



# The Shrevenham and Ashbury Benefice

“Mirroring the hospitality of God”

## Sunday 22nd November Christ the King



Vicar: The Rev'd Norma Fergusson. Tel 01793 784338  
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Licensed Lay Minister: Mr Richard Fergusson. Tel 07788 436831

### **Sunday 22nd November**

11.00am Holy Communion. Live on [Facebook](#).

Richard Fergusson is giving this week's sermon. Watch on [Facebook](#) or [YouTube](#).

Available from 9am on Sunday 22nd November.

### **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 29th 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](http://www.shrivenhamandashbury.co.uk)

**Rev'd Fergusson is off duty from  
22nd to 26th November.**

**For pastoral emergencies**

please contact Canon Richardson 01793 710241

**For all other church enquiries**

please contact a churchwarden or  
the Benefice Administrator 01793 783519  
([shrivenham.ashbury.benefice@outlook.com](mailto:shrivenham.ashbury.benefice@outlook.com))

### **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.

### **Derrick Jeans, RIP**

Derrick's funeral will be held in St Andrew's Church on Thursday 26th November at 10am. We are sorry that we cannot invite you to join us in the way that we (and he) would have wished.

However, the service will be livestreamed on Facebook and you are very welcome to join us there. Please share this information with anyone you know who would be interested – and remember, you don't need a Facebook account to watch. Thank you

### **Stir up Sunday**

Sunday 22nd November, apart from being the feast of Christ the King and the last Sunday before Advent, is also known as “Stir up Sunday.” This is partly from the Book of Common Prayer Collect for the day

*“Stir up, we beseech thee, O Lord, the wills of thy faithful people; that they, plenteously bringing forth the fruit of good works, may of thee be plenteously rewarded; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen”*



But also because it was the traditional day for making Christmas puddings in order to give them time to mature before Christmas. Maybe one of the good things to come out of lockdown will be having the time for those traditional preparations, rather than having to cram everything into the last days or minutes (depending on how organized you are) before the shops close on Christmas Eve. Or even, I have to confess, sometimes buying them at the reduced price on Boxing Day!

Everyone is telling us that Christmas will be different this year, but different doesn't always mean worse. Different can be rediscovering some of those old traditions as well as starting new ones for our families. Watching Granny make the pudding over Zoom perhaps? Other sites are available, but they do seem to have cornered the market don't they? Perhaps, like Hoover and biro, it will become one of those generic terms for an activity, whichever platform we use?

Something as simple as weighing, measuring and stirring our cakes and puddings might be just the thing we need to give us time to think, or remember, or daydream, or pray. Slowing us down in contrast to many things which might be stirring us up rather than our puddings. And if we save the pudding till the next time we're together, rather than having it on Christmas Day, that might be a lovely new tradition, too.

Norma

### Lockdown & Giving

As we travel through another lockdown and are unable to hold services in our churches, the lack of donations usually received via our collection plates is having a serious impact on our finances. The costs associated with running the parishes is largely the same even with the churches closed except for private prayer.

We are very grateful to all those who already make a financial contribution towards our mission and ministry and the upkeep of our buildings. If you would like to find out more about our regular giving schemes, please telephone the Treasurers on the numbers below.

Shrivenham, Watchfield and Bourton 01793 784756  
Longcot and Fernham 01793 783324  
Compton Beauchamp 01793 710889  
Ashbury 07929 494621

You can also make a text donation to support your local church or the Benefice using the numbers below.

#### For Ashbury

Text **STMARYS 5** to **70085** to donate **£5**  
Text **STMARYS 10** to **70085** to donate **£10**

#### 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**

#### For the Benefice as a whole

Text **GIVEfive** to **70470** to donate **£5**

Your standard text message rate applies.

### Silent Auction



#### Raising funds for St Mary's Church, Ashbury

This year instead of our Church Bazaar and Raffle we are holding a Silent Auction. We have forty-four lovely things up for auction; many of them will make nice Christmas presents. We hope you will find something of interest in the catalogue.

This is a Silent Auction so the amount of your bid will not be revealed, and you also have the option for your name not to be revealed. Information on how to bid is included in the catalogue. Paul Richardson has kindly offered to be filmed opening the sealed bids at 4 pm on Saturday 28 November and this will be available live for anyone to watch on the Benefice Facebook page.

Catalogues containing details of each 'lot' and bidding forms are available from

Margaret [mbsmith5@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:mbsmith5@hotmail.co.uk)  
Judy [judithannclarke@outlook.com](mailto:judithannclarke@outlook.com)

### 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 – 3pm 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.

Face coverings are mandatory, and you should either scan the NHS test and trace QR code or use the sign-in sheets on entering. Hand sanitiser is available and remember to maintain social distancing.

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

### Shrivenham Village Crossword Puzzle

First prize £20 - closing date 10th January 2021

You may know the answers, which refer to places or items visible in the village, or you may have to walk around to find them! Some of the clues are cryptic.

Set by the people who organised the Treasure Trail.

Entry is £5 for the crossword and clues.

Available from Shrivenham Post Office  
David Watson 783405 or Julian Stevens 782065  
In aid of St Andrews Church Restoration Project

### Church Services by Telephone



**Daily Hope** is a free phone line offering music, prayers, and reflections as well as full worship services from the Church of England.

Dial 0800 804 8044 to hear a special greeting from Archbishop Justin Welby, then choose from a range of options, including traditional morning and evening prayer, hymns, prayers and reflections.

**Calls are free of charge.**

### Ashbury Cycle of Prayer

Please pray this week for all who live and work in Wixes Piece.

### Clergy Days Off

Rev'd Fergusson's day off is Monday  
Canon Richardson's days off are Monday & Tuesday