



Sunday 8th January

Baptism of Christ

Psalm 29 | Isaiah 42:1-9 | Acts 10:34-43 | Matthew 3:13-17

On this Sunday we celebrate the coming of the wise men from the east to find the infant Jesus, and equally celebrate the baptism of the adult Christ at the start of His ministry. Although separated by thirty years, they are part of the same story. The showing of Christ's glory at the river Jordan, where Peter tells us that he was "anointed with the Holy Spirit and power", is — like his first Epiphany, in Bethlehem — for all the nations. As we enter a new year, let's thank Jesus every day that He has also shown us the glory of Emmanuel: God is with us all.

Our Shared Worship

Sunday 8th January

- 8am Holy Communion, St Johns, Grove – Rev Alec Gill
- 9.30am Parish Eucharist, St James, Hanney – Rev John Durant
- 10am Morning Worship, St John's, Grove - Sue Powditch
- 10am Holy Communion, St James, Denchworth – Rev Alec Gill
- 11am Parish Eucharist, St Nicholas, East Challow – Rev John Durant
- 6pm Evening Service, St John's, Grove

Upcoming Services

Sunday 15th January

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

BENEFICE NEWS

WARM SPACES – At St John's, we will be opening our church every Sunday from 12.30-2.30pm as a "Warm Space" from the 8th January till 5th March. We will offer drinks, soup and 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 (rota is in the church foyer)
- 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 speak with Nicky Gibbard, Rev John Durant or the Benefice Office if you can help in any way. There will be a meeting soon with volunteers to go through responsibilities and safety requirements. Thank you.

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 Roters. You are very much appreciated!

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.

CORNERSTONE NEWS

Our **Make and Bake** sessions for the Under 5's is running every Tuesday in term time – 9.30-11am. 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.

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 know.

WOMEN'S SOCIAL GROUP THIS SUNDAY 8th January (3pm – 4.30pm) in the St John's Rooms. All welcome.

BIBLE GROUP starts again this Thursday 5th January 2023 at 2pm in the St John's Lower Room. All Welcome.

FRIENDS ON FRIDAY GROUP starts again this Friday 6th January at 2pm in the St John's Church Hall. All Welcome. Please note that the Holy Communion on Friday 20th January will be replaced with Betty Povey's Thanksgiving Memorial Service in Grove church at 12.30pm (followed by refreshments in the hall). All welcome.

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

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.

ST JOHN'S CHURCH CHRISTMAS TREE A huge thank you to "The Great British Garden Centre" at Chilton, who kindly donated our Christmas Tree 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.

CAN YOU HELP TO RAISE FUNDS FOR ST JOHN'S CHURCH? Do you have an e-bay account & would you be prepared to help raise funds by occasionally listing donated items for sale on it? Please contact Margaret Fell via the church office if you can help. Thank you.

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

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

CORNERSTONE PRAYER BREAKFAST 8.30am on Saturday 14th January.

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

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. Now also needed are newborn boys baby clothes. Thank you!

SAMARITANS PURSE CHRISTMAS SHOEBOX APPEAL! Many thanks to everyone who took part in creating shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child 2022.

AFTERNOON TEA at the VILLAGE HALL, Grove EVERYONE WELCOME! Please come join us. Wednesdays FORTNIGHTLY (Every Black bin week) from 2-4pm. Great to catch up with friends & family. £2 p.p. & all proceeds go to local charities.

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.

PLEASE PRAY FOR...

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

Friends & Family mourning: Betty, Roy and Freda.

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

Those going back to work, school, college, university and other education, volunteering or employment settings.

Those living at The Croft in West Hanney; Hawthorn Crescent, Mill Lane and Howard Avenue in Grove; Hedge Hill Road in East Challow; Brook Lane in Denchworth.

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR MORNING PRAYER

Mon	Psalm 89:5-37	Genesis 35:1-15	Acts 10:44-48
Tue	Psalm 89:5-37	Jeremiah 1:4-10	Acts 8:4-13
Wed	Psalm 89:5-37	Isaiah 51:1-16;	Matthew 12:15-21
Thu	Psalm 40:1-11	Isaiah 22:15-25;	Galatians 1:6-12
Fri	Psalm 40:1-11	Genesis 27:30-38	Acts 1:1-5
Sat	Psalm 40:1-11	1 Kings 19:19-21	Luke 5:1-11

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

Mon	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
	2pm	U3A Committee Meeting, Lower St John's Room
	7 pm	1 st Grove Guides, St John's Church Hall
Tue	7.50pm	Grove PCC Meeting, Lower St John's Room
	9.30 am	Make & Bake (under-five's) Cornerstone, Grove
	10 am	Singing Group, St John's Rooms, Grove
	10 am	Mid-week Eucharist at St James, West Hanney
	1pm	U3A Film, St John's Church Hall, Grove
Wed	6.30 pm	Chess Club, St John's Rooms, Grove
	7 pm	2 nd Grove Guides, St John's Church Hall
	2.30pm	Interment of Freda, St John's churchyard
	9.15 am	St John's Toddler Group, St John's Church Hall
	9.15am	St John's Academy Presentations, Lower St John's Room
Thu	7pm	Konga Fitness Class, St John's Church Hall
	7.30pm	Trefoil Guild, Lower St John's Room
	8pm	20s and 30s Homegroup, Wantage
	9.30 am	Extend Your Fitness Group, St John's Hall
	10 am	Mid-week Eucharist at St Nicholas, East Challow
Sat	11am	U3A Group Leaders Meeting, St John's Lower Room
	4-5pm	Community Fridge at Cornerstone, Grove
	5.30pm	Grove Brownies, St John's Church Hall
	8 pm	St John's Badminton Group, St John's Church Hall
	8.30am	Cornerstone Prayer Breakfast, Cornerstone, Grove
Sun	9am-4pm	NCT Course, St John's Church Hall
	Church services for the Benefice are written on the front of this news sheet	
	2pm-5pm	Board Games Social, 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

Associate Vicar: Revd. Alec Gill: Tel. 07739563894.

Email: vicaralec@valebenefice.org.uk

Licensed Lay Minister: Sue Powditch: Tel. 01235 768141

Email: ilm@valebenefice.org.uk

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

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