



The Shrevenham and Ashbury Benefice

'Mirroring the hospitality of God'

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

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Licensed Lay Minister: Mr Richard Fergusson. Tel 07788 436831

Saturday 25th December Christmas Day



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

Wearing a face covering is mandatory.

Please sign in or use the QR code and continue to observe social distancing. Hand sanitiser is available. Holy Communion will be offered in one kind only.

Watch on Richard Fergusson's Christmas sermon on [Facebook](#) or [YouTube](#) from 5pm on Christmas Eve.

Christmas Eve

9:00am	Ashbury, St Mary & Facebook . Matins (BCP)
3:00pm	Bourton, St James Churchyard Crib Service
4:00pm	Shrevenham, St Andrew. Crib Service
4:00pm	Ashbury, St Mary. Crib Service
5:00pm	Watchfield, St Thomas Holy Communion (BCP)
11:30pm	Shrevenham, St Andrew & Facebook . Midnight Mass
11:30pm	Longcot, St Mary. Midnight Mass

Christmas Day

9:00am	Compton Beauchamp, St Swithun Holy Communion (BCP)
10:15am	Shrevenham, St Andrew & Facebook . Holy Communion
10:30am	Ashbury, St Mary Family Service followed by Holy Communion

Sunday 26th December

10:15am	Shrevenham, St Andrew & Facebook . Benefice Holy Communion
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Midweek services resume on Tuesday 4th January

Sunday 2nd January

7:45am	Shrevenham, St Andrew Holy Communion (BCP)
9:00am	Compton Beauchamp, St Swithun Holy Communion (BCP)
9:30am	Watchfield, St Thomas & Facebook . Holy Communion (BCP)
9:30am	Longcot, St Mary Family Service
10:15am	Shrevenham, St Andrew Morning Prayer
11:00am	Ashbury, St Mary. Morning Prayer
3:00pm	Longcot Methodist Chapel United Service
5:30pm	Shrevenham, St Andrew & Facebook . Vespers and Benediction

The Benefice office will be closed from Friday 24th December until Monday 3rd January. Emails will be checked daily.

Canon Paul Richardson is off duty from Sunday 26th December until Saturday 1st January.

For pastoral emergencies please call Rev'd Norma Fergusson on 07799 545035

Christmas Message

It is the days after Christmas that put the message of the mystery of God's incarnation to the test and show us God's love even in the darkest of times.

It is very easy to think of God's love for us in the warm glow of the fairy lights and tinsel, and in the slumbering satisfaction of a post-Christmas Dinner glass of something festive. On Christmas day our thoughts are on the scene around the manger, a happy holy family. But the days that follow paint a rather different picture:

Boxing Day is the commemoration of St Stephen. St Stephen was the first Christian martyr, stoned to death as he speaks about his faith in Jesus. Saul, who was to become St Paul, holding the cloaks of those who threw the stones. Good King Wenceslas looked out on this day and was moved to his act of Christian charity on seeing the poor man gathering his winter fuel in the snow.

On 27th December, we commemorate St John. John was the only one of Jesus' apostles not put to death for his faith. John takes Jesus' mother Mary into his own home after the crucifixion, and he lives to a ripe old age. For those who have lost beloved members of their family, for those who know the infirmity of old age, St John's Day can be a reminder, in this Christmastide, that you are not alone.

28th December commemorates the Holy Innocents, the victims of King Herod's rage at the birth of Christ.

It is exactly this kind of injustice and the unrestrained abuse of power, that Jesus will take on in his adult life. He teaches us, in words and with his life, about another Kingdom - God's kingdom of mercy, peace, and love.

I am so glad that beyond the tinsel, glitter, and frivolity of the Christmas Day festivities, these three days set the Nativity of Jesus in its proper context, the real life and pain of our world. This is truly "Good News of Great Joy to All the World". Gloria in Excelsis and Deo Gracias!

Paul, Norma and Richard

Ashbury Cycle of Prayer w/c 26th December

Please pray for all who live and work in Pound Piece.