



# The Shrivenham and Ashbury Benefice

'Mirroring the hospitality of God'

Vicar: The Rev'd Norma Fergusson. Tel 01793 784338  
[vicar@shrivenhamandashbury.co.uk](mailto:vicar@shrivenhamandashbury.co.uk)

Associate Vicar: The Rev'd Patrick Mabhunu. 07471 434276  
[associate.vicar@shrivenhamandashbury.co.uk](mailto:associate.vicar@shrivenhamandashbury.co.uk)

Licensed Lay Minister: Mr Richard Fergusson. Tel 07788 436831



## Sunday 21st April 2024

## Fourth Sunday of Easter

### Sunday 21st April

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

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

### Tuesday

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

### Wednesday

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

### Thursday

- 8:45am Baby & Toddler Group in St Andrew's
- 9:00am Matins. Live on Facebook
- 6:00pm Shrivenham, St Andrew  
ASK Evening Prayer
- 6:30pm Benefice Choir Practice in St Andrew's

### Friday

- 9:00am Matins. Live on [Facebook](#)
- 10:00am Coffee Morning in St Andrew's
- 2:30pm Tea-time Fellowship in St Mary's Longcot
- 3:15pm Bourton, St James  
Pinewood School Service

### Saturday 27th April

- 1:00pm Shrivenham, St Andrew  
Wedding

### Sunday 27th April

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

### 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

### Variety Concert in Celebration of St George's Day

St Andrew's Church Shrivenham  
Saturday 20th April at 7:30pm

Songs, SADS sketches, handbells, choir, Nota Bene (recorder ensemble) and more.

Tickets £10 (Under 16s £5)

On sale at Shrivenham Post Office  
[restoration-project.eventbrite.com](http://restoration-project.eventbrite.com) and on the door

Bar and Raffle

In aid of St Andrew's Restoration Project

### Can You Help?

The Bottle Tombola at Shrivenham Village Fete at the end of August is one of the major fund-raising events for St Andrew's Church General Fund.

Margaret Hern has organised this for many years but is stepping back now, so we're looking for a volunteer to take over. Please contact Margaret if you would like to know about what's involved.  
01793 782100



### Annual Parish Meeting

Ashbury Wednesday 24th April 7pm

### Community Cycle of Prayer

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

### Coffee Morning in St Andrew's Church

Friday 26th April from 10am to noon

Feel free to bring your book, your knitting or stitching, or just enjoy a chat with friends.

### Tea-time Fellowship in St Mary's Church, Longcot

Friday 26th April at 2:30pm

Everyone is welcome to join us as we enjoy a chat over afternoon tea. There is no charge but contributions to our chosen charity are always welcome.

### 'So Much More Than Sunday'

Saturday 11th May

2pm - 5pm

St Andrews Church Shrivenham

A 'Fresher's Fayre' type event to showcase the wide range of events and activities that happen in the Church. From Ask to Alpha; baby and toddler to bellringing; choir to coffee mornings; flowers to festivals; Messy Church to men's breakfast; and so, so much more....

Refreshments and guided history walks and talks around the church and churchyard to discover more about this interesting and historic building. For more information please contact [info@shrivenhamandashbury.co.uk](mailto:info@shrivenhamandashbury.co.uk)

### 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.

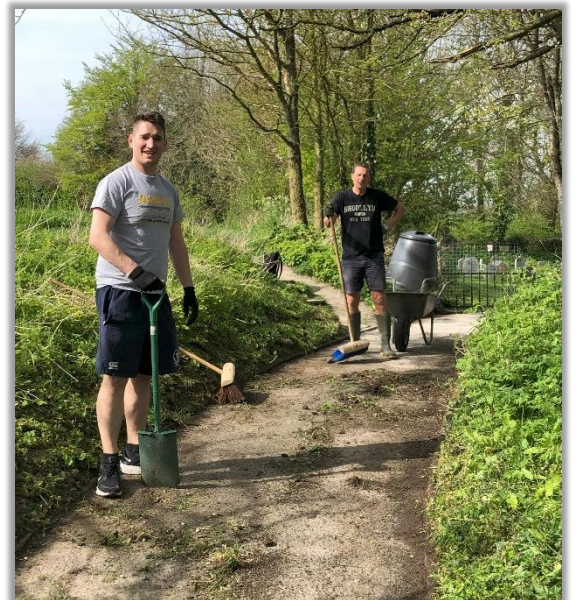
Please note all items are freely given on the understanding that all unsold items will be given to other charities as we do not have the facilities to store.

If you have any items that you are willing to donate, please contact [Louise Slater](mailto:Louise.Slater@stswithuns.org) or [Joanna Lambert](mailto:Joanna.Lambert@stswithuns.org).

Thank you!

### Ashbury Churchyard 'Spring Clean'

Thank you all so much for yet another fantastic spring clean of the old and new Churchyards and the Church car park. A new record number of 35 people helped us in this annual community project which has shown such rewards over the years. This year it was very much a consolidation of the work that had been achieved in previous years as well as the clearance of so many tree branches which had fallen over the winter.



## COLLECT

Almighty God,  
whose Son Jesus Christ is the  
resurrection and the life:  
raise us, who trust in him,  
from the death of sin to the life of  
righteousness,  
that we may seek those things which  
are above,  
where he reigns with you  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

## FIRST READING

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

Either **Acts 4:5-12**

*A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.*

The Jewish rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. This Jesus is 'the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone.' There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved."

Or **Genesis 7:1-5. 11-18; 8:6-18; 9:8-13**

## PSALM Psalm 23

**R** *The Lord is my shepherd;  
I shall not be in want.*

The Lord is my shepherd;  
I shall not be in want.  
He makes me lie down in green  
pastures  
and leads me beside still waters. **R**

He revives my soul  
and guides me along right pathways  
for his name's sake.  
Though I walk through the valley of  
the shadow of death,  
I shall fear no evil;  
for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff, they  
comfort me. **R**

You spread a table before me  
in the presence of those who  
trouble me;  
you have anointed my head with oil,  
and my cup is running over.  
Surely your goodness and mercy  
shall follow me  
all the days of my life,  
and I will dwell in the house of the  
Lord for ever. **R**

## SECOND READING

Either **1 John 3:16-end**

*A reading from the first letter of John.*

We know love by this, that the Son of God laid down his life for us – and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help? Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases God. And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. All who

obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

Or **Acts 4:5-12**

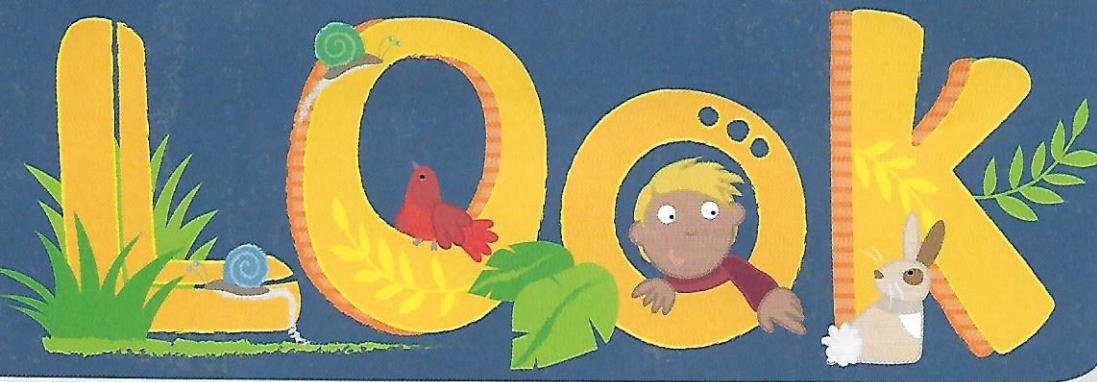
## GOSPEL John 10:11-18

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

Jesus said to the Pharisees: "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away – and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father."

## POST COMMUNION

Merciful Father,  
you gave your Son Jesus Christ to  
be the good shepherd,  
and in his love for us to lay down his  
life and rise again:  
keep us always under his protection,  
and give us grace to follow in his  
steps;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.



Sunday 21 April 2024  
 John 10:11-18  
 4th Sunday of Easter

In the  
**GOSPEL TODAY**

**THE GOOD SHEPHERD!**

Jesus says he is like a good shepherd who knows and loves each one of his sheep. He will do anything to care for them and keep them safe. Jesus loves each one of us in the same way.

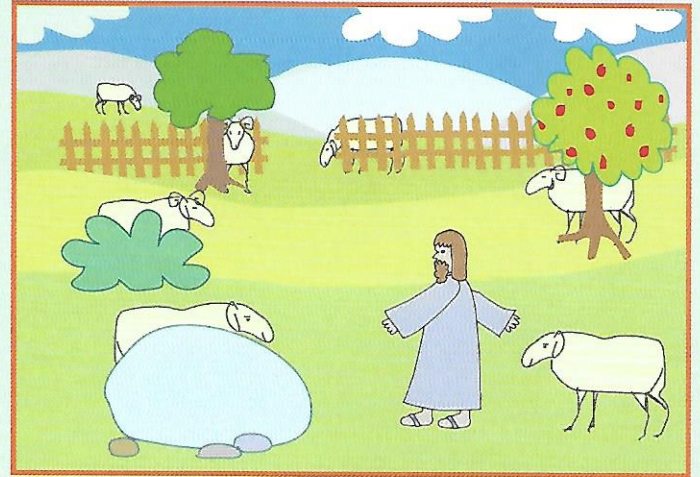
**Jesus can help**

Colour in the speech bubbles that describe how a good shepherd looks after his sheep.

- ...is kind
- ...frightens me
- ...loves me
- ...hurts me
- ...feeds me
- ...leads me
- ...runs away
- ...doesn't care
- ...looks after me when I am hurt

Some of the good shepherd's sheep are playing Hide and Seek. Can you find them?

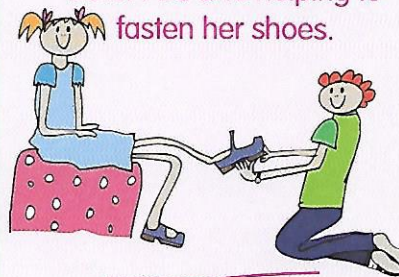
Draw a line from Jesus to the hidden sheep.



**Spot the difference**

A good shepherd takes care of the sheep.

Ethan is taking care of his sister Ava and helping to fasten her shoes.



Ethan is being a good shepherd!

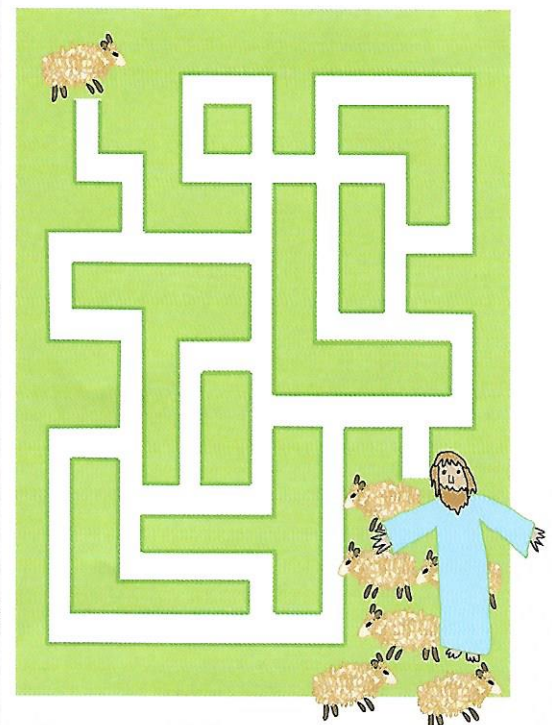


Can you find the five differences between the two pictures?

**Maze**

Jesus wants to gather all his friends together.

Can you help this lost sheep find her way back to the rest of the flock?



**A PRAYER TO SAY**

Thank you, Jesus, for looking after me. I know you are always with me. Help me to trust you. Amen.