



CONTACT DETAILS

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VALE BENEFICE NEWSLETTER

14th December 2025

3rd Sunday of Advent

Readings selected from:

Isaiah 35.1-10; Psalm 146.4-10 (or *Magnificat*); James 5.7-10; Matthew 11.2-11

Joy! Gaudete! Pick a quiet weekday to visit an open empty church, which has a nativity scene as part of its Advent tradition, or find a crib scene online. Settle down and look at the characters. The shepherds: social outsiders with a taxing day job; the Magi: facing a scheming ruler; Mary and Joseph, about to run for their lives and seek asylum abroad. No one here is happy because of their circumstances. All of them are full of joy because of the child in the manger. Advent invites us to find that same joy for ourselves.

Our Shared Worship

14th December - 3rd Sunday of Advent

8am Holy Communion, St John's, Grove - Rev Alec Gill

9.30am Parish Eucharist, St James', Hanney with

(Rev Miriam Jones & Rev Charles Draper)

10am Holy Communion, St James', Denchworth - Rev Alec Gill

10.15am Morning Worship, St John's, Grove – Sarah Shackleton (LLM)

11am Carol Service, St Nicholas', East Challow - Rev Alec Gill

4pm Christingle Service for uniformed groups, St John's, Grove

Upcoming Services

21st December - 4th Sunday of Advent

8am Holy Communion, St John's, Grove

9.30am Parish Eucharist, St James', Hanney

10am Carol Service, St James', Denchworth

10.15am Holy Communion, St John's, Grove

11am Parish Eucharist, St Nicholas', East Challow

6pm Carol Service, St John's, Grove

NOTICES for inclusion in the newsletter must be sent to the editor by the preceding **Monday** at news@valebenefice.org.uk, not to the benefice office. Thank you. It will help both the office and the editor. Items for newsletter inclusion will be for 2 weeks. Please re-send your content 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.

PLEASE NOTE: NO churches' tea party at Cornerstone on Saturday 20th December

PARISH COUNCIL CAROL SERVICE The annual carol service will be held around the Christmas tree (corner of Vale Avenue) at 7pm on Thursday, 18th December, followed by refreshments in the Methodist Church. There will be a collection in aid of Grove Day Centre. All welcome.

GROVE CE PRIMARY SCHOOL: Christmas Fayre will be held at the school on Wednesday 17th December (3pm – 4pm). Please do come along and support our church school. Monies raised by this event go to the PTA to fund all sorts of useful and exciting things for the children in all years. Thank you.

ST NICHOLAS, Challow: NO midweek HC on 25th December and 1st January

ST JOHN'S CHURCH CHRISTMAS FLOWERS There is a basket at the back of the church for donations towards the Christmas Flowers. Thank you to our flower team

ST JOHN'S CHURCH CHRISTMAS CARD CHARITY FUNDRAISING: If you wish to join this, please attach your card to the board in the church foyer & make your donation either to the "Donations box" in the foyer or in an envelope (clearly labelled) and posted through the Benefice Office letterbox. This year, all proceeds will go to the "**Crisis Skylight Oxford**" homeless charity. Thank you for your generosity.

ST JOHN'S CHURCH CHRISTMAS TREE has been very kindly donated again this year by Chilton Garden Centre (part of the "British Garden Centres"), Newbury Road, Chilton, OX11 0QN. www.britishgardencentres.com We thank them for the lovely tree and to Brian and Edith Hipwell, who transported it to us again this year.

ST JOHN'S Church CAR PARK GATES will be locked from 3pm on Sunday 28th December to 3pm on Monday 29th December. Please ensure your vehicles are not left in the car park during this time. Many thanks.

VALE BENEFICE NEWSLETTER There will be NO newsletter on Sunday 28th December 2025 or 4th January 2026.

LIVE STREAM LINK St John's Church, Grove 10.15am Sunday service at St John's Church, Grove, is live streamed weekly on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLjvzip6GG1TzWUBwTu5KJtNQFKCfrAu0j> (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: Mary L, 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: Wayland Road, Lime Tree Close, Hardwell Close, Membury Way, Wessex Way, Elswith Close (Grove); Kimbers Close (Denchworth); Anderson Place (E. Hanney)

Those on their own and those struggling to make ends meet at Christmas time. Remember the local food bank, Little People and all the homeless.

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR MORNING PRAYER

Mon	Psalm 40	Isaiah 38.1-8,21-22	Matthew 16.13-end
Tue	Psalms 70,74	Isaiah 38.9-20	Matthew 17.11-13
Wed <i>O Wisdom</i>	Psalms 75,96	Isaiah 39	Matthew 17.14-21
Thu <i>O Lord</i>	Psalms 76,97	Zephaniah 1.1-2.3	Matthew 17.22-end
Fri <i>Root of Jesse</i>	Psalms 144,146	Zephaniah 3.1-13	Matthew 18.1-20
Sat <i>Key of David</i>	Psalms 46,95	Zephaniah 3.14-end	Matthew 18.21-end

DIARY FOR THE WEEK *Starting on Monday 15th December*

Mon	10am	GroW Toddler Group, St John's Church Hall
	12.45pm	GroW Babies Group, St John's Church Hall
	7pm	1st Grove Guides, St John's Church Hall
	7pm	Village Carols on the green, Challow
Tue	9.15am	Grove CE School Christmas Service, St John's Church
	10am	Simply Singing Group, St John's Lower Room
	6.30pm	Wantage Chess Club, ALL St John's Rooms
	7.30pm	Booking in St John's Church Hall
Wed	9.15am	St John's Toddler Group, St John's Church Hall
	2pm	Badminton on Wednesday's, St John's Church Hall
	3pm	Grove CE Primary School Christmas Fayre at the school
	4pm	St James School, Hanney, Christingle Service in school
	Evening	Benefice Advent Course at the Penfold's house, Challow
Thu	8am-1pm	Booking in St John's Church Hall
	9.30am	St Nicholas School, Challow, Christmas Service in school
	10am	Mid-week Holy Communion at St Nicholas Church, Challow
	Morning	Benefice Advent course in Challow Church after HC
	7pm	Parish Council Carols round the Christmas tree, Grove
	8pm	St John's Badminton Group, St John's Church Hall
Fri	2pm	Friends on Friday HC, St John's Church Hall
Sat	8.30am	Morning Prayers at Frances Gillott's house
	10am	Private Booking in St John's Church Hall