

Sunday 12th February

Second Sunday before Lent

Psalm 119:1-8 | Deuteronomy 30:15-20 | 1 Corinthians 3:1-9 | Matthew 5:21-37

Jesus was faced with religious people who thought that sticking strictly to the rules in the Law of Moses, like Deuteronomy, would please God. But as the poet who wrote Psalm 119 realised it's a matter of the heart: "Happy are those who keep his decrees, who seek him with their whole heart". It starts with God's love for us and then our response to him. Discipleship is about relationship. The first of the commandments is to love the Lord God with all heart, soul, body, and mind, to be like Jesus. It's our response to his love. And then he gives the growth.

Our Shared Worship

Sunday 12th February

- 8am Holy Communion, St Johns, Grove – Rev Alec Gill
- 9.30am Parish Eucharist, St James, Hanney – Rev Geoff Maughan
- 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 Alec Gill
- 6pm Holy Communion, St John's, Grove – TBC

Upcoming Services

Sunday 19th February

- 8am Holy Communion, St Johns, Grove – Rev John Durant
- 9.30am Parish Eucharist, St James, Hanney – Rev Velma Oxley
- 10am Family Communion, St John's, Grove – Rev John Durant
- 10am Holy Communion, St James, Denchworth – TBC
- 11am Parish Eucharist, St Nicholas, East Challow – Rev Robin Lapwood
- 6pm Evening Prayer, St John's, Grove - TBC

BENEFICE NEWS

Rev John Durant is recovering well from his knee operation. He thanks you for your continued prayers. 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 5th 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.

CORNERSTONE PRAYER BREAKFAST 8.30am on Saturday 11th February.

MOTHERING SUNDAY AND EASTER CARDS FOR SALE Sue will be selling handmade/hand recycled Mothering Sunday and Easter cards, in the hall, after the 10am service on the 12th and 19th February. She’ll also have cards for other occasions too. All proceeds go to St John’s church

BOARD GAMES AFTERNOON the next board game afternoon is on the 26th February 2-5pm. If you can help by making cakes / serving refreshments at these monthly events, please let the office know.

WOMENS WORLD DAY OF PRAYER the date for this is Friday 3rd March held in St John Vianney, Wantage, at 7.30pm.

FOODBANK If anyone has any spare plastic bags, they can donate to the Foodbank to use in their deliveries, please leave in the Church Foyer or St John's Rooms foyer. Many thanks. Foodbank Rep J. Rose.

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!

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.

EMPTY BLISTER PACKS Could everyone please save their empty blister pill packs. These can be recycled to help the Marie Curie funds for research and charities. The empties can be put in Margaret Fell’s pigeonhole to be collected every week. Many thanks.

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.

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

OPEN TABLE There is NO Open Table on 15th February. The next evening will be 1st March (6.30 - 8.30pm at Cornerstone). A reminder: Open Table is intended for anyone, interested in exploring faith - and eating food! You don't have to be church members. In fact, it was started for people who were uneasy in a "church" setting. All welcome. Feel free to invite others. For more info, contact the Beckleys or the Wenhams.

ST JOHNS TEA PARTY The "St John's Teaparty" at Cornerstone on the 3rd Saturday of each month has been sparsely supported since Covid, and so we're wondering whether it should continue. It's a great opportunity to meet across the generations. Do come to the next one (hopefully not the last!) on 18th February from 2 to 3pm. Good cakes, coffee, teas and chat. Everyone welcome.

CORNERSTONE NEWS: The Cornerstone is a Christian books shop and café, located in Saville Way, set up in 1995 by the churches in Grove working together to serve the community. There are many ways of supporting our mission through volunteering, prayer, direct giving and using the café for lunch or a coffee or buying your cards and easter eggs there. Our Make and Bake sessions for the Under 5's runs every Tuesday in term time, 9.30-11 am. No need to book, just £2 per child and everyone is welcome. A reminder that if you order any books online, one way of supporting us is to use <https://uk.bookshop.org/shop/cornerstonegrove> as we receive a percentage of the sales – you get free delivery on orders over £25. The Community Fridge is on every Thursday 4-5pm where anyone can pick up excess supermarket food for free. Finally, remember we do rely on everyone to use the Cornerstone as much as possible and more volunteers would be really helpful to enable us to keep going in these difficult times.

NEWSLETTER, please send notices to; 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

| | | | |
|-----|----------------|------------------------|------------------|
| Mon | Psalm 119:9-16 | Exodus 20:1-21 | James 1:2-8 |
| Tue | Psalm 119:9-16 | Deuteronomy 23:21-24:4 | James 2:1-13 |
| Wed | Psalm 119:9-16 | Proverbs 2:1-15 | Matthew 19:1-12 |
| Thu | Psalm 2 | Exodus 6:2-9 | Hebrews 8:1-7 |
| Fri | Psalm 2 | Exodus 19:9b-25 | Hebrews 11:23-28 |
| Sat | Psalm 2 | 1 Kings 21:20-29 | Mark 9:9-13 |

PLEASE PRAY FOR...

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

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

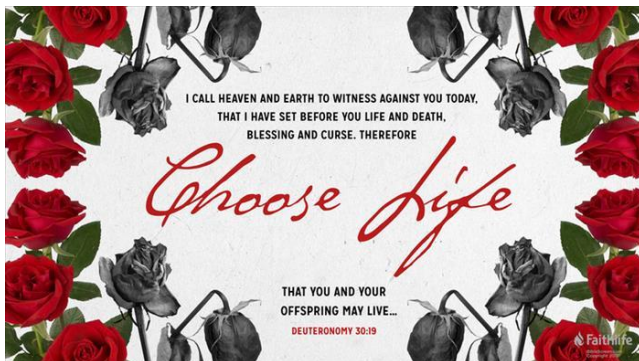
Those getting married and having their Banns read in the Benefice Churches

Those living at Letcombe Walk, Mandhill Drive and Lime Tree Close in Grove; Sarajac Avenue in East Challow; Ashfields in East Hanney; Church Street in West Hanney.

DIARY FOR THE WEEK

(Starting on Mon 13th Feb) **Half Term**

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| Mon | 10am 10am 11am 12.45 pm | GroW Toddlers Group, St John's Church Hall U3A Genealogy Group, St John's Lower Room Interment of ashes (Jenny), Grove Cemetery GroW Babies Group, St John's Church Hall |
| Tue | 10 am 10am 2pm 6.30 pm | Mid-week Eucharist at St James, West Hanney Simply Singing, St John's Lower Room U3A Film Club, St John's Church Hall Chess Club, St John's Rooms, Grove |
| Wed | 9.15 am 11am 6.30pm 7pm 8pm | St John's Toddler Group, St John's Church Hall Funeral Service of Violet, W.Hanney church Open Table Meeting, Cornerstone, Grove Konga Fitness Class, St John's Church Hall 20s and 30s Homegroup |
| Thu | 10 am 2pm 4-5pm 8 pm | Mid-week Eucharist at St Nicholas, East Challow Bible Group, St John's Lower Room Community Fridge at Cornerstone, Grove St John's Badminton Group, St John's Church Hall |
| Fri | 2pm | Friends on Friday (HC), St John's church hall |
| Sat | 9.30-2pm 2pm | Private Party, ST John's church hall Cornerstone Tea Party, Cornerstone, Grove |
| Sun | Church services for the Benefice are written on the front of this news sheet 12.30-2.30pm 6.30pm | "Warm Spaces". All Welcome. St John's Church Hall Senior Youth Group, St John's Church Hall |



CONTACT DETAILS

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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.

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