



Sunday 19th March

Fourth Sunday in Lent (Mothering Sunday)

Psalm 23 | 1 Samuel 16:1-13 | Ephesians 5:8-14 | John 9:1-41

Isn't God surprising? He uses such unexpected things and people! A forgotten young shepherd he anoints to be a great king; he rouses sleepers from the depths of darkness in order to produce the fruit of light, that is all that's good and right and true; he uses spittle and mud from the ground to heal to a man who's been blind all his life.

And today we remember a north-country teenage girl whom he chooses to be the mother of Jesus.

This week let's keep our eyes open to see where and in whom our God of surprises is at work, maybe even in you!

Our Shared Worship

Sunday 19th 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 Mothering Sunday Service, St Nicholas, East Challow – Rev Alec Gill

6pm Evening Prayer, St John's, Grove – Rev John Durant

Upcoming Services

Sunday 26th March

8am Holy Communion, St Johns, Grove – Rev Alec Gill

9.30am Parish Eucharist, St James, Hanney – Rev Velma Oxley

10am Morning Worship, St John's, Grove – Rev Alec Gill

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

At our **GROVE PCC** we agreed to give Sarah-Jane Frideswide our unanimous support to begin training for Licensed Lay Ministry. We thanked Pat Bates for supporting the treasurer while away & Anna Mabbett who is stepping down as Secretary; as well as the FMG committee for their hard work & noted that our boiler requires replacing, said we will examine & hopefully approve by email the accounts when they have been audited, & agreed to begin using the common cup in April.

At our **DENCHWORTH PCC** the following items were discussed: the roof alarm firm, the state of the organ, the cleaning of the church & the repainting of the Chancel as well as receiving a copy of the accounts & expressing thanks to the treasurer Jo Pepler. A vote of thanks was also given to Katrina Cox who is stepping down as Minutes secretary.

At our **CHALLOW PCC** we discussed future events in the context of our mission; receiving the common cup but not yet; having coffee after our 10am midweek Eucharist; considered the highlights of 2022; the coronation weekend flower festival; learned that the stain glass window's repairs should soon be complete; thanked Graham Parker for his role as treasurer & acknowledged Kat Culverwell as the new treasurer.

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 5th 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: 23rd, 30th & April 6th). Following the same Lent material (Holy Habits) as the Wednesday evening Lent Course.

ANNUAL EGG DELIVERY We are delivering Easter cards & Fresh eggs to the Senior Citizens of Grove and Hanney from 27th 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 by **Friday 17th March**.

CORNERSTONE MOTHERING SUNDAY (Afternoon Tea) Come and celebrate Mother's Day with us & have "Cream Tea" or "Afternoon Tea" on Friday 17th & Saturday 18th March from 2.30-4pm. (Cream Tea: £5 per person / Afternoon Tea £16 per person). Please book by Thursday 16th March. All Welcome.

ST JOHNS TEA PARTY There WILL be another Tea/Coffee Party on Saturday 18th 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 26th March 2-5pm. If you can help by making cakes / serving refreshments at these events, please let the office know.

RIDGEWAY BENEFICE invites you to attend the licensing of Rev Vanessa Brunner-Ellis at Sparsholt, the Church of the Holy Rood, April 13th (7.30pm) with refreshments afterwards in the Griffin Hall. Parking is 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 7th May to lead a Conformation service. If you would like to be confirmed, please advise a vicar.

BIG LUNCH Sun 7th 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 21st May. Please do join us for the 10am Service (with Viva) and lunch in the hall afterwards. All welcome.

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 19th March latest! Thank you.

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 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; nicolagibbard@hotmail.co.uk

FETE PLANNING MEETING We have a meeting on Monday 27th March, 7.30pm in St John's Rooms to plan stalls, share ideas and allocate tasks. If you can come that would be great, but if you are not able to come then please let me know which stalls you would like to run and any ideas you would like us to discuss. Please see the sign-up sheet in the foyer. Thanks Nicky.

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

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.

NEWSLETTER Send any notices to be included in the newsletter by 10pm on Wednesday night. Email: news@valebenefice.org.uk

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR MORNING PRAYER

Mon	Psalm 146	Isaiah 59:9-19	Acts 9:1-20
Tue	Psalm 146	Isaiah 42:14-21	Colossians 1:9-14
Wed	Psalm 146	Isaiah 60:17-22	Matthew 9:27-34
Thu	Psalm 130	Ezekiel 1:1-3, 2:8-3:3	Revelation 10:1-11
Fri	Psalm 130	Ezekiel 33:10-16	Revelation 11:15-19
Sat	Psalm 130	Ezekiel 36:8-15	Luke 24:44-53

PLEASE PRAY FOR...

Health and healing: Norah, John, 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: Rectory Farm Close in West Hanney; The Causeway in East Hanney; Brook Lane in Denchworth; Barbury Drive, Woodgate Close & Blenheim Gardens in Grove.

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

Mon	10am	GroW Toddlers Group, St John's Church Hall
	12.45 pm	GroW Babies Group, St John's Church Hall
	7.30pm	GroW Parenting course, St John's Lower Room
	7 pm	1 st Grove Guides, St John's Church Hall
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
	2pm	U3A Meeting, St John's Church Hall
	6.30pm	Chess Club, St John's Rooms, Grove
	7pm	2 nd Grove Guides, St John's Church Hall
Wed	9.15 am	St John's Toddler Group, St John's Church Hall
	10.30am	Wellington Gate Community Group Meeting, St John's Lower Room
	4pm	St John's Academy (open to talk), St John's Lower Room
	7pm	Konga Fitness Class, St John's Church Hall
	7.45pm	Benefice Lent Course, St Nicholas Church, E. Challow
	8pm	20s and 30s Homegroup
Thu	10am	White Horse Extend Exercise Group, St John's Hall
	10am	Mid-week Eucharist at St Nicholas, East Challow
	12noon	WGCP Meeting, St John's Lower Room
	2pm	Bible Group (Lent Course), St John's Lower Room
	4-5pm	Community Fridge at Cornerstone, Grove
	5.30pm	Grove Brownies, St John's Church Hall
	8pm	St John's Badminton Group, St John's Church Hall
Sat	8.30am	Morning Prayers (at Frances' house)
Sun	Church services for the Benefice are written on the front of this news sheet.	
	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