



## **Sunday 26th March**

### **Fifth Sunday in Lent**

*Psalm 130 | Ezekiel 37:1-14 | Romans 8:6-11 | John 11:1-45*

Perhaps Sunday's theme might be God's answer to despair. Our psalm starts, "Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord." The first reading is a vision of a valley full of the dry bones of a defeated army, while John tells us about two sisters' desperate grief at the premature death of their only brother. So what is God's answer to these hopeless situations? Paul tells us, "... he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit that dwells in you." "... hope in the Lord! For with the Lord there is steadfast love, and with him is great power to redeem" (Psalm 130).

Take it to the Lord...

### **Our Shared Worship**

#### **Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> 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

### **Upcoming Services**

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

## BENEFICE NEWS

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**BENEFICE LENT COURSE** Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> March at St John's church and last session at St Nicholas church on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> April.

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

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

**FRIENDS ON FRIDAY** There will be no Friends on Friday group meeting on Good Friday (7<sup>th</sup> April). Back again to meet on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2023 for the Holy Communion Service.

**FETE PLANNING MEETING** Monday 27<sup>th</sup> March (7.30pm) in the Lower St John's Room to plan stalls, share ideas & allocate tasks. If you can come that would be great, but if you are not able to, please let me know which stalls you would like to run & any ideas you wish us to discuss. Please see a sign-up sheet in the foyer. Thanks Nicky.

**OPEN TABLE** This Wednesday, 29<sup>th</sup> March, there is a bonus Open Table evening at Cornerstone Café (6.30pm to 8.30pm). As we approach Holy Week, we shall be thinking about what lay ahead for Jesus. A reminder: 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.) For more information contact the Beckleys (765068) or the Wenhams (760094), who'll be glad to talk to 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**. Our March **hot meal special** is beef casserole, served on **Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> March** - please book in advance so we know catering numbers. 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.

**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 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 As part of the Coronation Celebrations, we plan to hold a 'Big Lunch' at St John's church after the 10am service. This will be for our church and an open invitation to our wider community to join us. All Welcome. 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)

**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.

**WOMEN'S BREAKFAST** February: Karen Vogt and Katie Foot spoke about "Faith in Action" particularly referencing "fair trade" and "The Mustard Seed" shop in Faringdon. The Mustard seed stall will be open in St Denys on: Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> March (10am-12) during "Open House" & Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> March following the 10.1 & 4pm services. Our next breakfast is on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2023, with speaker: Margaret Williams.

**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)

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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 and Pamela.

**Those living at:** Monks Close in W. Hanney; St James View in E. Hanney; Windrush Close, Bosley's Orchard and Wick Green in Grove; Letcombe Hill in E. Challow.

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## 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

## LECTIONARY READINGS FOR MORNING PRAYER

<b>Mon</b>	Psalm 143	1 Kings 17:17-24	Acts 20:7-12
<b>Tue</b>	Psalm 143	2 Kings 4:18-37	Ephesians 2:1-10
<b>Wed</b>	Psalm 143	Jeremiah 32:1-9, 36-41	Matthew 22:23-33
<b>Thu</b>	Psalm 31:9-16	1 Samuel 16:11-13	Philippians 1:1-11
<b>Fri</b>	Psalm 31:9-16	Job 13:13-19	Philippians 1:21-30
<b>Sat</b>	Psalm 31:9-16	Lamentations 3:55-66	Mark 10:32-34

## DIARY FOR THE WEEK *(Starting on Mon 27th March)*

<b>Mon</b>	10am	GroW Toddlers Group, St John's Church Hall
	10am	U3A Science Group, Upper St John's Room
	12.45 pm	GroW Babies Group, St John's Church Hall
	7.30pm	Grove Church Fete Planning Meeting, Lower St John's Room
	7pm	1 <sup>st</sup> Grove Guides, St John's Church Hall
<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>
	6.30pm	Chess Club, St John's Rooms, Grove
	7pm	2 <sup>nd</sup> Grove Guides, St John's Church Hall
<b>Wed</b>	9.15 am	St John's Toddler Group, St John's Church Hall
	9.30 & 10.15am	Grove CE School Easter Services, Grove Church
	9.30am	St James School Easter Service, Hanney Church
	<b>10 am</b>	<b>Mid-week Eucharist at St John's, Grove</b>
	6.30pm	Open Table Meeting, Cornerstone, Grove
	7pm	Konga Fitness Class, St John's Church Hall
	7.45pm	Benefice Lent Course, St John's Lower Room
	8pm	20s and 30s Homegroup
<b>Thu</b>	9.30am	St Nicholas School Easter Service, Challow Church
	10am	White Horse Extend Exercise Group, St John's Hall
	<b>10am</b>	<b>Mid-week Eucharist at St Nicholas, East Challow</b>
	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
<b>Sat</b>	8.30am	Morning Prayers, St John's Lower Room
<b>Sun</b>	Church services for the Benefice are written on the front of this news sheet.	
	2.30pm	Blessing & Thanksgiving of a child, Grove Church
	3pm	Women's Social, Lower St John's Room
	7pm	Senior Youth Group, St Johns Church Hall

## 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: [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)