

DIARY FOR THE WEEK *Starting on Monday 13th April 2026*

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

Mon	10am 12.45pm 7pm 8pm	GroW Toddler Group GroW Babies Group 1 st Grove Guides Grove SMT meeting, Lower St John's Rooms
Weds	9.15am 2pm 7.30pm 8pm	St John's Toddlers Badminton on Wednesdays Deanery Synod Meeting, St John's Church & Hall Grove Standing Committee, Upper St John's Rooms
Thurs	10am 2pm 5.30pm 8pm	Mid-week Holy Communion, St Nicholas, Challow Grove Bible Study Group, Lower St John's Rooms 1 st Grove Brownies Thursday Badminton
Fri	12noon 2pm	Funeral & Burial of T/L John Spindloe, St James, Hanney Friends on Friday Holy Communion
Sat	8.30am 10am	Prayers at Frances Gillott's house Baptism & Blessing Meeting with Vicars, Lower SJR
Sun	2pm 7pm	Board games afternoon St John's Senior Youth Group

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. 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

12th April 2026

Second Sunday of Easter

Readings selected from:

Acts 2:14a, 22-32; Psalm 16; 1 Peter 1:3-9; John 20:19-31

Alleluia! The Lord is risen indeed! Four readings full of hope and joy today. Jesus was tortured, killed and buried. **“But God,”** Peter tells his listeners, **“raised him up,** having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power.” Death did not have the last word. Neither does it today. Alleluia again!

Our Shared Worship

12th April – 2nd Sunday of Easter

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

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

10am Holy Communion, St James', Denchworth – Rev Geoff Maughan

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

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

8pm Worship Evening – St John's, Grove

Forthcoming Services

19th April – 3rd Sunday of Easter

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

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

10am Holy Communion, St James', Denchworth – Rev Miriam Jones

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

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

BENEFICE NEWS

WARM SPACES – TODAY - 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

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

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.
- We would like to be able to give out more free meal vouchers to local families over the summer, but our marble jar needs replenishing! Do ask at the till to "Buy a Marble" to help us fund these vouchers.
- There will be another book event on Saturday 25th April at 3.30 when Bruce A J McLauchlan is coming to speak about his book "Through His Eyes". Find out how he has been inspired to write from the perspective of Jesus and his thinking about which events were included.

FUNDRAISING FOR MARIE CURIE – Chris O'Neil is running the London Marathon on April 26th in aid of Marie Curie who provide practical, hands-on care for people with terminal illness, not just cancer.

To support Chris go to: www.tinyurl.com/chrislm26

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.

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 10th - 16th May

There will be a dedicated collection for Christian Aid at the 10.15am service at St John's on 10th May. Our gifts will help urban farming projects in Nairobi, Kenya - more details to come.

SPRING CONCERT - Four local choirs, Saturday 11th April, 7pm

Wantage Parish Church. Tickets £10 (concessions £8)

Contact Peter Rich: 01235 411315

NEWSLETTER UPDATE

We hope everyone on the Grove mailing list has now received the new monthly 'St John's Messenger'. Thank you for all the positive comments we've received. If you've not received it, or have any comment to make, please email

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: Hay Meadows, Oat Crescent, Peregrine Way, Fulmar Place, Swan Close (Grove); Claypit Lane, Letcombe Hill (East Challow); Snuggs Lane, Ashfield Close (East Hanney)

That: Christ may reveal the light of his presence to the sick, the weak and the dying, to comfort and strengthen them

Countries at war: for peace across the Middle East, in Ukraine, Sudan & Myanmar, and all involved in relieving suffering

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR MORNING PRAYER

Mon	Psalms 2,19	Exodus 15.1-21	Colossians 1.1-14
Tue	Psalms 8,20,21	Exodus 15.22-16.10	Colossians 1.15-end
Wed	Psalms 16,30	Exodus 16.11-end	Colossians 2.1-15
Thu	Psalms 28,29	Exodus 17	Colossians 2.16-3.11
Fri	Psalms 57,61	Exodus 18.1-12	Colossians 3.12-4.1
Sat	Psalms 63,94	Exodus 18.13-end	Colossians 4.2-end