



BENEFICE NEWSLETTER



December 2022- January 2023

Sunday 18th December
The Fourth Sunday in Advent

Well, the waiting's almost over, and the great Creator is about to be born: the helpless baby of a northern peasant girl, homeless and soon seeking asylum!
"In Bethlehem's home there was found no room for Thy holy nativity. O come to my heart, Lord Jesus, there is room in my heart for Thee."

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 | Isaiah 7:10-16 | Romans 1:1-7 | Matthew 1:18-25

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 and Rev Alec Gill
6pm Carol Service, St John's, Grove – Rev John Durant and Rev Alec Gill

Sunday 24th December
Christmas Eve

4pm Crib Service, St Johns, Grove – Rev John Durant
4pm Carols round the crib, St Nicholas, East Challow – Rev Alec Gill
5:30pm Carols round the crib, Philberds Manor, East Hanney – Rev Alec Gill
11:30pm Midnight Mass, St James, West Hanney – Rev Alec Gill
11:30pm Midnight communion, St Johns, Grove – Rev John Durant
11:15pm Midnight Mass, St Nicholas, East Challow – Rev Nicholas Cheeseman

Sunday 25th December
Christmas Day

Psalm 96 | Psalm 97 | Psalm 98 | Isaiah 9:2-7 | Isaiah 62:6-12 | Isaiah 52:7-10 | Titus 2:11-14 | Titus 3:4-7 | Hebrews 1:1-4, (5-12) | Luke 2:1-14, (15-20) | Luke 2:(1-7), 8-20 | John 1:1-14

9am Christmas Communion, St James, Denchworth – Rev John Durant
9.30am Family Eucharist, St James the Great, West Hanney – Rev Alec Gill
10am Christmas Communion, St Johns, Grove – Rev John Durant
11am Communion, St Nicholas, East Challow – Rev Alec Gill

Sunday 1st January 2023
The Second Sunday of Christmas

8am Holy Communion, St Johns, Grove – Rev John Durant
10am Holy Communion, St Johns, Grove – Rev John Durant
10am Holy Communion, St James, Denchworth – Rev Robin Lapwood

NO 6pm service

BENEFICE NEWS

CAROL SINGING Friday 16th December, 6.30pm at Wellington Gate. We will be giving out mince pies and chocolates, as well as an invitation to our Christmas Services. We need distributors as well as lots of singers.

GROVE CHURCH CAROL SERVICE 6pm on 18th December. **We need volunteers to serve refreshments and donations of mince pies please!** Many thanks all.

WARM SPACES - We are wanting to open up our church every Sunday from 12.30-2.30pm as a Warm Space from the 8th January till 5th March next year. We plan to offer drinks and soup / bread plus simple activities such as drawing, building blocks and puzzles. In order for this to be successful please can you help in one or more of these ways:

- volunteer to be on a rota to supervise the space
- donate crayons, colouring books, reading books, puzzles etc
- donate towards the cost of refreshments

This is a great opportunity to open our doors to our community and offer a warm welcome. Please can you speak with Nicky Gibbard, John Durant or the church office if you can help in any way. We will plan a meeting with volunteers to go through responsibilities and safety requirements. Thank you

CHRISTMAS POST WITH THE SCOUTS The Scouts are delivering to Wantage, Grove & Challow until 5 pm on 16th Dec. Postage donation 30p per card. Proceeds to local scout groups. For info on where the boxes are located, call 760889.

CHRISTMAS REFLECTIVE WORSHIP 19th December. Andy Bruce from Wantage Community Church will be hosting a Christmas Reflective Worship evening at Holy Trinity Church in Charlton on Monday 19th December, from 7:45pm to around 9pm. This will be an evening of Christ centred worship and readings based around the Christmas story. All are welcome to join.

BENEFICE ZOOM ADVENT COURSE The last session in our Advent course "*They Sung*" is on Wednesday **21st Dec at 7:45 pm on Zoom**. Please contact the Vale Benefice Office for the zoom link office@valebenefice.org.uk

THE VALE BENEFICE OFFICE will be closed on Thursday 22nd December & 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 8 pm on Tuesday 27th Dec to 8 pm on Wednesday 28th Dec. Please be aware that no cars can enter or leave the car park during these times. Thank you.

THE VALE BENEFICE NEWSLETTER The next newsletter will be available again for Sunday 8th January.

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 31st March 2023. Let us make this a bumper Christmas for them! Peter Rich

SATURDAY MORNING PRAYERS this week and next week will be at Frances G's house.

St. JOHN'S Church Volunteer Roters Jan - Apr 2023. These have now been sent out via email. If you have not received yours by email or wish to have a hard copy instead, please let the Benefice Office know and we will leave one in the pigeon holes at Grove church for you. Thank you all those who volunteer on the St John's Church Rotas. You are very much appreciated!

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** – We will close at 2 pm on Saturday 24th December and open again at 9.30 am on Tuesday 3rd January. More information on our website www.cornerstonegrove.org.uk or see the newsletter on the noticeboard or emailed out

BOARD GAMES AFTERNOON St John's Church Hall (2 pm-5 pm). 15th January! If you are able to volunteer, assist with tea and coffees or help provide cake for these events, that would be very welcome.

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

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

PLEASE PRAY FOR...

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

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

We pray you may have in these dark times the light of Christ Jesus, His peace in the disturbances of life and His love in all circumstances.



BENEFICE DIARY

- Tue 20th** 9.15am Grove CE School Christmas Service, St John's Church
10am Grove CE School Christmas Service, St John's Church
10am Mid-Week Eucharist at St James, West Hanney
12 noon Funeral Service for Barbara, St John's Church
1.30pm GroW Babies Group, St John's Church Hall
6.30pm Chess Club, St John's Rooms, Grove
- Wed 21st** 7.45pm Advent Couse on Zoom.
- Thu 22nd** 9.30am Extend Your Fitness Group, St John's Church Hall
10am Mid-Week Eucharist at St Nicholas, East Challow ? (TBC)
8pm St John's Badminton Group, St John's Church Hall
- Sat 24th** 8.30am Morning Prayers, Frances Gillott's house, The Green, Grove
Services for the Benefice are written on the front of this news sheet
- Sun 25th** *Services for the Benefice are written on the front of this news sheet*
- Tue 27th** 8pm St John's Church Car Park gates being locked
- Wed 28th** 8pm St John's Church Car Park gates being unlocked
- Sun 1st** *Services for the Benefice are written on the front of this news sheet*
- Tue 3rd** 10am Singing Group-, Lower St John's Rooms, Grove
2pm U3A Meeting, St John's Church Hall
6.30pm Chess Group, St John's Rooms, Grove
- Wed 4th** 6.30pm Open Table New Year Meeting, Cornerstone, Grove
- Thu 5th** 9.30am Extend Your Fitness Group, St John's Church Hall
2pm Bible Study Group, Lower St John's Rooms, Grove
8pm St John's Badminton Group, St John's Church Hall
- Fri 6th** 2pm Friends on Friday Group, St John's Church Hall
3pm Thanksgiving Service for Margaret Barber, Old Mill Hall, Grove
- Sat 7th** 9am NCT Course, St John's Church Hall
- Sun 8th** *Services for the Benefice are written on the front of this news sheet*
3pm Women's Social Group, Lower St John's Rooms, Grove
6.30pm Senior Youth Group, St John's Church Hall
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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