



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 9th April 2023

Easter Sunday

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

Easter Eve Saturday 8th April

10:00am Café Inspire in Shrivenham School Hall
5:30pm Watchfield, St Thomas
Holy Communion (BCP)
8:00pm Shrivenham, St Andrew & [Facebook](#)
Easter Vigil with the Benefice Choir

The service will include an illustrated talk by Dr Peter Foot entitled 'Judas – one of us?'

The Easter Eve service is one of the most beautiful services of the Christian year, filled with imagery, symbolism and deep meaning as the new Easter Light is brought into the church.

Easter Sunday 9th April

Richard Fergusson is giving today's sermon during the service from St Andrew's which will be live-streamed on our [Facebook](#) page.

If you are unable to join us at 10:15am, the service remains available to watch later in the day or week.

9:00am Compton Beauchamp, St Swithun
Holy Communion (BCP)
9:30am Longcot, St Mary
Holy Communion
10:15am Shrivenham, St Andrew & [Facebook](#)
Holy Communion
11:00am Ashbury, St Mary
Holy Communion

Midweek services resume on Tuesday 18th April

Saturday 15th April

8:30am Men's Breakfast
Prince of Wales, Shrivenham

Sunday 16th April

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

Community Cycle of Prayer

Please pray for all who live and work in Idstone Road in Ashbury, and Common Close in Shrivenham.

Rev'd Norma Fergusson will be off duty from Monday 10th to Saturday 15th April inclusive.

For pastoral emergencies please call 07799 545035

The Benefice office will be closed
from Sunday 9th to Saturday 15th April inclusive.
Emails will be checked regularly.

Songs & Stories and Baby & Toddler Group

The groups that meet on Wednesday and Thursday mornings are not open during the school Easter holidays.

Men's Breakfast

Saturday 15th April at 8:30am
The Prince of Wales, Shrivenham

For catering purposes, please let David Ahern know by Wednesday 12th if you plan to attend.

01793 783521 davidmahern@gmail.com

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

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

Welcome to Skye Eleanor Juliet Hughes who was baptised on Saturday 1st April at St Andrew's.

Palm Sunday Procession with the donkeys from Pennyhooks Farm and Messy Church Easter Garden Activity on Good Friday



COLLECT

Lord of all life and power,
 who through the mighty resurrection of your Son
 overcame the old order of sin and death
 to make all things new in him:
 grant that we, being dead to sin
 and alive to you in Jesus Christ,
 may reign with him in glory;
 to whom with you and the Holy Spirit
 be praise and honour, glory and might,
 now and in all eternity.

FIRST READING

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

Either **Acts 10:34-43**

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Peter began to speak to those assembled in the house of Cornelius. "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ – he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

Or **Jeremiah 31:1-6**

A reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah.

At that time, says the LORD, I will be the God of all the families of Israel, and they shall be my people. Thus says the LORD: The people who survived the sword found grace in the wilderness; when Israel sought for rest, the LORD appeared to him from far away. I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you. Again I will build you, and you shall be built, O virgin Israel! Again you shall take your tambourines, and go forth in the dance of the merrymakers. Again you shall plant vineyards on the mountains of Samaria; the planters shall plant, and shall enjoy the fruit. For there shall be a day when sentinels will call in the hill country of Ephraim: "Come, let us go up to Zion, to the LORD our God."

PSALM Psalm 118:1-2. 14-24

R *On this day the Lord has acted;
 we will rejoice and be glad in it.*

or

R *Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

This is the day the Lord has made.

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
 his mercy endures for ever.

Let Israel now proclaim,
 "His mercy endures for ever." **R**

The Lord is my strength and my song,
 and he has become my salvation.
 There is a sound of exultation and victory
 in the tents of the righteous:
 "The right hand of the Lord has triumphed!
 the right hand of the Lord is exalted!
 the right hand of the Lord has triumphed!" **R**

I shall not die, but live,
 and declare the works of the Lord.
 The Lord has punished me sorely,
 but he did not hand me over to death.
 Open for me the gates of righteousness;
 I will enter them; I will offer thanks to the Lord. **R**

"This is the gate of the Lord;
 whoever is righteous may enter."
 I will give thanks to you, for you answered me
 and have become my salvation.
 The same stone which the builders rejected
 has become the chief corner-stone. **R**

This is the Lord's doing,
 and it is marvellous in our eyes.
 On this day the Lord has acted;
 we will rejoice and be glad in it. **R**

SECOND READING

Either **Colossians 3:1-4**

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Colossians.

If you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

Or **Acts 10:34-43**

GOSPEL

Either **John 20:1-18**

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

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went towards the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went

in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes. But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? For whom are you looking?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" which means Teacher. Jesus said to her, "Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

Or **Matthew 28:1-10**

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

After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.' This is my message for you." So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshipped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

POST COMMUNION

God of Life,
 who for our redemption gave your only-begotten
 Son
 to the death of the cross,
 and by his glorious resurrection
 have delivered us from the power of our enemy:
 grant us so to die daily to sin,
 that we may evermore live with him
 in the joy of his risen life;
 through Jesus Christ our Lord.

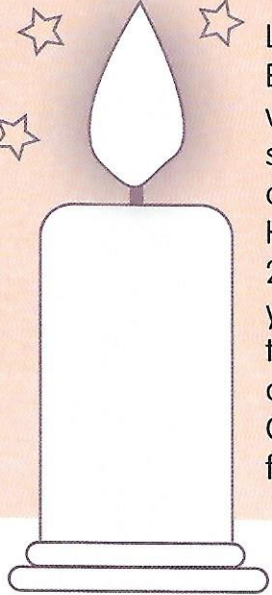


Sunday 9 April 2023
 John 20:1-9
 Easter Sunday of the
 Resurrection of the Lord

In the GOSPEL TODAY

Paschal Candle

Last night the Easter candle was blessed and set alight. Jesus, our light, is risen! He is alive in 2023. Write the year to match the one in your church. Colour in the flame and candle.



When Mary goes to the tomb where Jesus is buried she finds the stone is rolled away from the entrance and Jesus' body is not there! Mary rushes to tell the others. When they see the grave cloths they understand – Jesus has risen. He is alive!

Maze

Mary ran to tell the disciples the stone had moved.



Can you help her reach them quickly?



JESUS IS ALIVE!

Egg decoration

Today is a great feast day, when we celebrate Jesus rising from the dead. There are lots of ways we celebrate Easter. Chocolate eggs are one of these ways. We eat Easter eggs because eggs are a

sign of new life so they celebrate the new life of Jesus when he rose from the dead. Decorate these eggs most beautifully!

Word search

How many times can you find the word RISEN in the grid below? Remember to look in all directions!

R	I	S	E	N
S	I	R	E	S
N	E	S	I	R
R	I	S	E	N
R	I	S	E	N

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.