



# The Shrevenham and Ashbury Benefice

“Mirroring the hospitality of God”

## Sunday 28th March Palm Sunday

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**Service details were accurate at the time of publication. Please visit the [Benefice website](http://www.shrivenhamandashbury.co.uk) for up-to-date information.**

### **Palm Sunday 28th March**

9:00am Ashbury, St Mary & live on [Facebook](#).  
Holy Communion.  
10:15am Shrevenham, St Andrew's Churchyard.  
Palm Sunday Service.  
Also live on [Facebook](#).

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

### **Monday**

7:45pm Shrevenham, St Andrew & [Facebook](#).  
Compline for Lent.

### **Tuesday**

9:00am Morning Prayer. Live on [Facebook](#).  
7:45pm Shrevenham, St Andrew & [Facebook](#).  
Compline for Lent.

### **Wednesday**

9:00am Shrevenham, St Andrew & [Facebook](#).  
Morning Prayer.  
10:30am The Prayer Course via Zoom.  
7:45pm Shrevenham, St Andrew & [Facebook](#).  
Compline for Lent.

### **Maundy Thursday**

7:00pm Shrevenham, St Andrew & [Facebook](#).  
Holy Communion.

### **Good Friday**

Canon Paul Richardson's Reflection for Good Friday.  
Watch on [Facebook](#) or [YouTube](#) from 9am.

10:00am Shrevenham, St Andrew's Churchyard  
Children's Easter Garden  
See page 2 for details.  
12 noon Longcot, St Mary. Reflection  
2:00pm Ashbury, St Mary. Reflection  
3:00pm C. Beauchamp, St Swithun. Reflection

### **Easter Eve**

10:00am Bourton, St James  
Family Service for Easter  
8:00pm Shrevenham, 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 Shrevenham, St Andrew & [Facebook](#)  
Holy Communion.  
10:00am Watchfield, St Thomas  
Holy Communion (BCP)  
11:00am Ashbury, St Mary  
Holy Communion.



**Palm Sunday Greetings from Pennyhooks Farm**  
Sorry we can't be with you this year.

### **This Time Last Year**

Just over a year ago on 15th March 2020, Norma led the monthly Communion service in Bourton Church. On impulse, Sarah, the warden there, recorded the sermon on her phone. The theme was Mothering Sunday, and a week later, when the rest of the Benefice celebrated Mothering Sunday, we posted the recording on Facebook. Who could have imagined then what that would be the start of? In the year since, we have posted a total of 102 sermons and other reflections, 231 services and 34 other events – enough for a post every day of the year. And for most of those there have been readings and orders of service available on our website. A huge amount of work, by many, many people, not least Lucy and Sarah, who have been the driving force throughout.

We can now live-stream worship from at least 5 of our churches, and, as we slowly, cautiously re-open them for live worship, we shall continue to use that capability to reach those for whom visiting church in person remains a step too far. When we tested the stream from Longcot, we had reactions from people on-line just in the few seconds we were 'on air' – an indication of just how vital this line of communication is in reaching our wider community.

A quote from the Bangtan Boys (a S Korean boyband, Google tells me), which gained currency over the last year says: "The only reason you should ever look back is to see how far you've come." I'm not sure I entirely agree, but, as we do reflect on a year of pandemic and lockdown, on everything and everybody we have lost, let's remember also what, out of hardship and necessity, we have achieved.

And how we might use our regained freedoms to do things better, more effectively, but also more generously, more lovingly, in the days to come.

Richard

