



## PARISH NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2019

### SERVICES FOR THE MONTH

#### Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December *Advent Sunday*

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

#### Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December

5.00 pm Lighting of the Tree in St Denys Church Churchyard, followed by the singing of Carols and hot refreshments

#### Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December *Advent 2*

10.15 am Parish Communion (Stanford)  
4.00 pm Carols by Candlelight at Hatford  
6.30 pm Carols at the Horse and Jockey

#### Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December

6.00 pm Stanford School Year 3, 4 and 5 Christmas Performance

#### Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December

2.00 pm Stanford School Year 3, 4 and 5 Christmas Performance  
6.00 pm Stanford School Year 3, 4 and 5 Christmas Performance

#### Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December

6.00pm Pre-School Carols in Church

#### Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December

2.00 pm and 5.30pm Stanford School Foundation Stage and Key Stage One Christmas Performance

#### Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December

4.00 pm Carols by Candlelight at Goosey

#### Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December *Advent 3*

10.15 am Parish Communion (Stanford)  
6.00 pm Carols by Candlelight at Stanford

#### Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December

9.30am Stanford School Carol Service

#### Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December *Advent 4*

10.15am Parish Communion (Stanford)

#### Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> December *Christmas Eve*

5.00pm Crib Service at Stanford  
10.00pm Holy Communion at Stanford – with Revd Max Young officiating

#### Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> December *Christmas Day*

9.30 am Holy Communion (BCP) at Hatford with the Ven Judy French officiating  
- Please note change of time!  
10.15 am Family Holy Communion at Stanford with Revd Dick Whittington officiating

#### Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> December *1<sup>st</sup> of Christmas*

10.15 am Parish Communion (Stanford)

#### Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> January *Epiphany*

10.15 am Joint Parish Communion (Stanford)

#### From the registers

Baptism Service  
Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> October  
Ella Woods

Funeral Service  
Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> October  
Baby Grace Pitts

Also Anthony Ayres (Tony).  
Died 28th October aged 84.

#### 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 Wardens

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

#### The vicar writes

As I have been off work this Autumn, I have noticed afresh the variations in seasons. Whilst I am normally busy with work, over the past months I have watched the ever-decreasing number of light hours and also, the effect this has on people's health and well-being. It has reminded me again that nearly a quarter of the homes in our village are occupied by people living on their own, and the late autumn

and winter season can be a very lonely time for many of them, especially the elderly.

By the time you read this article we will be in December, officially the start of Winter, and it is no wonder that centuries ago, the pagans decided that during mid-winter we needed a festival to brighten our souls up!

However, it is all too easy for us to want to fast-forward the seasons in our own lives, like we want to fast forward autumn and winter stop. However, ask any of the local farmers and they will tell you how important it is to the created order that we go through each season - and the effects of any one season being interrupted.

I have found this particular in my own life of late. Many of you have kindly stopped me as I walk around the village to ask how I am. On the outside I have appeared normal, but inside a deeper work is happening. Firstly, my sciatic nerve was remoulding itself after injury, and linked muscles being rebalanced through physiotherapy, exercise and time. Secondly, like happens in nature, during the autumn and winter season, all sorts of things disappear and your stripped back to your barebones. Enforced rest for a vicar, like any other person, helps you to take stock of your own life and to reflect where you are at, and where your future may lie. It is not a season to be rushed. It is the season to be relished, although it can feel like your life is being churned over, ready for new seeds to be planted and new life to follow. It can also be painful as you face up to issues.

Several years ago, I was invited to Sweden to lecture at a conference. We flew in mid-afternoon and arrived to pitch black outside our train carriage window on the 3-hour ride to our venue. Our train journey soon took us out of the bright lights of the through countryside and to at least 30 minutes of complete blackness until we reached a batch of villages. There, there were no street lighting in those villages, and it was a custom, I was told, in Rural Sweden, every winter, to put an electric-lit candle in the window so that those who pass by would be cheered up. Sweden, of course, has a long winter and severe darkness. This has resulted in many people turning to alcohol (hence Government owned off-licenses) to make the evening hours shorter and to numb the pain. However, the alternative, and more positive way of dealing with the issue of a long, dark night (which is symbolic of something deeper) is to allow light to penetrate the darkness.

I am aware that whilst I've been off ill, a number of families in the village have gone through severe challenges. I know many others who are waiting hospital test results or, are themselves going through recovery from illness. Others are facing the challenges of cancer.

It is ironic that the secular end of the year is one of darkness, hence the need for money to extravagantly celebrate Christmas to bring some cheer. However, the 1st of December is the start of Advent, for Christians, the start of the New Year and everything to look forward to - including the birth of Christ at Christmas.

In the bible it talks of Jesus being the 'Light of the world' and of 'Jesus coming into darkness which has never been able to extinguish' it.

As you reflect this Christmas at the various seasons you are going through, may I encourage you to allow the Seasons of Change to happen in your own lives, and to talk them through with a good friend, or with me when back to work in the New Year, and not to want to fast forward them. May I also encourage you to do you like the Swedish Rural communities do - to look to add an individual piece of light of good cheer to the neighbours around you, and ultimately to look to Jesus Christ to bring total and complete light into the darkness, not only in your life, but in the dark corners of our world.

Yours as ever Paul

Ps. My GP and physio are working towards me re-starting work in January and building up hours slowly. Sadly, I have to be patient and go at the speed at which my body heals to enable full healing to take place and not set things back. My sincere thanks to the Churchwardens and members of St Denys Leadership team who have taken on extra responsibilities in my absence.



**On Sunday 3 November, much to the delight of many passing Villagers, the Stanford Coffee Shop was open! But for those venturing inside they found**

**more than the usual warm welcome...**

Also there, with their creations on display were 9 local artisans participating in Stanford in the Vale's first ever Artisans Café:

- Sally Barnes - Leatherwork
- Mark Caldecourt - Metalwork
- Pat Elmore - Sculpture
- Julia Grinsted - Fused glass
- Kerry Houghton - Leadlight and glass
- Noriko MacFarlane - Pottery
- Anne Mills - Bellows
- Chrissy Morton - Jewellery
- Seija Wentworth - Cards and prints

There was a great atmosphere all day as visitors enjoyed coffee, cake and a chat while also being impressed by the creative talents of their neighbours. There was a brisk trade going on and we now have a pretty good idea who is getting what for Christmas!

Well done to all the participating Artisans who made the effort to present their creative output and thank you to the residents of Stanford in the Vale and surrounds for coming along and helping to make the day a great success.

Next Artisans Cafe will be in the Spring.

Caryl Oliver caryloliver@hotmail.com

**Music in the Vale** would like to thank the musicians, poets, Stanford artists and everyone who attended our "Music and the Landscape" concert at St. Denys' Church in October. This concert was in support of Parkinsons.Me and we are delighted to report that it raised £150 for this worthwhile cause.

**Stanford in the Vale with Goosey and Hatford Newsletter December 2019**

**To include items for the newsletter; Janet Warren 01367 710789 or [jmwarren302@gmail.com](mailto:jmwarren302@gmail.com)**

**Closing date this month is the 18<sup>th</sup> December**

**Stanford Community Website for e copy**

**Local events, business listings, village history and more**

### WHEELCHAIR LOAN

A reminder that the village wheelchair is available, for temporary loan, to any resident of Stanford in the Vale ... Day trips out, temporary mobility problems, visitors with disabilities etc. For more information phone 01367 710724

### **Stanford Volunteer Taxi Service**

If you need transport for a medical appointment, please phone **MARJORIE GOODING 01367 710656**  
As much notice about any appointments makes things easier.

Would you be happy to take people to Faringdon, Wantage, Oxford, Swindon or Witney? We are needing more drivers!

**The next Parish Council Meeting  
is on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December  
in the large Village Hall at 7.30 pm  
All welcome**

**Scramblers Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December**  
**9.00-10.30** In the Church  
All toddlers and carers welcome

**Chatterbox Small Village Hall**  
**Every Thursday from 10 – 12 noon**

All are welcome to call in for a drink, catch up with friends or meet new ones. Occasional raffles, quizzes and bring and buy.

**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December**

**5.00 pm** Lighting of the Tree in St Denys Church Churchyard, followed by the singing of Carols and hot refreshments

**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December**

**6.30 pm** Carols at the Horse and Jockey

**Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December**

**Stanford Art Group**

Christmas Activity Non-members welcome

Members £2 Non-Members £5

Stanford Village Hall (Small Hall) 7.30- 9.30pm

**Stanford in the Vale Village Hall  
Christmas Bingo**

**Wednesday 11 December 2019**

Doors open at 7 for Eyes-down at 7.30pm

**Cash prize for Last House**

Bar and raffle

Contact: J. Greenwood 01367 710578

**FARINGDON & DISTRICT U3A –**

**THURSDAY 12TH DECEMBER 2019 at 2.30pm**

**Faringdon United Reform Church due to the  
General Election**

**Sally-Ann Spence**, a lecturer at the Oxford Natural History Museum will talk about “**Dung Beetles**”. Sally is an informed and engaging science educator who has spent many years enthusing people about the wonders of invertebrates. She is the founder of Minibeast Mayhem, a specialist teaching company; she takes great delight in delivering lively material on this often misunderstood and underrated section of Biology. Refreshments are available after the talk. All members are welcome to attend but visitors are required to pay £1.50.

**Advance notice - Our New Year Celebration  
January Japes** on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> January with a talk afterwards on “My Walk to Freedom” by Al Sylvester. Booking details to follow in December.

### Future Events

**Stanford in the Vale Drama Group** are back in business in February with their annual panto

**‘Cinderella, the true story’**

**Keep these dates : 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> February**

**In the Village Hall.**

More information next month.

**Summer Festival**

**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> June and Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> June  
2020**

*Stanford in the Vale with Goosey and Hatford Newsletter December 2019*

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## Pre-school Parish News –

Thank you to those who came to our open morning in November, it was lovely to meet new parents and children and we were very pleased to have a few new names on our waiting list, and look forward to new families joining us!

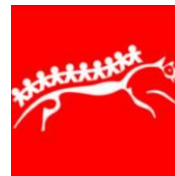
With the wonderful way Pre-school is now working (with our 'In the Moment' planning) we are constantly lead down some amazing paths of discovery and intrigue - from Volcanoes, Meteors and Dinosaurs to recognizing numbers and collecting earth worms! The worms were compared, and we discussed what they would eat and where they can live safely (away from Pre-school children!). We were also finding out about how grasshoppers jump

The children have also enjoyed mixing paint and seeing what happens when they mix certain colours together; painting brightly coloured firework pictures on a black background and mark making with the beginnings of name writing.

The children loved their 'listening walk' around the village and identified lots of different sounds including birds singing, lawnmowers and helicopters. They collected lots of conkers which triggered much talk about the texture of the shell compared to the conker and what the conkers would need for it to grow into a tree.

**Please note:** The Pre-School operates a waiting list. We advise parents wishing to secure a place for their child to get their name down on the waiting list as soon as possible. Download a Pre-registration form from our website ([www.stanfordpreschool.org.uk](http://www.stanfordpreschool.org.uk)) or call into Pre-school and pick one up. If you wish to make an enquiry, please call us on 01367 718696.

**We are still looking for someone in the community to take on the Voluntary role of Treasurer for our Outstanding Pre-school! If you have some experience in this area and would like to get involved, please contact us on 01367 718696 or email Nina on [manager@stanfordpreschool.org.uk](mailto:manager@stanfordpreschool.org.uk)**



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

### Boccia Festival

On Friday 8<sup>th</sup> November, a team of year 4, 5 and 6 pupils took part in a Boccia Festival in Wantage. They had a fantastic time and showed great teamwork, sportsmanship and Boccia skills. There were 8 teams taking part and Stanford A came first place overall and Stanford B came third place. Well done to all that took part.

### Remembrance Day

On Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November, we took part in Remembrance Day. We went up to the war memorial at St Denys' where we laid wreathes, sang a remembrance song and took part in the two-minute silence. After this, we spent the rest of the day learning about the impact of wars on soldiers and on those left behind as well as doing artwork and writing poetry linked to remembrance.

### Prayer and Friendship week

Throughout the week of the 11<sup>th</sup> November, the whole school focussed on prayer and friendship. We played friendship games and talked about how we can be good friends to each other. We also all got the chance to visit Prayer Space which was set up in the hall and take part in different activities, as well as discuss the importance of prayer and write new prayers for the school prayer book.

### Children in Need

On Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November it was Children in Need. We all came in in multi-coloured outfits and took part in a Pudsey coin trail as well as buying delicious cakes at break time decorated by year 5. We managed to raise an amazing £422 for Children in Need, well done to everyone that took part!

Thank you for reading our report.

To include items in January's newsletter please send to send to [jmwarren302@gmail.com](mailto:jmwarren302@gmail.com) or telephone 01367 710789 and leave a message. **Closing date: 18<sup>th</sup> December 2019.**  
**Late items cannot be accepted.**