

DIARY FOR THE WEEK (Starting on Monday 6th May)

Christian Aid Week

Mon	BANK HOLIDAY – BENEFICE OFFICE CLOSED
Tue	10am Tuesday Simply Singing Group, Lower St John's Room 2pm U3A Main Meeting, St John's Church Hall 7pm 2 nd Grove Guides, St John's Church Hall
Wed	9.15am St John's Toddler Group, St John's Church Hall 1pm Wellington Gate Community Meeting, UPPER St John's Room 2pm Ancients' Badminton Group, St John's Church Hall 7pm Konga Fitness Class, St John's Church Hall 8pm Vale Elim Meeting, Lower St John's Room
Thu	9.30am Extend Your Fitness, St John's Church Hall 10am Mid-week Eucharist at St Nicholas, East Challow Ascension Day Service 2pm Bible Group, Lower St John's Room 5.30pm 1 st Grove Brownies, St John's Church Hall 8pm St John's Badminton Group, St John's Church Hall
Fri	2pm U3A Yarn Group, Lower St John's Room 2pm Thanksgiving Service for T/L Gerald Belcher, St John's Church 3pm Reception for T/L Gerald Belcher, St John's Church Hall
Sat	8.30am Prayer Breakfast at Cornerstone Café, Grove 10am Blessing & Thanksgiving, St James Church, Hanney 1pm-5pm Private Party in St John's Church Hall 7.30pm Grove APCM, St John's Church Hall
Sun	12 noon St Nicholas Church, E. Challow APCM in church 2pm Board Games Afternoon, St John's Church Hall 7pm Senior Youth Group, St John's Church Hall

Church services for the Benefice are written on the front of this news sheet.

CONTACT DETAILS

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Benefice Office: Grove Parish Church, Main Street, Grove, OX12 7LQ.

Open: Mon–Fri. 10–12 noon. Tel. 01235 771479. Email: office@valebenefice.org.uk

VALE BENEFICE NEWSLETTER



5th May 2024

6th Sunday of Easter

Readings selected from:

Psalms 98; 1 John 5:1-6; Acts 10:44-48; John 15:9-17

This Sunday is marked in many country parishes as Rogation Sunday when we ask for God's blessing on local and global agriculture. We're not very good at working in harmony with God, are we? Let's pray for His help. Thursday is Ascension Day, when we recall Jesus returning to be with God the Father and the disciples waiting for the Holy Spirit to come as Jesus had promised. So let us also pray that the Spirit will come to our churches to empower our love and witness.

Our Shared Worship

Sunday 5th May

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 Geoff Maughan
10.15am Holy Communion, St John's, Grove - Rev Alec Gill (with Street Pastors)
11am Parish Eucharist, St Nicholas', East Challow – Rev Robin Lapwood

Thursday 9th May (Ascension Day)

10am Parish Eucharist, St Nicholas, E. Challow

Upcoming Services

Sunday 12th May

8am Holy Communion, St John's, Grove - Rev Alec Gill
9am Morning Service, St James', Denchworth
9.30am Parish Eucharist, St James', Hanney - Rev Alec Gill
10.15am Morning Worship, St John's, Grove – Sarah Shackleton
11am Parish Eucharist (with Baptism), St Nicholas', East Challow - Rev Alec Gill

REMINDERS:

FRIENDS ON FRIDAY GROUP meeting THIS Friday 3rd May (2pm)
in St John's Church Hall.

ASCENSION DAY SERVICE at St Nicholas Church, E. Challow, on Thursday 9th May at 10am.

ST JOHN'S CHURCH 6pm SERVICES: There will be no evening service at St. John's on the 5th & 12th May but we hope to resume on the 19th May. Many thanks. Pete.

GROVE (St John's Church) APCM on Saturday 11th May (7.30pm) in church hall.

CHALLOW (St Nicholas Church) APCM on Sunday 12th May (12 noon) in church.

GROVE (St John's Church) PCC is on Tuesday 14th May at Cornerstone, Grove.

CHALLOW (St Nicholas Church) PCC We prepared for our APCM, reflected on our current service pattern, discussed our work within the local community and updated on the current situation with the vacancy.

DENCHWORTH (St James Church) APCM & PCC We thanked those who have stepped down from their roles on the PCC, for their many years of dedicated service to the church. We discussed church finances, fabric & buildings and the vacancy.

ST JOHN'S CHURCH Nomination Forms for election of "Church Wardens" & "PCC Members" are available on the Welcome Table in the church foyer. Please put your completed forms in the St John's Rooms post box (on the side of the building).

ST JOHN'S Progress on Vacancy Section 11 Meeting has been held and timetable for recruitment agreed. Draft profile has been produced for review.

VALE BENEFICE Regular INTERREGNUM PRAYERS Wednesdays (8.30pm – 8.45pm) Join the Zoom Meeting. Contact Sarah Shackleton or the Benefice Office for the link and details. Starting tonight (Wednesday 1st May). All Welcome.

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 12th-19th May St John's, Grove is celebrating Christian Aid Week by having "offering envelopes" in church on 12th and 19th May. We are collecting donations specifically for Christian Aid's Emergency Fund Appeal to support emergencies which may not make the news headlines. Please pray & consider whether this is a cause that you could support. If you have any questions about how Christian Aid work in emergencies, please ask Johanna Fadipe. Many thanks, Johanna.

ST JOHN'S CHURCH FETE 2024 (29th June 2-4pm) as part of St John's Patronal Festival. Please save tins, jars & bottles of food, drink, toiletries for the tombola, nearly new toys, books, bric a brac & raffle prizes etc. Please grow plants for our plant stall & advise me if any of your family or friends can do face painting. **We still have the need for more volunteers for stalls & people to help set up gazebos in the morning.** Please speak with Nicky at the end of the service or email her on;

Nicky.Gibbard@Valebenefice.org.uk Many thanks everyone for your support.

GROVE CHURCH FETE DONATIONS: Please do not leave donations items in the church foyer. We need to keep that area clear & tidy for funerals, weddings & other functions. Please leave donated items in the **St John's Rooms building** foyer (behind the line of chairs for Health & Safety reasons) Thank you very much. 😊

THE THANKSGIVING SERVICE for T/L GERALD BELCHER will be held at St John's Church, Grove on Friday 10th May at 2pm. There will be a reception in the church hall afterwards if you'd like to stay a while.

THE FUNERAL SERVICE for T/L JOHN HEDGES will be held at St John's Church, Grove on Tuesday 14th May at 10am. There will be a reception in the hall afterwards from 11am – 1pm. **If you are able to help** with serving teas, coffees & juices during the reception or can help with the hall "set up" &/or "clear down" after the reception, please could you get in touch with the Benefice Office on 01235 771479 / office@valebenefice.org.uk Thank you.

WOMEN'S SOCIAL GROUP Sunday 5th May (3pm) in the Lower St John's Room
MARIPOSA TRUST "Saying Goodbye Service" Baby loss remembrance & support service. 18th May (1pm), in Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford.

ART COMPETITION (for Grove & Wantage Extravaganza) Grove Parish Council will sponsor an Art competition at this event to commemorate the 80th anniversary of D Day (6th June 1944), with prizes up to £500 in total. See posters in the St John's church hall for details. Entries to Grove Parish Council by 12 noon (Friday 31st May).

GroW EVENTS: To book an event email: contact@growfamilies.co.uk

Parenting Course: Starts 17.6.2024 (for 5 weeks). 7.30pm in Lower St John's Room.

Baby Massage: Starts 15.5.2024 (for 5 weeks). 10.30am in Lower St John's Room.

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

NEWSLETTER CONTENT: news@valebenefice.org.uk Items for newsletter inclusion will be put in for 2 weeks, Please re-send your content by 10pm on Tuesdays if you wish your notice to go into the newsletter again. Thank you.

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR MORNING PRAYER

Mon	Psalm 65,67	Numbers 16.1-35	Luke 6.27-38
Tue	Psalm 126,127	Numbers 16.36-end	Luke 6.39-end
Wed	Psalm 132,133	Numbers 17.1-11	Luke 7.1-10
Thu	Psalm 110,150	Isaiah 52.7-end	Hebrews 7.11-end
Fri	Psalm 20,81	Numbers 20.1-13	Luke 7.11-17
Sat	Psalm 21,47	Numbers 21.4-9	Luke 7.18-35

PLEASE PRAY FOR....

Health & healing (short term): Wendy Rutterford and Lucille Vaughan

Health & healing (long term): Anne Venners, Gemma Gill, Bob Bulpitt, John Butter, Ari Psaras, Laura Challis, Ursula Geer & Richard Hummerston

Friends & Family mourning: Gerald Belcher, John Hedges, John Hudson and Gabriella-Angel Kahlari

Those with their Banns of marriage readings in the Vale Benefice Churches

Those being "Blessed" & "Baptised" in the Vale Benefice Churches

Those living in Challow Road in East Challow; Summertown in East Hanney; Fairfield Close, Farm End and School Lane in Grove. Also, for Grove CE School