

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR MORNING PRAYER

Mon	Psalm 79	Micah 4:1-5	Revelation 15:1-8
Tue	Psalm 79	Micah 4:6-13	Revelation 18:1-10
Wed	Psalm 79	Micah 5:1-5a	Luke 21:34-38
Thu	Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13	Hosea 6:1-6	1 Thessalonians 1:2-10
Fri	Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13	Jeremiah 1:4-10	Acts 11:19-26
Sat	Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13	Ezekiel 36:24-28	Mark 11:27-33

DIARY FOR THE WEEK (Starting on Mon 4th December)

Mon	10am	GroW Toddler Group, St John's Church Hall
	10am	U3A Art 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
Tue	8pm	FMG Meeting, Lower St John's Room
	9.30am	Make & Bake at Cornerstone, Grove
	10am	Mid-week Eucharist at St James, West Hanney
	2pm	U3A Christmas Party, 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
	10am	Mid-week Eucharist at St John's, Grove
	2pm	Ancients' Badminton Group, St John's Church Hall
	2.50pm	Collective Worship, St Nicholas School, E. Challow
	6.30pm	Open Table Meeting, Cornerstone, Grove
Thu	7pm	Konga Fitness Class, St John's Church Hall
	7.30pm	Benefice Advent Course at the Penfold's house, Challow
	8pm	Vale Elim Church meeting, Lower St John's Room
	9.30am	Extend Your Fitness, St John's Church Hall
	10am	Mid-week Eucharist at St Nicholas, East Challow
	9.30am	Collective Worship, St Nicholas School, E. Challow
Sat	2pm	Bible Group, 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
	8.30am	Prayer Breakfast at Cornerstone, Grove
	10am	GroW Paediatric 1 st Aid Course, St John's Church Hall
Sun	10.30am	Hanney Holly Fair, Philberds Manor, Hanney
	12noon	Grove CE School Christmas Market, in the school
	12 noon	Foodbank Christmas parcels packing, St John's Rooms
	6.30pm	Senior Youth Group, 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
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Open: Mon–Fri. 10–12 noon. Tel. 01235 771479. Email: office@valebenefice.org.uk



Sunday 3rd December

First Sunday of Advent

Readings selected from:

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 | Isaiah 64:1-9 | Mark 13:24-37 | 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Advent looks forward to Jesus Christ's coming, both as a baby in Bethlehem and as Lord of all on Judgment Day. The familiar Advent wreath represents the Bible figures looking for the first coming of Jesus in the centre - the Patriarchs (Abraham etc), the Prophets (Isaiah etc), John the Baptist, the Virgin Mary.

It's a thoughtful time as we wait for his coming again in his glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead, both ourselves and the world.

And we pray, "Saviour, take the pow'r and glory; Claim the kingdom for thine own. O come quickly, Hallelujah! come Lord, come."

Our Shared Worship

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

No Morning Service, St James, Denchworth

11am Parish Eucharist, St Nicholas, East Challow – Rev Alec Gill

6pm Advent Carols, St James, Denchworth – Rev John Durant

Upcoming Services

Sunday 10th December

8am Holy Communion, St Johns, Grove – Rev John Durant

No Morning Service, St James, Hanney

No Morning Service, St John's, Grove

10am SUNDAY CLUB SOCIAL at St John's, Grove

No Morning Service, St James, Denchworth

11am Patronal Eucharist, St Nicholas, East Challow – Rev John Durant & Rev Alec Gill

4pm Christingle Service with the Guides, St John's, Grove – Rev John Durant

BENEFICE NEWS

BENEFICE ADVENT COURSE 1st session **TONIGHT** (29th Nov) St Nicholas Church (7.30pm). The following 3 weeks at Geoff & Jenny Penfold's house at 7.30pm.

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

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.

2024 SUNDAY SERVICE TIMES From January 2024 the Grove 10am service will be at 10.15am and the Denchworth 10am service will be at 9am.

HANNEY HOLLY FAYRE Come and join the Holly Fayre at **Hanney** at Philberds Manor, Hall Lane, E.H. OX12 0HJ (10.30am – 1pm) on **9th December**.

ST NICHOLAS SCHOOL PRAYER SPACE A big thank you to all those who prayed for & helped at last week's prayer space in St Nic's school East Challow. Prayer spaces allow pupils to creatively explore different ways to reflect on their lives & the world around them. Our next prayer space is with Grove C of E School in February.

THE GILL FAMILY Gemma has been diagnosed with a thyroid goiter in her chest, which is causing her constant exhaustion & breathlessness. She is waiting for an operation next summer. This is having a big impact on the whole family. If you would like to find out about practically supporting us, please speak with Frances Hobson.

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

ST JOHN'S CHRISTMAS Craft FAYRE: THIS Sat 2nd December (3pm–5pm). Please invite friends, family & advertise. **After the Fayre**, please help to take leftover items away so the foyer is left clear. Thank you.

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 **THIS 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.

ST JOHN'S CHURCH Christmas Tree A huge thank you to "The Great British Garden Centre," Chilton, who kindly donated a Christmas Tree to Grove church again this year. Thank you also to Brian & Edith Hipwell who ensured its safe delivery.

ST JOHN'S FLOWERS IN CHURCH Thank you to the Flower Team for all their beautiful arrangements throughout the year. If you would like to donate towards the Christmas Flowers in church, please forward to the Benefice Office or donate in the basket at the back of church. 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: The next meeting is at 6.30pm **on Wednesday 6th December**. We'll continue to look at the Kingdom of Heaven and enjoy good food & chat. Do come - you will all be welcome.

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

ST JOHN'S TEA PARTY (CORNERSTONE) No meeting this month to allow people to join the "Crafternoon" that day at St John's. Next meeting: 20th January 2024.

Of course, Cornerstone is open as normal for those who'd like to get together then.

GROVE CE SCHOOL CHRISTMAS MARKET Saturday 9th December (12 – 2pm). Please do come along to support our church school. Thank you.

WANTAGE & GROVE FOODBANK are collecting for Christmas hampers. We are requesting 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 donations have an expiry date of at LEAST January 2024. Deadline for Christmas hamper donations is 5th December. Thanks D Townsend.

CHRISTIAN AID - HOLY LAND APPEAL The total raised is £297.92 (rounded up to £300). Many thanks for your donations. Please pray for those affected by the conflict.

WALFINCH: Tea & Activity Walfinch Care Company, Wantage (for pensioners & those in need of care). Join us for a social with cake & refreshments in the Lower St John's Room (St Johns Church), on Thursdays: **30th AND 14th Dec** (1:15pm-3:15pm).

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

(3pm Rehearsal) Would you like to join the choir & 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 17th Dec, ready for the service at 6pm. Please let Bev Aldridge know if you would like to take part:

bev.aldridge@outlook.com Please bring a pencil/pen, drink & snack for break time.

GROVE CHURCH: CAROL SERVICE / CRIB SERVICE Volunteers needed to serve refreshments (sign up sheet in church foyer) & mince pie donations welcome. Thanks.

ASC SUPPORT COFFEE AFTERNOONS (SENCo-Tamlin Elgar) 14th December 2023 at Grove CE School (2pm). A chance to meet others & share tips, tales & triumphs. These events are for everyone in the Grove & Wantage community so please spread the word.

THE ST JOHN'S CHURCH GATES will be locked from 5pm on Boxing Day (26th Dec) to 5pm on Wednesday 27th December. Please be aware that no cars can enter or leave the car park during these times. Thank you.

VALE BENEFICE NEWSLETTER for Sunday 17th December (issued on Wednesday 13th December) will cover Sundays 17th, 24th & 31st December. After that, the next newsletter will be for 7th January. Please ensure you send any requests to go into the newsletter for that period to news@valebenefice.org.uk by 9am on Tues 12th Dec (for the Christmas period) & by 9am on Tues 2nd January (for 7th Jan edition). Thank you.

NEWSLETTER CONTENT: news@valebenefice.org.uk Items for newsletter inclusion will be put in for 2 weeks, then removed to allow space for other items. If you wish your notice to go into the newsletter again, please email it in again by 10pm on Tuesdays news@valebenefice.org.uk Many thanks.

PLEASE PRAY FOR...

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

Friends & Family mourning: Joe Bailey, John Blair, Bruce Jefferies, Christopher Nugent, Angela Handley, Jeffery Lovelock, Kate (Kay) Dandridge, Trevor Herman,

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.