



The Shrivenham and Ashbury Benefice

"Mirroring the hospitality of God"

Sunday 9th May 6th Sunday of Easter

Vicar: The Rev'd Norma Fergusson. Tel 01793 784338

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Licensed Lay Minister: Mr Richard Fergusson. Tel 07788 436831



Please remember that, even though many of us have now had one or more vaccinations, the coronavirus is still circulating and we can still transmit it.

So, face coverings are mandatory, and you should either scan the NHS test and trace QR code or use the sign-in sheets on entering. Hand sanitiser is available and remember to maintain social distancing.

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

Sunday 9th

Christian Aid Week

- 9:30am Watchfield, St Thomas & [Facebook](#).
Holy Communion (BCP).
9:30am Longcot, St Mary. Family Communion.
10:45am Shrivenham, St Andrew.
Holy Communion.
11:00am Ashbury, St Mary.
Morning Prayer.

Canon Paul Richardson is giving today's sermon.

Watch on [Facebook](#) or [YouTube](#) from 9am.

Tuesday

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

Wednesday

- 9:00am Shrivenham, St Andrew & [Facebook](#).
Morning Prayer
10:30am The Wisdom House via Zoom.
7:00pm Ashbury APCM via Zoom.
Please contact Roger Simons (01793 710801) for the Zoom link if you would like to attend.

Thursday

Ascension Day

- 9:00am Matins. Live on [Facebook](#).
10:00am Ashbury, St Mary & [Facebook](#).
Holy Communion.

Sunday 16th

- 7:45am Shrivenham, St Andrew.
Holy Communion (BCP).
9:00am Compton Beauchamp, St Swithun.
Matins (BCP).
9:30am Watchfield, St Thomas.
Matins (BCP).
10:00am Bourton, St James & [Facebook](#).
Holy Communion.
10:45am Shrivenham, St Andrew.
Morning Prayer.
11:00am Ashbury, St Mary.
Third Sunday Service.
6:00pm Longcot, St Mary. Choral Evensong with Choir for the Flower Festival.

Due to Covid restrictions seats must be reserved in advance. Please call 07958 378822 to book.

Ashbury Cycle of Prayer

Please pray this week for all who live and work in Walnut Trees Hill.

Christian Aid Week

10-16 May 2021



Photo: Christian Aid/Adam Finch

This climate crisis hurts us all. But people living in poverty fight the worst of it every day. From drought to flooding, climate change robs people of control over their lives. Extreme weather means people are struggling to survive without a reliable source of water.

Your gift could help a community build an earth dam, so when the rains do come, they will have the water they need to live. A reliable source of water will help families withstand long drought or relentless rainstorms. Every gift can change lives.

To support Christian Aid this year, go to christianaid.org.uk. Thank you

Annual Parish Meetings

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|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Ashbury | Wednesday 12th May 7pm |
| Shrivenham, W & B | Wednesday 2nd June 7:30pm |
| Compton Beauchamp | Saturday 12th June 11am |
| Longcot & Fernham | Wednesday 14th July 7pm |

Meetings will be held in church if permitted by regulations in place at the time, otherwise via Zoom.
All welcome

If you would like to become a member of your PCC, please contact the PCC Secretary or churchwarden.

Parish Electoral Rolls are being updated before the meetings. If you would like to join the Roll or your contact details have changed, please contact your church's PCC Secretary or Churchwarden.

Our condolences to the family and friends of the late Andy Wallace and Arthur Bailey who died recently. Please keep them in your prayers.

Longcot Flower Festival

Saturday 15th to Sunday 23rd May

St Mary's Church will be open daily from 10am to 4pm



'A Village Celebration'

The 1940's theme with its street party and designs featuring Longcot tales will be a bright welcome back to the annual flower festival.

Ascension Day

Thursday 13th May is Ascension Day, which Malcolm Guite calls "the glorious finale of the Easter Season" coming as it does 40 days after Easter Day. Guite's sonnet (which can be found in *Sounding the Seasons*, published by Canterbury Press) is written from the perspective of the disciples who had witnessed Jesus being "lifted up before their very eyes" as it says in Acts – probably not immediately, but once they had time to absorb what had happened; time to realise the wonderful truth that "we were not parted – he took us with him to the heart of things."

*We saw his light break through the cloud of glory
Whilst we were rooted still in time and place
As earth became a part of Heaven's story
And heaven opened to his human face.
We saw him go and yet we were not parted
He took us with him to the heart of things
The heart that broke for all the broken-hearted
Is whole and Heaven-centred now, and sings,
Sings in the strength that rises out of weakness,
Sings through the clouds that veil him from our sight,
Whilst we our selves become his clouds of witness
And sing the waning darkness into light,
His light in us, and ours in him concealed,
Which all creation waits to see revealed.*

Join Paul for a service of Holy Communion at 10am in St Mary's Ashbury as we celebrate this wonderful event in the history of the church.

Our churches will be open for private prayer from 9th to 16th May as follows:

Ashbury 10am – 4pm on Thursday
Compton Beauchamp 9am – 5pm daily
Longcot 10am – 3pm on Wednesday
Shrivenham 9am – 5pm daily
and to view the Easter Garden.

Watchfield 10am – 4pm on Wednesday
If you have donations for the Faringdon Food Bank please leave them in the box provided.

Longcot Village Trust Concerts

St. Mary's Church, Longcot on Saturday 22nd May

The two concerts by the Clarinet Collective in aid of the Longcot Village Trust fund to build a community space in St Mary's Church are now fully booked.

If you would like to make a donation to the LVT Fund please visit <https://gofund.me/84c06298>

Annual Covenant Service

The Anglican and Methodist churches will come together for our annual covenant service on Sunday 23rd May at 3pm in St Andrew's Churchyard.



Actually, the plural "covenants" would be more accurate (if less grammatical) as we celebrate both the covenant we have made as churches to work together in Shrivenham and also the covenant we all make, as Christians, with God. Sometimes we need to be reminded that, in the words of the covenant prayer:

We are no longer our own but yours.

*I am no longer my own but yours.
Put me to what you will, rank me with whom you will;
put me to doing, put me to suffering;
let me be employed for you or laid aside for you,
exalted for you or brought low for you;
let me be full, let me be empty, let me have all things,
let me have nothing;
I freely and wholeheartedly yield all things to your
pleasure and disposal.
And now, glorious and blessed God, Father, Son and
Holy Spirit, you are mine and I am yours.
So be it.
And the covenant now made on earth,
let it be ratified in heaven.
Amen.*