



# The Shrevenham and Ashbury Benefice

“Mirroring the hospitality of God”

## Sunday 21st February 1st Sunday of Lent



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**Service details were accurate at the time of publication. Please visit the Benefice website for up-to-date information.**

[www.shrivenhamandashbury.co.uk](http://www.shrivenhamandashbury.co.uk)

### Sunday 21st February

11.30am Holy Communion. Live on [Facebook](#).

5:30pm Evensong. Live on [Facebook](#).

Watch today's sermons on [Facebook](#) or [YouTube](#).

Rev'd Norma Fergusson from 9am.

Richard Fergusson from 5pm.

### Tuesday

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

4pm & 7:30pm Bereavement Café via Zoom.

See page 2 for more information.

### Wednesday

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

10:30am The Character Course via Zoom.

7:30pm The Character Course via Zoom.

### Thursday

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

### Friday

7:45pm Compline for Lent. Live on [Facebook](#).

### Saturday

11:00am Compton Beauchamp PCC via Zoom.

### Sunday 28th February

11.30am Holy Communion. Live on [Facebook](#).

### #Do1NiceThing - A Challenge for Lent 2021



We all know Lent as a time of preparation, remembering the forty days Jesus spent in the desert praying and preparing for his public ministry. Traditionally it has been associated with giving up – this could be a good year to be different.

#Do1NiceThing is about loving and serving others and the wider community. It is about being the change, making positive steps to make life better for others (and yourself in the process!). The ideas are generally very simple and don't require much pre-planning. If you don't like one of the ideas, don't worry, just do something else that fits into the theme for the week. Some of them may have to be IOUs for after lockdown, and you could try two a day to catch up with last week's challenges!

### Wednesday 17th February – Sunday 21st February Theme of the week: Gatherings

- 17th: If you normally just smile at someone in the street – say *Hello*
- 18th: If you normally just say hello – try *How are you?* and see where the conversation leads
- 19th: Send a message to someone to say you're thinking of them
- 20th: Plan to meet up with friends after lockdown and put dates in your diaries
- 21st: Contact someone you know who is unwell – how can you help?

### Monday 22nd February – Sunday 28th February Theme of the week: Awakenings

- 22nd: Re-read your emails before you hit send – is it really what you meant to say?
- 23rd: Smile at people – especially those who look grumpy
- 24th: Be a nice driver, cyclist or walker – spread road calm
- 25th: Email a charity that's doing good work to thank them and their volunteers
- 26th: Pray for your neighbours – listen to what God has to say to you
- 27th: If you're on Facebook or Twitter, share something positive
- 28th: Engage in conversation with the people who serve you in local shops

### World Day of Prayer Service 2.00 pm Friday 5th March

This year's service highlights the lives of the people, especially the women and children, of Vanuatu which is a cluster of islands about 1100 miles east of Australia. It's one of the first countries to pray on the Day of Prayer each year, which may partially explain their theme of “Building on a Strong Foundation.”



It will be live streamed on Facebook and we hope as many of you as possible will be able to join us. Please remember that you don't need a Facebook account to be able to do this.

Service booklets are available from Morva White.  
[morvawhite@gmx.com](mailto:morvawhite@gmx.com)

If you wish to support the work of the World Day of Prayer, there is a donation button on their website.  
[www.wwdp.org.uk](http://www.wwdp.org.uk)

Our condolences to the family and friends of the late Air Commodore Mickey Witherow.  
Please keep them in your prayers.  
The funeral will be streamed live on [Facebook](#) at 1:30pm on Thursday 25th February.

### COME AND SEE

"Come and See" started on 17th February but you are welcome to join at any time.

			
<b>Searchers</b> Listened to online worship in your PJs and want to find out more?	<b>Drifters</b> Drifted away from church, or thinking there must be more than this?	<b>Thinkers</b> Reflecting more deeply on faith because of the pandemic?	<b>... everyone</b> Whatever stage of life you're at, whether you've been to church before or not.

1 in 5 people watching church online during the pandemic didn't regularly attend before the crisis. Come and See is a free online experience to help everyone find out more about the Christian faith.

There are daily reflections and weekly videos which are added to the Diocese [website](#) as they are published, or you can sign up via the link below to receive them by email.

[www.oxford.anglican.org/come-and-see/](http://www.oxford.anglican.org/come-and-see/)  
or visit our [website](#) for more information.

We are running 6 sessions via Zoom for anyone who would like to meet to discuss "Come and See".

Thursday from 7:30pm – 8:45pm  
on 25th February, 11th and 25th March

Saturday from 8:00am – 9:15am  
on 27th February, 13th and 27th March

Email [shrivenham.ashbury.benefice@outlook.com](mailto:shrivenham.ashbury.benefice@outlook.com)  
to receive the Zoom link.

If you would like to discuss your thoughts about "Come and See" one-to-one contact Norma, Paul, or Richard.

Norma 01793 784338  
Paul 01793 710241  
Richard 07788 436831

### Clergy Days Off

Rev'd Fergusson is off duty on Monday  
Canon Richardson is off duty on Monday & Tuesday

### Ashbury Cycle of Prayer

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



### Congratulations

to Parris Bigley and Tom Fogden  
who were married at St Andrew's Shrivenham  
on Friday 19th February.

### Bereavement Café



Image by Lolame from Pixabay

Tuesday 22nd February at 4pm or 7:30pm.  
Live via Zoom.

An informal online get-together for anyone who has been bereaved at any time, hosted by Rose-Anne and Norma.  
Open to all, regardless of faith or beliefs.  
Free of charge.

If you would like to 'drop in' please contact Rose-Anne or Norma and they will send details of how to take part.

Rose-Anne O'Hare

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Rev'd Norma Fergusson

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### Daily Prayer for the Nation

**Psalm 23** has been a source of strength for thousands of years.

Let's pause and say it every day at 6 pm through this crisis we now face.

*When we are isolated and alone, we remember God is with us; we place our hands in his hands...*

**The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.**

*When we are tired and confused...*

**He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters;**

*When we are worn out with worry...*

**He restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.**

*When we are sick and afraid and if we lose those we love...*

**Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff - they comfort me.**

*When we face difficulties today and we hope for a better tomorrow...*

**You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.**

*In the face of trouble & difficulty of all kinds, we remember Jesus' promise of life beyond death...*

**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.**

The Bible verses are from NRSV,  
the commentary is by the Bishop of Oxford.