

DIARY FOR THE WEEK Starting on Monday 2nd February 2026

(All events held in St John's Church Hall unless stated otherwise)

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|--------------|-------------|---|
| Mon | 10am | Grow Toddler Group |
| | 12.45pm | Grow Babies Group |
| | 7pm | 1 st Grove Guides |
| | 8pm | Grove SMT meeting, Lower St John's Room |
| Tues | 7pm | 2 nd Grove Guides |
| | 8pm | Grove Standing committee, Small St John's Room |
| Weds | 9.15am | St John's Toddler Group |
| | 10am | Mid-week Communion, Lower St John's Room |
| | 2pm | Badminton on Wednesdays |
| Thurs | 10am | Mid-week Communion, St Nicholas, Challow |
| | 2pm | St John's bible study group, Lower St John's Room |
| | 5.30pm | 1 st Grove Brownies |
| | 8pm | Banns meeting with Vicar, Lower St John's Room |
| | 8pm | Newsletter discussion meeting, Upper St John's Room |
| | 8pm | St John's Badminton Group |
| Fri | 2pm | Friends on Friday |
| Sat | 8.30am | Morning prayers at Frances Gillott's house |
| | 9.30am | Grove Rainbows meeting |
| Sun | 11.30am | Grove Accessibility Group meeting, Lower St John's Room |
| | 12noon | Warm Spaces initiative lunch (more details inside) |
| | 6.30pm | Senior Youth Group |

NOTICES for inclusion in the newsletter must be sent to the editor by the preceding **Tuesday midday** 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.

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

1st February 2026

4th Sunday of Epiphany – Candlemas

Readings selected from:

1 Kings 17.8-16; Psalm 36.5-10; 1 Corinthians 1.18–25; John 2.1-11

Our Sunday readings all tell us how God's presence changes everything - for the better. "How precious is your steadfast love, O God! All people may take refuge in the shadow of your wings. They feast on the abundance of your house, and you give them drink from the river of your delights. For with you is the fountain of life; in your light we see light" (*Psalm 36*).

Our Shared Worship

1st February – 4th Sunday of Epiphany (Candlemas)

8am Holy Communion, St John's, Grove – Rev Frances Caroe
9.30am Parish Eucharist, St James', Hanney – Rev Charles Draper
10am Holy Communion, St James', Denchworth – Rev Miriam Jones
10.15am Holy Communion, St John's, Grove – Rev Alec Gill
and Michael Wenham
11am Service of memories (MW), St Nicholas', East Challow –
Rev Miriam Jones

Forthcoming Services

8th February - 2nd Sunday before Lent

8am Holy Communion, St John's, Grove - Rev Miriam Jones
9.30am Parish Eucharist, St James', Hanney - Rev Alec Gill
10am Parish Communion, St James', Denchworth - Rev Peter Rich
10.15am Morning Worship, St John's, Grove - Rev Miriam Jones
11am Parish Eucharist, St Nicholas', East Challow - Rev Alec Gill

BENEFICE NEWS

WARM SPACES – Sunday 8th February

We are delighted to offer a Ploughman's lunch at St John's to the churches and community on the second Sunday of each month from now until April. The lunches are part of the Warm Spaces initiative so please do recommend to friends who might like to come along. At least two volunteers are needed to help with refreshments and hosting. There is a sign-up sheet in the foyer or contact Nicky at nicky.gibbard@valebenefice.org.uk

LENT COURSE on Wednesday evenings, 7.30-9.00pm: "A Christian Look at the Environment". Have you ever wondered what the Bible says about caring for the natural world? How does this fit with our understanding of the Gospel? Martin and Margot Hodson will lead this course for five evenings during Lent (25th Feb to 25th March) at their home in Grove. Contact: martinjhodson@yahoo.co.uk, tel: 07799 226759 (or contact the Parish Office)

CORNERSTONE NEWS

Email: office@cornerstonegrove.org.uk Tel: 772280

Open from 9.30 to 4.00 on weekdays and 10.00 to 3.00 on Saturdays.

Please do continue to support the coffee shop and browse for cards and books.

Make and Bake runs for under 5s every Tuesday morning during term time. Cost £2 per child. No need to book. The current leader will be stepping down in July, so we are looking for someone to take this on from September.

Themes and templates are already in place so please speak to Sarah Shewring (details above) if you are interested.

MISSION GIVING AT GROVE – We have received a letter of thanks from CMS for the donation we sent recently. The letter can be seen on the Mission Noticeboard.

THANK YOU to all who organised, helped on the day and who attended **Messy Church** at Grove last Saturday. It was a lovely event, and we welcomed people from our churches and the local community.

LIVE STREAM LINK - The 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

ST JAMES CHURCH, HANNEY – Due to ongoing building work, all information regarding St James' church services is provisional. Services may be changed/cancelled at short notice. See local notices.

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: Alan Tranter, Linda Alder, Linda Sandels and Thomas Palmer

Those living in: Mustang Road, Norseman Road, Horsa Close, Whitley Close, Wellington Street, Douglas Drive (Grove); Barn Close (Denchworth); Walnut Court (West Hanney)

Those preparing for: The Church of England's General Synod in London (9-13 February), that delegates may be guided by God's Holy Spirit, not by party spirit. May God's presence change everything.

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR MORNING PRAYER

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|-----|-----------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| Mon | Psalms 1,2,3 | Genesis 18.1-15 | Matthew 27.11-26 |
| Tue | Psalms 5,6,8 | Genesis 18.16-end | Matthew 27.27-44 |
| Wed | Psalm 119.1-32 | Genesis 19.1-3,12-29 | Matthew 27.45-56 |
| Thu | Psalms 14,15,16 | Genesis 21.1-21 | Matthew 27.57-end |
| Fri | Psalms 17,19 | Genesis 22.1-19 | Matthew 28.1-15 |
| Sat | Psalms 20,21,23 | Genesis 23 | Matthew 28.16-end |