



PARISH NEWSLETTER MAY 2019

SERVICES FOR MAY 2019

Sunday 5th May *Easter 3*

9.00 am BCP Holy Communion (Goosey)
10.15 am Parish Communion (Stanford)

Sunday 12th May *Easter 4*

9.00 am BCP Holy Communion (Hatford)
10.15am Morning Worship (Stanford)

Sunday 19th May *Easter 5*

9.00 am BCP Holy Communion (Stanford)
10.15 am Parish Communion (Stanford)
6.00 pm Evening Prayer at Hatford

Sunday 26th May *Easter 6*

10.15 am Parish Communion (Stanford)
4.00 pm Messy Church in the
 Village Hall

Sunday 2nd June *Easter 7*

9.00 am BCP Holy Communion (Goosey)
10.15 am Parish Communion (Stanford)

From the Registers

Funeral Service

Wednesday 27th March

Popsie Lucas

WHO'S WHO IN THE PARISH?

Vicar	The Revd Paul Eddy	710267
Wardens		
	Margaret Williams	710254
	Nigel Archer	718163
Verger	Mrs Susan Mayall	

Open House – Most Saturdays St Denys Church is open between 10 am and noon for coffee and tea, cake and chat. You'll find a warm and friendly welcome.

Baptisms, Thanksgivings and Weddings - please contact the Vicar on 710267.

St. Denys Kids 1st and 3rd Sundays during term time, when during the main Parish Communion Service the children go to the Village Hall.

VICAR APPOINTMENTS -*The Vicar is always pleased to meet with any parishioner in need. Appointments ensure quality and/or priority time can be offered. To make an appointment, please call 01367 710267.*

Vicar Writes

As I wrote this piece for May's newsletter, it is the morning after the tragic fire at Notre-Dame, Paris and I note an incredible picture taken by a Reuter's photographer (see below).

Hope amid the rubble: surrounded by damage, devastation and the broken hearts of a nation, a cross remains standing and unscathed in the cathedral.



What a symbol for Holy Week. On Good Friday we remembered how Christ on the cross was entering the mess, pain and suffering of humanity - coming alongside us in the heat of our suffering, in the heart of our darkness, in the rubble of our shattered aspirations.

Last month, in Paris, in the blackest night, in the fiery furnace, as countless numbers stood and wept, the cross still stood. And so too in our darkest times, in our deepest trials, as we weep in perplexity and pain, the cross still stands for us also.

This is no absent God offering abstract algorithms to account for the human condition. This is a God who in Christ comes to us, enters into the pain and suffering of our humanity and tells us, gently, that while we may not understand all that life throws at us, He is here with us.

And while the great schemes of human architecture may, even for many generations, rise proudly into the sky displaying human hopes and aspirations, ultimately each in its time will fall. The story of Babel will be

repeated in an endless cycle until we learn that there is something bigger that matters more.

What is the most important thing in life? Our plans? Our buildings? Our grand ambitions? Or the persistent call of a loving God who comes to us in Christ, suffers and dies with us and says, "*Come... Come and find life in all its fulness. Die to self and live life to the full. Set aside your human dreams and aspirations and be reconciled to me so that you may flourish as you were intended to.*"

See the cross in Notre Dame. See its presence amid the rubble of human beauty as a picture of our earthly condition. All our dreams and hopes will ultimately crumble and collapse too, the inevitable result of our natural sin and selfishness. But God does not leave us in the mess in which we find ourselves. He comes, surprisingly, unexpectedly, humbly, challengingly, in a cross, and says, "*Turn around. Wake up. Arise from the futile pursuit of what will turn to dust and find what you were made for truly.*"

Look to the cross.

Yours **Revd Paul Eddy** Vicar

Vandalism in the Village



Like the majority of Stanford residents, the Parish Council is extremely disappointed and frustrated to have discovered a number of our newly planted fruit trees had been uprooted, just to burn the tree stakes. There is no excuse for this criminal damage to a community asset. Volunteers now have to replant and restake the trees, incurring additional unnecessary expense, all because of the selfish actions of five youths during the evening of Wednesday 17 April.

The matter has been reported to the police. If you should witness any acts of vandalism, given the lengthy delays to get through to 101, worth making it either via 101 or via the "Report" section of <https://www.thamesvalley.police.uk>

Hedgehog Release

We will shortly be releasing three hedgehogs back into Stanford in the Vale.

These three little animals were found here late in 2018, still juveniles, very thin and underweight. They would not have survived through the winter.

They are now all very plump and healthy! If you see them in your gardens, water in a saucer would be very welcome. And if you want to feed them, cat or dog food or re-hydrated mealworms are best. Please **no** greens, bread or milk or scraps from the table.

Their preferred diet is earthworms, slugs and beetles. Many thanks Neil & Janet Thompson

Stanford in the Vale, Repair Cafe

On Tuesday 16th April we had the first meeting to discuss the formation of a **REPAIR CAFÉ** in the Village **COFFEE SHOP**. The idea is that the Café will be set up in the Coffee Shop to endeavour to repair household and electrical equipment very cheaply for anyone in the village.

A number of 'repairer' volunteers came to the meeting together with two members of the Wantage Repair Café, who gave us some valuable information on how to set up the Repair Café. We aim to open the Repair Café for the first time, for a couple of hours on a Saturday afternoon in the Coffee Shop; probably beginning at the end of June. The idea is that people can bring along their broken items such as toasters, table lamps, garden shears for sharpening etc. Depending on the success we can then decide how often we should regularly open. More information will be forthcoming nearer the time

The Repair Café will be part of the Oxfordshire "Community Action Groups".

For more information please contact Derek Sayers email: reco@clara.co.uk or 'phone 710283

VILLAGE WHEELCHAIR

Is mobility a problem for you or a family member? Does it stop you from getting out and about and making the most of the Spring and Summer days? If so, and you live in the village, don't forget that we have a wheelchair available for loan, free of charge. It is also available for day trips, hospital appointments and short term mobility problems. **Contact 01367 710 724**

Scramblers Thursday 2nd and 16th May
9.00-10.30 In the Church.
All toddlers and carers welcome

Over 50's Keep Fit class Thursdays 10am-11am
Stanford in the Vale Village Hall
£5 per session

**Saturday 4th May Stanford Village Hall
Plant Sale 10.00-12.00**

The Gardening Club is hosting a Plant Sale. Refreshments (including cakes & biscuits), a Raffle & a Tombola and a book stall. A wide variety of seedlings and larger plants will be on offer. Coffee and tea available and plenty of space to sit down and chat to others. You are warmly invited to join us. More information from Rosemary Packer 01367 710445.

AND

Art Market - Stanford Art Group

Art cards at less than high street prices and small art works of various kinds as well as art materials at very reduced prices. Members of the Club will be on hand to answer questions about the Stanford Art Group's activities. This is a shared event with the Stanford Gardening Club

**AGE UK OXFORDSHIRE
Information Drop-Ins**

Ann Collins, *Information Worker* from Age UK Oxfordshire, will be visiting Stanford Coffee Shop, on the 2nd Wednesday of each month, when she will be happy to help you with your enquiries. Her next visit will be on **Wednesday 8th May**, from 10.00am until 12.00am so why not pop in to say 'hello' and find out what services Age UK can offer.

BIG KNIT

If you have been wondering what the Big Knit is all about, now is your opportunity to find out! At the next Information Day, some of Stanford's knitters will be at the Coffee Shop demonstrating the simplicity of knitting the small hats to go on Innocent Smoothie bottles which, in turn, raise 25p per hat for the Age UK Oxfordshire funds. We welcome any new knitters and also, any donations of wool oddments you may have. We look forward to seeing you.
Further information 01367 710724

**Artweeks 2019 Showcases Stanford
in the Vale Artists**

The Oxfordshire Artweeks in May is in its 27th year featuring a huge variety of media; painting, photography, textiles, sculpture, ceramics, furniture, glass, mosaics, jewellery, and much more throughout Oxfordshire. This is a fantastic opportunity to meet the artists, to talk about their work and buy unique pieces. Entry to all these exhibitions is free and provides a way to enjoy visual displays in a relaxed environment with direct access to the artists.

From 11-19 May, Stanford in the Vale is hosting two Artweeks locations featuring local artists and their creative work. The Garden Studio offers a beautiful

garden setting for hand-built pottery, collage art, handmade jewellery, glass art and bespoke furniture. Featuring the creations of **Noriko Macfarlane, Kerry Houghton, Chrissy Morton and Jamie Macfarlane. The Garden Studio is open every day from 11 to 19 May from 11am to 6pm 53 High Street - (195 in the Artweeks Guide)**

Anne Mills is showing her stunning and imaginative digital art as well as her artisan skills in the form of beautifully hand-crafted wooden bellows featuring local content. **Anne Mills is open for visitors 11 and 12 May and from 16 to 19 May from Midday to 5pm 22 Bow Road - (194 in the Artweeks Guide)**

Support our local artists by dropping in and seeing what they are doing, and let your friends know what great things are being produced in your Village! Check www.artweeks.org for more information about Oxfordshire Artweeks.

**The next Parish Council Meeting
is on Wednesday 8th May
in the large Village Hall at 7.30 pm
All parishioners welcome.**

**FARINGDON & DISTRICT U3A –
THURSDAY 9th MAY 2019**

Ron Colyer is returning to talk about **Renewable Energy Sources** in the Faringdon Corn Exchange on **Thursday 9th May at 2.30pm**. During the last few years there has been massive investment in renewable energy in the UK, mainly in wind and solar sources. However there is many other alternative sources which Ron will discuss. Refreshments are available after the talk. All members are welcome but visitors are required to pay £1.50 towards the costs. Further information is available on the web site <https://faringdondistrictu3a.com/> or from the chairman Margaret Brown on 01367 615 385.

**Fairtrade Stall Saturday 11th May
10am - 12 noon St Denys' Church**
Fairtrade food, drink and gifts from the Mustard Seed shop in Faringdon

**Stanford Art Group Meeting Monday 13th May
Stanford Village Hall at 7.30-9.30pm**
Glasgow Boys - a talk by Robert Kidner
Non-members welcome
Members £2 Non-Members £5
Visit Stanford Art Group on Facebook for more information

Stanford In The Vale And District Local History Society meeting at Stanford Village Hall, in the Small Hall on Tuesday 14th May at 7.45pm
TOPIC: HISTORY OF WALLINGFORD, with special focus on the Anglo-Saxon period
SPEAKER: JUDY DEWEY, from Wallingford
Visitors welcome (£3 entrance)
Refreshments and raffle
Further information: Contact Phil Morris, 01367 710285 Visitors welcome (£3 entrance)

Stanford Women's Institute will meet on Wednesday 15th May 2019 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. Visitors are always welcome. £3 charge for non-members.

STANFORD-IN-THE-VALE GARDENING CLUB.
The next meeting will be on the **22nd May at 7.30 in the large hall of the Village Hall.**
Speakers Sue Dodd & Sue Smith will talk about "**The Story of British Orchids**". Refreshments and a raffle. Visitors will be very welcome for an entry fee of £3.00. For more details contact Rosemary Packer. Tel.01367 710 445

Sunday 26th May MESSY CHURCH
CHURCH - but not as you may know it! Come and join us for an hour of crafts, discussion and singing based on a Biblical theme, followed by afternoon tea. For all the family! **4-5.30pm In The Village Hall**

Future Events

Stanford Summer Festival
Saturday 15th and Sunday 16th June 2019
Flower Festival Theme 'The Sea'
As you spring clean in the house have you any toys, books or bric-a-brac items that we could sell at the Festival? Would you like to run your own stall?
jmwarren32@btinternet.com or phone 710789 for more information

Stanford Pre-school News

In preparation for Mother's Day the children were learning songs, planting Sweet Peas and writing about what they love about their Mummy's. We then welcomed lots of Mummy's to Pre-school for a special Mother's Day Stay & Play morning.

In the last week of term we had the pleasure of taking the children to visit the Church. The Vicar, Paul Eddy, told the Easter story and explained the significance of giving Easter eggs. The children sat at the front of the church and as Paul talked, he pointed out the story depicted in the beautiful stained-glass

windows. They also got to ask questions and enjoy a little chocolate egg! We had some fantastic comments from the children - "Jesus tells Santa to give us presents at Christmas", amongst others!

One of our members of staff has undertaken some very exciting woodwork training with Pete Moorhouse a leading authority in woodworking in the Early Years. We are hoping to be rolling this initiative out in the new term!

Please note: The Pre-School operates a waiting list, we advise parents wishing to secure a place for their child at the Pre-School to get their name down on to the waiting list as soon as possible. You can do this by downloading an enquiry form from our website: stanfordpreschool.org.uk or calling in for an enquiry form. If you have any questions please call us on 01367 718696



We are the School Council of Stanford in the Vale CE Primary School. Please read our school report below.

Snowdrop Class- In Snowdrop class this month, as part of our Pirates topic, we have enjoyed learning sea shanty songs complete with actions.

Buttercup Class- In science this term, we have been studying plants, particularly bulbs and seeds. We have enjoyed planting Gladioli bulbs and sunflower seeds as well as investigating what happens to daffodils if the water is coloured.

Bluebell Class- In Bluebell Class this term, we have enjoyed cooking different dishes. So far we have made beef tacos, spaghetti bolognese, chicken stir fry and chicken curry. Yum yum!

Poppy Class- In Poppy Class, we were lucky enough to have a visit from a Viking. He invaded our classroom and invited us to join his band of warriors. We had a great day acting out stories, examining Viking weapons and making a fire.

Orchid Class -To round off our topic on Scandinavia, we hosted a Scandinavian café where we invited parents in to try different foods from this region. Everybody was brave and tried something new and we enjoyed discovering different, delicious foods.

Forget-Me-Not Class- In Forget-Me-Not Class we have been enjoying our basketball sessions in PE as well as mindfulness Friday sessions, where we write nice things about our classmates.

Thank you for reading our report.