

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR MORNING PRAYER

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| Mon | Psalm 44 | Isaiah 30.1–18 | Matthew 14.1–12 |
| Tue | Psalm 56 | Isaiah 30.19–end | Matthew 14.13–end |
| Wed | Psalm 62 | Isaiah 31 | Matthew 15.1–20 |
| Thu | Psalm 54 | Isaiah 32 | Matthew 15.21–28 |
| Fri | Psalm 86 | Isaiah 33.1–22 | Matthew 15.29–end |
| Sat | Psalm 145 | Isaiah 35 | Matthew 16.1–12 |

DIARY FOR THE WEEK (Starting on Monday 6th Dec)

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| Mon | 10am | GroW: Toddler “Stay & Play” Group, St John’s Hall (advance bookings only) |
| | 10am | U3A Art Group – St John’s Rooms |
| | 12.45pm | GroW: “Bumps & Babies” Group, St John’s Hall (advance bookings only) |
| | 7pm | 1st Grove Guides, St John’s Hall |
| Tue | 9.30am | “Make & Bake”, Cornerstone, Grove |
| | 10am | GroW: Toddler “Stay & Play” Group, St John’s Hall (advance bookings only) |
| | 10am | Simply Singing Group, St John’s Rooms |
| | 10am | Mid-week Eucharist at St James, West Hanney |
| | 2pm | Advent Course – St John’s Rooms |
| | 6.30pm | Chess Club, St John’s Rooms |
| | 7pm | 2nd Grove Guides, St John’s Hall |
| Wed | 9.30am | St John’s Toddlers Group, St John’s Hall |
| | 7.30pm | Advent Course (on Zoom) |
| | 6pm | NCT St John’s Hall |
| | 8pm | 20s and 30s Group, Grove |
| Thu | 9.30am | White Horse Extend (over 60’s) Exercise, St John’s Hall |
| | 10am | Mid-week Eucharist at St Nicholas, East Challow |
| | 5.30pm | 1st Grove Brownies, St John’s Hall |
| | 8pm | St John’s Badminton Group, St John’s Hall (CANCELLED) |
| Fri | 9.45-11.45am | GroW: Parenting Course, St John’s Hall |
| Sat | 8.30am | Prayer Breakfast, Cornerstone, Grove. |
| Sun | <i>Church services for the Benefice are written on the front of this news sheet</i> | |
| | 6.30pm | Senior Youth Group, St John’s Hall |



CONTACT DETAILS

Vicar: Revd. John Durant: Tel. 01235 766484.
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Associate Vicar: Revd. Alec Gill: Tel. 07739 563894. Email: vicaralec@valebenefice.org.uk

Curate: Chris Ashton: CurateChris@valebenefice.org.uk

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

Benefice Office: Grove Parish Church, Main Street, Grove, OX12 7LQ.

Open: Mon–Fri 10–12: Tel. 01235 771479. Email: office@valebenefice.org.uk



Sunday 5th December 2021

The Second Sunday in Advent and Patronal Festival of St Nicholas

Isaiah 61:1-3 | 1 Timothy 6:6-11 | Luke 3:1-6

The readings set for this Sunday are mainly looking forward to the birth of the Lord Jesus Christ and reflect the mounting excitement over the centuries of waiting. But there is one written later, from Paul’s first letter to his young friend Timothy. It also looks forward and contains the counter-cultural reminder that “we brought nothing into the world, so that we can take nothing out of it; but if we have food and clothing, we should be content with these.” So, what Christmas presents might we seek for ourselves instead? Paul’s answer: “pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, gentleness.”

Our Shared Worship

Sunday 5th December

8am Holy Communion at St Johns, Grove – Rev John Durant

9.30am St James the Great, West Hanney - **NO SERVICE**

10am St Johns, Grove - **NO SERVICE**

10am St James, Denchworth – **NO SERVICE**

11.15am “**Patronal Festival**” Parish Eucharist at St Nicholas, East Challow with Rev John Durant & Rev Alec Gill

2.30pm Blessing & Thanksgiving for a child, Hanney Church – Rev J Durant

6pm Evening Service at St Johns, Grove – Rev John Durant

Upcoming Services

Sunday 12th December

8am Holy Communion at St Johns, Grove – Rev Alec Gill

9.30am Parish Eucharist at St James the Great, West Hanney – Rev Chris Ashton

10am Family Service and toy donation & **Zoom** at St Johns, Grove – Rev Alec Gill

11.15am Eucharist at St Nicholas, East Challow – Rev J Durant & Sue Powditch

4pm Christingle at St Johns, Grove

BENEFICE NEWS

COVID UPDATE

We are trying to encourage our church members to reconnect with each other as well as invite all to our services. We are aware some have concerns about attending the church services and so we are trying to be sensitive to the variety of people's views as well as be as safe as possible. In the light of a new Covid Variant we strongly request people are masked – though at the time of writing the government have not made this compulsory. **Our overall desire is to be as considerate to one another as possible.** If you have specific concerns do contact one of the churchwardens of the particular church you wish to attend since the different buildings and circumstances mean we have slightly different practices. We still offer a livestream or Zoom version of the service at Grove – whatever your situation may God bless you.

BENEFICE ADVENT COURSE – THE CHRISTIAN HOPE How can we have HOPE in these challenging times and specifically as we look at the themes of ADVENT. Being held on Tuesdays 7th & 14th Dec, at 2pm in St John's rooms. Also being held on Zoom at 7.30pm on Wednesday 8th & 15th Dec. Please advise the office if you would like to attend either on Tuesdays or via Zoom on Wednesdays, so that we can advise on numbers and send you the Zoom link.

TREFOIL GUILD Grove and Hanney Trefoil Guild invite you to an audio-visual presentation. Wednesday 8th December (7.30pm) Grove Village Hall. Home and Away, a short series of travel sequences including Wales, Northumberland, North Yorkshire railway, the Caribbean and more. All welcome. No admission charge. Refreshments included. New members welcome next year, 2nd Wednesday of the month (7.30pm) St John's Rooms, Grove.



BENEFICE ADVENT TRAVELLERS During Advent, the figures of Mary and Joseph with donkey will be transported (by the clergy) round the Benefice looking for somewhere to spend the night. Would you like to welcome them into your home for a night or two? If so, let the office know of convenient dates as soon as possible. Thank you.

LITTLE PEOPLE: CHRISTMAS PRESENTS, TOYS, VOUCHERS, GIFT CARDS & DONATIONS (for local families in need) are now

being collected at the Benefice Office at St John's Church, Grove. Or you can bring them to the 10am Family Service on 12th December at St John's Church, where we will be collecting these items to pass on to "Little People" to distribute as Christmas presents to local families in need. We are also collecting wrapping paper and sellotape if you have any to donate. Please no Cheques. Many thanks for your generous donations already.

MINCE PIES! – Grove Christmas Services If you are able to donate mince pies for the Carol Service on 19th December (6pm) & the Crib Service on 24th December (4pm), please do bring them to the Benefice Office. Thank you!

HELP NEEDED We are also needing some Volunteers to help with the after-service refreshments at the above-mentioned services. Please let Nicky Gibbard or the Benefice Office know if you can help. Many thanks.

BADMINTON ON THURSDAY – cancelled this week.

NEWSLETTER please send notices to news@valebenefice.org.uk by 10pm Wednesdays. Only include personal information if you consent to it being published.

COFFEE AT GROVE we are pleased to announce that we have invested in a new coffee machine. Do stay after the service, enjoy a coffee, or tea, and catch up with church family, friends, and visitors.

OXFORD HEALTH COMMUNITY SERVICES STRATEGY WORKSHOP on Wednesday 8th December 2021. Oxford Health is holding this workshop at which carers, friends and family members of patients can share their experiences of accessing health services and help shape future plans for the county's community services. <https://healthwatchoxfordshire.co.uk/news/oxford-health-community-services-strategy-workshop-on-wednesday-8th-december/>

Grow FAMILIES are starting a new programme for parents in January 2022. The **Nurturing Programme** is a 10-week parenting programme that improves the emotional health of both adults and children and strengthens **family relationships**. Email contact@growfamilies.co.uk to find out more and to reserve your space. www.growfamilies.co.uk

SAMARITANS PURSE SHOE BOXES Thank you very much for all your support. A total of 306 boxes went from our Benefice Churches and Schools via The Kings Centre this year: an increase of 110 over last year! Many, many thanks.

OHCT, who have made generous Grants to 3 of our Benefice Churches are selling Christmas cards to both support their work and inform about it. They are in packs of 10 cards for £5 per pack - if you would like to order some please contact Alison Trowell on 868131 or alison.trowell@btinternet.com.

CORNERSTONE CHRISTMAS SPECIALS On non-Christmas lunch days during December, we will have our Christmas specials menu available. Book a table for 6 or more and receive a free jug of mulled punch and crackers.

STREET PASTORS - VOLUNTEERS URGENTLY NEEDED as "prayer support" people to help with Street Pastors. To find out more information and if you can help, please contact Nigel Watt nigel@nigel-watt.org.uk Thank you.

THE GROVE CHURCH "MESSAGE BOOK" is situated on the Welcome Table in the church Foyer. If you have non-**confidential** information that you would like to share / ask the office, vicars or volunteers who take care of the church and its grounds, please write a note in the book with a date, your name and the specific issue, problem or information **clearly** mentioned. We will then check the book at the beginning of each week & pass the information on to the relevant people. Thank you.

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

PLEASE PRAY FOR...

Health and healing Lesley Hummerston, Alan Rolls, Norah Lunn & Ursula Geer.

Friends & Family mourning: for Nancy Whitley, Barry Hambleton & Peter Arnold.

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.