



# The Shrivenham and Ashbury Benefice

'Mirroring the hospitality of God'



Vicar: The Rev'd Patrick Mabhunu. 07471 434 276  
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## 23rd February 2025 Second Sunday before Lent

### Sunday 23rd February

10:30am Ashbury, St Mary & [Facebook](#)  
Benefice Holy Communion with choir  
1:00pm Shrivenham, St Andrew  
Traditional Zimbabwean  
Family Communion Service

### Tuesday

9:00am Morning Prayer. Live on [Facebook](#)  
1:00pm Bereavement Café  
5 Martens Road Shrivenham

### Wednesday

9:15am Song and Stories Toddler Group  
Back room, Shrivenham Methodist Church  
9:30am Wednesday Study Group via Zoom  
7:00pm Wednesday Study Group  
St Andrew's Vicarage, Shrivenham

### Thursday

8:45am Baby & Toddler Group in St Andrew's  
9:00am Matins. Live on [Facebook](#)  
11:00am Shrivenham, St Andrew  
ASK Prayer Tree  
6:30pm Benefice Choir Practice in St Andrew's

### Friday

10:00am Coffee & Chat in St Andrew's

### Saturday 1st March

10:00am Bourton, St James  
Family Service

#### Community Cycle of Prayer

Please pray this week for all who live and work in Walnut Trees Hill in Ashbury, and Charlbury Road in Shrivenham.

#### Coffee & Chat in St Andrew's Church

Friday 28th February from 10am to 11:30am

Feel free to bring your book, your knitting or stitching, or just enjoy a chat with friends.

#### Tea-Time Fellowship in Longcot

We will not meet in January. Instead, we plan to meet for lunch on Friday 28th February at the King & Queen from noon onwards. All ladies in Longcot are welcome to attend. The K&Q would like to know rough numbers by Monday 24th February so please let Sue Podmore or Dennis Bleasdale know by then if you wish to attend.

#### Pastoral Support

If you, or someone you know, would like a home visit (to receive Holy Communion for example), need to talk or ask for specific prayers, please do get in touch with Rev'd Patrick Mabhunu or Lucy Laird.

### Sunday 2nd March

7:45am Shrivenham, St Andrew  
Holy Communion (BCP)  
9:30am Watchfield, St Thomas  
Holy Communion (BCP)  
9:30am Longcot, St Mary & [Facebook](#)  
Holy Communion  
10:30am Shrivenham, St Andrew  
Family Service  
11:00am Ashbury, St Mary  
Holy Communion  
5:30pm Shrivenham, St Andrew & [Facebook](#)  
Compline and Benediction

#### Annual Parish Meetings

<b>Ashbury</b>	Wednesday 2nd April 7pm
<b>Longcot &amp; Fernham</b>	Wednesday 9th April 6pm
<b>Shrivenham, W &amp; B</b>	Wednesday 16th April 7pm
<b>Compton Beauchamp</b>	Saturday 17th May 10:30am

#### Church Electoral Rolls

Every sixth year, instead of a revision, new electoral rolls must be prepared before the Annual Parish Meetings.

This means that everyone must re-apply to be included on the electoral roll of their church. Application forms will be sent to those on the existing rolls.

If you would like to join the electoral roll, please contact your church's PCC Secretary or Churchwarden, or pick up an application form in church.

For an electronic copy, please contact the Benefice Administrator, stating which church you wish to join.

[info@shrivenhamandashbury.co.uk](mailto:info@shrivenhamandashbury.co.uk)

#### Associate Vicar Vacancy

##### As we wait, so we pray

Heavenly Father, we thank and praise you for your love for all people, and for all you give us. During our vacancy, we pray particularly for the person we believe in faith that you have chosen to be our next Associate Vicar. May that person respond gladly to your call, and work with us to grow your Kingdom in this Benefice. While we wait, send us your Holy Spirit: help us to be patient, build us up in faith and love, and equip us to serve you well with all our heart, soul, mind and strength. These things we ask in the name of Jesus.

#### Confirmation

If you think you might be interested in being confirmed and would like to find out more, please talk to Patrick and we will arrange classes. All ages are welcome.

## Come and See



The theme for this year's Diocesan Lent course is Earth, Water, Wind and Fire - Understanding Baptism.

Through daily emails and a short Sunday video, we explore what it means to be human and what it means to be baptised as a Christian. The two questions belong very closely together. Who are we? What do we think we are made of? What are we made for?

It's free of charge, and all are welcome, whether you are new to exploring faith or have been coming to church for years. To find out more and sign up, visit

[Come and See](#)

## WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2025 Friday 7 March

A service for everyone!

Ashbury, St Mary at 2pm on Friday 7th March

Our sisters in The Cook Islands welcome us and lead us for the Day of Prayer 2025. This group of 15 islands in the South Pacific Ocean has a rich and colourful Māori heritage and a deep connection to nature. Join with us as we pray together and reflect on the theme 'I made you wonderful'. World Day of Prayer is an international, ecumenical organisation which enables us to hear the thoughts of women from all parts of the world: their hopes, concerns and prayers.

**Cook Islands** *I made you wonderful*



## Café Inspire

Café Inspire celebrated its 15th birthday on Saturday 8th February.



Our younger visitors treated us to an amazing rendition of Happy Birthday on the Belleplates without any practice beforehand - what stars!

We paused to remember Stella Tidmarsh who purchased the Belleplates and helped to teach our youngsters how to play them. She passed them over to Lucy Laird for safekeeping a while ago and we are grateful that we can continue to make music together.



It was lovely to be joined by Norma and Richard Fergusson as we reflected on the changes that had taken place over the years and gave thanks to all who had helped to make Café Inspire the success it is today.

Our celebration cake was baked by Paul Holloway and beautifully decorated by Wendy Smith.

