

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR MORNING PRAYER

Mon	Psalm 46	Genesis 12:1-9	1 Corinthians 7:17-24
Tue	Psalm 46	Genesis 45:25-46:7	Acts 5:33-42
Wed	Psalm 46	Proverbs 8:1-21	Mark 3:13-19a
Thu	Psalm 111	Deut 3:23-29	Romans 9:6-18
Fri	Psalm 111	Deut 12:28-32	Revelation 2:12-17
Sat	Psalm 111	Deut 13:1-5	Matthew 8:28-9:1

DIARY FOR THE WEEK (Starting on Mon 22nd January)

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
Tue	9.30am	Make & Bake at Cornerstone, Grove
	10am	Tuesday Simply Singing Group, Lower St John's Room
	2pm	U3A Meeting, St John's Church Hall
	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
	8pm	GroW Committee Meeting, UPPER St John's Room
	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
Sat	8.30am	Saturday Morning Prayers at Frances Gillott's house, Grove
	6pm	Leaving Celebration for Rev John & Sally Durant, Church Hall
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

Licensed Lay Minister: Sue Powditch: Tel. 01235 768141 Email: llm@valebenefice.org.uk

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VALE BENEFICE NEWSLETTER



Sunday 21st January

Third Sunday after Epiphany

Readings selected from:

Psalm 62:5-12 | Jonah 3:1-5, 10 | Mark 1:14-20 | 1 Corinthians 7:29-31

**“To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good”
(1 Corinthians 12.7).**

All our readings concern the overflowing nature of God's blessing, which will one day find full expression when the Kingdom of God finally comes.

Meanwhile Jesus gives a pointer to what he has in store as he provides the wedding guests with the best ever wine. Long before, the mysterious Melchizedek had given Abram the precious gift of bread and wine - which Christ also gives to us now week by week as a foretaste of his blessing.

Our Shared Worship

Sunday 21st January

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

9am Holy Communion, St James, Denchworth – Rev Alec Gill

9.30am Parish Eucharist, St James, Hanney – Rev Charles Draper

10.15am Holy Communion, St John's, Grove – Rev Alec Gill

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

6pm Evening Prayer, St John's, Grove

Upcoming Services

Sunday 28th 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, St John's, Grove – Sue Powditch (LLM)

11am Service of Memories, St Nicholas, East Challow – Rev Alec Gill

6pm Evening Prayer, St John's, Grove

BENEFICE NEWS

2024 SUNDAY WEEKLY SERVICE TIME CHANGES (from January 2024)

Grove 10am services now start at 10.15am

Denchworth 10am services now start at 9am

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

PRAYERFUL LISTENING TO GOD For the rest of 2024 there will be a weekly time of prayerful listening to God about where we are as churches and a benefice & where God may be leading us next. It will be from 9:40-10am every Sunday in the St John's rooms, Grove Church. Do join us whenever you can. I will do some prayer sheets for the year, to guide the process if I can't be there, which can be left somewhere obvious in the larger St John's room. Many thanks, Sarah Shackleton.

BENEFICE SAYING GOODBYE We are preparing 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 buffet, drinks, music and a quiz! 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 are cards available to sign on the "Welcome" table in the Grove Church foyer. We are expecting a lot of cars as fellow church members come from across the Benefice so space to park will be limited. Please can I encourage you to car share where possible. If you have space to collect others, please can you put your name on the sign up sheet in the foyer. Many thanks. Grove Churchwardens.

CHURCH VOLUNTEER ROTAS:ST JOHN'S. The new 6 month rota is due for March – August. I am collating them next week. If you are on a church rota (or wish to join one) let me know your "absences" (any dates that you know you will not be available) during that period. You can always swap with others if your plans change & you cannot make a particular date later on. Please let me know by latest: Monday 22nd January 2024. Many thanks to our wonderful volunteers! Andrea Morgan.

GROVE & WANTAGE SCHOOLS PRAYER GROUP Come & join us to pray for our local schools. Meeting in the St John's Rooms, Grove from 4pm – 5pm on;

31st January 2024 and **24th April 2024.** For more information contact Helen or John andrewandhelenharwood@yahoo.co.uk / johnmwilson2012@gmail.com

NEWSLETTER CONTENT: 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** to news@valebenefice.org.uk by 10pm on Tuesdays. Many thanks.

ST JOHN'S CHURCH – SPECIAL CHRISTMAS COLLECTIONS Many thanks to all who donated to the special collections over Christmas. We were able to send £135 to Open Doors (Carol Service), £60 to Little People (Crib Service) and £40 to Oxford Gatehouse (Christmas cards).

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.

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

BADMINTON Are you a badminton Player? Perhaps you used to play badminton and would like to try again? The "Ancient Badminton Group" who Play in the Grove Church Hall at 2 pm on Wednesday afternoons are looking for new members. Why not come along as a guest and give us a try. You will find that we are a very friendly group. The standard varies from players like me who miss most shots to one or two players who can really move & hit the shuttle (most times). You can just turn up (but may be useful to contact me 1st to check we are meeting that particular date). Contact = Ray Cordon 01235 764264 raycordon@mypostoffice.co.uk

PAEDIATRIC 1st AID COURSE GroW is offering a pediatric first aid course to our families. It is run by David Koch from Empty Hands Defence & takes place on Sat. 24th February (10am-12pm) in the St John's Church Hall. You are welcome to bring children. Suggested donation (£10 adults) Email contact@growfamilies.co.uk. to book.

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 by end January. Thanks.

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

OPEN THE BOOK St John's Academy would love to enjoy Open the Book in their new school on Wellington Gate estate. Our existing team is very small & quite often very 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. Thank you.

GROVE & WANTAGE FOODBANK Happy New Year! Thank you for your kind & generous support over the past year in terms of money & food donations alongside the volunteers from various churches who give their time to shop, pack & deliver parcels & man the phone. This is a huge testament to the churches working together to fulfill our kingdom mandate to serve the poor & needy & is hugely appreciated. If you are available in the day to shop, deliver parcels or join the committee, please get in touch! Last year we delivered over 1000 food parcels. We're averaging 3-5 parcels a day, seeing a record 44 parcels delivered in the week before Christmas! Looking ahead, our biggest need is a single larger venue to pack & store food. We appreciate the help we are getting, but currently, there isn't enough room. If you know of anywhere suitable (ground floor, parking, space to store and pack food) do get in touch with D Townsend (denise@wantagecc.org.uk). Thank you.

PLEASE PRAY FOR...

Health and healing: Mary Lesmra, 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.

Those living at: The Paddocks in East Hanney; The Meads in West Hanney; Cornhill Lane in East Challow and Bridge Farm Close, Westbrook & Westfield Mobile Home Park in Grove.