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## **Sunday 12th March**

### **Third Sunday in Lent**

*Psalm 95 | Exodus 17:1-7 | Romans 5:1-11 | John 4:5-42*

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“O come...” “O come...” says today’s Psalm. “For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.” Even his people, grumbling and thirsty in the desert, found that He still cared about them. Jesus comes to Sychar town and offers “living water” to an alienated woman - and to us. As Paul puts it, “God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.” And so the call to us today is “O come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker” - our strong Deliverer.

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### **Our Shared Worship**

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

- 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 Holy Communion, St John’s, Grove – Rev John Durant

### **Upcoming Services**

#### **Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> March**

- 8am Holy Communion, St Johns, Grove – Rev John Durant
- 9.30am Parish Eucharist, St James, Hanney – Rev Geoff Maughan
- 10am Family 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 – Rev John Durant



**ST JOHN'S – PHOTOGRAPHY/FILMING (Individual & Parental consent form).** We hope to make our livestreaming more widely accessible & update our website with new photos. To do this we need consent for your "image" to be used. The blank forms are available on the welcome table in the foyer. If you haven't already filled one out & are happy to, please complete ASAP & pass to Nick Terrill / Church Office. Please also speak to a churchwarden if you don't wish to be on camera/give consent to have your image used as this will help plan accordingly. Many thanks.

**BENEFICE LENT COURSE** Wednesday evenings (7.45pm). **times may vary** check diary section each week. Alternating between St John's Church, & St Nicholas Church, each week). Last session at St Nicholas on 5<sup>th</sup> April. If you can't make Wednesdays, join the Thursday Bible Group (2pm) at St Johns who will follow the same Lent material "Holy Habits" as the Wednesday Lent Group.

**THURSDAY BIBLE GROUP** every Thursday at 2pm during Lent in the St John's Rooms, Grove: (March: 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> & April 6<sup>th</sup>). Following the same Lent material (Holy Habits) as the Wednesday evening Lent Course.

**FILM NIGHT** 11<sup>th</sup> March. St John's Church Hall. Doors open 7pm for 7.30pm start. Snacks & soft drinks available but feel free to bring your own. Free to attend but donations are always welcome.

**PRAYER FOR THE NATION** Wantage Baptist Church is hosting this on **Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> March** at 10:30am. Do stay for fellowship over tea and coffee afterwards.

**ST JOHNS TEA PARTY** There WILL be another Tea/Coffee Party on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> March (2-3pm) at Cornerstone, after an encouraging turn-out last month. Do come & join us. More are always welcomed. Chat, warmth & cake.

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

**ANNUAL EGG DELIVERY** We are delivering Easter cards & Fresh eggs to the Senior Citizens of Grove and Hanney from 27<sup>th</sup> March. We would love to hear about anyone new to Grove or Hanney who is now over 65 and wishing to be included in our annual egg delivery. Similarly, let us know if you do not need this service now. Please contact Jane: 07914539136, email [jane.syme59@gmail.com](mailto:jane.syme59@gmail.com) by Friday 17<sup>th</sup> March.

**RIDGEWAY BENEFICE** invites you to attend the licensing of Rev Vanessa Brunner-Ellis at Sparsholt, the Church of the Holy Rood, April 13<sup>th</sup> (7.30pm) with refreshments afterwards in the Griffin Hall. Parking available in Sparsholt Manor.

**BENEFICE CHURCHES' EASTER FLOWERS** Thank you for all our Benefice churches' flowers at Easter. Please do donate towards them if you can. Thank you.

**CONFIRMATION** The Bishop of Dorchester + Gavin Collins is coming on 7<sup>th</sup> May to lead a Confirmation service. If you'd like to be confirmed, please advise a vicar.

**BIG LUNCH** Sun 7<sup>th</sup> May. As part of Coronation Celebrations, we plan to hold a 'Big Lunch' at St John's after the 10am service. This will be for our church and an open invitation to our wider community to join us. Watch this space for details. Nicky.

**VIVA NETWORK LUNCH** at St John's Church on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> May. Please do join us for the 10am Service (with Viva) and lunch in the hall afterwards. All welcome.

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

**THE VALE BENEFICE OFFICE IS CLOSED** on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2023.

**GROVE CHURCH VOLUNTEERS (Rotas for May-August)** Thank you very much to all volunteers. Please let the office know of absences (you know of) for the next rota period by 13<sup>th</sup> March (when we'll start collating the rotas). Thank you.

**ADVANCE NOTICE for St John's Church FETE 24th June (2-4pm)**. Please start saving tins, jars & bottles of food, drink, toiletries for the tombola, nearly new toys, books, bric a brac & raffle prizes. If appropriate, please ask your place of work to consider donating raffle prizes or promises for our auction. Please plant extra seeds (flowers & vegetables) for our plant stall, & donate homemade produce, jams & honey etc. Any ideas for stalls? Contact Nicky Gibbard; email [nicolagibbard@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:nicolagibbard@hotmail.co.uk)  
There will be a meeting in soon for all the involved people so we can plan. Thanks!

**MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS FUNDRAISING** Bev, Steve & son Chris Aldridge, will walk 70miles (Letcombe Regis to Bristol in just 3 days)! Yes, it would be quicker to drive down the M4 but what's the challenge in that & who would sponsor us for sitting in a car? Our family benefitted from Multiple Sclerosis Therapy Centres (Didcot & Bristol). We either are, or have been, volunteers at the Oxfordshire Centre helping to operate the Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy. If you can sponsor us, please use the link. Many thanks. Bev [www.justgiving.com/page/bev-aldridge-1677335282847](http://www.justgiving.com/page/bev-aldridge-1677335282847)

**USED STAMPS FOR DECHWORTH CHURCH** Please continue to pass these on to Suzanne Cox at Denchworth/Benefice Office, Grove. Raising funds for the church.

**CORNERSTONE NEWS** We have a good choice of cards for **Mothering Sunday** (19th March) as well as items suitable for gifts. We also have plenty of **Easter cards** along with Easter books including children's books and Real Easter Eggs. Don't forget we are able to supply **outside catering** so do contact us for more information. The monthly **hot meal special** of beef casserole will be on **Wednesday 29th March** – please do book in advance so we know how many to cater for. Tel: 72280 Email: [office@cornerstonegrove.org.uk](mailto:office@cornerstonegrove.org.uk)

**WANTAGE & GROVE FOODBANK** needs volunteers to pack & deliver food parcels (Monday & Wednesday mornings fortnightly). Also need a shopper (Friday mornings). Need to be fit, healthy & have a car. We also need larger premises & to be working from 1 site at a nominal fee (not multiple sites). If you know of anywhere with parking & no stairs, do get in touch. Many thanks. D Townsend.

**NEWSLETTER** to be sent out on Wednesday 15.3.2023. Send any notices to be included in Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> newsletter to; [news@valebenefice.org.uk](mailto:news@valebenefice.org.uk) by 10pm on TUESDAY 14/3/2023. Only include personal information if you consent to it being published.

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## **PLEASE PRAY FOR...**

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

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

**Those living at:** Mill Orchard in East Hanney; Albermarle Drive, Woodhill Drive and Ashdown Way in Grove; Hyde Road in Denchworth; Reynolds Way in East Challow.

## LECTIONARY READINGS FOR MORNING PRAYER

<b>Mon</b>	Psalm 81	Genesis 24:1-27	2 John 1:1-13
<b>Tue</b>	Psalm 81	Genesis 29:1-14	1 Corinthians 10:1-4
<b>Wed</b>	Psalm 81	Jeremiah 2:4-13	John 7:14-31, 37-39
<b>Thu</b>	Psalm 23	1 Samuel 15:10-21	Ephesians 4:25-32
<b>Fri</b>	Psalm 23	1 Samuel 15:22-31	Ephesians 5:1-9
<b>Sat</b>	Psalm 23	1 Samuel 15:32-34	John 1:1-9

## DIARY FOR THE WEEK *(Starting on Mon 13th March)*

<b>Mon</b>	10am	GroW Toddlers Group, St John's Church Hall
	10am	U3A Genealogy Group, St John's Lower Room
	12.45 pm	GroW Babies Group, St John's Church Hall
	2pm	U3A committee meeting, Lower St John's Room
	7 pm	1 <sup>st</sup> Grove Guides, St John's Church Hall
	7.30pm	GroW Parenting Course, Lower St John's Room
	7.30pm	Grove PCC - St John's upper Room
<b>Tue</b>	9.30 am	Make & Bake (under-five's) Cornerstone, Grove
	10am	Simply Singing, St John's Lower Room
	<b>10 am</b>	<b>Mid-week Eucharist at St James, West Hanney</b>
	2pm	U3A Film, St John's Church Hall
	3pm	Funeral at S. Ox. Crematorium for Jean
<b>Wed</b>	6.30 pm	Chess Club, St John's Rooms, Grove
	7 pm	2 <sup>nd</sup> Grove Guides, St John's Church Hall
	9.15 am	St John's Toddler Group, St John's Church Hall
	6.30pm	Open Table Meeting, Cornerstone, Grove
	7pm	Konga Fitness Class, St John's Church Hall
<b>Thu</b>	<b>7.45pm</b>	<b>Benefice Lent Course, St John's Church, Grove</b>
	8pm	20s and 30s Homegroup
		<b>Benefice Office Closed &amp; limited parking in Grove church car park due to Church roof repairs.</b>
	10am	White Horse Extend Exercise Group, St John's Hall
	<b>10am</b>	<b>Mid-week Eucharist at St Nicholas, East Challow</b>
<b>Fri</b>	4-5pm	Community Fridge at Cornerstone, Grove
	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
		<b>Limited parking in Grove church car park due to Church roof repairs.</b>
<b>Sat</b>	2pm	Friends on Friday (HC), St John's Church Hall
	8.30am	Saturday Morning Prayer Group at Frances Gillott's house
	10-3pm	Private Party, St John's Church Hall
<b>Sun</b>	2-3pm	Cornerstone Tea Party, Cornerstone, Grove
	Church services for the Benefice are written on the front of this newsheet.	
	6.30pm	Senior Youth Group, St John's Church Hall

**Vicar:** Revd. John Durant: Tel. 01235 766484. Email: [vicar@valebenefice.org.uk](mailto:vicar@valebenefice.org.uk)

**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: [lm@valebenefice.org.uk](mailto:lm@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](mailto:office@valebenefice.org.uk)