



The Shrivenham and Ashbury Benefice

'Mirroring the hospitality of God'

Vicar: The Rev'd Norma Fergusson. Tel 01793 784338
vicar@shrivenhamandashbury.co.uk

Licensed Lay Minister: Mr Richard Fergusson. Tel 07788 436831



Sunday 16th April 2023

Second Sunday of Easter

Please do not come into church if you think you may have symptoms of Covid 19.

Sunday 16th April

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

- 7:45am Shrivenham, St Andrew
Holy Communion (BCP)
- 9:00am Compton Beauchamp, St Swithun
Matins
- 9:30am Longcot, St Mary
Morning Prayer
- 9:30am Watchfield, St Thomas
Matins
- 10:00am Bourton, St James & [Facebook](#)
Holy Communion
- 10:15am Shrivenham, St Andrew
Holy Communion
- 11:00am Ashbury, St Mary
Celtic Morning Prayer

Monday

- 11:30am Compton Beauchamp, St Swithun
Memorial Service – Phyllida Cooke RIP

Tuesday

- 9:00am Morning Prayer. Live on [Facebook](#)
- 7:00pm Shrivenham Watchfield & Bourton APCM
St Andrew's Church

Wednesday

- 9:00am Shrivenham, St Andrew & [Facebook](#)
Morning Prayer
- 9:15am Song and Stories Toddler Group
Shrivenham Methodist Church
- 10:30am Wednesday Study Group via Zoom
- 7:00pm Wednesday Study Group
St Andrew's Church

Thursday

- 9:00am Matins. Live on [Facebook](#)
- 9:00am Baby & Toddler Group in St Andrew's
- 6:30pm Benefice Choir Practice in St Andrew's

Friday

- 9:00am Matins. Live on [Facebook](#)
- 5:30pm Shrivenham, St Andrew
Worship and Praise

Saturday 22nd April

- 11:00am Compton Beauchamp APCM
St Swithun's Church

Sunday 23rd April

- 9:30am Longcot, St Mary
Holy Communion
- 9:30am Watchfield, St Thomas
Holy Communion (BCP) by Extension
- 10:15am Shrivenham, St Andrew
Holy Communion
- 11:00am Ashbury, St Mary & [Facebook](#)
Holy Communion

Annual Parish Meetings

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

Wednesday Study Groups from 19th April

We are offering two programmes for the five weeks from 19th April.

The morning, online, group will be looking at 1 John whilst the evening group will look at Living in Love and Faith, a course prepared by the national church, which helps us to explore Christian teaching and learning about identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage.

We believe this course is more suited to face-to-face discussions and, if numbers are sufficient, we will meet in St Andrew's rather than the vicarage so please let Norma know if you are thinking about coming along. We believe it will be particularly helpful to PCCs who will be discussing the implications of any decisions made by the national church in the years ahead.

The choice of 1 John for the mornings was prayerfully made: it is John who tells us that "Those who live in love, live in God and God lives in them" and also "There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear." We want the evening discussions to be grounded in that love, even where we disagree on complicated and sensitive matters, so both groups will hold each other in prayer. If you'd like to know more, please contact Norma.

01793 784338 vicar@shrivenhamandashbury.co.uk

Community Cycle of Prayer

Please pray this week for all who live and work in Ildstone near Ashbury, and Constantine Close and Hadrian Close in Shrivenham.

Choral Evensong with the Benefice Choir

St Mary's Church Longcot
Sunday 7th May at 5:30pm



Ashbury Church Easter Garden

A Visit to See the Bells in St Andrew's Church Shrivenham

On Saturday, 1st April, the descendants of Brigadier General (US Army) Cuthbert Powell Stearns visited St Andrews Church. BG (then Colonel) Stearns served in Shrivenham from 1942-1944 as the Commander of the School for Military Government, a Civil Affairs school established by the American and British armies to train service members in military government and the components of civil/municipal administration in advance of the allied reconquest of mainland Europe.

When BG Stearns and the school were moved to Troyes, France, following the invasion, he and others led a donation drive to provide two additional church bells to St Andrews Church, where he and others had worshipped during their time in England. The 1944 donation led to the 1948 casting and hanging of what are now bells three and four in the church tower. Colonel (US Army, Retired) Paul C. Hutton III, BG Stearns' grandson was in the area visiting his son, Lieutenant Colonel (US Army) Richard W.B. Hutton, BG Stearns' great-grandson, who is currently serving in the US Army and is stationed in London. The family was thrilled to have the opportunity to visit St Andrews, learn about the bells and the close Anglo-American history in Shrivenham of which their family is a part, see the belfry and the bells themselves, and even show the next generation some of the interesting and fun things about churches, bells, and the communities they serve. What a wonderful exploration of church and local history. Richard Hutton

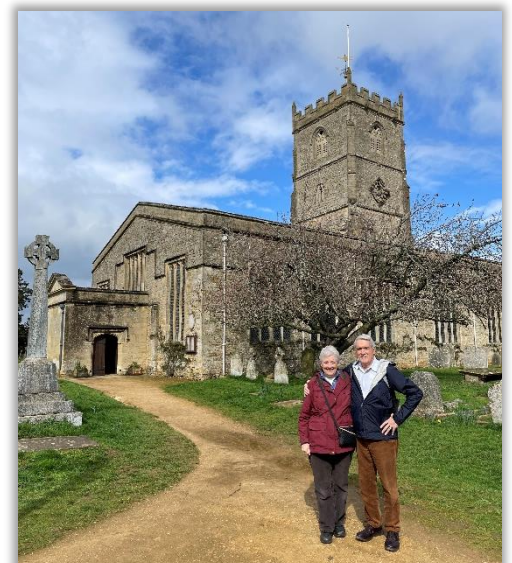


The bells at the foundry and in the tower. The inscription on each bell reads:
1948 Gillett & Johnson Croydon
To the glory of God

This bell was given by members of the American & British Armed Forces Shrivenham
1944



Colonel Cuthbert Powell Stearns,
taken in 1942



Colonel Paul C. Hutton
and Ms. Evelyn Hutton

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

The reading from Acts must be used as either the first or second reading.

Either **Acts 2:14a. 22-32**

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

On the day of Pentecost, Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd, "You that are Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know – this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. But God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. For David says concerning him, 'I saw the Lord always before me, for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken; therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; moreover my flesh will live in hope. For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let your Holy One experience corruption. You have made known to me the ways of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence.' Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne. Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying, 'He was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh experience corruption.' This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses."

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

PSALM Psalm 16

R O Lord, you are my portion and my cup.

Protect me, O God, for I take refuge in you;
I have said to the Lord, "You are my Lord,
my good above all other."
All my delight is upon the godly that are in the land,
upon those who are noble among the people. **R**

But those who run after other gods shall have their troubles multiplied. Their libations of blood I will not offer, nor take the names of their gods upon my lips. **R**

O Lord, you are my portion and my cup; it is you who uphold my lot. My boundaries enclose a pleasant land; indeed, I have a goodly heritage. **R**

I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel;
my heart teaches me, night after night. I have set the Lord always before me; because he is at my right hand I shall not fall. **R**

My heart, therefore, is glad and my spirit rejoices;
my body also shall rest in hope. For you will not abandon me to the grave,
nor let your holy one see the Pit. You will show me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy, and in your right hand are pleasures for evermore. **R**

SECOND READING

Either **1 Peter 1:3-9**

A reading from the first letter of Peter.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith – being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire – may be found to result in praise and glory and honour when Jesus Christ is revealed. Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and

glorious joy, for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

Or **Acts 2:14a. 22-32**

GOSPEL John 20:19-end

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

When 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 16 April 2023
John 20:19-31
2nd Sunday of Easter

In the
GOSPEL TODAY

JESUS IS HERE

Thomas believes

Thomas did not believe Jesus had risen from the dead until he actually saw Jesus for himself.

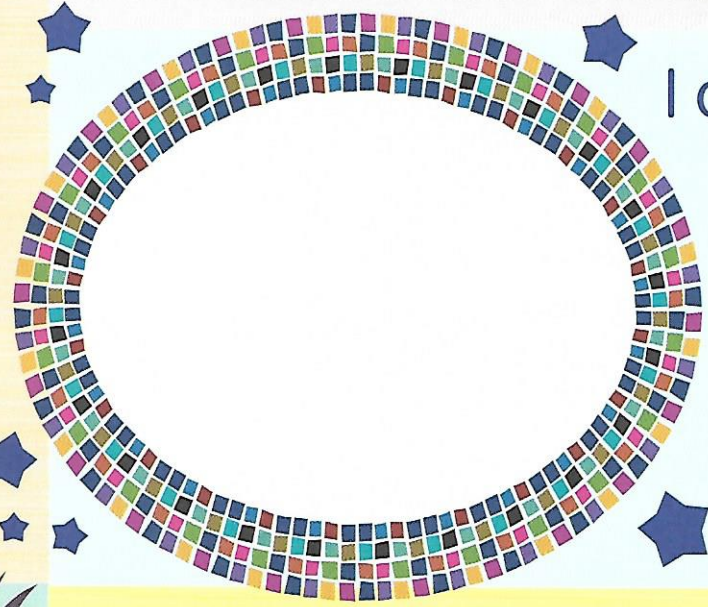
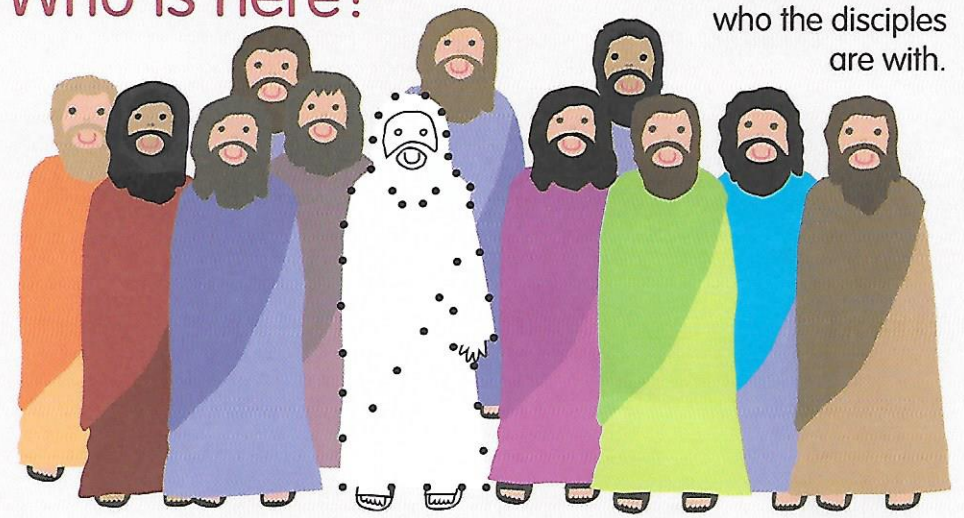
Spot the five differences between Thomas before and after he saw Jesus.



Jesus comes to see his friends, bring his peace and the Holy Spirit. Thomas is missing and doesn't believe the others. Jesus comes back and gives Thomas the proof he needs that he really is alive and he really is here!

Who is here?

Join the dots to see who the disciples are with.



I am happy!

Thomas believed in Jesus because he could see him. Jesus says those who have not seen him but still believe are happy. We are happy because we believe! Draw a happy picture of you.

A PRAYER TO SAY

I am so happy, Jesus, that you are alive! Now I know that good things can come out of the worst situation. Thank you for showing me that love will always win. Amen.

What does Jesus bring us?

Jesus came to bring us peace. Unscramble the words to describe other things Jesus has brought us.



tapinece rifnesd hpoe lvoe yoi

Answers: patience, friends, hope, love, joy. Differences: smile, tear, belt, ring, sandals.