



# The Shrevenham and Ashbury Benefice

“Mirroring the hospitality of God”

## Sunday 24th January 3rd Sunday of Epiphany



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

[vicar@shrivenhamandashbury.co.uk](mailto:vicar@shrivenhamandashbury.co.uk)

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

[associate.vicar@shrivenhamandashbury.co.uk](mailto: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](http://www.shrivenhamandashbury.co.uk)

### **Sunday 24th January**

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

5:30pm Compline and Benediction.  
Live on [Facebook](#).

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

### **Monday**

4:00pm Bereavement Café via Zoom.  
Full details below.

### **Tuesday**

9:00am Morning Prayer. Live on [Facebook](#).  
7:30pm Shrevenham, Watchfield & Bourton  
PCC meeting via Zoom.

### **Wednesday**

9:00am Morning Prayer. Live on [Facebook](#).  
10:30am The Character Course via Zoom.  
8:00pm The Character Course via Zoom.  
It's not too late to join! See page 2.

### **Thursday**

9:00am Matins (BCP). Live on [Facebook](#).  
7:30pm Shrevenham, Watchfield & Bourton  
PCC meeting via Zoom.

### **Sunday 31st January**

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

### **Prayer Requests**

I wonder whether you've found yourself praying more since the pandemic started? Anxious prayers for families and friends affected by the virus; prayers of protection for our communities or for those we know who work on what we've come to think of as the front line; prayers for a speedy roll-out of the vaccines; "oh my goodness" arrow prayers as we hear the ever increasing numbers of deaths and infections; even angry "what are you doing, God?" prayers as we struggle to understand what is happening in our world.

I've certainly prayed all these and more. Sometimes it helps to light a candle or, when possible, to hang my prayer on the prayer trees in St Andrew's, St James' (pictured below) or at Café Inspire. That way I know the prayer is being shared and prayed by others, which can be really helpful.

If you would like to share your prayers and concerns, please do get in touch with Norma (784338), Paul (710241) or Richard (780057). We can include them in our online services (anonymously if you wish) as well as in our private devotions. Norma



God our Father,  
by whose mercy the world turns safely into darkness  
and returns again to light:  
we place in your hands our unfinished tasks,  
our unsolved problems, and our unfulfilled hopes,  
knowing that only what you bless will prosper.  
To your love and protection  
we commit each other and all those we love,  
knowing that you alone are our sure defender,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen



### **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](mailto:roseanne.o@outlook.com) 01793 784017

Rev'd Norma Fergusson

[vicar@shrivenhamandashbury.co.uk](mailto:vicar@shrivenhamandashbury.co.uk) 01793 784338

### **Come and See**

'Come and See' is a new Diocesan programme, that our Benefice is signed up to, to help us all learn more about the basics of faith in Jesus.

Near the beginning of St John's Gospel we read of two disciples who start to follow Jesus. When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them: "What are you looking for?" They said to him "Rabbi, where are you staying?" He said to them, "Come and see."

One in five people in online congregations across the diocese were not regular worshippers before COVID. So now we want to invite to everyone who is searching for truth and meaning to go deeper. As a Church across the Diocese we want to send out a big, warm, open invitation to everyone: Come and see.

We are going to offer that invitation over the next few weeks through our services, in person and through e-cards inviting people to respond and discover more.

Then in Lent, we hope that everyone will have the opportunity to go deeper as we explore the heart of the Christian faith together: through daily reflections, through weekly videos and podcasts, through one to one conversations and small groups meeting online.

Please pray that God will be at work and that in the Easter season, as we emerge from lockdown, there will be many people who want to be baptised and to renew their Christian faith. You can sign up for daily reflections and to walk this journey with us in the personal link below. This can be for everyone. Walk with us as we walk with Jesus and come and see.

<https://www.oxford.anglican.org/come-and-see/>

### **Ashbury School Foodbank**

With lockdown taking its toll on many in various ways, we would like to support our families through providing our own foodbank during this lockdown period.

We would like to invite you to support this by donating food items to our stand outside of the school grounds.

We would welcome donations of tinned food, dried foods, packet foods, anything that will not go off or perish, as well as any hygiene or sanitary products.

The aim will be to keep this topped up over the coming weeks to support everyone during the lockdown period.

**Anyone is welcome to come and help themselves to things they may need to support their families.**

Thank you in advance for your help.

Rachael Smith  
Headteacher, Ashbury CE Primary School

### **Ashbury Cycle of Prayer**

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

### **Clergy Days Off**

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

### **Virtual Wine Tasting - A taste of Australia**



Join us via Zoom at 7.30 pm on Friday 5th February for a fun and informative wine tasting evening with wine expert and educator Abbie Bennington.

Guided by Abbie, we'll be taking a virtual trip to sunny Australia - from the comfort of our own sofas!

We'll be tasting a Shiraz and a Viognier. Abbie will be telling us about each wine and talking us through how to taste them like an expert.

#### **Tickets are £10 per household**

and you will also need to purchase a bottle of each wine at approximately £10 each.

When you sign up you will receive details of Abbie's recommended wines which are available from Sainsburys. If you can't get those particular ones, any Australian Shiraz and Australian Viognier will be fine.

To book your place, email  
[claireroutley@btinternet.com](mailto:claireroutley@btinternet.com).

Payment can be made via BACS, or via cheque/cash at Teallach Cottage, High Street, Ashbury.

**In aid of St Mary's Church, Ashbury**

### **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 [thestable@protonmail.com](mailto:thestable@protonmail.com)