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## **Sunday 15th January**

### **Second Sunday after the Epiphany**

*Psalm 40:1-11 | Isaiah 49:1-7 | 1 Corinthians 1:1-9 | John 1:29-42*

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“I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.” This is God’s mission, Isaiah says, for His chosen servant, the Messiah. This is what first-century Jews like Andrew and Peter were waiting for, and discovered in Jesus after the Holy Spirit identifies Him as the Son of God. Two millennia on it seems that not much has changed. 2023 doesn’t look to be any better than 2022. So, let’s pray the Lord’s prayer every day: “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.”

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### **Our Shared Worship**

#### **Sunday 15th January**

- 8am Holy Communion, St Johns, Grove – Rev Alec Gill
- 9am Holy Communion, St James, Denchworth – Rev Alec Gill (TBC)
- 9.30am Parish Eucharist, St James, Hanney – Rev Charles Draper
- 10am Holy Communion, St John’s, Grove – Rev Alec Gill
- 11am Parish Service, St Nicholas, East Challow
- 6pm Evening Prayer, St John’s, Grove

### **Upcoming Services**

#### **Sunday 22nd January**

- 8am Holy Communion, St Johns, Grove – Rev Alec Gill
- 9.30am Family Eucharist, St James, Hanney – Rev Geoff Maughan
- 10am Morning Worship, St John’s, Grove – Sue Powditch (LLM)  
and Sarah Jane Frideswide
- 10am Holy Communion, St James, Denchworth – Rev Alec Gill
- 11am Parish Eucharist, St Nicholas, East Challow – Rev Alec Gill
- 6pm Communion, St John’s, Grove

# BENEFICE NEWS

**Grove PCC** We discussed & hoped to return to sharing the common cup by Easter, discussed our mission to tell the good news of Jesus with relevant words & loving actions; we heard the Finance report which included the news that our December fuel bill increased by £1000; reviewed approved & signed the Safeguarding policies. We agreed the Fete & Patronal Festival for the weekend of 24<sup>th</sup> / 25<sup>th</sup> June; approved the Terrier including disposing of unnecessary electrical equipment; & hope to stream the coronation as a community event in the Hall & learned to turn over pages quietly.

**CLERGY UPDATE:** Rev John Durant is expected to have had his 2nd knee operation on Thursday 12th Jan as a last-minute cancellation became available. John will be recovering over the coming weeks before his return to full time ministry. The Benefice ministry team are working on an emergency service rota for the coming weeks & we recognise that there will be a level of disruption for the time being. Thank you.

**WARM SPACES** – At St John’s, we will be opening our church every Sunday from 12.30-2.30 pm as a “Warm Space” until 5<sup>th</sup> March. We will offer drinks, soup, and bread plus simple activities such as drawing, building blocks and puzzles. 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 (rota is in the church foyer)
- donate crayons, colouring books, reading books, puzzles.
- donate towards the cost of refreshments

This is a great opportunity to open our doors to our community and offer a warm welcome. Please speak with Nicky Gibbard or the Benefice Office if you can help.

**ST JOHN’S CHURCH CLEANING** Please pray for Sonia, our church cleaner who is currently unwell. Please note that volunteers are helping to clean the church buildings at present. If you can help, please contact the office or churchwardens. Thank you!

**CHURCH FLOWERS** THANK YOU to all our Benefice Churches flower arranging teams. The church flowers always look so beautiful. Thank you all so much for your time and attention. If you would like to donate towards the costs of flowers in the churches, please contact your churchwarden or treasurer or attach your donation with a note to allocate to this. Many thanks.

**FRIENDS ON FRIDAY** The Holy Communion Service on Friday 20th January (2pm) is cancelled. All members are invited to the "Thanksgiving Memorial Service" of Betty Povey instead. This is at 12.30pm in St John’s Church, followed by refreshments in the hall afterwards. All Welcome.

**“SING TO THE LORD A NEW SONG”:** a festival of new Christian praise. Musician and songwriter John Wilson introduces some brand-new praise songs, written over the last year and rooted and grounded in Scripture. Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> January at St John’s Church, Grove (6pm). Come and worship the Lord in song. All Welcome.

**BOARD GAMES AFTERNOON** St John’s Church Hall (2 pm-5 pm). 15th January! If you can help with refreshments, please let the church office or Rev Alec Gill know.

**THE VALE BENEFICE OFFICE** If you need to come into the Benefice Office during opening times (10am–12 noon), please can you try and book an appointment in advance. I often have a queue and must prioritise those who have a specific booking time arranged with me. This will also reduce your waiting time. If you can post things through the post box or email instead, this will also help me out greatly. Thank you.

**PHILIP TAYLOR** A Service of Thanksgiving for Philip will take place at the South Oxfordshire Crematorium (10am) 18<sup>th</sup> January, followed by refreshments at the Maybush. Just family flowers please and donations to go to the “Open Doors” charity. We look forward to celebrating his life with you. Please let us know if you can attend Sarah & Richard. Philip was a former treasurer at St John’s Church.

**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 pigeonholes at Grove church for you. Thank you all those who volunteer on the St John’s Church Rotas. You are very much appreciated!

**St. JOHN’S Church** needs more Volunteers across all rotas. If you are not already on a rota and could help in any way, please contact a vicar, churchwarden or the office.

**LITTLE PEOPLE** Thank you to all the Benefice Churches congregations for all the gifts, vouchers and donations given to Little People for the local families in need this Christmas. It was a fantastic response and made such a massive difference to so many local families. Thank you!

**CORNERSTONE NEWS:** Our **Make and Bake** sessions for the Under 5’s is running every Tuesday in term time, 9.30-11 am. The cost remains at £2 per child and everyone is welcome, no need to book. There will be a new **Take Note promotion** which we are expecting soon – more details to follow. A reminder that if you order **any** book through **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. The **Community Fridge** is back every Thursday 4-5pm. Finally, remember we do rely on everyone to use the Cornerstone to enable us to keep going in these difficult times.

**CORNERSTONE PRAYER BREAKFAST** 8.30am on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> February.

**OPEN TABLE Home Group Meetings** on the 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays of the month from 6.30pm at Cornerstone, Grove. Next one will be on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> January.

**ST JOHN’S Tea Party at Cornerstone** 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays of the month. Join us for chat, coffee, cake, fellowship. 21<sup>st</sup> Jan (2–3pm) at Cornerstone Café. All ages welcome.

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

**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.

**NEWSLETTER**, please send notices to; [news@valebenefice.org.uk](mailto:news@valebenefice.org.uk) by 10 pm on a Wednesday. Only include personal information if you consent to it being published.

## LECTIONARY READINGS FOR MORNING PRAYER

<b>Mon</b>	Psalm 40: 6-17	Exodus 12:1-13, 21-28	Acts 8:26-40
<b>Tue</b>	Psalm 40: 6-17	Isaiah 53:1-12	Hebrews 10:1-4
<b>Wed</b>	Psalm 40: 6-17	Isaiah 48:12-21	Matthew 9:14-17
<b>Thu</b>	Psalm 27: 1-6	1 Samuel 1:1-20	Galatians 1:11-24
<b>Fri</b>	Psalm 27: 1-6	1 Samuel 9:27-10:8	Galatians 2:1-10
<b>Sat</b>	Psalm 27: 1-6	1 Samuel 15:34-16:13	Luke 5:27-32

# PLEASE PRAY FOR...

**Health and healing:** Sandra, John, Ellie, Ari, Laura, Ursula and Richard.

**Friends & Family mourning:** Mollie, Betty, Roy, Philip and Freda.

**Those having their Banns of marriage read** in the Benefice Churches.

**Those living at** Dandridge Close, Walnut Close, Anderson Place, The Stables, Stevenson Close, Elderberry Close in Hanney; Kingside, Queen's Row, Bishop's Way, Rook End, Castle Piece, and Knight's Green in Grove.

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## DIARY FOR THE WEEK *(Starting on Mon 9th Jan)*

<b>Mon</b>	10am 12.45 pm 7 pm	GroW Toddlers Group, St John's Church Hall GroW Babies Group, St John's Church Hall 1 <sup>st</sup> Grove Guides, St John's Church Hall
<b>Tue</b>	9.30 am 10 am <b>10 am</b> 1.30-3.30pm 6.30 pm 7 pm	Make & Bake (under-five's) Cornerstone, Grove Singing Group, St John's Rooms, Grove <b>Mid-week Eucharist at St James, West Hanney</b> U3A AGM, St John's Church Hall, Grove Chess Club, St John's Rooms, Grove 2 <sup>nd</sup> Grove Guides, St John's Church Hall
<b>Wed</b>	9.15 am 6.30pm 7pm 8pm	St John's Toddler Group, St John's Church Hall Open Table Group, Cornerstone, Grove Konga Fitness Class, St John's Church Hall 20s and 30s Homegroup, Wantage
<b>Thu</b>	9.30 am <b>10 am</b> 2pm 4-5pm 5.30pm 8 pm	Extend Your Fitness Group, St John's Hall <b>Mid-week Eucharist at St Nicholas, East Challow</b> Bible Group, St John's Rooms, Grove Community Fridge at Cornerstone, Grove Grove Brownies, St John's Church Hall St John's Badminton Group, St John's Church Hall
<b>Fri</b>	<b>12.30pm</b> <b>1pm</b> 1pm	<b>Thanksgiving Service for Betty, St John's Church</b> <b>Reception for Betty in church hall.</b> GroW meeting in St John's Rooms
<b>Sat</b>	8.30am 2pm-3pm	Saturday Prayers, St John's Rooms, Grove St John's Tea Party, Cornerstone, Grove
<b>Sun</b>	Church services for the Benefice are written on the front of this news sheet 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](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.

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