



The Shrivenham and Ashbury Benefice

“Mirroring the hospitality of God”

Sunday 18th April 3rd Sunday of Easter



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

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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.

The funeral will be held in St George's Chapel, Windsor on Saturday 17th April, commencing with 1 minute's silence at 3pm.

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/remembering-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.

Generosity Week 18th – 25th April

Every day we will share Morning Prayer on [Facebook](#), a link to a Podcast on our [website](#), and an “Act of Generosity or Gratitude” for all of us to consider. More information opposite.

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.

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

Rev'd Norma Fergusson's sermon for Evensong is available on [Facebook](#) or [YouTube](#) from 5pm.

Sunday 25th

9:30am Longcot, St Mary. Holy Communion.
10:00am Watchfield, St Thomas & [Facebook](#).
Holy Communion (BCP).
10:00am Shrivenham, St Andrew.
Morning Prayer.
10:30am Ashbury, St Mary. Morning Prayer.

Ashbury Cycle of Prayer

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

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, but also about living a generous life – sharing hospitality, time, attentiveness, and many other attributes. It is about our state of heart, and the relationship we have between material and spiritual things.

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.

Join us daily at 9:00am on [Facebook](#) for Morning Prayer based on the following themes:

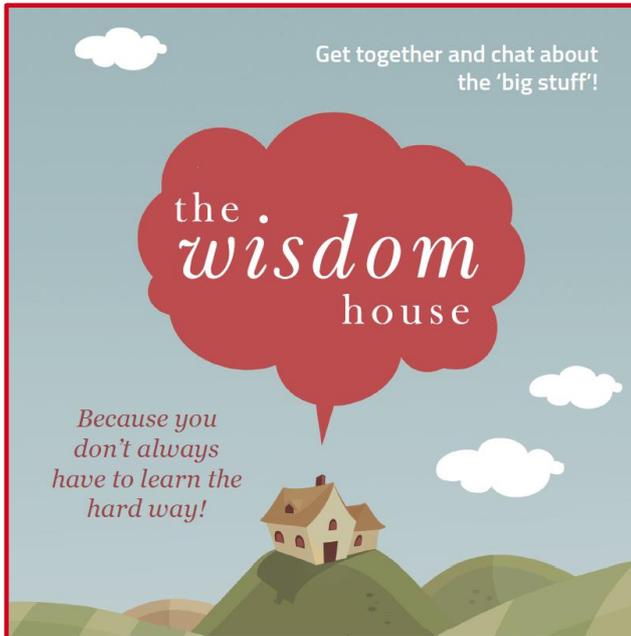
Sunday 18th: The Gift of Creation
Monday 19th: God's Faithful Provision
Tuesday 20th: By your Side
Wednesday 21st: Generosity of Gift
Thursday 22nd: Giving as Sacrifice
Friday 23rd: Giving as Worship
Saturday 24th: Sharing in Diversity
Sunday 25th: Love in Truth and Action

Click the podcast links on our [website](#) to journey through the Bible with a range of different contributors from across the UK, as they bring experiences from their lives that speak of the generosity of God at work in the world today. Use the podcast to give yourself a bit of space each day to focus on generosity and how you can positively impact the world around you, maybe using the suggested “Acts of Generosity or Gratitude”.

Join Paul via Zoom on Thursday 22nd April at 7:45pm to talk about generosity and gratitude.

Please contact Paul for the Zoom link. associate.vicar@shrivenhamandashbury.co.uk

The Wisdom House



Often in life we are told that the most important lessons must be learnt the hard way, but does it always have to be like this?

Join us for "The Wisdom House", eight free sessions looking at different aspects of life that affect our relationships and how we respond to people in different life situations.

Each session lasts approximately 75 minutes and includes a short, animated video story, a talk on the weekly topic, a group discussion and a few reflections.

"The Wisdom House" will run online via Zoom at 10:30am on Wednesdays from 21st April to 9th June.

Contact Jane Ahern for the Zoom link.
thestable@protonmail.com

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

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!



Longcot Village Trust Concerts

St. Mary's Church, Longcot
Saturday 22nd May at 3.30pm and 6.00pm

Two short concerts by the Clarinet Collective, a versatile group of professional clarinetists who also work freelance with some of London's leading orchestras. The programme will feature timeless classics by Mozart, Ravel and Elgar for clarinet sextet alongside popular music from the 20s, 30s and 40s, Gershwin's famous Rhapsody in Blue, some of Glen Miller's greatest hits and a medley of WW2 melodies.

FREE ADMISSION

Donations in aid of the Longcot Village Trust fund to build a community space in St Mary's Church, Longcot.

Due to Covid restrictions seats will be socially distanced and must be reserved in advance. To make your reservation for either concert please email victorialmedcalf@gmail.com

Bereavement Café



Tuesday 20th April at noon in the Vicarage garden (wear something warm!) weather permitting.

An informal get-together for anyone who has been bereaved at any time, hosted by Rose-Anne and Norma. Open to all, regardless of faith or beliefs. Free of charge.

If you would like to know more, please contact
Rose-Anne O'Hare
roseanne.o@outlook.com 01793 784017
Rev'd Norma Fergusson
vicar@shrivenhamandashbury.co.uk 01793 784338

Shrivenham Open Gardens



Sunday 4th July 2021
Please contact Julian Stevens if you would be willing to open your garden during the afternoon.
01793 782065 julianandann@live.co.uk

Generosity Week

Psalm and Bible Readings Sunday 18th April 2021

The First Reading

1 Timothy 6: 11-19

But as for you, man of God, shun all this; pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith; take hold of the eternal life, to which you were called and for which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. In the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge you to keep the commandment without spot or blame until the manifestation of our Lord Jesus Christ, which he will bring about at the right time—he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords. It is he alone who has immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see; to him be honour and eternal dominion. Amen.

As for those who in the present age are rich, command them not to be haughty, or to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but rather on God who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share, thus storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the life that really is life.

Psalm 104: 26-36

O Lord, how manifold are your works!
In wisdom you have made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures.

There is the sea, spread far and wide,
and there move creatures beyond number, both small
and great.

There go the ships, and there is that Leviathan
which you have made to play in the deep.

All of these look to you
to give them their food in due season.

When you give it them, they gather it;
you open your hand and they are filled with good.

When you hide your face they are troubled;
when you take away their breath,
they die and return again to the dust.

When you send forth your spirit, they are created,
and you renew the face of the earth.

May the glory of the Lord endure for ever;
may the Lord rejoice in his works;

He looks on the earth and it trembles;
he touches the mountains and they smoke.

I will sing to the Lord as long as I live;
I will make music to my God while I have my being.

So shall my song please him
while I rejoice in the Lord.

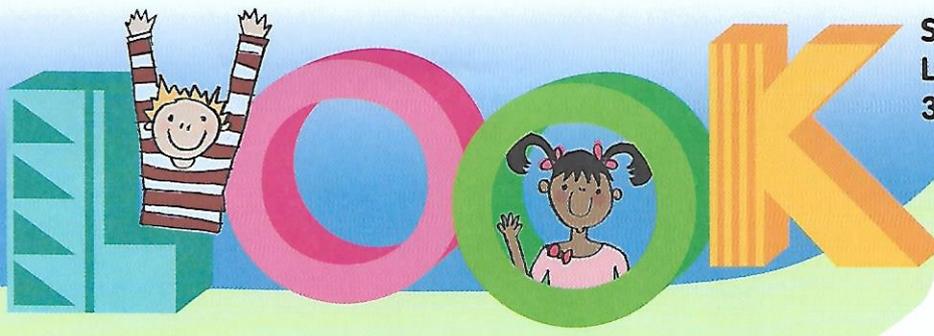
Gospel Reading

Matthew 6: 19-33

[Jesus said,] ‘Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

‘The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light; but if your eye is unhealthy, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!
‘No one can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.

‘Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, “What will we eat?” or “What will we drink?” or “What will we wear?” For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.



Sunday 18 April 2021
 Luke 24:35-48
 3rd Sunday of Easter

IN THE GOSPEL TODAY

My name is _____

I'M ALIVE!

Jesus' friends are very happy to see him!
 Follow the happy faces from top to bottom!



Jesus shows his disciples he really has risen from the dead! The disciples think that they are seeing a ghost, but Jesus says they can touch him and asks them for something to eat. The disciples give him a piece of fish. Jesus says that everything that has happened to him was written about in the scriptures.

Jesus' message

Start with **P** and use every other letter to find Jesus' hidden message.



ICHTHUS

An acrostic is when the first letter in every line spells a word. **ICHTHUS** is the Greek word for fish. It is made up from **five** titles for Jesus.

- I (Jesus)
- X (Christos)
- Θ (Theou/God's)
- Υ (Uios/Son)
- Σ (Soter/Saviour)



Find Jesus' titles:
**JESUS CHRIST SON
 GOD LORD SAVIOUR**

S	A	V	I	O	U	R
O	C	R	X	G	L	D
N	J	S	L	E	J	S
E	V	G	O	N	E	K
L	C	H	R	I	S	T
W	N	E	D	C	U	O
G	O	D	R	L	S	V

Make an acrostic of your name on the back of this sheet.

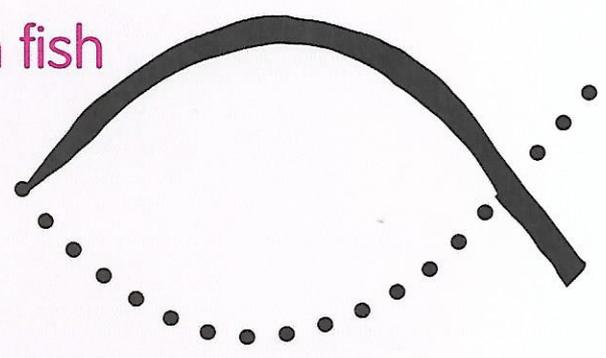


Now start at the end with **I** and go backwards to find something else Jesus says.



A Christian fish

The **ICHTHUS** was a secret Christian code. If someone completed a half drawn fish, it showed they were a Christian.



Finish this fish and fill it with a drawing of you sharing Jesus' love and peace this week.

A PRAYER TO SAY

Dear Jesus, thank you for choosing me to be your friend. Help me to share your love and peace with everyone I meet. Amen.

Answers: "Peace be with you" and "I am sending you".