

PLEASE PRAY FOR....

Health & healing (short term): Lucille Vaughan, John Hedges and John Hudson.

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

Friends & Family mourning: Gabriella-Angel Kahlari, Barry Herman, Sue Aitken and Kate & Ronald Dandridge.

Those living in Wayland Road, Cane Lane and Vicarage Close in Grove; Circourt Road in Denchworth; Field Gardens and St Nicholas School in East Challow.

DIARY FOR THE WEEK (Starting on Mon 25th March) – **Holy Week**

Mon	10am	GroW Toddler Group, St John's Church Hall
	10am	U3A Science Group, Lower St John's Room
	12.45pm	GroW Babies Group, St John's Church Hall
	7pm	1 st Grove Guides, St John's Church Hall
	7.30pm	Evening Communion, St James Church, W. Hanney
	7.30pm	GroW AGM, Lower St John's Room
Tue	9.30am	Make & Bake at Cornerstone, Grove
	10am	Tuesday Simply Singing Group, Lower St John's Room
	4pm	Red River Archaeology Group, St John's Church Hall
	1.15pm	St John's Academy School Official Opening.
	6.30pm	Wantage Chess Club, St John's Rooms
	5pm	Holy Communion, St James Church, Denchworth
	7pm	2 nd Grove Guides, St John's Church Hall
Wed	9.15am	St John's Toddler Group, St John's Church Hall
	9.30am	St Nicholas School Easter Service in church, E. Challow
	2pm	Ancients' Badminton Group, St John's Church Hall
	7pm	Konga Fitness Class, St John's Church Hall
	7.30pm	Evening Communion, St Nicholas Church, E. Challow
	8pm	Vale Elim Church Meeting, Lower St John's Room
Thu	9.15am	Grove CE School Easter Service, St John's Church & Hall
	5.30pm	1 st Grove Brownies, St John's Church Hall
	7.30pm	Evening Communion, St John's Church, Grove
Fri	10am	Good Friday Reflection, St James Church, W. Hanney
	12noon	Good Friday Reflection, St Nicholas Church, E. Challow
	2pm	Good Friday Reflection, St John's Church, Grove
	3pm	Good Friday All Age Creative Event, St John's Hall
Sat	8.30am	Morning Prayer at Frances Gillott's house, Grove
Sun		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**



24th March 2024 (Palm Sunday)

Readings selected from:

Isaiah 50.4-9a; Psalm 31.9-16; Philippians 2.5-11; Mark 11.1-11

Today every continent is ravaged by godlessness; in every continent, from Gaza to Haiti, from Ukraine to Sudan, people cry out their God-forsakenness. This week we walk with Christ into the darkest darkness and wonder where God is in our world. The message of Good Friday is that he is here, hanging in the darkness of God-forsakenness, body broken for broken world. He has not, he will not abandon the world he loves.

Our Shared Worship

Sunday 24th March – Palm Sunday

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

9am Holy Communion, St James', Denchworth - Rev Robin Lapwood

9.30am Parish Eucharist, St James', Hanney - Rev Alec Gill

10.15am Morning Worship, St John's, Grove - Sue Powditch (LLM)

11am Parish Eucharist, St Nicholas', East Challow - Rev Preb Jane Haslam

6pm Evening Worship, St John's, Grove

Upcoming Services – Holy Week

7.30pm - Monday 25th March - Holy Communion at St James', Hanney

5pm - Tuesday 26th March - Holy Communion at St James', Denchworth

7.30pm - Wednesday 27th March - Holy Communion at St Nicholas', East Challow

7.30pm - Maundy Thursday 28th March - Holy Communion at St John's, Grove

Friday 29th March Good Friday

10am - Good Friday Reflection at St James', Hanney

12 noon - Good Friday Reflection at St Nicholas', East Challow

2pm - Good Friday Reflection at St John's, Grove

Sunday 31st March – 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 Velma Oxley

10.15am Easter Communion, St John's, Grove - Rev Alec Gill

11am Parish Eucharist, St Nicholas', East Challow

6pm No service, St John's, Grove

BENEFICE NEWS

REMINDERS:

EARTH DAY SWAP: Sustainable Wantage: Sat 20th April at The Beacon, Wantage.
PRAYERFUL LISTENING TO GOD 9:40am-10am, Sundays, in the St John's rooms.

NO MID-WEEK EUCHARISTS at **St Nicholas, E. Challow** on Thursday 28th March & 11th April AND at **St James, W. Hanney** on Tuesday 26th March.

VALE BENEFICE NEWSLETTER There will be no newsletter on 14th April 2024.

VALE BENEFICE OFFICE will be closed on certain days during the 2 weeks after Easter (Easter holidays). Please contact Andrea in advance to make an appointment if you need to visit the office. Many thanks.

ST JOHN'S CHURCH Front Door lock has been changed. If you have an old key, please pass it to the Benefice Office. Thank you.

ST JOHN'S PCC heard reports from the mission, environmental, GROW, children & youth sub-committees, were given an update on the vacancy by our parish reps and planned our APCM for 11th May.

Vale Benefice Event: GOOD FRIDAY (St John's Church) There will be a Devotional Service in church from 2pm - 3pm and an **All-Age Creative Event** in the church hall (3pm - 4pm). All Welcome to join in the activities to create an Easter Garden (refreshments available). **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:** for this event please. If you have any ideas for the "Easter Garden" related creative activities or can help with running them, setting up/clearing away or serving refreshments & Hot Cross Buns, please contact Sarah Shackleton: SarahLLM@valebenefice.org.uk / Rev Alec Gill: vicaralec@valebenefice.org.uk Many thanks for your help with this event.

GOOD FRIDAY OPEN AIR SERVICE As usual this service will be held at 11am on the green at the bottom of Vale Avenue (if wet, we will meet in the Methodist Church). Followed by tea, coffee and hot cross buns. All welcome.

EASTER FLOWERS (St John's Church) Thank you to the Flower team who will be creating Easter Flower arrangements in church. There is a basket at the back of church for donations towards this for those who would like to contribute. Thank you.

CORNERSTONE NEWS Email: office@cornerstonegrove.org.uk Tel: 772280

Easter is fast approaching and we have a good selection of Easter cards, Divine Chocolate Easter eggs as well as books for both adults and children.

Easter opening hours: We shall be closed on Good Friday and Easter Monday but open as usual on Saturday 30th March. The **monthly hot meal special** will be served on Wednesday 27th March. Please book in advance so we know how many to cater for.

Outside catering: We are able to supply outside catering for your events, please contact us for more information. Remember we are a drop-off point for both the

Wantage and Grove Foodbank and the **Children's clothes bank**.

LEISURE NEEDS SURVEY Vale of White Horse District Council is inviting your comments on a Playing Pitch Strategy & a Leisure Facilities Strategy, giving feedback about what they need to protect, enhance, & provide. To complete your views, please go to <https://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/LeisurePitchVale>, the deadline is 17th April.

A PASSION PLAY: "Jesus: dead or alive. What do you think?" Thursday 28th March. Wantage Baptist Church. Doors open at 7pm for a 7.45pm performance. Tickets from the King's Centre or www.wantagecc.org.uk/easter

ST JOHN'S CHURCH PROFILE: Web link for questionnaire. We would like everyone who attends St John's Church to fill in a questionnaire. The information you provide will help us (your church representatives) build an accurate current picture of the church for our profile. The profile will be used to advertise the church to applicants during the recruitment process for our new vicar. We would value hearing from everyone, between the ages of 10 to 110 years! In order to collate the information more easily (and to reduce our printing!) this can be done online using the following link; <https://forms.office.com/e/txEvTWUhhW>. However, if you cannot do this online, please take a paper copy from the Welcome table in the church foyer and return completed ones to the box in the same area. **Deadline: 31st March.** There will be some **printed "links"** available to take away to do online (in the church foyer) & **QR codes** around the hall to use if needed. We greatly value your participation in this stage of the process.

PARISH AUDIT WORKSHOPS (St John's) Once the questionnaires have been submitted, please sign up to attend **one** of the Parish Audit Workshops available (sign up sheets on the noticeboard in the Church Hall). All workshops are the same so you only need to attend one. These will be in the Lower St John's Room on the following; Monday 15th April (8pm – 9.30pm), Tuesday 16th April (2pm -3.30pm), Monday 22nd April (8pm – 9.30pm) Friday 26th April (8pm-9.30pm). Many thanks.

ST JOHN'S CHURCH ELECTORAL ROLL UPDATE 2024: There are forms on the Welcome table in the church foyer. If you would like to join, amend or remove yourself from the electoral roll, please complete one and return to the office/leave in post box.

WANTAGE PARISH CHURCH Open Air Easter Services: Good Friday: 29.3.2024 Walk with Wantage & Grove Church Partnership. Meet 10:30am in Kingsgrove Square, finish: 1pm in Marketplace for hot cross buns!

OLD BATTERIES: St John's has some (not quite fully used up) AA (1.5v) alkaline batteries if anyone wants them for remote controls etc at home. Contact the Office.

PRAYER REQUESTS: Please pray that Chris Collins will settle in quickly to his new home in Abingdon. If anyone has specific prayer requests, please email confidentially to; prayer@valebenefice.org.uk

GroW AGM: 25th March (7.30pm) in the Lower St John's Room, Grove.

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.

Pediatric 1st Aid Course: 4.5.2024. 10am in St John's Church Hall.

Save a baby's life workshop: 27.3.2024. 1pm in Old Mill Hall, Grove.

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR MORNING PRAYER

Mon	Psalm 41	Lamentations 1.1-12a	Luke 22.1-23
Tue	Psalm 27	Lamentations 3.1-18	Luke 22.24-53
Wed	Psalm 102	Jeremiah 11.18-20	Luke 22.54-end
Thu	Psalm 42,42	Leviticus 16.2-24	Luke 23.1-25
Fri	Psalm 69	Genesis 22.1-18	Hebrews 10.1-10
Sat	Psalm 142	Hosea 6.1-16	John 2.18-22