



The Shrivenham and Ashbury Benefice

'Mirroring the hospitality of God'

Vicar: The Rev'd Norma Fergusson. Tel 01793 784338
vicar@shrivenhamandashbury.co.uk

Licensed Lay Minister: Mr Richard Fergusson. Tel 07788 436831



Sunday 19th February 2023

Sunday Next Before Lent

Please do not come into church if you think you may have symptoms of Covid 19.
Please respect the concerns of others in the congregation. Hand sanitizer is available.

Sunday 19th February

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

- 7:45am Shrivenham, St Andrew Holy Communion (BCP)
- 9:00am Compton Beauchamp, St Swithun Matins
- 9:30am Longcot, St Mary Morning Prayer
- 9:30am Watchfield, St Thomas. Matins
- 10:00am Bourton, St James & [Facebook](#) Holy Communion
- 11:00am Ashbury, St Mary Taizé Service

Tuesday

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

Ash Wednesday

- 9:00am Morning Prayer. Live on [Facebook](#)
- 9:15am Song and Stories Toddler Group Shrivenham Methodist Church
- 10:30am Wednesday Study Group via Zoom
- 7:00pm Watchfield, St Thomas & [Facebook](#) Holy Communion (BCP) with Imposition of Ashes

Thursday

- 9:00am Matins. Live on [Facebook](#)
- 9:00am Baby & Toddler Group in St Andrew's Shrivenham, St Andrew
- 6:00pm ASK Evening Prayer
- 6:30pm Benefice Choir Practice in St Andrew's

Friday

- 9:00am Ashbury, St Mary & [Facebook](#) Matins
- 1:30pm Kingsdown Crematorium
Cremation – Sheila Cook RIP

Sunday 26th February

10:30am Shrivenham, St Andrew & [Facebook](#)
Benefice Holy Communion with Choir

Living Your Best Life?

The vision

What's the best way to live? What does it mean to be a disciple? Jesus tells us.



COME AND SEE

Discover the guide for living a Christian life
[oxford.anglican.org/come-and-see](https://www.oxford.anglican.org/come-and-see)

Everybody wants to know how to live their life in the best way possible, and we all need a vision for what it means to be human.

The Beatitudes, the incredible manifesto from Jesus recorded in the Sermon on the Mount, are our guide to living well and a great way of exploring faith... whatever stage of the journey we're on.

'Come and See' is a free series of daily emails throughout Lent which include a scripture reading, a reflection and a moment to pause and be encouraged before the busyness of the day begins.

On Sundays you will receive a link to short video from Bishop Steven exploring the theme for 'Come and See' that year in a bit more detail.

Whether you're exploring faith for the first time or have been coming to church for many years, just five minutes a day using the 'Come and See' materials promises to be life-giving, and life changing.

Visit <https://www.oxford.anglican.org/come-and-see/> to find out more and sign up for the daily emails.

Community Cycle of Prayer

Please pray this week for all who live and work in Berrycroft in Ashbury, and Charlotte Close in Shrivenham.

Rev'd Norma Fergusson is off duty from the afternoon of Friday 24th February until Monday 27th February inclusive.

For pastoral emergencies please call 01793 783519.
For other church enquiries please contact your local churchwarden or the Benefice Administrator.

Update on Associate Vicar Vacancy

Unfortunately, we have not yet been able to appoint a new Associate Vicar. We will readvertise the post in April and hope to hold interviews towards the end of May. Please continue to pray for a successful conclusion to the appointment process.

Lent Challenge 2023



Our Lent Challenge for this year is another Knitalong. Last year's pattern produced a cushion cover, and by the end of knitalong 2023, each knitter will have completed a scarf. The design is a surprise and should be achievable by knitters of all abilities. With thanks to the Victoria Methodist Church in Bristol for sharing their resources.

The knitalong will take the format of weekly emails throughout Lent, consisting of a set of daily knitting instructions (or 'clues') and specially written meditations for each day.

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

Alongside each knitting clue will be a daily meditation which knitters may wish to use as they knit and enjoy some quiet, reflective time as they journey through Lent.

There is an information sheet, containing details of yarn/needles needed, and a practice swatch pattern to check gauge (for those worried about these things!)

Contact Norma for further information.
01793 784338

vicar@shrivenhamandashbury.co.uk

We pray for the people of Central Turkey and North West Syria, whose lives have been devastated by the earthquake.

Be present, O Lord, our Good Shepherd, to bring comfort, relief, shelter and human kindness. Shield the people who suffer, console those who are bereaved, prosper the provision of relief, strengthen the work of emergency teams, and shine your light and hope in the midst of despair. We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Condolences

Our condolences to the family and friends of the late Susan Bull, Stephen Butler, Andrew Bailey and June Brooke. Please keep them in your prayers.

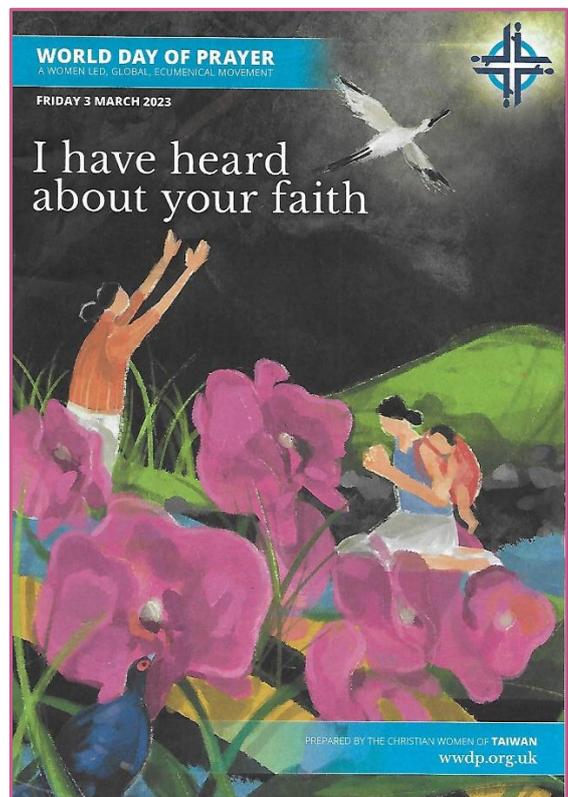
Confirmation Classes

We are looking forward to hosting a Confirmation service in the Benefice on Sunday 18th June at 10.15am in St Andrew's. It will be led by Bishop Gavin, the Bishop of Dorchester, and we hope as many people as possible will attend to support our candidates, together with any who may come from other parishes in the Deanery.

Confirmation classes will begin on Thursday 2nd March from 7.45pm to 9pm in the Vicarage. If you think you might be interested and would like to find out more, please call Rev'd Norma Fergusson on 01793 784338 or email vicar@shrivenhamandashbury.co.uk.

World Day of Prayer – Friday 3rd March

World Day of Prayer is an international, inter-church organisation which enables us to hear the thoughts of women from all parts of the world: their hopes, concerns and prayers.



The Day of Prayer is celebrated in over 120 countries. It begins in Samoa and prayer in native languages travels throughout the world --- through Asia, Africa, the Middle East, Europe and the Americas before finishing in American Samoa some 38 hours later.

This year's theme is "I Have Heard About Your Faith" and the service has been prepared by our sisters in Taiwan. Taiwan is an island rich in natural resources and culturally diverse. The women of Taiwan share the issues faced geographically, politically and socially and also their hopes for the future. Let us join with them as we give thanks for the beautiful island and people of Taiwan and encourage one another in our faith.

All are welcome to join our local service in St Mary's Church Ashbury at 2pm on Friday 3rd March. The service will also be livestreamed – click the link on the [services page](#) of the Benefice website