

STANFORD IN THE VALE WITH GOOSEY & HATFORD PARISH NEWSLETTER



December 2015

SERVICES THE MONTH

* with the exception of the 3rd Sunday in the month, all 1015am services start with a time of informal worship from 955-1010am

Tuesday 1st December

3.00 pm Time for God

Thursday 3rd December

3.00 pm Holy Communion at the Grange

Saturday 5th December

10.00 – 12.30 am J Team

Sunday 6th December Advent 2

8.30 am Holy Communion (Goosey)

10.15 am Parish Communion (Stanford)

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

Tuesday 8th 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 9th December

10.30 am Holy Communion

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

Sunday 13th December Advent 3

10.15 am Parish Communion (Stanford)

4.00 pm Carol by Candlelight at Hatford

Tuesday 15th December

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

Thursday 17th December

3.00 pm Carols of Praise at the Grange

Friday 18th December

9.30am Stanford School Carol Service

Saturday 19th December

4.00pm Carol by Candlelight at Goosey

Sunday 20th December Advent 4

8.30 am Holy Communion (Stanford)

10.15am Morning Worship (Stanford)

6.00pm Carols by Candlelight at Stanford

Thursday 24th December Christmas Eve

5.00pm Crib Service at Stanford

10.00pm Holy Communion at Stanford

Friday 25th December Christmas Day

9.00 am Holy Communion (BCP) at Stanford

10.15 am Family Holy Communion at Stanford

Sunday 27th December 1st Sunday after Christmas

10.15 am Parish Communion (Stanford)

Sunday 3rd January Epiphany

8.30 am Holy Communion (Goosey)

10.15 am Parish Communion (Stanford)

Open House

On most Saturdays St Denys' Church is open between 10 am and noon for coffee and tea, cake and chat. No charge. Do pop in. You'll find a warm and friendly welcome.

Baptisms, Thanksgivings and Weddings - please contact the Vicar on 71026

WHO'S WHO IN THE PARISH?

Vicar	The Revd Paul Eddy	710267
Wardens		
	Margaret Williams	710254
	Peter Gill	718224
Verger		Mrs Susan Mayall

Vicar writes:

The terrible attacks on the citizens of Paris last month left us all in shock. Ordinary people, going about their ordinary business on a ordinary Friday night, and then suddenly, lives were changed forever.

Day by day our news reports have brought us updates of further terrorist attacks in other parts of the world, whilst at the same time, the plight of refugees, often running from barbaric regimes themselves, continues. The world seems a very dark place.

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The world's leaders speak to each other constantly to discuss what is the right response to terrorism, and the refugee crisis, and once again, there is talk of ground troops going into Syria to 'take out' ISIL.

At the heart of the evils facing the world today is the sins of greed and selfishness. Small, powerful groups wanting things their way and quite prepared to use force to achieve it. Oppression against civilisations by such groups is common place now, and it was 2,000 years ago when Jesus was born.

Political and some religious leaders plotting to overthrow Roman Rule in Israel and the Middle East then were hoping for some new leader to raise up a mighty army to 'take out' the oppressors. No wonder they missed the birth of Jesus, for God, in His wisdom, chose not to change the world through power and might, but through the birth of a child. A vulnerable, small child, born to parents who very soon after his birth, would become refugees themselves.

That child came into a very dark, dangerous, oppressive world and yet, in just 33 years, in fact, only 3 in public ministry, changed the whole world. His teachings have inspired millions. His example has led to people living more peaceful lives and for millions on millions of Christians then, and now, their lives have been personally transformed by seeking to put Him and His teachings central to their lives.

Two thousand years ago, in the darkness of the world in that time, people missed the opportunity for individuals and nations that this child, the Prince of Peace, could bring. Let's reflect on that and this Christmas, amid all the darkness in our world today, let's embrace the Christ Child and put Him and his teachings first in our own lives. If we do, we may all find 2016 a Blessed and Peaceful New Year.

Happy Christmas! Yours as ever *Paul*
The Vicarage, Church Green, Stanford In The Vale
Oxfordshire SN7 8HU
Tel: 01367 710267 Mob: 07958 905716
Email: paul@pauleddy.org

CUTS TO BUS SERVICE

In recent weeks it has become clear that our village of Stanford could become very isolated if proposals to Bus subsidies are agreed.

The 67 and 67A linking Faringdon with Wantage, via Stanford could be cut. In addition, the subsidy for the volunteer bus could also be cut.

If these proposals go ahead, from April next year, it will affect some pupils getting to Faringdon and King Alfred Academies, plus many older people will find it very difficult to get to their GP in Faringdon or Wantage. Oxford County Council faces huge cuts from central Government and Councillors have a difficult balancing act to do. However, cuts to our bus service, plus to elderly support services and early years services will leave Stanford very isolated. I would encourage villagers to look up the details on the Oxford County Council website and make their views known there, and to our County Councillor, Melinda Tilley at melinda.tilley@oxfordshire.gov.uk. Revd Paul Eddy, Vicar.

Derek Winter

Jeanne and all my family would like to thank those who contributed to **Marie Curie Cancer Care in memory of Derek - £783.00 was raised.**

Thank you for all the cards, letters and kind wishes we received from our lovely friends and neighbours who have been such a wonderful support.
Jeanne

2015 RBL Poppy Appeal

In October's Newsletter I made a rather desperate plea for volunteer house-to-house collections for the Poppy Appeal. I was amazed by the magnificent response from so many people, with four new collectors, another static point and existing collectors doing more than usual. Thank you all so very much for doing what is not an easy job during poor weather and dark evenings. Thank you, too, to all the people who answered their doors and made contributions to the funds, as well as to those who acquired their poppies from the various static points. **Between you all, the village raised £300 more than last year, which resulted in a grand total of £1955.64, the biggest total ever!** Well done indeed! And thank you again, for helping with such a worthwhile cause. Have you heard that the 2015 new 'word' in the Oxford Dictionary is the emoji of a smiling face with tears of joy! Well, that's me in spades!!!



Joan Greenwood

STANFORD DRAMA GROUP PANTO NEWS

As everyone knows, pantomimes need substantial numbers of people, of varying ages and talents, to make the most of all the fun and frolics which are the essence of the panto tradition. Unfortunately, we have been unable to find a script that we can successfully cast from our current membership, whilst also retaining our usual standards of performance. Consequently, we have sadly, and reluctantly, decided not to produce our usual Panto in the New Year.

HOWEVER, it is not the end
of Stanford Drama Group....

.....We are making the most of the break by searching for suitable scripts, for future productions, and also trying to find ways of recruiting new members. If you would like to join us, or have ideas that we could act upon, either make contact with any member of the Drama Group, or come along to our next meeting which will be in the **Village Hall at 8.00pm on Tuesday 12th January.**

For further information contact: Barry & Yvonne Child on 710400, Mike Mullen on 718883 or Rozanna Harrison at ro3anna@hotmail.com

**The next Parish Council Meeting
Is on Wednesday 2nd December 2015
7.30pm in the Stanford School
All Villagers welcome**

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

Wednesday 2 December 2015

Doors open at 7 for Eyes-down at 7.30pm

Cash prize for Last House

Bar and raffle

Contact: J. Greenwood 01367 710578

FARINGDON PEACE GROUP

All are welcome to our next meeting:

Wednesday, 2 December, 7.30pm

'THE STONES CRY OUT'

A film tracing the history of Palestinian Christians from 1948 to the present day.

Friends' Meeting House, Lechlade Road (SN7 8AQ)
(opposite 'Auntie's Emporium')

Followed by refreshments at 9.0pm. Admission free.

Wheelchair accessible. Disabled toilet.

More information from Karen Vogt: 01367-241707,

karen@vogt.org.uk

Sunday 6th December

5.00 pm

Lighting of the Tree in St Denys

Churchyard, followed by the
singing of Carols and hot refreshments

IN NEED OF FUEL?

**TOP UP SPIRITUALLY AT THE
STANFORD-IN-THE-VALE
FILLING STATION!**

What is a Filling Station?

A new informal way of expressing the Christian faith. Using local mid-week monthly celebrations in unusual venues to support and strengthen our local Churches.



Where and When:

The Vine, Mill Farm,
Faringdon Road,
Stanford in the Vale,
Oxon SN7 8NP.

**9th December 2015
7.30pm to 9.00pm**

Doors open from 7.00pm for
coffee and cake.

For more information visit the website or contact me directly:

www.thefillingstation.org.uk or Chris Weatherall on 07775 564131 or 01367 710208

SCRAMBLERS

New to the village? Or just looking for a fun friendly toddler group? Join us at Scramblers for Stories, music and craft activities. All children and carers welcome.

Refreshments provided.

Every second Thursday of the month

Thursday 10th December at 2.00 – 2.45

St Denys Church, Stanford in the Vale

For more info please contact :

Amanda: amandanoviss@hotmail.com

Liz: esrobertson25@gmail.com

**U3A - UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE –
THURSDAY 10TH DECEMBER 2015**

The Faringdon and District Branch will hold its December meeting on **10th December at 2.30pm in the Faringdon Corn Exchange**. The speaker will be Reggie Heyworth, owner and director of the Cotswold Wildlife Park. He will tell us about the day to day work in running the Park, in maintaining the rare species breeding programme, and talk about the care provided for the animals. All members are free but visitors will be required to contribute £1.50. Refreshments are available after the talk. For further details do look at the web site -www.faringdondistrictu3a.wordpress.com or contact the chairman Peter Smith on 01367 241 241

FARINGDON SINGERS.

Christmas Concert.

Sunday 13th December at 3.00.

Blessed Hugh Catholic Church, Marlborough Street,
Faringdon, SN77JE.

Programme includes: Mendelssohn 'There shall a Star from Jacob come forth'. Vaughan Williams 'Fantasia on Christmas Carols'. Followed by hot punch and mince pies. Free entry. Donations in aid of the Harbour Project, offering friendship, advice and hope to refugees and asylum seekers. More information from Karen Vogt: 01367-241707, karen@vogt.org.uk . or see www.faringdonsingers.org.uk

Age Concern and Chatterbox

A very helpful lady from Age Concern will be at Chatterbox in the Small Village Hall on **Thursday 10th December at 10.45 am**. Please feel free to call in and discuss any concerns or problems you think she may be able to help with or just find out what variety of activities Age Concern provide. You can enjoy a tea or coffee etc and probably meet up with people you know. You will be very welcome. Y. Child

**Monday 14th December 2015
Stanford Art Group Christmas Meeting.
In the Village Hall (small) at 7.15pm**

Workshop led by Cliff Dinning.

Making a Patchwork Picture. Bring glue stick, scissors, news paper and old pictures and paints.

(not oils). Come and enjoy mulled wine, nibbles and good company. All very welcome. Visitors £4 for more info 01367 71075

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STANFORD IN THE VALE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Will meet on **Wednesday 16th December** in the Village Hall at 7.30pm when there will be a Christmas Celebration
Visitors welcome £3.00 to non members



Stanford in the Vale Gardening Club Holiday to Ireland June 12th to 17th 2016

Coach departs from Stanford Village Hall Car Park at a reasonable time and on the way north stops at Cholmondeley Castle gardens. The first night will be spent in Liverpool at The Feathers Hotel. with time to explore. Travel is then by ferry to Belfast and to the Wellington Park Hotel. There will be visits to 7 more gardens and Giants Causeway.

All travel, entrance fees and half-board at the hotel is included. The visit has a well-known Irish garden expert, Trevor Edwards, as the Guide.

Non-club members are welcome to join the group.

Thank you Rosemary

A reminder that there will be no meeting of the club in December. The first meeting of the New Year will be on January 27th in the large hall of the Village Hall. The new exciting programme for 2016 will be announced at this time. The speaker for the January meeting will be announced in next month's newsletter. New members will be very welcome. For more information contact Rosemary Packer: 01367 710445

December - Stanford Pre-school News

We have loved making our wonderful firework pictures whilst listening to classical music. The pictures were completely individual and are hanging proudly at pre-school.

We have been celebrating Diwali by finding out the story of Diwali and making our own clay Diva pots and decorating them with sequins and beads.

We raised money for Children in Need by dressing up as Superheroes and making and selling biscuits.

We held our AGM at the end of October which was well attended by present and future parents. We voted in 2 new directors as well as welcoming some new members.

With Christmas fast approaching we are practising our Nativity and learning some Christmas songs. We have enjoyed wrapping presents in our Elf Workshop role play area, and are looking forward to a visit from Father Christmas!

Stanford Volunteer Taxi Service

This very important service is in need of more volunteer drivers. For various reasons the service has recently lost several drivers so is dependent on a few. Could you offer to take someone for a medical appointment to Faringdon, Wantage, Oxford or Swindon?

Phone Sue Ward 01367 710255 for more details

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

PGL

Year 6 had a fantastic time on their residential. It was lots of fun and we all pushed ourselves to achieve things we thought we wouldn't achieve. We enjoyed all the activities and the singing! The school loved joining in with them in Sharing Assembly.

Remembrance Service

On 11th November, our school joined the village service of Remembrance. We took part in the 2 minute silence and the school sang. The school choir also sang beautifully for us.

Year 2 at Westonbirt

Buttercup Class went to Westonbirt Arboretum as part of our Julia Donaldson topic. We made art out of natural objects such as leaves and sticks. We enjoyed walking and looking at the trees as well as eating our lunch!

Poppy Class at Cadbury World

Year 4 had a great time at Cadbury World on 5th November. We walked around the factory to see how chocolate is made. We also looked at packaging and found out how people can complain about products if they are unhappy with them.

Children in Need

Everyone arrived at school on Friday 13th November as a 'hero' as part of Children in Need! Year 3 baked cookies to sell and we completed a penny trail in the hall. Thank you for your donations, we are looking forward to seeing how much money we have raised.

Sharing Assembly

It was also Sharing Assembly on 13th November. Each class took to the stage to show something that they have been learning about in school. There was poetry, music, PGL memories and disco finger dough! Thank you to everyone who came to celebrate our learning with us.

String Musicians

Our talented string players treated us to a short performance in Collective Worship on 11th November. Children who have lessons in school took to the stage to entertain us with their music. They were brilliant and the whole school enjoyed it.

Diary Dates

Christmas Plays at St Denys' Church:

The Year 3, 4 and 5 performances will take place on 8th December (2pm and 6pm) and 9th December (6pm)

The Key Stage One and Foundation Stage performances will take place on 15th December at 2pm and 5.30pm.

Please join us for our Open Morning on Wednesday 20th January. More details will follow.

Thank you for reading our report.

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