



Sunday 26th February

First Sunday in Lent

Psalm 32 | Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7 | Romans 5:12-19 | Matthew 4:1-11

Today we see both vicious and virtuous circles in our readings, which Paul describes in Romans chapter 5. The vicious circle represents the consequences of “trespass” or sin; the virtuous circle represents the consequences of “grace” or the love of Christ. The great thing is that Christ’s love far outweighs sin’s power. “... if many died through one man’s trespass, much more has ... the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many” (ESV). David knew that abundant grace was already his through “the one man’s obedience”: “I said, ‘I will confess my transgressions to the Lord’, and you forgave the guilt of my sin.” And He’ll forgive ours too.

Our Shared Worship

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

Upcoming Services

Sunday 5th March

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



ST JOHN'S – PHOTOGRAPHY/FILMING – Individual & Parental consent form. We are hoping to make our livestreaming more widely accessible and update our website with new photos.

To do this we need consent for your “image” to be used. The blank forms should be available on the welcome table in the foyer. If you haven't already filled out one of these forms in the previous two weeks and are happy to do so, please complete ASAP then pass to Nick Terrill or the Church Office. Please also come speak to one of the churchwardens if you don't wish to be on camera/give consent to have your image used as this will help plan accordingly. Many thanks.

THURSDAY BIBLE GROUP will meet every Thursday at 2pm during Lent in the St John's Rooms, Grove: (March: 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th & April 6th). We will be following the same Lent material (Holy Habits) as the Wednesday evening Lent Course.

BENEFICE LENT COURSE Every Wednesday evening at 7.45pm (alternating between St John's Church, Grove and St Nicholas Church, Challow each week). Starting on 1st March in the Lower room at St John's Church and then the following week at St Nicholas Church, and alternating each week until the last session at St Nicholas Church on 5th April. If you cannot make it to the Wednesday evening Lent Groups, you are welcome to join the 2pm Thursday afternoon Bible Group at Lower St John's Room, Grove, who will be following the same Lent material “Holy Habits” as the Wednesday Lent Group.

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.

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

OPEN TABLE After a three week break it's Open Table at the Cornerstone Café again on Wednesday 1st March (6.30-8.30 pm). All welcome especially but not exclusively those not at home with formal church. A time to explore faith and to share life. Light supper included. For more information talk to the Beckley or the Wenhams.

WOMENS WORLD DAY OF PRAYER SERVICE Friday 3rd March, 7.30pm at St John Vianney Church, Wantage. All Welcome. This year's Service was prepared by women in Taiwan, entitled: "I have heard about your faith" and encourages us to encourage each other. Come & join churches across the world as we pray together.

THE 8.30am SATURDAY MORNING PRAYERS MEETINGS (usually in St John's Church rooms), will be at Frances Gillott's house instead until further notice. Tel: 763554. The 2nd Sat. of the month is Cornerstone Prayer Breakfast at Cornerstone,

USED STAMPS FOR DECHWORTH CHURCH Thank you for saving your used stamps for Denchworth church. Please do continue to pass these on to Suzanne Cox at Denchworth or the Benefice Office at Grove. This helps raise funds for our church.

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.

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 JOHNS TEA PARTY at Cornerstone on each 3rd Saturday is a great opportunity to meet across the generations. Do come to the next one (hopefully not the last!) on 18th March (2pm to 3pm). Good cakes, coffee, teas and chat. All welcome.

ADVANCE NOTICE for St John's Church FETE 24th June (2-4pm). 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 start to save tins, jars & 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. Please plant extra seeds (flowers and vegetables) for our plant stall, & donate 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!

DIARY DATES at St John's Church: March 11th - Film Night (Operation Mincemeat), May 21st - Viva Lunch in church hall, June 3rd - Film Night (TBD)

CORNERSTONE NEWS: The Cornerstone is a Christian books shop and café, 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.

PRAYER FOR THE NATION Wantage Baptist Church are hosting this on **Saturday 11th March** at 10:30am. Do stay for fellowship over tea and coffee afterwards. Every blessing. **Jez Fernandez (Pastor)** 07495 930 121 jez@wantagebaptist.org.uk

W & G FOODBANK We have some current practical needs: - volunteers to help with food parcel packing & deliveries on Monday & Wednesday mornings fortnightly. Also needing someone to help with shopping on Friday mornings. Both roles require you to be fit & healthy & have a car. We also need larger premises and to be working from 1 site at a nominal fee (not multiple sites). If you know of a large-ish (cheap) space with parking & no stairs, do get in touch. Many thanks. D Townsend on behalf of the Foodbank Committee.

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

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 living at: Woodhill Lane in East Challow; Main Street and Orchard Close in East Hanney; Linden Close, Mandarin Place and Mallard Way in Grove.

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR MORNING PRAYER

Mon	Psalm 32	1 Kings 19:1-8;	Hebrews 2:10-18
Tue	Psalm 32	Genesis 4:1-16;	Hebrews 4:14-5:10
Wed	Psalm 32	Exodus 34:1-9, 27-28	Matthew 18:10-14
Thu	Psalm 121	Isaiah 51:1-3	2 Timothy 1:3-7
Fri	Psalm 121	Micah 7:18-20	Romans 3:21-31
Sat	Psalm 121	Isaiah 51:4-8	Luke 7:1-10

DIARY FOR THE WEEK *(Starting on Mon 27th 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
	10 am	Mid-week Eucharist at St James, West Hanney
	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
	10 am	Mid-week Eucharist at St John's, Grove
	6pm	Falcon Cubs Meeting, Upper St John's Room, Grove
	6.30pm	Open Table Meeting, Cornerstone, Grove
	7pm	Konga Fitness Class, St John's Church Hall
Thu	7.45pm	Benefice Lent Course, Lower St John's Room, Grove
	8pm	20s and 30s Homegroup
	10am	White Horse Extend Exercise Group, St John's Hall
	10 am	Mid-week Eucharist at St Nicholas, East Challow
	4-5pm	Community Fridge at Cornerstone, Grove
Fri	2pm	Bible Group, Lower St John's Room, Grove
	5.30pm	Grove Brownies, St John's Church Hall
	8 pm	St John's Badminton Group, St John's Church Hall
	2pm	Friends on Friday Group, St John's Church Hall
Sat	7.30pm	World Day of Prayer Service, St John Vianney Church, Wantage.
	8.30am	Saturday Morning Prayer Group – Frances' house
	11am-1pm	Grove Martial Arts self-defence, Lower St John's Room, Grove
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
	12.30pm	Discipleship Meeting, St John's Church Hall
	3pm	Women's Social Group, Lower St John's Room, Grove
	6.30pm	Senior Youth Group, St John's Church Hall