

## DIARY FOR THE WEEK *(Starting on Mon 8th September)*

<b>Mon</b>	10am	GroW Toddler Group, St John's Church Hall
	10am	U3A Genealogy Group, LOWER St John's Room
	12.45pm	GroW Babies, St John's Church Hall
	1.30pm	U3A Committee Meeting, LOWER St John's Room
	7pm	1st Grove Guides, St John's Church Hall
<b>Tue</b>	10am	Simply Singing Group, LOWER St John's Room
	2pm	U3A Main Meeting, St John's Church Hall
	6.30pm	Wantage Chess Club, ALL St John's Rooms
	7pm	2 <sup>nd</sup> Grove Guides, St John's Church Hall
	8pm	WGCP Action Group Meeting, St John's Church
<b>Wed</b>	9.15am	St John's Toddler Group, St John's Church Hall
	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
	<b>10am</b>	<b>Mid-week HC Service, St Nicholas' Church, East Challow</b>
	2pm	Bible Study Group, LOWER St John's Room
	5.30pm	1st Grove Brownies, St John's Church Hall
	8pm	ONLINE Nicene Creed Study Group
	8pm	St John's Badminton Group, St John's Church Hall
<b>Fri</b>	11am	Funeral Reception, St John's Church Hall (T/L Barbara Broadbent)
	2pm	U3A Yarn Group, LOWER St John's Room
<b>Sat</b>	8:30am	Cornerstone Prayer Breakfast at Cornerstone, Grove
	<b>10am</b>	<b>Ride &amp; Stride (All Benefice Churches) 10am – 6pm</b>
	11am	BAPTISM Meeting with Rev Alec Gill, St John's LOWER Room

### CONTACT DETAILS

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

**Licensed Lay Minister:** Sarah Shackleton: 07587776609

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

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# VALE BENEFICE NEWSLETTER

## 7th September 2025

### 12th Sunday after Trinity

*Readings selected from:*

Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Psalm 1; Philemon 1:1-21; Luke 13:23-33

It's very easy for us to presume that we have automatic access into God's kingdom. However, Jesus makes clear it's about how we respond to his invitation to follow him and how it affects our life choices. As Moses had put it, "Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, loving the Lord your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him." Paul asks Philemon to put his faith into action by forgiving his runaway slave.

What are the everyday implications of our faith this week?

## Our Shared Worship

### 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

### Upcoming Services

#### Sunday 14th September

8am Holy Communion, St John's, Grove – Rev Alec Gill  
9.30am Parish Eucharist, St James', Hanney – Rev Alec Gill & Rev Miriam Jones  
10am Holy Communion OR Morning Prayer, St James', Denchworth  
10.15am Morning Worship, St John's, Grove – Sarah Shackleton (LLM)  
11am Parish Eucharist, St Nicholas', East Challow – Rev Alec Gill

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

**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 also 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.

**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.

**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. **Advance Notice:** There will be no Holy Communion on 17th October, but it will happen on 24th October instead. Peter and Angela.

**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 **28th September - 5th 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 5th 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.

**ADVANCE NOTICE:** Sue & Emma are holding an adult only card making afternoon on Sunday 12th October in the St John's Church Hall (2pm – 4.30pm). Refreshments will be provided and all that you need to make some simple little cards for birthdays, thank you notes, just thinking of you etc. A time just to enjoy each other's company and making something.

**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. Many thanks. Jeanette Rose.

**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.

### Live Stream Link– St John's Church, Grove (10.15am only)

The 10.15am Sunday service at St John's Church, Grove is live streamed weekly on YouTube.  Watch live or later:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLjvzip6GG1Tybyw58vRe9YveNSDZhg92S>

(This link stays the same each week.)

 Auto-captioning is available and can be turned off.

 Camera views are wide shots; sit rear left to avoid being on camera.

Contact the church office if you have any questions.

## 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, Charles Dingwall and Linda Warren.

**All living in:** Hyde Road (Denchworth); Challow Marsh, Hill Close (East Challow); Steventon Road, Ashfields Lane, (East Hanney); Albermarle Drive, Barbury Drive, Blenheim Gardens (Grove)

**Miriam** starting her ministry here and **the person** called to be the next Archbishop of Canterbury

## LECTIONARY READINGS FOR MORNING PRAYER:

<b>Mon</b>	Psalms 98,99,101	Proverbs 14.31-15.17	Mark 6.45-end
<b>Tue</b>	Psalms 106	Proverbs 15.18-end	Mark 7.1-13
<b>Wed</b>	Psalms 110,111,112	Proverbs 18.10-end	Mark 7.14-23
<b>Thu</b>	Psalms 113,115	Proverbs 20.1-22	Mark 7.24-30
<b>Fri</b>	Psalms 139	Proverbs 22.1-16	Mark 7.31-end
<b>Sat</b>	Psalms 120,121,122	Proverbs 24.23-end	Mark 8.1-10