

## LECTIONARY READINGS FOR MORNING PRAYER

<b>Mon</b>	Psalm 35:1-10	Numbers 22:1-21	Acts 21:17-26
<b>Tue</b>	Psalm 35:1-10	Numbers 22:22-28	1 Corinthians 7:32-40
<b>Wed</b>	Psalm 35:1-10	Jeremiah 29:1-14	Mark 5:1-20
<b>Thu</b>	Psalm 147:1-11,20c	Proverbs 12:10-21	Galatians 5:2-15
<b>Fri</b>	Psalm 147:1-11, 20c	Job 36:1-23	1 Corinthians 9:1-16
<b>Sat</b>	Psalm 147:1-11, 20c	Isaiah 46:1-13	Matthew 12:9-14

## DIARY FOR THE WEEK (Starting on Mon 29<sup>th</sup> January)

<b>Mon</b>	10am	GroW Toddler Group, St John's Church Hall
	12.45pm	GroW Babies Group, St John's Church Hall
	7pm	1 <sup>st</sup> Grove Guides, St John's Church Hall
<b>Tue</b>	9.30am	Make & Bake at Cornerstone, Grove
	10am	Tuesday Simply Singing Group, Lower St John's Room
	6.30pm	Wantage Chess Club, St John's Rooms
	7pm	2 <sup>nd</sup> Grove Guides, St John's Church Hall
<b>Wed</b>	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
	4pm	Wantage & Grove School Prayers Meeting, Lower St Johns Rooms, Grove Church
<b>Thu</b>	9.30am	Extend Your Fitness, St John's Church Hall
	<b>10am</b>	<b>Mid-week Eucharist at St Nicholas, East Challow</b>
	2pm	ASC Support Meeting, Grove CE School, Grove
	4-5pm	Community Fridge at Cornerstone, Grove
	5.30pm	1 <sup>st</sup> Grove Brownies, St John's Church Hall
	8pm	St John's Badminton Group, St John's Church Hall
<b>Fri</b>	2pm	Friends on Friday Group, St John's Church Hall
<b>Sat</b>	8.30am	Saturday Morning Prayers at Frances Gillott's house, Grove
	1.30pm	Private Party in St John's Church Hall
<b>Sun</b>	12noon-2pm	Warm Spaces, St John's Church Hall
	3pm	Women's Social Group, Lower St John's Room
	<b>6.30pm</b>	<b>Senior Youth Group, St John's Church Hall</b>

Church services for the Benefice are written on the front of this news sheet.

## CONTACT DETAILS

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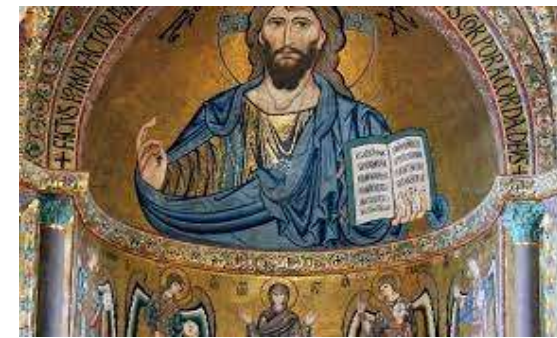
**Licensed Lay Minister:** Sue Powditch: Tel. 01235 768141 Email: [llm@valebenefice.org.uk](mailto:llm@valebenefice.org.uk)

**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](mailto:office@valebenefice.org.uk)

## VALE BENEFICE NEWSLETTER



## Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> January Fourth Sunday of Advent

Readings selected from:

Psalm 111 | Deuteronomy 18:15-20 | Mark 1:21-28 | Revelation 12:1-5

### Presentation of Christ in the Temple

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

This is one of those confusing Sundays in the Church's year. It's the fourth Sunday of Epiphany, but it's also the nearest Sunday to the Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas - remember Simeon and Anna?). In addition it is the end of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. So it's not too late for us to join our Lord in praying for the visible unity of all Christians.

### Our Shared Worship

#### Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> 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

#### Upcoming Services

#### Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> February

- 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 (with BAPTISM), St John's, Grove – Rev Alec Gill
- 11am Parish Eucharist, St Nicholas, East Challow – Rev Robin Lapwood
- 6pm Evening Prayer, St John's, Grove

## BENEFICE NEWS

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### REMINDER:

Rev John & Sally Durant's whole **Benefice leaving** celebration this Saturday, 27<sup>th</sup> January at 6pm in the St. John's Church Hall, with buffet, drinks, music and a quiz!

### 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** are now monthly on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays of the month.

**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.

**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](mailto:andrewandhelenharwood@yahoo.co.uk) / [johnmwilson2012@gmail.com](mailto:johnmwilson2012@gmail.com)

**OPEN MEETING – FRIENDS ON FRIDAY** We especially welcome Ken Stallard to our meeting on FRIDAY 2ND FEBRUARY (2pm - 3.30pm). His ministry over 60 years has enabled him to speak to royalty, heads of state and prisoners - including the Kray twins. Do come and hear his amazing testimony. All Welcome. Peter and Angela.

**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](mailto: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).

**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](mailto:raycordon@mypostoffice.co.uk)

**PAEDIATRIC 1<sup>st</sup> AID COURSE** GroW is offering a pediatric first aid course to our families. It is run by David Koch from Empty Hands Defense & 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](mailto:contact@growfamilies.co.uk). to book.

**PRAYER REQUESTS** If anyone has specific prayer requests, please email confidentially to; [prayer@valebenefice.org.uk](mailto:prayer@valebenefice.org.uk)

**ASC SUPPORT COFFEE AFTERNOONS** (with SENCo – Mrs Elgar) at Grove CE School (2pm) on **1<sup>st</sup> Feb, 7<sup>th</sup> March, 18<sup>th</sup> April, 16<sup>th</sup> May, 13<sup>th</sup> 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.

**WANTAGE & GROVE STREET PASTORS** Afternoon Patrols launching - Spring 2024. Paul Gander, Pastor of Wantage Community Church, is spearheading our afternoon patrols ministry and is looking for Christians from our local churches to join him on the streets as Street Pastors or in prayer. Previously a youth outreach worker in Didcot, Paul is experienced in working on the streets. He'll be training as a Street Pastor and leading a team. Join him and start your training now! No previous experience necessary. Full training given. Wonderful adventure guaranteed! Patrols in Wantage on Fridays from 2.30pm to about 5pm. If you are interested please call us on 07554 655 594 or Email [wantageandgrove@streetpastors.org.uk](mailto:wantageandgrove@streetpastors.org.uk) . For more information visit our website: [bit.ly/wgsp-afternoons](http://bit.ly/wgsp-afternoons) 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](mailto:denise@wantagecc.org.uk)). Thank you.

**CORNERSTONE NEWS** Email: [office@cornerstonegrove.org.uk](mailto:office@cornerstonegrove.org.uk) Tel: 772280

It was good to see so many at the **St John's tea party** last Saturday. A reminder this is on the third Saturday of each month from 2-3pm.

**Make and Bake for Under 5s** runs every Tuesday in term time from 9.30am - 11am. A reminder that we are a collection point for the Wantage and Grove **foodbank** and Children's clothes **bank**. Also, that the **Community Fridge** from The Mix is here every Thursday from 4-5pm.

Our **monthly hot meal special** will be served on Wednesday 31st January at 12.30pm Please do book in advance so we know how many to cater for.

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### PLEASE PRAY FOR...

**Health and healing:** Gemma Gill, 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.

**These living at:** Berry Lane in East Hanney; Church Street in West Hanney; Cow Lane in Denchworth; Wessex Way, Broadmarsh Close & Brunel Way in Grove.