



The Shrevenham and Ashbury Benefice

“Mirroring the hospitality of God”

Sunday 28th March Palm Sunday

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

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Service details were accurate at the time of publication. Please visit the [Benefice website](http://www.shrivenhamandashbury.co.uk) for up-to-date information.

Palm Sunday 28th March

9:00am Ashbury, St Mary & live on [Facebook](#).
Holy Communion.
10:15am Shrevenham, St Andrew's Churchyard.
Palm Sunday Service.
Also live on [Facebook](#).

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

Monday

7:45pm Shrevenham, St Andrew & [Facebook](#).
Compline for Lent.

Tuesday

9:00am Morning Prayer. Live on [Facebook](#).
7:45pm Shrevenham, St Andrew & [Facebook](#).
Compline for Lent.

Wednesday

9:00am Shrevenham, St Andrew & [Facebook](#).
Morning Prayer.
10:30am The Prayer Course via Zoom.
7:45pm Shrevenham, St Andrew & [Facebook](#).
Compline for Lent.

Maundy Thursday

7:00pm Shrevenham, St Andrew & [Facebook](#).
Holy Communion.

Good Friday

Canon Paul Richardson's Reflection for Good Friday.
Watch on [Facebook](#) or [YouTube](#) from 9am.

10:00am Shrevenham, St Andrew's Churchyard
Children's Easter Garden
See page 2 for details.
12 noon Longcot, St Mary. Reflection
2:00pm Ashbury, St Mary. Reflection
3:00pm C. Beauchamp, St Swithun. Reflection

Easter Eve

10:00am Bourton, St James
Family Service for Easter
8:00pm Shrevenham, St Andrew's Churchyard
Lighting the Easter Fire.
Also live on [Facebook](#).

Easter Sunday 4th April

9:00am Compton Beauchamp, St Swithun
Holy Communion (BCP)
9:30am Longcot, St Mary
Holy Communion by Extension
10:00am Shrevenham, St Andrew & [Facebook](#)
Holy Communion.
10:00am Watchfield, St Thomas
Holy Communion (BCP)
11:00am Ashbury, St Mary
Holy Communion.



Palm Sunday Greetings from Pennyhooks Farm
Sorry we can't be with you this year.

This Time Last Year

Just over a year ago on 15th March 2020, Norma led the monthly Communion service in Bourton Church. On impulse, Sarah, the warden there, recorded the sermon on her phone. The theme was Mothering Sunday, and a week later, when the rest of the Benefice celebrated Mothering Sunday, we posted the recording on Facebook. Who could have imagined then what that would be the start of? In the year since, we have posted a total of 102 sermons and other reflections, 231 services and 34 other events – enough for a post every day of the year. And for most of those there have been readings and orders of service available on our website. A huge amount of work, by many, many people, not least Lucy and Sarah, who have been the driving force throughout.

We can now live-stream worship from at least 5 of our churches, and, as we slowly, cautiously re-open them for live worship, we shall continue to use that capability to reach those for whom visiting church in person remains a step too far. When we tested the stream from Longcot, we had reactions from people on-line just in the few seconds we were 'on air' – an indication of just how vital this line of communication is in reaching our wider community.

A quote from the Bangtan Boys (a S Korean boyband, Google tells me), which gained currency over the last year says: "The only reason you should ever look back is to see how far you've come." I'm not sure I entirely agree, but, as we do reflect on a year of pandemic and lockdown, on everything and everybody we have lost, let's remember also what, out of hardship and necessity, we have achieved.

And how we might use our regained freedoms to do things better, more effectively, but also more generously, more lovingly, in the days to come.

Richard



Our condolences to the family and friends of the late Peter Claydon and Samuel Cudjoe who died recently. Please keep them in your prayers.

Our churches will be open for private prayer from 28th March – 4th April as follows:

Ashbury 10am – 4pm on Thursday
 C. Beauchamp 9am – 5pm on Sunday
 Longcot 10am – 3pm on Wednesday
 Shrivenham 9am – 5pm daily during Holy Week
 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.

**St. Andrew's Easter Garden
 Good Friday 10.00am – 11.30am**



#Do1NiceThing - A Challenge for Lent 2021



**Monday 29th March – Sunday 4th April
 Theme of the week: The heart of the matter**

- 29th: Pray for the world Jesus came to save
- 30th: Thank someone who has been kind to you – they may not know how much it meant
- 31st: Is there a #Do1NiceThing act you've enjoyed doing this month? Do it again!
- 1st: Maundy Thursday but also April Fool's Day – try to make someone smile
- 2nd: Good Friday - read the Easter story in the Bible (Luke 23) and focus on Jesus' words of forgiveness. Is there someone you need to forgive?
- 3rd: Easter Saturday – traditionally the day for tending graves. Is there a neglected grave in your churchyard you could weed or put flowers on?
- 4th: Easter Day – thank God for today

Over the last few years STANDFAST, with the help of local children have created an Easter Garden at St Andrew's on Good Friday.

We usually make the garden together, retell the Easter story and eat hot cross buns together. Last year we had to do it virtually, each making our own at home. This year we are again making one at St Andrew's, but things will have to be a bit different!

Families are invited to drop in at any time between 10.00 am and 11.30am to make a tree and/or plant a flower in our Easter garden. Each child will be given an Easter Activity Bag and a hot cross bun so they can share the Easter story and eat hot cross buns with their family at home.

This activity will take place outside so please dress appropriately for the weather. If there is a family already at the garden planting their flowers, please hang back and wait until they have finished. You could wander round the church yard and find a small stone to add to path whilst you are waiting.

Please could all adults and children over 11 wear face coverings (unless medically exempt).

Canon Paul Richardson will be off duty from Monday 5th April until Saturday 10th April.

The Benefice Administrator will be off duty from 5th April until 10th April. Emails will be checked daily.

Please contact Rev'd Fergusson for pastoral issues, and your local churchwarden for other church enquiries.

St Swithun, Compton Beauchamp

An application has been made to Consistory Court of the Diocese of Oxford for the reservation of a grave space in the churchyard of St Swithun, Compton Beauchamp. Any objections to this proposal should be made by 26th April 2021. More information is available on the notice displayed outside the church or from Rev'd Fergusson.

Ashbury Cycle of Prayer

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

COLLECT

Almighty and everlasting God,
who in your tender love towards the
human race sent your Son our Saviour
Jesus Christ
to take upon him our flesh
and to suffer death upon the cross:
grant that we may follow the example
of his patience and humility,
and also be made partakers of his
resurrection;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

LITURGY OF THE PALMS

GOSPEL

Either **Mark 11:1-11**

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Mark.

When Jesus and his disciples were
approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage
and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives,
Jesus sent two of his disciples and said to
them, "Go into the village ahead of you,
and immediately as you enter it, you will
find tied there a colt that has never been
ridden; untie it and bring it. If anyone
says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' just
say this, 'The Lord needs it and will send
it back here immediately.'" They went
away and found a colt tied near a door,
outside in the street. As they were untying
it, some of the bystanders said to them,
"What are you doing, untying the colt?"
They told them what Jesus had said; and
they allowed them to take it. Then they
brought the colt to Jesus and threw their
cloaks on it; and he sat on it. Many people
spread their cloaks on the road, and others
spread leafy branches that they had cut
in the fields. Then those who went ahead
and those who followed were shouting,
"Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes
in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the
coming kingdom of our ancestor David!
Hosanna in the highest heaven!" Then
he entered Jerusalem and went into the
temple; and when he had looked around at
everything, as it was already late, he went
out to Bethany with the twelve.

Or **John 12:12-16**

PSALM Psalm 118:1-2. 19-29

R This is the day that the Lord has made;
we will rejoice and be glad in it.

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his mercy endures for ever.
Let Israel now proclaim,
"His mercy endures for ever." **R**

Open for me the gates of righteousness;
I will enter them; I will offer thanks to the
Lord.

"This is the gate of the Lord;
whoever is righteous may enter." **R**

I will give thanks to you, for you answered
me
and have become my salvation.
The same stone which the builders
rejected
has become the chief corner-stone. **R**

This is the Lord's doing,
and it is marvellous in our eyes.
On this day the Lord has acted;
we will rejoice and be glad in it. **R**

Hosanna, Lord, hosanna!
Lord, send us now success.
Blessèd is he who comes in the name of
the Lord;
we bless you from the house of the Lord. **R**

God is the Lord; he has shined upon us;
form a procession with branches
up to the horns of the altar.
"You are my God and I will thank you;
you are my God and I will exalt you."
Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his mercy endures for ever. **R**

LITURGY OF THE PASSION

FIRST READING Isaiah 50:4-9a

A reading from the book of the prophet
Isaiah.

The servant of the LORD said: The Lord
GOD has given me the tongue of a
teacher, that I may know how to sustain
the weary with a word. Morning by
morning he wakens – wakens my ear to
listen as those who are taught. The Lord
GOD has opened my ear, and I was not
rebellious, I did not turn backwards. I
gave my back to those who struck me,
and my cheeks to those who pulled out
the beard; I did not hide my face from
insult and spitting. The Lord GOD helps
me; therefore I have not been disgraced;
therefore I have set my face like flint, and
I know that I shall not be put to shame;
he who vindicates me is near. Who
will contend with me? Let us stand up
together. Who are my adversaries? Let
them confront me. It is the Lord GOD who
helps me; who will declare me guilty?

PSALM Psalm 31:9-16

R I have trusted in you, O Lord.
(I have said, "You are my God.")
or
R My God, my God, why have you
forsaken me?

Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I am in
trouble;
my eye is consumed with sorrow,
and also my throat and my belly.
For my life is wasted with grief,
and my years with sighing;
my strength fails me because of affliction,
and my bones are consumed. **R**

I have become a reproach to all my
enemies
and even to my neighbours,
a dismay to those of my acquaintance;
when they see me in the street they avoid
me.
I am forgotten like the dead, out of mind;
I am as useless as a broken pot. **R**

For I have heard the whispering of the
crowd;
fear is all around;
they put their heads together against me;
they plot to take my life.
But as for me, I have trusted in you, O Lord.
I have said, "You are my God. **R**

My times are in your hand;
rescue me from the hand of my enemies,
and from those who persecute me.
Make your face to shine upon your servant,
and in your loving-kindness save me." **R**

SECOND READING Philippians 2:5-11

A reading from the letter of Paul to the
Philippians.

Let the same mind be in you that was in
Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the
form of God, did not regard equality
with God as something to be exploited,
but emptied himself, taking the form of
a slave, being born in human likeness.
And being found in human form, he
humbled himself and became obedient
to the point of death – even death on a
cross. Therefore God also highly exalted
him and gave him the name that is above
every name, so that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend, in heaven and
on earth and under the earth, and every
tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is
Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

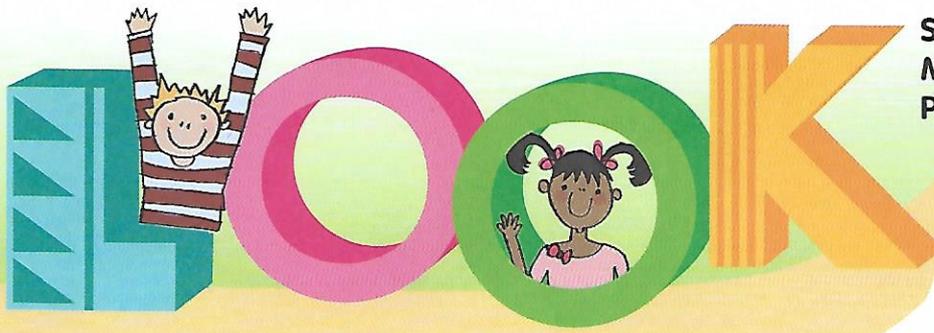
PASSION

Either **Mark 14:1 – 15:47**

Or **Mark 15:1-39 [40-end]**

POST COMMUNION

Lord Jesus Christ,
you humbled yourself in taking the form
of a servant,
and in obedience died on the cross for
our salvation:
give us the mind to follow you
and to proclaim you as Lord and King,
to the glory of God the Father.



Sunday 28 March 2021
Mark 14:1 – 15:47
Palm Sunday

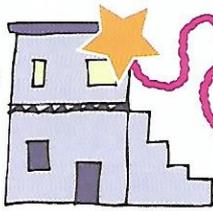
IN THE GOSPEL TODAY

We hear how Jesus was betrayed and how he was killed for speaking the truth. Jesus was handed over to the Romans who cruelly nailed him to a cross.

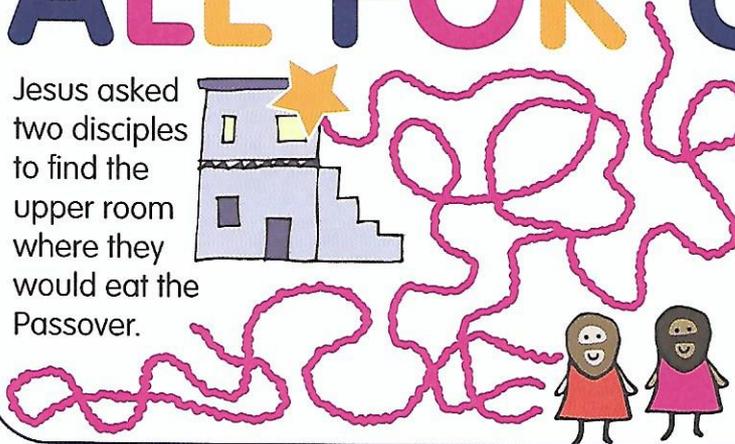
My name is _____

ALL FOR US

Jesus asked two disciples to find the upper room where they would eat the Passover.



Help the disciples to find the room so that they can get it ready for the Last Supper Jesus will eat with his friends.

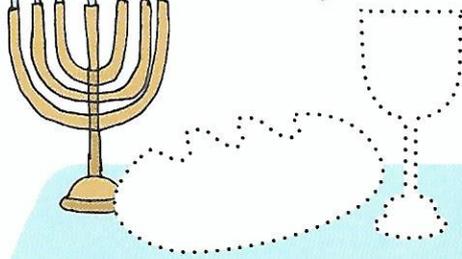


Last Supper

Jesus blessed the bread and said, "This is my body" and then took the cup and said, "This is my blood."

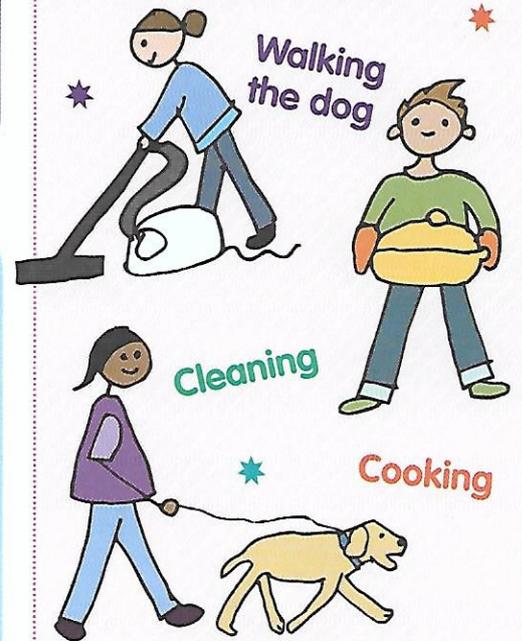


There are two very special parts of the Last Supper. Join the dots to see what they are.



Help others

Simon of Cyrene helped Jesus carry his cross when he was not able to carry it himself.



Match the picture with the words to describe how you can help others this week.

Do you know Jesus?

When Peter was asked if he knew Jesus, he said **NO** three times. Peter was very upset when he realised what he had done. He should have said **YES**. How many times can you find the word **NO** in the word search? How many times is the word **YES** written?

N	O	Y	E	S	N
Y	E	S	E	E	O
Y	N	E	N	O	Y
E	O	Y	E	S	E
S	E	E	N	O	S
N	O	S	Y	E	S

A PRAYER TO SAY

Dear Jesus, today you were bullied and hurt. People told lies about you. Your friends left you. Even you, God's Son, were treated badly. Help me to be brave when people hurt me and to forgive those who say bad things about me. Help us all to treat other people kindly. Amen.

Answers: No = 6 times; Yes = 8 times. Jesus said, "This is my body" and, "This is my blood."