

DIARY FOR THE WEEK *Starting* on *Monday 16th March 2026*

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

Mon	10am 12.45pm 7pm 7.30pm	GroW Toddler Group GroW Babies Group 1 st Grove Guides Lent course at home of Nick & Claire Page, Challow
Tues	10am 7pm	St James School, Hanney, Easter service (in school) 2 nd Grove Guides
Weds	9.15am 2pm 7.30pm	St John's Toddler Group Badminton on Wednesdays Lent course with Rev Margot & Martin Hodson, Grove
Thurs	9.30am 10am 2pm 5.30pm 8pm	St Nicholas School, Challow, Easter service (in church) Mid-week Holy Communion at St Nicholas, Challow Bible Study Group Lent Course, Lower SJR 1 st Grove Brownies St John's Badminton Group
Fri	2pm 7.30pm	Friends on Friday (HC) Online Lent Course (contact office or Alec Gill for link)
Sat	8.30am 2pm	Prayers at Frances Gillott's house Pre-booked wedding preparation meeting with Vicars
Sun	2pm 6.30pm	Board games afternoon 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

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

15th March 2026

Fourth Sunday of Lent (Mothering Sunday)

Readings selected from:

1 Samuel 16.1-13; Psalm 23; Ephesians 5.8-14; John 9

Lord Jesus, the good Shepherd, we pray for all those living in fear because of war - families who go to sleep uncertain of tomorrow, parents anxious for their children's safety, and those whose hearts are heavy with worry and grief. Amen.

Our Shared Worship

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

Forthcoming Services

22nd March - Fifth Sunday of Lent

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

9.30am Parish Eucharist & Baptism, St James', Hanney - Rev Miriam Jones

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

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

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

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.

BENEFICE HOLY WEEK SERVICES – Please see separate sheet

FRIENDS ON FRIDAY

Our next meeting will be Holy Communion on 20th 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 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.

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.

There is a good selection of **Easter cards** and **Real Easter Eggs** are also in stock. Fair trade, palm oil free and plastic free, these are the only eggs that tell the real story of Easter. They come in Milk and Dark Chocolate and are no longer available in supermarkets.

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.

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 21st March. Wenhams and Dodds

THE KINGS SCHOOL, WITNEY – STAFF VACANCIES

Maths Teacher, Wraparound Care Practitioner, Games Assistant, GCSE PE Teacher. For more information see their website: tkswitney.org.uk

NEWSLETTER UPDATE

As from April St John's will have its own monthly newsletter with longer articles and including a monthly diary. During April the current Benefice newsletter will continue in its present form alongside this but from May will be cut down to a single A5 weekly sheet detailing the Benefice services, prayer requests and lectionary only.

If you have any thoughts or comments on this please contact news@valebenefice.org.uk. Any articles or notices for inclusion in the monthly newsletter will need to be received by 14th of the previous month.

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!

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: Shepherds Close, Newlands Drive, Whitworth Way, Tubbs Close, Squadron Way (Grove); Reynolds Way, Windmill Place (East Challow); Arthurs Close, The Green (East Hanney)

Countries at war: Father of all, bring peace to our world, protect the innocent and heal every wounded heart.

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR MORNING PRAYER

Mon	Psalms 70,77	Exodus 2.11-2	Hebrews 9.1-14
Tue	Psalms 54,79	Exodus 2.23-3.20	Hebrews 9.15-end
Wed	Psalms 63,90	Exodus 4.1-23	Hebrews 10.1-18
Thu <i>Joseph of Nazareth</i>	Psalms 25,147.1-12	Isaiah 11.1-10	Matthew 13.54-end
Fri	Psalm 102	Exodus 6.2-13	Hebrews 10.26-end
Sat	Psalm 32	Exodus 7.8-end	Hebrews 11.1-16

BENEFICE HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Monday 30th March	7.30pm	Holy Communion at St James, Hanney
Tuesday 31st March	4.00pm	Holy Communion at St James, Denchworth
Wednesday 1st April	10.00am	Holy Communion at St John's, Grove
	7.30pm	Holy Communion at St Nicholas, Challow
Thursday 2nd April	7.30pm	Holy Communion with foot washing at St John's, Grove
Friday 3rd April	10.00am	Good Friday Reflection Service at St James, Hanney
	11.00am	W&GCP service on Green at end of Vale Avenue, Grove
	1.00pm	Good Friday Reflection Service at St Nicholas, Challow
	2.00pm	Good Friday Reflection Service at St John's, Grove
	3.00pm	Messy Church at St John's, Grove