

DIARY FOR THE WEEK *Starting on Monday 26th January 2026*

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

Mon	10am	GroW Toddler Group
	11.30am	Funeral (T/L Linda Alder) St John's Church, Grove
	12.45pm	GroW Babies Group
	2pm	Funeral (T/L Alan Tranter). St Nicholas Church, Challow
	7pm	1 st Grove Guides
Tues	7pm	2 nd Grove Guides
Weds	9.15am	St John's Toddler Group
	2pm	Badminton on Wednesdays
	3.30pm	Wantage, Grove & local schools prayer meeting, Lower St John's Rooms
Thurs	10am	Mid-week Holy Communion, St Nicholas, Challow
	5.30pm	1 st Grove Brownies
	8pm	St John's Badminton Group
Sat	8.30am	Morning prayers at Frances Gillott's house
	10am	GroW 1 st Aid Course
Sun	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

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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

25th January 2026

3rd Sunday of Epiphany

Readings selected from:

Isaiah 9.1-4; Psalm 27.1-11; 1 Corinthians 1.10-18; Matthew 4.12-23

It's an irony that the so-called United States and United Kingdom today are more profoundly divided than ever. How about us for whom Jesus prayed "that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me"? How sad he and the Father must be to see the Church with such a clear mission is ever more fragmented! We don't demonstrate much of a vision of the Kingdom of God, do we? Surely we need to repent and do something about it.

Our Shared Worship

25th January – 3rd Sunday of Epiphany

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

9.30am Parish Eucharist, St James', Hanney – Rev Miriam Jones

10am Holy Communion, St James', Denchworth – Rev Peter Rich

10.15am Morning Worship, St John's, Grove - Rev Alec Gill

11am Parish Eucharist, St Nicholas', East Challow - Rev Miriam Jones

4pm Partnership Churches' Joint Service, St John's, Grove - Rev Alec Gill

Upcoming Services

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 & Michael Wenham

11am Morning Worship (Service of memories), St Nicholas', East Challow – Rev Miriam Jones

BENEFICE NEWS

WANTAGE AND GROVE FOODBANK delivered 1033 parcels last year, which included 3036 individuals. In addition to 100 Christmas hampers. A big thank you to all.

LINK TO HOPE SHOE BOX APPEAL 2025 - I'm delighted to let you know that Grove Church Benefice sent 17 substantial shoeboxes, plus £40 in donations and a large bag of extras, to the shoe box appeal this year. The boxes were delivered to families living in Bulgaria. There is a link below which gives a lovely report with pictures from some of the volunteers who delivered them. Many thanks to you all for your support. Jane and John <https://www.linktohope.co.uk/shoebox-delivery-diary-2025>

THE BENEFICE OFFICE - In order that we can shorten our 'vicar & admin' weekly Wednesday morning meetings (held in the Benefice office) we ask that you limit visiting the office on Wednesdays to between 11.30am-12noon only. This will reduce interruptions and help us to smoothly complete the meetings in a timely manner. If you do need to visit urgently on a Wednesday, please contact Andrea to arrange a suitable time. If phoning the office please leave a message on the answerphone and Andrea will call you back. Thank you

UPCOMING CHURCH SERVICES

Sunday 25th January – 4pm WGCP joint service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. St John's Church, Grove. Refreshments at 4pm before the service starts.

Sunday 1st February – 11am Service of Memories at St Nicholas Church, Challow

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.

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

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.

BISHOP OF OXFORD – The Diocese are asking anyone living, working or worshipping in the Diocese to contribute views on the appointment of the new Bishop. There is an online form on the Diocesan website: oxford.anglican.org

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, Heather Cousins, Philip Pepler, Eileen Phillips and Linda Sandels

Those living in: Denchworth Road, Liberator Lane, Windsor Street, Allen Close, Bateman Place (Grove); Circourt Drive (Denchworth); St James Way, Church Street, Cherry Orchard (West Hanney)

Those who lead the nations of the world that they may be peacemakers. **Those who lead** churches at every level that they make seek unity and the Kingdom of God.

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR MORNING PRAYER

Mon	<i>Conv of Paul</i>	Psalms 66,147.13-20	Ezekiel 3.22-end	Philippians 3.1-14
Tue		Psalms 34,36	Genesis 13.2-end	Matthew 26.17-35
Wed		Psalms 45,46	Genesis 14	Matthew 26.36-46
Thu		Psalms 47,48	Genesis 15	Matthew 26.47-56
Fri		Psalms 61,65	Genesis 16	Matthew 26.57-end
Sat		Psalms 68	Genesis 17.1-22	Matthew 27.1-10