



# The Shrivenham and Ashbury Benefice

"Mirroring the hospitality of God"

## Sunday 9th May 6th Sunday of Easter

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Please remember that, even though many of us have now had one or more vaccinations, the coronavirus is still circulating and we can still transmit it.

So, 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 9th

	<b>Christian Aid Week</b>
9:30am	Watchfield, St Thomas & <a href="#">Facebook</a> . Holy Communion (BCP).
9:30am	Longcot, St Mary. Family Communion.
10:45am	Shrivenham, St Andrew. Holy Communion.
11:00am	Ashbury, St Mary.& <a href="#">Facebook</a> . Morning Prayer.

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

### Tuesday

9:00am	Morning Prayer. Live on <a href="#">Facebook</a> .
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### Wednesday

9:00am	Shrivenham, St Andrew & <a href="#">Facebook</a> . Morning Prayer
10:30am	The Wisdom House via Zoom.
7:00pm	Ashbury APCM via Zoom.

Please contact Roger Simons (01793 710801) for the Zoom link if you would like to attend.

### Thursday

	<b>Ascension Day</b>
9:00am	Matins. Live on <a href="#">Facebook</a> .
10:00am	Ashbury, St Mary & <a href="#">Facebook</a> . Holy Communion.

### Sunday 16th

7:45am	Shrivenham, St Andrew. Holy Communion (BCP).
9:00am	Compton Beauchamp, St Swithun. Matins (BCP).
9:30am	Watchfield, St Thomas. Matins (BCP).
10:00am	Bourton, St James & <a href="#">Facebook</a> . Holy Communion.
10:45am	Shrivenham, St Andrew. Morning Prayer.
11:00am	Ashbury, St Mary. Third Sunday Service.
6:00pm	Longcot, St Mary. Choral Evensong with Choir for the Flower Festival.

Due to Covid restrictions seats must be reserved in advance. Please call 07958 378822 to book.

### **Ashbury Cycle of Prayer**

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

### **Christian Aid Week**

**10-16 May 2021**



Photo: Christian Aid/Adam Finch

This climate crisis hurts us all. But people living in poverty fight the worst of it every day.

From drought to flooding, climate change robs people of control over their lives. Extreme weather means people are struggling to survive without a reliable source of water.

Your gift could help a community build an earth dam, so when the rains do come, they will have the water they need to live. A reliable source of water will help families withstand long drought or relentless rainstorms. Every gift can change lives.

To support Christian Aid this year, go to [christianaid.org.uk](http://christianaid.org.uk). Thank you

### **Annual Parish Meetings**

<b>Ashbury</b>	Wednesday 12th May 7pm
<b>Shrivenham, W &amp; B</b>	Wednesday 2nd June 7:30pm
<b>Compton Beauchamp</b>	Saturday 12th June 11am
<b>Longcot &amp; Fernham</b>	Wednesday 14th July 7pm

Meetings will be held in church if permitted by regulations in place at the time, otherwise via Zoom.

All welcome

If you would like to become a member of your PCC, please contact the PCC Secretary or churchwarden.

Parish Electoral Rolls are being updated before the meetings. If you would like to join the Roll or your contact details have changed, please contact your church's PCC Secretary or Churchwarden.

Our condolences to the family and friends of the late Andy Wallace and Arthur Bailey who died recently. Please keep them in your prayers.

### Longcot Flower Festival

Saturday 15th to Sunday 23rd May  
St Mary's Church will be open daily from 10am to 4pm



#### 'A Village Celebration'

The 1940's theme with its street party and designs featuring Longcot tales will be a bright welcome back to the annual flower festival.

### Ascension Day

Thursday 13th May is Ascension Day, which Malcolm Guite calls "the glorious finale of the Easter Season" coming as it does 40 days after Easter Day. Guite's sonnet (which can be found in Sounding the Seasons, published by Canterbury Press) is written from the perspective of the disciples who had witnessed Jesus being "lifted up before their very eyes" as it says in Acts – probably not immediately, but once they had time to absorb what had happened; time to realise the wonderful truth that "we were not parted – he took us with him to the heart of things."

*We saw his light break through the cloud of glory  
Whilst we were rooted still in time and place  
As earth became a part of Heaven's story  
And heaven opened to his human face.  
We saw him go and yet we were not parted  
He took us with him to the heart of things  
The heart that broke for all the broken-hearted  
Is whole and Heaven-centred now, and sings,  
Sings in the strength that rises out of weakness,  
Sings through the clouds that veil him from our sight,  
Whilst we ourselves become his clouds of witness  
And sing the waning darkness into light,  
His light in us, and ours in him concealed,  
Which all creation waits to see revealed.*

Join Paul for a service of Holy Communion at 10am in St Mary's Ashbury as we celebrate this wonderful event in the history of the church.

### Our churches will be open for private prayer from 9th to 16th May 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

If you have donations for the Faringdon Food Bank please leave them in the box provided.

### Longcot Village Trust Concerts

St. Mary's Church, Longcot on Saturday 22nd May

The two concerts by the Clarinet Collective in aid of the Longcot Village Trust fund to build a community space in St Mary's Church are now fully booked.

If you would like to make a donation to the LVT Fund please visit <https://gofund.me/84c06298>

### Annual Covenant Service

The Anglican and Methodist churches will come together for our annual covenant service on Sunday 23rd May at 3pm in St Andrew's Churchyard.



Actually, the plural "covenants" would be more accurate (if less grammatical) as we celebrate both the covenant we have made as churches to work together in Shrivenham and also the covenant we all make, as Christians, with God. Sometimes we need to be reminded that, in the words of the covenant prayer: We are no longer our own but yours.

*I am no longer my own but yours.  
Put me to what you will, rank me with whom you will;*

*put me to doing, put me to suffering;*

*let me be employed for you or laid aside for you,*

*exalted for you or brought low for you;*

*let me be full, let me be empty, let me have all things,  
let me have nothing;*

*I freely and wholeheartedly yield all things to your  
pleasure and disposal.*

*And now, glorious and blessed God, Father, Son and  
Holy Spirit, you are mine and I am yours.*

*So be it.*

*And the covenant now made on earth,  
let it be ratified in heaven.*

*Amen.*

## COLLECT

God our redeemer,  
you have delivered us from the  
power of darkness  
and brought us into the kingdom  
of your Son:  
grant, that as by his death he has  
recalled us to life,  
so by his continual presence in us  
he may raise us to eternal joy;  
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.

## FIRST READING

(Alternative readings)

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

### Either Acts 10:44-end

*A reading from the Acts of the  
Apostles.*

While Peter was speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, "Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

**Or Isaiah 55:1-11**

## PSALM Psalm 98

**R** The Lord has made known his  
victory  
in the sight of the nations.

Sing to the Lord a new song,  
for he has done marvellous things.  
With his right hand and his holy  
arm  
has he won for himself the victory. **R**

The Lord has made known his  
victory;  
his righteousness has he openly  
shown  
in the sight of the nations.  
He remembers his mercy and  
faithfulness  
to the house of Israel,  
and all the ends of the earth have  
seen  
the victory of our God. **R**

Shout with joy to the Lord, all you  
lands;  
lift up your voice, rejoice and sing.  
Sing to the Lord with the harp,  
with the harp and the voice of  
song.  
With trumpets and the sound of  
the horn  
shout with joy before the King, the  
Lord. **R**

Let the sea make a noise and all  
that is in it,  
the lands and those who dwell  
therein.  
Let the rivers clap their hands,  
and let the hills ring out with joy  
before the Lord,  
when he comes to judge the earth.  
In righteousness shall he judge the  
world,  
and the peoples with equity. **R**

## SECOND READING

(Alternative readings)

### Either 1 John 5:1-6

*A reading from the first letter of  
John.*

Everyone who believes that Jesus  
is the Christ has been born of  
God, and everyone who loves  
the parent loves the child. By  
this we know that we love the  
children of God, when we love  
God and obey his commandments.  
For the love of God is this, that  
we obey his commandments.  
And his commandments are not  
burdensome, for whatever is born  
of God conquers the world. And  
this is the victory that conquers  
the world, our faith. Who is it that

conquers the world but the one  
who believes that Jesus is the Son  
of God? This is the one who came  
by water and blood, Jesus Christ,  
not with the water only but with  
the water and the blood. And the  
Spirit is the one that testifies, for  
the Spirit is the truth.

**Or Acts 10:44-end**

## GOSPEL John 15:9-17

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

Jesus said to his disciples: "As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another."

## POST COMMUNION

God our Father,  
whose Son Jesus Christ gives the  
water of eternal life:  
may we thirst for you,  
the spring of life and source of  
goodness,  
through him who is alive and  
reigns, now and for ever.





# LOOK

My name is \_\_\_\_\_

## LOVE ONE ANOTHER

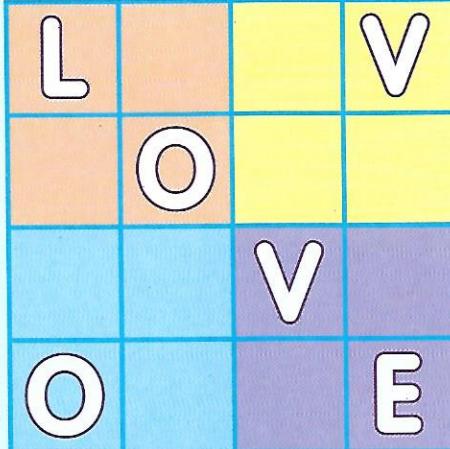
Rearrange the tiles to make Jesus' commandment for us

NE TH O LO ER A VE NO



## LOVE

The letters of the word LOVE can fit into each minigrid, each line and each column, just once.



Work out where each letter fits to complete the puzzle.

## Stay in my love

We show how much we love Jesus when we live as he asks. Find some of the ways we can show how much we love Jesus.

CARE, GIVE,  
LOVE, PLAY,  
PRAY, SHARE

Y A L P E  
S H A R E  
X P A A V  
E C K Y I  
L O V E G



Sunday 9 May 2021

John 15: 9-17

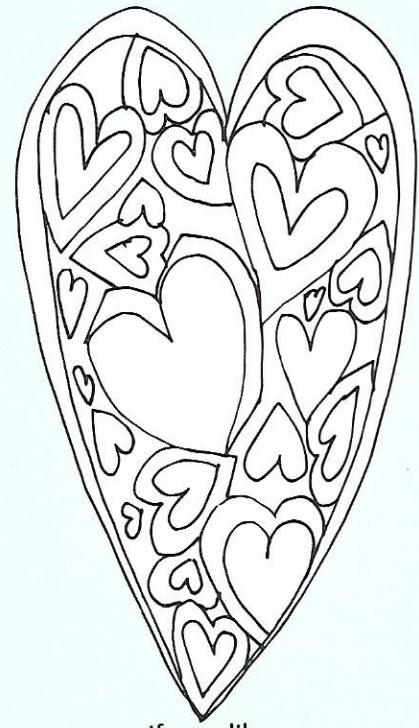
6th Sunday of Easter

## IN THE GOSPEL TODAY

Jesus said that he loves us just as his Father God loves him. If we listen carefully to what Jesus teaches us we will know that love. Jesus' commandment to us is to love one another.

## Love is all around

We know that Jesus loves us. We use a heart as a symbol of love. Count how many hearts you can see here.



If you like, colour them.

## A PRAYER TO SAY

Dear Jesus, we know that you love us, whatever we do. Help us to love one another as you taught us to, even though it is sometimes hard to do. Amen.