial Arboretum and by special programmes at 9.30am and 8.30pm on the BBC.

Within the Benefice, we will be holding short acts of remembrance at the war

memorials in Ashbury, Longcot and Shrivenham, starting with two minutes silence at 11am. You will be most welcome to join us (socially distanced and wearing your face masks!), or just stand in your gardens and listen to the bells marking 75 years since the end of the second World War.

Dear God,

our refuge and strength, bring near the day when wars shall cease and poverty and pain shall end, that earth may know the peace of heaven.

Amen

Ashbury Cycle of Prayer

Please pray this week for all who live and work in Chapel Lane.

Churches Open for Private Prayer

Our churches in Compton Beauchamp, Longcot and Watchfield are now open once a week for private prayer. See the services box for details. Ashbury church will be open Wednesday 19th and 26th August from 10 - 11am. Shrivenham church will be closed until late September while building work is undertaken. Fernham church is also closed at present to allow Annabelle's pre-school exclusive access.

Church Services by Telephone

Daily Hope 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 Dial 01865 920930 to hear the latest service (press 0= short service, 1= full service). Normal call rates apply.

If you would like to make a text donation to support your local church, please 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**