



The Shrevenham and Ashbury Benefice

'Mirroring the hospitality of God'

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Sunday 26th March 2023

Fifth Sunday of Lent

Please do not come into church if you think you may have symptoms of Covid 19.
Please respect the concerns of others in the congregation. Hand sanitizer is available.

Sunday 26th March

Padre Phil Craven is giving today's online sermon.

We are also sharing Bishop Steven's weekly
'Come and See' films during Lent.

Watch on [Facebook](#), [YouTube](#) or our [website](#) from 9am.

10:30am Watchfield, St Thomas & [Facebook](#)
Benefice Holy Communion with Choir

Monday

6:30pm Shrevenham, St Andrew & [Facebook](#)
Compline for Lent

7:15pm Ashbury PCC Meeting

Tuesday

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

1:00pm Bereavement Café
5 Martens Road Shrevenham

Wednesday

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

9:15am Song and Stories Toddler Group
Shrevenham Methodist Church

10:30am Wednesday Study Group via Zoom

7:00pm Wednesday Study Group
St Andrew's Vicarage

Thursday

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

9:15am Ashbury, St Mary
School Easter Service

9:30am Shrevenham, St Andrew
School Easter Service

6:00pm Shrevenham, St Andrew
ASK Evening Prayer

6:30pm Benefice Choir Practice in St Andrew's

Friday

9:00am Ashbury, St Mary
Matins. Also live on [Facebook](#)

9:30am Longcot, St Mary
School Easter Service

1:00pm Watchfield, St Thomas
Funeral – Andrew Bailey RIP

Saturday 1st April

10:00am Bourton, St James. Family Service

12 noon Shrevenham, St Andrew. Baptism

Baby & Toddler Group

The group that meets on Thursday mornings in
St Andrew's is taking a break and will restart after the
school Easter holidays on Thursday 20th April.

Community Cycle of Prayer

Please pray this week for all who live and work
in Ashdown Estate in Ashbury,
and Cleycourt Road in Shrevenham.

Palm Sunday 2nd April

7:45am Shrevenham, St Andrew
Holy Communion (BCP)

Please come and join our Palm Sunday Procession
with donkeys through Shrevenham followed by a
Benefice Service with the Methodists in St Andrew's.

9:45am Palm Sunday Procession with donkeys
starting at Shrevenham Methodist Church

10:15am Shrevenham, St Andrew & [Facebook](#)
Palm Sunday Service with Benefice Choir

Come and See

The promise

The Holy Spirit is a promise of what's to come. When we try and live our lives without the help and comfort of the Holy Spirit it can't be done.



**COME
AND
SEE**

"Those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty"
oxford.anglican.org/come-and-see

This week's film – 'The Promise'

It's one thing to be given a fresh start, but if nothing
changes on the inside, how will things be any
different going forward?

Jesus' Beatitudes are special kind of promise.
Come and see...

The Diocese posts a link to each day's resources on its
website. There is also a link to a weekly set of resources
especially for children and families.

Visit <https://www.oxford.anglican.org/come-and-see/>

Church Electoral Rolls

Church electoral rolls will be revised before the annual
parish meetings. Please let your parish Electoral Roll
Officer know if your contact details have changed since
last year. If you would like to join the electoral roll,
please contact your church's PCC Secretary or
Churchwarden, or pick up an application form in church.

Annual Parish Meetings

Shrevenham, W & B Tuesday 18th April 7pm
Compton Beauchamp Saturday 22nd April 11am
Longcot & Fernham Tuesday 25th April 6pm
Ashbury Thursday 27th April 7pm

All welcome



KICK START EASTER!

**Saturday 1st April
Ashbury Village Hall**

Two interactive concerts, hosted by The Rose and Crooners - to raise money for The Watchfield and Shrivenham Community Larder

3pm - 4.30pm - including coffee and cake

5.30pm - 7pm - including wine and canapees

Tea/coffee and cake available to buy at the first concert, wine to buy at the second, raffle tickets to buy at both, and donation buckets onsite, so bring your pennies, your sense of humours, and your Easter Bonnets!

Tickets available from The Rose and Crown
£2 each



EASTER EGG HUNT

**Saturday
8th April
1pm - 3:30 pm**

**Starting at
St Thomas' Church,
Watchfield**

Everyone welcome!

£1.50 entry

All proceeds to St Thomas' Church



Farewell to Jane from the Baby and Toddler Group

The Baby and Toddler Group that meets in St Andrew's Church said farewell to Jane Hollick, one of the leaders, last Thursday. The other helpers had managed to collect handprints from the children and good luck messages from the parents to make this lovely card without Jane knowing! Jane is retiring at the end of the month and plans to go travelling but we hope she will come back and say hello next time she passes through Shrivenham.



COLLECT

Most merciful God,
who by the death and resurrection of your Son
Jesus Christ
delivered and saved the world:
grant that by faith in him who suffered on the
cross
we may triumph in the power of his victory;
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 Ezekiel 37:1-14

A reading from the book of the prophet Ezekiel.

The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the LORD." So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude. Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act, says the LORD."

PSALM Psalm 130

R *With the Lord there is mercy
and plenteous redemption.*

or

R *You shall know that I am the Lord
when I open your graves.*

Out of the depths have I called to you, O Lord;
Lord, hear my voice;
let your ears consider well the voice of my
supplication.

If you, Lord, were to note what is done amiss,
O Lord, who could stand?
For there is forgiveness with you;
therefore you shall be feared. **R**

I wait for the Lord; my soul waits for him;
in his word is my hope.
My soul waits for the Lord,
more than the night-watch for the morning,
more than the night-watch for the morning. **R**

O Israel, wait for the Lord,
for with the Lord there is mercy;
with him there is plenteous redemption,
and he shall redeem Israel from all their sins. **R**

SECOND READING Romans 8:6-11

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law – indeed it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

GOSPEL John 11:1-45

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

A certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them." After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right." Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow-disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him." When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb

four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world." When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?" Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upwards and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go." Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

POST COMMUNION

Lord Jesus Christ,
you have taught us
that what we do for the least of our brothers and
sisters
we do also for you:
give us the will to be the servant of others
as you were the servant of all,
and gave up your life and died for us,
but are alive and reign, now and for ever.



Sunday 26 March 2023
John 11:1-45
5th Sunday of Lent

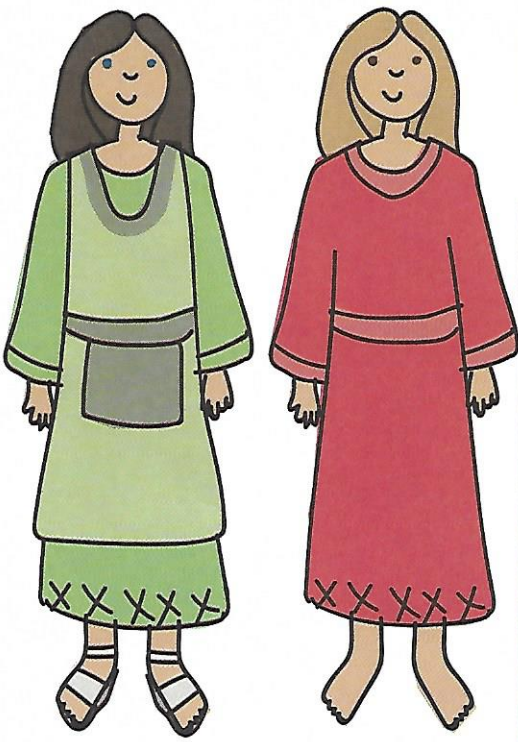
In the
GOSPEL TODAY

**GOD
GIVES LIFE!**

Spot the
difference

6

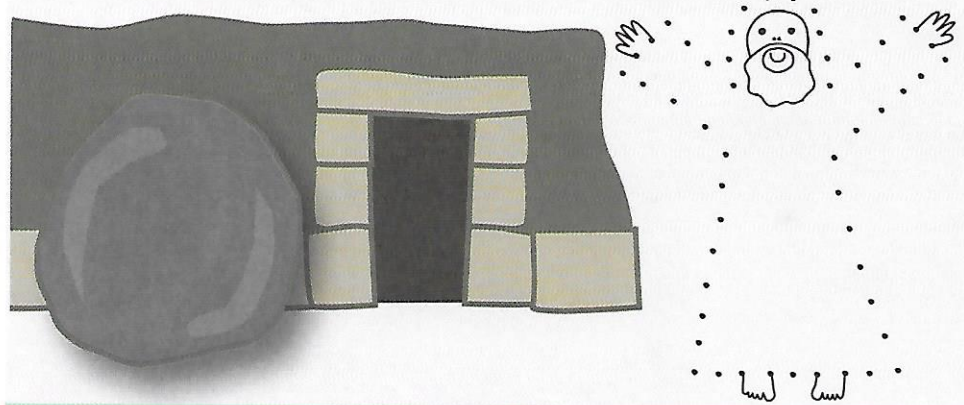
Can you find differences
between **Martha** and **Mary**?



Jesus' friend Lazarus has died. Jesus is very sad. He asks for the stone to be rolled away from the entrance to the tomb and calls to Lazarus. Lazarus comes out of the tomb alive - it's a miracle!

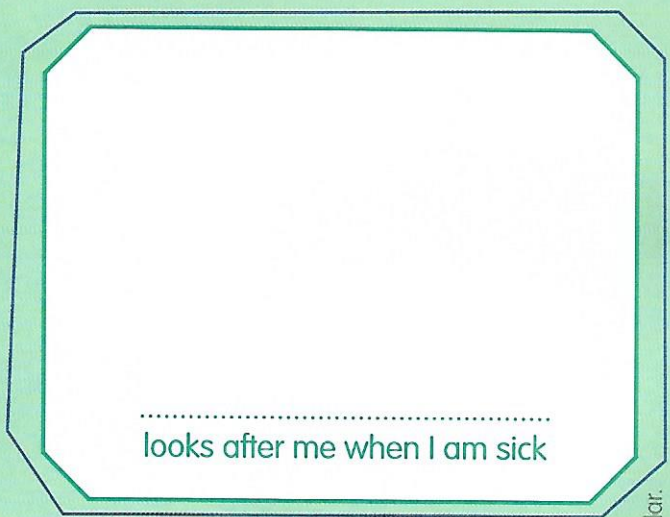
Lazarus Lives again!

Join the dots to see Lazarus coming back to life!



**When I
am ill**

Lazarus' sisters,
Martha and Mary,
looked after Lazarus
when he was sick.
Who looks after you
when you are sick?
Draw a picture of
them caring for you.

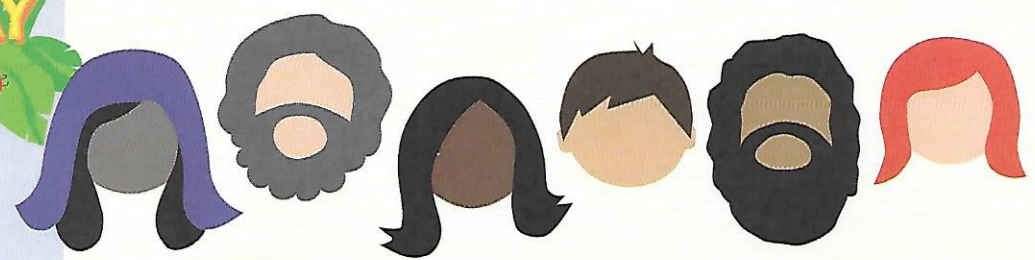


A PRAYER TO SAY

I feel all kinds of different things, Jesus. You felt lots of different things too. Help me to remember you are always with me, however I am feeling. Amen.

No longer sad

Lazarus was alive again! How do you think everyone felt?



Draw the faces of the people when they saw Lazarus come out of the tomb. How would you feel? Draw yourself in the crowd.