



The Shrivenham and Ashbury Benefice

“Mirroring the hospitality of God”

Sunday 4th April Easter Sunday

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

vicar@shrivenhamandashbury.co.uk

Associate Vicar: The Rev'd Canon Paul Richardson. Tel 01793 710241

associate.vicar@shrivenhamandashbury.co.uk

Licensed Lay Minister: Mr Richard Fergusson. Tel 07788 436831



Service details were accurate at the time of publication. Please visit the [Benefice website](#) for up-to-date information.

Easter Eve Saturday 3rd April

10:00am Bourton, St James
Family Service for Easter
8:00pm Shrivenham, St Andrew's Churchyard
Lighting the Easter Fire.
Also live on [Facebook](#).

Easter Sunday 4th April

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

Richard Fergusson is giving today's sermon.
Watch on [Facebook](#) or [YouTube](#) from 9am.

Wednesday

2:00pm Shrivenham, St Andrew & [Facebook](#).
ASK Holy Communion

Thursday

10:00am Ashbury, St Mary & [Facebook](#).
Holy Communion.

Sunday 11th April

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

Our churches will be open for private prayer from 5th - 11th April as follows:

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

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.



Dear friends, Easter has arrived! Alleluia, Christ is Risen. He is Risen indeed, Alleluia! Easter speaks of liberation and freedom. Just as the Hebrew people celebrated Passover as their freedom from slavery in Egypt, so Easter speaks to all of us of our freedom from sin and death.

It is more than a year since we first went into Lockdown in the face of the coronavirus pandemic which has gripped the entire world. Now, by adhering to the restrictions imposed upon us, and with the roll out of vaccines, freedoms are beginning to be restored. The pandemic has been a reminder to us of the need for salvation from an invisible, but real, and universal agency, Covid 19. The vaccines mean that we can live our normal lives once again.

Jesus's life, death, and rising again, is God's answer to the universal condition of sin and death which prevents us from enjoying life in all its fulness. Through God's loving action in Jesus, we can be truly *fully* alive. On Holy Saturday, Easter Eve, Jesus has been locked away, restricted within the tomb, but at Easter he breaks out with the power of resurrection life.

As we emerge from our lockdown spaces, we can do so in the strength and joy of Jesus resurrection life.

We can discover new ways of loving and serving others, new ways of living our lives to the full.

If this does not warrant an Alleluia! I do not know what would.

Alleluia, Christ is Risen. He is Risen indeed, Alleluia!
Paul



Thank you so much to everyone who helped to make the Easter Garden in St Andrew's on Good Friday.
More pictures on our [website](#) and [Facebook](#).

Canon Paul Richardson will be off duty from Monday 5th April until Saturday 10th April.

The Benefice Administrator will be off duty from 5th April until 10th April. Emails will be checked daily.

Please contact Rev'd Fergusson for pastoral issues, and your local churchwarden for other church enquiries.

Our condolences to the family and friends of the late Tony Moore who died recently. Please keep them in your prayers.

#Do1NiceThing - A Challenge for Lent 2021

Theme of the week: The heart of the matter

3rd: Easter Saturday – traditionally the day for tending graves. Is there a neglected grave in your churchyard you could weed or put flowers on?
4th: Easter Day – thank God for today

Ashbury Cycle of Prayer

Please pray this week for all who live and work in Berrycroft.

Palm Sunday

It was wonderful to see St Andrew's churchyard so full of people prepared to brave the cold wind to join in our Palm Sunday service – and, thanks to a last-minute relaxation of the rules on outdoor singing, they really could join in. I'm not sure whether the wind carried the songs to Pennyhooks where the donkeys were walking, but it would be nice to think that it did. We were also delighted to welcome the High Sheriff, Amanda Ponsonby, MBE, on one of the last visits of her year in office. Not only did she win the children's hearts by sharing her tax of golden coins, she also presented Lucy Laird with an award for her contribution to community life during the past year.

