

VALE BENEFICE

NEWSLETTER

August 2021



If God is everywhere, why bother to go to church?" It's a good question as more normal life gradually resumes. Someone suggested three reasons. 1. For power. We want to change the world and we're stronger together than on our own. 2. For humility. On our own, frankly, many of us wouldn't pray, or sing, or confess our sins, or stay true to the faith. Together we keep ourselves accountable and don't go off on our own way. 3. For love. Because we love each other, we love God and we want to be together sharing the most important thing in our lives, our faith.

Wherever you are, may you know God's presence with you through this holiday month and when ever we meet together again.

OUR COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS We will continue to maintain our current COVID-19 precautions until September, hopeful we can reduce some restrictions when we review our plans for the Autumn. Not all our current precautions will be *mandatory*, but we ask worshippers to be sensitive to the wishes of others, respecting the more vulnerable whose suffering is our suffering (1 Cor 12:12-27). We will keep everyone updated as we move forward with caution and consideration, so that we can once again come together in person to worship the living God.

Churches can open for private prayer. 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 daily (daytime hours).

St Nicholas, East Challow is open during daytime hours.

St James, Denchworth open on Saturdays & Sundays.

CONTACT DETAILS

Vicar: Revd. John Durant, The Vicarage, Main Street, Grove, OX12 7LQ Tel: 01235 766484,

Email: vicar@valebenefice.org.uk

Associate Vicar: Revd. Alec Gill, The Vicarage, Winter Lane, West Hanney, OX12 0LF

Mobile: 07739 563894, Email: vicaralec@valebenefice.org.uk

Licensed Lay Minister: Sue Powditch, Tel: 01235 768141, Email: llm@valebenefice.org.uk

SERVICES from 1st – 29th August

Sunday 1st August

- 9.30am Parish Eucharist, West Hanney
- 10am Family Communion **with live ZOOM**, Grove
- 10am Morning Prayer, Denchworth
- 11.15am Parish Eucharist, East Challow

Sunday 8th August

- 9.30am Parish Eucharist, West Hanney
- 10am All Age Family Service, Grove
- 10am Holy Communion, Denchworth
- 10am Benefice ZOOM Service**
- 11.15am Parish Eucharist, East Challow

Sunday 15th August

- 9.30am Parish Eucharist, West Hanney
- 10am Holy Communion, Grove
- 10am Holy Communion, Denchworth
- 10am Benefice ZOOM Service**
- 11.15am Parish Eucharist, East Challow

Sunday 22nd August

- 9.30am Parish Eucharist, West Hanney
- 10am Morning Worship, Grove
- 10am Holy Communion, Denchworth
- 10am Benefice ZOOM Service**
- 11.15am Parish Eucharist, East Challow

Sunday 29th August

- 8am Holy Communion, Grove
- 9.30am Parish Eucharist, West Hanney
- 10am Holy Communion, Denchworth
- 10am Benefice ZOOM Service**
- 11.15am Parish Eucharist, East Challow
- 6pm Evening Worship, Grove

(Services may be subject to change)

To physically attend a service at West Hanney Church, please email stjameschurchwesthanney@gmail.com or call Hilary to book a place.

To physically attend any other Benefice Churches' services, please 'book' a place with the Benefice Office. Office@valebenefice.org.uk / 01235 771479

BENEFICE NEWS

NEWSLETTER NOTICES There will be one newsletter in August (unless there are any legal changes affecting us due to responses to the Pandemic). The weekly newsletters will commence on 5th September.

CHURCH PICNIC THIS SUNDAY (1st August), after the 10am service at St John's. Everyone is invited to join us in the back garden of the church for a social picnic. If you would like to come and celebrate with us, please bring some food, drink, and a rug or chair to sit on. It will be very relaxed and a chance to catch up and reconnect with people, so it would be lovely if you could come and join us.

OPEN THE BOOK We are a small team and **really need more volunteers** to help. We hope to get back to doing live School Assemblies at Grove CE School next term. No expertise is required, and you don't have to commit to every week, but we believe this is an important part of our Christian ministry & outreach. Please contact Angela & Peter Rich/Margaret Fell for more information. Thank you. Tel: 411315.

MEMORIAL GARDEN at St John's Thank you very much indeed for all your kind donations towards the new Prayer Stone in the Memorial Garden. We now have the required funds to start the Memorial Stone inscriptions with the Stone Mason. We will let everyone know when it is complete. Many thanks again for your generosity.

RIDE & STRIDE (Benefice) Will be taking place on Sat 11th Sept this year. Each Parish has their own representative so if you are interested in taking part, please contact Terry Mawdesley for Grove, Janet Parker is for Challow and Hilary Cakebread for Hanney.

RIDE & STRIDE (St John's) While I am still fit and young, I shall again be doing Ride and Stride on Saturday 11th of September. If you are unable to do it yourself, you might like to sponsor me. Any amount is appreciated (the more noughts after the initial figure the better)! For a change, I shall take the car to Bampton & then do about 15 churches, going as far as Quennington in Gloucestershire. We also need welcomers at St Johns during the day, so if you could help let me know. We need to cover the 8 hours the church is open. If you would like to take part, I still have several forms and you can have a special sticker too!!

CORNERSTONE NEWS UPDATE Cornerstone is fully open from 9.30-4pm, Monday-Friday & 10-3pm on Saturdays. At the moment we are not increasing table space, so it is best to book beforehand, especially at lunchtime.

We are now offering "Cream Teas" all day @ £4.25pp and "Full Afternoon Teas" from 2pm weekdays @ £14pp (booking for this is essential) so do call us on 772280.

We have the usual good range of Traidcraft food and gifts as well as a large selection of cards and books. We look forward to seeing those of you who have not yet been back to us.

CRAFT, CREAM TEAS & CREATIVITY Saturday October 30th in St John' Hall. (Donations of **homemade** Jams & Chutneys, cakes etc. welcome.) in aid of St John's Church. Save the date!

CORNERSTONE SUMMER BREAKFASTS MORNINGS We hope the free Summer Breakfasts will be taken up by many local children and their families in the next 6 weeks. Cornerstone's customers, friends and volunteers have been very generous in donating money to pay for the breakfasts but, should they be very popular, will need more volunteers 9.30-11.30 am on the following days: Monday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

CHRISTIAN AID Christian Aid have thanked you all for the generous gift of £435 (+ gift aid) from our Sponsored walk in May. They say: "In Kitui Kenya, your gifts will support women like Florence to access a reliable water source. With her local dam she can now grow tomatoes, onions, papayas and chillies on her farm, and also keep bees. In the past she had to spend several hours on a dangerous daily journey to collect water". Peter and Angela.

BENEFICE BADMINTON GROUP Thursdays (8pm-9.30pm), St John's Hall. All Welcome. Why not give it a try? For more information contact the Benefice Office.

LITTLE PEOPLE urgently require a "rise and recline chair" for an elderly and very sick gentleman. It must be in a clean and working condition, as he would be totally unable to dispose of it if it didn't work. Please contact Jacky Mattam (jackymattam@btinternet.com) if you can help. Many thanks.

GROVE VILLAGE HALL AFTERNOON TEAS change of opening dates. Now opening for teas again on 8th September 2021. We look forward to seeing you.

SAMARITANS PURSE - OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD: Save the Date:15th - 22nd November will be National Shoebox Collection Week. We will be supporting this wonderful initiative in our Benefice Churches. Samaritans-Purse.org.uk

USED STAMPS Raising money for Denchworth Church Please leave old/used stamps at the Benefice Office. Stamps left on envelopes can raise more! 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

PLEASE PRAY FOR...

For the Health & Healing Sheila Stonehouse, Sue Duff, May Piggott, Steve West, June Hedges, Barbara Boulter, Mikayla Beames, Pam Tranter, Derrick Allen, Bev Rolls, Philip Coldwell, Janet Causer, John Butter, Khim Moss, Ursula Geer, Steven Meadows, Gordon & Angela Handley, Dick Douglas, Pam Blustin, Rob Strange, Jenny Dubenski, Benita & Adrian Hiley, Graham Bates, Ron Stovold, Lucy MacDonald, Hendrick Mahlangu, Kathy Franklin & Rev Les Isaac.

Friends and Family mourning John Weight and Linda Winter.

For those having their Banns of Marriage read in our Benefice Churches.

For those marriages being Blessed in our Benefice Churches in the coming weeks.