



The Shrevenham and Ashbury Benefice
"Mirroring the hospitality of God"
Sunday 13th December 3rd Sunday of Advent



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

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Associate Vicar: The Rev'd Canon Paul Richardson. Tel 01793 710241

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Licensed Lay Minister: Mr Richard Fergusson. Tel 07788 436831

Saturday 12th December

10:00am Café Inspire.
Live via Zoom. Please let Richard know if you would like to come along.
richard.fergusson.llm@btinternet.com

Sunday 13th December 3rd Sunday of Advent

7:45am Shrevenham, St Andrew
Holy Communion (BCP)
9:30am Ashbury, St Mary
Morning Prayer
9:30am Longcot, St Mary
Holy Communion
10:00am Watchfield, St Thomas
Holy Communion (BCP)
11.00am Holy Communion. Live on [Facebook](#).
5:45pm Shrevenham, St Andrew's Churchyard
Christingle

Tuesday

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

Wednesday

9:00am Shrevenham, St Andrew
Morning Prayer. Also on [Facebook](#).
10:30am Advent Bible Study Course via Zoom.
2:00pm Shrevenham, St Andrew
Music and Readings for Christmas.

Thursday

9:00am Matins (BCP). Live on [Facebook](#).
7:45pm Shrevenham, St Andrew
Compline during Advent

Friday 18th

6:00pm Recorded Video on [Facebook](#).
Ashbury Stations of the Nativity

Saturday 19th December

5:00pm Ashbury, St Mary *
The Christmas Story with
Music and Readings *

Sunday 20th December

9:00am Compton Beauchamp, St Swithun *
Matins for Christmas Week (BCP) *
10:00am Bourton, St James
Holy Communion
10:00am Ashbury, St Mary
Holy Communion
11.00am Holy Communion. Live on [Facebook](#).
3:00pm Fernham Elmside Green
A Celebration of Christmas
4:30pm Shrevenham, St Andrew *
The Christmas Story with
Music and Readings *
6:00pm Longcot, St Mary *
The Christmas Story with
Music and Readings *

* These services are ticketed.
See page 2 for booking information.

**Christingle
in a Bag**

As Christingle this year will be a little different, I decided to offer children in Shrevenham and Watchfield a 'Christingle in a Bag'! Inside the bag is everything they need to make their own



Christingle and some information about what and why!
I had 280 bags to put together!!!

This sure kept me busy, but such a great number!
And a great way for the children to understand and participate in this festive and joyous celebration.

The Christingle service is a joyful celebration that brings families and communities together to share the light of Jesus and spread a message of hope. They have been around for hundreds of years; they were first introduced by Bishop Johannes de Watteville in 1747 in Germany. Back then, the Christingle, which comes from the German word Christkindl, meaning Little Christ Child, was just a red ruff around a candle. It was to symbolise and celebrate Jesus Christ as the light of the world.

It then became popular in the 1960's as a way to raise funds and awareness for the Children's Society. Nowadays thousands of services take place around the UK and millions of pounds are raised each year for vulnerable children and young adults.

If you have either received one of my 'Christingle in a Bag' or have all the ingredients at home, have a go at making your own. When you light your candle, whether that will be at the outdoor service at St Andrew's, or from the comfort of your own home, think about what that light means to you. Think of the love of Jesus, the hope He will bring and the peace He will give.

If you can, please donate to the Children's Society by visiting their website www.childrenssociety.org.uk

I hope you all have a Wonderful Christmas!
Rosy Taylor, member of Standfast team.

Christingle Service

Our service is outdoors in the churchyard this year! Rain is forecast so please dress for the December weather. There will be tea lights to mark the 2m distances between bubbles, but do bring a torch so you can see where you're going. Covid advice means we can't make Christingles for distribution this year, so please bring your own. Watch Rosy's 'how to make a Christingle' video on our website.

Christmas Services

As numbers must inevitably be limited in view of social distancing, attendance at some services will be by ticket only. To allow as many people as possible to attend, please only apply to attend one service on either Christmas Eve or Christmas Day.

Tickets are free and are available on Eventbrite <http://shrivenham-and-ashbury-benefice.eventbrite.com/> or from the Benefice Administrator (shrivenham.ashbury.benefice@outlook.com 01793 783519)

*** These services are ticketed.**
**** These services will be held outdoors.**

Friday 18th December

6:00pm Recorded video Ashbury Stations of the Nativity on [Facebook](#)

Saturday 19th December

5:00pm Ashbury, St Mary * The Christmas Story with Music and Readings *

Sunday 20th December

3:00pm Fernham Elmside Green ** A Celebration of Christmas
 4:30pm Shrivenham, St Andrew * The Christmas Story with Music and Readings *
 6:00pm Longcot Green ** The Christmas Story with Music and Readings **

Tuesday 22nd December

5:00pm Shrivenham, St Andrew Cloths for the Cradle

Christmas Eve

3:00pm Bourton, St James * Crib Service *
 4:00pm Ashbury, St Mary ** Crib Service **
 4:00pm Shrivenham, St Andrew ** Crib Service **
 5:00pm Watchfield, St Thomas * Holy Communion (BCP) *
 11:30pm Shrivenham, St Andrew * Midnight Mass *
 11:30pm Longcot, St Mary * Midnight Mass *

Christmas Day

9:00am Compton Beauchamp * Holy Communion by Extension (BCP) *
 10:00am Shrivenham, St Andrew * Family Communion * Also live on [Facebook](#)
 10:00am Ashbury, St Mary * Family Service followed by Holy Communion *

St Andrew's Prayer Tree

You may have noticed that we have a tree growing in St Andrew's by the Lady Chapel – it is a prayer tree and is for everyone to use.

Perhaps you are worried about somebody in your family, a friend who is having a rough time, or maybe even something in your own life. Why not ask God for help?

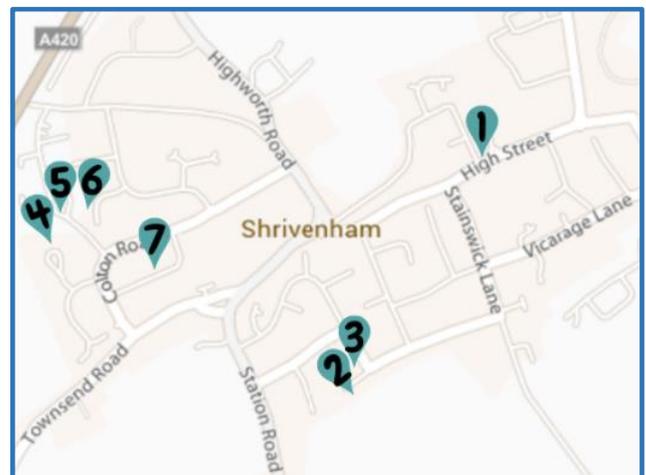
Or perhaps you would like to say thank you for some good news? The tree is there for you to write, anonymously if you wish, your hopes or fears. There are "leaves" near the tree for you to write your prayers, then hang them on the tree.

The leaves will be prayed during a time of open prayer each month – please talk to Norma (784338) if you are interested in being part of a prayer group, or perhaps in being our tree warden, helping to prepare the leaves for our various services.

We will, of course, still have candles available in the Lady Chapel if you would like to do that as well. If you have a specific prayer request, or just want to talk, again, please do get in touch. Blessings, Norma



Shrivenham Nativity Trail



Shrivenham Methodist Church invites you to explore the excitement of the first Christmas by following the numbered Nativity Trail around the village. Each stop will be decorated with a scene depicting part of the story either outside or in a window.

Scan the QR code at each location to find out more about the characters and what happened.

- ① Dormer Cottage, 29 High Street.
- ② 8 Cowleaze Close. ③ 13 Charlbury Road.
- ④ 9 Friars Close. ⑤ 24 Roman Way.
- ⑥ 6 Forrest Close. ⑦ 9 Curtis Road

Churches Open for Private Prayer

Our churches will be open for private prayer once a week as follows:

Ashbury 10am – 4pm on Thursday
 Compton Beauchamp 9am – 5pm on Sunday
 Longcot 10am – 3pm on Wednesday
 Shrivenham 9am – 5pm on Sunday
 Watchfield 10am – 4pm on Wednesday

Fernham church remains closed to allow Annabelle's pre-school exclusive access during term time.

Face coverings are mandatory, and you should either scan the NHS test and trace QR code or use the sign-in sheets on entering. Hand sanitiser is available and remember to maintain social distancing.

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

Ashbury Cycle of Prayer

Please pray this week for all who live and work in Berrycroft Lane.

Clergy Days Off

Rev'd Fergusson is off duty on Monday
 Canon Richardson is off duty on Monday & Tuesday