

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR MORNING PRAYER

Mon	Psalms 98,99,101	2 Chronicles 26.1-21	John 13.1-11
Tue <i>Simin & Jude</i>	Psalms 116,117	Isaiah 45.18-end	Luke 6.12-16
Wed	Psalms 110,111,112	2 Chronicles 29.1-19	Mark 15.33-41
Thu	Psalms 113,115	2 Chronicles 29.20-end	Mark 15.42-end
Fri	Psalms 139	2 Chronicles 30	Mark 16.1-8
Sat <i>All Saints'</i>	Psalms 15,54,149	Isaiah 35	Luke 9.18-27
Mon	Psalms 2,146	Isaiah 1.1-20	Matthew 1.18-end
Tue	Psalms 5,147.1-12	Isaiah 1.21-end	Matthew 2.1-15
Wed	Psalms 119.153-end	Isaiah 2.1-11	Matthew 2.16-end
Thu	Psalms 11,15,148	Isaiah 2.12-end	Matthew 3
Fri	Psalms 16,149	Isaiah 3.1-15	Matthew 4.1-11
Sat	Psalms 18.30-end	Isaiah 4.2-5.7	Matthew 4.12-22

DIARY FOR 2 WEEKS Starting on **Mon 27th Oct.** Vale Benefice Office Closed till **Mon 3rd Nov**

Mon	10am	U3A Science Group, LOWER St John's Room
Tue	10am	Simply Singing Group, LOWER St John's Room
	6.30pm	Wantage Chess Club, ALL St John's Rooms
Wed	2pm	Badminton on Wednesday (BoW), St John's Church Hall
	8pm	Vale Elim AGM, LOWER St John's Room
Thu	2pm	Bible Study Group, LOWER St John's Room
	8pm	St John's Badminton Group, St John's Church Hall
Sat	8.30am	Morning Prayers, Frances Gillott's House, Grove
Sat	2pm	Cornerstone group Music Practise in church
Mon	12.45pm	GroW Babies Group, St John's Church Hall
Tue	10am	Simply Singing Group, St John's Lower Room
	2pm	U3A Main Meeting, St John's Church Hall
	6.30pm	Wantage Chess Club, ALL St John's Rooms
	7pm	2 nd Grove Guides, St John's Church Hall
Wed	9.15am	St John's Toddler Group, St John's Church Hall
	10am	Mid-week HC Service, St John's Church, Grove
	2pm	Badminton on Wednesday's, St John's Church Hall
Thu	9.30am	Extend Your Fitness Class, St John's Church Hall
	10am	Mid-week HC Service, St Nicholas Church, E. Challow
	10am	U3A Local History Group, LOWER St John's Room
	11am	U3A Group Leader's Meeting, UPPER St John's Room
	5.30pm	1st Grove Brownies, St John's Church Hall
	8pm	St John's Badminton Group, St John's Church Hall
Fri	2pm	Friends on Friday, St John's Church Hall
	2.15pm	Funeral Service (T/L Sheila Goddard), S.Ox Crematorium
	7.30pm	Remembrance Service Practise in church and hall
Sat	8.30am	Prayer Breakfast at Cornerstone, Grove
Sun	2.30pm	Fellowship & card making (Adults), St John's Church Hall

VALE BENEFICE NEWSLETTER

26th October 2025

Last Sunday after Trinity

Readings selected from:

Jeremiah 14: 7-10 & 19-22, Psalm 84: 1-7, 2 Timothy 4:6-8 & 16-18, Luke 18:9-14

The Jesus Prayer is a commonly used ancient form of meditative prayer which has roots in our gospel reading of the religious Pharisee and the tax-collector who prays, "God, be merciful to me, a sinner." Like Jeremiah's contemporaries, we as God's people often go wrong, and need to pray more often, "Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner," until it becomes a sort of earworm in our spirits.

Our Shared Worship

Sunday 26th October

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

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 and Martin Hodson

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

Upcoming Services

Sunday 2nd November "All Saints' Day"

Readings from: Daniel 7.1-13, 15-18; Psalm 149; Ephesians 1.11-end; Luke 6.20-31

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

9.30am Parish Service, St James', Hanney – TBC

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

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

11am Morning Worship Service, St Nicholas', East Challow – Jeff Penfold

Send newsletter content to news@valebenefice.org.uk. Items for newsletter inclusion will be for 2 weeks. If anyone has specific prayer requests, please email confidentially to prayer@valebenefice.org.uk

BENEFICE NEWS

REMINDER: CLOCKS GO BACK on Sunday 26th October.

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. £4,076 was received in donations, which, together with the gift aid we can claim, brings the total to over £4,500. This will go towards general church funds. Thank you also to those who have increased your regular giving to the church.

CHRISTMAS CARDS Sue will be selling handmade and hand recycled Christmas cards after the 10.15 service in Grove for the next two weeks. All proceeds to St John's.

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.

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

CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF CORNERSTONE Join us for a joint celebration service on 16 November 2025 at 3pm, St John's Church. All are welcome! Got a memory or testimony to share? Please speak to Miranda Hawkins or Sarah Shewring.

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

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED – Share Bible Stories with Children Love storytelling and working with children? Join our Open the Book team at St Nicholas School, Challow, bringing Bible stories to life through simple drama and props. Thursdays, 8:30–9:30am (term-time). No acting skills needed — training provided! It's fun, rewarding, and a great way to share God's love. Interested? Please contact one of the OTB team. Linda Hopkins 07925218850

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 very 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.. 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 at 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. If you are interested, please see details in the Benefice Newsletter or on the St John's Church noticeboard. The completed boxes need to be left at the church LATEST by **Thursday 6th November** for collection the next day. Thank you.

ALL WELCOME to PETER'S MUSICAL AFTERNOON: Come & relax after the Christmas Fayre in Church on Sunday 30th Nov. (2.30pm – 4.30pm). With Wantage Male Voice Choir, Simply Singing, Rebecca Osborne, & family group. (Interval in hall to enjoy refreshments & 80th birthday cake!) Donations welcome for Hope Gardens, India.

ST JOHN'S CHRISTMAS FAYRE Saturday 29th November (2-4pm). Let us know if you can help with a stall (sign-up sheet in church foyer). Please start saving nearly new and 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.

CRAFT AND FELLOWSHIP AFTERNOON on Sunday 9th NOVEMBER at St John's, Grove. For those who enjoyed the card making, and anyone else who'd like to come, we're decorating little boxes from 2.30 to 3.30pm, followed by tea and cake round the table together. Please let Sue know either by text on 07833 503674 or email at suepowditch@gmail.com if you'd like to come.

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.

This email containing the link will **not be sent out weekly** after Sunday 26th October.

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 and Gina Bunting.

All living in: Little Circourt (Denchworth); Main Street (East Challow); Down's View (East Hanney); Bridge Farm Close, Fulmar Place, Shepherd's Close (Grove); Winter Lane (West Hanney)

Establishing of true peace In the Holy Land, and in Ukraine, Sudan, the DRC and other troubled parts of the planet.

CONTACT DETAILS

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Licensed Lay Minister: Sarah Shackleton: 07587776609 SarahLLM@valebenefice.org.uk

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

Open: Mon–Fri. 10–12 noon. 01235 771479. office@valebenefice.org.uk