



---

## **Sunday 2nd April**

### **Palm Sunday**

*Psalm 31:9-16 | Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 | Isaiah 50:4-9a | Philippians 2:5-11  
Matthew 26:14-27:66 | Matthew 27:11-54 | Matthew 21:1-11*

---

On Palm Sunday, many churches read the whole passion narrative, the account of the events leading to Jesus' crucifixion. Some even act them out. One of the readings set for the day is St Matthew's account. It is worth listening to (or reading) and placing ourselves in the story. Where would we be? The betrayer who despairs of forgiveness? The disciple who caves in under pressure? The crowd who let injustice happen? The powerful man who's afraid of losing his position? The soldier who admits his fatal error? The outsider who shares the burden of suffering? The women who stay and grieve? Let's not waste this Holy Week.

---

### **Our Shared Worship**

#### **Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> April (Palm Sunday)**

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 – Rev Peter Rich  
11am Parish Eucharist, St Nicholas, East Challow – Rev Alec Gill  
6pm Holy Communion, St John's, Grove – Rev John Durant

### **Upcoming Services**

#### **Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> April (Easter Sunday)**

8am Holy Communion, St Johns, Grove – Rev John Durant  
9.30am Parish Eucharist, St James, Hanney – Rev Alec Gill  
10am Holy Communion, St John's, Grove – Rev John Durant  
10am Holy Communion, St James, Denchworth – Rev Peter Rich  
11am Parish Eucharist, St Nicholas, East Challow – Rev Alec Gill

**No 6pm Service at St John's, Grove**

## BENEFICE NEWS

---

**BENEFICE LENT COURSE** the last session will be at St Nicholas church on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> April, 7.30pm.

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

**FRIENDS ON FRIDAY** will not be meeting on Good Friday (7<sup>th</sup> April). The Group will meet again on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2023 for a Holy Communion Service.

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

**CORNERSTONE NEWS** We have **Easter cards & Easter books** (including **children's books**) but a limited supply of **Easter Eggs left** (unable to get more). As well as being a collection point for the **Food Bank**, we are now also one for the **Wantage & Grove children's Clothes Bank**. During Easter school holidays we will offer **free breakfasts** again to families with children who have free school meals (If you can donate towards these costs, please contact us). Last, but not least, following the recent inspection by the Health Inspector we are delighted to have retained our **5 Star** rating. Tel: 772280 Email: [office@cornerstonegrove.org.uk](mailto:office@cornerstonegrove.org.uk)

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

**CONFIRMATION** The Bishop of Dorchester + Gavin Collins is coming on 7<sup>th</sup> May to lead a Confirmation service at the 10am Service at St John's Church, Grove. If you would like to be confirmed, please advise a vicar.

**BIG LUNCH** Sun 7<sup>th</sup> May at St John's Church As part of the Coronation celebrations, we are planning to hold a 'Big Lunch' on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May here at St John's, after the morning confirmation and communion service. This will be for our church and an open invitation to our wider community to join in with us. Our celebration meal will be: Coronation Chicken with Rice and Salad, Trifle, Coronation Cake, Teas and Coffees There will be dietary options available. We ask that you sign up to let us know an idea of numbers. We hope you can join with us as we celebrate together. There is no charge for this meal, any donations towards the cost are voluntary. Thanks Nicky & Matthew.

**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.

**BOARD GAMES AFTERNOON** The next one is planned for Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> April. 26<sup>th</sup> (2-5pm). If you can help by making cakes / serving refreshments at these events, please let the office know.

**OPEN TABLE** is especially intended for friends not used to conventional church. Everyone is welcome. We're not meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> April but will be back meeting on 19.4.2023 at 6.30pm at Cornerstone and then on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays of the month. For more information contact the Beckleys (765068) or the Wenhams (760094).

**WOMEN'S SOCIAL Group** meeting THIS Sunday 2.4.2023 in the St John's Rooms, Grove at 3pm. All Welcome.

**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 [nicolagibbard@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:nicolagibbard@hotmail.co.uk)

**GROVE CHURCH VOLUNTEERS** Thank you very much to all our church volunteers. We are needing more volunteers on all the church rotas. If you feel that you can help on any of them, please contact the Benefice Office / a vicar. **Rotas:** Chalice, Music Group, Sides duty, Sunday clubs, Readers, Prayers, projector, PA desk, Broadcasting and Refreshments).

**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.

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

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

## HOLY WEEK SERVICES

<b>Mon 3rd April</b>	7.30pm	Holy Communion, St James, Hanney
<b>Tue 4th April</b>	4pm	Holy Communion, St James, Denchworth
Tue 4th April	10am	Eucharist, St James, West Hanney
Tue 4th April	7.30pm	Zoom Evening Prayer
<b>Wed 5th April</b>	10am	Holy Communion, St John's, Grove
Wed 5th April	7.30pm	Holy Communion, St Nicholas, Challow
<b>Thu 6th April</b>	10am	Eucharist, St Nicholas, Challow
Thu 6th April	7.30pm	Maundy Thursday Holy Communion, St John's Grove
<b>Fri 7th April</b>	10am	Good Friday Service at St James, Hanney
Fri 7th April	11am	Outdoor Good Friday Community Service, Vale Avenue
Fri 7th April	2pm	Good Friday Service at St Nicholas, Challow
Fri 7th April	2pm	Meditation on 'the last hour' – St John's, Grove



## PLEASE PRAY FOR...

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

**Friends & Family mourning:** Anne, Jean and Pamela.

**Those living at:** Barn Close & Rose Terrace in Denchworth; Winter Lane in West Hanney; and Boucher Close, White Horse Crescent & Brereton Drive in Grove.

---

## DIARY FOR HOLY WEEK *(Starting on Mon 3<sup>rd</sup> April)*

<b>Mon</b>	10am <b>7.30pm</b> 8pm	U3A Art Group, St John's Rooms, Grove <b>Holy Week Communion at St James Church, Hanney</b> FMG Meeting, Lower St John's Room
<b>Tue</b>	10am <b>10am</b> 2pm 4pm 6.30pm <b>7.30pm</b>	Simply Singing, St John's Lower Room <b>Mid-week Eucharist at St James, West Hanney</b> U3A Film meeting, St John's Church hall <b>Holy Week Communion at St James, Denchworth</b> Chess Club, St John's Rooms, Grove <b>Holy Week Benefice Evening Prayer on "Zoom"</b>
<b>Wed</b>	<b>10 am</b> 2pm 7pm <b>7.30pm</b>  8pm	<b>Mid-week Eucharist at St John's, Grove</b> Ancients' Badminton Group, St John's Church Hall Konga Fitness Class, St John's Church Hall <b>Holy Week Communion (&amp; Lent Course) at St Nicholas E. Challow</b> 20s and 30s Homegroup Social
<b>Thu</b>	<b>10am</b> 12noon 2pm 4-5pm <b>7.30pm</b>  8pm	<b>Mid-week Eucharist at St Nicholas, East Challow</b> Funeral of Edith at St James Church, Hanney Bible Group (Lent Course), St John's Lower Room Community Fridge at Cornerstone, Grove <b>Holy Week Maundy Thursday Communion at St John's Church, Grove</b> St John's Badminton Group, St John's Church Hall
<b>Fri</b>	<b>10am</b> <b>11am</b> 2pm 2pm	<b>Good Friday Service – St James, W Hanney</b> <b>Outdoor Good Friday Community Service - Vale Avenue</b> <b>Good Friday Service – St Nicholas, E Challow</b> <b>Meditation on 'the last hour' – St John's, Grove</b>
<b>Sat</b>	8.30am	Cornerstone Prayer Breakfast, Cornerstone, Grove
<b>Sun</b>	Church services for the Benefice are written on the front of this news sheet.	

---

## CONTACT DETAILS

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