



The Shrevenham and Ashbury Benefice
"Mirroring the hospitality of God"
Sunday 6th December 2nd 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

Sunday 6th December 2nd Sunday of Advent

9:00am	Compton Beauchamp, St Swithun Holy Communion (BCP)
9:30am	Longcot, St Mary Morning Prayer
9:30am	Watchfield, St Thomas Morning Prayer (BCP)
10:00am	Shrevenham, St Andrew Family Service
10:00am	Ashbury, St Mary Holy Communion
11.00am	Holy Communion. Live on Facebook .
6:30pm	Shrevenham, St Andrew Compline and Benediction

Canon Paul Richardson is giving this week's sermon.
Watch on [Facebook](#) or [YouTube](#) from 9am.

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.
Live via Zoom.

Thursday

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

10:00am Ashbury, St Mary
Holy Communion

7:45pm Shrevenham, St Andrew
Compline during Advent

Saturday 12th December

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

Sunday 13th December

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

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

Handbells at Christmas



Somehow, Christmas wouldn't be the same without bells. Look through the cards and decorations and spot the bells. Ding Dong Merrily on High is one of our favourite Christmas carols, but look at the words and you will scarcely find a direct reference to Christmas! The carol sounds Christmassy because of the bells and the lovely tune.

The pandemic has restricted ringing of the church bells in the confines of the tower ringing chamber, but we still hope to make a joyful noise from the tower for Christmas. Of course, ringing handbells outdoors is less restrictive. We will ring carols in Shrevenham High Street on the Saturday before Christmas as we have done for many years and our charity collection boxes in aid of the Children's Society will be to the fore too. We really hope that we can ring handbells in the Carol Services too, but we have recorded a few just in case! The handbells we shall be using were cast by different founders over three centuries. They include one by Robert Wells of Aldbourne from the early 1700s and some by Mears of Whitechapel from the mid-1900s among others. The majority were cast by James Shaw of Bradford in the late 1800s. Brought together and restored in the late 1970s, I hope you will agree they make a beautiful blend.

Happy Christmas from the ringers. Tony Crabtree

Carol Singing

You've probably heard that carol singing will be allowed at outdoor services. Good news! However, as seems to be the case with all good news at the moment, there is a catch. Outdoor singing can only take place after a risk assessment and subject to 2 metre social distancing (not 1m+). We want all our services to be safe and special, as well as joyful, so we won't be moving everything outdoors. See page 2 for our Christmas services; I hope you will find one which suits you and your families. We'll look forward to seeing you.

Norma

Clergy Days Off

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

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 will be available from 8th December 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.**

Sunday 13th December

5:45pm Shrivenham, St Andrew ** Christingle **

Wednesday 16th December

2.00pm Shrivenham, St Andrew Music and Readings for Christmas

Friday 18th December

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

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

Are you following our online Advent Calendar?



We are sharing a carol a day on Facebook until Christmas. They are a mix of old and new, some familiar others less well-known. There is a short introduction to the carol and a link to a specially chosen version on YouTube.

Catch up will all the carols here <https://www.facebook.com/watch/102847494509000/139422994324354>

You don't need a Facebook account to watch!

A New Way to Contribute to the Collection



Look out for our new collection plate when attending services at St Andrew's, St Thomas' and St James'.

It accepts contactless and chip & pin debit and credit card donations as well as Apple Pay and Google Pay.

Simply choose an amount and tap to give.

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.