

PLEASE PRAY FOR...

Health and healing (short term): John Hudson, Gemma Gill and Mary Lesmra.

Health and healing (long term): Bob Bulpitt, John Butter, Ari Psaras, Laura Challis, Ursula Geer & Richard Hummerston.

These living at: Woodhill Lane and Canal Way in East Challow; Orchard Close in East Hanney; Carlton Close, Vestry Close and Catmore Close in Grove.

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR MORNING PRAYER

Mon	Psalm 102:12-28	2 Kings 4:8-17, 32-37	Acts 14:1-7
Tue	Psalm 102:12-28	2 Kings 8:1-6	Acts 15:36-41
Wed	Psalm 102:12-28	Job 6:1-13	Mark 3:7-12
Thu	Psalm 50:1-6	1 Kings 11:26-40	2 Corinthians 2:12-17
Fri	Psalm 50:1-6	1 Kings 14:1-18c	1 Timothy 1:12-20
Sat	Psalm 50:1-6	1 Kings 16:1-7	Luke 19:41-44

DIARY FOR THE WEEK (Starting on Mon 5th February)

Mon	10am	GroW Toddler Group, St John's Church Hall
	10am	U3A Art Group, Lower St John's Rooms
	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 Rooms
	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
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
Thu	2pm	Ancients' Badminton Group, St John's Church Hall
	6.30pm	Open Table Meeting at Cornerstone, Grove
	7pm	Konga Fitness Class, St John's Church Hall
	9.30am	Extend Your Fitness, St John's Church Hall
Sat	10am	Mid-week Eucharist at St Nicholas, East Challow
	2pm	Bible Group, St John's Rooms
	4-5pm	Community Fridge at Cornerstone, Grove
	5.30pm	1 st Grove Brownies, St John's Church Hall
Sun	8pm	St John's Badminton Group, St John's Church Hall
	8.30am	Prayer Breakfast at Cornerstone, Grove
Sun	2pm	Board Games Afternoon, 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

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 4th February 2nd Sunday before Lent

Readings selected from:

Psalm 104: 26-end | Proverbs 8:1,22-31 | Colossians 1:15-20 | John 1:1-14

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

We tend to make a mental divide between the extraordinary discoveries of science, which are mind-blowing, and the world of the Bible. However no such divide exists for the writers of Scripture. They too were mind-blown by the universe. But from beginning to end they saw in it the wisdom of a Creator beyond their comprehension and yet not beyond their reach. In fact, as St John and St Paul recognise, the wise Creator enters His universe in the limitations of the human Jesus - bringing everything together. That's why we worship Him.

Our Shared Worship

Sunday 4th 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 Worship, St John's, Grove

Upcoming Services

Sunday 11th February

- 8am Holy Communion, St Johns, Grove – Rev Alec Gill
- 9am Holy Communion, St James, Denchworth – Revd Canon David Tyler (Archdeacon of Dorchester)
- 9.30am Parish Eucharist, St James, Hanney – Rev Alec Gill
- 10.15am Morning Worship, St John's, Grove – Revd Canon David Tyler (Archdeacon of Dorchester)
- 11am Parish Eucharist, St Nicholas, East Challow – Rev Alec Gill
- 6pm Evening Worship, St John's, Grove

REMINDERS:

GROVE & WANTAGE SCHOOLS PRAYER GROUP TODAY!

31st January 2024 join us to pray for our local schools. Meeting in the St John's Rooms, Grove from 4pm – 5pm on; For more information contact Helen or John andrewandhelenharwood@yahoo.co.uk / 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.

ASC SUPPORT COFFEE AFTERNOONS (with SENCo – Mrs Elgar) at Grove CE School (2pm) THIS WEEK (Thursday **1st Feb**). A chance to meet others & share tips, tales & triumphs. For anyone in the Grove & Wantage community.

ST JAMES, W. HANNEY MIDWEEK COMMUNION SERVICES are now monthly on the 3rd 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.

LENT COURSE runs during the regular "Bible Group" Meetings, every Thursday from 15th February - 21st March (2pm-3.30pm) in the Lower St John's Room. All Welcome.

OPEN TABLE Home Group Meetings Looking for midweek fellowship? How about coming to Open Table? Food, open Bible study at Cornerstone, Grove, at 6.30pm Wednesday 7th February. Outsider-friendly. More info from Beckleys or Wenhams.

BENEFICE 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 (2pm) on Wednesday afternoons are looking for new members. Why not come along as a guest and give us a try. 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 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. to book.

CORNERSTONE PRAYER BREAKFAST 8.30am on 2nd Saturdays at Cornerstone.

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.

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

EGG BOXES NEEDED Wantage Parish Church are holding a "Messy Church Service" on Sunday 24th February & would be very grateful for empty **cardboard** egg boxes to make oysters! They are expecting a large number of children at this service. Please take directly or leave at the Benefice Office to be passed on to them. Thank you.

LOST PROPERTY On Sunday, 14th January, after the 10.15am morning Service at Grove Church, a young person's coat was accidentally picked up from the pegs in the Church foyer. It's a black reversible zipped jacket, fleece on one side & raincoat type material on the other. It is embroidered with the young person's school logo 'LVS Oxford' on raincoat side of coat (on front left). Please could you check your young people's coats at home in case you have picked up the wrong coat that Sunday. Please contact the Benefice Office (details below) Many thanks for your help with this.

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

We are delighted to say we have appointed a new **Kitchen Manager** who starts with us at the end of February. Please pray for her & the rest of the staff as they work together as a new team. **Ash Wednesday** is on 14th February & we have a good selection of **Lent Books** on the shelves. We also have some **Easter cards** for those who like to buy early. **Take Note:** we have a new Take Note promotion, do come and see the latest offers. Leaflets with details on St John's Church foyer "welcome table." **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 . Visit bit.ly/wgsp-afternoons **CMS OPEN DAYS** Pioneer Open Days onsite: 10.30am-2pm at Church Mission Society, Watlington Road, Oxford OX4 6BZ on **Mon 26 Feb, Mon 29 April, & Mon 10 June 2024**. Pioneer open evenings online: 7pm-8.30pm on **Tue 27 Feb, Tue 30 April, & Tue 11 June 2024**. African Christianity open evenings online: Tuesdays 7pm-8.30pm, **5 March, 23 April, 18 June and 23 July 2024**. Booking essential.

Email: Pioneer@churchmissionsociety.org

WOMEN'S BREAKFAST Saturday 24th February, Stanford in the Vale Village hall (large Hall), 8.30am for an 8.45am start. Book in advance by 19/2/2024. Email: womensbreakfast@stdenys.org or leaving a message on 07880655102.

OPEN MORNING The King's School, Witney. Tuesday 5th March, (10:30am-noon). Discover The King's School, a small, friendly Christian school, for ages 3-16, in Witney, OX29 6TA. Website: www.tkswitney.org.uk Register at registrar@tkswitney.org.uk

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