

The Shrivenham and Ashbury Benefice

"Mirroring the hospitality of God"

Sunday 7th March 3rd Sunday of Lent

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

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

www.shrivenhamandashbury.co.uk

Saturday 6th March

10:00am Bourton, St James' Churchyard.

Family Service for Mothering Sunday.

Sunday 7th March

11:30am Holy Communion. Live on <u>Facebook</u>.

5:30pm Compline & Benediction.

Live on Facebook.

Richard Fergusson is giving today's sermon. Watch on Facebook or YouTube from 9am.

Tuesday

9:00am Morning Prayer. Live on <u>Facebook</u>.

Wednesday

9:00am Morning Prayer. Live on <u>Facebook</u>.
10:30am The Prayer Course via Zoom.
7:30pm Shrivenham, W & B PCC via Zoom.
The Prayer Course via Zoom.

Thursday

9:00am Matins (BCP). Live on <u>Facebook</u>. 7:30pm "Come and See" discussion via Zoom.

Friday

7:45pm Compline for Lent. Live on <u>Facebook</u>.

<u>Saturday</u>

9:45am

8:00am "Come and See" discussion via Zoom.

Mothering Sunday 14th March

9:30am Watchfield, St Thomas' Churchyard. Family Service for Mothering Sunday.

Shrivenham. St Andrew's Churchvard.

Family Service for Mothering Sunday.

Joint with the Methodist Church.

11:00am Ashbury, St Mary's Churchyard.

Family Service for Mothering Sunday.

11.30am Holy Communion. Live on Facebook.

Churches Open for Private Prayer

Our churches will be open for private prayer once a week as follows:

Ashbury 10am – 4pm on Thursday
Compton Beauchamp 9am – 5pm on Sunday
Longcot 10am – 3pm on Tuesday 9th March,
then every Wednesday from 17th March
Shrivenham 9am – 5pm on Sunday
Watchfield 10am – 4pm on Wednesday

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.

A

Lockdown update

As I mentioned last week, we met with the churchwardens on Wednesday (by Zoom, of course) to discuss the plans for restarting public worship. You can see from this week's list of services that we are beginning with a number of outdoor services to mark Mothering Sunday on 6th and 14th March. There will be a small number of services in some churches on 21st March and an outdoor service in St Andrew's churchyard for Palm Sunday. Then, on Easter Day, we hope to be able to have services in five of our seven churches.

Thereafter, we intend to continue offering some services in church each week; this should gradually increase in line with church and government guidance and local infection rates – though if the events of the last year have taught us anything, it is that nothing is set in stone. We will always be guided by the need to keep people safe so don't throw away the masks and hand sanitiser just yet. Meanwhile, our online services will also continue, though we hope to be able to livestream from more of the churches.

Norma

Sonnet for Mothering Sunday

by Malcolm Guite



At last, in spite of all, a recognition,
For those who loved and laboured for so long,
Who brought us, through that labour, to fruition
To flourish in the place where we belong.
A thanks to those who stayed and did the raising,
Who buckled down and did the work of two,
Whom governments have mocked instead of praising,
Who hid their heart-break and still struggled through,
The single mothers forced onto the edge
Whose work the world has overlooked, neglected,
Invisible to wealth and privilege,
But in whose lives the kingdom is reflected.
Now into Christ our mother church we bring them,
Who shares with them the birth-pangs of His Kingdom.

Taken from "Sounding the Seasons" © Malcolm Guite Published in 2012 by Canterbury Press Norwich

Mothering Sunday Services

You are welcome to attend any of our outdoor Mothering Sunday services. Please wear a mask, stay socially distanced and scan the QR code if you have the NHS Test and Trace App. Our condolences to the family and friends of the late Mrs Sylvia Frankham.

Please keep them in your prayers.
The funeral will be streamed live on Facebook at 2pm on Wednesday 10th March.

Prayer Course II - Unanswered Prayer



Following the success of the first Prayer Course with Pete Grieg, these 5 sessions go deeper, provoking honest conversation around the hardest and most personal questions we all ask about prayer.

This is a five-week course which leads up to Easter (we will need to double up one week to fit it in) starting on Wednesday 10th March via Zoom.

You can join us for either a morning or evening session: 10.30am or 7.30pm

If you would like to join the Prayer Course, please contact David Ahern.

01793 783521 <u>thestable@protonmail.com</u>

COME AND SEE

"Come and See" started on 17th February but you are welcome to join at any time. Visit our website for more information.



The next Zoom sessions for anyone who would like to meet to discuss "Come and See" are on Thursday 11th March from 7:30pm – 8:45pm and

Saturday 13th March from 8:00am - 9:15am

Email <u>shrivenham.ashbury.benefice@outlook.com</u> 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

World Day of Prayer Service



Thank you to the team who led our live streamed service on Friday 5th March.

Watch the video on Facebook if you missed it!

#Do1NiceThing - A Challenge for Lent 2021



Monday 8th March – Sunday 14th March. Theme of the week: Opportunities

8th: Ask God to help you be open to opportunities this week.

9th: Email your MP and thank them for representing you; say that you are praying for them.

10th: Take a prayer walk around your neighbourhood.

11th: Buy seeds ready to create a wildlife garden/tub/window box.

12th: Hold doors open for those behind you.

13th: Pick up five pieces of litter on your daily walk.14th: Mothering Sunday – if someone has been like a

mother to you, thank them.

Ashbury Cycle of Prayer

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

Clergy Days Off

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



Photo: Dennis Blease