



The Shrivenham and Ashbury Benefice

'Mirroring the hospitality of God'

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Sunday 28th April 2024

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

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

Please note that, apart from Wednesday's Morning Prayer, St Andrew's will be closed from 9am on Monday 29th April until 1:30pm on Wednesday 1st May to allow exclusive access for school pupils attending Prayer Space.

Tuesday

9:00am Morning Prayer. Live on [Facebook](#)
1:00pm Bereavement Café
5 Martens Road, Shrivenham

Wednesday 1st May

8:30am 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
2:00pm Shrivenham, St Andrew & Facebook
ASK Holy Communion
7:00pm Wednesday Study Group
St Andrew's Vicarage

Thursday

8:45am Baby & Toddler Group in St Andrew's
9:00am Matins. Live on Facebook
3:15pm Shrivenham, St Andrew
Messy Church
6:30pm Benefice Choir Practice & AGM
in St Andrew's

Friday

9:00am Matins. Live on [Facebook](#)
3:15pm Bourton, St James
Pinewood School Service

Saturday

10:00am Bourton, St James
Family Service
1:00pm Shrivenham, St Andrew
Baptism

Polling Station in St Mary's Church Longcot

The Community Hub will be used as the polling station for the election of the Police and Crime Commissioner on Thursday 2nd May. Although entry to the 'Hub' and the area around the font is restricted to those who are voting, the Vale of White Horse District Council have agreed that access to the Chancel will still be possible for those who want a moment of reflection or to pray.

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Sunday 5th May

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

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



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

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.

'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

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!

Blessing the Newly Opened Shrivenham C of E Primary School



COLLECT

Almighty God,
who through your only-begotten Son
Jesus Christ
have overcome death and opened to us
the gate of everlasting life:
grant that, as by your grace going before
us you put into our minds good desires,
so by your continual help
we may bring them to good effect;
through Jesus Christ our risen 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 read as either the First or Second Reading.

Either **Acts 8:26-end**

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

An angel of the Lord said to Philip,
"Get up and go toward the south to the
road that goes down from Jerusalem
to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.)
So he got up and went. Now there was
an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of
the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians,
in charge of her entire treasury. He had
come to Jerusalem to worship and was
returning home; seated in his chariot,
he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then
the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this
chariot and join it." So Philip ran up to
it and heard him reading the prophet
Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand
what you are reading?" He replied, "How
can I, unless someone guides me?" And
he invited Philip to get in and sit beside
him. Now the passage of the scripture
that he was reading was this: "Like a
sheep he was led to the slaughter, and
like a lamb silent before its shearer,
so he does not open his mouth. In his
humiliation justice was denied him. Who
can describe his generation? For his life is
taken away from the earth." The eunuch
asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask
you, does the prophet say this, about
himself or about someone else?" Then
Philip began to speak, and starting with
this scripture, he proclaimed to him the
good news about Jesus. As they were
going along the road, they came to some
water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here
is water! What is to prevent me from
being baptized?" He commanded the
chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip
and the eunuch, went down into the
water, and Philip baptized him. When
they came up out of the water, the Spirit
of the Lord snatched Philip away; the

eunuch saw him no more, and went on
his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself
at Azotus, and as he was passing through
the region, he proclaimed the good
news to all the towns until he came to
Caesarea.

Or **Baruch 3:9-15. 32 – 4:4**

Or **Genesis 22:1-18**

PSALM Psalm 22:25-end

R *All the ends of the earth shall turn to
you, O Lord.*

My praise is of him in the great assembly,
I will perform my vows
in the presence of those who worship
him.

The poor shall eat and be satisfied,
and those who seek the Lord shall praise
him:

"May your heart live for ever!" **R**

All the ends of the earth
shall remember and turn to the Lord,
and all the families of the nations
shall bow before him.

For kingship belongs to the Lord;
he rules over the nations. **R**

To him alone all who sleep in the earth
bow down in worship;
all who go down to the dust fall before
him.

My soul shall live for him;
my descendants shall serve him;
they shall be known as the Lord's for ever.
They shall come and make known to a
people yet unborn
the saving deeds that he has done. **R**

SECOND READING

Either **1 John 4:7-end**

A reading from the first letter of John.

Beloved, let us love one another, because
love is from God; everyone who loves is
born of God and knows God. Whoever
does not love does not know God, for
God is love. God's love was revealed
among us in this way: God sent his only
Son into the world so that we might live
through him. In this is love, not that we
loved God but that he loved us and sent
his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for
our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so
much, we also ought to love one another.
No one has ever seen God; if we love one
another, God lives in us, and his love is
perfected in us. By this we know that we
abide in him and he in us, because he has
given us of his Spirit. And we have seen
and do testify that the Father has sent
his Son as the Saviour of the world. God

abides in those who confess that Jesus is
the Son of God, and they abide in God.
So we have known and believe the love
that God has for us. God is love, and
those who abide in love abide in God,
and God abides in them. Love has been
perfected among us in this: that we may
have boldness on the day of judgement,
because as he is, so are we in this world.
There is no fear in love, but perfect love
casts out fear; for fear has to do with
punishment, and whoever fears has not
reached perfection in love. We love
because he first loved us. Those who say,
"I love God," and hate their brothers or
sisters, are liars; for those who do not love
a brother or sister whom they have seen,
cannot love God whom they have not
seen. The commandment we have from
him is this: those who love God must love
their brothers and sisters also.

Or **Acts 8:26-end**

GOSPEL John 15:1-8

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

Jesus said to his disciples: "I am the true
vine, and my Father is the vine-grower.
He removes every branch in me that
bears no fruit. Every branch that bears
fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit.
You have already been cleansed by the
word that I have spoken to you. Abide in
me as I abide in you. Just as the branch
cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides
in the vine, neither can you unless you
abide in me. I am the vine, you are the
branches. Those who abide in me and I
in them bear much fruit, because apart
from me you can do nothing. Whoever
does not abide in me is thrown away
like a branch and withers; such branches
are gathered, thrown into the fire, and
burned. If you abide in me, and my words
abide in you, ask for whatever you wish,
and it will be done for you. My Father is
glorified by this, that you bear much fruit
and become my disciples."

POST COMMUNION

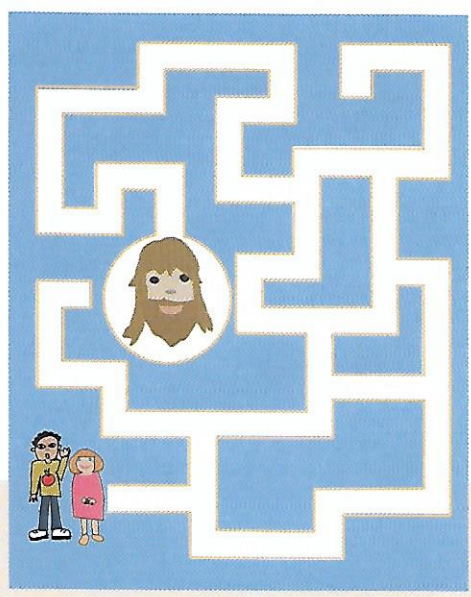
Eternal God,
whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the
truth, and the life:
grant us to walk in his way,
to rejoice in his truth,
and to share his risen life;
who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.



In the
GOSPEL TODAY

Maze

We need to stay with Jesus. He will help us to love other people. Can you find your way to Jesus through this maze?



Jesus says that he is like a vine and we are the branches. If we are attached to the vine, we will grow lots of fruit. The fruit we grow is all the good things we do.

I AM THE VINE!

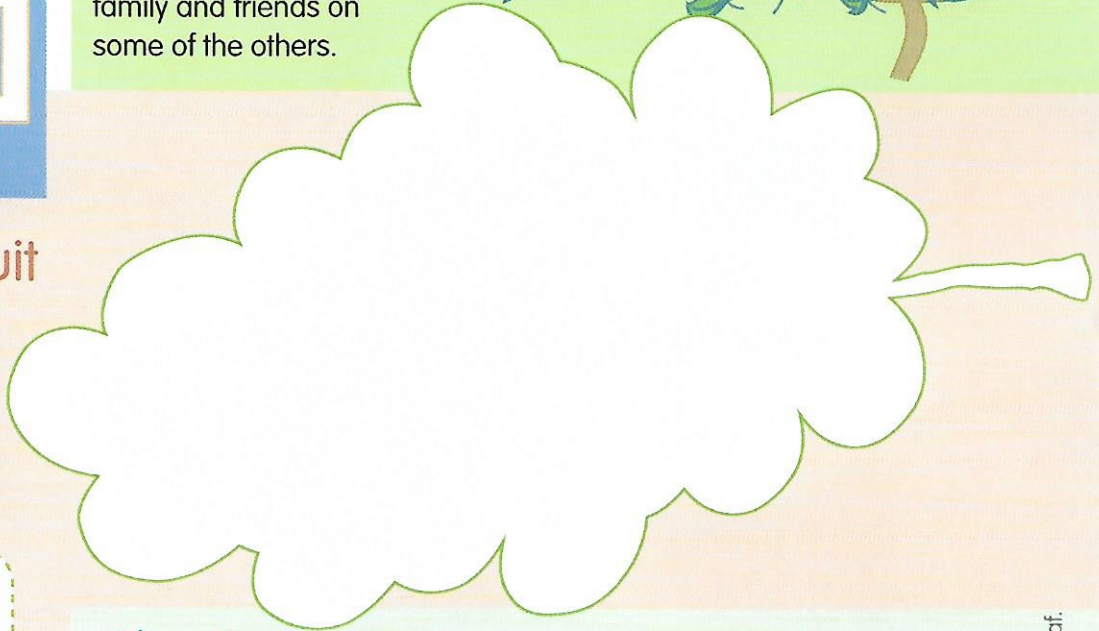
Jesus is like a vine and we are like the bunches of grapes!

Draw your face on one of the bunches of grapes - and the faces of your family and friends on some of the others.



Growing Jesus' fruit

When we love Jesus we try to do what he asks. We are growing Jesus' fruit when we love other people. Draw a picture of you helping someone.



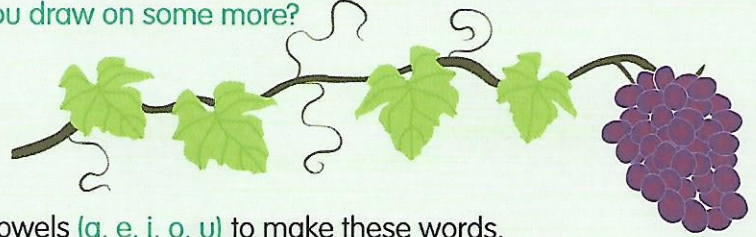
"I will share Jesus' love this week when I..."

A PRAYER TO SAY

Help me to grow good fruit, Jesus. Help me to be kind today. Help me to always trust you and stay in your care. Amen.

That's grape!

This vine only has one bunch of grapes growing on it. Can you draw on some more?



Add vowels (a, e, i, o, u) to make these words.

v_n_ br_nch fr__t gr_p_ l__f

Draw lines from the labels to the right place on the picture.

Answers: That's grape: vine, branch, fruit, grape, leaf.