

DIARY FOR THE WEEK *Starting on Monday 20th April 2026*

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

Mon	10am 12.45pm 7pm	GroW Toddler Group GroW Babies Group 1 st Grove Guides
Tues	7pm	2 nd Grove Guides
Weds	9.15am 2pm 4pm	St John's Toddlers Badminton on Wednesdays Wantage & Grove Schools Prayer meeting, Lower SJR
Thurs	9.30am 10am 5.30pm 8pm	GroW parenting course, Lower SJR Mid-week Holy Communion, St Nicholas, Challow 1 st Grove Brownies Thursday Badminton
Fri	10am 7.30pm	Internment of ashes, Challow Churchyard Banns meeting with Vicars, Lower SJR
Sat	8.30am	Prayers at Frances Gillott's house
Sun	2.15pm 6.30pm	Craft & Fellowship afternoon St John's Senior Youth Group

BENEFICE APCM DATES:

St James, Denchworth APCM, Sunday 26th April after the 10am service
St Nicholas, East Challow APCM, Sunday 3rd May after the 11am service
St James the Great, West Haney APCM, Sunday 10th May after the 9.30am service
St John the Baptist, Grove APCM, Saturday 16th May, 7pm

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

If anyone has specific prayer requests, please email confidentially to prayer@valebenefice.org.uk

VALE BENEFICE NEWSLETTER

19th April 2026

Third Sunday of Easter

Readings selected from:

Acts 2:14a, 36-41; Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19; 1 Peter 1:17-23; Luke 24:13-35

Peter's timely word of warning to leaders of nations: "If you invoke as Father the one who judges all people impartially according to their deeds, live in reverent fear during the time of your exile." And Luke's encouragement for us today: "When he was at the table with them, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him."

Our Shared Worship

19th April – Third 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

Forthcoming Services

26th April - Fourth Sunday of Easter

8am Holy Communion, St John's, Grove - Rev Margot Hodson

9.30am Parish Eucharist, St James', Hanney - Rev Charles Draper

10am Holy Communion followed by APCM - St James', Denchworth -
Rev Alec Gill & Rev Miriam Jones

10.15am Morning Worship, St John's, Grove - Rev Margot & Martin Hodson

11am Morning Worship, St Nicholas', East Challow - Jeff Penfold

1pm Blessing Service, St Nicholas Challow – Rev Miriam Jones

BENEFICE NEWS

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

AN EVENING OF MUSIC AND HOPE: Wheaton Symphony Orchestra: Monday, 18th May, 7:30 PM at St Andrews Church (OX2 6UG)

Join us for an inspirational evening in aid of The Jungle—a "community living room" in Cowley providing radical hospitality to those in need. We are delighted to host the Wheaton College Symphony Orchestra, visiting from the renowned Christian theology college in the US. In a unique collaboration, they will be joined by Oxford rap artist BENZA for a program featuring breathtaking orchestral music, C.S. Lewis reflections, and hymns.

- Suggested Donation: £15
- RSVP/Tickets: victoria.luker@oxfordinitiatives.org

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.

SCHOOLS PRAYER GROUP - Our next meeting is on **Thursday 22nd April** from 4-5pm in St John's Rooms. All are welcome for a cuppa and cake, a time of reflection, and prayer for our local schools, pupils, teachers and other school staff.

NEWSLETTER UPDATE - This is the penultimate newsletter in its current form. From May it will be replaced by a single sheet detailing Benefice services, prayer requests and the lectionary only.

Notices for the May edition of the new monthly St John's Messenger should be received by 23rd April at the latest – send to news@valebenefice.org.uk

Sunday 26th April – CRAFT AND FELLOWSHIP AFTERNOON 2.30-4.30pm

The next session is on the **26th April** and we'll be having a go at quilting. Anyone over 18 is welcome to join us. It's helpful, for catering purposes, if you let Sue Powditch know if you'd like to come - either by email at suepowditch@gmail.com or text on 07833 503674. Also, if anyone is happy to make cakes for our tea at these afternoons then please let me know.

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: Veronica (Vera) Aspinall, John Spindloe

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

All living in: Teal Close, Mallard Way, Mandarin Place, Columbia Way, Princess Gardens (Grove); W&G Industrial Estate (East Challow); The Medway, Ye Olde Housen, Bramley Close (East Hanney)

Prayer request from Christians in Lebanon: "At this dire moment, we continue to ask for prayers from our friends and partners around the world. Let us pray for genuine peace and for innocent civilians who are paying a high price. Pray also for us all as we stand by those affected."

Magnus Fadipe-Eckert: being dedicated this morning, and his family

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR MORNING PRAYER

Mon	Psalms 96,97	Exodus 19	Luke 1.1-25
Tue	Psalms 98,99,100	Exodus 20.1-21	Luke 1.26-38
Wed	Psalms 100	Exodus 24	Luke 1.39-56
Thu <i>St George</i>	Psalms 5,146	Joshua 1.1-9	Ephesians 6.10-20
Fri	Psalms 107	Exodus 28.1-4a,29-38	Luke 2.1-20
Sat <i>St Mark</i>	Psalms 37.23-40,148	Isaiah 62.6-10	Acts 12.25-13.13