

DIARY FOR THE WEEK (Starting on Mon 11th December)

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| Mon | 8.50am | Collective Worship at Grove CE Primary School |
| | 10am | GroW Toddler Group, St John's Church Hall |
| | 10am | U3A Genealogy, Lower St John's Room |
| | 12.45pm | GroW Babies Group, St John's Church Hall |
| | 1pm | Deanery Bid Meeting, Holy Trinity Church, Charlton |
| | 7pm | 1 st Grove Guides, St John's Church Hall |
| | 8pm | FMG Meeting, Lower St John's Room |
| Tue | 9.30am | Make & Bake at Cornerstone, Grove |
| | 10am | Mid-week Eucharist at St James, West Hanney |
| | 10am | Tuesday Simply Singing Group, Lower St John's Room |
| | 6.30pm | Wantage Chess Club, St John's Rooms |
| | 7pm | 2 nd Grove Guides, St John's Church Hall |
| | 7.45pm | St Nicholas Church (Challow) PCC Meeting, The Funky Teapot |
| Wed | 9.15am | St John's Toddler Group, St John's Church Hall |
| | 2pm | Ancients' Badminton Group, St John's Church Hall |
| | 4pm | Hanney School Christingle in church |
| | 7pm | Konga Fitness Class, St John's Church Hall |
| | 7.30pm | Benefice Advent Course at the Penfold's house, Challow |
| | 7.30pm | Trefoil Guild Meeting, Lower St John's Room |
| | 8pm | Vale Elim Church meeting, Upper St John's Room |
| Thu | 9.30am | Extend Your Fitness, St John's Church Hall |
| | 9.30am | Challow School assembly in church |
| | 10am | Mid-week Eucharist at St Nicholas, East Challow |
| | 11.30am | Funeral for Joe Bailey, St John's Church, Grove |
| | 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 (HC) with Grove School singers, Hall |
| Sat | 8.30am | Saturday Morning Prayers, Frances Gillott's House, Grove |
| | 11.30am | Thanksgiving Service for John Blair, St John's Church |
| | 4pm | Christmas Craft Event, St John's Church Hall |
| | 7.30pm | "What about Joseph", Wantage Methodist Church |
| Sun | | Church services for the Benefice are written on the front of this news sheet. |

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

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

Licensed Lay Minister: Sarah Shackleton: Tel. 07587776609

Benefice Office: Grove Parish Church, Main Street, Grove, OX12 7LQ.

Open: Mon-Fri. 10-12 noon. Tel. 01235 771479. Email: office@valebenefice.org.uk

VALE BENEFICE NEWSLETTER



Sunday 10th December Second Sunday of Advent

Readings selected from:

Psalms 85:1-2, 8-13 | Isaiah 40:1-11 | Mark 1:1-8 | 2 Peter 3:8-15a

This Sunday the benefice celebrates St Nicholas (Santa Claus), the 4th-century bishop of Myra (near modern-day Demre in Turkey), to whom Challow's church is dedicated. He's considered the patron saint of sailors, unmarried girls, pawnbrokers, merchants and, most notably, of children. Today's news is full of heart-rending pictures of thousands of dead, maimed and orphaned children, the "collateral damage" of war. So let's pray in the words of Isaiah that the Prince of Peace "will feed his flock like a shepherd... and gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep."

Our Shared Worship

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

Upcoming Services

Sunday 17th December

8am Holy Communion, St Johns, Grove – Rev Alec Gill

9.30am Parish Eucharist, St James, Hanney – Rev Geoff Maughan

10am Holy Communion, St John's, Grove – Rev Alec Gill

10am Holy Communion, St James, Denchworth – Rev John Durant

11am Carol Service, St Nicholas, East Challow – Rev John Durant

4pm Hanney Village Carol Service, St James Hanney – Rev Alec Gill

6pm Grove Carol Service, St John's, Grove – Rev John Durant

BENEFICE NEWS

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 weekly.

BENEFICE ADVENT COURSE Wednesdays 13th & 20th December at Geoff & Jenny Penfold's house at 7.30pm.

ST JOHN'S CHURCH FAMILY CHRISTMAS CARDS The board & donation tin is in the church foyer. Please do put your card up. Donations to Oxfordshire Gatehouse homeless charity (St Giles). Thank you.

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 Benefice Office by Friday 15th Dec in time for delivery to Little People. Thanks.

THE GILL FAMILY Gemma has been diagnosed with a thyroid goiter in her chest, which causes constant exhaustion & breathlessness. She is waiting for an operation next summer. This has a big impact on the whole family. If you'd like to know how to practically support, please contact Frances Hobson frhobson@hotmail.com (771466).

ST JOHN'S CHRISTMAS Craft FAYRE: £600 Raised for church funds! **THANK YOU** to Nicky & ALL who helped/supported in any way, running a stall, visiting with friends, & to those who cleared the foyer & St John's Rooms of items after the event.

ST. JOHN'S CHRISTMAS CRAFTERNOON Join the festive craft-making afternoon at St. John's. Sat 16th December (2-5pm). Several Christmas craft packs to choose (volunteers on hand to help) or bring your own craft. With mulled wine & mince pies. Adult event (no childcare provision) Sign up sheet at back of church. No charge. Donations towards costs welcome on the day.

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.

SAYING GOODBYE We are very sad to say goodbye to John & Sally. We thank God for them & all they have brought to us in the Vale Benefice. They will be truly missed. John's last 10am service is at St John's on 31st December. To send them on their way into semi-retirement with our love & prayers, there will be a whole **Benefice** leaving celebration on 27th January (6pm) in St. John's Church Hall, with refreshments (more details coming). Save the date. We are collecting for a leaving gift. If you would like to contribute, please label your envelope with your donation & leave in the Benefice Office post box/give to Nicky Gibbard. There will be a card available to sign in the Grove Church foyer from Sun. 17th December. Many thanks. Grove Churchwardens.

ST JOHN'S CHURCH Christmas Tree 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 CHURCH FLOWERS Thank you to the Flower Team for all their beautiful arrangements throughout the year. You can donate towards the Christmas Flowers in church at the Benefice Office or in the basket at the back of church. Thanks.

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

(3pm Rehearsal) If you wish to join the choir at our annual carol service, please let Bev Aldridge know asap bev.aldridge@outlook.com. Practice starts at 3pm prompt (Sunday 17th Dec), ready for the service at 6pm. Bring a pencil/pen, drink & snack.

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

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

Christmas: We have a selection of Christmas cards, wrapping paper & tags as well as many items suitable as gifts, plus the ever-popular Hannah Dunnett calendars.

Christmas specials: our Christmas specials menu is now running alongside our normal menu & includes items such as our popular mulled punch, turkey baguettes & Christmas pudding. **Till volunteers:** we are looking for more people willing to be trained to use the till, especially on Saturdays. Please do contact us if you are able to help. **Take Note promotion:** the current promotion lasts until the end of the year, so do come & browse the bookshop. More information in our newsletter on noticeboards.

WELLINGTON GATE CAROLS at the Christmas tree. 18th December (5.30-6.20pm) with refreshments. Lancaster Crescent. St John's is supporting this event (organised by the local development officer) instead of our own Carol Singing group. We hope to give out chocolates & details of our Christmas Services. Please come and support us.

ASC SUPPORT COFFEE AFTERNOONS (SENCo-Tamlin Elgar) 14th December 2023 at Grove CE School (2pm). Chance to meet others & share tips, tales & triumphs. For anyone in Grove & Wantage community, please spread the word.

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 Thursday 14th Dec (1:15pm-3:15pm).

WHAT ABOUT JOSEPH? A grown-up musical version of the Christmas Story. Sat 16th December (7.30pm) at Wantage Methodist Church. (Fund raiser for Helen & Douglas House) For info/tickets Contact: jsteventon@aol.com / 07919 032203.

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). Thanks

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 your notice needs to go in again, please email it in again by 10pm on Tuesdays.

PLEASE PRAY FOR...

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

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

These living at: Mill Orchard in East Hanney; Albermarle Drive, Woodhill Drive and Ashdown Way in Grove; Hyde Road in Denchworth; Reynolds Way in East Hanney.

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR MORNING PRAYER

| | | | |
|------------|-----------|------------------|---------------------|
| Mon | Psalm 27 | Isaiah 26:7-15 | Acts 2:37-42 |
| Tue | Psalm 27 | Isaiah 4:2-6 | Acts 11:1-18 |
| Wed | Psalm 27 | Malachi 2:10-3:1 | Luke 1:5-17 |
| Thu | Psalm 126 | Habakkuk 2:105 | Philippians 3:7-11 |
| Fri | Psalm 126 | Habakkuk 3:2-6 | Philippians 3:12-16 |
| Sat | Psalm 126 | Habakkuk 3:13-19 | Matthew 21:28-32 |