

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR MORNING PRAYER

Mon	Psalms 44	2 Chronicles 2.1-16	Mark 12.28-34
Tue	Psalms 48,52	2 Chronicles 3	Mark 12.35
Wed	Psalms 119.57-80	2 Chronicles 5	Mark 13.1-13
Thu	Psalms 56.57	2 Chronicles 6.1-21	Mark 13.14-23
Fri	Psalms 51,54	2 Chronicles 6.22-end	Mark 13.24-31
Sat	Psalms 68	2 Chronicles 7	Mark 13.32-end

DIARY FOR THE WEEK *(Starting on Monday 6th October)*

Mon	10am	GroW Toddler Group, St John's Church Hall
	12.45pm	GroW Babies, St John's Church Hall
	7pm	1st Grove Guides, St John's Church Hall
	8pm	St John's FMG Meeting, Lower St John's Room
Tue	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	Badminton on Wednesday's, 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, E. Challow
	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	U3A Yarn Group, LOWER St John's Room
	7.30pm	Banns Meeting with Rev Alec Gill, Lower St John's Room
Sat	8.30am	Cornerstone Prayer Breakfast, Cornerstone, Grove
	10am	GroW: 1 st Aid Course, St John's Church Hall
Sun	2pm	Card Making Event (for adults) St John's Church Hall

CONTACT DETAILS

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

Associate Vicar: Rev Miriam Jones: 07474095190 vicarmiriam@valebenefice.org.uk

Licensed Lay Minister: Sarah Shackleton: 07587776609

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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

VALE BENEFICE NEWSLETTER

5th October 2025

16th Sunday after Trinity

Readings selected from:

Habakkuk 1.1-4; 2.14; Psalm 37.1-9; 2 Timothy 1.1-14; Luke 17.5-10

Our Sunday readings vividly illustrate that the life of faith has its challenges as well as its rewards. Habakkuk complains that “justice never prevails” but before long he’s assured that “the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.” Paul tells Timothy to share in suffering relying on God’s power who saved and called us. And Jesus talks both about the potential of faith and the hard graft of faithful service.

Our Shared Worship

Sunday 5th October

8am Holy Communion, St John's, Grove – Rev Miriam Jones

9.30am Parish Eucharist (with **Baptism**), St James', Hanney – Rev Alec Gill

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

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

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

Upcoming Services

Sunday 12th October

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, St James', Denchworth – Rev Roger Williams

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

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

Send newsletter content to news@valebenefice.org.uk Items for newsletter inclusion will be for 2 weeks. Please re-send your content by noon on Tuesdays if you wish for your notice to go into the newsletter.

If anyone has specific prayer requests, please email confidentially to

prayer@valebenefice.org.uk

BENEFICE NEWS

Due to ongoing building work, all information on St James Church Services, Hanney, is provisional. Services may be changed/cancelled at short notice. See local notices.

NO BENEFICE NEWSLETTER on 2nd November 2025 (Staff holiday)

ONLINE NICENE CREED STUDY GROUP (Benefice). Currently meeting weekly online (TEAMS) (8pm–9pm) till 16th October. See below for login details.

Meeting ID: [321 459 007 039 7](#) and Passcode: [Wm9xp6yy](#)

GIFT DAY AT ST JOHN'S - 5th October.

As we come to the end of Generosity Week and our time considering God's generosity to us and our response, this Sunday there will be an opportunity to make a one-off gift towards the work of St John's. If you are not already a regular donor but considering doing so, then please pick up a leaflet about the Parish Giving Scheme from the Welcome table or Finance noticeboard in the hall.

Thank you to those who have already responded by increasing your giving or making a one-off gift.

CARD MAKING FOR OVER 18's Sunday 12th October – 2-4.30pm

If you would like to come to Sue and Emma's card making session, please sign up on the form in the Entrance Hall or email Sue at suepowditch@gmail.com or text her on 07833 503674. Sue and Emma would love someone to come and make tea/coffee etc. for refreshments at 3.30pm; please contact Sue if you'd be happy to do this.

ST JOHN'S CHRISTMAS FAYRE is on Saturday 29th November (2-4pm). Please can you let us know if you can help with a stall. Additionally, a sign-up sheet is located in the foyer. Please start saving nearly new gifts, tombola gifts, books, etc. This is a lovely festive event that we like to open up to our community. Even if you haven't helped before, please do come and speak to Nicky Gibbard, Angela Rich or Sue Powditch who can tell you more about it. Many thanks for your support with this.

LINKED TO HOPE SHOE BOX APPEAL This year, the benefice churches are supporting 'Linked to Hope' shoe box appeal. The shoeboxes will be distributed to the poorest people in Ukraine, Moldova, Bulgaria, and Romania. Unlike many other shoeboxes appeals, this scheme collects boxes for entire families and the elderly, so nobody's left out. There are many ways you can support - fill a shoe box or donate items for a shoe box. More information can be found on the display in St John's Church or by visiting: <https://linktohope.co.uk/shoebox-appeal-2025>

WANTAGE & GROVE FOODBANK Thank you for all the Harvest donations from our Benefice Churches & Schools. We continue to urgently appeal for donations of food & money to meet the increasing need in this area. Food donations can be left in Church foyer (at Grove) or Sainsburys, Co-op, Waitrose or The Cornerstone. Thanks.

LUNCHTIME SUPERVISOR VACANCIES Grove CE Primary School are looking to appoint two Lunchtime Supervisors with immediate effect to work with two children who have Special Educational Needs. Each will work 1:1 with each of the children. The job is 12–1pm, Mon–Fri / £12.65/hr. Apply at www.groveprimary.org by 23 Oct.

GROVE CE SCHOOL: SWIFT TRAINING COURSE: 15th October (8:45 - 3pm) at St John's Church Rooms. developed by SENSS Specialist Advisory Teachers & delivered by school SENCo. If you wish attend, email telgar@grove.oxon.sch.uk

ASC SUPPORT Coffee Afternoons: Next meetings: Fri. 17th October & Wed. 19th November (1.30pm – 3pm) at Grove CE Primary School. All Welcome.

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

PARISH PICTURE PALACE (Kids edition) at Holy Trinity Church, Wantage THIS Sat. 4th Oct. (5.45pm for 6pm) showing the live action version of **"How to Train Your Dragon"**. Pizza for the children available. A Free event. (Donations are welcome).

BESPACE IS HIRING! We're looking for a part-time (28 hours) Operations Coordinator to join our small Christian charity for a year. Help support schools and churches across Oxfordshire with admin, events, and communications. Remote | £22–25k pro rata | Apply by 4pm on 17 Nov / info@bespace.be for details.

THREE TENORS CONCERT: [Holy Trinity Church, Bledlow](#) (Church End, Bledlow, HP27 9PD) on Saturday, 4th October (7.30pm) for an evening of glorious music with three outstanding tenors; Paul Badley, Gareth Dafydd Morris & Jeff Stewart, accompanied by acclaimed pianist Ben Saul in a celebration of opera, song and oratorio. From the passion of Italian opera to the beauty of sacred song, this promises to be an evening filled with drama, lyricism and unforgettable music-making. [Full details and booking.](#) More information& to book: [3 Tenors In Concert Tickets, Sat, Oct 4, 2025 at 7:30 PM | Eventbrite](#) With good wishes. Cynthia Hall.

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=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), Khin WM, Rob S, Peter Ch, Susanne C, Wendy R, Katherine S, Laura C, Ursula G and Richard H.

Friends & families mourning: Fr. Robert Teare, Mary Betteridge, Gina Bunting, Charles Dingwall, Linda Warren, Sue Tyser, Dorothy Lucas and Valerie Bone.

All living in: Kimbers Close (Denchworth); Field Gardens (East Challow). The Causeway (East Hanney); Wick Green, Steptoe Close, Mayfield Avenue (Grove); North Green (West Hanney)

Those involved in choosing the next Archbishop of Canterbury, for wisdom and discernment.