



The Shrivenham and Ashbury Benefice

'Mirroring the hospitality of God'

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

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Licensed Lay Minister: Mr Richard Fergusson. Tel 07788 436831

Sunday 22nd August Trinity 12



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.

Holy Communion will continue to be offered in one kind only.

Sunday 22nd August

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

9:30am Watchfield, St Thomas
Holy Communion (BCP)

9:30am Fernham, St John
Holy Communion

10:15am Shrivenham, St Andrew
Morning Prayer

11:00am Ashbury, St Mary & [Facebook](#)
Holy Communion

Tuesday

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

Wednesday

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

Thursday

9:00am Matins. Live on [Facebook](#)
6:30pm Choir Practice, St Andrew's

Saturday 28th

1:00pm Ashbury, St Mary
Wedding

Sunday 29th

11:00am Fernham, St John & [Facebook](#)
Benefice Holy Communion with choir

11:00am Ashbury, St Mary
Baptism

Update on Longcot Church

The building work to create the Community Hub in St Mary's is almost complete and the church should be reopening in early September, nearly 2 months earlier than expected. It is a fantastic achievement, and we offer sincere thanks to all involved in the project. Information about services and events will be published on our website and Facebook page nearer the time.

Ashbury Cycle of Prayer

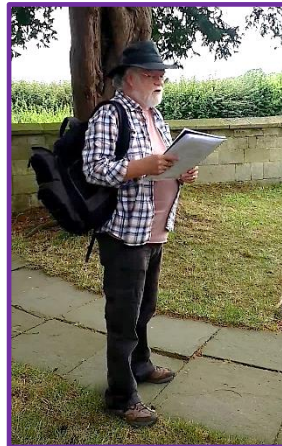
Please pray this week for all who live and work in Pound Piece.

Pilgrims' Progress



Ready to go - 25 pilgrims and 3 dogs

What was the weather going to be like? This was the main question we all asked ourselves when the day of our first Benefice Pilgrimage dawned. We needn't have worried. The Lord made sure that the first drops of rain only fell as the drinks were being poured at Bourton Club on our return.



A Blessing as we set out

The pilgrimage was a wonderful occasion. From the camaraderie and conversation of our walk to the delicious cakes which awaited us at St Andrews; from the joy of hearing the bells ringing again to the poignant service reflecting on our own personal journey with God - complete with real hymns, which were belted put with renewed gusto post lockdown.

My father joined us, and he commented on the friendliness of the group and the real feeling of unity despite the different churches which were represented. A joyful occasion which we look forward to doing again!

Sarah Howell



A celebratory drink at Bourton Club



More Generosity Week Sunflowers

At each service during the Benefice Generosity Week in April, we offered you a Sunflower seed as an example of God's generosity in creation.

How is your Sunflower doing? Let us have a picture to celebrate its growth and fruitfulness.

Photo: Margaret Hern

The Sunflower on the right was planted in Longcot in early May by Sam, the four-year-old grandson of Kathy and Dennis Blease.

He left them with strict instructions to keep watering it!



Photo: Dennis Blease

Songs and Stories

Unless more helpers volunteer, this successful session for little ones and their carers at Shrivenham Methodist Church will have to close.

Can you spare an hour from around 9 - 10 am on a Wednesday morning preparing the fresh fruit and making coffee? This could be on a rota basis so you would not have to commit to coming every week.

Please contact Pam Mullin if you can help.
pam.mullin2@btinternet.com

Baby and Toddler Group

The Baby and Toddler Group that meets in St Andrew's Shrivenham every Thursday (term-time only) from 9 - 10:45am will restart on Thursday 9th September.

All parents and carers with pre-school children are welcome, but please remember that you are at all times responsible for the children you bring along.

Refreshments are provided along with snacks for the children.

The group is run entirely by volunteers and there is no charge to attend, but a minimum donation of £1 towards costs would be appreciated.

Please contact Jane Hollick for more information on 07779 656 767

Benefice Sunday School

We are hoping to start the Benefice Sunday School and "Come and See with Cake and Tea" family service on Sunday afternoons from September 26th this year.

This is the "crunch" moment. Can we recruit enough leaders and helpers to make sure that we can go ahead with this outreach to families and young children in our parishes? We need your help.

Please could you consider whether you are willing to volunteer up to 2 hrs of your time at least one Sunday a month during school term times, and/or if you could pass on this request to a friend or neighbour who you think might be able to do so.

Please get in touch with Canon Paul Richardson if you are able to help. 01793 710241
associate.vicar@shrivenhamandashbury.co.uk

Lighting a Candle



Lighting a candle is a prayer: when we have gone, it stays alight, kindling in the hearts and minds of others the prayers we have already offered.

Lighting a candle is a parable: burning itself out, it gives light to others. Christ shows us how to live so that we may shine as lights in the world.

Lighting a candle is a symbol of love and hope. Jesus said 'I have come as light into the world so that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness'.

Thank You to Joseph (aged 6) for reading a lesson at St Thomas' Watchfield last Sunday.



Café Inspire

Re-Opening on Saturday 11th September

Jointly run by the Methodist Church and St. Andrew's, this 'pop-up' Café meets in Shrivenham School Hall on the 2nd Saturday of the month between 10 and 11:30am. All ages are welcome to come along for tea and coffee, bacon rolls, homemade cakes and friendly chat. Younger guests can play with a range of toys or join in craft-based activities.