

DIARY FOR THE WEEK *Starting* on *Monday 2nd March 2026*

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

Mon	10am	GroW Toddler Group
	12.45pm	GroW Babies Group
	7pm	1 st Grove Guides
	7.30pm	Lent course at home of Nick & Claire Page, Challow
Tues	7pm	2 nd Grove Guides
Weds	9.15am	St John's Toddler Group
	10am	Mid-week Holy Communion at St John's, Grove
	2pm	Badminton on Wednesdays
	7.30pm	Lent course with Rev Margot & Martin Hodson, Grove
	8pm	Banns/wedding meeting with Rev Miriam Jones, SJR
Thurs	2pm	Bible Study Group Lent Course, Lower SJR
	5.30pm	1 st Grove Brownies
	8pm	St John's Badminton Group
Fri	2.30pm	World Day of Prayer, Grove Methodist Church
	7.30pm	Online Lent Course (contact office or Alec Gill for link)
Sat	8.30am	Morning prayers at Frances Gillott's house
	9.30am	Grove Rainbows Group
	10am	Baptism booking meeting with Vicars, Lower SJR
	3.30pm	Book event at Cornerstone (details inside)
Sun	12noon	Warm spaces lunch
	6.30pm	Senior Youth Club

*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

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Open: Mon–Fri. 10–12 noon. 01235 771479. office@valebenefice.org.uk

VALE BENEFICE NEWSLETTER

1st March 2026

Second Sunday of Lent

Readings selected from:

Genesis 12.1-4a; Psalm 121; Romans 4.1-5,13-17; John 3.1-17

It's all about trust. That's what faith is, trusting God. It's a tough idea for legalist Nicodemus, the Pharisee, to swallow. He knows the religious law inside out. And Paul, the Pharisee, also found it hard - until he was "born again" or "from above" when he was changed on the road to Damascus.

Then he saw the Law with new eyes. Abraham's secret was that "he believed God and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." Simply grace!

Our Shared Worship

1st March - Second Sunday of Lent

8am Holy Communion, St John's, Grove - Rev Frances Caroe

9.30am Parish Eucharist, St James', Hanney - Rev Charles Draper

10am Parish Communion, St James', Denchworth – Rev Alec Gill

10.15am Holy Communion, St John's, Grove – Rev Miriam Jones

11am Parish Eucharist, St Nicholas', East Challow – Rev Alec Gill

Forthcoming Services

8th March - Third Sunday of Lent

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

9.30am Parish Eucharist, St James', Hanney - Rev Geoff Maughan

10am Parish Communion, St James', Denchworth - Rev Miriam Jones

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

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

BENEFICE NEWS

For details of Benefice Lent courses please see separate sheet

<p>WARM SPACES – Sunday 8th March 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</p>
<p>WORLD DAY OF PRAYER Friday 6th March 2.30pm Grove Methodist Church Come and join with prayers written by women of Nigeria, followed by refreshments</p>
<p>FRIENDS ON FRIDAY There will be no meeting on 6th March – please do go to the ‘World Day of Prayer’ service at the Methodist Church instead. Our next meeting will be Holy Communion on 20th March in St John’s Hall</p>
<p>GIRL GUIDING GROVE – ANNUAL EGG DELIVERY Every year Rainbows, Brownies and Guides units in Grove enjoy taking part in a community service by delivering Easter cards and Fresh eggs to the Senior Citizens of Grove. This year they will be delivering from 22nd -28th March 2026 To Keep our lists up to date We would really love to hear from you about anyone new to Grove or who is now over 65 that could be included be in our egg delivery. To add people or if our service is no longer appropriate at your family or friend’s home- Please telephone or message Jane on 07914539136 or email jane.syme59@gmail.com by Saturday 14th March.</p>
<p>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. WOMEN OF GRACE AND GUTS – Local author Julia Jones has written a great new book on Winifred Booth, Ruth Morling and Olive Elliott, three Edwardian ladies who took the gospel to India. Julia is coming to tell us more on Saturday 7th March at 3.30pm. Please email to book your space. There are a number of Lent Study books and personal devotionals on the shelf. The new Take Note selection includes some of this year’s new titles with good discounts.</p>
<p>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.</p>
<p>WANTAGE ORCHESTRA - Spring Concert – Saturday 21st March 3.30pm, Old Mill Hall, Grove. More details on poster in foyer..</p>

SALE OF CARDS: Sue Powditch will be selling Mothering Sunday and Easter cards after the 10.15 service on 8th March.

GROVE CHURCH VOLUNTEER ROTAS: Thank you all for being on the volunteer rotas and serving our Lord in our church this way. The rotas for March-end August have now been emailed out. Any queries please contact the office.

MOTHERING SUNDAY POSIES – you are invited to help make the St John’s Mothering Sunday posies on **Saturday 14th March from 10 to 11 am** in the St John’s Rooms. These will be handed out at St John’s on Mothering Sunday (15th March). If you can come and/or supply greenery for the posies, please let Miranda Hawkins know (07919 815885) or just turn up on the day. Coffee, tea and cake will be provided!

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

PLEASE PRAY FOR...

Health and healing: Shelley S, Mary L, Rev Dick French, Norah L, Rob S, Peter Ch, Pat B, Susanne C, Wendy R, Katherine S, Laura C, Ursula G & Richard H

Friends and families mourning: John Spindloe, Linda Sandels, Thomas Palmer and Thelma Lockwood

St John’s – that someone will feel called to come forward to fill the role of Churchwarden

Those living in: Kennet Close, Windrush Close, Fairfield Close, Recreation Lane (Grove); Vicarage Hill, Childrey Way (East Challow); Franklin Gardens, Pullen Field (East Hanney)

Those in positions of power and influence: in the governments of the nations and in the media, that they will do justly, love mercy and walk humbly aware of God

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR MORNING PRAYER

Mon	Psalms 26,32	Genesis 43.16-end	Hebrews 1
Tue	Psalms 50	Genesis 44.1-17	Hebrews 2.1-9
Wed	Psalms 35	Genesis 44.18-end	Hebrews 2.10-end
Thu	Psalms 34	Genesis 45.1-15	Hebrews 3.1-6
Fri	Psalms 40,41	Genesis 45.16-end	Hebrews 3.7-end
Sat	Psalms 3,25	Genesis 46.1-7,28-end	Hebrews 4.1-13

BENEFICE LENT GROUPS

WEDNESDAY EVENING LENT COURSE

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 February to 25th March) at their home in Grove. Contact: martinjhodson@yahoo.co.uk, tel: 07799 226759 (or contact the Benefice office)

ONLINE LENT COURSE

Starting on Friday 20th February until 27th March (inclusive) (7.30pm-8.30pm) with Rev Alec Gill and Anne Cheeseman. We will be studying Jesus' final week. No course books needed. The link to join online will be sent out next week to the Benefice distribution list. If you are not receiving newsletters, please contact Alec for the link separately.

THURSDAY BIBLE STUDY LENT GROUP

The Thursday Bible Study Group will meet weekly during Lent on 26th February, 5th, 12th, 19th and 26th March in St John's Lower Room from 2-3.30pm. We will be using Paula Gooder's course: 'Lentwise (Spiritual essentials for real life)'. All welcome.

CHALLOW LENT COURSE

There will be a Lent Course in Challow at the home of Claire and Nick Page starting on Monday 23rd February at 7.30pm. It will be based on the Diocesan material 'Come and See: Discovering Jesus through the Eucharist'.

For more information contact Nick, Claire or the Vicars