



The Shrevenham and Ashbury Benefice
 "Mirroring the hospitality of God"
Sunday 17th January 2nd Sunday of Epiphany



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

vicar@shrivenhamandashbury.co.uk

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

associate.vicar@shrivenhamandashbury.co.uk

Licensed Lay Minister: Mr Richard Fergusson. Tel 07788 436831

Service details were accurate at the time of publication. Please visit the Benefice website for up-to-date information.

www.shrivenhamandashbury.co.uk

Sunday 17th January

11.30am Holy Communion. Live on [Facebook](#).
 5:30pm Evensong. Live on [Facebook](#).

Richard Fergusson is giving today's sermon.
 Watch on [Facebook](#) or [YouTube](#) from 9am.

Tuesday

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

Wednesday

9:00am Morning Prayer. Live on [Facebook](#).
 10:30am The Character Course via Zoom.
 7:00pm Longcot & Fernham PCC via Zoom.
 8:00pm The Character Course via Zoom.
 Full details opposite.

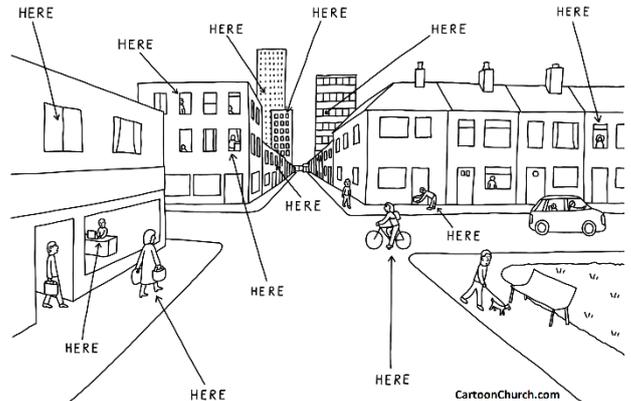
Thursday

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

Sunday 24th January

11.30am Holy Communion. Live on [Facebook](#).

WHERE THE CHURCH IS



We may not be worshipping together as usual in our buildings at present, but Church is by no means closed! Our corporate worship continues with live-stream services and recorded sermons for every Sunday and we have the opportunity to share in Morning Prayer through the week. Not only can we join these services live as they are broadcast on our Facebook page, we are also able to watch at our own convenience, and many do.

It is reckoned that up to 25% of those sharing in our online offer are new to our worshipping communities or have not been able to attend before for a variety of reasons.

The season of Epiphany is about celebrating Christ being made manifest, being made known to all the world. In an amazing way, the restrictions that Covid 19 have imposed upon us has made it possible for us to manifest Christ more widely than ever. Thanks be to God! and may we find ways to connect and keep in touch with those who are searching for God's goodness and love, found in Jesus, now and beyond this lockdown.

Paul

A Message from the Lord-Lieutenant of Oxfordshire



As HM The Queen's representative in Oxfordshire I should like to thank all the volunteers who support local communities, who have made such a difference to so many communities in the first two phases of the pandemic. Clearly we are now, in early 2021, faced with continuing substantial challenge in so many ways; sustaining the key levels of local support is harder third time round, especially during the difficult winter months. But it is vital that we do so. Thank you to everyone who will be playing a part in this. Our neighbours are just that: neighbours who may need support in a variety of ways.

With my best wishes, Tim Stevenson

The Character Course - it's not too late to join!

Each week, 'The Character Course' looks at one of eight themes: learning, hope, love, forgiveness, gratitude, humour, persistence and curiosity. The sessions last about 75 minutes. There is a short video to watch and a bible passage to ponder.

The course is free and will run online via Zoom on Wednesdays from 13th January to 3rd March.

Join a morning session at 10:30am
 or an evening session at 8:00pm.

Contact Jane Ahern to sign up for the course.
 01793 783521 thetable@protonmail.com

Courage Prayer

Dear God,

Thank you for giving us the courage to step out of our comfort zone.

Thank you for sharing your courage around the world.

Thank you for supporting us to overcome fear.

Sorry that we don't always find the courage to try something new.

Sorry that we don't always use our courage when things are tricky.

We apologise for not always appreciating how much courage others are showing when we may find something easy.

Please help us to be brave when something is tricky.

Please help us to encourage others to be courageous when fighting their fears.

In the future, please help us to use our courage even when times are difficult.

Amen

Ashbury CE Primary School

St Swithun, Compton Beauchamp



An application has been made to Consistory Court of the Diocese of Oxford for the reservation of a grave space in the churchyard of St Swithun, Compton Beauchamp. Any objections to this proposal should be made by 15th February 2021. More information is available on the notice displayed outside the church or from Rev'd Fergusson.

Virtual Bereavement Café

Monday 25th January from 4 – 5pm. Live via Zoom.

An informal online get-together for anyone who has been bereaved at any time.

Open to all, regardless of faith or beliefs.

Free of charge.

If you would like to 'drop in' please contact Rose-Anne or Norma and they will send details of how to take part.

Rose-Anne O'Hare

roseanne.o@outlook.com 01793 784017

Rev'd Norma Fergusson

vicar@shrivenhamandashbury.co.uk 01793 784338

On this page last week I wrote of my hopes for keeping churches open. Sadly that proved not to be possible but, with the Great Western Hospital declaring a critical incident on Wednesday in view of the number of patients with Covid, observing the advice to "stay at home; save lives; protect the NHS" remains as important as ever. We will begin to reopen our churches as soon as it is safe to do so. For the time being, please continue to pray for all those affected by Covid (including emotionally and financially) and for the work of our local NHS staff and carers. Norma



Loving God

In times of trial you come near to us with words of peace and comfort.

You lighten the darkness with the light of your presence.

We pray your protection on your people, especially those working in GP surgeries, pharmacies, hospitals and healthcare settings. Be with them. Be with us. Today and always. Amen

Support your local church or the Benefice as a whole with a text donation using the numbers below.

For Ashbury

Text **STMARYS 5** to **70085** to donate **£5**
Text **STMARYS 10** to **70085** to donate **£10**

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**

For the Benefice as a whole

Text **GIVEfive** to **70470** to donate **£5**

Your standard text message rate applies.

Thank you!

Ashbury Cycle of Prayer

Please pray this week for all who live and work in Idstone Road.

Clergy Days Off

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