



# 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)

Licensed Lay Minister: Mr Richard Fergusson. Tel 07788 436831

**Sunday 16th July 2023**

**Sixth Sunday after Trinity**



**The service times listed below were correct at the time of publication (15th July).  
Our website will be updated daily to reflect any changes.**

## Sunday 16th July

Rev'd Norma Fergusson is giving today's online sermon.  
Watch on [Facebook](#), [YouTube](#) or our [website](#).

- 7:45am Shrivenham, St Andrew  
Holy Communion (BCP)
- 10:00am Bourton, St James & [Facebook](#)  
Holy Communion
- 11:00am Compton Beauchamp, St Swithun  
Holy Communion (BCP)  
for the Feast of St Swithun

Ashbury, Longcot and Fernham parishioners –  
please join the congregation at Compton Beauchamp

Shrivenham and Watchfield parishioners –  
please join the congregation at Bourton

## Tuesday

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

## Wednesday

- 9:00am Shrivenham, St Andrew & [Facebook](#)  
Morning Prayer
- 9:15am Song and Stories Toddler Group  
Shrivenham Methodist Church
- 9:30am Longcot, St Mary  
School Leavers' Service
- 2:30pm Shrivenham, St Andrew  
U3A Group Visit
- 3:30pm Compton Beauchamp, St Swithun  
U3A Group Visit

## Thursday

- 9:00am Matins. Live on [Facebook](#)
- 9:00am Ashbury Primary School  
School Leavers' Service
- 9:30am Shrivenham, St Andrew  
School Leavers' Service
- 6:00pm Longcot, St Mary  
Longcot with Fernham PCC & FVT Meeting
- 6:30pm Benefice Choir Practice in St Andrew's

## Friday

- 9:00am Matins. Live on [Facebook](#)
- 1:00pm Stainswick Lane Cemetery  
Ashes Interment – Savitri Guha-Thakurta
- 5:30pm Shrivenham, St Andrew  
Worship and Praise

### **Community Cycle of Prayer**

Please pray this week for all who live and work in  
Church Lane in Ashbury, and High Street in Shrivenham.

## Sunday 23rd July

- 9:30am Watchfield, St Thomas  
Holy Communion (BCP)
- 9:30am Longcot, St Mary & [Facebook](#)  
Holy Communion
- 11:00am Ashbury, St Mary  
Holy Communion

Shrivenham parishioners –  
please join the congregation at Watchfield

### **Baby and Toddler Group**

The group that meets on Thursday mornings in  
St Andrew's Church is now taking a break until after  
the school summer holidays.

### **Song and Stories Toddler Group**

This week's Wednesday morning session at the  
Methodist Church will be the last before the group takes  
a break until after the school summer holidays.

### **Messy Church – Thinking about Times of Change**

We made boats, fish,  
permanent sandcastles  
and friendship sticks.

We painted rocks and  
helped to make a  
collage picture of  
Jesus's BBQ on the  
beach to display in  
church.



We listened to the story of  
Jesus's BBQ on  
the beach and thought  
about how Jesus's friends  
were going through a  
period of great change and  
Jesus appeared to them to  
reassure them that he was  
still with them - just like he  
is with us now as we think  
about changing classes  
and/or schools.

### **Wednesday Study Groups Summer Break**

The morning and evening study groups are taking a  
break during the summer and will restart in September.

### Bottles Please!

The Bottle Tombola at Shrevenham Village Fete at the end of August is one of the major fund-raising events for St Andrew's Church Shrevenham.

Can we beat last year's total?

Margaret Hern will be pleased to receive bottles of any kind, but no cans. She will collect from you if required.

Margaret 01793 782100



### Shrevenham Open Gardens – Thank You

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the success of Shrevenham Open Gardens last Sunday. The event raised £1140.75 for St Andrew's Restoration Project.

Many commented how much they enjoyed the afternoon with the opportunity to see such a spread of gardens. (type and size – not distance!) and it was pleasing to welcome many newcomers who were on their first real tour of our village. Sorry about the heavy shower at 2pm. It was fine after that.

Thanks to all who agreed to open their gardens; to our Post Office for selling advance tickets; to those who supplied the wonderful array of cakes and served the refreshments in St Andrew's Church.

Julian Stevens

### The Well at Watchfield

It is approaching two years since this initiative started in September 2021. Lockdown was just loosening up, yet the country was still suffering in so many different ways from the massive effects of both the pandemic itself and the consequent social disruption.

The Well has found favour with many people and we continue to dig down to where we can draw on those resources which are not visible at ground level!

The ongoing pressures, stresses and real-life traumas of our troubled world are often experienced through both physical and mental health challenges. These are widely reported, well-documented and effectively treated in most cases by our excellent medical services.

Gathering regularly at the Well, however, has developed significant agreement amongst participants: namely, that there is sometimes more in each one of us that needs healing. The damage is often revealed to be in our weary, wounded or broken spirit – something deeper down in us than our body or mind. Such damage can happen to anyone but is particularly true of those who have served in armed conflict zones, maybe seeing and experiencing dreadful traumas first hand.

The effects of such harmful legacies and memories can easily spread out to families and loved ones.

The Well exists to address such needs, especially amongst the armed forces community. The next meeting is on Tuesday 18th July at 7.30pm in AFCU's offices, at Unit 24 in the business park at Watchfield. Anyone is welcome to attend, refreshments are served, and the meeting is in a relaxed format. For more information please contact Jeremy Clare [jeremyclare@hotmail.com](mailto:jeremyclare@hotmail.com)

### Farewell to Padre Phil Craven

Padre Phil Craven, the Defence Academy Station Chaplain, is leaving to take up a new posting at the end of the summer.

A farewell service, followed by a delicious bring and share lunch, was held at St Alban's Church in Watchfield last Sunday. We thank Padre Phil for his contribution to church life in our Benefice – including his monthly online sermons, involvement with Messy Church and participation in the Benefice Choir. We will miss him and wish him well for the future!

