



WELCOME

TO THE SHRIVENHAM AND ASHBURY BENEFICE

"Mirroring the hospitality of God"

Sunday 2nd August Trinity 8 Lammastide

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Saturday 1st August

10:00am Bourton, St James
Family Service

Sunday 2nd August Trinity 8 Lammastide

Rev'd Norma Fergusson is giving this week's sermon.

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

Available from 9am on Sunday 2nd August.

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

It is "strongly advised" that face coverings should be worn by **all** those attending a place of worship where others may be present.

9:00am Compton Beauchamp, St Swithun
Morning Prayer (BCP).
10:00am Watchfield, St Thomas
Holy Communion (BCP)
10:00am Family Service with Standfast.
Watch on [Facebook](#) or [YouTube](#).
11:00am Holy Communion. Live on [Facebook](#).

Monday Rev'd Fergusson Day Off

Tuesday

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

Wednesday

2:00pm ASK Holy Communion.
Live on [Facebook](#).
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 8th August

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

Sunday 9th August Trinity 9

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](#).

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

Light a Candle

One of the lessons of lockdown has been the reminder that God is everywhere – in our homes as much as in our cathedrals and churches. The simple act of lighting a candle can help us focus on God's presence alongside us as we pray.



Dear God,

As we emerge from the lockdown that has closed our churches,
And we go once again into the House of the Lord,
We find much that we held dear taken from us,
The ones we love, the places we go, the things we do,
Be with us in our endings,
bring us peace and acceptance.
We find much that we have learnt to do,
That we had hoped to put behind us,
But with which we must persevere,
Be with us in our continuings,
Sustain us as we keep going.
As we step forward into things new and unforeseen,
Things which both challenge and inspire us,
Be with us in our beginnings,
And enfold us in your love.
Amen

STOP PRESS

It now appears likely that face coverings will be mandatory in churches from 8th August.

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

Heating Improvements in Ashbury Church



The work to improve the church heating in St Mary's Ashbury has been completed. Hot pipes now run under all the central pews and vents have been fitted into the flooring above them. The pews are all back in place and the church will be open for our next service on Sunday 9th August. We are looking forward to welcoming everyone to a warmer church this Autumn and Winter.

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 and Shrivenham churches are closed 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**

Musings from Ashbury

By the door in Ashbury Church hangs a small colour coded plan which shows that the building was constructed between the 12th and 14th Centuries. I often wonder, if those old walls could talk, what stories they would tell.

Many of you know that I have played the organ at Ashbury for about 45 years, over half of my lifetime, but a small insignificant period in the history of the church building.

These old church walls have stood through periods of tremendous change. They could tell us, for example, about the Reformation and what life was like during, and after, the Civil War.

I can share a story that could only happen to a country parish organist. One Sunday I was just about to play the first hymn when my wife Sue told me that some of our heifers had escaped onto the busy A420. A car had skidded off the road and through the fence. I had to dash away to deal with the problem, leaving the Vicar and congregation without any music!!

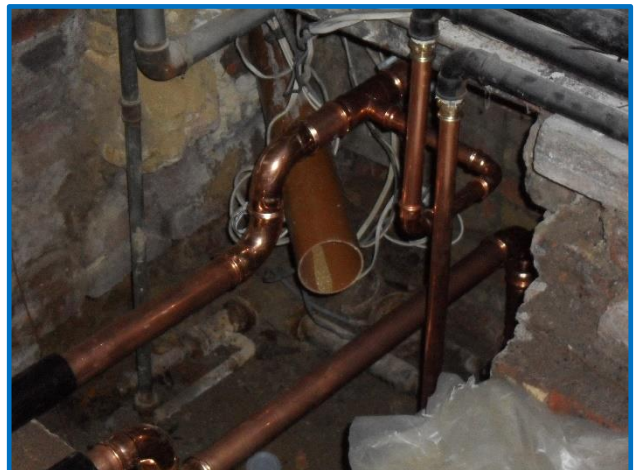
The recent lockdown might be the longest period without a service that the old walls have experienced. I played the organ for the service on 26th July, and this was the first time since 15th March. It was good to be able to praise and worship again, along with our friends – the people who are the church. 2020 will certainly be an historic year with tremendous upheaval and lasting changes, giving us all an uncertain future.

Psalm 46 is one of my favourites and reminds us that God will be with us whatever the future holds.

It concludes with "The LORD Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress". Perhaps these old, historic, fortress like walls will remind us that God is with us, loving and protecting us, wherever we are.

James Reade

Update from St Andrew's Restoration Project



Due to the extensive work required in the area where the new toilets are to be installed, the completion date has been put back to 18th September.

We then hope to open the church for private prayer with the first service taking place on 27th September.

Ashbury Cycle of Prayer

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