

DIARY FOR THE WEEK *(Starting on Monday 2nd December)*

Mon	10am	GroW Toddler Group, St John's Church Hall
	12.45pm	GroW Babies Group, St John's Church Hall
	1pm	GroW Baby Massage Course, LOWER St John's Room
	7pm	1st Grove Guides, St John's Church Hall
	7.30pm	GROW Parenting Course, LOWER St John's Room
Tue	10am	Simply Singing Group, LOWER St John's Room
	12noon	U3A Group Christmas Party, St John's Church HA
	6.30pm	Wantage Chess Club, ALL St John's Rooms
	7pm	2nd Grove Guides, St John's Church Hall
Wed	9.15am	St John's Toddler Group, St John's Church Hall
	10am	Mid-week Holy Communion, LOWER St John's Room
	2pm	Ancients' Badminton Group, St John's Church Hall
	7pm	Jungle Konga Fitness Class, St John's Church Hall
	8pm	Vale Benefice Advent Course (online – ZOOM)
	8pm	Vale Elim Meeting, LOWER St John's Room
Thu	9.30am	White Horse Extend Exercise Group, St John's Church Hall
	10am	Mid-week HC Service, St Nicholas Church, E. Challow
	12 noon	Funeral Service for T/L June Hedges, St John's Church
	4.30pm	1st Grove Brownies Christmas Party, St John's Church Hall
	8pm	St John's Badminton Group, St John's Church Hall
Fri	8pm	FMG Meeting in the LOWER ST John's Room
	2pm	Friends on Friday Group, St John's Church HALL
	5.45pm	NCT Meeting, St John's Church HALL
Sat	7.30pm	Parish Rep Meeting, LOWER ST John's Room
	8.30am	Morning Prayer at Frances Gillott's house, Grove
	9am	1st Grove Rainbows, St John's Church HALL
	9am	FOODBANK parcels being made, All St John's Rooms
Sun	2pm	Private party, St John's Church HALL
	7pm	Senior Youth Group, St John's Church Hall, Grove

CONTACT DETAILS

Associate Vicar: Revd. Alec Gill: 07739563894 vicaralec@valebenefice.org.uk

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

Open: Mon–Fri. 10–12 noon. 01235 771479. office@valebenefice.org.uk

VALE BENEFICE NEWSLETTER

1st DECEMBER 2024

ADVENT SUNDAY

Readings selected from:

Psalm 25:1-9; Jeremiah 33:14-16; 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13; Luke 21:25-36

Advent: the start of the Church's year. Like New Year, It looks back and it looks forward. It looks back to the first coming of Jesus as a baby in Bethlehem and forward to His coming again as King in glory to judge the world. So St Paul prays, "may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all,... And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints."

Our Shared Worship

8am Holy Communion, St John's, Grove – Rev Alec Gill
9.30am Parish Eucharist, St James', Hanney – Rev Charles Draper
NO 10am Service at St James', Denchworth
10.15am Holy Communion, St John's, Grove – Rev Alec Gill
11am Parish Eucharist, St Nicholas', East Challow – Rev Robin Lapwood
6pm Advent Carol Service, St James', Denchworth – Rev Alec Gill

Sunday 8th December

St Nicholas', East Challow, Patronal Festival

8am Holy Communion, St John's, Grove – Rev Alec Gill
NO 9.30am service at St James', Hanney
NO 10am Service at St James', Denchworth
NO 10.15am Service at St John's, Grove
11am Patronal Festival Eucharist, St Nicholas', East Challow – Rev Alec Gill

Send newsletter content to news@valebenefice.org.uk

Items for newsletter inclusion will be for 2 weeks. Please re-send your content by 10pm on

Tuesdays if you wish your notice to go into the newsletter again. Thank you.

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

BENEFICE NEWS

GROVE PCC MEETING The PCC meeting in November focused on the Budget for 2025 and setting up a finance committee. The next steps for the Associate vicar vacancy, progress on FMG (Fabric, Materials and Grounds) projects, and reports from GroW were also discussed. An important feature was an update on the status of Deanery children and youthwork bids and how the PCC thinks we should move onwards.

BENEFICE ZOOM ADVENT COURSE Join us online on Thursday 28th November 5th December, Wednesday 11th December & Friday 20th December (8-9pm) to explore the meaning of the Christmas story together. Contact Alec Gill for Zoom links.

ST JOHN'S CHRISTMAS FAYRE Please do come along & join us this Saturday at St John's Church Hall for our Christmas Fayre (2pm – 4pm). Please bring family & friends.

DENCHWORTH ADVENT CAROLS SERVICE Sunday 1st December at St James Church at 6pm. All are welcome to join us to look forward to the coming of Christ, through Bible readings and advent hymns.

WANTAGE AND GROVE FOODBANK CHRISTMAS HAMPERS We will be currently collecting donations for Christmas hampers by **1st December**. Collection points: Church foyer, Sainsbury, Waitrose & Cornerstone. Thank you for your support.

JUNE HEDGES As June's sister I am saddened to have to let you know of June's death on 9th November. She was a very special person & a dedicated member of the church & community. She was a volunteer in Cornerstone for many years & worked hard to make Grove a Fair-Trade village. She will be missed by all her family & friends. Her funeral will be held on Thursday 5th December 2024 (12 noon) at St John's Church, Grove, with a reception at Grove Village Hall (opposite the church). Please pray for her family and friends. Thank you.

FRIENDS ON FRIDAY We invite anyone who would like to join us to our CHRISTMAS Meeting on Friday 6th December in the Church Hall at 2pm, when children from Grove School will be coming to sing Christmas songs and Carols. This will be followed by a party tea. For catering purposes, it would be helpful to know if you hope to be there. Please ring Angela on 411315.

ST NICHOLAS PATRONAL SERVICE everyone is invited to St St Nicholas, E. Challow patronal service at 11am on 8th Dec. The Archdeacon Rev. David Tyler will be taking part in the service.

GROVE PARISH COUNCIL CHRISTMAS TREE CAROL SERVICE Thursday 19th December 2024 at 7pm by the Tree at the junction of Vale Avenue and Main Street in Grove. Tea, coffee and mince pies will be available in the Methodist Church after the service has finished. All Welcome!

VALE BENEFICE NEWSLETTER There will be **no** newsletter on Sunday 29th December or 5th January. It will resume on Sunday 12th January 2025.

INSTALLATION SERVICE for Vale Benefice Vicar: Please join us for Alec's "Installation Service" on Thursday 16th January 2025 at 7.30pm at St John's Church, Grove with refreshments afterwards. This is a Benefice event. All Welcome.

ST JOHN'S CHRISTMAS CARDS Please add your whole congregation Christmas card to the board in the foyer. Donations are for "Crisis Skylight Oxford" and can be left in the secure Church Office post box. Thank you for your support.

ST JOHN'S CHURCH CHRISTMAS TREE has very kindly been donated to us again this year by Chilton Garden Centre. Thank you to Brian & Edith Hipwell who transported it to the church, John Harris for setting it up & getting the stand & decorations down from the loft, and to the Senior Youth Group (and Lorna!) for decorating it so beautifully.

WANTAGE & GROVE Scout's Christmas Post (from 10am Sat 30th Nov to 5pm on Friday 20th Dec), with delivery to Challow, Hanney & other local villages. (40p per card, to be put into the boxes with the cards please). Post boxes are available in Wantage; Barnard's Way Post Office, Campbell's opticians, Charlton Garden Centre, Sainsbury's, Waitrose, Wantage Health Centre and in Grove; Smith's DIY and Co-op. All proceeds to the local Scouts groups. For more details call 01235 760889. Thank you.

CHURCH OF ENGLAND SAFEGUARDING TRAINING If you would like to increase your knowledge of safeguarding, you can complete **free** online safeguarding training at: <https://safeguardingtraining.cofeportal.org/> Once you have created your account – and received a verification email – you can access a range of courses, starting with **Basic Awareness**, which is available in standard, accessible and British Sign Language versions. For more information and support, or if you are unable to access the online training, please speak to Anne Cheeseman (Parish Safeguarding Officer) or email Anne at safeguarding@valebenefice.org.uk

CORNERSTONE You may have heard that a car ran into the Cornerstone kitchen wall last Saturday. Thankfully no one was injured, and the property management team have managed to secure the broken wall. Please pray that they will find a temporary solution to be able to use the second oven for the Christmas dinners next week and that the automatic door will soon be fixed. Cornerstone is open as normal and still has a good selection of Christmas cards, calendars and diaries as well as gifts and books.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Health & healing: Peter Ch, Susanne C, Mary L, Wendy R, Katherine S, Gemma G, Bob B, John B, Ari P, Laura C, Ursula G and Richard H.

Friends & Family mourning: Sheila Jones, June Hedges, David Sims, Jean Orme and Jean Russell.

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

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR MORNING PRAYER

Mon	Psalm 50,54	Isaiah 42.18-end	Revelation 19
Tue	Psalm 80,82	Isaiah 43.1-13	Revelation 20
Wed	Psalm 5,7	Isaiah 43.14-end	Revelation 21.1-8
Thu	Psalm 42,43	Isaiah 44.1-8	Revelation 21.9-21
Fri	Psalm 25,26	Isaiah 44.9-23	Revelation 21.22-22.5
Sat	Psalm 9	Isaiah 44.24-45.13	Revelation 22.6-end