



WELCOME

TO THE SHRIVENHAM AND ASHBURY BENEFICE

“Mirroring the hospitality of God”

Sunday 5th July Trinity 4

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www.shrivenhamandashbury.co.uk



Sunday 5th July Trinity 4

Rev'd Norma Fergusson is giving this week's sermon.

Watch on our [Facebook](#) page or [YouTube](#) channel.

Available from 9am on Sunday 5th July.

9 - 10:00am Compton Beauchamp, St Swithun.
Church open for private prayer.
9:00am Watchfield, St Thomas.
Morning Prayer (BCP).
10:00am Ashbury, St Mary.
Holy Communion.
10:00am Family Service.
Watch on [Facebook](#) or [YouTube](#).

11.00am Holy Communion. Live on [Facebook](#).

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](#).

Saturday

10:00am Bible story & craft activity for children.
Watch on [Facebook](#) or [YouTube](#).

Sunday 12th July Trinity 5

9 - 10:00am Compton Beauchamp, St Swithun.
Church open for private prayer.

9:00am Longcot, St Mary.
Morning Prayer.

10:00am Compton Beauchamp, St Swithun.
Holy Communion (BCP)

11.00am Holy Communion. Live on [Facebook](#).

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

A message from Rev'd Nina Summerfield

Dear friends, you will know by now that I am unable to take up the post of Associate Vicar in the Benefice.

This decision was reached after several weeks of reflection and prayer and has not been easy, but the impact of coronavirus has made aspects of the post (and especially schooling for our daughter) unworkable.

I am sad not to be joining you and confess to some bewilderment that something which seemed so right in January is now just not possible. Every church felt so different and with something special and unique about it. And I will never forget how instantly at home I felt in Ashbury on the day of the interview

However, God holds us in his hands and the verse that I cling to is Jeremiah 29:11 “For surely I know the plans I have for you says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.”

I absolutely know this is true for all of us, but living by that knowledge is hard for a natural forward planner like me who always likes to have dates in the diary and be organised for what next - so I would value your prayers for Norma and I to have the courage to wait for the future to be revealed in God's timing.

Bless you and thank you again
for making me so welcome. Nina

Latest News on Re-opening our Churches

This has been another week of updates, each one lengthier than the one before, as advice on re-opening churches for public services comes thick and fast.

There is a lot to take in: liturgy, theology and health and safety make strange bedfellows! The most helpful piece of advice has been to take things slowly and see what works – and that applies as much to those of you thinking about coming back into church as to those thinking about opening them up. If it doesn't feel right,

please take your time, knowing that we will be delighted to welcome you back when you are ready.

Three churches are open for private prayer this week (see opposite) and home pastoral visits are now permissible, so do get in touch if you would like one of these. Despite all the information, there are always more questions than answers, so it seems appropriate to be writing this on the feast of St Thomas, the patron saint of those who ask the difficult questions which, in the end, produce the best and most helpful answers.

His most famous question, “how can we know the way?” probably sums it up for most of us – and the answer he receives from Jesus is true for all of us,

“I am the way and the truth and the life.”

If we follow him, even sometimes with faltering steps, all will, in the end, be well. Blessings, Norma

Please note that St Marys, Ashbury, will not be open for private prayer for the next few weeks, as the church will be closed from Monday 6th July onwards for improvements to the heating.

Bible Study Course

Wednesday 8th July 10:30am – noon.
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

Shrivenham Open Gardens
Sunday 5th July from 2 – 5pm



Eleven gardens will be open.

Ticket & map £5

Accompanied children under 16 – free

On sale at Shrivenham Post Office in advance and
from the church on the day.

In aid of St Andrew's Restoration Project

Churches Open for Private Prayer



Longcot Church, ready for worship and 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.

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

Meanwhile, the regular online services i.e. Sunday
11am communion services; Morning Prayer on
Tuesdays and Thursdays; together with the monthly
ASK and Worship & Praise services will continue.

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

Lighting a Candle of Hope

We all need hope and lighting a candle is one way of
encouraging both ourselves and others.

The flame may not be as obvious in these lighter
evenings, but it is good to know that it is still there.

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**

Ashbury Cycle of Prayer

Please pray this week for all who live and work
in Walnut Trees Hill.