



PARISH NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2018

SERVICES FOR THE MONTH

Sunday 2nd 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 6th December

3.15 pm Holy Communion at the Grange

Sunday 9th December *Advent 2*

10.15 am Family Service (Stanford)
4.00 pm Carols by Candlelight at Hatford
6.00 pm Carols at the Horse and Jockey

Monday 10th December

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

Tuesday 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

Wednesday 12 December

6.00pm Pre-School Carols in Church

Thursday 13th December

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

Saturday 15th December

4.00pm Carols by Candlelight at Goosey

Sunday 16th December *Advent 3*

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

Friday 21st December

9.30am Stanford School Carol Service

Sunday 23 December *Advent 4*

10.15am Parish Holy Communion

Monday 24th December **Christmas Eve**

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

Tuesday 25th December **Christmas Day**

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

Sunday 30th December

10.15 am Parish Communion (Stanford)

Sunday 6th January

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

From the registers

Funeral Service

18th October

Kathleen Pill

23rd October

John Welchman

At All Saints, Goosey

29th October

Julia Riggs

6th November

Peter Page

16th November

Wes Ewing

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.*

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 ...

2018 has been a very disturbing year in British history. Millions of us are confused, frustrated, cynical, disillusioned over Brexit issues. And last month, we looked back on the 100th anniversary of the end World War I, the 'war to end all wars', and yet, today, tensions remain high on the global stage. In the midst of all this upheaval, crisis and fear, comes the message of Christmas with all of its hope, goodwill and cheer. And yet, I think the message of Christmas has been terribly misunderstood for many years in this country. Some think of business profits, shopping, gifts, tinsel, toys and celebration. Others think only of Bethlehem, the star in the sky, shepherds in a field. Still others cynically ask, "Where is this Prince of Peace in a world filled with so much trouble?"

But the real Christmas message goes far deeper. It answers **all** the great questions that plague the human race at this hour. The Christmas message is relevant, revolutionary and reassuring to us today. And I believe it can be summed up in three words: a **cradle**, a **cross** and a **crown**.

During World War I, many a mum would take her son or daughter and try to keep the memory of the father, far away at war, in the memory of the child. One mother I heard about took her son every day into the bedroom and showed him a large portrait of dad who was in France. And one day the little boy said, "Mum, wouldn't it be great if Dad could just step out of the frame?" Well, that's what happened that first Christmas. For centuries men and women had looked into the heavens longing for God to step out of the frame, and at Bethlehem that's exactly what God did.

What a difference the baby born in Bethlehem's manger 2,000 years ago makes to our world today. The educational systems He has inspired, the social reforms that His teachings have instituted, and the transformation of families and lives that have come about as a result of a baby born at Bethlehem! The whole world was thinking of Caesar. The whole world was thinking of Rome. But in God's eternal plan, He was thinking of a **baby** in a manger in the little tiny town of Bethlehem.

Second, there's the **cross**. Christmas, to have meaning, cannot be separated from the cross. The central message of Christmas is that Jesus Christ, by His death and resurrection, can transform both individuals and society. In every newspaper or

magazine two pick up, we see a picture of hate. Lust, greed, prejudice and corruption—manifested in a thousand ways. The Bible teaches that the **only cure** for the wrong in the world, and us, is the blood that Christ shed on the cross. The cross and the resurrection stand today as our only hope. Our greatest need in our world and in society is a change in the hearts of people. That is why Jesus said, "You must be born (start) again".

Third, there's the **crown**. Chiselled into the cornerstone of the United Nations building is a quotation from the Bible that has never yet been fulfilled. It reads, "They shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more". This is a thrilling thought. It has often been repeated by those who long for peace. However, this quotation must not be taken out of context. The passage speaks of the time when the Messiah will reign over the whole earth. This is the era about which Jesus taught us in the Lord's Prayer to pray: "Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven". This is the time when He who came as the baby of Bethlehem, shall come back as King of kings and Lord of lords.

This Christmas ponder for a few months a truth: *At the cradle, God was in the stall of an animal. At the cross, God wore a crown of thorns. But when God comes again, a new world will be formed, a new social order will emerge. Wars will cease, tears wiped away, disease no more and death eliminated forever!* This is the promise of Christmas. This is our hope. A very Happy Christmas!

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

Stanford Charity Bowls Day

Stanford in the Vale Short Mat Bowls Club held their annual charity bowls day in October, in the Village Hall. Twelve teams from all over the district supported the day, and helped raised a magnificent £475.

This year, the money raised has been donated to the Oxfordshire based mental health charity, "Restore". Restore was founded 40 years ago to ensure people with mental health problems are able to take control of their recovery, develop skills and lead meaningful lives. They do this by taking a creative but practical approach, providing courses to students that are co-run by professionals and people with experiences of mental ill health. It is one of the longest and highly regarded community rehabilitation services in the UK and last year it had nearly 200 volunteers working for it

Thank You's

Peter John Page

Maria, Dawn, David, Valerie and Alison would like to express their sincere thanks to all family, friends and neighbours for their donations, cards and kind messages in their recent sad loss of Peter.

Stanford in the Vale with Goosey and Hatford Newsletter December 2018

To include items for the newsletter; Janet Warren 01367 710789 or jmwarren302@gmail.com

*Closing date this month is the 18th December **Stanford Community Website for e copy***

Local events, business listings, village history and more

Special thanks to Revd Paul Eddy and George Godfrey of J Godfrey and Son.

'Gone and not Forgotten' Exhibition

Many thanks for all the contributions from villagers and Stanford School to this exhibition. The poems from the school were particularly moving and well written. £220 was raised for the Poppy Appeal from the donations for lunch and afternoon teas.

**The next Parish Council Meeting
is on Wednesday 5th December
in the large Village Hall at 7.30 pm
All welcome**

Scramblers

Thursday 6th and 20th 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.

Slimming World

Your Slimming World group meets every Thursday from 7.30pm at Stanford in the Vale Primary School. Contact Amy 07514 255703

Jumpin' Beans

Every Monday from 9.15 – 11.00 am in the large Village Hall. Arts, crafts, snacks and refreshments for mum's, babies and toddlers. New mums especially welcome. Meet for a chat and play.

Formula Fitness, Yoga and Wellbeing

Zumba every Tuesday evening from 6pm.

Stability Ball every Tuesday evening from 7pm.

Zumba Strong every Friday morning from 9.30am.

All in large Village Hall. Contact Lou on 07980 065 35

Stanford Art Group 10th December Christmas Art Activity

7.30pm Stanford in the Vale Village Hall

£2 members £4 non-members

Visit Stanford Art Group on Facebook for more information

Stanford in the Vale Village Hall

Christmas Bingo

Wednesday 12 December 2018

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 MEETING ON THURSDAY 13TH DECEMBER 2018

Faringdon and district U3A will hold their December meeting in the Corn Exchange at 2.30pm. The speaker will be **Derek Gale**, a Faringdon local photographer and trainer, who will talk about "**How to take a better photograph**". Derek is well-known to the photography group; he will explain the art of improving our photographs and even give an insight into the technical aspects of this fascinating hobby. Refreshments will be available after the talk. All members are welcome, but visitors are required to contribute £1.50. For further information please use the website on <https://faringdondistrictu3a.com/> or contact the chairman Margaret Brown on 01367 615 385.

Cast On! Knitting and Crochet Group

Fun, friendly and free. We meet every 2nd Wednesday of the month at the Horse & Jockey from 7pm until 9.30pm (ish). Bring along your current project or ask us to show you how. Contact: Ruth Chester
Email: caston@tlkc.co.uk Tel: 710362

STANFORD-IN-THE-VALE GARDENING CLUB.

There will not be a meeting in December. The next meeting will be on January 23rd.

GARDENING TIP FOR THE MONTH.

Plant your sweet peas in the garden now. By the time the seedlings show in the spring, they will have established a healthy root stock to grow fast and strong.

Future Events

Stanford in the Vale Drama Group are back in business in February with their annual panto featuring a magic cow, an evil sheriff, a beautiful Maid Marion and Eric Hood and his Merry Group.

**Keep these dates : 7th, 8th and 9th February
In the Village Hall.**

More information next month.

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Stanford in the Vale Gardening Club

June 23rd 2019 - 5 day holiday with Travel Editions
The 2019 holiday is Gardens of Derbyshire, which includes a variety of beautiful gardens. Geoff Hamilton's Cottage Gardens in Rutland and the famous Trentham Gardens are also included. David Hurrion, an experienced garden tour manager will accompany the group.

Accommodation is at the 4* Jury's Hotel in the Cathedral Quarter of Derby. Travel is by coach from Stanford Village Hall car park. Members and non-members are welcome. To obtain details please contact Rosemary Packer [Tel:01367 710445](tel:01367710445)

Pre-school Parish News

Our new way of working with the children, having introduced 'In the Moment Planning' has meant we've been busy creating an 'enabling environment'. By making changes to our environment and work practices we are providing children with the opportunity to take the initiative and play for longer periods of time, uninterrupted by specific adult led activities. Our focus is on our children experiencing and learning in the here and now.

Part of our new approach means that we have the opportunity to work more closely with parents and in turn making the home-Pre-school connections even stronger. We are asking for regular feedback on what their child is enjoying at home, at the moment. This in turn feeds into helping us enhance the child's Pre-school experience.

The children are thriving in their new environment and are enjoying making their own play choices. At the moment the new home corner and the pasta machine are proving to be a big hit! Using the pasta machine really helps with fine motor skills which in turn will help with pen holding and writing.

The children have also been making their own musical instruments and enjoying making wonderful music!

The beautiful Autumn weather continues to entice the children outside and we have enjoyed sharing observations about the changing colours and the differences in the seasons. Out in the fresh air we have been going on all sorts of exciting adventures! We've been to number land and we've been on pirate ships, and at one point we have even been chased by sharks!

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 an enrolment form from our website (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 the School Council of Stanford in the Vale CE Primary School. Please read our school report below.

Sunflower Class

In Sunflower class, we have been enjoying our story, The Something by Rachel Cobb. We have had great fun acting it out and doing art work based on it using pastels and chalk.

Snowdrop Class

In Snowdrop class this month, we are becoming dinosaur experts. We will be researching and writing our own reports about different dinosaurs.

Buttercup Class

In Buttercup Class we have enjoyed learning about newspapers as part of our Great Fire of London topic. We read a newspaper article about the Great Fire and then worked together to identify what makes newspapers special.

Bluebell Class

In Bluebell Class we went on a trip to the SS Great Britain in Bristol. We had a tour of the Dry Dock and the museum. We got to go below deck and see how the first-class passengers would have eaten and then we were shown around the weather deck where the third- and fourth-class passengers would have travelled along with the animals! We even got to try on some clothes that first-class passengers might have worn.

Poppy Class

In Poppy Class, as part of our Incredible Journeys topic, we have been designing and making hats to take on winter expeditions. First of all, we made paper hats and then decorated them with feathers, ribbons, sequins and buttons.

Orchid Class

In Orchid Class we have been baking cakes to sell at school for Children in Need. We made over 240 fairy cakes and iced and decorated them.

Forget-Me-Not Class

In Forget-Me-Not Class we were very lucky this month and got to go to PGL. We did many activities such as abseiling, raft building, giant swing and trapeze. They were all amazing, but the best thing was the food - yum!

To include items in January's newsletter please send to send to jmwarren302@gmail.com or telephone 01367 710789 and leave a message. **Closing date: 18th December 2018.**
Late items cannot be accepted.