

PLEASE PRAY FOR...

Health and healing: Barbara Talmage, Bob Bulpitt, John Blair, Rosemary Hedderley, John Butter, Sandra Foster, Ari Psaras, Laura Challis, Ursula Geer and Richard Hummerston.

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

These living at: Woodhill Lane in East Challow; Main Street and Orchard Close in East Hanney; Linden Close, Mandrin Place and Mallard Way in Grove.

DIARY FOR THE WEEK (Starting on Mon 27th November)

Mon	10am	GroW Toddler Group, St John's Church Hall
	10am	U3A Science Group, Lower St John's Room
	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
	6.30pm	Wantage Chess Club, St John's Rooms
	7pm	2 nd Grove Guides, St John's Church Hall
Wed	9.15am	St John's Toddler Group, St John's Church Hall
	2pm	Ancients' Badminton Group, St John's Church Hall
	7pm	Konga Fitness Class, St John's Church Hall
	7.30pm	Benefice Advent Course , St Nicholas Church, E. Challow
Thu	9.30am	Extend Your Fitness, St John's Church Hall
	10am	Mid-week Eucharist at St Nicholas, East Challow
	11am	Funeral of Bruce Jefferies, St James Church, Denchworth
	1pm-3.30pm	Walfinch Tea & Activity, Lower St John's Room
	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
Fri	2pm	Friends on Friday Group, St John's Church Hall
		Dickensian Evening, Wantage
Sat	9.30am	Rainbows Event, St John's Church Hall
	3pm-5pm	St John's Church Christmas Fayre, Church Hall
Sun	3pm	Women's Social Group, Lower St John's Room
		Senior Youth Club – Not meeting this week

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



Sunday 26th November Christ the King

Readings selected from:

*Psalm 95:1-7a | Psalm 100 | Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24 | Ephesians 1:15-23
Matthew 25:31-46*

Weary of our trouble-torn world? Our readings contain great news:

1. "The Lord is God."
2. He has given us a good shepherd in Jesus.
3. He has raised Jesus to be head over everything and everyone.

In the months ahead we shall see the unique story of how that progress took place from conception to grave and beyond.

4. Our gospel reading tells us what living kingdom lives should mean for us today and when one day everyone will face Christ the King "on his throne".
Are we ready to meet him?

Our Shared Worship

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 Worship, St John's, Grove

Upcoming Services

Sunday 3rd December

- 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
- 11am Parish Eucharist, St Nicholas, East Challow – Rev Alec Gill
- 6pm Advent Carols, St James, Denchworth – Rev John Durant

BENEFICE NEWS

THE BENEFICE NEWSLETTER is being sent out on Wednesdays. Please send any notices to be included by 10pm on Tuesdays news@valebenefice.org.uk

NEWSLETTER CONTENT: Items for newsletter inclusion will be put in for 2 weeks, then be removed to allow space for other items. If you wish your notice to go into the newsletter again, please email it in again. Many thanks.

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

CHRISTIAN AID - HOLY LAND APPEAL The total raised was £297.92 (rounded up to £300). Many thanks for all your kind donations for this.

GROVE CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE - Sunday 17th December (6pm)

(3pm Rehearsal) Back by popular demand, this is your chance to join a large (ish) choir and thrill to the sound of your voice blending with others to fill the church with praise & worship at our annual carol service. The practice will start at 3pm prompt on Sunday afternoon, ready for the service at 6pm. Please let Bev Aldridge know if you would like to take part: bev.aldridge@outlook.com As from Sunday 26th there will be a sign-up sheet in entrance hall. Please bring a pencil/pen, drink & snack for break time.

BENEFICE ADVENT COURSE will run on Wednesdays for 4 weeks. The 1st session on 29th Nov will be held at St Nicholas Church at 7.30pm and the following 3 weeks at Geoff & Jenny Penfold's house at 7.30pm. Please ask the Benefice Office for their address if you wish to attend. The last session is on Wednesday 20th December.

BENEFICE SERVICES on Sunday 3rd December there is a 6pm Advent Carol Service at Denchworth church **instead** of the 10am service. No 6pm service at Grove.

HANNEY HOLLY FAYRE Please do come along to the Holly Fayre in **Hanney** (10.30am-1pm) **on 9th December** at Philberds Manor, Hall Lane, E.H. OX12 0HJ.

LITTLE PEOPLE are collecting new toys/gifts, vouchers, and donations to distribute to children/teenagers of local families in need this Christmas. Please bring to the **10am Service at Grove on 3rd December** or to the Benefice Office. Thank you very much indeed for all donations already received.

2024 SUNDAY SERVICE TIMES Please remember that from January 2024 the Grove 10am service will be at 10.15am and the Denchworth 10am service will be at 9am.

WOMEN'S SOCIAL GROUP Meeting: We meet informally on the 1st Sunday of each month from 3-4.30pm in St John's Rooms for a get-together and chat over a cup of tea/coffee. We are all ages and we'd love for more to join us – our next get together is on **Sunday 3rd December**. Look forward to seeing you.

ST JOHN'S CHURCH FAMILY CHRISTMAS CARDS If you would like to put up a Christmas card to the Church family & donate to the Oxfordshire Gatehouse homeless charity (St Giles), please look out for the board & donation tin in the foyer. Thank you.

AT ST NICHOLAS CHURCH, East Challow we have a kit of candle making equipment which we no longer use. It consists of moulds & a rack with various other bits. Are there any budding candle makers out there who would like it? It needs to go. If interested, please let me know lizbelcher@live.com or phone 01235763966.

OPEN TABLE MEETINGS: at Cornerstone, Grove: Please note there's no meeting in the coming week. The next meeting is on **Wednesday 6th December** at 6.30pm. EVERYONE very welcome.

ST JOHN'S FLOWERS IN CHURCH Thank you to the Flower Team for all their beautiful arrangements throughout the year. There is a basket at the back of church for donations towards the cost of the Christmas flowers if you wish to donate. Thanks.

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

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

SAMARITANS PURSE SHOEBOX APPEAL A HUGE THANK YOU to the **Schools, Churches** and **Groups** taking part this year. Over 45 boxes were collected from the Benefice Churches & 89 boxes collected from the Benefice Schools & Millbrook School this year. Thank you to the Grove Brownies who also prepared 21 shoeboxes. These were all collected last week and taken to Highworth Methodist Church, ready for the next step of their journey. Thank you all for your generosity.

WANTAGE & GROVE FOODBANK Dear wonderful churches, we are now collecting for our Christmas hampers. We are looking for donations of: Christmas pudding, savoury nibbles or crisps, crackers for cheese, Christmas cake/chocolate log, Mince pies, Christmas biscuit boxes, boxes of chocolates. Please ensure your donations have an expiry date of AT LEAST January 2024. The deadline for Christmas hamper donations is 5th December. Many thanks, D Townsend.

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!

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** (1:15pm - 3:15pm). All Welcome. An opportunity to socialise. Cake & refreshments will be supplied. Hannah.

ST. JOHN'S CHRISTMAS CRAFTAFTEERNOON Saturday 16th December, (2-5pm).

Add your name to the sheet (back of church) if you can come.

ST JOHN'S CHRISTMAS Craft FAYRE: Sat 2nd December (3pm-5pm). Please invite friends, family & advertise. If you can help add your name to a stall or for setting up/clearing away (Sign-up sheet in church foyer). **After the Fayre**, if you can take any items left, to the charity shop, please collect by Tuesday 5th December as we need to keep the St John's Rooms & church foyer clear. Thank you for your help.

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

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR MORNING PRAYER

Mon	Psalm 28	Numbers 27:15-23	2 Timothy 2:8-13
Tue	Psalm 28	Zechariah 11:4-17	Revelation 19:1-9
Wed	Psalm 28	Jeremiah 31:10-14	John 5:19-40
Thu	Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19	Zechariah 13:1-9	Revelation 14:6-13
Fri	Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19	Zechariah 14:1-9	1 Thessalonians 4:1-18
Sat	Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19	Micah 2:1-13	Matthew 24:15-31