



The Shrivenham and Ashbury Benefice

'Mirroring the hospitality of God'

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 25th July Trinity 8

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

For the time being we will continue to ask you to wear a mask during services, to observe social distancing and either to sign in or use the QR code.

Should you prefer not to do this, we ask you to be respectful of those who have made a different choice and to give them the space they need.

Hand sanitiser is available.

Sunday 25th

Richard Fergusson is giving today's sermon
Watch on Facebook or YouTube from 9:00am

- 9:30am Watchfield, St Thomas & [Facebook](#)
Benefice Holy Communion (BCP)
with choir
- 11:30am Ashbury, St Mary
Morning Prayer with Thanksgiving for
the Gift of a Child

Tuesday

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

Wednesday

9:00am Shrivenham, St Andrew & [Facebook](#)
Morning Prayer

Thursday

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

Sunday 1st August

- 7:45am Shrivenham, St Andrew
Holy Communion (BCP)
- 9:00am Compton Beauchamp, St Swithun
Holy Communion (BCP)
- 9:30am Watchfield, St Thomas & [Facebook](#)
Holy Communion (BCP)
- 9:30am Fernham, St John
Family Service
- 10:00am Shrivenham, St Andrew (revised time)
Family Service with Baptism
- 11:00am Ashbury, St Mary
Morning Prayer
- 2:30pm Shrivenham, St Andrew
Baptism
- 3:00pm Longcot Methodist Chapel
Joint Service
- 5:30pm Shrivenham, St Andrew & [Facebook](#)
Compline and Benediction

Baby and Toddler Group

The baby and toddler group that meets in St Andrew's is taking a break until after the school holidays and will restart on Thursday 9th September.

The Summer Picnic planned for 25th July has been cancelled in view of the weather forecast.

New Guidance for Churches

The new guidance from the national church runs to 12 pages and I'm sure many ministry teams are reflecting that life was simpler when we just had regulations to follow! Our priority is, as always, to keep you safe so we have decided to introduce changes gradually and following local risk assessments.

For the time being, therefore, we will continue to ask you to wear a mask during services, to observe social distancing and either to sign in or use the QR code.

Should you prefer not to do this, we ask you to be respectful of those who have made a different choice and to give them the space they need.

Churches will continue to be well ventilated, cleaned regularly (especially frequently touched surfaces such as door handles and light switches) and hand sanitizer will still be made available. They will continue to be opened for private prayer; please see page 2 for details of days and times.

Given the public health concerns and the rising number of infections, our Diocesan Bishops have advised extreme caution in respect of re-introducing the common cup at services of Holy Communion for the time being. Holy Communion will continue to be offered in one kind only, with communicants either remaining in their pews or standing at the altar rail according to local practice. Clergy will continue to be careful about hygiene during the prayers of consecration and will be masked when distributing the sacrament.

We know that people have missed congregational singing as much as anything and so we will re-introduce this into some services beginning on Sunday 25th July with the Benefice communion service in Watchfield at 9:30am. It remains true, however that singing generates droplets and, therefore, risk so where possible we will continue social distancing measures as this will allow us to sing safely. For those who are not comfortable with this, both said and online services will be offered as an alternative; information will be on the website and Facebook pages.

We understand that for some of you reading this, the relaxation of safety measures may not go far enough – for others, it may be the opposite. We understand that the pandemic has affected people in different ways and that this, rightly, affects the perception of risk.

By taking small steps, we hope to achieve a gradual relaxation of restrictions whilst keeping people safe.

Please contact us if you have any questions, comments or concerns.

**Longcot Village Green Concerts
Now in St Andrew's Church Shrivenham**

Sunday 25th July at 2:30pm and 5pm.

The weather forecast for Sunday is not good so the Clarinet Collective concerts will now be held in St Andrew's Church Shrivenham.



Each concert will last approximately 50 minutes and will be played without an interval. The programme will feature classics by Mozart, Beethoven and Gounod, and popular favourites including Runaway Rocking Horse and the Dambusters March.

FREE ADMISSION with a collection in aid of the renovation of St. Mary's tower roof, which is in urgent need of repair.

Tickets are still available and must be booked in advance. Please contact victorialmedcalf@gmail.com

Benefice Pilgrimage Sunday 15th August

We often talk about our "Christian journey" and for many this is purely figurative, but for others it is literally true as they walk to or between holy places, meeting God in new ways as they go.

We would like to recreate this ancient practice in the Benefice, starting with a walk from Bourton St James to Shrivenham St Andrew (and back for those who feel energetic!) on Sunday 15th August.

We will leave Bourton at 3pm, arriving at St Andrew's for a service, tea and cake, leaving again at about 5pm. Bourton Club have kindly allowed us to use their car park - and the bar will be open for refreshment when we get back.

Everyone is welcome to join us, even if only for the walk and tea!

For more details, please contact
Richard Fergusson (01793 780057)
or David Watson (01793 783405)

If you would like to make a text donation to support the work of the churches in our Benefice, please

Text GIVEfive to 70470 to donate £5
Text GIVEten to 70470 to donate £10

Your standard text message rate applies.

Thank you!

Wednesday Wonderings

For much of lockdown, Wednesday mornings have been an opportunity for people to get together and talk about their "I wonder" questions – those questions about the bible, about prayer and simply how we cope with life in general that we all have but rarely have an opportunity to ask. That group is taking a break over the summer but will be back again on 15th September, meeting at 10:30am on Zoom, alongside another group which will meet in person at 7pm.

Anyone is welcome to either meeting.

We will be looking at "The Heart of it All" – a book by Sam Wells which explores the love story between God, creation and humanity over a six-week period.

Come along and share your wonderings with us.
For more information contact Norma on 01793 784338.

Calling all Cake Makers



At the last Shrivenham PCC meeting it was decided to re-start having cake with coffee following the 10:15am service at St Andrew's each Sunday. Previously this proved a very sociable part of our time together and we are eager to make this event even more popular.

I have been asked to draw up a fresh "rota" of willing cake makers. Glancing at the previous list of volunteers, I realised that several helpers were no longer members of our congregation, so we require some new recruits to the team. Last time I was able to compile a schedule that meant that helpers produced cakes no more than twice a year. More than that and it becomes a bit of a chore. You don't have to be a MasterChef winner or Mary Berry, although some of her recipes have decorated our table!

So, if you would like to be part of this team, especially if you are new to the village, please let me know.

I also invite those who were previously on the rota to confirm that they are willing to continue.

Please contact me on veniejf@sky.com to say YES or ask for further information.

Thanking you in advance. Jane Venables

**Our churches are open for private prayer
at the following times:**

Ashbury 10am – 4pm on Thursday
Compton Beauchamp 9am – 5pm daily
Shrivenham 9am – 5pm daily
Watchfield 10am – 4pm on Wednesday