



# The Shrivenham and Ashbury Benefice

'Mirroring the hospitality of God'

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

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

Associate Vicar: Vacancy

Licensed Lay Minister: Mr Richard Fergusson. Tel 07788 436831



## Sunday 27th February 2022

## Sunday Next Before Lent

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

Wearing a face covering indoors is no longer mandatory but we would encourage you to exercise discretion, especially in larger services or smaller churches.

Please respect the concerns of others in the congregation, and continue to observe social distancing where possible. Hand sanitizer is available.

Holy Communion will be offered in one kind only.

### Sunday 27th February

Padre Phil Craven is giving today's online sermon.

Watch on [Facebook](#), [YouTube](#) or our [website](#) from 9:00am

10:15am Shrivenham, St Andrew & [Facebook](#)  
Benefice Holy Communion with Choir

### Tuesday

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

2:00pm Shrivenham, St Andrew  
Memorial Service – John Brierwood

### Wednesday

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

9:15am Song and Stories Toddler Group  
Shrivenham Methodist Church

10:30am Wednesday Study Group via Zoom  
2:00pm Shrivenham, St Andrew & [Facebook](#)  
ASK Holy Communion

with Imposition of Ashes

7:00pm Wednesday Study Group  
St Andrew's Vicarage

### Thursday

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

9:00am Baby & Toddler Group in St Andrew's  
3:15pm Shrivenham, St Andrew  
Messy Church

6:00pm Shrivenham, St Andrew  
ASK Evening Prayer

6:30pm Benefice Choir Practice in St Andrew's

7:45pm Shrivenham, St Andrew & [Facebook](#)  
Compline for Lent

### Friday

9:00am Ashbury, St Mary & [Facebook](#)  
Matins (BCP)

11:00am Fernham, St John  
Interment of Ashes – Joan Turner

2:00pm Shrivenham Methodist Church & Facebook  
World Day of Prayer Service

### Saturday

10:00am Bourton, St James  
Family Service

### Sunday 6th March

7:45am Shrivenham, 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 Shrivenham, St Andrew - Family Service

11:00am Ashbury, St Mary - Morning Prayer

3:00pm Longcot Methodist Chapel - United Service

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

### A message from the Bishop of London as Covid legal restrictions are lifted

When the first measures to curb the spread of Covid-19 were introduced in March 2020, few would have imagined that we would still be making adaptations to the way we live our lives – including our worship – almost two years on. It has been a very challenging time. People have made huge sacrifices to protect one another – not only those they know and love but strangers they might never meet. We've learnt again as society something of what it means to love our neighbour, as Jesus taught. And it has certainly not been without cost. The loneliness and isolation many have experienced; the impact on people's mental health; the lost jobs and failed businesses and strained relationships must not be overlooked. Yet, terrible as the toll from this virus has been, and continues to be, the actions people have taken have saved lives and prevented countless infections, with all the potential long-term consequences that could go with them. We may never know what good has been done. So as we can begin to look forward with cautious hope, we once again thank those who have done so much to protect us all - particularly our NHS, carers and other front-line workers. I want to thank everyone who has made sacrifices for others. I think particularly of younger people who, though often least at risk, have sometimes given up the most. And I want especially to thank our clergy, parish volunteers and congregations for all you are doing - not simply to keep worship going, but to innovate with bold and remarkable new ways of doing so; reaching new people and, of course, serving your communities. As 'plan B' restrictions come to an end the future remains uncertain and we must continue to be cautious. In our churches government rules have been eased but I would still encourage congregations to consider what mitigation can best protect others. As we look now towards spring and the vivid demonstration of new life it offers us, my prayer is that we won't forget what we've learnt; that we take this opportunity to thank others and that we look with hope to the future.

### Community Cycle of Prayer

Please pray for all who live and work in Church Lane in Ashbury, and Chestnut Gardens in Shrivenham.



Lent Challenge 2022

### Our Lent Challenge Knitalong starts this week.

By the end, each knitter will have completed a cushion cover. The design is a surprise but will only use simple knit and purl stitches, so should be achievable by knitters of all abilities.

There will be a weekly email throughout Lent, with a set of daily knitting instructions and specially written meditations which you may use as you knit and enjoy some quiet, reflective time as you journey through Lent.

We've also set up a local Facebook [group](#) for participants to chat to other knitters, share their progress, ask for help etc.

Contact Norma for more information and to sign up. 01793 784338 [vicar@shrivenhamandashbury.co.uk](mailto:vicar@shrivenhamandashbury.co.uk)

### Can You Help?

Joanna Lambert (Churchwarden at St Swithun's) is visiting the maternity ward in the Sir Edmund Hillary Hospital in Phaplu, Nepal, in March. She has been given a wonderful selection of hand knitted hats and bonnets, but if anyone has time to knit or crochet any mittens, bootees, cardigans etc. she would be thrilled to take them out as well. Please contact Joanna if you can help 07990898175 or email [irlambert@aol.com](mailto:irlambert@aol.com)

**PARKINSON'S<sup>UK</sup>**  
**CHANGE ATTITUDES.**  
**FIND A CURE.**  
**JOIN US.**

**Parkinson's Awareness**  
**Coffee Morning**  
**at St Andrews Church**  
**Friday 11th March**  
**10am – 12 noon**

Find out more and enjoy a cuppa and chat. Information from Parkinson's UK, Parkinsons.Me, Parkies Pals and Home Instead will be available. Our fabulous Parkies Pinnies, pens and poetry books will be on sale and there's a chance to win a hamper.

For more information contact Kerry Hartman [Parkiespals@outlook.com](mailto:Parkiespals@outlook.com)



In aid of the local Parkinson's activity group and Parkinsons.Me founded in Wantage



**The Torriano Ensemble in Concert**  
**Sunday 20th March at 7:30pm**  
**St Andrew's Church Shrivenham**

The Torriano Ensemble are a group of professional musicians. Their programme will feature music for piano and wind instruments. More details to follow.

Tickets £15 from Shrivenham Post Office or [www.shrivenham-church.eventbrite.co.uk](http://www.shrivenham-church.eventbrite.co.uk)

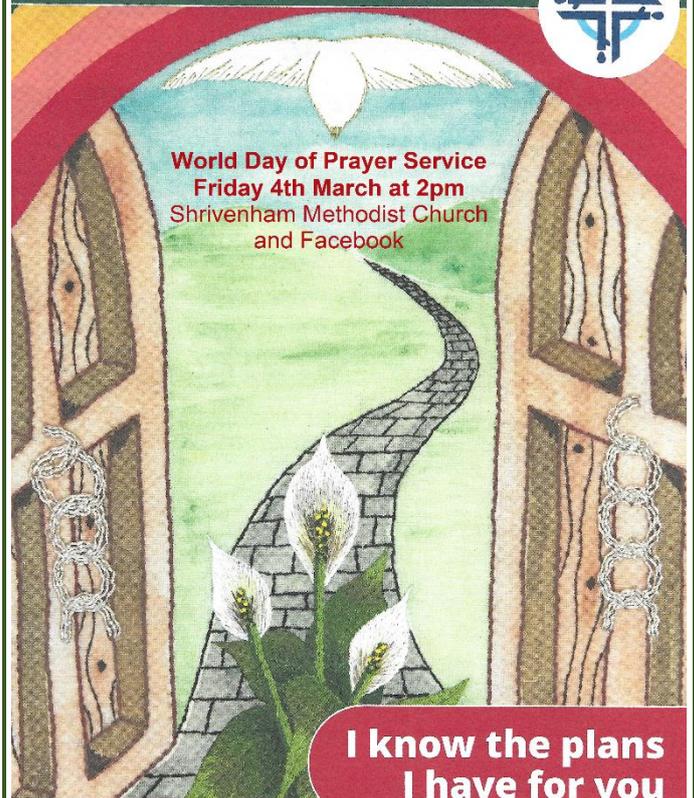
In aid of St Andrew's Restoration Fund

### World Day of Prayer

A WOMEN LED, GLOBAL, ECUMENICAL MOVEMENT



**World Day of Prayer Service**  
**Friday 4th March at 2pm**  
**Shrivenham Methodist Church**  
**and Facebook**



**I know the plans I have for you**

PREPARED BY THE CHRISTIAN WOMEN OF ENGLAND, WALES & NORTHERN IRELAND

If you are unable to attend (or still do not feel comfortable coming into church) the service will also be live-streamed on the Benefice [Facebook](#) page so you can join in from home. Download a service booklet from the Benefice [website](#) or contact Morva for home delivery! A donation envelope is included. You can also donate to the WDP Organisation [online](#).

Morva White WDP local area co-ordinator  
 01793 783245 [morvawhite@gmx.com](mailto:morvawhite@gmx.com)

### Fernham Information Board



This wonderful information board was installed last week on Elmside Green (just opposite the Woodman Inn). The board was paid for by the Parish Meeting, the words were researched by Beth Cooley (with help from Tom Arnold) and the drawings done by a villager, Nigel Edwards. Come along for a closer look and perhaps learn something about the lovely village of Fernham.

## COME AND SEE

Come and See is a free online experience to help everyone find out more about the Christian faith.



### Searchers

Listened to online worship in your PJs and want to find out more?



### Drifters

Drifted away from church, or thinking there must be more than this?



### Thinkers

Reflecting more deeply on faith because of the pandemic?



### ... everyone

Whatever stage of life you're at, whether you've been to church before or not.

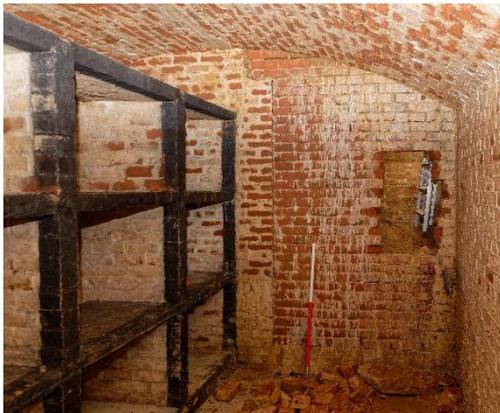
Come and See is for anyone enquiring about faith, returning to faith after many years or moving to a new place in their faith in the disorientation of the pandemic.

Come and See is for the local church and the whole community, including children and young people, and it's completely free.

We have registered as a Benefice and invite everyone who is interested to sign up individually and join us as we explore the Christian faith together.

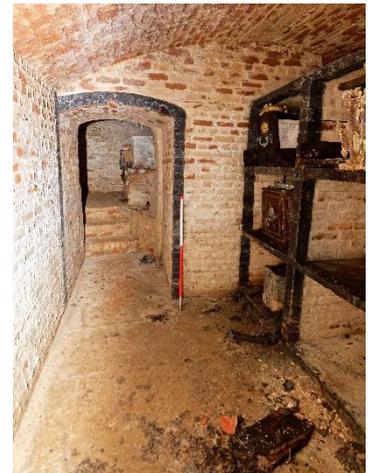
Sign up here <https://www.oxford.anglican.org/come-and-see/> to find out more, and receive the daily reflections, weekly videos and podcasts directly into your inbox.

We are holding two sessions for anyone who would like to meet to discuss "Come and See" on Friday 11th and 25th March from 7:30 – 8:30pm at St Andrew's Vicarage, Shrivenham.



### The Vault Under the Porch An Illustrated Talk by Margaret Andrews

Wednesday 30th March at 7:30pm in St Andrew's Church, Shrivenham



In 2020 the long lost and almost forgotten Barrington family burial vault was rediscovered at St Andrew's. Come along and hear about its rediscovery and the Barringtons buried there.

Free Admission. Donations in aid of St Andrew's Restoration Project.