



---

## Sunday 11th December

### Third Sunday of Advent

*Psalm 146:5-10 | Luke 1:46b-55 | Isaiah 35:1-10 | James 5:7-10 | Matthew 11:2-11*

---

The season of Advent has brought us from the early patriarchs, the Old Testament prophets and, bridging to the New Testament, to John the Baptist, the cousin of Jesus. He's the first to recognise Jesus as the long-expected judge and rescuer of humanity. Next we'll focus on Mary, the girl who said Yes to God. And then will come the great day of Emmanuel, God is with us. Happy Christmas!

---

### Our Shared Worship

#### Sunday 11th December

- 8am Holy Communion, St Johns, Grove – Rev John Durant
  - 9.30am Parish Eucharist, St James, Hanney – Rev Velma Oxley
  - 10am Morning Worship, St John's, Grove - Sarah Shackleton & Sue Powditch
  - 10am Holy Communion, St James, Denchworth – Rev Alec Gill
  - 11am Parish Eucharist, St Nicholas, East Challow – Rev John Durant & Rev Alec Gill
- No 6pm at Grove*

### Upcoming Service

#### Sunday 18th December

- 8am Holy Communion, St Johns, Grove – Rev Alec Gill
- 10am Holy Communion, St John's, Grove – Rev Alec Gill
- 10am Holy Communion, St James, Denchworth – Rev Peter Rich
- 10am Carol Service, St Nicholas, East Challow – Rev John Durant
- 4pm Village Carols, Hanney – Rev John Durant
- 6pm Carol Service, St John's, Grove – Rev John Durant and Rev Alec Gill

# BENEFICE NEWS

At our E Challow PCC we reflected on Ecclesiastes 3; thanked God for the new PS system, the positive Electrical report and that refreshments are starting after our Sunday services; looked ahead to future services and events; discussed the possibility of a “family” service; will display the large cross on festivals; received the treasurer’s report; decided to wait till we change the current administration of Communion but will be more flexible with the Peace; received the treasurer’s and deanery report; were pleased to hear that the stained glass window will be repaired and acknowledged Linda Hopkins to be our Parish Safeguarding Officer.

**THE VALE BENEFICE OFFICE** will be closed on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> December and open again on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> December. It will then be closed until Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> Jan.

**THE VALE BENEFICE NEWSLETTER** for Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December (to be issued on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December) will cover 18<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> December & 1<sup>st</sup> January. After that, the next newsletter will be available again for Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> January. Please can you ensure that you send any requests to go into the newsletter over that period to [news@valebenefice.org.uk](mailto:news@valebenefice.org.uk) by Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December. Only include personal information if you consent to it being published. Thank you.

**THE ST JOHN’S CHURCH GATES** will be locked from 8 pm on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> Dec to 8 pm on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> Dec. Please be aware that no cars can enter or leave the car park during these times. Thank you.

**BENEFICE ZOOM ADVENT COURSE** Our Advent course "*They Sung*", exploring the four songs of the Nativity story, started on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> Nov and runs for the next 2 weeks (**14<sup>th</sup> Dec / 21<sup>st</sup> Dec**) with Rev Alec Gill. Starts at **7:45 pm on Zoom**. Please contact the Vale Benefice Office for the zoom link [office@valebenefice.org.uk](mailto:office@valebenefice.org.uk)

**GROVE 11<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER** 10 am Morning Worship (with “Toy Collection” for “The Little People”), with Sarah Shackleton & Sue Powditch.

**HANNEY HOLLY FAIR** Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> December (10-12.30 pm). Philberds Manor, Halls Lane, East Hanney OX12 OHJ. All Welcome.

**CAROL SINGING** Please come and support us on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December, 6.30 pm, meeting at Wellington Gate. There will be mince pies and chocolates, as well as an invitation to our Christmas Services. We need distributors as well as lots of singers.

**OPEN TABLE IN CORNERSTONE** Our last evening this year will be on 14<sup>th</sup> December at 6.30 pm, when we’ll be celebrating Jesus’ birth with a party!

**WANTAGE, GROVE & CHALLOW SCOUTS CHRISTMAS POST SERVICE** delivering until 5 pm on 16<sup>th</sup> Dec. Postage donation 30p per card. Write full address & postcode on envelopes. Put cards & money into the boxes at; Barnards Way Post Office, Campbells Opticians, Charlton Garden Centre, Wantage Health Centre, Smith’s DIY, Sainsbury’s, Waitrose & Co-op Supermarket. Proceeds to scout groups.

**HANNEY SCOUTS CHRISTMAS POST SERVICE** delivering to East & West Hanney, Charney Bassett, Goosey & Denchworth till Fri 16<sup>th</sup> Dec. Postage donation 30p per card. Write full address & postcode on envelopes. Put cards & money into the boxes at; the Black Horse pub, The Community Shop, St James the Great Church or St James School. Proceeds to local scout groups.

**BOARD GAMES AFTERNOON** St John’s Church Hall (2 pm-5 pm). 15<sup>th</sup> January!

**LITTLE PEOPLE** are collecting new toys/gifts, vouchers, and donations to distribute to children/teenagers of local families in need this Christmas. Please bring to the Benefice Office, St John's Church office or to the 10 am Morning Worship Service on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> Dec at Grove. Thank you very much indeed for all donations already received. Also needed are newborn boys baby clothes. Thank you!

## CORNERSTONE NEWS

**Christmas** – we still have a limited selection of Christmas cards as well as items suitable as gifts. We also have hampers – either pick a ready made one or can be made up with your choice of goods. **Christmas specials** – during December, on non-Christmas meal days we will have a Christmas specials menu alongside our normal menu. **Bookshop.org** – remember if you order any book from bookshop.org and list us as your preferred bookseller then we receive a percentage of the cost. Find us at <https://uk.bookshop.org/shop/cornerstonegrove> & get free delivery on orders over £25

**Christmas and new year opening** – Closing at 2pm on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> December and open again at 9.30am on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January. More information on our website [www.cornerstonegrove.org.uk](http://www.cornerstonegrove.org.uk) or see the newsletter on the noticeboard or emailed out

**THE LEPROSY MISSION** are most grateful for all those who have been donating used stamps over many years. However, they have no market for the new bar-coded stamps, so will not be taking any further stamps or collectible items after March 31<sup>st</sup> 2023. Let us make this a bumper Christmas for them! Peter Rich

**GROW** is seeking 2 volunteers to make refreshments for parents & carers on Monday mornings at their Toddler Group sessions (9.30 am – 11.30 am). This would be working in the Grove church hall kitchen. Contact Michelle if you can help: Tel: 376037 [wantage.grove.babies@gmail.com](mailto:wantage.grove.babies@gmail.com)

**CHILDREY CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL WEEKEND** 9<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> December.

Friday 9<sup>th</sup>: (10.30 am-11.15 am) Decorating the village Christmas Tree by Little Ducks & Ridgeway School with Bishop Gavin.

Saturday 10<sup>th</sup>: (3 pm-6.30 pm) Lantern Festival in church.

Sunday 11<sup>th</sup>: (10.30 am-12 noon) Carols round the tree with members of Wantage Silver Band & Childrey Choir. With festive refreshments from the WI.

Sunday 11<sup>th</sup>: (4 pm) Christingle Service in church with refreshments to follow.

**JOB VACANCY**: Assistant School Administrator, The King's School, Witney. 20 hrs. a week, (term time) Salary: £8,736 (£21,632 p.a. full time equivalent) Closing Date: 9 am Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2022. Start date: Jan 2023. Interviews on: Wed 14<sup>th</sup> Dec 2022. Contact Kathryn Smith - Tel: 01993 778463 or [office@tkswitney.org.uk](mailto:office@tkswitney.org.uk)

**PRAYER REQUESTS** If anyone has specific prayer requests, please email confidentially to; [prayer@valebenefice.org.uk](mailto:prayer@valebenefice.org.uk)

## LECTIONARY READINGS FOR MORNING PRAYER

<b>Mon</b>	Psalm 42	Isaiah 29:17-24	Acts 5:12-16
<b>Tue</b>	Psalm 42	Ezekiel 47:1-12	Jude 1:17-25
<b>Wed</b>	Psalm 42	Zechariah 8:1-17	Matthew 8:14-17, 28-34
<b>Thu</b>	Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19	2 Samuel 7:1-17	Galatians 3:23-29
<b>Fri</b>	Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19	2 Samuel 7:18-22;	Galatians 4:1-7
<b>Sat</b>	Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19	2 Samuel 7:23-29	John 3:31-36

## PEASE PRAY FOR...

**Health and healing:** Betty, Simon, John, Ellie, Ari, Laura, Ursula & Richard.

**Friends & Family mourning:** Jim, David, Margaret, Barbara, Sue, David, Ian, Dorothy, Margaret, Brian and Myrtle.

**Those living at** The Mulberries in East Hanney; Newlands Drive, Hawksworth Close and Minns Road in Grove; Windmill Place in East Challow; St James School in Hanney.

---

## DIARY FOR THE WEEK

*(Starting on Mon 12th Dec)*

<b>Mon</b>	10 am	GroW Toddlers Group, St John's Church Hall
	12.45 pm	GroW Babies Group, St John's Church Hall
	10 am	U3A Genealogy Group, St John's Lower Room
	12 noon	David Weeks Funeral, St James Church, Denchworth
	7 pm	1 <sup>st</sup> Grove Guides, St John's Church Hall
<b>Tue</b>	9.30 am	Make & Bake (under-five's) Cornerstone, Grove
	10 am	Singing Group, St John's Rooms, Grove
	<b>10 am</b>	<b>Mid-week Eucharist at St James, West Hanney</b>
	1 pm	U3A Film, St John's Church Hall, Grove
	6.30 pm	Chess Club, St John's Rooms, Grove
<b>Wed</b>	7 pm	2 <sup>nd</sup> Grove Guides, St John's Church Hall
	9.15 am	St John's Toddler Group, St John's Church Hall.
	1.15pm	St John's Academy Presentations, Lower St John's Room
	6.30 pm	Open Table Christmas Party, Cornerstone, Grove
	7.30pm	Trefoil Guild, Lower St John's Room
<b>Thu</b>	7.45pm	Benefice Advent Course on Zoom
	9.30 am	Extend Your Fitness Group, St John's Hall
	<b>10 am</b>	<b>Mid-week Eucharist at St Nicholas, East Challow</b>
	7pm	Council Carol Service outside at Grove Christmas Tree
	8 pm	St John's Badminton Group, St John's Church Hall
<b>Fri</b>	2pm	Friends on Friday (HC), St John's Hall Church Hall
	2pm	Ashes interment at West Hanney churchyard
	6.30pm	Carol Singing at Wellington Gate (Liberator Lane), Grove
<b>Sat</b>	8.30am	Morning Prayers, Lower St John's Room
<b>Sun</b>	Church services for the Benefice are written on the front of this news sheet	
	11am-3pm	Private party, St John's Church Hall

---

## CONTACT DETAILS

**Vicar:** Revd. John Durant: Tel. 01235 766484. Email: [vicar@valebenefice.org.uk](mailto:vicar@valebenefice.org.uk)

**Associate Vicar:** Revd. Alec Gill: Tel. 07739563894. Email: [vicaralec@valebenefice.org.uk](mailto:vicaralec@valebenefice.org.uk)

**Licensed Lay Minister:** Sue Powditch: Tel. 01235 768141 Email: [llm@valebenefice.org.uk](mailto:llm@valebenefice.org.uk)

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

**Open:** Mon–Fri. 10–12 noon. Tel. 01235 771479. Email: [office@valebenefice.org.uk](mailto:office@valebenefice.org.uk)