

The Shrivenham and Ashbury Benefice

'Mirroring the hospitality of God'

Vicar: The Revd Patrick Mabhunu vicar@shrivenhamandashbury.co.uk 07471 434276

Associate Vicar: The Revd Dr Janet Anderson-MacKenassociate.vicar@shrivenhamandashbury.co.uk 07821 474711

## Sunday 28th December 2025

#### Sunday 28th December

10:30am Fernham, St John & Facebook

Benefice Holy Communion for the Feast of St John

#### **Saturday 3rd January**

10:00am Bourton, St James

Family Service

#### Sunday 4th 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 with Baptism

11:00am Ashbury, St Mary

Holy Communion

5:30pm Shrivenham, St Andrew & Facebook

Compline and Benediction

No midweek services until Tuesday 6th January

#### Songs & Stories and Baby & Toddler Group

The groups that meet on Wednesday and Thursday mornings are taking a break until after the school Christmas holidays and will restart w/c 5th January.

#### **Rock Solid Youth Club**

The Youth Club is taking a break over Christmas and will restart on Monday 12th January.

#### **Bible Study Groups - Christmas Break**

The Tuesday Group will restart on 13th January. Both Wednesday groups will restart on 21st January.

#### Soup On Saturday

31st January from 12 noon - 2pm St Andrew's Church Shrivenham Come along for a mug of homemade soup and a natter. Suggested donation £2. There will be a raffle. In aid of St Andrew's Church

#### **Condolences**

Our condolences to the family and friends of the late James Bond and Anne Cracroft. Please keep them in your prayers.

#### **Christmas Message**

Dear Friends, what a joy it is to be here with you this Christmas, something which last Christmas we all had no idea would be happening.

It has been so good to settle in to ministry here, to share in the joys and sorrows of this place. I want to say thank you for the warm welcome to the Benefice.

Both Patrick and I use the same Christmas prayer at the end of our Christmas themed services and it is very much my prayer for us this Christmas.

> May the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the perseverance of the wise men, the obedience of Joseph and Mary, and the peace of the Christ child be yours this Christmas.

> > Every Blessing, Janet



# Rev'd Patrick Mabhunu is off duty from Friday 26th December until Saturday 3rd January inclusive.

Revd Dr Janet Anderson-MacKenzie will be on call for pastoral emergencies: 07821 474 711

The Benefice office will be closed from Tuesday 23rd December until Sunday 4th January.

Emails will be checked regularly.

## From Zimbabwe to Rome and then Ashbury and Shrivenham – Postponed

Patrick and Priscilla, for various personal reasons, have asked us to, sadly, postpone our Zimbabwe lunch and the second part of Patrick's story which was to be held on the afternoon of 10th January.

We hope the event will now take place in the summer.

If you have any questions, please contact Maggie Simons

01793 710801 or maggiemsimons@outlook.com

#### **Community Cycle of Prayer**

Please pray this week for all who live and work on Ashdown Estate near Ashbury, and Vicarage Lane in Shrivenham.

### **Messy Church Christmas Card Competition Winners**



First: Lucy, age 6



Second: Myles, age 6



Third: Everly, age 6