



Sunday 19th February

Sunday before Lent

Psalm 2 | Psalm 99 | Exodus 24:12-18 | 2 Peter 1:16-21 | Matthew 17:1-9

Before we launch into Lent, we're reminded just who it was that was driven into the wilderness "to be tempted by the devil," sharing our human experience with all its frailty. Our readings today are full of how Jesus shared God's glory. We are told, as he's transfigured on the mountain, "This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!" Lent reminds us that we all have our wildernesses, times, short or long, when we're under pressure, tested to the limit and even far from God; yet still

He says to us,

"Because of Jesus, you are my child, my beloved."

Our Shared Worship

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 - Rev Robin Lapwood
- 11am Parish Eucharist, St Nicholas, East Challow
- 6pm Evening Prayer, St John's, Grove

Wednesday 22nd February

- 7.30pm Ash Wednesday Communion, St Nicholas, East Challow

Upcoming Services

Sunday 26th February

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

BENEFICE NEWS

Rev John Durant thanks you for your prayers and will be returning to work from 19th February .

BENEFICE: MID-WEEK COMMUNION SERVICES There will be no midweek Holy Communion Services during week beginning 19th Feb.

WARM SPACES – At St John’s, we are opening our church every Sunday from 12.30-2.30pm as a “Warm Space” until 5th March. We 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.

MOTHERING SUNDAY AND EASTER CARDS FOR SALE Sue Powditch will be selling handmade / hand recycled Mothering Sunday and Easter cards, in the St John’s Church hall, after the 10am service on the 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 SERVICE Our local service is being held on Friday 3rd March, 7.30pm at St John Vianney Church in Wantage. All Welcome. This year’s World Day of Prayer was prepared by women in Taiwan. It’s entitled “I have heard about your faith” and encourages us to encourage each other. Come and join churches across the world as we pray together.

FOODBANK If anyone has any spare plastic bags, they can donate to our Foodbank Rep to use in deliveries, please leave in the Church Foyer or St John’s Rooms foyer.

THE SATURDAY MORNING PRAYERS MEETINGS (which are usually held in the St John’s Church rooms), will be held at Frances Gillott’s house instead until further notice. Tel: 763554. On the 2nd Saturday of the month it is the Cornerstone Prayer Breakfast instead, so that will be at Cornerstone, Grove. All at 8.30am. Frances Gillott.

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. Lets have one last push to get as many in before that date! Thanks. Peter Rich.

ST. JOHN’S CHURCH needs more Volunteers across all rotas. If you are not already on a rota & could use your skills to serve the Lord in our church, please contact a vicar, churchwarden, or office. Many thanks to all our volunteers across the Benefice.

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.

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

ADVANCE NOTICE for St John's Church FETE 24th June 2-4pm. Please save this date for our annual church fete. We were so pleased that many people from the community came last year, and so want to be prepared to welcome them, and more, again this year. Please can you start to save tins, jars and bottles of food, drink, toiletries for the tombola, nearly new toys, books, bric a brac and raffle prizes. Please consider if your place of work would consider donating raffle prizes or promises for our auction. We are doing a plant stall so please plant extra seeds for us (flowers and vegetables), and homemade produce, jams and honey etc. If you have any ideas for stalls, please contact Nicky Gibbard; email nicolagibbard@hotmail.co.uk. There will be a meeting in soon for all the involved people so we can plan. Thanks!

EMPTY BLISTER PACKS Please could you save your 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 in St John's Church (or left with the Benefice Office). Many thanks.

OPEN TABLE The next meeting is on 1st March (6.30 - 8.30pm, Cornerstone). Reminder: Open Table is intended for anyone, interested in exploring faith-and eating food! You don't have to be church members. It was started for people 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 March from 2pm 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, 9.30-11am. 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> (and list us as your preferred book seller) as we receive a percentage of the sales. Get free delivery on orders over £25. **The Community Fridge** is 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. Thank you.

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR MORNING PRAYER

Mon	Psalm 78:17-20, 52-55	Exodus 33:7-23	Acts 7:30-34
Tue	Psalm 78:17-20, 52-55	1 Kings 19:9-18	Romans 11:1-6
Wed	ASH WEDNESDAY	ASH WEDNESDAY	ASH WEDNESDAY
Thu	Psalm 51	Jonah 3:1-10	Romans 1:1-7
Fri	Psalm 51	Jonah 4:1-11	Romans 1:8-17
Sat	Psalm 51	Isaiah 58:1-12	Matthew 18:1-7

PLEASE PRAY FOR...

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

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

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

Those returning to nursery, school, further education, apprenticeships and work after the half term holiday.

Those living at Miles Drive, Hunters Close and Membury Way in Grove; Blenheim Orchard in East Hanney; Main Street in West Hanney; Grove CE School.

DIARY FOR THE WEEK *(Starting on Mon 20th Feb)*

Mon	10am	GroW Toddlers Group, St John's Church Hall
	10am	U3A Science Group, St John's Lower Room
	12.45 pm	GroW Babies Group, St John's Church Hall
	7 pm	1 st Grove Guides, St John's Church Hall
	7.30pm	GroW Parenting Course, Lower St John's Room
Tue	9.30 am	Make & Bake (under-five's) Cornerstone, Grove
	10am	Simply Singing, St John's Lower Room
	2pm	U3A Group Main Meeting, St John's Church Hall
	6.30 pm	Chess Club, St John's Rooms, Grove
Wed	7 pm	2 nd Grove Guides, St John's Church Hall
	9.15 am	St John's Toddler Group, St John's Church Hall
	12 noon	WGCP Meeting, Lower St John's Room
	1pm	Funeral of Pamela, St John's Church
	1.30pm	Funeral Reception, St John's Church Hall
	7pm	Konga Fitness Class, St John's Church Hall
	7.30pm	Ash Wednesday Service at St Nicholas Church, E.Challow
Thu	8pm	20s and 30s Homegroup
	10am	White Horse Extend Exercise Group, St John's Hall
	4-5pm	Community Fridge at Cornerstone, Grove
	5.30pm	Grove Brownies, St John's Church Hall
	7.30pm	Guides Volunteers meeting, Lower St John's Room
Sat	8 pm	St John's Badminton Group, St John's Church Hall
	8.30am	Saturday Morning Prayer Group at Frances Gillott's house
	1pm	Private Party, St John's Church Hall
Sun	Church services for the Benefice are written on the front of this news sheet	
	12.30-2.30pm	"Warm Spaces". All Welcome. St John's Church Hall
	2pm – 5pm	Boardgames Afternoon, St John's Church Hall
	7pm	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: 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