



PARISH NEWSLETTER

December 2017

SERVICES FOR THE MONTH

Saturday 2nd December

10 – 12.30pm J Team for Children
aged 5-11 years in the Village Hall

Sunday 3rd December Advent Sunday

9.00 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

Thursday 7th December

3.00 pm Holy Communion at the Grange

Sunday 10th December Advent 2

10.15 am Family Service (Stanford)
4.00 pm Carols by Candlelight at Hatford
6.00 pm Beer, Mulled Wine & Carols at the
Horse and Jockey

Monday 11th 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

Tuesday 12th December

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

Thursday 14th December

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

Saturday 16th December

4.00pm Carols by Candlelight at Goosey

Sunday 17th December Advent 3

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

Tuesday 19th December

9.30am Stanford School Carol Service

Thursday 21st December

3.00 pm Carols of Praise at the Grange

Sunday 24th December Christmas Eve

5.00pm Crib Service at Stanford
10.00pm Holy Communion at
Stanford

Monday 25th December Christmas Day

9.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
at Goosey
10.15am Family Holy Communion
at Stanford

Sunday 31st December 1st of Christmas

10.15 am Parish Communion (Stanford)

Sunday 7th January Baptism of Christ

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. Do pop in. 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, where during the main Parish Communion Service the children go to the Village Hall.

Need someone to talk to?

Do contact the Vicar if you have any concerns or worries and just need someone to talk to – 01367 710267. E mail: paul@pauleddy.org

WHO'S WHO IN THE PARISH?

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

The Vicar Writes

At Christmas, we gather family around us and celebrate with friends. Relationships are important and without them, life would be very bleak and lonely.

I know that for many in the village, 2017 has been a very hard year. Loved ones have died and this

will be the first Christmas without them. For others, there have been financial or health issues, or relationship issues to work through. Every year, despite the increase in technology to save us time and effort, life seems more and more hectic. We seem to have less and less time and life, well, it can often seem a rollercoaster! A retired person said to me only last week *"sometimes I wish I was back at work. I had more time to myself then. Now, I spend my time rushing from one thing to another."*

Christmas, I hope, will be a time where at some point, **all of us can stop and let the pendulum of our lives come to a 'stop'** – even for a day, or a few hours. And when we do, it is a good opportunity to reflect on the past year, and the year ahead, and to consider changes. To reflect on questions like: What is really important to us? Who is really important to us? Have we allowed things to crowd our lives? Have we allowed things to diminish quality family life, or our health? And if the answer to any of these is 'yes'? then why have we allowed that? What is 'driving us'? This may mean making some small, or big changes in 2018. It may mean really reflecting with others on why we allow our lives to get so manic, and then seeking help to try to create a better work/life balance next year.

If Christmas is a time for human relationships, it is also a time to reflect on the greatest relationship you and I can ever have – with God. In many of our Christmas carols (do come to one of our Carol services this year) we sing about 'Emmanuel'. which literally means 'God with Us'. For that is at the very heart of Christmas: in Jesus, God came to earth to live among us, to show us how to live (and with each other), and then to die for all the wrong we have done, to come back to life and return to heaven so that **everyone** who puts their faith and trust in Him, and follows him, may have everlasting life – life to the full – here and now, and for all eternity! Jesus also came to remind us that God created us to be in relationship with Him: we were not designed to 'go it alone' – however hard we may try. And so, even though men and women tried to live without him and failed, 2,000 years ago, God came amongst us as a fragile human baby and lived through all that we live through. God really understands the 'messiness of life'.

I pray that this Christmas, as you pause and reflect on your year, and the year ahead, you may also reflect on whether you too have been 'going it alone' - without God. If so, maybe in 2018 you might like to explore what you believe about God and Jesus? If you do, we are soon to run a very short (5 evenings (or daytime) – one per week) course called '**Start**'. It is a simple introduction to life and faith, and allows people to ask questions, reflect and look at life afresh without

any pressure. It will be held in a home. The attendance of those who attend will remain anonymous, and what may be shared in that group, and what questions people have, will remain confidential. It is a 'safe space' to reflect afresh on your life, where you have been, where you are, and where you may be heading – with or without God. If you are interested in finding more about the 'Start' course, please email me, vicar@stdenys.org, or call me on 01367 710267.

A very happy Christmas to you all – and may Emmanuel be with you, and your family this Christmas, and throughout 2018.

Yours *Paul* **Revd Paul Eddy** **Vicar**

Stanford Volunteer Taxi Service

If you need transport for a medical appointment please phone

MARJORIE GOODING 01367 710656

Many thanks to Marjorie for offering to take on the organising. As much notice about any appointments makes things easier and more drivers would be greatly appreciated.

The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal 2017

After several years of ever increasing amounts collected, this year's total of £1665.30 is only about the same as for 2013! This is hardly surprising in view of the difficulties experienced by many of the house-to-house collectors. However, thank you to those who opened their doors to the collectors to contribute, to the businesses that held static poppy boxes and to everyone who donated to this worthwhile cause.

Above all, I thank all the house-to-house collectors who make such a superb effort to help. Between them they collected £1,127 of the village total – a magnificent outcome.

The increasing problems encountered by the house-to-house collectors, many of whom have been doing this job for a great many years, make it imperative to have more. So, if you feel you could help in this way please get in touch with me.

Joan Greenwood Tel: 01367 710578

J Team is happening on Sat 2nd Dec 10.00am-

12.30pm Village Hall Children aged 5-11 welcome
Come and enjoy Christmas craft, drama, singing and lots of fun.

Gill and Maria's Coffee Morning On Saturday 2nd December

10.30 – 12.30 pm at 16 Joyces Road
In aid of Kamran's Ward JR
(Haematology and Oncology)

Stanford in the Vale with Goosey and Hatford Newsletter December 2017

To include items for the newsletter; Janet Warren 01367 710789 or jmwarren32@btinternet.com

Closing date this month is the 18th December

Stanford Community Website for e copy Local events, chat forum, business listings, village history and more

**The next Parish Council Meeting
is on Wednesday 6th December
Large Village Hall at 7.30 pm
All welcome**

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.

**6th December 2017
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

Christmas Scramblers

Thursday 7th Dec. 9.00-10.30

In the Church

All toddlers and caters welcome.

**Stanford Art Group meeting on
Monday 11th December 7.15pm**

Stanford Village Hall

Christmas Party. There will be artistic fun and games. Non members welcome

£4 for non members, £2 members. All

welcome. Why not come along and unleash your artistic side? No experience necessary.

For more details find Stanford Art Group on Facebook or ring David Morton [01367 710754](tel:01367710754)

Stanford in the Vale Village Hall

Christmas Bingo

Wednesday 13 December 2017

Doors open at 7 for Eyes-down at 7.30pm

Cash prize for Last House

Bar and raffle

Contact: J. Greenwood [01367 710578](tel:01367710578)

STANFORD-IN-THE-VALE GARDENING CLUB.

There will be no meeting of the gardening Club in December. The next meeting will be in January

Chatterbox

Every Thursday from 10 – 12 noon

Small Village Hall

All are welcome to call in for a drink, catch up with friends or meet new ones.

Occasional raffles, quizzes and bring and buy.

Physical activity sessions for people aged 60+

Vintage Village Games!

Thursday 7 December

1pm – 3pm

£2



Zumba Gold

Mondays 12pm-1pm

At Stanford in the Vale Village Hall

£5 per session

Starts 11 September

Keep Fit

Thursdays 10am-11am

At Stanford in the Vale Village Hall

£5 per session

Pickleball

Fridays 11:00am – 12:00pm

At Stanford in the Vale Village Hall

£3 per session

Seated / Yoga

Wednesday 3pm-4pm

At Stanford in the Vale Village Hall

£5 per session

Booking Essential:

luke.horton@southandvale.gov.uk

07717 346351

FRENCH CONNEXION FUTURE ACTIVITIES

This social club, developed from the former Twinning Association, has many activities planned for the coming months. Following a very successful barbecue in the late summer, and more recently an afternoon tea party, the group are planning a safari supper, a Christmas wine and cheese party, and in the early spring, a short visit to Paris.

If you would like to join the group for friendship and social events the joining fee is £5.00. For more information contact Wendy Butler tel.07980606028, or e-mail wobbs10@yahoo.com.

Stanford in the Vale with Goosey and Hatford Newsletter December 2017

To include items for the newsletter; Janet Warren [01367 710789](tel:01367710789) or jmwarren32@btinternet.com

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December Parish Newsletter - Stanford

Pre-school News

We began our term talking about two very different events in the calendar; Diwali, the Hindu Festival of Light and Bonfire Night. This meant that the children have had the opportunity to create some fabulous works of art; colouring in beautiful Rangoli patterns and creating some fantastic firework pictures using brightly coloured paints on black paper. We spoke about celebrations and the children loved creating their own birthday party in the mud kitchen, making mud cakes and topping with candles and writing party invitations.

We have been learning about shapes and finding them in our environment, singing songs to help the children remember the different properties and making arrangements and patterns with them.

The children have been enjoying learning about similarities and differences. We have been discussing their families and how they are similar and different from their friends. They have been painting self-portraits and making faces using buttons and wool.

Our next focus is of course Christmas! The children have been making salt dough decorations and Christmas cards and practicing our songs ready for the Christmas performance at the Church.

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 contacting the Pre-School or popping in for an Enquiry form. Tel: 01367 718696



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

Prayer Space

The week beginning 6th November, we had Prayer Space at the school. Volunteers from the church set up different areas for us to

explore. We had opportunity to write prayers or thoughts, think about remembrance and write messages to those around the world. It was a very reflective experience.

Poppy Class at Hill End

On Wednesday 8th November, Poppy Class went to Hill End for a day of exploring. In teams, we had to work together to navigate our way around the huge Hill End site using our map reading skills. We also got to try our hand at code breaking, den building, rock climbing, problem solving and navigating an obstacle course whilst blindfolded!

Remembrance Service

On Friday 10th November, we took part in the Remembrance service at the war memorial. Children took poppy wreaths to lay and joined in with the 2 minute silence. The choir performed and the whole school sang a song of remembrance.

Community Lunch

On Tuesday 14th November, we held a community lunch. After guests arrived at the school, Year 4 gave them a guided tour before sitting down to enjoy a delicious lunch. Year 4 then performed some songs. Thank you to everyone who joined us.

Children in Need and Sharing Assembly

Friday 17th November was Children in Need Day. Children came into school dressed in spots to raise money for charity. We also created a penny trail of Pudsey Bear and had a competition to guess how many pom poms were in a jar. Thanks to everyone's generosity, we raised about £340! To finish the day, we held our first Sharing Assembly. Children were able to take to the stage to show some things they had been learning about. There was singing, dancing, poems, French and even a mummification! Thank you for joining us.

Diary Dates

Please join us at St Deny's Church on **Tuesday 19th December at 9.30am** for our Carol Service.

Thank you for reading our report.

To include items in January's newsletter please send to jmwarren32@btinternet.com or telephone 01367 710789 and leave a message. **Closing date: 18th December 2017.** Late items can no longer be accepted.

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