



The Shrevenham and Ashbury Benefice

'Mirroring the hospitality of God'

Vicar: The Rev'd Norma Fergusson. Tel 01793 784338
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Associate Vicar: The Rev'd Patrick Mabhunu. 07471 434276
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Licensed Lay Minister: Mr Richard Fergusson. Tel 07788 436831



Sunday 31st March 2024 Easter Sunday

Easter Eve Saturday 30th March

7:30pm Shrevenham, St Andrew & [Facebook](#)
Easter Vigil with the Benefice Choir

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 31st March

Rev'd Shannon Preston is giving today's online sermon.
Watch on [Facebook](#), [YouTube](#) or our [website](#).

9:30am Watchfield, St Thomas
Holy Communion (BCP)
9:30am Longcot, St Mary
Holy Communion
10:15am Shrevenham, St Andrew & [Facebook](#)
Holy Communion
11:00am Ashbury, St Mary
Holy Communion
11:00am Fernham, St John
Holy Communion

**No midweek morning services until
Tuesday 9th April**

Wednesday

2:00pm Shrevenham, St Andrew & Facebook
ASK Holy Communion

Saturday 6th April

10:00am Bourton, St James
Family Service

Community Cycle of Prayer

Please pray this week for all who live and work in College Farm Lane in Ashbury, and Cleycourt Road in Shrevenham.

**Rev'd Norma Fergusson and Rev'd Patrick Mabhunu
will be off duty from Monday 1st April to
Saturday 6th April inclusive.**

For pastoral emergencies please call 07799 545035

The Benefice office will be closed

from Sunday 1st to Saturday 6th 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.

Sunday 7th April

7:45am Shrevenham, St Andrew
Holy Communion (BCP)
9:00am Compton Beauchamp, St Swithun
Holy Communion (BCP)
9:30am Watchfield, St Thomas
Holy Communion (BCP)
9:30am Longcot, St Mary & [Facebook](#)
Holy Communion
10:15am Shrevenham, St Andrew
Family Service
11:00am Ashbury, St Mary
Morning Prayer
5:30pm Shrevenham, St Andrew & [Facebook](#)
Compline and Benediction

EASTER EGG HUNT

**Saturday 30th
March 2024**

1pm - 3.30 pm

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

**£1.50
entry**

Everyone welcome!

All proceeds to St Thomas church

Welcome

Welcome to Matilda Artemis Fenna
who was baptised at St Mary's Church, Ashbury
on Sunday 17th March

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.

Ashbury Churchyard 'Spring Clean'

Saturday 13th April from 10am to Noon

We would greatly appreciate as many helpers as we can to carry out our annual Churchyard 'Spring Clean'.

Usually we attract about 24 people such that as well getting the Churchyards ready for summer it is also a very social occasion. Hot refreshments will be available.

As well as appropriate garden tools (secateurs, hard brush, trowel) it would be helpful if, those who can, could bring a wheelbarrow or strimmer

Newcomers to the village are especially welcome where you can get to know other locals

A Variety Concert in Celebration of St George's Day

St Andrew's Church Shrevenham

Saturday 20th April

7:30pm

Tickets £10 (Under 16s £5) on sale soon

Bar and Raffle

In aid of St Andrew's Restoration Project

Annual Parish Meetings

Longcot & Fernham	Wednesday 10th April 7pm
Compton Beauchamp	Saturday 13th April 11am
Shrevenham, W & B	Wednesday 17th April 7pm
Ashbury	Wednesday 24th April 7pm

Car Boot Items Wanted! Can You Help?

We are looking to raise funds towards our running costs at St Swithun's Church, Compton Beauchamp.

Suitable items would be bric-a-brac, crockery, DVDs, books, toys, clothing in good condition etc.

Please note all items are freely given on the understanding that all unsold items will be given to other charities as we do not have the facilities to store.

If you have any items that you are willing to donate, please contact [Louise Slater](#) or [Joanna Lambert](#).

Thank you

A prayer for this time of transition

Faithful and loving God, we hold our Benefice before you in this time of transition.

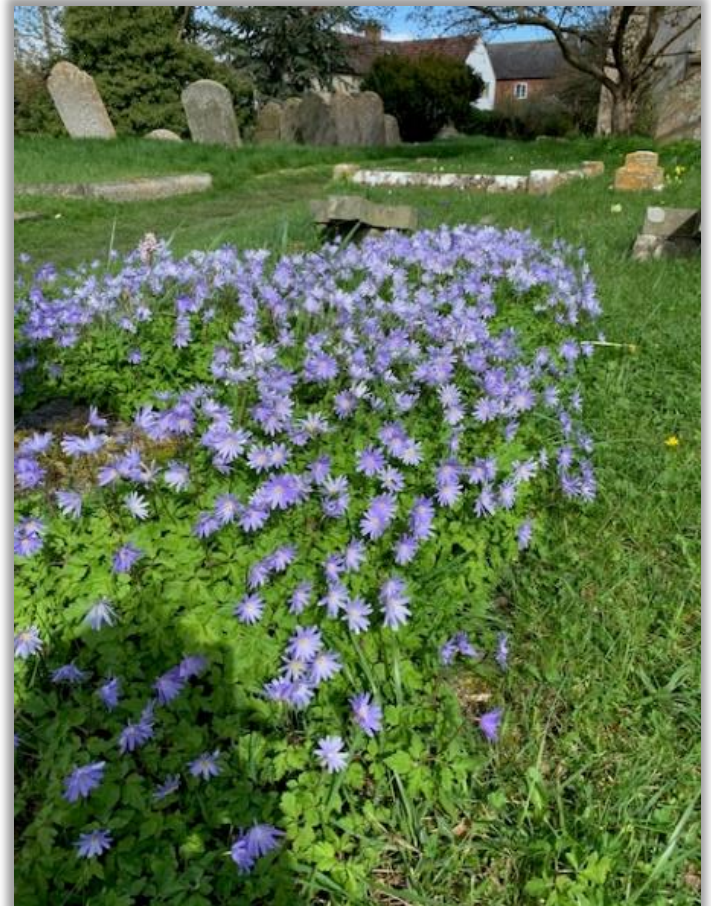
Be with us in our waiting, in our expectation and in our preparation.

Be with our new incumbent as he or she also waits, expects and prepares.

Bring us together in love for you and for this Benefice, and be our light for the way ahead.

In Jesus' name, Amen

Longcot Churchyard



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 read as either the 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 **Isaiah 25:6-9**

PSALM Psalm 118:1-2. 14-24

R *This is the day that the Lord has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.*

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**

Or **Psalm 118:14-24**

SECOND READING

Either **1 Corinthians 15:1-11**

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

I would remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you – unless you have come to believe in vain. For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace

of God I am what I am, and his grace towards me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them – though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you have come to believe.

Or **Acts 10:34-43**

GOSPEL

Either **John 20:1-18**

Or **Mark 16:1-8**

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

When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. They had been saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him just as he told you." So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

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.

LOOK

Sunday 31 March 2024
John 20:1-9
Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord

In the GOSPEL TODAY

JESUS IS ALIVE!

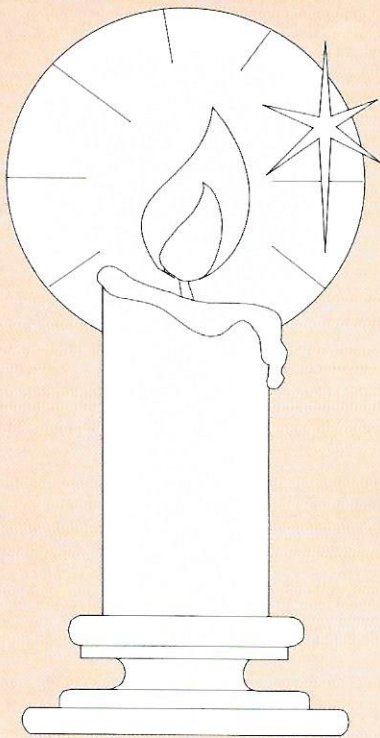
Paschal Candle

Last night the Easter candle was blessed and set alight. Jesus, our light, is risen!

Jesus is alive in 2024.

Write in the year on the candle, to match the Paschal candle in your church.

Colour the candle and flame.

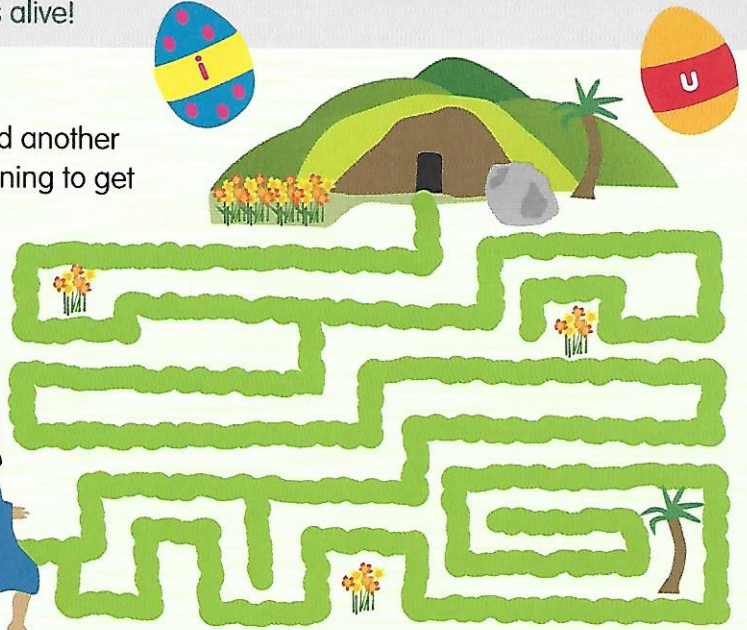


Mary goes to Jesus' tomb and finds it is empty! She runs to tell the other disciples who rush to see for themselves. Now they know it is true – Jesus has risen! He is alive!

Maze

Simon Peter and another disciple are running to get to the tomb.

Can you help them find the tomb as fast as they can?



Things to do today

Find out why we celebrate at Easter with eggs. Share some of the happiness of today by giving everyone you meet a big smile!



Hunt the egg

How many Easter eggs can you find hidden on this page? Some of the eggs have letters on them. Put the letters in the right place below to find a special announcement for today.

J _ s _ _ _ s A _ _ v _ !

Fill in the right word

_____ ran to Jesus' _____ in the _____ morning.

She _____ the _____ had been _____

and _____ had _____.

Choose the right word from this list to fill in the spaces in the sentence:

- stone
- Jesus
- rolled away
- early
- found
- Mary
- gone
- tomb

A PRAYER TO SAY

I am so happy that you are alive again, Jesus! Thank you for being here with me. Help me to spread Easter joy with everyone I meet. Amen.