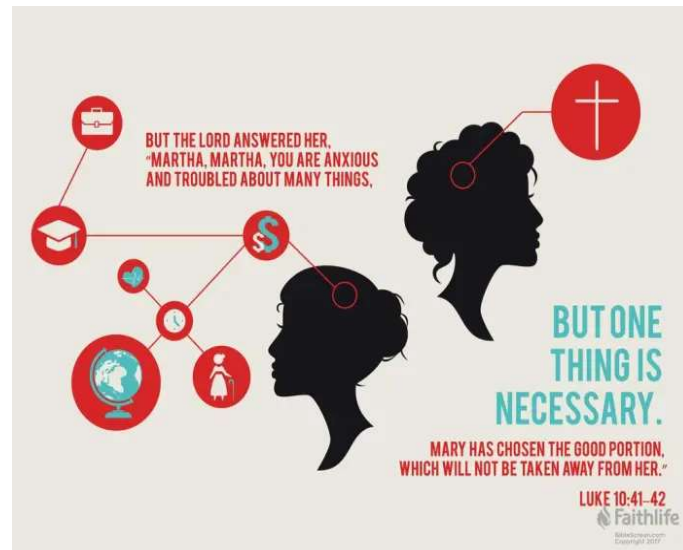


LECTIONARY READINGS FOR MORNING PRAYER:

Mon	Psalms 98,99,101	Ezekiel 1.1-14	2 Corinthians 1.1-14
Tue (Mary Magdalene)	Psalms 30,32,150	1 Samuel 16.14-23	Luke 8.1-3
Wed	Psalms 110,111,112	Ezekiel 2.3 - 3.11	2 Corinthians 2.5-end
Thu	Psalms 113,115	Ezekiel 3.12-end	2 Corinthians 3
Fri (James the Apostle)	Psalms 7,29,117	2 Kings 1.9-15	Luke 9.46-56
Sat	Psalms 120,121,122	Ezekiel 9	2 Corinthians 5

DIARY FOR THE WEEK *(Starting on Mon 21st July)*

Mon	12.45pm	GroW Babies, St John's Church Hall
Tue	10am	Simply Singing Group, LOWER St John's Room
	7.45pm	St John's Church PCC Meeting, Cornerstone, Grove
Wed	2pm-4pm	Badminton on Wednesdays (BoW), St John's Church Hall
	7pm	Jungle Fitness Group, St John's Church Hall
	8pm	Vale Elim Meeting, St John's LOWER room
Thu	9.30am	White Horse Extend 50's+ Exercise, St John's Church Hall
	10am	Mid-week HC Service, St Nicholas' Church, East Challow
	8pm	St John's Badminton Group, St John's Church Hall
Sat	8:30am	Prayers at Frances Gillott's house, Grove
	10am	Private Booking, St John's Church Hall



CONTACT DETAILS

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VALE BENEFICE NEWSLETTER

20th July 2025
5th Sunday after Trinity

Readings selected from:

Genesis 18.1-10a; Psalm 15; Colossians 1.15-28; Luke 10.38-end

There's quite a contrast between how Abraham regards his wife and how Jesus regards the sisters Mary and Martha. Abraham is very much the patriarch treating Sarah as the convenient housewife/hostess. While not dismissing Martha's busyness as hostess, Jesus, the image of the invisible God, particularly honours Mary who has chosen the position of a disciple. For Him there is no hierarchy of men and women, "for all of you are one in Christ Jesus", as Paul told the Galatian churches.

Our Shared Worship

Sunday 20th July

8am Holy Communion, St John's, Grove – Rev Alec Gill
9.30am Parish Eucharist, St James', Hanney – Rev Emily Howarth
10.15am Holy Communion, St John's, Grove – Rev Alec Gill
11am Morning Worship, St Nicholas', East Challow
with Jeff Penfold & Nick Page
6pm Patronal Evensong, St James', Denchworth – Rev Alec Gill

Upcoming Services

Sunday 27th July

8am Holy Communion, St John's, Grove - Rev Alec Gill
9.30am **Patronal Service**, St James', Hanney – Rev Alec Gill
10am **No service**, St James', Denchworth
10.15am **No service**, St John's, Grove
11am **No service**, 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 for your notice to go into the newsletter again. If anyone has specific prayer requests, please email confidentially to prayer@valebenefice.org.uk

BENEFICE NEWS

PATRONAL Sung EVENSONG: at St. James, Denchworth: THIS SUNDAY 20th July (6pm). Practising before the service 5.20pm to run through the music & responses. There will be refreshments after the service. All Welcome.

VOLUNTEER ROTAS ABSENCES: If you know of any Sundays that you will not be able to Volunteer between September 2025 & February 2026, please let the Benefice Office know by Monday 21st July. A huge thank you to all those on the St John's Church Volunteer Rotas.

Please note: **the ST JOHN'S TEA PARTY** at Cornerstone is on Saturday 19th from 2pm to 3pm (not as in last week's diary). Apologies. **Everybody is welcome!**

APPOINTMENT OF REV DR MIRIAM JONES TO THE POST OF ASSOCIATE VICAR IN THE VALE BENEFICE Miriam's licensing service will take place Thursday 4th September (7.30pm) at St James the Great, West Hanney, OX12 0LP and we very much hope you are able to attend.

THE VALE BENEFICE NEWSLETTER There will be no newsletter from 3rd August to 24th August (inclusive). It will resume on Sunday 31st August in time for the start of the new school term. Please send anything you want advertised through before Tuesday 22nd July (if you want it in the last newsletter before the summer break).

FRIENDS on FRIDAY GROUP: THIS Friday 18th July (2pm – 3.30pm) in the St John's Church Hall, Grove with a **Holy Communion**. No meetings in August. Meeting again on Friday 5th September.

DENCHWORTH AUNT SALLY EVENING IN AID OF ST JAMES This took place at The Fox in Denchworth on 10th July, with a team from each Church in the Benefice competing against each other; there were mixed abilities in the teams, but it was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone with the Denchworth Team being the Winners of the Benefice Trophy. The Fox provided an excellent BBQ supper & we are planning to make this an Annual Event.

ST JOHN'S SUMMER CLEAN & OUTSIDE WORK PARTY A HUGE thank you to all those who were able to help with the cleaning & maintenance of the church buildings and grounds (inside & outside) & the vicarage garden on Saturday. It is very much appreciated. In spite of the heat a lot was achieved!

BENEFICE WELCOME HAMPER for Miriam and family: We would like to provide Miriam and her family with a Food hamper on their arrival at the Grove Vicarage in August, from the Vale Benefice Churches. If you would like to give a monetary donation for this, it would be very welcome and would allow for our co-ordinator to buy items nearer the time and according to the family's dietary requirements. There will be a labelled wooden donation box for this in the St John's Church foyer until **Sunday 3rd August**. Any donations from Hanney, Challow or Denchworth churches can be collected and brought to the Benefice Office by **Friday 1st August**. Many thanks to all. Jenny Moulds.

PAUL AND JEMMA THOMPSON warmly invite you to The Thompsons' Going Away Party on Sunday 20th July from 3:00pm to 6:00pm at Letcombe Regis Village Hall. With drinks & nibbles & some classic kids party food. Feel free to bring a dish to share! An opportunity to say goodbye & wish them well on their new adventures!

NO MID-WEEK Communion Services at the Vale Benefice Churches from 31st July to 2nd September 2025.

ONLINE NICENE CREED STUDY GROUP From Thursday 11th Sept (for 6 weeks), (8-9pm) via Teams (online), we will be exploring the Christian faith through the Nicene Creed, exploring & reflecting on our core beliefs, passed down to us through the centuries. This will also be an opportunity to prepare for baptism and/or confirmation on Sunday 19th October (10:15am) at St John the Baptist Church, Grove. For LOGIN details, please contact vicaralec@valebenefice.org.uk or office@valebenefice.org.uk

USED STAMPS FOR DENCHWORTH CHURCH Please pass these on to Suzanne Cox at Denchworth or the Benefice Office, Grove. Raising funds for the church.

GROVE CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Lunchtime supervisor: We are still looking to recruit a lunchtime supervisor to start in September. Please pick up an application pack from the school office if you are interested in this role.

Parent Governor: We are still looking to recruit a Parent Governor to join our Local Governing Body. Please ask the school office for an application pack if you are interested.

End of Year PTA School Disco: This Friday 18th July, 6pm – 8pm at the St John's Church Hall, Grove, OX12 7LQ. Tickets can be bought online at <http://www.pta-events.com/grovecepta> or contact the PTA on PTA@grove.oxon.sch.uk

BENEFICE Baptism & Confirmation Service at St John's Church, Grove, on Sunday 19th October 2025 during the 10.15am service. Please let Rev Alec Gill know as soon as possible if you are interested in being confirmed at this service this year, so that the preparation course can be planned and booked. Many thanks.

PLEASE PRAY FOR...

Health and healing: Sylvia C, Pat B, Emmeline (Pat B's granddaughter), Fr.Robert T, Khin WM, Rob S, Peter Ch, Susanne C, Wendy R, Katherine S, Laura C, Ursula G and Richard H.

Friends & families mourning: Joan Rutterford, Barry Dillon and Roderick Venners.

Those living in: Thornfield (East Hanney); Fairfield Close, Howard Avenue, Millbrook School, Mandarin Place (Grove); Elderberry Close (West Hanney)

Miriam & Thomas Jones, with Emily, Julia, Zoë and Adam preparing to move south from Gosforth and settle in Grove in August.

The person called to be the next Archbishop of Canterbury