

PLEASE PRAY FOR....

Health & healing (short term): Lucille Vaughan, John Hedges and John Hudson

Health & healing (long term): Gemma Gill, 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 Wayland Road, Cane Lane and Vicarage Close in Grove; Field Gardens and St Nicholas School in East Challow; Circourt Road in Denchworth

DIARY FOR THE WEEK (Starting on Mon 18th March)

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	9.30am	Make & Bake at Cornerstone, Grove
	10am	Mid-week Eucharist at St James, West Hanney
	10am	Tuesday Simply Singing Group, Lower St John's Room
	2pm	U3A Main Meeting, St John's Church Hall
	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
	10am	St James School Easter Service in church, W. Hanney
	2pm	Ancients' Badminton Group, St John's Church Hall
	6.30pm	Open Table Meeting, Cornerstone Café, Grove
	7pm	Konga Fitness Class, St John's Church Hall
	7.30pm	Benefice Lent Course (final). (The Penfold's house), Challow
Thu	7.30pm	Section 1 Vacancy Meeting, St John's Church, Grove
	8pm	Vale Elim Meeting, Lower St John's Room
	9.30am	Extend Your Fitness, St John's Church Hall
	10am	Mid-week Eucharist at St Nicholas, East Challow
	11am	U3A Leader Meeting, Lower St John's Room
Sat	2pm	Bible Group/Lent Course (final), St John's Rooms
	5.30pm	1 st Grove Brownies, St John's Church Hall
	8pm	St John's Badminton Group, St John's Church Hall
	8.30am	Morning Prayer at Frances Gillott's house, Grove
Sun	9.30am	Private Group Meeting/Lunch, St John's Church Hall
	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: Rev 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

Email: SarahLLM@valebenefice.org.uk

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



17th March 2024

Fifth Sunday of Lent

Readings selected from:

Psalm 51.1-13; Psalm 119.9-16; Jeremiah 31.31-34; Hebrews 5.5-10; John 12.20-33

Sunday, sometimes called Passion Sunday, marks the point when we begin to focus in on what Jesus calls "the hour." For him it seems that Greeks (Gentiles) seeking him was the sign that his long-expected walk to the cross was to start. That will be the moment of his glory and as he puts it, that "I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." For us it's a time for looking at our own walk of faith: "Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also."

A challenge and an encouragement.

Our Shared Worship

Sunday 17th 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 Geoff Maughan

10.15am Holy Communion, St John's, Grove – Rev Alec Gill

11am Parish Eucharist, St Nicholas, East Challow – Rev Nicholas Cheeseman

6pm Evening Worship, St John's, Grove

Upcoming Services

Sunday 24th March – Palm Sunday

8am Holy Communion, St John's, 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 Parish Eucharist, St Nicholas', East Challow — Rev Preb Jane Haslam

6pm Evening Worship, St John's, Grove

REMINDERS:

ST JOHN'S TEA PARTY at Cornerstone. Saturday **16th March (2pm-3pm).**
BOARD GAMES AFTERNOON St John's Church Hall (2 pm-5 pm). **17th March.**
PRAYERFUL LISTENING TO GOD 9:40am-10am, Sundays, in the St John's rooms.

NO MID-WEEK EUCHARISTS at **St Nicholas, E. Challow** on Thursday 28th March & 11th April AND at **St James, W. Hanney** on Tuesday 26th March.

GOOD FRIDAY at St John's Church There will be a Devotional Service in church from 2pm - 3pm and an **All-Age Creative Event** in the church hall (3pm - 4pm). All Welcome to join in the activities to create an Easter Garden (refreshments available).

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: for this event please. If you have any ideas for the "Easter Garden" related creative activities or can help with running them, setting up/clearing away or serving refreshments & Hot Cross Buns, please contact Sarah Shackleton: SarahLLM@valebenefice.org.uk / Rev Alec Gill: vicaralec@valebenefice.org.uk

Many thanks for your help with this event.

EASTER FLOWERS (St John's Church) Thank you to the Flower team who will be creating Easter Flower arrangements in church. There is a basket at the back of church for donations towards this for those who would like to contribute. Thank you.

ST JOHN'S CHURCH PROFILE: Web link for questionnaire. As mentioned last Sunday, we would like you all to fill in a questionnaire in order to provide an accurate picture of our church at the moment. The information you provide will help us (your church representatives) build an accurate picture of the church for our profile. The profile will subsequently be used to advertise the church to prospective applicants during the recruitment process for our new vicar. We would value hearing from everyone, including our young people, so are hopeful that everyone age 10-110 will fill one out! In order to collate the information more easily (and to reduce our printing!) we would love this to be done online if possible using this link: <https://forms.office.com/e/txEvTWUhhW>. There is no requirement to log in or to use your email address, so responses are anonymous. If you would like a paper copy there are some in the church foyer for you to take away and there will be a box in the foyer to return them to. **Deadline is 31st March.** There will be some **printed "links"** for people to take away to do online & **QR codes** around the hall to use if needed. We greatly value your participation in this stage of the process., Rachel, Colin & Frances.

GROVE CHURCH LENT COURSE Last one on Thursday 21st March (2pm-3.30pm) in the Lower St John's Room. All Benefice welcome.

BENEFICE LENT COURSE in East Challow. Last one on Wednesday 20th March (7:30pm) at Jeff and Jenny Penfold's house. All welcome.

WANTAGE PARISH CHURCH Open Air Easter Services: Palm Sunday: 24.3.2024 (10am), Wantage Marketplace. Wantage Churches come together for a short Service, including procession with donkey and Wantage Silver Band. **Good Friday: 29.3.2024** Walk with Wantage & Grove Church Partnership. Meet 10:30am in Kingsgrove Square, finish: 1pm in Marketplace for hot cross buns!

LITTLE PEOPLE need a volunteer who could assist with delivering items to families in need. Needs own transport availability in the daytime. Contact the Office. Thank you.

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

Easter is fast approaching and we have a good selection of Easter cards, Divine Chocolate Easter eggs as well as books for both adults and children.

The **monthly hot meal special** will be served on Wednesday 27th March. Please do book in advance so we know how many to cater for.

Outside catering: We are able to supply outside catering for your events, please contact us for more information.

Remember we are a drop-off point for both the **Wantage and Grove Foodbank** and the **Children's clothes bank**.

GOOD FRIDAY OPEN AIR SERVICE As usual this service will be held at 11am on the green at the bottom of Vale Avenue (if wet, we will meet in the Methodist Church). Followed by tea, coffee and hot cross buns. All welcome.

A PASSION PLAY: "Jesus: dead or alive. What do you think?" Thursday 28th March. Wantage Baptist Church. Doors open at 7pm for 7.45pm performance. Tickets from the King's Centre or www.wantagecc.org.uk/easter

POP-UP SNOWDROPS "IN-THE-GREEN" SALE on Saturday 16th March (10-15am - 11-30am). West hendred village hall. In aid of west hendred village hall. 4 varieties of snowdrops and coffee available. Hugh and Annabel Rees hugh@citidata.co.uk

ST JOHN'S CHURCH FETE 2024 - 29.6.2024 -Save the date! Look out soon for more news regarding this, with an opportunity to sign up and get involved.

GroW: SAVE A BABY'S LIFE WORKSHOP: Wednesday 27th March (1-2pm), Old Mill Hall, Grove. Run by the Royal Lifesaving Society UK. Teaching basic emergency skills to anyone who cares for a baby. **You will learn:** Infant Life Support (CPR), Infant Choking (diagnosis and treatment) and Infant Drowning (diagnosis and treatment) **Book your free place online at www.growfamilies.co.uk or email contact@growfamilies.co.uk**

ELMBROOK COURT: Our next Friendship Cafe is on Monday 25th March from 10am - 12pm. Chloe's Farm are visiting so that you can meet & greet some of the animals that she looks after. All her animals are rescues and she runs it through gifts and charitable donations. If you would like to get up close and personal with some very friendly animals, please do come along. clientrelations.ec@oaklandcare.com

NEWSLETTER CONTENT: news@valebenefice.org.uk

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 by 10pm on Tuesdays news@valebenefice.org.uk Many thanks.

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

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR MORNING PRAYER

Mon	Psalm 73,126	Exodus 8.1-19	Hebrews 11.17-31
Tue	Psalm 25,147.1-12	Isaiah 11.1-10	Matthew 13.54-end
Wed	Psalm 59,119.153-end	Exodus 9.1-12	Hebrews 12.3-13
Thu	Psalm 40,143	Exodus 9.13-end	Hebrews 12.14-end
Fri	Psalm 22,144	Exodus 10	Hebrews 13.1-16
Sat	Psalm 23,147	Exodus 11	Hebrews 13.17-end