



The Shrivenham and Ashbury Benefice

“Mirroring the hospitality of God”

Sunday 11th April 2nd Sunday of Easter



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

vicar@shrivenhamandashbury.co.uk

Associate Vicar: The Rev'd Canon Paul Richardson. Tel 01793 710241

associate.vicar@shrivenhamandashbury.co.uk

Licensed Lay Minister: Mr Richard Fergusson. Tel 07788 436831

God of our lives, we give thanks for the life of Prince Philip, for his love of our country, and for his devotion to duty. We entrust him now to your love and mercy, through our Redeemer Jesus Christ. Amen.

Details of the funeral arrangements will be published in due course.

There will be a Civic memorial service, with restricted, invited attendance the day before the Funeral, streamed live on the Christ Church Cathedral YouTube channel here: www.chch.ox.ac.uk/oxfords-cathedral/online-worship.

We will advise local arrangements nearer the time.

Flags on Benefice churches will remain flying at half-mast, and bells will be rung half-muffled until after the Funeral.

We cannot currently host physical books of condolence as it is not safe to do so. There are online condolence books here: <https://www.churchofengland.org/rememering-his-royal-highness-prince-philip> or here: <https://www.royal.uk/>

We are also discouraged from the laying of flowers. A donation to the Duke of Edinburgh Award, to help young people emerge from the lockdown successfully, can be made here: www.dofe.org/donate/.

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.

Sunday 11th April

9:30am Watchfield, St Thomas. Matins (BCP).

9:30am Longcot, St Mary & [Facebook](#)
Holy Communion.

10:00am Shrivenham, St Andrew.
Holy Communion.

10:30am Ashbury, St Mary. Morning Prayer.

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 Shrivenham, St Andrew & [Facebook](#).
Morning Prayer

Thursday

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

Friday

5:30pm Worship and Praise. Live via Zoom.

Sunday 18th

7:45am Shrivenham, St Andrew.
Holy Communion (BCP)
9:00am C. Beauchamp, St Swithun.
Matins (BCP).

9:30am Watchfield, St Thomas. Matins (BCP).

9:30am Longcot, St Mary. Morning Prayer.

10:00am Bourton, St James. Holy Communion.

11:00am Ashbury, St Mary & [Facebook](#).
Holy Communion.

5:30pm Shrivenham, St Andrew & [Facebook](#).
Evensong (BCP). With Choir

Our churches will be open for private prayer from 11th - 18th April as follows:

Ashbury 10am – 4pm on Thursday
Compton Beauchamp 9am – 5pm daily
Longcot 10am – 3pm on Wednesday
Shrivenham 9am – 5pm daily
and to view the Easter Garden.
Watchfield 10am – 4pm on Wednesday

Bishop Gavin's Consecration Lambeth Palace Chapel

9:45am on Wednesday 14th April

Please pray for our new Bishop, Gavin, on Wednesday 14th April. Although attendance at the service is restricted, we are invited to join in on YouTube.

The link is: <https://youtu.be/CpciMAW6cWA>

Our condolences to the family and friends of the late Gwendoline Elizabeth Wheeler and Caroline Stevenson who both died recently. Please keep them in your prayers.

Ashbury Cycle of Prayer

Please pray this week for all who live and work in Berrycroft Lane.

Rev'd Norma & Richard Fergusson will be off duty from Monday 12th April until Saturday 17th April.

Please contact Canon Richardson for pastoral issues, and the Benefice Administrator or your local churchwarden for other church enquiries.

Benefice Generosity Week 18th – 25th April 2021

Giving and generosity are inextricably linked with living out the Christian faith. Giving at its core is in the nature of God – and we see this woven throughout the Bible in many guises.

Generosity is not just about giving financially, although that does form a part of generosity when exploring stewardship and material possessions. The link between living out the Christian faith means exploring what it means to live a generous life – through hospitality, time, attentiveness, and many other attributes. It is about our state of heart, and the relationship we have between material and spiritual things.

Giving is a matter of discipleship, and so, when it comes to our thinking around generosity, we must centre our reflections around our calling as disciples, to follow in Jesus' footsteps and grow together to become the Church he calls us to be.

This is why, **from 18th to 25th April, we are holding a Benefice Generosity Week.** Our Sunday worship on the 18th will focus on "Generosity" and on 25th the focus will be "Gratitude". Every day we will offer Morning Prayer, a link to a Podcast, and an "Act of Generosity or Gratitude" for all of us to consider. In order to think about our own generosity, we must begin by reflecting on the generous nature of God, and how we respond to that with gratitude and grace.

Our giving, in its broadest sense, then contributes to enabling God's mission, and reveals the generosity and glory of God in the communities in which we are set. As we learn to give freely and with grace, we then grow as disciples and in Christ-likeness.

Despite this, giving and generosity is something we find challenging to talk about in our churches.

We have inherited a culture where we tend to approach the subject only when we reach financial difficulties, and often cautiously or even apologetically.

Our habit when thinking about giving is regularly done through a transactional lens, and it's often easy to forget to explore the joy, mission and expression of grace which the outpouring of generosity enables.

We are invited to embrace the joy of a culture of generosity, grounded on a response to God's generosity to us. Alike to anything of this nature, it will take time, prayer, and a commitment to shift our way of thinking.

Auction of Promises

The villagers of Bourton have come together to celebrate generosity by holding an Auction of Promises. Villagers have offered their time and skills in an effort to raise money for St James church.

From a forklift truck driving course to a professionally baked cake, from opera singing to gardening - we've discovered that Bourton is not only generous, but talented too! The catalogue of lots is available now and bids can be submitted until 24th April. You can find details on the village website bourton-oxon.org.uk or email us at jbourton6@gmail.com. Happy bidding!

Shrivenham plans an "Open Gardens" on Sunday 4th July, 2021. Anyone who would be willing to open their garden please contact Julian Stevens .

Easter Flowers

Our churches looked stunning this year.



Thank you, Maggie, for this lovely photo of Ashbury's Easter Garden. The whole church looked lovely!



St Andrew's had some stunning Easter lilies ...



... as did St Mary's Longcot

COLLECT

Almighty Father,
you have given your only Son to die
for our sins
and to rise again for our justification:
grant us so to put away the leaven of
malice and wickedness
that we may always serve you
in pureness of living and truth;
through the merits of your Son Jesus
Christ our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING

(Alternative readings)
*The reading from Acts must be read
as either the First or Second Reading.*

Either **Acts 4:32-35**

*A reading from the Acts of the
Apostles.*

The whole group of those who
believed were of one heart and soul,
and no one claimed private ownership
of any possessions, but everything
they owned was held in common.
With great power the apostles gave
their testimony to the resurrection of
the Lord Jesus, and great grace was
upon them all. There was not a needy
person among them, for as many as
owned lands or houses sold them and
brought the proceeds of what was
sold. They laid it at the apostles' feet,
and it was distributed to each as any
had need.

Or **Exodus 14:10-end; 15:20-21**

PSALM Psalm 133

R *How good and pleasant it is
to live together in unity.*

O how good and pleasant it is,
when a family lives together in unity!
It is like fine oil upon the head
that runs down upon the beard,
Upon the beard of Aaron,
and runs down upon the collar of his
robe. **R**

It is like the dew of Hermon
that falls upon the hills of Zion.
For there the Lord has ordained the
blessing:
life for evermore. **R**

SECOND READING

(Alternative readings)
Either **1 John 1:1 – 2:2**

A reading from the first letter of John.

We declare to you what was from the
beginning, what we have heard, what
we have seen with our eyes, what we
have looked at and touched with our
hands, concerning the word of life –
this life was revealed, and we have
seen it and testify to it, and declare
to you the eternal life that was with
the Father and was revealed to us
– we declare to you what we have
seen and heard so that you also may
have fellowship with us; and truly our
fellowship is with the Father and with
his Son Jesus Christ. We are writing
these things so that our joy may be
complete. This is the message we
have heard from him and proclaim to
you, that God is light and in him there
is no darkness at all. If we say that we
have fellowship with him while we are
walking in darkness, we lie and do not
do what is true; but if we walk in the
light as he himself is in the light, we
have fellowship with one another, and
the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses
us from all sin. If we say that we have
no sin, we deceive ourselves, and
the truth is not in us. If we confess
our sins, he who is faithful and just
will forgive us our sins and cleanse
us from all unrighteousness. If we say
that we have not sinned, we make
him a liar, and his word is not in us.
My little children, I am writing these
things to you so that you may not sin.
But if anyone does sin, we have an
advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ
the righteous; and he is the atoning
sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours
only but also for the sins of the whole
world.

Or **Acts 4:32-35**

GOSPEL John 20:19-end

*Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus
Christ according to John.*

It was evening on the first day of the
week, and the doors of the house
where the disciples had met were
locked for fear of the Jews. Jesus
came and stood among them and

said, "Peace be with you." After he
said this, he showed them his hands
and his side. Then the disciples
rejoiced when they saw the Lord.
Jesus said to them again, "Peace be
with you. As the Father has sent me,
so I send you." When he had said
this, he breathed on them and said
to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If
you forgive the sins of any, they are
forgiven them; if you retain the sins of
any, they are retained." But Thomas
(who was called the Twin), one of the
twelve, was not with them when Jesus
came. So the other disciples told him,
"We have seen the Lord." But he said
to them, "Unless I see the mark of the
nails in his hands, and put my finger
in the mark of the nails and my hand
in his side, I will not believe." A week
later his disciples were again in the
house, and Thomas was with them.
Although the doors were shut, Jesus
came and stood among them and
said, "Peace be with you." Then he
said to Thomas, "Put your finger here
and see my hands. Reach out your
hand and put it in my side. Do not
doubt but believe." Thomas answered
him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus
said to him, "Have you believed
because you have seen me? Blessed
are those who have not seen and yet
have come to believe." Now Jesus
did many other signs in the presence
of his disciples, which are not written
in this book. But these are written so
that you may come to believe that
Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God,
and that through believing you may
have life in his name.

POST COMMUNION

Lord God our Father,
through our Saviour Jesus Christ
you have assured your children of
eternal life
and in baptism have made us one
with him:
deliver us from the death of sin
and raise us to new life in your love,
in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.



Sunday 11 April 2021
 John 20:19-31
 2nd Sunday of Easter (or of Divine Mercy)

IN THE GOSPEL TODAY

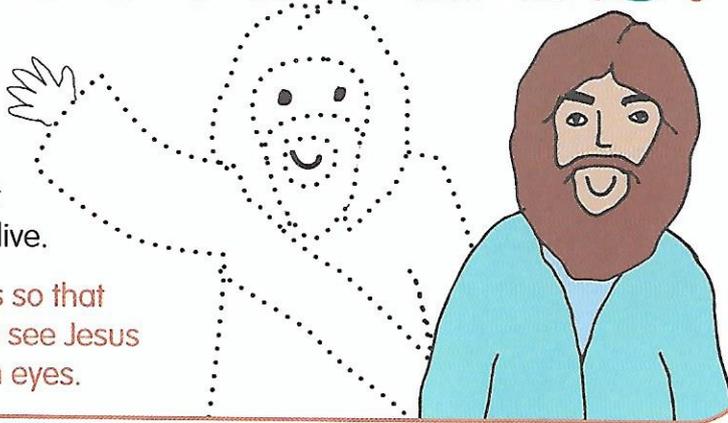
My name is _____

After Jesus' death, his friends are very afraid and hide away. Jesus appears to them and shows that he is alive and well. Thomas is not there and does not believe his friends. When Thomas finally sees Jesus, Jesus tells him that it is good to believe without seeing.

JESUS APPEARS!

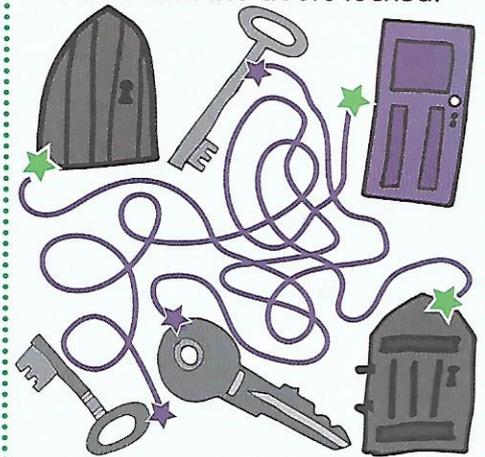
Thomas did not believe his friends when they told him that Jesus was alive.

Join the dots so that Thomas can see Jesus with his own eyes.



Open the door!

The disciples were afraid because they no longer had Jesus with them. They sat in a room with the doors locked.



Match the right key to the right door so that the disciples can go and tell everyone the good news that Jesus is alive!

Visit loved ones

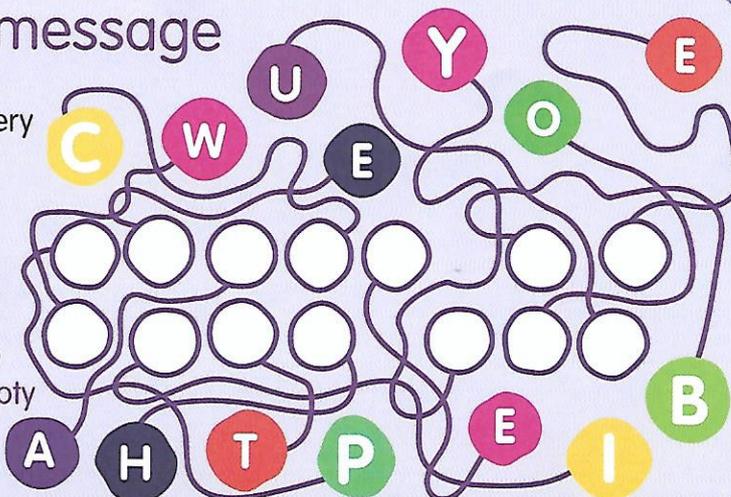
The disciples were so happy to see Jesus again.

Write the name of someone you would love to see this week, or draw their happy face, in the space. Then find the right path to visit them.



Jesus' message

Jesus said something very important to his disciples when he appeared to them. Move each letter to its linked empty circle to see what it is.



A PRAYER TO SAY

Dear Jesus, sometimes it can be hard to believe good news when we hear so much bad news. After Thomas saw Jesus dying, he couldn't believe that Jesus could possibly be alive again. Help me to see and believe good news when it arrives. Amen.