

DIARY FOR THE WEEK *Starting on Monday 24th November*

Mon	10am	GroW Toddler Group, St John's Church Hall
	10am	U3A Science Group, LOWER St John's Room
	12.45pm	GroW Babies Group, St John's Church Hall
	1pm	GroW: Baby Massage, LOWER St John's Room
	7pm	1st Grove Guides, St John's Church Hall
Tue		School PRAYER SPACE in St Nicholas Church, Challow
	10am	Simply Singing Group, St John's Lower Room
	11am	U3A Panto Practise, St John's Church Hall
	2pm	U3A Art Appreciation Group, UPPER St John's Room
	2pm	Funeral for T/L Robert Hodgson, Philberd's Manor Barn
	6.30pm	Wantage Chess Club, ALL St John's Rooms
	7pm	2nd Grove Guides, St John's Church Hall
Wed		School PRAYER SPACE in St Nicholas Church, Challow
	9.15am	St John's Toddler Group, St John's Church Hall
	2pm	Badminton on Wednesday's, St John's Church Hall
Thu		School PRAYER SPACE in St Nicholas Church, Challow
	9.30am	Extend Your Fitness Class, St John's Church Hall
	9.30am	GroW: Parenting Course, LOWER St John's Room
	2pm	Bible Study Group, LOWER 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		School PRAYER SPACE in St Nicholas Church, Challow
Sat	8.30am	Morning Prayers, Frances Gillott's House, Grove
	2pm	St John's Church Christmas Fayre, Church Hall
Sun	2.30pm	Peter's Musical Afternoon, St John's Church & Hall
	7pm	Senior Youth Group, 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

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VALE BENEFICE NEWSLETTER

23rd November 2025

Christ the King

Readings selected from:

Jeremiah 23.1-6; Psalm 46; Colossians 1.11-20; Luke 23.33-43

We live in an era of autocrats - whether in the East or West. Our readings for Christ the King Sunday remind us that there is a power above them all. As St Paul writes: "He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything." And yet the mystery is that the throne where His majesty is revealed is His own execution cross - naked Love. He is the good Shepherd, setting the pattern for rulers.

Our Shared Worship

Sunday 23rd November (Christ the King)

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 Miriam Jones
 10.15am Morning Worship (*Toy Giving Service*), St John's, Grove – Rev Alec Gill
 11am Parish Eucharist, St Nicholas', East Challow – Rev Miriam Jones

Upcoming Services

Sunday 30th November (1st in Advent)

8am Holy Communion, St John's, Grove – Rev Miriam Jones
 9.30am Parish Eucharist, St James', Hanney – Rev Velma Oxley
 10am Holy Communion, St James', Denchworth – Rev Alec Gill
 10.15am Holy Communion (with Baptism), St John's, Grove – Rev Miriam Jones
 11am Parish Eucharist, St Nicholas', East Challow – Rev Alec Gill

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

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.

POP-UP SALE – CHRISTMAS CARDS HOLY TRINITY CHURCH, WEST HENDRED at West Hendred Village Hall on Sat 22 Nov, 9:15–9:45am, Sat 29 Nov, 10:30–11am and at the Christmas Fair – Sun 7 Dec, 12–3pm. Beautiful packs of 10 cards (£5) in aid of church repairs <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/6046>

TOY SERVICE St John’s Toy Service this year will be **THIS Sunday 23rd November** (10.15am Morning Worship), when you can bring new, unwrapped toys, preferably educational, 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 need in our local area to share the love of Jesus.

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.

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

WANTAGE AND GROVE FOODBANK We are currently collecting for Christmas hampers until December 10th. Suggested items crackers for cheese, chocolate logs /Christmas cakes, crisps /savoury snacks, biscuit selection boxes. Expiry date needs to be January 26. Items can be left in the Church foyer at Grove, Sainsburys, Waitrose, Co-op or The Cornerstone. Many thanks Jeanette.

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

Vale Benefice Newsletter: There will be NO newsletter on Sunday 28th December 2025 or 4th January 2026.

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: Philip Pepler, Eileen Phillips, Robert Hodgson, John Terry, Shiela Goddard and Fr. Robert Teare.

All living in: Hyde Road (Denchworth); High View (East Challow); Berry Lane (East Hanney); Cherbury Green, Main Street, St John’s Road (Grove); Elderberry Close (West Hanney)

All holding the levers of power in every country and every situation, that they may be Christlike, aware that He will be their ultimate Judge.

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR MORNING PRAYER

Mon	Psalms 92,96	Isaiah 14.3-20	Matthew 9.18-34
Tue	Psalms 97,98,100	Isaiah 17	Matthew 9.35-10.15
Wed	Psalms 119.57-80	Isaiah 19	Matthew 10.16-33
Thu	Psalms 125 -128	Isaiah 21.1-12	Matthew 10.34-11.1
Fri	Psalms 139	Isaiah 22.1-14	Matthew 11.2-19
Sat	Psalms 145	Isaiah 24	Matthew 11.20-end

