



# The Shrivenham and Ashbury Benefice

'Mirroring the hospitality of God'



Vicar: The Rev'd Patrick Mabhunu. 07471 434 276  
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## Fourth Sunday of Advent 22nd December 2024

### Sunday 22nd December

- 9:00am Compton Beauchamp, St Swithun  
Matins
- 9:30am Watchfield, St Thomas  
Holy Communion
- 11:00am Ashbury, St Mary & [Facebook](#)  
Holy Communion
- 4:00pm Shrivenham, St Andrew  
Carol Service
- 6:30pm Longcot, St Mary & [Facebook](#)  
Carol Service

### Christmas Eve

- 3:30pm Bourton, St James  
Village Carols
- 4:00pm Ashbury, St Mary  
Crib Service
- 4:00pm Shrivenham, St Andrew  
Crib Service
- 5:00pm Watchfield, St Thomas  
Holy Communion (BCP)  
followed by Carols around Watchfield Tree
- 11:30pm Shrivenham, St Andrew  
Midnight Mass
- 11:30pm Longcot, St Mary  
Midnight Mass

### Christmas Day

- 10:00am Shrivenham, St Andrew & [Facebook](#)  
Holy Communion  
Please note the earlier start time.
- 11:00am Ashbury, St Mary  
Family Service followed by Communion

**No midweek services until Tuesday 7th January**

### **Community Cycle of Prayer**

Please pray this week for all who live and work in  
High Street in Ashbury, and Townsend Road  
in Shrivenham.

### Sunday 29th December

- 10:30am Fernham, St John & [Facebook](#)  
Benefice Holy Communion  
for the Feast of St John

**No midweek services until Tuesday 7th January**

### Sunday 5th January 2025

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

**Rev'd Patrick Mabhunu is off duty  
from Thursday 26th December until Saturday 28th  
December, and Monday 30th December until  
Saturday 4th January inclusive.**

For pastoral emergencies please call 07471 434276

**The Benefice office will be closed from  
Tuesday 24th December until Sunday 5th January.**

Emails will be checked regularly.

### **Christmas Message**

Last year was our first Christmas in the Benefice, and living in Ashbury then, we knew the streets to be dark with no lighting. We were surprised how things changed with Christmas approaching. Houses were now decorated with colourful and illuminating lights that brought light to the streets. This showed that something new was happening. Indeed, that new thing is happening again! The birth of our Lord Jesus Christ that brings light into our lives. As we celebrate Christmas this year, may our homes be filled with love, our hearts with joy, and our lives with warmth and fellowship.  
Merry Christmas and a Happy New year to all of you.

Patrick



Shrivenham CE Primary School  
Christmas Card Competition  
KS2 Winner: Tazmin

### Welcome

Welcome to Winifred Olga Jane Kew who was baptised in St Andrew's Church Shrivenham on Saturday 14th December.

### Songs & Stories and Baby & Toddler Group

Songs & Stories restarts on 8th January.  
Baby & Toddlers restarts on 16th January.

### Wednesday Study Groups

Both groups will restart on Wednesday 15th January.

### Thank You

The Compton Beauchamp Carol Service collection raised £200 for the Salvation Army's Christmas Appeal which will go to Booth House in Swindon. They will be thrilled to have such a large, generous donation.

### Pastoral Support

If you, or someone you know, would like a home visit (to receive Holy Communion for example), need to talk or ask for specific prayers, please do get in touch with Rev'd Patrick Mabhunu or Lucy Laird. Their contact details are at the top of the page.

### Shrivenham Christingle Service

As usual, the Christingles were made at Café Inspire the day before the service in St Andrew's.



### Messy Church

Our theme (surprise surprise!!) was Christmas. We coloured in baubles, made table decorations from evergreens, made handprint angels, iced gingerbread biscuits and made star decorations from lollipop sticks and wool.

