

PLEASE PRAY FOR...

We will be publishing the full list of those who have requested prayer on every 1st Sunday of the month from now on, but in the intervening weeks, we will publish only new requests. The full list will continue to be prayed for in the meantime.

The health and healing of Gordon and Angela Handley, Ellie Donegan.

Friends and Family mourning for John Sherrell, John Lindon, Katy Sutton-Ring, June Bunce.

Those living at Letcombe Hill in East Challow; Brookside in East Hanney; North Green in West Hanney; Sharland Close, Evenlode Close & Shannon Close in Grove.

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR MORNING PRAYER

Mon	Psalm 30	Genesis 37.1-11	Galatians 1
Tue	Psalm 36	Genesis 37.12-end	Galatians 2.1-10
Wed	Psalm 34	ASH WEDNESDAY	ASH WEDNESDAY
Thu	Psalm 37	Genesis 39	Galatians 2.11-end
Fri	Psalm 31	Genesis 40	Galatians 3.1-14
Sat	Psalm 42	Genesis 41.1-24	Galatians 3.15-22

Prayer for the Nation Psalm 23 - a source of strength

Psalm 23 has been a source of strength for thousands of years. Let's pause and say it every day at 6 pm through this crisis we now face.

When we are isolated and alone, we remember God is with us; we place our hands in his hands...

> The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.

When we are tired and confused...

> He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters;

When we are worn out with worry...

> He restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.

When we are sick and afraid and if we lose those we love...

> Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff - they comfort me.

When we face difficulties today and we hope for a better tomorrow...

> You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

In the face of trouble & difficulty of all kinds, we remember Jesus' promise of life beyond death...

> Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.



Finish reading Psalm 23 with the Lord's Prayer. Bible verses used here are NRSV, the commentary is by the Rt Revd Dr Steven Croft, Bishop of Oxford.

CONTACT DETAILS

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VALE BENEFICE NEWSLETTER



Sunday 14th February 2021 Sunday Next before Lent

2 Kings 2:1-12 | 2 Corinthians 4:3-6 | Mark 9: 2-9

It won't be possible this year to mark the beginning of Lent with putting ashes on foreheads on Wednesday, but perhaps we don't need to be reminded that Lent is a season of sorrow. Life is pretty subdued at the moment. However, before we enter the forty days, our Gospel reading encourages us with an account of Jesus' transfiguration on the mountain before he began his long journey to his execution. It brings with it an affirmation of his Father's love and authority. Perhaps like Elisha, and the three disciples, we need to see the glory to sustain us in the hard days yet to come.

Our shared worship Sunday 14th February

9am – Zoom Traditional Service – Rev John Durant & Rev Nicholas Cheeseman
10am – Zoom Benefice Eucharist Service – Rev Nicholas Cheeseman
11am – Zoom Family Service – Rev Alec Gill & Rev John Durant

UPCOMING SERVICES

Ash Wednesday - Wednesday 17th February

8pm – Zoom Holy Communion Service – Rev John Durant and Rev Alec Gill

Sunday 21st February

9am – Zoom Traditional Service – Rev Chris Ashton
10am – Zoom Holy Communion Service – Rev John Durant and Rev Chris Ashton

There will be no physical Sunday Services in the Benefice at present, however, this will be reviewed. Thank you all for your patience & understanding.

BENEFICE NEWS

Churches have permission to open for private prayer, provided they can be cleaned, and free of any risk of passing on infection. Please do not attend with any symptoms.

The details of our Benefice churches for private prayer are as follows.

St John the Baptist, Grove please contact one of the clergy to arrange.

St James The Great, West Hanney is open during the hours of daylight.

St Nicholas, East Challow is open for during daylight hours.

St James, Denchworth please contact one of the clergy to arrange.

THE CHURCH OFFICE is closed to visitors, but we will still respond to phone calls and emails. Please leave a message and we will respond as soon as possible.

BENEFICE SERVICES ON ZOOM: Log in details/links

Sunday 9am Services need a specific link/details to log in.

Sunday 10am Services & **Wednesday 7.30pm** Evening Prayer Services share a specific link/details to log in.

Sunday 11am Family Services require a specific separate link to log in.

If you wish to have the details to log in emailed to you every week, contact the Benefice Office and we will add you to the distribution list.

LENT COURSE: "THE BIBLE COURSE" Running on Zoom on Wednesday evenings from the 24th of February, will be a course on the bible. We'll think about its impact, usage, and the wonderful story running through it. A great chance to refresh our knowledge of the bible and to get excited about it again! The one-hour sessions (19:30-20:30) will follow a similar format to previous courses. Please contact the Office or Chris Ashton if you would like to come or to know more.

SUGGESTED LENT BOOKS:

The Bible Course manual - contact Rev Chris Ashton if you wish to order one.

Living His Story - by Hannah Steele - The Archbishop of Canterbury's 2021 Lent book. Revealing the extraordinary love of God in ordinary ways.

Rooted and Grounded - edited by Rt Revd Dr Steven Croft (Bishop of Oxford). published in 2019 by Canterbury Press Norwich. Faith formation & the Christian tradition. Belief that laying good foundations of faith in the lives of enquirers and new Christians is the most important priority for the church today.

Fruitfulness on the Frontline by Mark Greene. Making a difference where you are. Contact Cornerstone office@cornerstonegrove.org.uk to order. Please be aware there will be a lead time and you will receive it at some point after the start of Lent.

HANNEY PCC: At our Hanney PCC we authorised the worship committee to review out Pattern of services and affirmed the suspension of our Sunday services hoping to celebrate easter with an Open Air Service; agreed to the possibility of an electronic log book; acknowledged our thanks to WHPC for improving the parking outside church; thanked those who organised our Outdoor Christmas Services; were encouraged to consider who might be the Project Leader of funding our reordering; approved our Safeguarding Policy but acknowledged we need to find a PSO; approved the Independent Examiner agreed to be generous in contributing to costs for the Curate; received the report from St James school and children's report; set the date for the APCM as 18th April and approved the improvement to the guide book and the examination of the chancel brasses.

WEST HANNEY PARISH COUNCIL ask you to please note "works" commence outside St James the Great church, West Hanney, **from Wednesday 10th February for about one week.** Please do not park there during these works, as your vehicle may be damaged whilst works are in progress. Alternative Car parking is available at The Plough car park adjacent. Apologies for any inconvenience.

GROVE & WANTAGE SCHOOLS PRAYER While we can't meet in person, we are keeping in touch by email to keep praying for our local schools in these tough times. If you would like to join the email list, please contact John Wilson.

We will also be running a **Zoom School's Prayer Meeting on Wednesday 17th February (10.30am-11am).** If you would like the details to join, please contact Helen Harwood on andrewandhelenharwood@yahoo.co.uk

PRAYERS please continue to pray for Ellie and her family as her operation is now expected to be on Monday 15th February. Thank you.

ST JOHN'S CHURCH CRAFTS FUNDRAISING - Sue and Emma have updated the Crafts for St Johns on the church website. Please pay it a visit and have a look at what's on offer. More items will follow in due course.

<http://www.groveparishchurch.org.uk/2020/11/craft-sale/>

CORNERSTONE NEWS As you know we are unfortunately closed at the moment, but emails are being monitored on a weekly basis (office@cornerstonegrove.org.uk). You can also keep up to date via our [Facebook](#) page. Please do continue to pray for Sarah and the staff while they are on furlough.

THE MIX@CORNERSTONE In an exciting new initiative we have become a satellite hub for The Mix Community Fridge. This will be every Thursday (2-3pm) providing bags of good, surplus food to help reduce food waste.

FOOD BANK Thank you all for your continued support. Non perishable / in-date food items still required. Drop at Sainsbury's, Waitrose, or 28, Warmans Close.

LITTLE PEOPLE Thank you for donations received. Still need warm clothes for girls (12-18 months) & (5-6 yrs) & boys (8-9 yrs). Also "cot duvets" & clean single bedding (duvet, sheets & pillowcases) for an early teen boy. Request for a set of bunk beds or a truckle bed (a single 'put you up which fits under a single bed) and Xtra Xtra large men's jogging bottoms, t-shirts, warm coat & sweatshirts. Thank you. Please contact jackymattam@btinternet.com or the Benefice Office on 01235 771479 if you can help.

STAFF VACANCY Grove CE School are looking for a Caretaker to join their staff team. The paid post is 8 hours per week to start after the half term. If you or anyone you know would like more information, please contact the school office at office.3228@grove.oxon.sch.uk

USED STAMPS for Denchworth Church Please don't throw away old/used stamps! Please leave with the Benefice Office to help raise money for Denchworth church. Stamps that are left on envelopes sometimes raise more money! Thank you.

USED STAMPS for the Leprosy Mission Please leave at Benefice Office for Peter Rich. Used stamps can help transform the life of someone affected by leprosy.

PRAYER REQUESTS If anyone has specific prayer requests, please email confidentially to; prayer@valebenefice.org.uk

NEWSLETTER, please send notices to; news@valebenefice.org.uk by 10pm on a Wednesday. Only include personal information if you consent to it being included / published.