

PLEASE PRAY FOR....

Health & healing (short term): John Hedges, John Hudson, Gemma Gill and Mary Lesrma.

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

Friends & Family mourning: Sue Aitken and Kate & Ronald Dandridge

Those living at School Road in West Hanney; St James' School in East Hanney; Tubbs Close, Cherbury Green, Cherry Tree Close in Grove; High View in E. Challow.

DIARY FOR THE WEEK (Starting on Mon 19th February)

Mon	10am	GroW Toddler Group, St John's Church Hall
	12.45pm	GroW Babies Group, St John's Church Hall
	7pm	1 st Grove Guides, St John's Church Hall
Tue		Grove CE School PRAYER SPACE in St John's Church
	9.30am	Make & Bake at Cornerstone, Grove
	10am	Tuesday Simply Singing Group, Lower St John's Room
	10am	Mid-week Eucharist at St James Church, West Hanney
	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		Grove CE School PRAYER SPACE in St John's Church
	9.15am	St John's Toddler Group, St John's Church Hall
	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
	7.30pm	Benefice Lent Course (The Penfold's house), Challow
Thu		Grove CE School PRAYER SPACE in St John's Church
	9.30am	Extend Your Fitness, St John's Church Hall
	10am	Mid-week Eucharist at St Nicholas, East Challow
	2pm	Bible Group/Lent Course, St John's Rooms
	4-5pm	Community Fridge at Cornerstone, Grove
	5.30pm	1 st Grove Brownies, St John's Church Hall
	7.30pm	"Sunday Club under 5's Dads" Meeting, Lower St John's Room
	8pm	St John's Badminton Group, St John's Church Hall
Fri		Grove CE School PRAYER SPACE in St John's Church
	11.15am	Burial (T/L Sue Aitken), St James churchyard, W. Hanney
Sat	8.30am	Morning Prayer at Frances Gillott's house, Grove
	10am	GroW Paediatric 1 st Aid Course, St John's 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

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 18th February 2024 First Sunday of Lent

Readings selected from:

Psalms 25:1-9 | Genesis 9:8-17 | 1 Peter 3:18-end | Mark 1:9-15

The Prayer for Lent

Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing that you have made and forgive the sins of all those who are penitent: create and make in us new and contrite hearts that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may receive from you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Our Shared Worship

Sunday 18th February

8am Holy Communion, St Johns, Grove – Rev Nicholas Cheeseman
9am Holy Communion, St James, Denchworth – Rev Peter Rich
9.30am Parish Eucharist, St James, Hanney – Rt Rev Gavin Collins
10.15am Holy Communion, St John's, Grove – Rev Robin Lapwood
11am Parish Eucharist, St Nicholas, East Challow – Rt Rev Gavin Collins
6pm Evening Worship, St John's, Grove

Upcoming Services

Sunday 25th February

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 Geoff Maughan & Rev Alec Gill
10.15am Morning Worship, St John's, Grove – Sue Powditch (LLM)
11am Parish Eucharist, St Nicholas, East Challow – Rev Alec Gill
6pm Evening Worship, St John's, Grove

REMINDERS:

ST JOHN'S TEA PARTY at Cornerstone, Grove THIS Saturday 17th February (2pm-3pm). All welcome. A lovely opportunity to meet & chat with others while also supporting Cornerstone, Grove.

Election of Parish Representatives for St John's church.

Thank you for your prayers last week, and for those who proposed potential parish reps, we felt so encouraged that there were nine names put forward. After a time of prayer and preparation with those nominated, and the PCC, voting concluded with the election of Colin Moulds and Rachel Hutchin with Frances Hobson as reserve. Please pray for them as they meet to plan and to discern the next steps in our Benefice vacancy. Grove Churchwardens

ST JAMES, W. HANNEY MIDWEEK COMMUNION SERVICES are now monthly on the 3rd Tuesdays of the month. Next one is 20th February.

ST JOHN'S CHURCH VOLUNTEER ROTAS Many thanks to all those who are regularly serving our Lord at church on our volunteer rotas. The new rotas (March – end August 2024) were sent out on Saturday 10th Feb by email. Please let the office know if you have not received this or would like a hardcopy rota printed for you. There have been a few swaps this week on various rotas, so I have amended the main rota system with these latest swaps and will send all the revised rotas out again next week.

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 & a benefice & where God may be leading us next. 9:40am-10am every Sunday in the St John's rooms, Grove Church. Join us whenever you can. There are some prayer sheets for the year, to guide the process, which will be left in the bookcase of the small old office room in the St John's Room building. Many thanks, Sarah Shackleton.

GROVE CHURCH 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 Benefice welcome. Bible readings & reflections from Christian leaders from the Middle East & the UK. **Lent: "Healing and Hope in the one household of God."**

BENEFICE LENT COURSE in East Challow. Meeting from Wed 21st February to Wed 20th March, (5 sessions), from 7:30pm at Jeff and Jenny Penfold's house. Please contact the Benefice Office if you need the address. This year's lent course will look at women in the Gospels & is open to anyone from the Benefice who would like to join.

HANNEY CHRISTMAS COLLECTIONS the total collections taken at the 4 services arranged by St James were split 50:50 between the Wantage & Grove Foodbank & Crisis at Christmas, totaling £962. Great thanks to the generosity of all our community.

GROVE CHRISTMAS COLLECTIONS We have received letters of thanks from Oxford Gatehouse (homeless charity), Open Doors and Little People for the donations sent from St John's after Christmas. The letters can be seen on the foyer noticeboard.

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

GROVE CHURCH PARKING Please can you ensure that you park with care and consideration in the car park at Grove Church & that you do not park on the grass verges outside the church gates (council land) as we are getting complaints from neighbours about people parking on those areas during our Sunday services. Thanks.

BADMINTON 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 with varied abilities. Just turn up or contact Ray Cordon on 01235 764264 raycordon@mypostoffice.co.uk
CORNERSTONE NEWS Email: office@cornerstonegrove.org.uk Tel: 772280

We are delighted to say that we have appointed a new **Kitchen Manager** who will be starting with us at the end of February. Please pray for her and the rest of the staff as they work together as a new team. 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. There are leaflets with further details on the welcome table at St John's.

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.** Please book at Pioneer@churchmissionsociety.org

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 . For more information visit our website: bit.ly/wgsp-afternoons Thank you.

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.

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

THE BENEFICE NEWSLETTER is being sent out on Wednesdays. Please send any notices to be included by 10pm at the latest on Tuesday nights. Thank you. Please email them to: news@valebenefice.org.uk (not the Office email).

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR MORNING PRAYER

Mon	Psalm 10, 11	Genesis 41.25-45	Galatians 3.23-4.7
Tue	Psalm 44, 48	Genesis 41.46-42.5	Galatians 4:8-20
Wed	Psalm 6, 119. 57-80	Genesis 42.6-17	Galatians 4.21-5.1
Thu	Psalm 42, 57	Genesis 42.18-28	Galatians 5.2-15
Fri	Psalm 22, 51	Genesis 42.29-end	Galatians 5.16-end
Sat	Psalm 63, 68	Genesis 43.1-15	Galatians 6