



Sunday 19th November

Second Sunday before Advent

Readings selected from:

*Psalm 90:1-8, (9-11), 12 | Psalm 123 | Judges 4:1-7 | Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 | Matthew 25:14-30*

As we approach Advent, with its theme of preparing for the coming of the Lord Jesus, combining judgement and joy. It's both good news and a challenge for us, since, in St Paul's word's, "God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing." *i.e.* Let's recognise and affirm each other's God-given talents.

Our Shared Worship

Sunday 19th November

- 8am Holy Communion, St Johns, Grove – Rev Alec Gill
- 9.30am Parish Eucharist, St James, Hanney – Rev John Durant
- 10am Holy Communion, St John's, Grove – Rev Alec Gill
- 10am Holy Communion, St James, Denchworth – Rev Robin Lapwood
- 11am Parish Eucharist, St Nicholas, East Challow – Rev John Durant
- 6pm Evening Worship, St John's, Grove

Upcoming Services

Sunday 26th November

- 8am Holy Communion, St Johns, Grove – Rev John Durant
- 9.30am Parish Eucharist, St James, Hanney – Rev Alec Gill
- 10am Morning Worship, St John's, Grove – Sarah Shackleton (LLM)
- 10am Holy Communion, St James, Denchworth – Rev John Durant
- 11am Parish Eucharist, St Nicholas, East Challow – Rev Alec Gill
- 6pm Evening Communion, St John's, Grove

THE BENEFICE NEWSLETTER is being sent out on Wednesdays now, so please send any notices to be included by 10pm at the latest on Tuesday nights.

Please email them to Email: news@valebenefice.org.uk (not the Office email).

NEWSLETTER CONTENT: Please note that from now, all items sent in for newsletter inclusion will be put in for 2 weeks only. After that, they will be taken out again to allow space for other items. If you wish your notice to go into the newsletter again, you will need to email news@valebenefice.org.uk again with your new notice for inclusion.

PLEASE PRAY for those affected by the conflict in the Middle East.

CHRISTINGLE SERVICE at St John's Church Sunday 10th December (4pm).

SAMARITANS PURSE SHOEBOX APPEAL THANK YOU to the Benefice Schools & congregations taking part this year, for the wonderful shoeboxes coming into churches & the Kings Center. They are now on their journey. Many thanks all.

ST JOHN'S TEA PARTY THIS Saturday 18th Nov (2-3pm) at Cornerstone. Everyone of all ages welcome! A great opportunity to get to know each other better.

BOARD GAMES at St John's Church Hall **THIS Sunday 19th Nov** (2-5pm).

Cake and Drinks provided for small donations. All Welcome.

CHRISTMAS CARDS Sue Powditch is selling cards after church at Grove **THIS Sunday 19th November**. All proceeds to St John's church funds.

HANNEY HOLLY FAYRE Watch out for the Holly Fayre at **Hanney on 9th December!**

A BIG THANK YOU to all our sponsors for the recent Christian Aid walk for the Israel Gaza humanitarian aid appeal. £150 was raised! Peter & Angela.

ANGELA HANDLEY'S FUNERAL will be at the South Oxfordshire Crematorium on Monday 20th November (11am). Please pray for her family and friends.

WALFINCH: Tea & Activity Walfinch Care Company, Wantage are running a group in the Lower St John's Room at St Johns Church, Grove, for pensioners & those in need of care on; Thursdays: 30th Nov AND 14th Dec from 1:15pm - 3:15pm. An opportunity to socialise & get out of the house. Cake & refreshments will be supplied. All welcome. Hannah.

OPEN TABLE MEETINGS: Next meeting at **Cornerstone**, Grove, on Wednesday 6th Dec at 6.30pm. Especially good for friends who are a bit iffy about church services for whatever reason. Free home-cooked meal & open-ended discussion at present based around Jesus' teaching about the "Kingdom of heaven." For more info, ask Pete & Jane Beckley or Michael & Jane Wenham.

"LITTLE PEOPLE" Christmas donations: We are now collecting new Christmas **gifts / toys / vouchers** for the "Little People" to distribute to local families in need this Christmas. If you can donate, please bring to the Benefice Office. Thanks.

GROVE CE SCHOOL CHRISTMAS MARKET Saturday 9th December (12 – 2pm).

Please do come along to support our church school. Thank you.

ASC SUPPORT COFFEE AFTERNOONS (with SENCo – Mrs Elgar) at Grove CE School (2pm) on 14th December 2023. A chance to meet others & share tips, tales & triumphs. These events are for everyone in the Grove & Wantage community so please spread the word. **2024 dates:** 11th Jan, 1st Feb, 7th March, 18th April, 16th May, 13th June (subject to change). All welcome.

CORNERSTONE NEWS Email: office@cornerstonegrove.org.uk Tel: 772280

28th Birthday - This month we celebrate 28 years of the Cornerstone in Grove. Give thanks for God's faithfulness through the years.

Advent Sunday is 3rd December and we have a good selection of advent study books and advent calendars. We also have a good selection of Christmas cards and gifts including fairtrade items.

Make and Bake for Under 5s continues on Tuesday mornings 9.30-11am during term time. £2 per child includes activities and drink – no need to book.

We continue to pray that the right people will come forward to fill the roles of **Kitchen Manager and Cook**. Please do spread the word as much as possible – for more information see the advert on the noticeboard or contact Sarah at Cornerstone.

WING WALK Bev & Ellie: We raised £4,366.26 for Sobell House. Thank you all!

FRAMLAND CHRISTMAS FAYRE Saturday 16th December (10am – 12 noon).

BLISTER PACKS These are NOT being collected now by the Benefice Churches or by The Mix in Wantage. Please put them in your recycling waste now. Thank you all.

FREE Digital Help at Grove Library learn the basics of computers, smartphones, tablets with one of our volunteers! Every other Friday or appointment on other days. Contact us to book a session. Tel: 01235 763841 / grove.library@oxfordshire.gov.uk

GROVE LIBRARY: Fancy a board game? We'll put our Scrabble or Chess set out all day on every **Thursday in November**. Bring a friend! 9am-12.30pm and 2pm-5pm.

ST. JOHN'S CHRISTMAS CRAFTERNOON Saturday 16th December, Church Hall, (2-5pm). Add your name to the sheet (back of church) / email the office if you can come office@valebenefice.org.uk No charge, but donations to cover costs welcome.

ST JOHN'S CHRISTMAS Craft FAYRE: Sat 2nd December (3pm–5pm) in the Hall. Donations for tombola, books & toys (in good condition) to Church Office. Please invite friends & family & advertise. If you can help, please add your name to a stall or for setting up & clearing away (Sign-up sheet in church foyer). Thank you.

CHARITY AUCTION on behalf of the Dr Ann-Marie Wilson (a CMS Mission Partner who works tirelessly to fight FGM) & The Orchid Project www.orchidproject.org. If you would like to donate to receive any of these art, book & bric a brac items, please contact Helen Harwood **THIS week** on andrewandhelenharwood@yahoo.co.uk Money raised goes to the above charities. View the items at: <https://bit.ly/charity-auction-helen> **OR** sponsor Andrew Harwood, who is completing a run to support the above charities.

WANTAGE & GROVE FOODBANK Thank you for all your donations & Support.

PRAYER REQUESTS If anyone has specific prayer requests, please email confidentially to; prayer@valebenefice.org.uk

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR MORNING PRAYER

| | | | |
|------------|---------------------------|------------------|-------------------------|
| Mon | Psalm 83:1-4, 9-10, 17-18 | Judges 4:8-24 | Romans 2:1-11 |
| Tue | Psalm 83:1-4, 9-10, 17-18 | Exodus 2:1-10 | 1 Thessalonians 5:12-18 |
| Wed | Psalm 83:1-4, 9-10, 17-18 | Esther 7:1-10 | Matthew 24:45-51 |
| Thu | Psalm 100 | Genesis 48:15-22 | Revelation 14:1-11 |
| Fri | Psalm 100 | Isaiah 40:1-11 | Revelation 22:1-9 |
| Sat | Psalm 100 | Ezekiel 34:25-31 | Matthew 12:46-50 |

PLEASE PRAY FOR...

Health and healing: Bob Bulpitt, John Blair, Rosemary Hedderley, John Butter,

Sandra Foster, Ari Psaras, Laura Challis, Ursula Geer, and Richard Hummerston.

Friends & Family mourning: Christopher Nugent, Angela Handley, Jeffery Lovelock, Kate (Kay) Dandridge, Trevor Herman, Cyril (Sam) Golding and Norah Grover.

These living at: Miles Drive, Hunters Close and Membury Way in Grove; Blenheim Orchard in East Hanney; Main Street in West Hanney; Grove CE School.

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

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| Mon | 10am | GroW Toddler Group, St John's Church Hall |
| | 11am | Funeral for Angela Handley at South Oxfordshire Crematorium |
| | 12.45pm | GroW Babies Group, St John's Church Hall |
| | 7pm | 1 st Grove Guides, St John's Church Hall |
| | 7.30pm | GroW Parenting Course, Lower St John's Room |
| Tue | 9.30am | Make & Bake at Cornerstone, Grove |
| | 10am | Simply Singing, St John's Lower Room |
| | 10am | Mid-week Eucharist at St James, West Hanney |
| | 2pm | U3A Group Meeting, St John's Church Hall |
| Wed | 6.30pm | Wantage Chess Club, St John's Rooms |
| | 7pm | 2 nd Grove Guides, St John's Church Hall |
| | 9.15am | St John's Toddler Group, St John's Church Hall |
| | 12 noon | WGCP Meeting, Lower St John's Room |
| Thu | 2pm | Ancients' Badminton Group, St John's Church Hall |
| | 7pm | Konga Fitness Class, St John's Church Hall |
| | 8pm | Vale Elim Meeting, Lower St John's Room |
| | Tree Surgeons will be on St John's Church Site | |
| | 9am-3pm | Swift Training, Lower St John's Room |
| Fri | 9.30am | Extend Your Fitness, St John's Church Hall |
| | 10am | Mid-week Eucharist at St Nicholas, East Challow |
| | 2pm | Bible Group, St John's Church HALL |
| | 4-5pm | Community Fridge at Cornerstone, Grove |
| | 5.30pm | 1 st Grove Brownies, St John's Church Hall |
| | 8pm | St John's Badminton Group, St John's Church Hall |
| Sat | Tree Surgeons will be on St John's Church Site | |
| Sun | 12.30pm | Private Party, St John's Church Hall |
| | 6.30pm | Senior Youth Club, St John's Church Hall |

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

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