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## **Sunday 5th February**

### **Third Sunday before Lent**

*Psalm 112:1-9 (10) | Isaiah 58:1-9a (9b-12) | 1 Corinthians 2:1-12 (13-16) |  
Matthew 5:13-20*

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Jesus came to fulfil the Old Testament law. In fact, He Himself is the fulfilment of that law. Not in the way of the people whom Isaiah lambasts for their misguided law-keeping. It's not about the negatives, he says; it's not fasting and being "religious". It's fighting injustice, freeing the oppressed, sharing the good things we have, gospel, shelter, clothes, and food, with those in need. As Jesus summarised it, it's loving God with our whole being and our neighbours as ourselves. Love is the fulfilling of the law; Paul told the Romans. That's "the Spirit of God", aka "the mind of Christ". That's the measure of goodness

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### **Our Shared Worship**

#### **Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> February**

- 8am Holy Communion, St Johns, Grove – Rev Alec Gill
- 9.30am Family Eucharist, St James, Hanney – Rev Alec Gill
- 10am Holy Communion, St John's, Grove – Dr Sarah Shackleton (preaching)
- 10am Holy Communion, St James, Denchworth – Rev Robin Lapwood
- 11am Parish Eucharist, St Nicholas, East Challow – Rev Alec Gill
- 6pm Evening Prayer, St John's, Grove – TBC

#### **Upcoming Services**

#### **Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> 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

# 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 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.

**FILM NIGHT** Join us in St John’s Church Hall on 4<sup>th</sup> February to watch **Top Gun Maverick**. Doors open at 7pm and film will start at 7:30pm. Hot and cold drinks as well as nibbles will be available. It is free to come and watch but donations are welcome. Alcoholic drinks will need to be provided by yourselves. Please invite a friend.

**CORNERSTONE PRAYER BREAKFAST** 8.30am on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> February.

**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.

**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 12<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> 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 26<sup>th</sup> February 2-5pm. If you can help by making cakes / serving refreshments at these monthly events, please let the office know.

**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 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023. Let us make this a bumper Christmas for them! Peter Rich.

**EMPTY BLISTER PACKS** Could everyone please save their empty lister 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.

**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 15<sup>th</sup> February.

**ST JOHNS** Tea Party at Cornerstone 3rd Saturdays of the month. Join us for chat, coffee, cake, fellowship. 18<sup>th</sup> February (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.

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

**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.

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## LECTIONARY READINGS FOR MORNING PRAYER

<b>Mon</b>	Psalm 119:105-112	2 Kings 22:3-20	Romans 11:2-10
<b>Tue</b>	Psalm 119:105-112	2 Kings 23:1-8, 21-25	2 Corinthians 4:1-12
<b>Wed</b>	Psalm 119:105-112	Proverbs 6:6-23	John 8:12-30
<b>Thu</b>	Psalm 119:1-8	Genesis 26:1-5	James 1:12-16
<b>Fri</b>	Psalm 119:1-8	Leviticus 26:34-46	1 John 2:7-17
<b>Sat</b>	Psalm 119:1-8	Deuteronomy 30:1-9a	Matthew 15:1-9

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## PLEASE PRAY FOR...

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

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

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

**The new Archdeacon:** Revd Canon David Tyler (replacing Judy French)

**Those living at** Mayfield Avenue, Laurel Crescent, and Manor Gardens in Grove; St Nicholas School in East Challow; Morlands in East Hanney; Circourt Road in Denchworth.

# DIARY FOR THE WEEK *(Starting on Mon 6th Feb)*

<b>Mon</b>	10am 12.45 pm 7 pm 8pm	GroW Toddlers Group, St John's Church Hall GroW Babies Group, St John's Church Hall 1 <sup>st</sup> Grove Guides, St John's Church Hall Grove FMG meeting, St John's Lower Room
<b>Tue</b>	9.30 am <b>10 am</b> 2pm 6.30 pm 7 pm	Make & Bake (under-five's) Cornerstone, Grove <b>Mid-week Eucharist at St James, West Hanney</b> U3A Main Meeting, St John's Church Hall Chess Club, St John's Rooms, Grove 2 <sup>nd</sup> Grove Guides, St John's Church Hall
<b>Wed</b>	9.15 am 7pm 7.30pm 7.30pm	St John's Toddler Group, St John's Church Hall Konga Fitness Class, St John's Church Hall Trefoil Guild Meeting, St John's Lower Room 20s and 30s Homegroup
<b>Thu</b>	<b>10 am</b> 10am 12.30pm 2pm 4-5pm 5.30pm 8 pm	<b>Mid-week Eucharist at St Nicholas, East Challow</b> Funeral of Hazel, St John's Church Funeral of Jenny, S. Oxfordshire Crematorium Funeral of Marina, St John's Church Community Fridge at Cornerstone, Grove Grove Brownies, St John's Church Hall St John's Badminton Group, St John's Church Hall
<b>Fri</b>	2pm	Wedding at St James the Great Church, Denchworth
<b>Sat</b>	8.30am 11.30am	Cornerstone Prayer Breakfast, Cornerstone, Grove Private party in St John's Hall
<b>Sun</b>	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](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.

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