

DIARY FOR THE WEEK *(Starting on Mon 15th September)*

Mon	10am	GroW Toddler Group, St John's Church Hall
	10am	U3A Science Group, LOWER St John's Room
	12 noon	Funeral of T/L Sue Tyser, St James Church, Hanney
	12.45pm	GroW Babies, St John's Church Hall
	7pm	1 st Grove Guides, St John's Church Hall
	7.30pm	GDPR Sub Committee, LOWER St John's Room
Tue	10am	Simply Singing Group, LOWER St John's Room
	10am	Mid-week HC Service, St James' Church, W. Hanney
	10am	Funeral of T/L Linda Warren, South Oxfordshire Crematorium
	2pm	U3A Main Meeting, St John's Church Hall
	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
	2pm-4pm	Badminton on Wednesdays (BoW), St John's Church Hall
	7pm	Jungle Fitness Group, St John's Church Hall
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	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
Fri	2pm	Friends on Friday Group, St John's Church Hall
	7.30pm	Banns Meeting with Rev Alec Gill, Lower St John's Room
Sat	8:30am	Prayers at Frances Gillott's house, Grove
	10am	Private booking in St John's Church Hall
	9am	Grove School Meeting, LOWER St John's Room
	7pm	Cornerstone Talk (Patrick Regan), St John's Church Hall
	2-3pm	Vale Benefice Tea party in Cornerstone (All welcome)
Sun	1pm	Board Games Afternoon, St John's Church Hall
	7pm	Senior Youth Group, St John's Church Hall

CONTACT DETAILS

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VALE BENEFICE NEWSLETTER

14th September 2025

13th Sunday after Trinity

Readings selected from:

Exodus 32.7-14; Psalm 51.1-11; 1 Timothy 1.12-17; Luke 15.1-10

One of the stations in the 48-hour prayer room set up in St John's last week was Repentance. We were invited to write what we were sorry for on a piece of paper, tear it up and leave it in a waste basket. Our readings this week are about when God's people had badly lost the plot, and the gospel reminds us how much God wants to forgive and restore us. Whether we've gone wrong or merely feel lost, God won't stop loving us and looking for us "until he finds us". We're that valuable to Him. Great news for all!

Our Shared Worship

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 Morning Prayer, St James', Denchworth – Richard Haupt

10.15am Morning Worship, St John's, Grove – Sarah Shackleton (LLM)

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

Upcoming Services

Sunday 21st September

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 Alec Gill

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

11am Parish Eucharist, St Nicholas', East Challow – Rev Geoff Maughan

* Due to ongoing building work, all information about St James Church Services is provisional. Services may be changed or cancelled at short notice. Please see local notices.

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

THE PRAYER BASKET is by the font at **St John's church** this Sunday morning to receive requests for prayer through by the Prayer Team as a group and individually.

ONLINE NICENE CREED STUDY GROUP will meet weekly online on TEAMS starting Thursday 11th September - 16th October (8pm-9pm). See below for login details Meeting ID: [321 459 007 039 7](https://teams.microsoft.com/join/3214590070397) and Passcode: [Wm9xp6yy](https://teams.microsoft.com/join/3214590070397)

THURSDAY BIBLE STUDY GROUP: 2pm-3.30pm. Meeting in St John's Lower Room, Thursdays 11th & 18th September, then fortnightly as usual. All Welcome to join.

RIDE & STRIDE (Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust **THIS Saturday 13/9/2025** (10am – 6pm). To take part or for information contact hilarycakebreadhall@gmail.com "Welcomers" can also be sponsored for time on duty - an easy way to add to your church total! **St John's Church:** To volunteer to sign people in & offer refreshments throughout the day, please add your name to the sign-up sheet in the church foyer. **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. All Welcome.

ARCHBISHOP SAMUEL FROM SOUTH INDIA This postponed visit will now take place on **Wednesday 24th SEPTEMBER, (2.30pm)** in **St John's Church Hall**. Hope Gardens is celebrating its 25th anniversary. Please do come along. Open to all. Please make this as widely known as possible. Free copies of Peter Rich's book on the 1st 15 years of this ministry are in the foyer entitled **"Caste aside by God"**.

SCHOOLS PRAYER GROUP Wednesday 24 September 2025 (4-5pm) at St John's Rooms, Grove - refreshments at the start, all welcome.

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 & our giving to the Church. There is information on the Church's financial position & 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 & 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. Information is in the flyers at the back of the church & on the finance noticeboard in the hall. You can also contact the treasurer at grovetreasurer@valebenefice.org.uk

CORNERSTONE 30 YEAR CELEBRATIONS we are excited to host author Patrick Regan OBE for an entertaining evening at St John's Church, Saturday 20th Sept (7pm). Patrick is passionate about mental health & has written a number of books drawing on his own experiences including "Honesty over Silence" and "Brighter Days". Patrick was awarded an OBE for service to young people. Tickets to be bought online through Eventbrite: Entrance: £6 or free if you buy his book Brighter Days for £12.61 which will be available to collect on the night. <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/d/united-kingdom--didcot/patrick-regan/>

CARD MAKING AFTERNOON Sue & Emma are holding an adult only card making afternoon on **Sunday 12th October**. Refreshments will be provided & all that you need to make some simple cards for birthdays, thank you notes, just thinking of you etc. A time just to enjoy each other's company and make something.


BENEFICE Baptism & Confirmation Service at St John's Church, Grove, on Sunday 19th October 2025 during the 10.15am service.

ST JOHN'S CHURCH: HARVEST MESSY CHURCH: Saturday 27th September in the church Hall (2.30pm - 4.30pm). Fun for all the family. All Welcome.

ST JOHN'S GROVE HARVEST SUNDAY: 28th September. The service, led by Sarah Shackleton offers an opportunity to bring up harvest gifts during the service. All gifts received will be used to support the Wantage & Grove Food Bank. If you're not sure what would be appropriate to bring, please see the Food Bank notice in the foyer. After the service will be a Harvest Lunch in the hall (All Welcome). Please come along for fellowship, fun & great food (with vegetarian & Gluten Free option). So that we have an idea of numbers, please use the sign-up sheet in the foyer if you are coming.

URGENT APPEAL: WANTAGE & GROVE FOODBANK With HARVEST coming we continue to see a high demand for food parcels. With rising food prices & increasing cost of living our donations of both food & money are in a difficult position. Any food donations can be left in St John's Church foyer (at Grove) or Sainsburys, Co-op, Waitrose or The Cornerstone. Many thanks. Jeanette Rose.

LIVE STREAM LINK – Sunday Services at St John's Church, Grove (10.15am).

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=PLjvzip6GG1Tybyw58vRe9YveNSDZh92S>

(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 and Charles Dingwall.

All living in: Barn Close (Denchworth); Canal Way (E.Challow); Brookside (E. Hanney); Bell Close, Boucher Close, Brunel Crescent (Grove); Cherry Orchard (W.Hanney).

The person called to be the next Archbishop of Canterbury.

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR MORNING PRAYER:

Mon <i>Holy Cross Day</i>	Psalms 2,8,146	Genesis 3.1-15	John 12.27-36a
Tue	Psalms 132,133	Proverbs 25.15-end	Mark 8.22-26
Wed	Psalms 119.153-end	Proverbs 26.12-end	Mark 8.27-9.1
Thu	Psalms 143,146	Proverbs 27.1-22	Mark 9.2-13
Fri	Psalms 142,144	Proverbs 30.1-9,24-31	Mark 9.14-29
Sat	Psalms 147	Proverbs 31.10-end	Mark 9.30-37