

DIARY FOR THE WEEK *Starting on Monday 6th April 2026*

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

Weds	2pm	Badminton on Wednesdays
Thurs	8pm	Thursday Badminton
Sat	8.30am	Prayer breakfast at Cornerstone, Grove
Sun	12noon 8pm	Warm spaces lunch Worship evening, St John's



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

5th April 2026

Easter Day

Readings selected from:

Acts 10:34-43; Psalm 118:1-2,14-24; Colossians 3:1-4; John 20:1-18

Easter Day - the best attested fact of ancient history and the foundation stone of the Christian faith. We can confidently affirm that God raised Jesus from the dead and that we can know him now. A prayer for the Easter season: "Be present, Lord, this day with those whose lives are disfigured by violence and those whose hearts know no peace. To you, Lord Jesus, true bringer of the peace of heaven, be honour and glory, now and for ever. Amen." Alleluia, alleluia! Christ is risen! Alleluia, alleluia!

Our Shared Worship

5th April – Easter Day

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

9am Holy Communion, St James', Denchworth – Rev Alec Gill

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

10.15am Holy Communion & Baptism, St John's, Grove – Rev Alec Gill

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

Forthcoming Services

12th April – 2nd Sunday of Easter

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

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 – Sarah Shackleton (LLM)

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

BENEFICE NEWS

SERVICES FOR THE REMAINDER OF HOLY WEEK

Wednesday 1st – 7.30pm Holy Communion at St Nicholas, Challow
Thursday 2nd – 7.30 pm Holy Communion, with foot washing, St John's, Grove
Friday 3rd – 10am Good Friday Reflection service, St James, Hanney
Friday 3rd – 11am W&GP service on green at end of Vale Avenue, Grove
Friday 3rd – 1pm Good Friday Reflection service, St Nicholas, Challow
Friday 3rd – 2pm Good Friday Meditation service, St John's, Grove
Friday 3rd – 3pm Messy Church, St John's, Grove

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

WARM SPACES – Sunday 12th April, 12noon

We are delighted to offer a Ploughman's lunch at St John's to the churches and community – this is our last one for the season. The lunch is part of the Warm Spaces initiative so please do recommend to friends who might like to come along. Help is needed with refreshments and hosting – there is a sign-up sheet in the foyer or contact Nicky at nickygibbard@valebenefice.org.uk

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 10th-16th May. Our gifts from St John's will help urban farming projects in Nairobi, Kenya – more details to come.

EASTER FLOWERS – St John's

If you would like to contribute towards the cost of the flowers at Easter there is a basket at the back of church for your donations. Thank you.

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.

WANTED – LAPTOP with Windows 11 Ukrainian lady struggling with English needs a laptop, or similar, with Windows 11 to access an English course on Zoom. If anyone can help or would like to know more, please contact Margaret Harris. 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

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=PLjyzip6GG1TzWUBwTu5KJtNQFKCfrAu0j> (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

NEWSLETTER UPDATE

The new St John's monthly newsletter for April has now been sent out to all those on the Grove mailing list. If you've not received it and think you should have done, please contact news@valebenefice.org.uk

This weekly newsletter will remain in its current form until the end of the month when it will be replaced by a single sheet detailing Benefice services, prayer requests and the lectionary only.

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: Father Tony Hogg, 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,

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: Reecher Place, Savile Way, Carlton Close, Barley Way, Hunters Close (Grove); Faringdon Road, Main Street (East Challow); Steventon Road, Main Street (East Hanney)

Countries at war: for peace across the Middle East, in Ukraine, Sudan & Myanmar, and all working to relieve suffering

Here: Albert (Bertie) being baptised on Easter Day; Sarah Mullally in her new ministry as Archbishop of Canterbury

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR MORNING PRAYER

Mon	Psalms 111,117,146	Exodus 12.1-14	1 Corinthians 15.1-11
Tue	Psalms 112,147.1-12	Exodus 12.14-36	1 Corinthians 15.12-19
Wed	Psalms 113,147.13-end	Exodus 12.37-end	1 Corinthians 15.20-28
Thu	Psalms 114,148	Exodus 13.1-16	1 Corinthians 15.29-34
Fri	Psalms 115,149	Exodus 13.17-14.14	1 Corinthians 15.35-50
Sat	Psalms 116,150	Exodus 14.15-end	1 Corinthians 15.51-end