



WELCOME



TO THE SHRIVENHAM AND ASHBURY BENEFICE

“Mirroring the hospitality of God”

Sunday 12th July Trinity 5

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

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www.shrivenhamandashbury.co.uk

Sunday 12th July Trinity 5

Richard Fergusson is giving this week's sermon.
Watch on our [Facebook](#) page or [YouTube](#) channel.
Available from 9am on Sunday 12th July.

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

9:00am Longcot, St Mary.
Morning Prayer.
10:00am Compton Beauchamp, St Swithun.
Holy Communion (BCP)
11.00am Holy Communion. Live on [Facebook](#).

Monday Rev'd Fergusson Day Off

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

Wednesday
10:30am Bible Study Course. Live via Zoom.
See below for more information.

5 - 6:00pm Private prayer in Longcot Church.
6 - 7:30pm Private prayer in Watchfield Church.

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

Friday
5:30pm Worship and Praise. Live via Zoom.
Contact David Ahern for details of how to take part.
01793 783521 thestable@protonmail.com

Sunday 19th July Trinity 6
9 - 10:00am Compton Beauchamp, St Swithun.
Church open for private prayer.
10:00am Bourton, St James.
Holy Communion
11.00am Holy Communion. Live on [Facebook](#).
5:30pm Evensong (BCP). Live on [Facebook](#).

All links, orders of services and readings will be posted on the services page of our website www.shrivenhamandashbury.co.uk

Bible Study Course

10:30am – noon on Wednesday.
Live via Zoom.

Over the coming weeks, we will be studying Paul's Letter to the Philippians, using material by Tom Wright (former Bishop of Durham).

Contact David Ahern for details of how to take part.
01793 783521 thestable@protonmail.com

A Message from Fernham



Fernham Caring was set up with the intention to ensure everyone in Fernham knew that help was available to them should they need it: we wanted to reduce the anxiety around feeling isolated and vulnerable.

Immediately that the idea was proposed, volunteers stepped forward to coordinate and support groups of houses. Leaflets were posted through every door and contact details shared. We knew we really were in this together and we all began to chat to our neighbours in a very different way.

It was clear that a daily prescription run was a priority, so volunteers were allocated for each day and during the early weeks of lockdown were kept busy.

Neighbours helped each other with shopping, running errands and walking dogs. We simply looked out for one another.

Meanwhile, of course, our village pub, The Woodman, was closed, but landlords Caroline and Francois were determined to help. They provided an incredible service, offering a provisions list every day and delivering to households: this proved to be an absolute lifeline for many of us. Basic foodstuffs were gratefully received and Caroline's chocolate brownies brought real joy!

Throughout lockdown, villagers enjoyed local walks and, whilst social distancing etiquette was observed, there was time to chat and share stories.

The legacy of lockdown is that our village has become a more caring and supportive community, relationships have been developed and friendships made. No one would wish lockdown had happened, but our village has certainly benefited enormously from the difficult situation. Fernham truly is a wonderful place to live!

Sally Russell (Fernham Caring Coordinator)

Please contact Rev'd Fergusson for pastoral issues, and a churchwarden or the Benefice Administrator (shrivenham.ashbury.benefice@outlook.com) for other church enquiries.

Ashbury Cycle of Prayer

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

Latest News on Re-opening our Churches

As you will see from the calendar, this week's public services will be held in Longcot (9am, Morning Prayer) and Compton Beauchamp (10am BCP Holy Communion). It seems strange to be saying that numbers are limited, but with social distancing this is now the case so please understand that, particularly in the smaller churches, it may not be possible to accommodate everyone who wishes to attend.

As I said last week, we are taking things slowly and seeing what works in these times of transition. Saturday 11th July marks the feast of St Benedict, who also began by taking things slowly but whose simple rules of life spread across the world and still have much to teach us today. This is what Malcolm Guite has to say about him in *The Singing Bowl* (published by Canterbury Press in 2013).

"You sought to start a simple school of prayer.
A modest, gentle, moderate attempt,
With nothing made too harsh or hard to bear,
No treating or retreating with contempt,
A little rule, a small obedience
That sets aside, and tills the chosen ground,
Fruitful humility, chosen innocence,
A binding by which freedom might be found.
You call us all to live, and see good days,
Centre in Christ and enter in his peace,
To seek his Way amidst our many ways,
Find blessedness in blessing, peace in praise,
To clear and keep for Love a sacred space
That we might be beginners in God's grace."

Blessings, Norma

Liberty Lockdown Quilt



Marilyn Jeans has made this beautiful quilt during lockdown and is raffling it in aid of St Andrew's Church. It is 41 inches square (104 cms). Tickets are £1. Choose a number between 1 and 100 and phone Marilyn to enter. 01793 782508

Churches Open for Private Prayer

Our churches in Compton Beauchamp, Longcot and Watchfield are now open once a week for private prayer. See the services box above for details.

Ashbury and Shrivenham churches are closed while building work is undertaken.

Fernham church is also closed for worship to allow Annabelle's pre-school exclusive access.



Still Lighting the Candle

One of the lessons of lockdown has been the reminder that God is everywhere – in our kitchens as

much as in our cathedrals and churches. The simple act of lighting a candle can help us focus on his presence alongside us as we pray.

This prayer from the Rev'd Barbara Glasson, President of the Methodist Conference, seems particularly appropriate as we resume services in our churches.

God of all hope we call on you today.

We pray for those who are living in fear:
Fear of illness, fear for loved ones, fear of other's reactions to them.

May your Spirit give us a sense of calmness and peace.

We pray for your church in this time of uncertainty.
For those people who are worried about attending worship.

For those needing to make decisions in order to care for others

For those who will feel more isolated by not being able to attend.

Grant us your wisdom.

Holy God, we remember that you have promised that Nothing will separate us from your love – demonstrated to us in Jesus Christ.

Help us turn our eyes, hearts and minds to you.

Amen

Church Services by Telephone

Daily Hope offers music, prayers, and reflections as well as full worship services from the Church of England.

Dial 0800 804 8044 to hear a special greeting from the Archbishop, then choose from a range of options, including hymns, prayers, reflections, traditional morning and evening prayer and advice on COVID-19. Calls are free of charge.

Church at Home services from the Diocese of Oxford can be accessed by telephone.

Dial 01865 920930 to hear the latest service (press 0= short service, 1= full service).

Normal call rates apply.

If you would like to make a text donation to support your local church, please use the numbers below.

For Ashbury

Text **STMARYS 5** to **70085** to donate **£5**

For Shrivenham, Watchfield & Bourton

Text **SWB** to **70460** to donate **£5**

Text **SWB** to **70450** to donate **£10**

For Longcot and Fernham

Text **LONGCOT** to **70085** to donate **£4**