



The Shrivensham and Ashbury Benefice

“Mirroring the hospitality of God”

Sunday 28th February 2nd Sunday of Lent



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Service details were accurate at the time of publication. Please visit the Benefice website for up-to-date information.

www.shrivenhamandashbury.co.uk

Sunday 28th February

11.30am Holy Communion. Live on [Facebook](#).

Canon Paul Richardson is giving today's sermon.

Watch on [Facebook](#) or [YouTube](#) from 9am.

Tuesday

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

Wednesday

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

10:30am The Character Course via Zoom.

2:00pm ASH Holy Communion.

Live on [Facebook](#).

6:00pm Benefice Wardens' Meeting via Zoom.

7:00pm Ashbury PCC via Zoom.

7:30pm The Character Course via Zoom.

Thursday

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

Friday

2:00pm World Day of Prayer Service.

Live on [Facebook](#).

7:45pm Compline for Lent. Live on [Facebook](#).

Sunday 7th March

11.30am Holy Communion. Live on [Facebook](#).

Lockdown Update

It is wonderful to have heard from the Prime Minister this week that he believes there is a safe path out of lockdown(s). The clarity on dates – even if of the “not before” variety – is helping us to plan our way forward, too. We will be discussing our ideas with the churchwardens at our meeting on Wednesday and expect to have more detail for you next week.

Opening the churches again for private prayer and outdoor services are all being considered, and we very much hope to be able to celebrate Easter Day in our churches. That said, we understand that not everyone will have had their vaccinations or may just not feel confident about coming back into church.

Please be assured that we will continue to undertake risk assessments and to be meticulous about cleaning and disinfecting surfaces. Face masks and hand sanitiser will undoubtedly be a feature of our lives for some time yet!

And so will online services. These have become an important part of our worship together and, in Archbishop Justin's phrase, the Church of England is becoming a “mixed ecology church” and we need to work out how that will look in the benefice.

What is God calling us to do with our new skills? Paul, Richard and I would love to hear your ideas and we look forward to being able to meet and talk together. Until then, you are, as always, in our prayers.

Keep well and stay safe. Norma

World Day of Prayer Service 2.00 pm Friday 5th March

This year's service highlights the lives of the people, especially the women and children, of Vanuatu which is a cluster of islands about 1100 miles east of Australia.



It's one of the first countries to pray on the Day of Prayer each year, which may partially explain their theme of “Building on a Strong Foundation.”

Please have a small stone or pebble to hand.
You will need it during the service!

It will be live streamed on Facebook and we hope as many of you as possible will be able to join us.

You don't need a Facebook account to do this.

Service booklets are available from Morva White.

morvawhite@gmx.com

If you wish to support the work of the World Day of Prayer, there is a donation button on their website.

www.wwdp.org.uk

Ashbury CE Primary School **Forgiveness Prayer**

Dear God, thank you to those who are able to forgive us if we do something wrong.

We appreciate your forgiveness.

We are grateful for the power you give us to forgive other people, even if we find it hard.

Sorry if we take your forgiveness for granted.

Sorry for not being ready to forgive someone.

We apologise that we sometimes find it hard to forgive, even if they've forgiven us; we will work hard not to hold a grudge.

Please help us to forgive people and start again.

Please give us strength to forgive and love everyone.

In the future please help us to recall the Lord's Prayer:

“Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.” Amen

Our condolences to the family and friends of the late Mr Peter Trowbridge, Mrs Sylvia Frankham, Mr Ollie Donnelly and Mrs Eileen Wilcox who died recently.
Please keep them in your prayers.

Clergy Days Off

Rev'd Fergusson is off duty on Monday
Canon Richardson is off duty on Monday & Tuesday

Ashbury Cycle of Prayer

Please pray this week for all who live and work in Station Road.

#Do1NiceThing - A Challenge for Lent 2021



We all know Lent as a time of preparation, remembering the forty days Jesus spent in the desert praying and preparing for his public ministry. Traditionally it has been associated with giving up – this could be a good year to be different.

#Do1NiceThing is about loving and serving others and the wider community. It is about being the change, making positive steps to make life better for others (and yourself in the process!). The ideas are generally very simple and don't require much pre-planning. If you don't like one of the ideas, don't worry, just do something else that fits into the theme for the week. Some of them may have to be IOUs for after lockdown, and you could try two a day to catch up with last week's challenges!

Monday 1st March – Sunday 7th March.
Theme of the week: Occasions

- 1st: Do you know somebody marking a special occasion this week? Tell them you've remembered
- 2nd: Buy something extra for the local foodbank
- 3rd: Write a letter to the local emergency services and thank them for the work they do
- 4th: It's World Book Day – give away a book you have enjoyed reading
- 5th: Go on a thankful walk – what can you thank God for in your neighbourhood?
- 6th: Is there something you've been putting off? Do it today
- 7th: Take someone living alone a piece of cake or bar of chocolate

Shrivenham's Old Flag of St George

This is the top corner of the St George flag showing the "Coats of Arms of the See of Oxford" without mitre that used to fly from our tower from the 1980's until it was replaced in 2014. It would be flown at all major festivals including St George's Day.



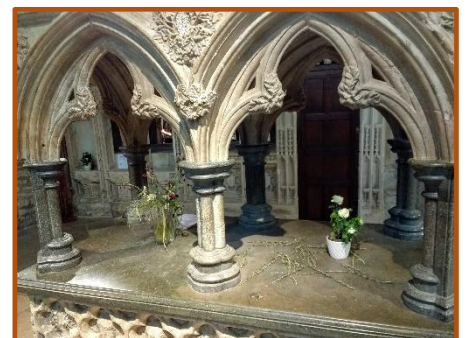
The flag has been languishing in St Andrew's ringing chamber for several years, gradually being cut up to make spares for other flags. However, the lovely Diocese emblem was still intact and in good condition so we thought it ought to be displayed where people could see it more closely rather than stuck in a box or flapping around 25m up in the air!

We have mounted and framed it with some information that people might find interesting. You will be able to see it when the church reopens.

The Arms of the Diocese of Oxford

The Arms of the Diocese comprise two parts. In the lower part the ox passing a ford represents Oxford. In the upper part, the three demi ladies are thought to be St Frideswide, c.650-727, the first Abbess of Oxford and her two patron saints, Cecilia and Catherine. The latter two may also be her companions who fled into hiding with her in an early account of her life. Frideswide was a Saxon princess and healer and her name means "Peace" (frithes), "Strong" (withe).

The Shrine of St Frideswide is the oldest monument in Oxford Cathedral.



Tony Crabtree & Cynthia Howell