

PLEASE PRAY FOR....

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

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 The Croft in West Hanney; Blenheim Orchard in East Hanney; The Maples, Churchward Close and The Kestrels in Grove; Vicarage Hill in East Challow

DIARY FOR THE WEEK (Starting on Mon 26th February)

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
	6.30pm	Wantage Chess Club, St John's Rooms
Wed	7pm	2 nd Grove Guides, St John's Church Hall
	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
Thu	7.30pm	Benefice Lent Course (The Penfold's house), Challow
	9.30am	Extend Your Fitness, St John's Church Hall
	10am	Mid-week Eucharist at St Nicholas, East Challow
Fri	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
	8pm	St John's Badminton Group, St John's Church Hall
Sat	2.30pm	World Day of Prayer Service at Methodist Church, Grove
Sun		NO Friends on Friday this week
	8.30am	Morning Prayer at Frances Gillott's house, Grove
	12noon-2pm	Warm Spaces, St John's Church Hall
Sun	3pm	Women's Social Group, Lower St John's Room
	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

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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 25th February 2024

Second Sunday of Lent

Readings selected from:

Psalm 22:23-40; Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16; Romans 4:13-30; Mark 8:31-50

How do our readings in Genesis and Romans relate to the Gospel reading? It's not obvious. The first two are all about how God's promise to Abraham and Sarah was to bless many nations because of their faith. This is a theme that St Paul loves; it's the truth that trusting the God of Jesus Christ, crucified and raised to life, sets us free from trying to win life through keeping laws. "Just trust and follow me," says Jesus, "and you'll save your life." No wonder the guardians of the Jewish law, the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, rejected him.

Our Shared Worship

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

Upcoming Services

Sunday 3rd March

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 Worship, St John's, Grove

BENEFICE NEWS

REMINDERS:

Election of Parish Representatives for St John's church.

Thank you for your prayers the Sunday before last, 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.

AMENDED: ST JOHN'S CHURCH VOLUNTEER ROTAS Many thanks to all those who are regularly serving our Lord at church on our volunteer rotas. I have emailed out an "amended" copy of the new rotas (March – end August 2024). Please use THIS NEW one as there are some swaps that have been added. Thank you. Please let the office know if you have not received this or would like a hardcopy rota printed for you. Thank you so much everyone for all you do.

CARDS ON SALE: Sue will be selling Mothers Day/Mothering Sunday & Easter cards on the 3rd March after the 10.15 service & Easter Cards on the 10th March. All proceeds go to St Johns Church. Many thanks. Sue Powditch.

PRAYERFUL LISTENING TO GOD For the rest of 2024 there will be a weekly time of prayer for our churches and our benefice, and where God may be leading us. 9:40am-10am Sundays in the St John's rooms, Grove Church. Do join us.

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. The course will look at women in the Gospels & is open to anyone from the Benefice who would like to join.

GROVE CHURCH PARKING Thank you for parking considerately in the car park at Grove Church. Please remember not to park on the grass verges outside the church gates (council land) so that we can reduce the complaints from our neighbours.

WARM SPACES: St John's Church, Grove. Sunday 3rd March (12noon – 2pm).

WOMEN'S SOCIAL: Sunday 3rd March (3pm-4.30pm, Lower St John's Room).

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE We will be holding our usual open air Good Friday service on the green opposite Grove Methodist Church at 11:00am. In case of bad weather, the service will take place in our church. Refreshments of tea, coffee & hot cross buns available after the service. All Welcome. The Rev'd Keith R. Underhill. (Superintendent of Wantage & Abingdon Circuit of the Methodist Church).

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

Free breakfasts: During half-term we served free breakfasts to a number of families of children who receive free school meals. Thank you to those who contributed towards the cost.

Mothering Sunday - 10th March: We have a selection of Mothering Sunday cards along with items suitable as gifts.

Easter - 31st March: We have in stock Divine chocolate Easter eggs in stock as well as a good selection of cards and books for both adults and children.

Hot meal special: This will be served on Wednesday 28th February (12.30pm). Please do book in advance so we know how many to cater for.

Staffing: Do pray for the team as they begin to work together with our new kitchen manager. We shall shortly be advertising a new part-time cook.

PLEASE PRAY FOR: The team at Wantage Parish Church as they hold their "Messy Church Service" on 24/02/2024, and for the Parish's work with children & youngsters.

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 & is looking for Christians from our local churches to join him on the streets as Street Pastors or in prayer. He'll be training as a Street Pastor & 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.

ELMBROOK COURT: Our next Friendship Cafe will meet on Monday 26th February at 2pm. Please come and join us for some tea/coffee and cake and a bit of fun.

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

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR MORNING PRAYER

Mon	Psalm 32,71	Genesis 43.16-end	Hebrews 1
Tue	Psalm 50,73	Genesis 44.1-17	Hebrews 2.1-9
Wed	Psalm 35,77	Genesis 44.18-end	Hebrews 2.10-end
Thu	Psalm 34, 78.1-39	Genesis 45.1-15	Hebrews 3.1-6
Fri	Psalm 41,55	Genesis 45.16-end	Hebrews 3.7-end
Sat	Psalm 25,76	Genesis 46.1-7,28-34	Hebrews 4.1-13
