



Sunday 5th March

Second Sunday in Lent

Psalm 121 | Genesis 12:1-4a | Romans 4:1-5, 13-17 | John 3:1-17

I walk by faith, each step by faith," an old song used to say - which is what this week's readings are about. Abraham is our prime example of walking by faith. He "went, as the Lord had told him "Not knowing where he'd end up. What does faith mean? The song explains it, "To live by faith, I put my trust in You." As Jesus tells Nicodemus: "God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life." In the end Nicodemus came to trust in Jesus. In this bewildering world, we need to trust Him too.

Our Shared Worship

Sunday 5th March

- 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 – Nicholas Cheeseman
- 11am Parish Eucharist, St Nicholas, East Challow – Rev Alec Gill
- 6pm Evening Prayer, St John's, Grove

Upcoming Services

Sunday 12th 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



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). 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: 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th & April 6th). Following the same Lent material (Holy Habits) as the Wednesday evening Lent Course.

CONFIRMATION: The Bishop of Dorchester + Gavin Collins is coming on 7th May to lead a Conformation service. If you'd like to be confirmed, please advise a vicar.

EXPLORING INTENTIONAL DISCIPLESHIP Talk Sunday 5th March (12:30-3pm) after 10am service (followed by soup) at St John's Church. Talking will be Revd Tina Molyneaux (diocesan lead). **Wednesday 8th March (7.30-9.00pm)**, Sarah Shackleton will use Tina's presentation & cover much of the same ground as part of the Lent course on discipleship, & will be held at St Nicholas' church, Challow.

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

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

WARM SPACES at St John's Church The last one TODAY - 5th March (12.30pm).

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.

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. There will be a meeting in soon for all the involved people so we can plan. Thanks!

FILM NIGHT March 11th at St John's Hall. Doors open from 7pm and show to start at 7.30pm. Snacks and soft drinks will be available but please feel free to bring your own. Free to attend but donation welcome.

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.



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. Please let us know if you don't need this service now. Contact 07914539136, jane.syme59@gmail.com by Friday 17th March.

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.

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

PRAYER FOR THE NATION Wantage Baptist Church is hosting this on **Saturday 11th March** at 10:30am. Do stay for fellowship over tea and coffee afterwards. Every blessing. **Jeز Fernandez (Pastor)** 07495 930 121 jez@wantagebaptist.org.uk

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 available in Sparsholt Manor.

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 The Cornerstone is a Christian books shop and café, in Saville Way, set up in 1995 by the churches in Grove working together to serve the community. There are many ways of supporting our mission, through volunteering, prayer, direct giving & using the café for lunch or a coffee or buying your cards & easter eggs there. Our **Make and Bake** sessions for the Under 5's runs Tuesdays in term time, 9.30-11am. Just turn up (£2 per child) and everyone is welcome. If you order any **books online**, you can support us by listing us as your preferred book seller as we receive a sales percentage. <https://uk.bookshop.org/shop/cornerstonegrove> Get free delivery on orders over £25. **The Community Fridge** every Thursday 4-5pm, where anyone can take excess supermarket food for free. Finally, We do rely on the public to use Cornerstone as much as possible and more volunteers would be helpful to enable us to keep going in these difficult times. Thank you.

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.

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR MORNING PRAYER

Mon	Psalm 128	Numbers 21:4-9	Hebrews 3:1-6
Tue	Psalm 128	Isaiah 65:17-25	Romans 4:6-13
Wed	Psalm 128	Ezekiel 36:22-32	John 7:53-8:11
Thu	Psalm 95	Exodus 16:1-8	Colossians 1:15-23
Fri	Psalm 95	Exodus 16:9-21	Ephesians 2:11-22
Sat	Psalm 95	Exodus 16:27-35	John 4:1-6

PLEASE PRAY FOR...

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

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

Those living at: Faringdon Road and Clay Pit Lane in East Challow; Brookside and Snuggs Lane in East Hanney; Wolage Drive, Main Street and Littlecourt in Grove.

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

Mon	10am	GroW Toddlers Group, St John's Church Hall
	10am	U3A Art Group, St John's Lower Room
	12.45 pm	GroW Babies Group, St John's Church Hall
	7 pm	1 st Grove Guides, St John's Church Hall
	7.30pm	GroW Parenting Course, Lower St John's Room
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 Main Meeting, St John's Church Hall
Wed	6.30 pm	Chess Club, St John's Rooms, Grove
	7 pm	2 nd Grove Guides, St John's Church Hall
	9.15 am	St John's Toddler Group, St John's Church Hall
	6pm	Falcon Cubs Meeting, Upper St John's Room, Grove
	7pm	Konga Fitness Class, St John's Church Hall
Thu	7.30pm	Trefoil Guild Meeting, Lower St John's Rooms
	7pm	Benefice Lent Course (including Discipleship Meeting), St Nicholas Church, E Challow
	8pm	20s and 30s Homegroup
	10am	White Horse Extend Exercise Group, St John's Hall
	10 am	Mid-week Eucharist at St Nicholas, East Challow
Sat	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
	8.30am	Cornerstone Prayer Breakfast, Cornerstone, Grove
Sun	2pm-4pm	Wedding preparation, Grove Church
	7pm	Film Night (Operation Mincemeat) St John's Church Hall
	6.30pm	Senior Youth Group, St John's Church Hall

NEWSLETTER please send notices to; news@valebenefice.org.uk by 10 pm on a Wednesday. Only include personal information if you consent to it being published.

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