

Welcome to



St Mary the Virgin Ashbury

and



Ashbury Evangelical Free Church

Church Services

There are two Christian churches in Ashbury – the parish church of St Mary the Virgin and Ashbury Evangelical Free Church. The two work closely together and hold joint services.

God has created a great diversity of people and that is reflected in the different forms of worship services. Some services follow a set printed liturgy, others are more informal.

Do join us for worship at either church. Children are welcome at any service. The All Age Family Service held on the third Sunday in the month at St Mary's is particularly suitable for children of all ages.

St Mary's is part of the Shrivenham and Ashbury Benefice, so if the time or type of service at Ashbury doesn't suit you, then you would be welcome at one of the other churches. Times of all services are given in the monthly Newsletter.

Our normal pattern of services is as follows:

St Mary's

1 st Sunday	Morning Worship
2 nd Sunday	Holy Communion
3 rd Sunday	All Age Family Service
4 th Sunday	Holy Communion

Services take place at 11am.

Free Church

Sundays	10.15 am Communion
As advised	Afternoon and evening services

Our Activities

Breakfast Group

A group from St Mary's meet on the second Saturday of the month for breakfast and to explore the Christian faith.

Contact: Edwin Clements 710811

House Group

The Free Church hold a House Group once a fortnight, to share food, fellowship and a time of seeking to know God better through looking at His word and praying together.

Contact: Suzanne Bunce 710212

Bell ringers

We have an active group of bell ringers. Training available for potential bell ringers.

Contact: Amanda Saunders (710027)

Special Choir

For Christmas and other special events, a special choir is formed. New members always welcome.

Contact: James Reade 710208

Flower Arranging in St Mary's

New flower arrangers welcomed. Flowers can be arranged in memory of a loved one, or for a special occasion.

Contact: Margaret Smith 710800 or Peggy Leon 710273

Serving the Village

The School

Ashbury has a highly regarded Church of England Primary School and Pre-School, and an excellent School Choir. The choir sing at various All Age Family Services at St Mary's.

Church members are involved in the life of the school in various ways.

Churchyard

Maintenance of the old churchyard around the church is the responsibility of the Parish Council. The Churchyard Extension nearby is however maintained by the PCC.

Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals

The church building provides the appropriate setting for these important milestones in our lives. Contact Edwin Clements to discuss arrangements for St Mary's or Andrew Bunce for arrangements at the Free Church.

Women's Fellowship

Wednesday afternoons at the Free Church.

Contact: Rita Bunce 790181

Ashbury is a small attractive spring line village situated at the foot of the Lambourn Downs, overlooking the Vale of the White Horse, and just within the county of Oxfordshire. Swindon is 9 miles away to the West and Wantage is a similar distance to the East. The famous Uffington White Horse is only 3½ miles away.

The first church at Ashbury was built for the Abbot of Glastonbury sometime before AD 947 when it appears in the abbey chronicles. A number of the Somerset monks lived at Ashbury Manor which was a monastic grange. The earliest part of the present church is the 12thC west end. It was probably cruciform originally, with a central tower, but has been much altered over time. Most of the building is some three hundred years younger, though the chancel is 14thC and the tower and north and south chapels are 13thC.

Members of the St Mary's Church and the Free Church are active in all aspects of village life. We are here to share God's love with you and be available to help in whatever way we can. You don't have to be a member to visit us for a Sunday service or to drop in for a few moments of peace and prayer. St Mary's church is open every day of the week.

We believe that the message of Jesus Christ is as true, relevant and exciting as it has ever been. Your contribution to the wider family of the church would be most welcome. We look forward to meeting you.

Who's who?

Vicar

Shrivenham and Ashbury Benefice

The Revd Richard Hancock

Tel: 780183

Associate Vicar

with particular responsibility for Ashbury

The Revd Canon Edwin Clements

Tel: 710811

Church Wardens

Richard Green 710227

Margaret Smith 710800

PCC Treasurer

James Reade 710208

PCC Secretary

Roger Simons 710801

Ashbury Evangelical Free Church

Andrew Bunce 710212

David Pirt 822533

Philip Charters 710431

