



The Shrevenham and Ashbury Benefice

“Mirroring the hospitality of God”

Sunday 8th November Remembrance Sunday

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

vicar@shrivenhamandashbury.co.uk

Associate Vicar: The Rev'd Canon Paul Richardson. Tel 01793 710241

associate.vicar@shrivenhamandashbury.co.uk

Licensed Lay Minister: Mr Richard Fergusson. Tel 07788 436831



Sunday 8th November Remembrance Sunday

Remembrance Sunday will be different this year. Government guidance is that ceremonies may take place provided that they are outdoors, short and focussed on wreath laying. We are asked to minimise numbers attending, observe social distancing, and take reasonable steps to record who attends, so there will be QR codes to scan for those using the NHS test and trace app. The good news is that we can sing the National Anthem!

You can read the full guidance [here](#).

While government regulations prevent us offering an open invitation to attend this year, please take a moment to remember and give thanks in the familiar words of the Exhortation: They shall grow not old as we that are left grow old. Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them.

Rev'd Canon Paul Richardson is giving this week's sermon. Watch on [Facebook](#) or [YouTube](#).

Available from 9am on Sunday 8th November.

7:45am Holy Communion (BCP).
Live on [Facebook](#).

Acts of Remembrance

9:30am Watchfield War Memorial
10:40am Ashbury War Memorial
11:00am Shrevenham War Memorial
Also live on [Facebook](#).
11:00am Compton Beauchamp War Memorial
11.30am Longcot War Memorial
12:00pm Bourton War Memorial
3:00pm Fernham Memorial Garden

Monday Rev'd Fergusson off duty

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

Wednesday
9:00am Morning Prayer. Live on [Facebook](#).
10:30am Bible Study Course. Live via Zoom.

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

Sunday 15th November

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

Longcot & Fernham APCM

Wednesday 18th November at 7pm via Zoom

There are vacancies on the PCC.

If you would like to become a member of your PCC, please contact Richard Fergusson or Dennis Blease.

Rev'd Canon Paul Richardson's Licensing



Paul swears the oath of allegiance to Her Majesty

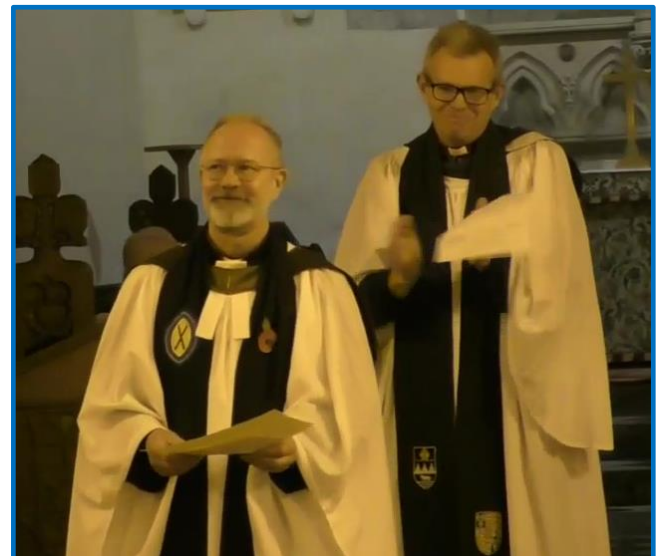
A huge thank you to everyone who made Canon Paul Richardson's licensing service so special.

Not just those who had formal speaking parts, James for playing, the choir for singing (albeit in absentia!) and also Margaret and Stewart who swept the path up to the steps to make it safer for all concerned.

Thanks, too, to the Associate Archdeacon David Tyler and the Area Dean Jason St John Nicolle for making it possible to have the service in church. And thank you, God, for the prompting to have the service on the Tuesday not the Thursday!

Welcome, Paul and Katriona.

We hope you will be happy here and we look forward to your ministry among us.



Canon David Tyler presents Paul to the congregation and leads a warm round of applause

Watch the service on the Benefice [website](#).

A Reflection from Rev'd Canon Paul Richardson

The autumn trees in and around Ashbury are ablaze with the colours of the season.

What a time to move into this country setting! But the autumn leaves are falling leaves. They fall to the ground and decay. They fit well with the season in which we remember those who are with us no longer, this time of All Souls. They remind us of those fallen in two world wars and conflicts since. This is a season of loss and remembrance. "Change and decay in all around I see" to quote the words of a much-loved hymn, Abide with me.

I write just before our nation enters a second "lockdown". Our lives will become much more restricted and constrained. Some will be particularly vulnerable to becoming isolated. The levels of anxiety and distress must only increase with the uncertainties that lie ahead.

In the Church year, we are now in the "Kingdom" season a time that precedes the feast of Christ the King, the Sunday before Advent. We are reminded that our lives are not in the hands of the vagaries of fate or fortune; rather we are subjects of a loving and caring God, who is Lord of Lords and King of Kings. The whole universe is in Christ's loving care. Each one of us deeply loved. Though all around us may seem gloomy, this is a sure source of hope and blessing. Throughout the coming weeks of lockdown let us look out for one another. Be good neighbours to those in need. Be willing to receive help as well as to give it.

For in doing so we are living out the prayer that Jesus taught us:

"Thy Kingdom come, in earth as it is in heaven".

A Call to Prayer for the Nation

Our Archbishops and leaders of other denominations have together called for a month of prayer for the nation during this second Lockdown.

"We know that we are in the faithful hands of the risen Christ who knows our weaknesses, tiredness and struggles and whose steadfast love endures forever."

In response to this call, there will be a short time of prayer live on our Benefice Facebook page at 6.00pm each evening. Please join us.



Christmas Cards for Sale

Margaret Hern is getting a good selection of Christmas Christian charity cards on a sale or return basis from the Lighthouse Book Shop in Highworth. If you would like a socially distanced browse Margaret will put them out in her garage in Shrivenham.

Ring 01793 782100 to arrange a time to visit

Our condolences

to the family and friends of the late Mr Derrick Jeans who died on Monday 2nd November. Please keep them in your prayers.

Lockdown 2

Looking out of the window at the sunshine this morning, it doesn't seem quite real that we have entered a second period of lockdown in England. At least, this time we know what to expect and it should be shorter and less scary than before. However, if you are worried about anything and would like to talk to one of us, or to your churchwarden, please do get in touch.

The churches will continue to be open for private prayer on one day each week (see page 2 for details), which is a tribute to the efforts everyone has made to keep them safe; I am grateful to all concerned for that. We will also continue to have services online and hope you will be able to join us.

Norma

Congratulations

to Kathleen Connolly and Andrew Crouch, who were married at Ashbury on Tuesday 3rd November.

Update on Operation Christmas Child



Operation Christmas Child is still going ahead - it's too important not to. However, the drop off timings for boxes and items have been postponed for a month. If you have prepared a box or have some items you would like to donate please take them to St Mary's Church Ashbury and leave them in the porch or give Maggie Simons a ring on 01793 710801. You can also send a pre-packed shoebox by visiting the Samaritan's Purse website.

www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/

Churches Open for Private Prayer in Lockdown

During lockdown the churches will remain open for private prayer once a week as follows:

Ashbury 10am – 4pm on Thursday
Compton Beauchamp 9am – 5pm on Sunday
Longcot 10am – 4pm on Wednesday
Shrivenham 9am – 5pm on Sunday
Watchfield 10am – 4pm on Wednesday
Fernham church remains closed to allow Annabelle's pre-school exclusive access during term time.

Ashbury Cycle of Prayer

Please pray this week for all who live and work in The Malthouses.