

DIARY FOR THE WEEK (Starting on **Monday 20th 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
Tue	10am	Simply Singing Group, LOWER St John's Room
	10am	Mid-week Communion, St James Church, Hanney
	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 (BoW), St John's Church Hall
	8.30pm	St John's Environment Group Meeting, St John's Church Hall
Thu	10am	Mid-week HC Service, St Nicholas Church, E. Challow
	5.30pm	1st Grove Brownies, St John's Church Hall
	8pm	St John's Badminton Group, St John's Church Hall
Fri		Vale Benefice Office Closed till Monday 3rd November
	2pm	Friends on Friday HC, St John's Church Hall
	8.30pm	St John's Environment Group Meeting, St John's Church Hall
Sat	8.30am	Morning Prayers, Frances Gillott's House, Grove
	10am	Grove PCC away day, Methodist Church

CONTACT DETAILS

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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

19th October 2025

18th Sunday after Trinity

Readings selected from:

Genesis 32.22-31; Psalm 121; 2 Timothy 3.14-4.5; Luke 18.1-8

It's tempting to give up praying both when our prayers are answered and when they aren't. Jacob wrestling with God and the widow have this in common: they won't give up. We may feel now that peace seems to be dawning in Gaza that we can stop praying for peace, but prayer is more than speaking or thinking pious words, it expresses our trust in God (what Jesus calls "faith"). It's heart-longing directed towards God. "When the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?" Will we keep praying to God until peace and justice are finally established and His King has come?

Our Shared Worship

Sunday 19th October

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

9.30am Parish Eucharist, St James', Hanney – Rev Geoff Maughan

10am Holy Communion (Harvest), St James', Denchworth – Rev Miriam Jones

10.15am **Baptism & Confirmation**, St John's, Grove – Rt Rev Gavin Collins

NB No service, St Nicholas', East Challow

Upcoming Services

Sunday 26th October

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

9.30am Parish Eucharist, St James', Hanney – Rev Miriam Jones

10am Holy Communion, St James', Denchworth – Rev Preb Jane Haslam

10.15am Morning Worship, St John's, Grove - Rev Margot & Martin Hodson

11am Parish Eucharist **with Baptism**, 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 again.

If anyone has specific prayer requests, please email confidentially to prayer@valebenefice.org.uk

BENEFICE NEWS

THE BENEFICE OFFICE will be CLOSED from 24th October to 3rd November.
NO BENEFICE NEWSLETTER on 2nd November 2025

ST JOHN'S GIFT DAY Thank you to all those who gave so generously to our Gift Day appeal. £4076 was received in donations, which, together with the gift aid we can claim, brings the total to over £4500. This will go towards general church funds. Thank you also to those who have increased your regular giving to the church.

HARVEST DONATIONS AT ST JOHN'S Many thanks to all those who donated money at the recent Harvest Lunch. Once costs have been taken out, we can send £181 to the Wantage and Grove Food bank.

ST JAMES CHURCH SERVICES, HANNEY 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.

LUNCHTIME SUPERVISOR VACANCIES Grove CE Primary 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.

ALFREDFEST Saturday 26th October, in Wantage Market Square, 11am to 3pm, with a Church Service at 12noon. There are events and stalls in the Market Square and talks in the Parish Church of King Alfred.

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

TOY SERVICE St John's Toy Service this year will be on Sunday 23rd November (Morning Worship), when you can bring new, unwrapped, preferably educational toys for children of all ages. No soft toys, thank you. Vouchers and money are also welcome. These will then be distributed by the charity Little People to families in our local area to share the love of Jesus.

VIVA IS RECRUITING for two roles: 1. Administrator (Supporter Care): Part-time maternity cover, 10 hours per week, Hybrid working: 50% of time based in the Viva Oxford office. 2. Finance and Operations Manager: Full-time position (Monday to Friday), Flexible working: remote and hybrid options available. Full job descriptions, person specifications, and application details are available on our website: www.viva.org. For any questions, please contact: hr@viva.org

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 shoebox 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>

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 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.

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:
<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLjvzip6GG1Tybyw58vRe9YveNSDZh92S>
(This link stays the same each week.) Sit at the rear left to avoid being on camera. Contact the church office if you have any questions.

PLEASE PRAY FOR...

Health and healing: Rev Dick French, Norah L, Rob S, Peter Ch, Pat B, Emmeline (Pat B's granddaughter), Susanne C, Wendy R, Katherine S, Laura C, Ursula G & Richard H.
Friends & families mourning: Shiela Goddard, Fr. Robert Teare, Mary Betteridge, Gina Bunting, Charles Dingwall, Linda Warren, Sue Tyser, Dorothy Lucas and Valerie Bone.
All living in: Home Farm Mews (Denchworth); Challow Road (East Challow); Alfred's Place (East Hanney); Broadmarsh Close, Floral Close, Peregrine Way (Grove); Main Street (West Hanney)

The continuing peace negotiations In the Holy Land, and for peace in Ukraine, Sudan, the DRC and other troubled parts of the planet.

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR MORNING PRAYER

Mon	Psalms 80,82	2 Chronicles 17.1-12	Mark 15.1-15
Tue	Psalms 87,89.1-18	2 Chronicles 18.1-27	Mark 15.16-32
Wed	Psalms 119.105-128	2 Chronicles 18.28-19.11	Mark 15.33-41
Thu	Psalms 90,92	2 Chronicles 20.1-23	Mark 15.42-end
Fri	Psalms 88	2 Chronicles 22.10-23.21	Mark 16.1-8
Sat	Psalms 96,97,100	2 Chronicles 24.1-22	Mark 16.9-end