

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR MORNING PRAYER

Mon	Psalm 69:1-5, 30-36	Genesis 17:1-13	Romans 4:1-12
Tue	Psalm 69:1-5, 30-36	Exodus 30:22-38	Acts 22:2-16
Wed	Psalm 69:1-5, 30-36	Isaiah 41:14-20	John 1:29-34
Thu	Psalm 139: 1-6, 13-18	Judges 2: 6-15	2 Corinthians 10:1-11
Fri	Psalm 139: 1-6, 13-18	Judges 2: 6-23	Acts 13:16-25
Sat	Psalm 139: 1-6, 13-18	1 Samuel 2:21-25	Matthew 25:1-13

DIARY FOR THE WEEK (Starting on Mon 8th January)

Mon	10am	GroW staff cupboard clearing, Church Hall	
	10am	U3A Genealogy, Lower St John's Room	
	1.30pm	U3A Committee Meeting, Lower St John's Room	
	7pm	1 st Grove Guides, St John's Church Hall	
Tue	9.30am	Make & Bake at Cornerstone, Grove	
	No Mid-week Eucharist at St James, West Hanney		
	10am	Tuesday Simply Singing Group, Lower St John's Room	
	2pm	U3A Film, St John's Church Hall	
	6.30pm	Wantage Chess Club, St John's Rooms	
	7pm	2 nd Grove Guides, St John's Church Hall	
	8pm	Grove Church PCC Meeting, Cornerstone, Grove	
	Wed	9.15am	St John's Toddler Group, St John's Church Hall
2pm		WGCP Leaders Meeting, UPPER St John's Room	
2.30pm		Trefoil Guild, LOWER St John's Room	
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	
	Thu	9.30am	Extend Your Fitness, St John's Church Hall
		10am	Mid-week Eucharist at St Nicholas, East Challow
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	
	Fri	5.45pm	NCT Meeting, St John's Church Hall
		Sat	8.30am
Sun	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

Associate Vicar: Revd. Alec Gill: Tel. 07739563894. Email: vicaralec@valebenefice.org.uk

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Licensed Lay Minister: Sarah Shackleton: Tel. 07587776609

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

VALE BENEFACTICE NEWSLETTER



Sunday 7th January

Baptism of the Lord

Readings selected from:

Psalm 29 | Genesis 1:1-5 | Mark 1:4-11 | Acts 19:1-7

Baptism of Christ

As we launch into 2024 and an interregnum (between vicars), our readings remind us of the greatness of God the Creator, Father, Son and Holy Spirit who came to rescue and dwell with us and in us.

And so we can pray for this year:

“Jesus, Lord of time, hold us in your eternity.

Jesus, image of God, travel with us the life of faith.

Jesus, friend of sinners, heal the brokenness of our world.

Jesus, Lord of tomorrow, draw us into your future. Amen.”

Our Shared Worship

Sunday 7th January

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

9am Holy Communion, St James, Denchworth – Rev Peter Rich

9.30am Parish Eucharist & Baptism, St James, Hanney – Rev Alec Gill

10.15am Holy Communion, St John's, Grove – Rev Robin Lapwood

11am Parish Eucharist, St Nicholas, East Challow – Rev Velma Oxley

6pm Grove Evening Prayer, St John's, Grove

Upcoming Services

Sunday 14th January

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

9am Holy Communion, St James, Denchworth – Rev Robin Lapwood

9.30am Parish Eucharist, St James, Hanney – Rev Alec Gill

10.15am Morning Worship (with Cornerstone speaker), St John's, Grove with Sarah Shackleton (LLM)

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

BENEFICE NEWS

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

NO BENEFICE MIDWEEK COMMUNION SERVICES until Thursday 11th January at St Nicholas, East Challow (10am).

ST JAMES, W. HANNEY MIDWEEK COMMUNION SERVICES will now be monthly on the 3rd Tuesdays starting from 16th January 2024.

WARM SPACES (12-2pm). There will be soup, rolls and cheese in the Grove St John's Church, hall after the 10.15am church **THIS SUNDAY**, 7th January. All Welcome.

WOMEN'S SOCIAL GROUP THIS SUNDAY, 7th January from 3pm – 4.30pm in the Lower St John's Rooms, Grove Church. All Welcome.

BENEFICE 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. 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 the 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 it in the Benefice Office post box/give to Nicky Gibbard. There is a card available to sign on the "Welcome" table in the Grove Church foyer. Many thanks. Grove Churchwardens.

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.

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.

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.

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

Our manager, Sarah Shewring, will be speaking at the 10.15 service at St John's on Sunday 14th January and there will be a stall of goods in the hall afterwards.

Make and Bake for under 5's - this starts up again on Tuesday 9th January. £2 per child, no need to book.

The Community Fridge from the Mix is at Cornerstone every Thursday from 4-5pm. For more information see our newsletter on the noticeboard.

OPEN TABLE MEETINGS: 1st & 3rd Wednesdays, from 6pm – 8pm at Cornerstone, Grove. There's no charge. All Welcome.

CHURCH ROTERS – ST JOHN'S Church The current 6-month rota period ends at the end of February. The Office will be collating the rotas again in January so that you receive the new one with plenty of time. Please can those currently on the church rota (and anyone wishing to join one) let me know your "absences" (any dates that you know you will not be available) from 1st March – end August 2024. We understand that you may not know if you'll be unavailable during that rota period so early on, but once the rotas are out again, you can always swap with others if your plans change and you cannot make a particular date. Please let the office know your "known absences" for that period by Friday 19th January 2024. Many thanks to all our wonderful volunteers.

ST JOHN'S CHURCH - PIGEON HOLES Please check the pigeonholes in church for any Christmas mail that may have been left for you. Thank you.

ST JOHN'S - LOST PROPERTY Please check the table in the church foyer for items that belong to you. They will be disposed of, if not claimed. Thanks.

OLD CANDLE WAX St John's Church has a few boxes of old altar candles that have been used but not completely. If you can make use of the wax, please can you let the Benefice Office know by Sunday 14th January 2024. Many thanks.

LITTLE PEOPLE Would like to thank you for your donations of toys & vouchers for Christmas presents for our local children & young people in need. They delivered to more than 30 families this Christmas! A huge thank you also for the ongoing donations throughout the year, particularly with the Clothing Bank who regularly passed on much needed clothing to 195 children in our local area throughout 2023. Sometimes new clothing or shoes are also needed, and your monetary donations can go towards these needs during the year. If you would like to donate towards the work of the Wantage & Grove "Little People" and "Children's Clothes Bank", please contact either the Vale Benefice Church Office on office@valebenefice.org.uk or w.g.clothesbank@gmail.com. Thank you very much indeed for your generosity.

ST JOHN'S TEA PARTY (CORNERSTONE) Next meeting: 20th January 2024.

OPEN THE BOOK St John's Academy would love to enjoy Open the Book in their new school on the Wellington Gate estate. Our existing team is very small & quite often stretched. Would you be interested in finding out more, perhaps joining a new team? Have a word with Peter or Angela at St John's Church.

TREFOIL GUILD From January our meetings will be held on the 2nd Wednesday of the month (2.30pm-4pm) St John's Rooms. New members welcome. Sue Catterall.

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

PLEASE PRAY FOR...

Health and healing: 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 and Trevor Herman,

These living at: Monks Close (West Hanney); St James View (East Hanney). Windrush Close, Bosley's Orchard & Wick Green (Grove); Letcombe Hill (E. Challow).