



The Shrivenham and Ashbury Benefice

“Mirroring the hospitality of God”

Sunday 11th April 2nd Sunday of Easter



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God of our lives, we give thanks for the life of Prince Philip, for his love of our country, and for his devotion to duty. We entrust him now to your love and mercy, through our Redeemer Jesus Christ. Amen.

Details of the funeral arrangements will be published in due course.

There will be a Civic memorial service, with restricted, invited attendance the day before the Funeral, streamed live on the Christ Church Cathedral YouTube channel here: www.chch.ox.ac.uk/oxfords-cathedral/online-worship.

We will advise local arrangements nearer the time.

Flags on Benefice churches will remain flying at half-mast, and bells will be rung half-muffled until after the Funeral.

We cannot currently host physical books of condolence as it is not safe to do so. There are online condolence books here: <https://www.churchofengland.org/rememering-his-royal-highness-prince-philip> or here: <https://www.royal.uk/>

We are also discouraged from the laying of flowers. A donation to the Duke of Edinburgh Award, to help young people emerge from the lockdown successfully, can be made here: www.dofe.org/donate/.

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 11th April

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

Rev'd Norma Fergusson 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

Thursday

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

Friday

5:30pm Worship and Praise. Live via Zoom.

Sunday 18th

Generosity Week
 7:45am Shrivenham, St Andrew.
 Holy Communion (BCP)
 9:00am C. Beauchamp, St Swithun.
 Matins (BCP).
 9:30am Watchfield, St Thomas. Matins (BCP).
 9:30am Longcot, St Mary. Morning Prayer.
 10:00am Bourton, St James. Holy Communion.
 11:00am Ashbury, St Mary & [Facebook](#).
 Holy Communion.
 5:30pm Shrivenham, St Andrew & [Facebook](#).
 Evensong (BCP). With Choir

Our churches will be open for private prayer from 11th - 18th April 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

Bishop Gavin's Consecration

Lambeth Palace Chapel

9:45am on Wednesday 14th April

Please pray for our new Bishop, Gavin, on Wednesday 14th April. Although attendance at the service is restricted, we are invited to join in on YouTube.

The link is: <https://youtu.be/CpciMAW6cWA>

Our condolences to the family and friends of the late Gwendoline Elizabeth Wheeler and Caroline Stevenson who both died recently. Please keep them in your prayers.

Ashbury Cycle of Prayer

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

Rev'd Norma & Richard Fergusson will be off duty from Monday 12th April until Saturday 17th April.

Please contact Canon Richardson for pastoral issues, and the Benefice Administrator or your local churchwarden for other church enquiries.

Benefice Generosity Week 18th – 25th April 2021

Giving and generosity are inextricably linked with living out the Christian faith. Giving at its core is in the nature of God – and we see this woven throughout the Bible in many guises.

Generosity is not just about giving financially, although that does form a part of generosity when exploring stewardship and material possessions. The link between living out the Christian faith means exploring what it means to live a generous life – through hospitality, time, attentiveness, and many other attributes. It is about our state of heart, and the relationship we have between material and spiritual things.

Giving is a matter of discipleship, and so, when it comes to our thinking around generosity, we must centre our reflections around our calling as disciples, to follow in Jesus' footsteps and grow together to become the Church he calls us to be.

This is why, **from 18th to 25th April, we are holding a Benefice Generosity Week.** Our Sunday worship on the 18th will focus on "Generosity" and on 25th the focus will be "Gratitude". Every day we will offer Morning Prayer, a link to a Podcast, and an "Act of Generosity or Gratitude" for all of us to consider. In order to think about our own generosity, we must begin by reflecting on the generous nature of God, and how we respond to that with gratitude and grace. Our giving, in its broadest sense, then contributes to enabling God's mission, and reveals the generosity and glory of God in the communities in which we are set. As we learn to give freely and with grace, we then grow as disciples and in Christ-likeness. Despite this, giving and generosity is something we find challenging to talk about in our churches.

We have inherited a culture where we tend to approach the subject only when we reach financial difficulties, and often cautiously or even apologetically.

Our habit when thinking about giving is regularly done through a transactional lens, and it's often easy to forget to explore the joy, mission and expression of grace which the outpouring of generosity enables.

We are invited to embrace the joy of a culture of generosity, grounded on a response to God's generosity to us. Alike to anything of this nature, it will take time, prayer, and a commitment to shift our way of thinking.

Auction of Promises

The villagers of Bourton have come together to celebrate generosity by holding an Auction of Promises. Villagers have offered their time and skills in an effort to raise money for St James church.

From a forklift truck driving course to a professionally baked cake, from opera singing to gardening - we've discovered that Bourton is not only generous, but talented too! The catalogue of lots is available now and bids can be submitted until 24th April. You can find details on the village website bourton-oxon.org.uk or email us at jbourton6@gmail.com. Happy bidding!

Shrivenham plans an "Open Gardens" on Sunday 4th July, 2021. Anyone who would be willing to open their garden please contact Julian Stevens .

Easter Flowers

Our churches looked stunning this year.



Thank you, Maggie, for this lovely photo of Ashbury's Easter Garden. The whole church looked lovely!



St Andrew's had some stunning Easter lilies ...



... as did St Mary's Longcot