

## DIARY FOR THE WEEK (Starting on Mon 4<sup>th</sup> March)

<b>Mon</b>	10am	GroW Toddler Group, St John's Church Hall
	10am	U3A Art Group, Lower St John's Room
	12.45pm	GroW Babies Group, St John's Church Hall
	7pm	1 <sup>st</sup> Grove Guides, St John's Church Hall
	7.30pm	PCC Environmental Meeting, Lower St John's Room
<b>Tue</b>	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
<b>Wed</b>	7pm	2 <sup>nd</sup> Grove Guides, St John's Church Hall
	9.15am	St John's Toddler Group, St John's Church Hall
	<b>10am</b>	<b>Mid-week Holy Communion at St John's, Grove</b>
	2pm	Ancients' Badminton Group, St John's Church Hall
	6.30pm	Open Table Meeting, Cornerstone, Grove
<b>Thu</b>	7pm	Konga Fitness Class, St John's Church Hall
	7.30pm	Benefice Lent Course (The Penfold's house), Challow
	9.30am	Extend Your Fitness, St John's Church Hall
	<b>10am</b>	<b>Mid-week Eucharist at St Nicholas, East Challow</b>
	2pm	Bible Group/Lent Course, St John's Rooms
<b>Sat</b>	2pm	ASC Support Meeting, Grove CE Primary School
	5.30pm	1 <sup>st</sup> Grove Brownies, St John's Church Hall
	8pm	St John's Badminton Group, St John's Church Hall
	8.30am	Cornerstone Prayer Breakfast, Cornerstone, Grove
	9am	1 <sup>st</sup> Grove Rainbows Meeting, St John's Church Hall
<b>Sun</b>	11am	Baptism/Blessing Application Meeting, 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

**Associate Vicar:** Revd. Alec Gill: Tel. 07739563894. Email: [vicaralec@valebenefice.org.uk](mailto:vicaralec@valebenefice.org.uk)

**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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**Benefice Office:** Grove Parish Church, Main Street, Grove, OX12 7LQ.

**Open:** Mon–Fri. 10–12 noon. Tel. 01235 771479. Email: [office@valebenefice.org.uk](mailto:office@valebenefice.org.uk)

## VALE BENEFICE NEWSLETTER



**3<sup>rd</sup> March 2024**

### Third Sunday of Lent

*Readings selected from:*

Psalm 19; Exodus 20:1-17; 1 Corinthians 1:18-25; John 2:13-22

In Psalm 19 David uses four synonyms for God's word: "the law...the decrees... the precepts...the commandment of the Lord." Each of the 176 verses of Psalm 119 contains a synonym for God's word! Jesus is THE Word. After he cleaned out the temple traders, looking back, Jesus' disciples "remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken." A good way to understand the rest of the Bible is to check it by what Jesus did and said.

### Our Shared Worship

#### Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> 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

### Upcoming Services

#### Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> March

- 8am Holy Communion, St John's, Grove — Rev Alec Gill
- 9am Holy Communion, St James', Denchworth — Rev Peter Rich
- 9.30am Parish Eucharist, St James', Hanney — Rev Alec Gill
- 10.15am Morning Worship, St John's, Grove — Sarah Shackleton (LLM)
- 11am Parish Eucharist, St Nicholas', East Challow — Rev Alec Gill
- 6pm Evening Worship, St John's, Grove

## BENEFICE NEWS

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### REMINDERS:

**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 on Sundays in the St John's rooms, Grove Church. Do join us.

**WORLD DAY OF PRAYER SERVICE** Our local Service is at Grove Methodist Church **THIS Friday 1st March** (2.30pm) with tea and cake afterwards. All welcome, men and women!

**NO FRIENDS ON FRIDAY (Holy Communion) on 1st March** There will **NOT** be a meeting at Grove Church this week as we will be attending the World Day of Prayer Service at Grove Methodist Church instead. Please do come along. Thank you. All Welcome.

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**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. 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.

**WARM SPACES:** St John's Church **TODAY:** Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> March (12noon – 2pm). All Welcome.

**WOMEN'S SOCIAL:** Lower St John's Room. **TODAY:** Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> March (3pm-4.30pm. All Welcome.

**GROVE CHURCH LENT COURSE** runs during the regular "Bible Group" Meetings, every Thursday until the last session on 21<sup>st</sup> 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 every Wednesday until 20<sup>th</sup> March, 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.

**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).

**EASTER FLOWERS in St John's Church** Thank you to the Flower team who are creating our Easter Flower arrangements in church. There will be a basket at the back of church for donations to the Easter flowers for those who would like to contribute. Many thanks.

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

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

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

**Mothering Sunday (10<sup>th</sup> March):** We have a selection of Mothering Sunday cards along with items suitable as gifts.

**Easter (31<sup>st</sup> 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.

**Community Fridge/Cornerstone:** Unfortunately, due to a shortage of volunteers The Mix is no longer able to bring the Community Fridge to Cornerstone on Thursdays.

**WANTAGE PARISH CHURCH Open Air Easter Services:**

**Palm Sunday, (24<sup>th</sup> March)** 10am in Wantage Marketplace. Wantage Churches come together for a short Service, including procession with donkey and Wantage Silver Band. **Good Friday (29<sup>th</sup> March)** Walk with Wantage & Grove Church Partnership. Meet 10:30am in Kingsgrove Square, finishing at 1pm in the Marketplace for hot cross buns!

**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](mailto:Pioneer@churchmissionsociety.org)

**WOMEN'S BREAKFAST TEAM:** Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2024 at Stanford Village Hall (8.30am for an 8.45am start). Talk by Gwyneth Travis: It all began on a Rainy Day: Our life as hoteliers in Lynton and Lynmouth. All Welcome.

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### LECTIONARY READINGS FOR MORNING PRAYER

<b>Mon</b>	Psalm 80	Genesis 47.1-27	Hebrews 4.14-5.10
<b>Tue</b>	Psalm 9,89.1-18	Genesis 47.28-48.22	Hebrews 5.11-6.12
<b>Wed</b>	Psalm 38	Genesis 49.1-32	Hebrews 6.13-end
<b>Thu</b>	Psalm 56,92	Genesis 49.33-end	Hebrews 7.1-10
<b>Fri</b>	Psalm 22,88	Exodus 1.1-14	Hebrews 7.11-end
<b>Sat</b>	Psalm 31,97	Exodus 1.22-2.10	Hebrews 8

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### 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:** Barry Herman, Sue Aitken and Kate & Ronald Dandridge

**Those living in:** Halls Lane in East Hanney; Colinsmith Drive, Teal Close, and Collett Way in Grove; W&G Estate and Old School Lane in East Challow