



The Shrivenham and Ashbury Benefice

“Mirroring the hospitality of God”

Sunday 2nd May 5th Sunday of Easter

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



Please remember that, even though many of us have now had one or more vaccinations, the coronavirus is still circulating and we can still transmit it.

So, 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.

Sunday 2nd

7:45am Shrivenham, St Andrew.
Holy Communion (BCP).

9:00am C. Beauchamp, St Swithun.
Holy Communion (BCP).

9:30am Watchfield, St Thomas. Matins (BCP).

9:30am Longcot, St Mary. Morning Prayer.

10:45am **Shrivenham, St Andrew.**
Family Service.
Please note the later start time.

11:00am Ashbury, St Mary & [Facebook](#).
Holy Communion.

5:30pm Shrivenham, St Andrew & [Facebook](#).
Compline and Benediction.

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

Tuesday

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

Wednesday

9:00am Shrivenham, St Andrew & [Facebook](#).
Morning Prayer

10:30am The Wisdom House via Zoom.
See page 2 for more information.

2:00pm Shrivenham, St Andrew & [Facebook](#).
ASK Holy Communion

6:00pm Benefice Wardens' Meeting via Zoom.

Thursday

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

Sunday 9th

9:30am **Christian Aid Week**
Watchfield, St Thomas & [Facebook](#).
Holy Communion (BCP).

9:30am Longcot, St Mary. Family Communion.

10:45am Shrivenham, St Andrew.
Holy Communion.

11:00am Ashbury, St Mary.& [Facebook](#).
Morning Prayer.

Sermons and Service Times in Church and Online

Although we are now starting to have regular services in our churches again, the current guidance is still to keep them as short as possible, so for the time being sermons will remain online only. Once this changes we will return to having a live sermon (and it is good to know that some of you have missed this!).

We will continue to live stream a communion service every Sunday as well as other special services but please keep an eye on the weekly sheets and our website as times may vary from week to week.

One other consequence of returning to more regular services is that we have had to think about service times - not just how long services will last when we can return to congregational singing and live sermons, but also how much time is needed to get safely from one church to another. We would also like to have time to talk to you after a service and not just race off to the next church.

We are also learning from the experience of having had different service times in some churches over the past year. There is a lot to process. For this reason we are experimenting with 10:45am services in St Andrew's this month and possibly into June. We hope to settle into a consistent pattern of services and service times from September. Please bear with us while we find a safe way of working beyond the immediate problems of the pandemic.

Annual Parish Meetings

Ashbury	Wednesday 12th May 7pm
Shrivenham, W & B	Wednesday 2nd June 7:30pm
Compton Beauchamp	Saturday 12th June 11am
Longcot & Fernham	Wednesday 14th July 7pm

Meetings will be held in church if permitted by regulations in place at the time, otherwise via Zoom
If you would like to become a member of your PCC, please contact the PCC Secretary or churchwarden.
All welcome

Our churches will be open for private prayer from 18th - 25th April as follows:

Ashbury 10am – 4pm on Thursday
Compton Beauchamp 9am – 5pm daily
Longcot 10am – 3pm on Wednesday
Shrivenham 9am – 5pm daily
and to view the Easter Garden.

Watchfield 10am – 4pm on Wednesday

If you have donations for the Faringdon Food Bank please leave them in the box provided.

Ashbury Cycle of Prayer

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

Generosity Continued

Thank you to the 30 volunteers who gave their time and talents to the Ashbury Churchyards spring cleaning session, and to June Blackman for her expert repairs to the collapsed wall in Watchfield Churchyard.



Paul and Roger taking a well-earned break.



June hard at work.

Longcot Village Trust Concerts

St. Mary's Church, Longcot on Saturday 22nd May

The two concerts by the Clarinet Collective in aid of the Longcot Village Trust fund to build a community space in St Mary's Church are now fully booked.

If you would like to make a donation to the LVT Fund please visit <https://gofund.me/84c06298>

Faringdon Food Bank

Although the number of infections due to the pandemic seems to be coming down daily, the economic impact on many families remains devastating. For this reason, we have decided to provide collection points for donations to the Faringdon Food Bank in our churches.

Please bring your donations when the churches are open and we will deliver items on a regular basis.

At present the Food Bank particularly needs:

long life milk and juice

long life bread

cereals and biscuits

fruit and vegetables in tins

pasta, pasta sauces

gluten free meals

shower gels, toothbrushes and shampoo

Please donate items with at least 6 months shelf life, longer if possible.

Norma

St Swithun's Church needs your help!



We are looking for some volunteers to help us clear ivy off a number of our tombstones in St Swithun's Churchyard, Compton Beauchamp.

The first session will be the afternoon of Friday 7th May. If you have suitable cutting equipment, please bring it along

The Wisdom House

Often in life we are told that the most important lessons must be learnt the hard way, but does it always have to be like this?

Join us for "The Wisdom House", eight free sessions looking at different aspects of life that affect our relationships and how we respond to people in different life situations.

Each session lasts approximately 75 minutes and includes a short, animated video story, a talk on the weekly topic, a group discussion and a few reflections.

"The Wisdom House" will run online via Zoom at 10:30am on Wednesdays from 21st April to 9th June.

Contact Jane Ahern for the Zoom link.

thestable@protonmail.com

Our condolences to the family and friends of the late Mrs Margaret Allen who died recently. Please keep them in your prayers.