

DIARY FOR THE WEEK *Starting on Monday 17th November*

Mon	10am 12.45pm 1pm 7pm	GroW Toddler Group, St John's Church Hall GroW Babies Group, St John's Church Hall GroW: Baby Massage, LOWER St John's Room 1st Grove Guides, St John's Church Hall
Tue	10am 2pm 6.30pm 7pm	Simply Singing Group, St John's Lower Room U3A Main Meeting, St John's Church Hall Wantage Chess Club, ALL St John's Rooms 2nd Grove Guides, St John's Church Hall
Wed	9.15am 1.30pm 2pm	St John's Toddler Group, St John's Church Hall ASC Coffee Afternoon, Grove CE Primary School, North Drive Badminton on Wednesday's, St John's Church Hall
Thu	9.30am 9.30am 10am 5.30pm 7.30pm 8pm	Extend Your Fitness Class, St John's Church Hall GroW: Parenting Course, LOWER St John's Room Mid-week HC Service, St Nicholas' Church, E. Challow 1st Grove Brownies, St John's Church Hall GroW Committee Meeting, LOWER St John's Room St John's Badminton Group, St John's Church Hall
Fri	1pm 2pm 7.30pm	Funeral (T/L John Terry), St John's Church Friends on Friday (HC), St John's Church Hall Banns of Marriage meeting, LOWER St John's Room
Sat	8.30am 10am 10am	Morning Prayers, Frances Gillott's House, Grove Baptism meeting with vicar, LOWER St John's Room GroW: 1st Aid course, St John's Church Hall
Sun	2pm 7pm	Boardgames Afternoon, St John's Church Hall Senior Youth Group, St John's Church Hall

CONTACT DETAILS

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

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VALE BENEFICE NEWSLETTER

16th November 2025

2nd Sunday before Advent

Readings selected from:

Malachi 4.1-2a; Psalm 98; 2 Thessalonians 3.6-13; Luke 21.5-19

So COP30, the UN climate summit in Brazil attended by nations minus notably China, India and the USA has nearly ended. It's easy to think this is the concern of governments or of someone else, as we hear news of hurricanes, landslides, melting glaciers and of rainforests destroyed. Yet of course it involves us too. The earth is the Lord's, we say - and we sing, "How great Thou art!" But what do our actions say? What will our votes say? How can each of us acknowledge our stewardship of God's world now?

Our Shared Worship

Sunday 16th November

8am Holy Communion, St John's, Grove – Rev Alec Gill
9.30am Parish Eucharist, St James', Hanney – Rev Geoff Maughan
10am Holy Communion, St James', Denchworth – Rev Miriam Jones
10.15am Holy Communion (*Safeguarding Sunday*), St John's, Grove
with Rev Hannah Lewis & Rev Alec Gill
11am Parish Eucharist, St Nicholas', East Challow – Rev Miriam Jones
3pm Cornerstone Celebration Service – St John's, Grove

Upcoming Services

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

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.

CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF CORNERSTONE Cornerstone Christian book shop and café 30th birthday celebrations. We look forward to welcoming you to our Thanksgiving Service to be held THIS Sunday 16th November at 3pm at St John's, Grove.
Also, on Saturday 22nd November at 3.30pm at The Cornerstone, Saville Way, Grove author Olivia Warburton will be sharing some tips from her new book 'Dreaming of a Green Christmas'. All are welcome and we will have hot mulled punch on offer along with other festive treats.

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 17th Nov | info@bespace.be for details

LEAD LIKE JAZZ: An Evening with Scott Olson
Join Scott Olson—CEO of the Christian nonprofit One Collective and acclaimed jazz musician—for a free evening exploring leadership through the lens of jazz. Discover how improvisation and being “in tune” can transform how we lead.
Featuring live music from Oxford's Gospel Jazz Project & refreshments after the talk.
Event Details
Monday 17th November, 5.30pm
Wycliffe Hall, Oxford
Free entry – booking essential
Optional donations to support One Collective's work in Cowley
Book tickets here: <https://www.wycliffe.ox.ac.uk/event/lead-like-jazz>

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 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.

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.

NO Mid-week Communion Service at St Nicholas Church, E. Challow on Thursday 27th November 2025

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.

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.
The email containing the link will **not be sent out weekly** now.

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, John Terry, Robert Hodgson, Eileen Phillips, Shiela Goddard and Fr. Robert Teare.
All living in: Star Terrace (Denchworth); W&G Industrial Estate (East Challow); Dandridge Close (East Hanney); Church View, Collinsmith Drive, Savile Way & Cornerstone (Grove); Rectory Farm Close (West Hanney)
Christian Aid, TEAR Fund & all working to influence governments to achieve net zero carbon emissions and campaigners for more sustainable lifestyles

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR MORNING PRAYER

Mon	Psalms 46,46	Isaiah 9.8-10.4	Matthew 7.1-12
Tue	Psalms 48,52	Isaiah 10.5-19	Matthew 7.13-end
Wed	Psalms 56,57	Isaiah 10.20-32	Matthew 8.1-13
Thu	Psalms 61,62	Isaiah 10.33-11.9	Matthew 8.14-22
Fri	Psalms 63,65	Isaiah 11.10-end of 12	Matthew 8.23-end
Sat	Psalms 78.1-39	Isaiah 13.1-17	Matthew 9.1-17