



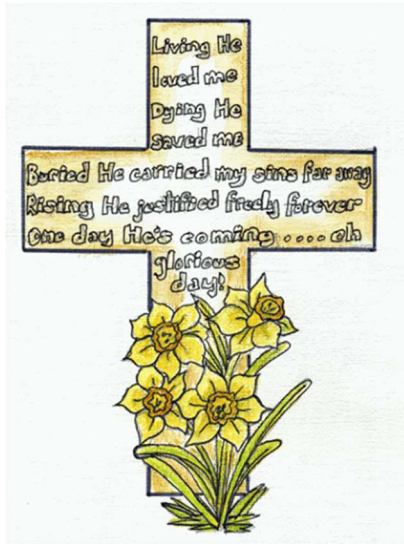
## PLEASE PRAY FOR...

We will publish the full list of those who have requested prayer 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 Margaret Ireson, Denise Sawyer, John Sherrell, John Lindon, Katy Sutton-Ring, June Bunce, Ron Watkins, Jill Straiton, Pam Lidsey and Martin Walkley.

**Those living at** Sarajac Avenue and Main Street in East Challow; Crown Meadow in East Hanney; Savile Way, Farmstead Close and Rosebay Crescent in Grove.



## CONTACT DETAILS

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# VALE BENEFICE NEWSLETTER



## Sunday 28th February 2021 Second Sunday of Lent

*Genesis 17: 1-7 & 15-16 | Romans 4: 13-25 | Mark 8: 31-38*

Abram is told to "walk before me and be blameless." David tells the people to glorify God. Jesus tells his would-be disciples to "deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me". But what do they mean in practice? Monday is St David's Day.

In his last sermon he put it like this, "Gwnewch y pethau bychain mewn bywyd"! i.e., "do the little things in life". Which "reminds us that the primary things for us are the relationships around us, the need to work at what's under our hands, what's within our reach. We can transform our ... relationships, our national life to some extent, if we do that with focus and concentration. in the presence of God" (Rowan Williams).

### Our Shared Worship Sunday 28th February

9am – Zoom Traditional Service – Rev John Durant & Dr Sarah Shackleton  
10am – Zoom Morning Worship Service – Rev John Durant & Dr Sarah Shackleton  
11am – Zoom Family Service – Rev Alec Gill & Rev Chris Ashton

### Upcoming Services Wednesday 3rd March

7.30pm – Zoom Lent Course 'The Bible Course' (designed by the Bible Society) with Rev Chris Ashton

### Sunday 7th March

9am – Zoom Traditional Service – Rev Chris Ashton & Rev Alec Gill  
10am – Zoom Holy Communion Service – Rev Alec Gill & 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:

**Sundays 9am** (weekly), **Sundays 10am** (weekly), **Sundays 11am** Family Services (every other week). **Wednesdays 7.30pm** Lent Course (weekly, starting; 24<sup>th</sup> Feb). *The Benefice Office emails the links/details to the distribution list every week before services, so if you are not currently on the distribution list, please contact the Benefice Office and we will add you.*

The Churchwardens & clergy met to review the suspension of our Live Sunday Services on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> Feb. It was decided that we would continue this till and including 7<sup>th</sup> March. We will review it again on March 1<sup>st</sup>. In the meantime, our weekly ZOOM 9am Traditional and 10am Contemporary services will continue as well as the fortnightly 11am Family Service. We may be able to lift the suspension gradually from 14<sup>th</sup> March but make no promises though we are planning to have Services on Easter Day.

**VOUNTEERS NEEDED FOR AN “EASTER TRAIL” Can you help?** We would love some volunteers to help with a “walk-through - Easter Trail”, to be held on Good Friday afternoon at St John’s Church. Please let the office know if you could help.

**LENT COURSE: “THE BIBLE COURSE”** designed by The Bible Society.

This will be on Zoom on Wednesday evenings. It is a course on the bible. We’ll be thinking 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.

**ST JOHN’S CHURCH CRAFTS FUNDRAISING** – Mother’s Day and Easter cards are now available to purchase and can be viewed in the ‘Crafts for St Johns’ section on the church website. <http://www.groveparishchurch.org.uk/2020/11/craft-sale/>

Thank you for your continued support.

**WELCOME VISITING** Thank you to all those people who have volunteered to deliver leaflets to new houses. If anyone would like to see the new leaflet (electronically) going to new residents, please ask the office – if anyone has a new neighbour and would like to post one through their door – please ask the office for a printed copy.

**WORLD DAY OF PRAYER (usually 1st Friday in March)** - Postponed to 12<sup>th</sup> November 2021, when it is hoped there can be a physical service held for World Day of Prayer in St John’s church, Grove.

**GROVE STATION SURVEY** Our local MP David Johnston has asked all residents to complete a survey regarding the reopening of Grove Station. It will take no longer than three minutes to complete but must be done by noon (1st March). If we can demonstrate that this project is supported locally and people would use the station, it stands a much better chance of becoming a reality. Please help us by filling in this short survey and telling us what you think.

<https://www.david-johnston.org.uk/grove-station-survey>

**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](mailto:office.3228@grove.oxon.sch.uk)

**PRAYERS**, please pray for Ellie and her family as they wait for a new hip operation date. Thank you.

**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.

**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](mailto: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.

**LITTLE PEOPLE** Thank you for all donations received. Still in need of some XXL jogging bottoms for a young man please. Thank you. [jackymattam@btinternet.com](mailto:jackymattam@btinternet.com).

**MAGAZINES** I am having a clear out and found some old church teaching magazine’s, mostly Xstream. If anyone would like them, please email me by 5<sup>th</sup> March and I can deliver them to you. [andrewandhelenharwood@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:andrewandhelenharwood@yahoo.co.uk)

**WANTAGE AND GROVE STREET PASTORS** please pray for this important local ministry.

**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](mailto:prayer@valebenefice.org.uk)

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

### LECTIONARY READINGS FOR MORNING PRAYER

<b>Mon</b>	Psalm 32	Genesis 43.16–end	Hebrews 1
<b>Tue</b>	Psalm 50	Genesis 44.1–17	Hebrews 2.1–9
<b>Wed</b>	Psalm 35	Genesis 44.18–end	Hebrews 2.10–end
<b>Thu</b>	Psalm 34	Genesis 45.1–15	Hebrews 3.1–6
<b>Fri</b>	Psalm 41	Genesis 45.16–end	Hebrews 3.7–end
<b>Sat</b>	Psalm 25	Genesis 46.1–7, 28–end	Hebrews 4.1–13