



The Shrivenham and Ashbury Benefice

'Mirroring the hospitality of God'

Vicar: The Rev'd Norma Fergusson. Tel 01793 784338
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Sunday 26th February 2023

First Sunday of 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 26th February

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

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

Monday

6:30pm Shrivenham, St Andrew & [Facebook](#)
Compline for Lent

Tuesday

9:00am Morning Prayer. Live on [Facebook](#)
1:00pm Bereavement Café
St Andrew's Vicarage

Wednesday 1st March

9:00am Morning Prayer. Live on [Facebook](#)
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
6:00pm Longcot with Fernham PCC Meeting
St Mary's Longcot
7:00pm Wednesday Study Group
St Andrew's Vicarage

Thursday

9:00am Matins. Live on [Facebook](#)
9:00am Baby & Toddler Group in St Andrew's
Shrivenham, St Andrew
3:15pm Messy Church
6:30pm Benefice Choir Practice in St Andrew's
7:45 pm Confirmation Class, St Andrew's Vicarage

Friday

9:00am Ashbury, St Mary & [Facebook](#)
Matins
9:30am Shrivenham School Service in St Andrew's
11:30am Longcot, St Mary
Funeral – Susan Helen Bull RIP
2:00pm Ashbury, St Mary & Facebook
World Day of Prayer Service

Saturday

10:00am Bourton, St James
Family Service
11:30am Fernham Churchyard
Ashes Interment – Ian Gillies Bell RIP

Sunday 5th 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
Holy Communion by Extension
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](#)
Vespers and Benediction

World Day of Prayer Friday 3rd March

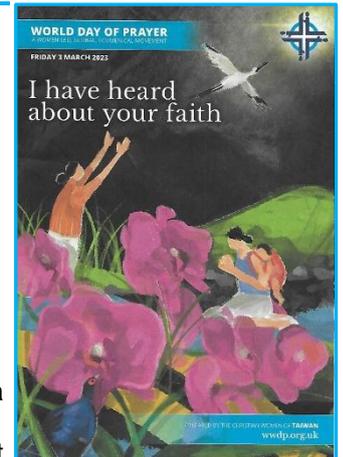
World Day of Prayer is an international, inter-church organisation which enables us to hear the thoughts of women from all parts of the world: their hopes, concerns and prayers.

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.



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.

Community Cycle of Prayer

Please pray this week for all who live and work in Berrycroft Lane in Ashbury, and Chestnut Gardens and Recreation Ground in Shrivenham.

Living Your Best Life?

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.

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.

Contact Norma for further information. 01793 784338
vicar@shrivenhamandashbury.co.uk

Royal Army Chaplains' Museum Shrivenham – Faith in the Forces

Last week, the study group that meets on Wednesday evenings at St Andrew's Vicarage enjoyed a visit to the Royal Army Chaplains' Museum to discover the surprising story of Faith in the Forces.



The Museum is open to the public and is located at the Beckett Gate entrance to the Defence Academy of the United Kingdom, outside of the perimeter fence. It is open from Monday to Friday between 1:30pm and 5pm and entry is free. Car parking spaces are available for visitors next to the S6 bus stop.

Visitors can see how clergy have accompanied the Army in times of war and peace.

Hear how those padres have guided and cared for troops.

Explore how soldiers in tough times have wrestled with religion and belief.

Remember and reflect on the biggest issues of life in the military.

Group visits can be arranged outside normal opening hours by contacting the curator, David Blake, on 07917 790916 or by email racm1796@gmail.com