



# The Shrevenham 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@shrivenhamandashbury.co.uk](mailto:vicar@shrivenhamandashbury.co.uk)

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

[associate.vicar@shrivenhamandashbury.co.uk](mailto: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](http://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 [Facebook](#).

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 [Facebook](#).

## **Wednesday**

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

10:30am The Prayer Course via Zoom.

7:30pm Shrevenham, W & B PCC via Zoom.

7:30pm The Prayer Course via Zoom.

## **Thursday**

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

7:30pm "Come and See" discussion via Zoom.

## **Friday**

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

## **Saturday**

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

## **Mothering Sunday 14th March**

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

9:45am Shrevenham, St Andrew's Churchyard.  
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

Shrevenham 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.

## **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.

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

