

DIARY FOR THE WEEK *Starting on Monday 30th March 2026*

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

Mon	7.30pm	Holy Communion at St James Church, Hanney
Tues	4pm	Holy Communion at St James Church, Denchworth
Weds	10am 2pm 7.30pm	Holy Communion at St John's Church, Grove Badminton on Wednesdays Holy Communion at St Nicholas Church, Challow
Thurs	7.30pm	Holy Communion (with foot washing) at St John's Church, Grove
Fri	10am 11am 1pm 2pm 3pm	Good Friday Reflection Service, St James, Hanney W&GCP Good Friday service, Grove (on green at end of Vale Avenue) Good Friday Reflection Service, St Nicholas, Challow Good Friday Meditation Service, St John's, Grove All Age Messy Church, St John's, Grove
Sat	8.30am	Prayers at Frances Gillott's house

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

REMINDER – Clocks go forward one hour at 2am on Sunday

VALE BENEFICE NEWSLETTER

29th March 2026

Palm Sunday

Readings selected from:

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Isaiah 50:4-9a; Philipians 2:5-11; Matthew 21:1-11

It's Holy Week and pilgrim sites in Jerusalem have been closed - by war. "We want the warhorse. Jesus rides a donkey. We want the eagle. The Holy Spirit descends as a dove. We want to take up swords. Jesus takes up a cross. We want the roaring lion. God comes as a slaughtered lamb. We keep trying to arm God. God keeps trying to disarm us" (Benjamin Cremer). We watch and wait – and pray. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done...

Our Shared Worship

29th March – Palm Sunday

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

Forthcoming Services

5th March – Easter Day

8am Holy Communion, St John's, Grove - Rev Alec Gill
9.30am Parish Eucharist, St James', Hanney - Rev Miriam Jones
9am Holy Communion, St James', Denchworth – Rev Alec Gill
10.15am Holy Communion & Baptism, St John's, Grove – Rev Alec Gill
11am Parish Eucharist, St Nicholas', East Challow - Rev Miriam Jones

BENEFICE NEWS

MESSY CHURCH – CELEBRATING EASTER

Good Friday – 3rd April. 3-4.30pm – St John's Church Hall
Lego & junk model challenges; craft & creativity; toddler activities; prayer space & worship; refreshments and cake. All ages welcome.

ST JOHN'S ELECTORAL ROLL is being revised. The closing date is April 27th. If you would like to join the Roll then please pick up a form in the Church lobby, complete it and post it in the Church Office letter box on the right hand of the St Johns Rooms. Alternatively, an electronic version can be obtained from the Electoral Roll Officer at chris.gray@valebenefice.org.uk

MISSION SPOT - As part of our mission giving at St John's we support CMS partners Marcio Ciechanovicz & Noemi Celeti in Brazil "Connecting with people beyond the reach of traditional church, sharing the gospel in new ways & ministering to people's physical needs". Read their latest newsletter on the Mission notice board or online at <<http://churchmissionsociety.org>> select 'read on' & scroll down to find Marcio & Noemi

WORK PARTY - St John's will be having a Work Party on **Saturday 28th March** from 9am. We will be removing the box hedging around the Ashes Plot and along the path to the Memorial Garden. If you can help, please see John Harris or contact the Benefice Office. Thank you.

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.
Stocktake - We will be **closing at 2pm on Tuesday 31st March** for our annual stocktake. Apologies for any inconvenience caused.
Easter - We will be closed on Good Friday and Easter Monday but open Saturday 4th as normal.

CRAFT AND FELLOWSHIP – TODAY Although we normally meet on the 4th Sunday our next session is on **Sunday 29th March**. We will be making Easter cards and anyone over 18 is welcome to join us. It's helpful if you can let us know, either by text on 07833 503674 or email suepowditch@gmail.com if you plan to come, so we know how many to cater for

LITTLE PEOPLE are in need of a Moses basket for a newborn baby. If you can help please contact Andrea in the Benefice office. Thank you.

ST JOHN'S DIARY DATES – more details to follow:

12th April – 8pm - Worship Evening
22nd April – 4pm - Schools prayer group
16th May - 7pm – Annual church meeting

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.

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: 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

And those interring their loved one's ashes in the Benefice Churches:

T/L Patricia and Peter O'Brien, T/L Philip Pepler, T/L Gin Hammond and T/L Paul Dewhurst.

St John's

- that someone will feel called to come forward to fill the role of Churchwarden

Those living in: Northrop Gardens, Tozer Way, Meier Close (Grove); Canal Way, Old School Lane (East Challow); Ashfields Lane, Oxford Road, The Mulberries (East Hanney)

Countries at war: for peace across the Middle East & leaders not motivated by self interest

Here: may everyone take time to remember our Lord's journey to the cross; Sarah Mullally installed as Archbishop last week.

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR MORNING PRAYER

Mon	Psalm 41	Lamentations 1.1-12a	Luke 22.1-23
Tue	Psalm 27	Lamentations 3.1-18	Luke 22.24-53
Wed	Psalm 102	Jeremiah 11.18-20	Luke 22.54-end
Maundy Thu	Psalms 42,43	Leviticus 16.2-24	Luke 23.1-25
Good Fri	Psalm 69	Genesis 22.1-18	Hebrews 10.1-10
Easter Eve	Psalm 142	Hosea 2.1-6	John 2.18-22