



The Shrivenham and Ashbury Benefice

"Mirroring the hospitality of God"

Sunday 14th March Mothering Sunday

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

vicar@shrivenhamandashbury.co.uk

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associate.vicar@shrivenhamandashbury.co.uk

Licensed Lay Minister: Mr Richard Fergusson. Tel 07788 436831



Service details were accurate at the time of publication. Please visit the Benefice website for up-to-date information.

www.shrivenhamandashbury.co.uk

Mothering Sunday 14th March

9:30am Watchfield, St Thomas' Churchyard.
Family Service for Mothering Sunday.
9:45am Shrivenham, St Andrew's Churchyard.
Family Service for Mothering Sunday.
Joint with the Methodist Church.
Live on [Facebook](#).

11:00am Ashbury, St Mary's Churchyard.
Family Service for Mothering Sunday.
11.30am Holy Communion. Live on [Facebook](#).

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 Morning Prayer. Live on [Facebook](#).
10:30am The Prayer Course via Zoom.
7:00pm Longcot & Fernham PCC via Zoom.

Thursday

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

Friday

5:30pm Worship and Praise. Live via Zoom.
7:45pm Compline for Lent. Live on [Facebook](#).

Sunday 21st March

9:00am Compton Beauchamp, St Swithun
Holy Communion (BCP)
9:30am Ashbury, St Mary
Morning Prayer
10:00am Shrivenham, St Andrew
Morning Prayer
10:00am Watchfield, St Thomas
Holy Communion. Live on [Facebook](#).
5:30pm Evensong (BCP). Live on [Facebook](#).

Churches Open for Private Prayer

Our churches will be open for private prayer once a week as follows:

Ashbury 10am – 4pm on Thursday
Compton Beauchamp 9am – 5pm on Sunday
Longcot 10am – 3pm on Wednesday
Shrivenham 9am – 5pm on Sunday
Watchfield 10am – 4pm on Wednesday

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.



Mothering Sunday

It probably hasn't escaped your attention that today is Mothering Sunday, though if you went looking for a card in the supermarkets you might have had difficulty finding anything for other than 'Mother's Day', an invention of the American greetings card industry, which, along with Father's Day and days for other ever more distant family relations, ensures it a steady revenue stream throughout the year.

But, while the tradition of Mother's Day (and yes, the apostrophe does go before the 's' – we each have only one mother) goes back only a little over 100 years, the marking of the 4th Sunday, the mid-point, of Lent as a festival dates back to the Middle Ages. It provided a much-needed respite from the austerity of fasting, recognising the first line of the psalm set for the day:

Laetare Hierusalem et conventum facite omnes –
"Rejoice ye with Jerusalem; and be ye glad for her."

Visit St Swithun's Church in Compton Beauchamp on this day, when we are next able to hold services indoors, and you will find a pink altar frontal and vestments to mark the occasion.

During the 16th Century, people, particularly domestic servants, would be given the day off to return to their 'Mother Church' where they had been Baptised, to celebrate the festival with their families – a practice known as 'Mothering'.

The name celebrates all aspects of Motherhood: our Mother Church, our Earthly Mothers, the Mother of Jesus, and the gifts from God of Mother Earth.

This year, let us celebrate the mothers who have had to learn a whole new skill-set during lockdown, let us look forward to again hugging the mothers from whom we have been isolated, and let us remember the mothers who are no longer with us in this earthly life.

Richard

Mothering Sunday Services

You are welcome to attend any of our outdoor Mothering Sunday services.

Please wear a mask, stay socially distanced and scan the QR code if you have the NHS Test and Trace App.

www.shrivenhamandashbury.co.uk

Our condolences to the family and friends of the late
Mr Ollie Donnelly.
Please keep them in your prayers.
The funeral will be held on
Thursday 18th March.

#Do1NiceThing - A Challenge for Lent 2021



Monday 15th March – Sunday 21st March.

Theme of the week: Responses

- 15th: Be kind to yourself today.
- 16th: Say sorry even when it's not your fault
- 17th: Look for a way you can be helpful (and do it)
- 18th: Email your local councillors and say thank you for what they do
- 19th: Red nose day – how can you get involved, or support someone who is?
- 20th: Allow someone to go ahead of you at the checkout
- 21st: Passiontide begins: pray for your local community

Easter Cards for Sale

Margaret Hern has a small selection of religious Easter Cards from the Lighthouse Book Shop in Highworth.
If you would like to look through them,
please ring Margaret on 01793 782100

Prayer for the Deanery

The Shrivenham & Ashbury Benefice is part of the wider Vale of White Horse Deanery.
Deanery Synod meets formally three times a year but, additionally, a number of subgroups meet regularly to look at various aspects of Deanery life and work.

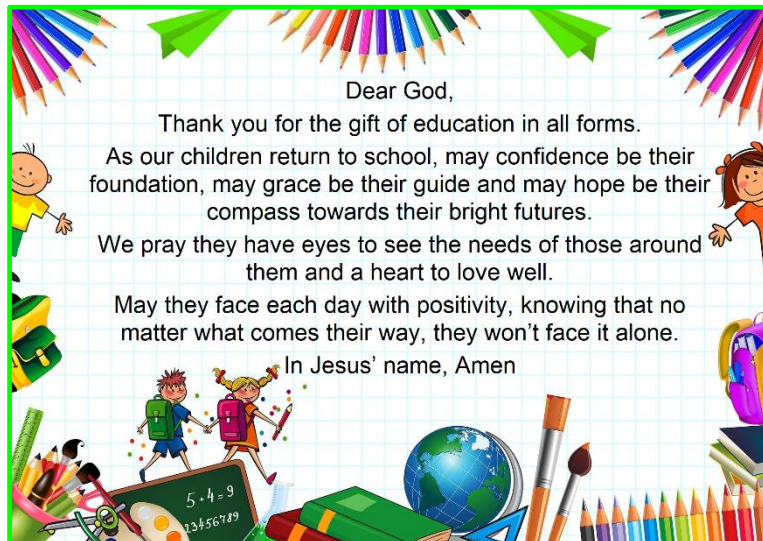
Prayer is, of course, an important part of that life and it has recently been decided to take this further through prayer meetings – to be held at 7:30am on Wednesday mornings after Easter.

We intend to follow a loose, 'pilgrimage' structure – focusing on one Benefice per week, as well as one of the Deanery's key areas of mission and for the Deanery generally. Suggestions for prayer will be emailed on the Sunday before each meeting – and even those who can't join us on Wednesday mornings are welcome (indeed encouraged!) to include the Deanery in their private devotions.

If you'd like to know more, please contact Norma.
vicar@shrivenhamandashbury.co.uk 01793 784338

Clergy Days Off

Rev'd Fergusson is off duty on Monday
Canon Richardson is off duty on Monday & Tuesday



With thanks to Kate Clare for sharing

Prayer Course II - Unanswered Prayer



Following the success of the first Prayer Course with Pete Grieg, these 5 sessions go deeper, provoking honest conversation around the hardest and most personal questions we all ask about prayer.

This is a five-week course which leads up to Easter (we will need to double up one week to fit it in) starting on Wednesday 10th March via Zoom.

Each session starts at 10.30am.

If you would like to join the Prayer Course,
please contact David Ahern.

01793 783521 thestable@protonmail.com

Ashbury Cycle of Prayer

Please pray this week for all who live and work
in Walnut Trees Hill.

**Any
suggestions
for a
caption?**

