

DIARY FOR THE WEEK (Starting on Monday 24th March)

Mon	10am	GroW Toddler Group, St John's Church Hall
	10am	U3A Science Group, LOWER St John's room, Grove
	12.45pm	GroW Babies Group, St John's Church Hall
	1pm	ASC Support coffee Afternoon, Grove CE Primary School
	7pm	1st Grove Guides, St John's Church Hall
	7pm	Challow LENT Group
	Tue	10am
1pm		PCC Meeting, St James Church, West Hanney
6.30pm		Wantage Chess Club, ALL St John's Rooms
7pm		2 nd Grove Guides, St John's Church Hall
Wed	9.15am	St John's Toddler Group, St John's Church Hall
	9.30am	GroW Parenting Course, LOWER St John's Room
	2pm	Ancients' Badminton Group, St John's Church Hall
	7pm	Jungle Fitness Group, St John's Church Hall
	8pm	Vale Elim Meeting, St John's LOWER room
	8pm	ZOOM Prayers (Discernment for new Associate Vicar)
Thu	9.30am	White Horse Extend (50's+) Exercise, St John's Church Hall
	10am	Mid-week HC Service, St Nicholas Church, East Challow
	2pm	Grove Bible Study Lent Course, LOWER St John's Room
	5.30pm	1 st Grove Brownies, St John's Church Hall
	8pm	St John's Badminton Group, St John's Church Hall
	8pm	Benefice Online Lent Course (Teams)
Fri	10am	St James Primary School Easter Service, Hanney church
	1pm	"Soundabout Group," LOWER St John's Room
Sat	9.30pm	Private Booking, St John's Church Hall
Sun	6.30pm	Senior Youth Group, St John's Church Hall

CONTACT DETAILS

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

Licensed Lay Minister: Sarah Shackleton: 07587776609 SarahLLM@valebenefice.org.uk

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

23rd March 2025

3rd Sunday of Lent

Readings selected from:

Isaiah 55.1-9; Psalm 63.1-9; 1 Corinthians 10.1-13; Luke 13.1-9

Our readings this Sunday contain many warnings against thinking we have God sussed. God is a God of surprises. Our ways are not His ways. If we think we're standing, we should watch out that we don't fall. However, Jesus' short story of the fig tree tells us that with God there's always hope even for the most hopeless case. Never was God more surprising than when He chose the young Virgin Mary to bear Jesus Christ, as we remember on Tuesday.

Our Shared Worship

Sunday 23rd March

8am Holy Communion, St John's, Grove – Rev Alec Gill
9.30am Parish Eucharist, St James', Hanney – Rev Alec Gill
10am Holy Communion, St James', Denchworth – Rev Margot & Martin Hodson
10.15am Morning Worship, St John's, Grove – Sarah Shackleton (LLM) + Young people
11am Parish Eucharist, St Nicholas', East Challow – Rev Alec Gill

Upcoming Services

Sunday 30th March

8am Holy Communion, St John's, Grove – Rev Alec Gill
9.30am Parish Eucharist, St James', Hanney – Rev Geoff Maughan
10am Holy Communion, St James', Denchworth – Rev Peter Rich
10.15am Holy Communion with a dedication, St John's, Grove – Rev Alec Gill
11am **Morning Worship**, St Nicholas', East Challow

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

BENEFICE NEWS

REMINDER clocks go forward next weekend! (Sunday 30 th March)
ASSOCIATE VICAR VACANCY PRAYERS The advert for our associate vicar role is now live on the Pathways and Church Times websites. Please do pray. Prayers will be available on the Grove website & the Associate Vicar online ZOOM prayer meeting takes place Wednesday evenings (8-8:15pm) until 7th May, taking us up to the interview date. We hope as many people as possible will join us to pray together for this important appointment process. Link info below. https://shorturl.at/p0T8U Meeting ID: 897 3599 9634 Passcode: prayer
LENT GROUPS CHALLOW LENT GROUP Monday nights (7-8pm) 5-week Lent group. At the home of Nick & Claire Page: Following the Open Doors resource, "Among the Ashes." Contact Claire Page on 07922 104764 or email claire@old-rope.co.uk ST JOHN'S BIBLE GROUP LENT GROUP Thursdays until 3rd April (2.00-3.30pm) in the St John's Lower Room. We will be following Biblical characters, using Abby Guinness' course 'At the Cross'. All Welcome. ONLINE BENEFICE LENT GROUP On Teams on Thursday evenings (8pm – 9pm) until 3rd April. Contact Rev Alec Gill or Benefice Office for the link to join.
GROVE CHURCH ELECTORAL ROLL A NEW Electoral Roll must be prepared this year, instead of updating the existing Roll. If you are already on it, you still need to complete a form, which is available in the St John's church foyer. If you're not on the Roll, please consider joining. The Electoral Roll closes on 28th April and published on 1st May in time for the St John's Church AGM on 17th May. Please complete your form & put in church office post box.
VALE BENEFICE CHURCHES' APCM DATES St James' Church, Denchworth – 6th April (after the service) St Nicholas, Challow - 11th May 2025 (after service) St John's Church, Grove – 17th May (7pm) St James, Hanney – 18th May (after the service)
MOTHERING SUNDAY Service at Grove: We need someone to co-ordinate / organise posies/flowers to be given out during the 10.15am service on Sunday 30 th March. Please contact Alec if you're able to take this on. Thank you.
ST JOHN'S CHURCH LOFT The access hatch in the vestry is kept locked for safety. Please contact benefice office if you need a key. 2 people must be present.
GRASS CUTTING St John's Volunteers are needed to assist in cutting the grass in the Churchyard. Please speak to John Harris or contact him via the Church directory or the Benefice Office, if you would like to find out more. Thank you.
BENEFICE OFFICE CLOSED from 28th March – 10th April. No newsletter 6.4.2025.
Easter Messy Church: Good Friday 18 th April 3pm – 4.30pm, St John's Church hall. Good Friday Reflective service in St John's church: 2pm – 3pm.
MEAL TRAIN Johanna F is having a baby at the end of March/early April and we are organising a meal train for her family. If you can provide a meal, please contact Esther, esther.rogobete@gmail.com or add to this googledoc https://shorturl.at/66yGa

ST JOHN'S CHURCH FETE There is a Teams meeting on Monday 24th March at 7.30pm. This will be to plan stalls, share ideas and allocate tasks. Meeting ID: 360 644 283 049 Passcode: br3Zn3aW If you are not able to come then please let Nicky Gibbard know which stalls you would like to run and any ideas you would like us to discuss. There is a sign-up sheet in the church foyer.
FRIENDS ON FRIDAY 4th April, St John's Church Hall, (2-3.30pm) - MERCY SHIPS With a special speaker, John Appleton, on behalf of the amazing charity MERCY SHIPS giving us a video presentation of all their valuable work, with an opportunity for questions. If you are free that afternoon, whatever your age, whatever your Church or none, please do join us and bring any interested neighbours and friends. We need a full hall. Peter and Angela Rich 01235 411315
Wellbeing Event 2025: Church Street & Newbury Street Patient Groups. The Beacon on Saturday 26 April 2025 (12 – 4pm). to promote community health & wellbeing with a focus on self-care and "looking after yourself".
CREAM TEA Concert (with Wantage Male Voice Choir): 6th April, (3- 5pm), Hanney Village Hall. Free entry. All welcome. Details: Peter Rich 01235 411315
CORNERSTONE NEWS Email: office@cornerstonegrove.org.uk Tel: 01235 772280 Easter stock is now in with Real Easter Eggs in stock. Make and Bake runs for under 5s every Tuesday morning during term time. Cost £2 per child. No need to book. Monthly hot meal special is Roast Pork & will be served on Wednesday 26th March (12.30pm). Please book in advance so we know how many to cater for.
CORNERSTONE SURVEY Did you know that the Cornerstone Christian Bookshop and Cafe was set up 30 years ago by St John's along with 3 other churches in Grove? During all this time the churches have supported us financially and with prayer and we now value your feedback to improve our community service. Please fill out our online survey: https://forms.gle/Sau3opXj56eq32MA6
PLEASE PRAY FOR... Health and healing: Norah L, Jeannette R, Pat B's Granddaughter Emmeline, Rob S, Peter Ch, Susanne C, Mary L, Wendy R, Katherine S, Bob B, John B, Laura C, Ursula G and Richard H. Friends & families mourning: Ari Psara, Pamela Tranter, Richard Carter, Pamela Hayward, Martin Realey and Craig Soubieski. These living at: Brookside (Denchworth); Childrey Way (East Challow); Main Street (East Hanney); Cane Lane, Farmstead Close, Mill Lane (Grove); School Road (West Hanney)

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR MORNING PRAYER

Mon	Psalm 5,7	Jeremiah 11.1-17	John 7.37-52
Tue (Annunciation)	Psalm 111,112	1 Samuel 2.1-10	Romans 5.12-end
Wed	Psalm 38	Jeremiah 13.1-11	John 8.12-30
Thu	Psalm 56,57	Jeremiah 14	John 8.31-47
Fri	Psalm 22	Jeremiah 15.10-end	John 8.48-end
Sat	Psalm 31	Jeremiah 16.10-17.4	John 9.1-17