

DIARY FOR THE WEEK *Starting on Monday 1st December*

Mon	10am	GroW Toddler Group, St John's Church Hall
	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
	8pm	Grove Church SMT Meeting, Lower St John's Room
Tue	10am	Simply Singing Group, St John's Lower Room
	2pm	U3A Main Meeting, St John's Church Hall
	5pm	Beavers tour of St Nicholas Church, E. Challow
	6.30pm	Wantage Chess Club, ALL St John's Rooms
	7pm	2nd Grove Guides, St John's Church Hall
Wed	7.30pm	St Nicholas Church, Challow PCC Meeting
	9.15am	St John's Toddler Group, St John's Church Hall
	10am	Mid-week Holy Communion at 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
	9.30am	GroW Parenting Course, LOWER St John's Room
	10am	Mid-week Holy Communion at St Nicholas Church, Challow
	10am	U3A Local History Group, UPPER St John's Room
	1pm	Funeral Service for T/I Eileen Phillips, St John's Church, Grove
Fri	5.30pm	1st Grove Brownies, St John's Church Hall
	8pm	St John's Badminton Group, St John's Church Hall
	2pm	Friends on Friday Christmas Party, St John's Church Hall
Sat	8.30am	Morning Prayers, Frances Gillott's House, Grove
	9am	Grove 1st Rainbows Meeting, St John's Church Hall
Sun	7pm	Private booking in 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

SarahLLM@valebenefice.org.uk

Benefice Office: Grove Parish Church, Main Street, Grove, OX12 7L
Open: Mon–Fri. 10–12 noon. 01235 771479. office@valebenefice.org.uk

VALE BENEFICE NEWSLETTER

30th November 2025

1st Sunday in Advent

Readings selected from:

Isaiah 2.1-5; Psalm 122; Romans 13.11-end; Matthew 24.36-44

Hope! Advent is about tuning into Christmas. Before long, we will be celebrating the twofold arrival of the Saviour: back then, in Bethlehem; and in future, when He returns to establish His eternal reign. Most church traditions include the Advent wreath in their celebrations. The nights leading up to the winter solstice keep getting longer. Meanwhile, the light increases, week by week, candle by candle, a symbol of hope as darkness falls.

Our Shared Worship

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

Upcoming Services

7th December - *2nd Sunday of Advent* **St Nicholas' Patronal Festival at East Challow**

8am Holy Communion, St John's, Grove
9.30am **No service**, St James', Hanney
10am **No service**, St James', Denchworth
10.15am **No service**, St John's, Grove
11am Patronal Festival Eucharist, St Nicholas', East Challow

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.

TOY SERVICE THANK YOU The donated toys, vouchers and cash have been delivered to Tessa Heron in Wantage. They will be sorted into age groups and given to local families through the "Little People" program. She said it was a wonderful selection and thanked everybody at St John's.

ST JOHN'S CHRISTMAS FAYRE Join us on Saturday 29th November (2-4pm) for a lovely afternoon with cream teas, mulled wine, gift & children's stalls, crafts and tombola. Everyone welcome! Please do bring friends and family.

ALL WELCOME to PETER'S MUSICAL AFTERNOON Come & relax 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.

VALE BENEFICE ADVENT COURSE Advent course "Journey with the Magi". All welcome to join us for three sessions of reflection and discussion on the three gifts of the Magi and how they foreshadow aspects of Jesus' life and ministry, and connect with themes of value, prayer and healing in our own lives. All materials will be provided.
Daytime option: St Nicholas Church immediately following the midweek communion on Thursday 4, 11 and 18 December.
Evening option: The Penfolds' home on Wednesday 3, 10 and 17 December.
For more information, contact Miriam Jones (vicarmiriam@valebenefice.org.uk)

POP-UP SALE – CHRISTMAS CARDS OF HOLY TRINITY CHURCH, WEST HENDRED (2 different designs available) at West Hendred Village Hall THIS Saturday 29th Nov, 10:30–11am and at the Christmas Fair on Sunday 7th Dec, 12–3pm. Beautiful packs of 10 cards (£5), high quality print on textured card, in aid of church repairs. We accept contactless payments, cash, or cheques payable to West Hendred Parochial Church Council. You can also pay on-line via the Donate on our home page at <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/6046>

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: Heather Cousins, 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)
Genuine and lasting peace in Ukraine, Palestine, Gaza, Sudan and Nigeria.

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR MORNING PRAYER

Mon <i>Andrew the Apostle</i>	Psalm 47,147.1-12	Ezekiel 47.1-12	John 12.20-32
Tue	Psalms 97,98,100	Isaiah 26.1-13	Matthew 12.22-37
Wed	Psalm 119.57-80	Isaiah 28.1-13	Matthew 12.38-50
Thu	Psalms 125 -128	Isaiah 28.14-29	Matthew 13.1-23
Fri	Psalm 139	Isaiah 29.1-14	Matthew 13.24-43
Sat <i>Nicholas of Myra</i>	Psalm 145	Isaiah 29.15-2	Matthew 13.44-end

