

## DIARY FOR THE WEEK *Starting* on *Monday 9th March 2026*

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

<b>Mon</b>	10am 12.45pm 7pm 7.30pm	GroW Toddler Group GroW Babies Group 1 <sup>st</sup> Grove Guides Lent course at home of Nick & Claire Page, Challow
<b>Tues</b>	7pm	2 <sup>nd</sup> Grove Guides
<b>Weds</b>	9.15am 2pm 7.30pm	St John's Toddler Group Badminton on Wednesdays Lent course with Rev Margot & Martin Hodson, Grove
<b>Thurs</b>	<b>10am</b> 2pm 5.30pm 8pm	<b>Mid-week Holy Communion at St Nicholas, Challow</b> Bible Study Group Lent Course, Lower SJR 1 <sup>st</sup> Grove Brownies St John's Badminton Group
<b>Fri</b>	7.30pm	Online Lent Course (contact office or Alec Gill for link)
<b>Sat</b>	8.30am 10am 10am 10am	Prayer breakfast at Cornerstone GroW First Aid course Grove PCC Awayday at Grove Methodist Church Posy making for Mothering Sunday, St John's Rooms
<b>Sun</b>	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](mailto: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](mailto:prayer@valebenefice.org.uk).*

### CONTACT DETAILS

**Vicar:** Rev Alec Gill: 07739563894 [vicaralec@valebenefice.org.uk](mailto:vicaralec@valebenefice.org.uk)

**Associate Vicar:** Rev Miriam Jones: 07474095190 [vicarmiriam@valebenefice.org.uk](mailto:vicarmiriam@valebenefice.org.uk)

**Licensed Lay Minister:** Sarah Shackleton: 07587776609 [SarahLLM@valebenefice.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto:office@valebenefice.org.uk)

# VALE BENEFICE NEWSLETTER

## 8th March 2026

### Third Sunday of Lent

*Readings selected from:*

Exodus 17.1-7; Psalm 95; Romans 5.1-11; John 4.5-42

- What did Jesus mean when he said, “God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth”?
  - What does it mean for us to worship in spirit and truth?
    - Where does our worship start and end?

### Our Shared Worship

**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 Holy Communion, St James', Denchworth - Rev Miriam Jones

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

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

### Forthcoming Services

**15th March - Fourth Sunday of Lent (Mothering Sunday)**

8am Holy Communion, St John's, Grove - Rev Miriam Jones

9.30am Parish Eucharist, St James', Hanney - Rev Velma Oxley

10am Holy 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

## BENEFICE NEWS

**BENEFICE LENT COURSES** – Details of times and venues can be found in the diary section. For further information please contact the Benefice Office.

### WARM SPACES – TODAY - Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:nicky.gibbard@valebenefice.org.uk)

### WORLD DAY OF PRAYER Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2.30pm Grove Methodist Church

Come and join with prayers written by women of Nigeria, followed by refreshments

**FRIENDS ON FRIDAY** There will be no meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> March – please do go to the 'World Day of Prayer' service at the Methodist Church instead. Our next meeting will be Holy Communion on 20<sup>th</sup> March in St John's Hall

### 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 22<sup>nd</sup> -28<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:jane.syme59@gmail.com) by Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March.

**CORNERSTONE NEWS:** Email: [office@cornerstonegrove.org.uk](mailto: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 7<sup>th</sup> March at 3.30pm**. Please email to book your space.

**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.

**TODAY - SALE OF CARDS:** Sue Powditch will be selling Mothering Sunday and Easter cards after the 10.15 service on **8<sup>th</sup> March**.

**CORNERSTONE TEA PARTY** – After many years the monthly Churches' Tea Party in Cornerstone seems to have run its course. We've therefore concluded it should stop, at least for the time being so there will be no Party on 21<sup>st</sup> March. Wenhams and Dodds

**MOTHERING SUNDAY POSIES** – you are invited to help make the St John's Mothering Sunday posies on **Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March from 10 to 11 am** in the St John's Rooms. These will be handed out at St John's on Mothering Sunday (15<sup>th</sup> 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!

### 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  
- the PCC Awayday next Saturday

**Those living in:** Nobles Close, Brunel Crescent, Collett Way, Hawksworth Close, Evenlode Close (Grove); Hedge Hill Road (East Challow); Meadow Way, Spring Close (West Hanney)

**Countries:** attacked by hostile powers; **individuals:** traumatised by war, abuse or indifference

### LECTIONARY READINGS FOR MORNING PRAYER

<b>Mon</b>	Psalms 5,7	Genesis 47.1-27	Hebrews 4.14-5.10
<b>Tue</b>	Psalms 6,9	Genesis 47.28-end of 48	Hebrews 5.11-6.12
<b>Wed</b>	Psalms 38	Genesis 49.1-32	Hebrews 6.13-end
<b>Thu</b>	Psalms 56,57	Genesis 49.33-end of 50	Hebrews 7.1-10
<b>Fri</b>	Psalms 22	Exodus 1.1-14	Hebrews 7.11-end
<b>Sat</b>	Psalms 31	Exodus 1.22-2.10	Hebrews 8