

DIARY FOR THE WEEK *Starting on Monday 27th 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	St John's Toddlers Badminton on Wednesdays
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	2pm	Friends on Friday
Sat	8.30am 9.30am	Prayers at Frances Gillott's house 1 st Grove Rainbows
Sun	6.30pm	St John's Senior Youth Group

There is NO mid-week Eucharist at St Nicholas, Challow on Thursday 23rd April

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 Hanney 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

26th April 2026

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Readings selected from:

Acts 2:42-47; Psalm 23; 1 Peter 2:19-25; John 10:1-10

The early church was clearly in a different situation from today, but the heart of their life is the same as ours. "They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers." Was it because of that joyful, generous and God-centred life that "day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved"?

Our Shared Worship

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', East Challow – Rev Miriam Jones

Forthcoming Services

3rd May - Fifth 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 Alec Gill

10.15am Holy Communion, St John's, Grove – Rev Miriam Jones

11am Parish Eucharist, St Nicholas', East Challow - Rev Alec Gill

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: 01235 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.

TODAY - Sunday 26th April – CRAFT AND FELLOWSHIP AFTERNOON 2.30-4.30pm We will 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 then please let me know

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 programme 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 St John's on 10th May. Donations can be made via the card reader (on 10th May only) and Christian Aid envelopes will be available. This year's appeal focuses on urban farming projects in Nairobi, Kenya. Through Christian Aid's partner, Beacon of Hope, women living in urban poverty are being given tools, seeds & training to grow fresh vegetables in small city spaces – food they can cook for their families or sell for income. Thank you for your support.

PASTORAL CARE – There is to be a meeting for anyone interested in joining a Deanery-wide pastoral care team for care homes on Monday 27th April – 11am at Holy Trinity, Charlton. Gill Thompson (Anna Chaplain in the Ridgeway Benefice) will describe her work and pastoral care in care homes and there will be an opportunity for questions and discussion about how the team might be organised.

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

MARIOSIA TRUST – 'Saying Goodbye' service

Saturday 16th May 1pm in Christ Church Cathedral – more information in the May St John's newsletter.

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

PLEASE PRAY FOR...

Health and healing: Margaret D, 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

St John's

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

All living in: Corn Lane, Vestry Close, Churchward Close, Wheat Fields, Straw Acre (Grove); Ickleton Road, Nalder Green (East Challow); Blenheim Orchard, Berry Lane, Morlands (East Hanney)

For: The King and Queen visiting the USA, and Archbishop Sarah Mullally visiting Pope Leo XIV

Those choosing the next Bishop of Oxford

Rosie Westall being blessed this afternoon at Challow, and her family

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR MORNING PRAYER

Mon	Psalm 103	Exodus 32.1-14	Luke 2.41-end
Tue	Psalm 139	Exodus 32.15-34	Luke 3.1-14
Wed	Psalm 135	Exodus 33	Luke 3.13-22
Thu	Psalm 118	Exodus 34.1-10,27-35	Luke 4.1-13
Fri <i>Philip & James</i>	Psalms 139,146	Proverbs 4.10-18	James 1.1-12
Sat	Psalm 34	Exodus 40.17-end	Luke 4.31-37