

Learning together with courage and kindness

'For the good of all' 1 Corinthians 12



St James News

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15th March 2024

WHAT'S IN THIS ISSUE?

- Staffing Update
- Reminders
- Helping Hands
- British Science Week
- Learning celebration
- Dates for the diary

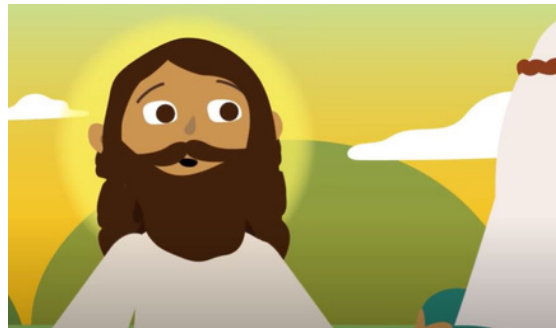
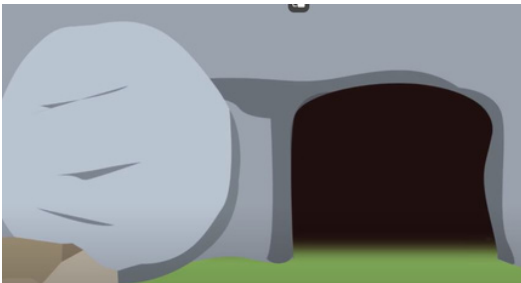
Dear St James Families,

**MOMENTS
MATTER,
ATTENDANCE
COUNTS.**

Attendance this week: 95.9%

School & Trust target: 96%

This week in Collective Worship we have started thinking more about Easter and what it means to Christians. We focused on the importance of the resurrection of Jesus and why this is so important to Christians. We also talked about the symbolism behind the egg, chocolate or otherwise, of new beginnings. This of course fits perfectly with our values of community, courage and kindness and ties in with the importance of friendship, with St James being there to support Jesus at his most challenging time!



Staffing update:

We are delighted to share that Mrs Willis is expecting a baby at the end of July. She will be teaching Year 1 till the end of the year and then we will be advertising for maternity cover for the following year.

We also have a change in Year 3 with Mrs Ash currently doing some teaching and our brilliant Ms Price, who is currently undergoing her teaching qualification, now part of the Year 3 team. Mrs Baker remains in school but is taking on a different role that supports her passion and development into teaching pupils with particular SEND needs.

Reminders:

- **New menu on DOJO - Please remember to order school dinners on parentmail 2 weeks before - many thanks!**
- **No dogs on site - some of the children are very nervous of dogs and we are not able to have dogs come past the path on the edge of the staff carpark.**

Helping Hands:



A massive well done and thank you to the amazing Helping Hands team who organised such a brilliant Easter event! It was so lovely to see the children having such a lovely time enjoying looking for bunny paw prints, using token to play games and enter competitions, such as the penalty shout out and decorate biscuits and making Easter decorations. As well as enjoying some fantastic cakes and biscuits! Thank you to the church as well who came and ran some games and thank you to everyone who came and supported it, making it such a wonderful event! I look forward to letting you know the grand total this coming week!



British Science Week:

This week has been British Science Week and we have been celebrating this in school! A massive thank you to our Foundation Governor Chris Palmer, who came into school for the afternoon and shared with us what he did as a working Scientist. The children were fascinated and asked some really good questions, which fits in brilliantly with this term's curriculum driver of curiosity.

There are still events happening over the weekend and an activity pack that can be downloaded for free with some great science ideas to try at home:

<https://www.britishtime.org/activity-packs/>



Celebration Collective Worship:

This week we talked about Comic Relief and why we were wearing red. Inkpen then stood up and shared their Headteachers award for their brilliant learning from their farm trip - they told us all about the different animals they loved seeing - well done Reception!









We were also treated to a beautiful singing performance from Millie, followed by all our wonderful out of lesson learning and achievements the pupils wanted to share out of school. This week we celebrated Cub of the week, marshal arts grading, some brilliant art work, some great writing and lots of brilliant maths practice.



Key Dates for the Diary

March 2024

<p>16th March</p> 	<p>Helping Hands Family Easter Event More details to follow from Helping Hands</p>
<p>W/C 18th</p>  	<p>Scholastic Book Fair We will have the Scholastic Book Fair in school all this week. Children will have the opportunity to look round in their classes. The book fair will then be available for parents to walk round with their children and purchase books after school. This is a great way to buy books and raise funds for the school.</p>
<p>20th March</p> 	<p>Easter Service 10am St James Church We would love parents to join us for our Easter Service. Inkpen Class will be performing, alongside some school readers and our choir.</p> <p>Nursery (Donaldson Class) afternoon closure due to staff training</p>
<p>27th March</p> 	<p>Science Fair Final at Williams F1 The winners of our Science Fair will be going to Williams F1 to join the science competition winners from other schools.</p> <p>Reception Stay and Play 8.45 - 9.30 More details to follow</p>
<p>28th March</p> 	<p>Last day of term School ends at 12.30pm after lunch</p>

This week after school!

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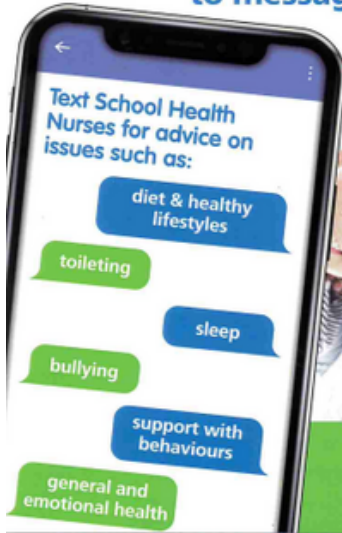
£8.99

EVERY BOOK YOU BUY EARNS FREE BOOKS FOR OUR SCHOOL

ParentLine 5-11 years

New School Health Nursing messaging service for parents and carers of children 5-11 years attending a state school in Oxfordshire

Text **07312 263227**
to message a school health nurse



Or scan QR code here to start a chat



NHS

Who are you bringing to school today?

If your child seems under the weather or has been poorly, it can be difficult to know whether they should still attend school. **Healthier Together** can help you find the guidance you're looking for.

Our website and app – developed by local healthcare professionals – is packed with information, tips and advice for parents, including recommended recovery times from common childhood conditions.

Find us online at: oxfordshire-healthiertogether.nhs.uk

Scan the QR code with your smartphone today, then bookmark the page for a handy reference source the next time your child is unwell.

Healthier Together

The Royal British Legion, East Hanney



March

17th Easter Special - double money over 18s from 8pm

24th Family Bingo 6.30pm

Great prizes!

30th Music Quiz from 7.30pm

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: Barry Herman, Sue Aitken and Kate & Ronald Dandridge

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

DIARY FOR THE WEEK (Starting on Mon 18th March)

Table with 3 columns: Day, Time, and Event. Rows include Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Sat, and Sun with various church and community activities.

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

CONTACT DETAILS

Associate Vicar: Rev Alec Gill: Tel. 07739563894.

Email: vicaralec@valebenefice.org.uk

Licensed Lay Minister: Sue Powditch: Tel. 01235 768141

Email: lm@valebenefice.org.uk

Licensed Lay Minister: Sarah Shackleton: Tel. 07587776609

Email: SarahLLM@valebenefice.org.uk

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

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

BENEFICE NEWS

REMINDERS:

ST JOHN'S TEA PARTY at Cornerstone. Saturday 16th March (2pm-3pm). **BOARD GAMES AFTERNOON** St John's Church Hall (2 pm-5 pm). 17th March. **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.

GOOD FRIDAY at 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.

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.

ST JOHN'S CHURCH PROFILE: Web link for questionnaire. As mentioned last Sunday, we would like you all to fill in a questionnaire in order to provide an accurate picture of our church at the moment. The information you provide will help us (your church representatives) build an accurate picture of the church for our profile. The profile will subsequently be used to advertise the church to prospective applicants during the recruitment process for our new vicar. We would value hearing from everyone, including our young people, so are hopeful that everyone age 10-110 will fill one out! In order to collate the information more easily (and to reduce our printing!) we would love this to be done online if possible using this link: <https://forms.office.com/e/tXEvTWUjHw>. There is no requirement to log in or to use your email address, so responses are anonymous. If you would like a paper copy there are some in the church foyer for you to take away and there will be a box in the foyer to return them to. **Deadline is 31st March.** There will be some printed "links" for people to take away to do online & QR codes around the hall to use if needed. We greatly value your participation in this stage of the process., Rachel, Colin & Frances.

GROVE CHURCH LENT COURSE Last one on Thursday 21st March (2pm-3.30pm) in the Lower St John's Room. All Benefice welcome.

BENEFICE LENT COURSE in East Challow. Last one on Wednesday 20th March (7:30pm) at Jeff and Jenny Penfold's house. All welcome.

WANTAGE PARISH CHURCH Open Air Easter Services: Palm Sunday: 24.3.2024 (10am), Wantage Marketplace. Wantage Churches come together for a short Service, including procession with donkey and Wantage Silver Band. **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!

LITTLE PEOPLE need a volunteer who could assist with delivering items to families in need. Needs own transport availability in the daytime. Contact the Office. Thank you.

VALE BENEFICE NEWSLETTER



17th March 2024
Fifth Sunday of Lent

Readings selected from:

Psalm 51.1-13; Psalm 119.9-16; Jeremiah 31.31-34; Hebrews 5.5-10; John 12.20-33

Sunday, sometimes called Passion Sunday, marks the point when we begin to focus in on what Jesus calls "the hour." For him it seems that Greeks (Gentiles) seeking him was the sign that his long-expected walk to the cross was to start. That will be the moment of his glory and as he puts it, that "I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." For us it's a time for looking at our own walk of faith: "Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also." A challenge and an encouragement.

Our Shared Worship

Sunday 17th March

- 8am Holy Communion, St Johns, 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
- 11am Parish Eucharist, St Nicholas, East Challow - Rev Nicholas Cheeseman
- 6pm Evening Worship, St John's, Grove

Upcoming Services

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

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.

The **monthly hot meal special** will be served on Wednesday 27th March. Please do 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**.

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.

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

POP-UP SNOWDROPS "IN-THE-GREEN" SALE on Saturday 16th March (10-15am - 11-30am). West hendred village hall. In aid of west hendred village hall. 4 varieties of snowdrops and coffee available. Hugh and Annabel Rees hugh@citidata.co.uk

ST JOHN'S CHURCH FETE 2024 - 29.6.2024 - Save the date! Look out soon for more news regarding this, with an opportunity to sign up and get involved.

Grow: SAVE A BABY'S LIFE WORKSHOP: Wednesday 27th March (1-2pm), Old Mill Hall, Grove. Run by the Royal Lifesaving Society UK. Teaching basic emergency skills to anyone who cares for a baby. **You will learn:** Infant Life Support (CPR), Infant Choking (diagnosis and treatment) and Infant Drowning (diagnosis and treatment) **Book your free place online at www.growfamilies.co.uk**

or email contact@growfamilies.co.uk

ELMBROOK COURT: Our next Friendship Cafe is on Monday 25th March from 10am - 12pm. Chloe's Farm are visiting so that you can meet & greet some of the animals that she looks after. All her animals are rescues and she runs it through gifts and charitable donations. If you would like to get up close and personal with some very friendly animals, please do come along. clientrelations.ec@oaklandcare.com

NEWSLETTER CONTENT: news@valebenefice.org.uk Items for newsletter inclusion will be put in for 2 weeks, then removed to allow space for other items. If you wish your notice to go into the newsletter again, please email it in again by 10pm on Tuesdays news@valebenefice.org.uk Many thanks,

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

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR MORNING PRAYER

Table with 4 columns: Day, Psalm, Exodus, and Hebrews. Rows include Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, and Sat with corresponding scripture references.

Get Outdoors!
FAMILY FUN at HILL END this Easter!



TUESDAY 9 APRIL 10am - 2pm
Orienteering * maps * trails * games *Bring your own picnic!



WEDNESDAY 10 APRIL & THURSDAY 11 APRIL 10am - 2pm *BBQ!
Spring crafts * pond dipping * make a bug hotel * willow weaving *campfire

BOOK YOUR
TICKETS ONLINE



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 www.hill-end.org/activities/upcoming-events

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EASTER HOLIDAY CAMP



LAUNCHING NEAR YOU

8th April - 12th April

Every day between 8.30 am and 4.30 pm

Didcot Camp

Willowcroft Community School

Maidenhead

All Saints Junior School

Rochester

Kingfisher Primary School (Chatham)

Book online

Now with two booking options

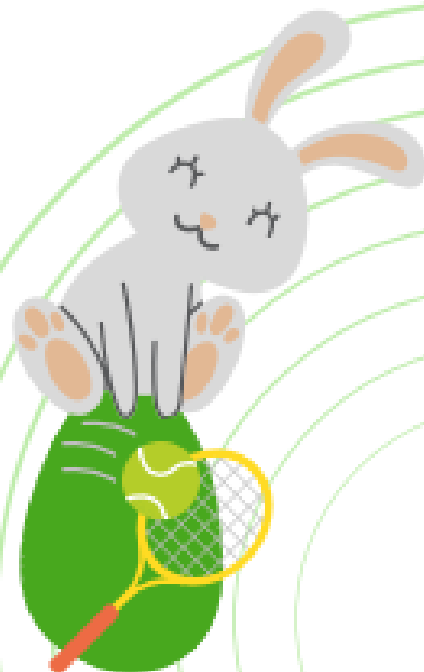
Daily bookings for £50 per day

OR

Book the whole week for just £45 per day

Sibling Discount is available for those booking single days!

Easter Holidays Tennis Course



Monday 1st - Friday 5th April

 **Kingston Bagpuize with
Southmoor Tennis Club**

For ages 4 - 16

Half Day:

09:00 - 12:00 £135

or 12:30 - 15:30 £135

Full Day (ages 6 - 16):

09:00 - 15:30 £243

Short Course (ages 4 - 7):

09:00 - 11:00 £90

or 12:30 - 12:30 £90



**Childcare Vouchers
Accepted**

for more information please contact:



info@exceltennis.co.uk

www.exceltennisacademy.co.uk

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For ages 3-14 years old

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SPORTS COACHING

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2nd - 5th April & 8th - 12th April

St John's Primary School, Stanley Hall Road, Grove OX12 0GR



Our sports camp helps children improve their skills in a variety of fun and exciting sports/games throughout the week such as Dodgeball, Football, Basketball, Tennis, Badminton and much more!

Our activities camp will help spark your child's creativity, promote wellbeing, as well as developing their social and essential skills in a range of different topics, from building to baking, from crafts to gardening.



MAIN EVENT DAYS
Wednesday
3rd & 10th April
NERF WARS
INCLUDED

Full Day: 9am-3.30pm - £25

Half Day: 9am-1pm or 11.30am-3.30pm - £20

8am 'Early Bird' (£10)

4.30pm 'Added Time' (£10)

Childcare Vouchers Accepted

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OR BOOK ONLINE: www.serious4sport.co.uk