



## **Sunday 22nd January**

### **Third Sunday after the Epiphany**

*Psalm 27:1, 4-9 | Isaiah 9:1-4 | 1 Corinthians 1:10-18 | Matthew 4:12-23*

This is the week of prayer for Christian unity. Can the cross bring people together? We need some-thing to. St Paul, whose conversion we'll remember on Wednesday, writes about "the power of the cross". The thriving church in Corinth had brought together an incredible variety of people, and yet to his dismay he's learned that there's a whole lot of factions within that community. He later re-minds them that together they're the temple of God's holy Spirit. The cross turns things upside down; it requires us to change our perspective, to "repent". It radically changed Paul. In relation to Jesus we are not separate units, but we are one body. Come, Spirit, change us - heal our divisions.

### **Our Shared Worship**

#### **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 (TBC)

### **Upcoming Services**

#### **Sunday 29th January**

- 8am Holy Communion, St Johns, Grove – Rev Alec Gill
- 9.30am Family Eucharist, St James, Hanney – Rev Charles Draper
- 10am Family Communion and Baptism, St John's, Grove – Rev Alec Gill
- 10am Holy Communion, St James, Denchworth – TBC
- 11am Parish Eucharist, St Nicholas, East Challow – TBC
- 6pm Festival of New Worship, St John's, Grove

# BENEFICE NEWS

Rev John Durant had a 2nd knee operation last week and is recovering over the coming weeks before returning to full time ministry. He thanks you for your continued prayers for Sally and himself. The Benefice ministry team are working on the service rotas for the coming weeks & recognise there will be a level of disruption. 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, & 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!

**FRIENDS ON FRIDAY** The Holy Communion Service on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> 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.

**SCHOOL PRAYER MEETING** Our next schools' prayer meeting is (4pm-5pm) on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> January, St John's Rooms, Grove. As always, anyone who wishes to pray for our local schools is very welcome. Please pass on the invitation to anyone in your churches & fellowships who might be interested. If you have contact with a school as a parent, teacher, governor, or similar, & can ask for specific prayer requests, please pass them to me by Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> so that I can collate them. (We will not include personal information, but it is good to have specific prayer points).

**"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.

**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.

**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.

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

## WGCOP Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2023.

Theme For the Week :- 'Be-Longing: Praying for Unity amidst Injustice'.

Dates/Time : 8pm daily from 18<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> January 2023 for 20 minutes

Day	Date	Church	Churches Together Suggested Theme
Wednesday	18/01/2022	St John's Grove	<b>Made in the Image of God</b> Genesis 1:26-28 Revelation 7:9-12
Thursday	19/01/2022	Wantage Community Church	<b>That they may be one</b> Isaiah 1:12-18 John 17:13-26
Friday	20/01/2022	St John Vianney	<b>Difference</b> Luke 5:27-29 Amos 5
Saturday	21/01/2022	Vale Elim Church	<b>Lament</b> Psalm 22:1-5 Matthew 27:45-50
Sunday	22/01/2022	Wantage Parish Church	<b>Holy Rage</b> 2 Samuel 12:1-12 Mark 11:15-17
Monday	23/01/2022	Wantage Methodist	<b>Walking humbly in the way</b> Micah 6:6-8 Philippians 2:5-11
Tuesday	24/01/2022	Vale Elim Church	<b>Agency</b> Matthew 5:1–8. Job 5:1-16
Wednesday	25/01/2022	Vale Elim	<b>Restoring hope through the work of justice</b> Isaiah 40:1-11 Luke 1:46-55



**To join online:** The link and the QR code below go to the zoom prayer meeting. They are the same for each meeting. I will start each meeting on zoom & hand over to the church leading that session. Thanks, John Steventon.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89408324203?pwd=QVNYR3U3TWISVE5CS29QZ01Qa21sZz09>

**St. JOHN'S Church Volunteer Roters Jan - Apr 2023.** These have 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.

**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.

**FILM NIGHT** St John's Church Hall on 4th February. Details to follow.

**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>	Psalms 27:7-14	Judges 6:11-24	Ephesians 5:6-14
<b>Tue</b>	Psalms 27:7-14	Judges 7:12-22	Philippians 2:12-18
<b>Wed</b>	Psalms 27:7-14	Genesis 49:1-2, 8-13, 21-26	Luke 1:67-79
<b>Thu</b>	Psalms 15	Deuteronomy 16:18-20;	1 Peter 3:8-12
<b>Fri</b>	Psalms 15	Deuteronomy 24:17-25:4	1 Timothy 5:17-24
<b>Sat</b>	Psalms 15	Micah 3:1-4	John 13:31-35

## PLEASE PRAY FOR...

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

**Friends & Family mourning:** Hazel, Jenny, Mollie, Peter, Margaret, Betty, Roy, Philip and Freda.

**Those getting married or baptised** in the Benefice Churches.

**Those living at** Alfred's Place in East Hanney; Floral Close, Princess Garden, Fulmar Close in Grove; Windmill Place and The Park in East Challow.

## DIARY FOR THE WEEK

*(Starting on Mon 23<sup>rd</sup> Jan)*

<b>Mon</b>	10am	GroW Toddlers Group, St John's Church Hall
	12.45 pm	GroW Babies Group, St John's Church Hall
	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>
	6.30 pm	Chess Club, St John's Rooms, Grove
	7 pm	2 <sup>nd</sup> Grove Guides, St John's Church Hall
<b>Wed</b>	9.15 am	St John's Toddler Group, St John's Church Hall
	4pm	Grove & Wantage School's Prayer Meeting, St John's Rooms
	7pm	Konga Fitness Class, St John's Church Hall
	8pm	20s and 30s Homegroup, Wantage
<b>Thu</b>	<b>10 am</b>	<b>Mid-week Eucharist at St Nicholas, East Challow</b>
	4-5pm	Community Fridge at Cornerstone, Grove
	5.30pm	Grove Brownies, St John's Church Hall
	8pm	St John's Badminton Group, St John's Church Hall
<b>Sat</b>	8.30am	Morning Prayers, St John's Rooms
<b>Sun</b>	Church services for the Benefice are written on the front of this news sheet	
	12.30pm	Warm Spaces, St John's Church Hall
	6.30pm	Senior Youth Group, 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)