

## DIARY FOR THE WEEK *(Starting on Mon 1st September)*

<b>Mon</b>	12.45pm	GroW Babies, St John's Church Hall
<b>Tue</b>	10am	Simply Singing Group, LOWER St John's Room
	10am	U3A Emergency & Response Meeting, UPPER St John's Room
	2pm	U3A Main Meeting, St John's Church Hall
<b>Wed</b>	10am	<b>Mid-Week Holy Communion, LOWER St John's Room</b>
	11am	<b>Funeral of Valerie Bone at South Oxfordshire Crematorium</b>
	2pm-4pm	Badminton on Wednesdays (BoW), St John's Church Hall
	7pm	Jungle Fitness Group, St John's Church Hall
<b>Thu</b>	9.30am	White Horse Extend 50's+ Exercise, St John's Church Hall
	10am	<b>Mid-week HC Service, St Nicholas' Church, East Challow</b>
	7.30pm	<b>Licensing Service for Associate Vicar, St James the Great Church, W.Hanney</b>
	8pm	St John's Badminton Group, St John's Church Hall
<b>Fri</b>	7am	48 hours of Prayer at St John's Church, Grove starts
	11am	U3A Group Leader's Meeting, UPPER St John's Room
	2pm	<b>Interment of Ashes (T/L Dorothy Lucas) St James Churchyard, W.Hanney</b>
	2pm	Friends on Friday Group, St John's Church Hall
<b>Sat</b>	8:30am	Prayers at Frances Gillott's house, Grove
<b>Sun</b>	7am	48 hours of Prayer at St John's Church, Grove ends



### CONTACT DETAILS

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

# VALE BENEFICE NEWSLETTER

31st August 2025  
11th Sunday after Trinity

*Readings selected from:*

Proverbs 25.6-7; Psalm 112; Hebrews 13.1-8,15-16; Luke 14.1,7-14

How open are our communion tables – and our own tables? “Jesus said to his host, ‘When you give a luncheon or dinner, do not invite your friends, your brothers or sisters, your relatives, or your rich neighbors; if you do, they may invite you back and so you will be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.’”

## Our Shared Worship

### Sunday 31st August

8am Holy Communion, St John's, Grove – Rev Margot Hodson

9.30am **NO SERVICE**, St James', Hanney

10am Holy Communion, St James', Denchworth – Rev Alec Gill

10.15am Holy Communion, St John's, Grove

With Rev Margot Hodson & Martin Hodson

11am Parish Eucharist, St Nicholas', East Challow – Rev Alec Gill

### Upcoming Services

#### Sunday 7th September

8am Holy Communion, St John's, Grove – Rev Alec Gill

9.30am Parish Eucharist, St James', Hanney – Rev Charles Draper

10am Holy Communion, St James', Denchworth – Rev Peter Rich

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

11am Morning Worship, St Nicholas', East Challow – Nick & Clare Page

Send newsletter content to [news@valebenefice.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto:prayer@valebenefice.org.uk)

## BENEFICE NEWS

### 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.

**FRIENDS ON FRIDAY** 5th September 2.00pm. After initially gathering in the Hall, we will be following the Prayer Stations in Church (as part of the National Week of Prayer, arranged by local Churches) followed by tea and fellowship back in the Hall. All welcome. Peter and Angela.

**ONLINE NICENE CREED STUDY GROUP** From Thursday 11th Sept, from 8-9pm via Teams (online) for 6 weeks, 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 is an opportunity to prepare for baptism and/or confirmation on Sunday 19th October at 10:15am in St John the Baptist Church, Grove. Please contact [vicaralec@valebenefice.org.uk](mailto:vicaralec@valebenefice.org.uk) or [office@valebenefice.org.uk](mailto:office@valebenefice.org.uk) for login details.

**RIDE & STRIDE** Our Benefice Churches are taking part again this year in the "Ride & Stride" on Saturday 13th September (10am – 6pm). If you wish to take part in Ride & Stride - Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust, please Contact Hilary (our Ride & Stride Coordinator on [hilarycakebreadhall@gmail.com](mailto:hilarycakebreadhall@gmail.com)) Do remember "Welcomers" can also be sponsored for their time on duty - an easy way to add to your church total! **St James Church, Denchworth** are taking part this year with Hannah Haupt as Welcomer in church on the day with refreshments. Please do stop by, everyone is very welcome.

**At St John's Church** we need volunteers to sign people in and offer refreshments throughout the day. Please would people volunteer for slots of 1 hour. Terry Mawdesley will put a sign-up sheet in the Grove church foyer.

### GENEROSITY WEEK AND GIFT DAY AT ST JOHN'S

During the week 28<sup>th</sup> September - 5<sup>th</sup> October, we ask you to prayerfully consider God's generosity to us and our giving to the Church. There will be information on the Church's financial position and how to give (including gift aid if you are UK taxpayer) in the weeks leading up to this.

If you are a member of St John's and are not already giving regularly, then we would ask you to consider whether this would be possible.

On 5<sup>th</sup> October there will be an opportunity to make a one-off gift as a thanks for God's generosity to us.

More information is in the flyers at the back of the church and on the finance noticeboard in the hall. You can also contact the treasurer at [grovetreasurer@valebenefice.org.uk](mailto:grovetreasurer@valebenefice.org.uk) or via the office.

**THURSDAY BIBLE STUDY GROUP** (2pm - 3.30pm). Please note: We will meet in St John's Lower Room on Thursdays 11th and 18th September, and then fortnightly as usual. New members always welcome. Peter & Angela.

**URGENT APPEAL FOR WANTAGE AND GROVE FOODBANK** We have only a few months of reserves left. We continue to see a high demand for food parcels - we have delivered 538 parcels so far this year. With rising prices of food and increasing cost of living our donations of both food and money are in a difficult position. Any food donations can be left in Church foyer (at Grove) or Sainsburys, Co-op, Waitrose or The Cornerstone. To find out how you can donate, please see the posters in the churches or contact the Foodbank. Many thanks. Jeanette Rose.

**BENEFICE WELCOME HAMPER for Miriam and family: THANK YOU** to all the Benefice Churches' Congregations for all the generous donations, gifts and other goodies provided to them on their arrival at the Grove Vicarage in August. They had a kitchen full of groceries and some vouchers for the family to use. It was a great way to welcome them. Thank you all.

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

**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:** Norah L, 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:** Andrew Lovelock, Valerie Bone, Dorothy Lucas, Sue Tyser and Charles Dingwall.

**All the schools** in our parishes starting the new school year, their teachers, other staff and their pupils, especially just those starting

**Miriam & Thomas Jones**, with Emily, Julia, Zoë and Adam now installed and settling in Grove vicarage, in particular Miriam at her licensing on Thursday.

**The person** called to be the next Archbishop of Canterbury

## LECTIONARY READINGS FOR MORNING PRAYER:

<b>Mon</b>	Psalm 80,82	Proverbs 8.1-21	Mark 5.1-20
<b>Tue</b>	Psalm 87,89.1-18	Proverbs 8.22-end	Mark 5.21-34
<b>Wed</b>	Psalm 119.105-128	Proverbs 9	Mark 5.35-end
<b>Thu</b>	Psalm 90,92	Proverbs 10.1-12	Mark 6.1-13
<b>Fri</b>	Psalm 88	Proverbs 11.1-12	Mark 6.14-29
<b>Sat</b>	Psalm 96,97,100	Proverbs 12.10-end	Mark 6.30-44