



Sunday 4th December

Second Sunday of Advent and St Nicholas Patronal Festival

Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19 | Isaiah 11:1-10 | Romans 15:4-13 | Matthew 3:1-12

It's hard to find a connection between Sunday's readings and Challow's patron saint, St Nicholas, the 4th century bishop of Myra in Turkey! Maybe we could see his legendary generosity reflecting Christ's bias to the poor foretold in the Old Testament. Nicholas lost both his parents as a young man and used his inheritance to help the poor and sick. Our world is full of crying need now, homelessness, hunger, poverty, desperation. We don't need to look far. "Teach us, good Lord.. to give and not to count the cost... and not ask for any reward save that of knowing that we do your will."

Our Shared Worship

Sunday 4th December

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

11am Patronal Festival, St Nicholas, East Challow – Rev John Durant and Rev Alec Gill

4pm Christingle Service, St Johns, Grove – Rev John Durant and Rev Alec Gill

(No 9.30am at Hanney. No 10am at Denchworth or Grove. No 6pm at Grove.

Please do come along and enjoy the 11am St Nicholas Church Patronal Service in Challow and the 4pm Christingle Service at Grove this Sunday)

Upcoming Service

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

BENEFICE NEWS

BENEFICE ZOOM ADVENT COURSE Our Advent course "*They Sung*", exploring the four songs of the Nativity story, started on Wednesday 30th Nov and runs for the next 3 weeks (**7th Dec 14th Dec, 21st Dec**) with Rev Alec Gill. Starts at **7:45pm on Zoom**. Please contact the Vale Benefice Office for the zoom link office@valebenefice.org.uk

FRIENDS ON FRIDAY Christmas Tea Party Special with special guests (carol singers from Grove Primary School). **2nd December (2.00pm - 3.30pm)**. All welcome

DENCHWORTH PARISH MEETING to discuss the local planning application for Manor Solar Farm has now been fixed for **Monday 5th December at 7pm at the Village Hall**. Please do try to be there if you wish your views / ideas to be discussed.

HANNEY HOLLY FAIR Saturday 10th December (10-12.30pm) Philberds Manor, East Hanney. All Welcome.

WOMEN'S SOCIAL GROUP THIS SUNDAY 4th December (3pm – 4.30pm in the St John's Rooms. All welcome.

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

GROVE 11th DECEMBER 10am Morning Worship (with "Toy Collection" for "The Little People"), with Sarah Shackleton & Sue Powditch.

ST JOHN'S CHURCH Christmas Tree A huge thank you to the members of the Senior Youth Group who decorated our church Christmas Tree so beautifully on Sunday evening during their meeting. Much appreciated! Also, thank you to "The Great British Garden Centre" at Chilton, who kindly donated it to us and to Brian and Edith Hipwell who ensured its safe delivery to St John's Church. Our congregation and indeed all the groups who use our church and hall are very grateful for this.

THE VALE BENEFICE NEWSLETTER for Sunday 18th December (to be issued on Thursday 15th December) will cover Sundays 18th and 25th December & 1st January. After that, the next newsletter will be available again for Sunday 8th January. Please can you ensure that you send any requests to go into the newsletter over that period to news@valebenefice.org.uk by Wednesday 14th December. Thank you.

THE VALE BENEFICE OFFICE will be closed on Thursday 22nd December and open again on Friday 23rd December. It will then be closed until Tuesday 3rd January.

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

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 10am Morning Worship Service on Sunday 11th Dec at Grove. Thank you very much indeed for all donations already received. Also needed are newborn boys baby clothes. Thank you!

BOARD GAMES AFTERNOON St John's Church Hall (2pm-5pm). 15th January!

THE BIG CHURCH READ looking at the bishop's book called 'Comfortable Words', looking at Isaiah 40-55 using notes & media. **Meeting dates: 1st & 15th December, 12th & 26th January** in the St John's Rooms (8pm – 9.30pm).

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

CORNERSTONE NEWS Advent and Christmas – we have a good selection of advent books, calendars and candles as well as Christmas cards and items suitable as gifts. We will also be offering hampers again (either pick a ready made one from the shelf or can be made to order with your choice of goods). **Late night shopping** (we're open from **7-9pm on Wednesday 7th & Thursday 8th December**). Come and do your Christmas shopping while enjoying a warm drink and fellowship. Free mince pie/shortbread with every drink. **Christmas lunches** – we still have availability for Saturday 17th December for those unable to come during the week. Do contact us to book. **Christmas specials** – during December, on non-Christmas meal days we will have a Christmas specials menu alongside our normal menu. More information on our website www.cornerstonegrove.org.uk or see the newsletter on the noticeboard or emailed out.

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

MARGARET funeral service will be at 1pm on 8th Dec at S. Oxfordshire Crematorium. Colourful attire welcome. Donations in memory of Margaret are greatly appreciated for **Cornerstone Christian Centre (Charity No: 1046923)** contact J Godfrey & Son Funeral Services, Stanford in the Vale. A Thanksgiving Service for Margaret will take place on Sat 7th January 2023 (3pm) at Old Mill Hall, Grove.

CHRISTMAS POST The Scouts are delivering to wantage, Grove & Challow until 5pm on 16th Dec. Postage donation:30p per card (to be deposited into the boxes). Proceeds to local scout groups. For info on where the boxes are located, call 760889.

CHILDREY CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL WEEKEND 9th – 11th December.

Friday 9th: (10.30am-11.15am) Decorating the village Christmas Tree by Little Ducks & Ridgeway School with Bishop Gavin. Saturday 10th: (3pm-6.30pm) Lantern Festival in church. Sunday 11th: (10.30am-12noon) Carols round the tree with members of Wantage Silver Band & Childrey Choir. With festive refreshments from the WI. Sunday 11th: (4pm) 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: 9am Friday 9th December 2022. Start date: Jan 2023. Interviews on: Wed 14th Dec 2022. Contact Kathryn Smith - Tel: 01993 778463 or office@tkswitney.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 published.

PEASE PRAY FOR...

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

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

Those living at Hardwell Close, Nobles Close and Harlington Avenue in Grove; Summertown in East Hanney; Rectory Farm Close in West Hanney; Reynolds Way in East Challow.

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR MORNING PRAYER

Mon	Psalm 21	Isaiah 24:1-16a	1 Thessalonians 4:1-12
Tue	Psalm 21	Isaiah 41:14-20	Romans 15:14-21
Wed	Psalm 21	Genesis 15:1-18	Matthew 12:33-37
Thu	Psalm 146:5-10	Ruth 1:6-18	2 Peter 3:1-10
Fri	Psalm 146:5-10	Ruth 4:13-17	2 Peter 3:11-18
Sat	Psalm 146:5-10	1 Samuel 2:1-8	Luke 3:1-18

DIARY FOR THE WEEK

(Starting on Mon 5th Dec)

Mon	10am 11am 12.45pm 10am 7pm 7pm 7.30pm	GroW Toddlers Group, St John's Church Hall Funeral of Margaret Denton, St John's Church GroW Babies Group, St John's Church Hall U3A Art Group, St John's Lower Room Parish Meeting (Manor Solar Farm), Denchworth Village Hall 1 st Grove Guides, St John's Church Hall FMG Meeting, St John's Lower Room
Tue	9.30am 10am 10am 1pm 6.30pm 7pm	Make & Bake (under five's) Cornerstone, Grove Singing Group, St John's Rooms, Grove Mid-week Eucharist at St James, West Hanney U3A Meeting, St John's Church Hall Chess Club, St John's Rooms, Grove 2 nd Grove Guides, St John's Church Hall
Wed	9.15am 10am 6.30pm	St John's Toddler Group, St John's Church Hall. Mid-week H.C. Service, St John's Church, Grove Open Table, Cornerstone, Grove
Thu	9.30am 10am 1pm 2pm 2pm 8pm	Extend Your Fitness Group, St John's Hall Mid-week Eucharist at St Nicholas, East Challow Funeral of Margaret Barber at S. Oxfordshire Crematorium Bible Study Group, St John's Lower Room Brownies, St John's Church Hall (last before Christmas) St John's Badminton Group, St John's Church Hall
Sat	8.30am 9am-4pm 10am-12.30pm	Cornerstone Prayer Breakfast, Cornerstone, Grove Toddlersense Private Group booking, St John's Hall Hanney Holly Fair, Philberds Manor, East Hanney.
Sun	Church services for the Benefice are written on the front of this news sheet 6.30pm	Senior Youth Group Christmas Social, St John's Church Hall

CONTACT DETAILS

Vicar: Revd. John Durant: Tel. 01235 766484. Email: vicar@valebenefice.org.uk

Associate Vicar: Revd. Alec Gill: Tel. 07739563894. Email: vicaralec@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 noon. Tel. 01235 771479. Email: office@valebenefice.org.uk