



PARISH NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2020

Sunday Services

Sunday 6th September Trinity 13
10.15 am Parish Communion (Stanford)

Sunday 13th September Trinity 14
10.15 am Parish Communion (Stanford)

Sunday 20th September Trinity 15
10.15 am Parish Communion (Stanford)

Sunday 27th September Harvest Festival
10.15 pm Parish Communion (Stanford)

Sunday 4th October Trinity 17
10.15 am Parish Communion (Stanford)

In Memory

Our thoughts and prayers go to all the family and friends of people who have died since March. Sadly, these include:

**John Ashley
Bill Welch
Sally Searis
Suzanne Kelsey
Charlie Humphries
Margaret Tapley
Phill Carter
Kurt Erbsmail
Jack Varney
Jim Mayall
Barbara Clark
Donna Austin
Ian Watts
Kenny Simpson**

WHO'S WHO IN THE PARISH?

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

Vicar Writes

Dear Villagers

Well, what a strange and challenging time it's been since the Prime Minister, of March 23, put the country in lockdown.

Since then, we have not produced a monthly Parish Newsletter, with details of events for the obvious reason that most events were cancelled, plus, we were advised not to use paper communication/distribution. Instead, the circulation of St Denys Friday Fellowship News, by email, has grown to several hundreds. If you would like to be added to this e-letter, every Friday, do email me (vicar@stdenys.org) and you can unsubscribe at any time.

Whilst events, like the Festival, bringing the whole village together may have ceased for a few months, Stanford's community spirit has grown even stronger. On top of the practical help given to those Self Isolating via Stanford20Helpers, practical care of neighbours, the elderly, superb service from all staff at our village COOP, and total dedication by the management and staff at The Grange, we've also had fun!

The VE Day Commemorations, plus the Alice in Wonderland's Mad Hatters Tea Party were just two occasions where we were able to join neighbours in celebrating and focussing on more positive things.

And as I reflect back, I must also express my sincere thanks to Amanda Willis and all staff at our brilliant village Primary School. Not one day's teaching was lost. Staff provided resources for parents who home-schooled, as well as providing socially/distanced teaching for children of key workers right through lockdown, and till the end of term. Plans are well in hand for the school to re-open in September, and parents will have heard details direct from Mrs Willis. But on behalf of all parents concerned, may I express my sincere thanks.

As a village, whilst sadly we did lose some villagers to Coronavirus, due to the responsible

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way in which the whole village behaved, the infection spread rate locally was very low, I'm advised. But I am all too well aware that behind closed doors, Covid-19 has taken its toll.

I know a number of villagers have been made redundant. So, I have pulled together a small team of villagers with experience in helping people write CVs and prepare for interviews. If you would like confidential, free help, please let me know.

Covid has also created a huge amount of stress and anxiety and I know a number of villagers are struggling with their mental health. I am in touch with our local GPs, our MP, and have also written to the Minister for Mental Health to try to ensure the extra funds for mental health reach rural areas like ours, as I know CAMHS waiting list is huge, and GPs are struggling to refer people quickly for expert assessment and help.

Lockdown has also created tensions within relationships - as is natural when people are locked in together, without an end in sight and anxiety levels high. I know from my pastoral contact that some couples have found this time extremely hard, and it has put added pressure on their relationship. I am always available to all parishioners to offer a confidential, non-judgemental listening ear, and I am known for helping couples whose relationships are under pressure. I can provide resources and help if requested.

After careful Risk Assessment, and following strictly Government and Church of England Guidance, St Denys Church shall be open again for Public Worship, each Sunday, at 10.15am from September 6.

On arrival In church, worshippers will be asked to register, use antibacterial gel, use a one-way system to a seat (2m apart). At present, singing is not allowed under Government Guidelines, and Holy Communion, when offered, shall be in one/kind, just the wafer. At the end of the service, worshippers will be asked, in sections, to depart via the small door at the top left side of the Chancel - maintaining a 'one way in', and 'one way out' system. Whilst the church shall be cleaned, we will not hold another event in church within 72 hours, thereby complying with Government advice.

Finally, until we have conducted worship under this new system for several weeks, funerals

offered will continue to be at the Crematorium or, a Graveside Funeral. Please seek current advice as to numbers allowed to gather in a Crematorium, or churchyard, as these are open to change. All families who have lost a loved one since March, but were unable to hold a public funeral, will be offered an opportunity to hold a Memorial Service in St Denys Church once we are able to gather large numbers again.

St George Church, Hatford, and All Saints Church, Goosey shall remain closed for the foreseeable future as it is not possible to maintain social distancing in these small chapels.

Baptisms are currently on 'temporary hold' until we have been through our usual Sunday worship for a few weeks, and if you wish to hold a wedding at St Denys, we are happy to take bookings for 2021/22. Should Government orders mean we cannot host your wedding on the date arranged, we will simply transfer your wedding date and deposit/payment so that you do not lose any money! Couples wishing to consider Hatford or Goosey chapels for weddings are encouraged to call me for a chat. Logistics in these two chapels, under current Guidelines, are difficult and St Denys will be held in reserve.

I was reminded recently that St Denys Church has seen through the Black Death, Civil Wars, the first and second World Wars and now Covid - and it stands firm. So has God's love for His people and his ongoing desire to have a daily relationship with Him.

From September, our 10.15am Service will also be broadcast via the St Denys Facebook page and YouTube channel. From the anonymity of your own home, you may wish to watch and join in. And if you wish to join one of the new Zoom groups that will gather for one hour, each week, to discuss my weekly sermon/talk, you'd be very welcome to join in that as well.

My prayers and best wishes as we move into Autumn, and yet another season of life.

Yours Paul Revd Paul Eddy Vicar

Stanford 20 Helpers

A huge thank you from everyone in the village to all the people who volunteered to help in the **STANFORD 20 HELPERS GROUP** over the past months. Your help and support has been invaluable and greatly appreciated There are plans

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to have a 'Thank You Event' when the situation improves, and large groups of people will be allowed to gather – although no idea when this will be. Not till 2021 I should think.

Moving forward many of the volunteers would like to still belong to a network where should any villager need help and unable to get out, especially due to a second wave or local lockdown, people could be contacted and help out.

Collection of prescriptions is also under review. Ray Collins group from Wantage will be stopping deliveries to Stanford at the end of August. VWHMC resumed prescription collections deliveries to the Co-op on Monday 24th August with priority to the over 65's.

To this end from September 1st the name of this group will be **SITV HELPERS** and the contact e mail address is sitvhelp@gmail.com – phone number 07710760894 or 07891013114. Should you need any sort of help please do not hesitate to contact, preferably by e mail, then a helper can be found. Also contact, if you are happy to join this group and be on hand should help be needed.

Very many thanks to all again

Claire, Karin and Janet

THANKS

Bill Welch

Thank you very much to all friends and neighbours who kindly sent such lovely cards and messages in memory of Bill, who sadly died in March.

Di, Mike and Steph

Sally Searis

Geoff and family would like to thank friends and neighbours for their cards and kind thoughts following the sad loss of Sally in April.

Many thanks Geoff

Jim Mayall

Sue and family would like to thank everyone for the many messages of condolence received after Jim's death in May. We were sincerely moved by the many people who came out for Jim's final journey from home, and the prayers, love and support received from our amazing Church family.

PPC News

PPC has been supporting organisations in Stanford in the Vale for over 20 years and through prudent management of our



resources, we are currently in a position to broaden our normal grant constraints during this time of enormous strain on our Community.

We have been happy to grant extra support funding to the Pre-School and the Primary School and we are in discussion with other groups. More information about our Covid support is available on the website:

<http://ppcstanford.org/projects>

The Trustees have kept a great 'business as usual' attitude and we kept one end of the Village in touch with the other via Space – well, via Zoom! We have provided some guidelines for those using the allotments and with the easing of restrictions we will be undertaking the usual spring tasks and hope that those who have not been able to tend their allotments during lockdown will now be able to visit again.

Stay safe and we look forward to life gradually returning to some semblance of normal.

FARINGDON & DISTRICT U3A – THURSDAY 10TH SEPTEMBER '20

All U3A meetings are currently carried out by Zoom as a result of the corona virus.

Thursday 10th September at 2.30pm Speaker Ian Keable will talk about "The Art of Trickery - How magicians are seen in paintings".

This Zoom talk shows how magicians have appeared in art throughout the centuries, whether in paintings, satirical prints or cartoons. The 18th and 19th centuries saw a proliferation in engravings and lithographs showing the magicians both indoors and on the streets. Cartoonists and satirists delighted in linking politicians with skulduggery with images of them featuring the Three Card Trick, vanishing illusions or pulling a Rabbit out of a Hat. In addition, to bring the illustrations alive, Ian, a magician, will perform some of the tricks depicted which should be very interesting.

Zoom details will be sent to all members. Members could also consult the U3A website: <https://faringdondistrictu3a.com/>.

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**The next Parish Council Meeting
is on Wednesday 2nd September**

Members of the public are welcome to attend virtual Council meetings (By video or telephone), details published via our web site and noticeboards.



**Report from Stanford in the Vale CE
Primary School**

Last academic year will definitely go down in history as being the most challenging and unusual. However, it also demonstrated how communities can pull together to support each other. A big well done to all our parents who superbly supported their children at home with their home learning during these difficult times. We are extremely fortunate to have such caring, responsible parents, who want the best for their children.

A massive thank you to the staff who kept the school open throughout, produced weekly home learning, gave feedback, and undertook amazing Zoom video calls.

In July, we said goodbye to our Year Six class, plus some children from Foundation, Year 3 and 4. We will miss them all but hope they all settle into their new schools and make lots of new friends.

As I write this report, we are hoping to all be back in September. It will be lovely to have seven full classes again. We are especially pleased to welcome our thirty new foundation children and their parents, plus new children to Years One and Five.

The children will all be learning about some great topics in their year group 'bubbles.'
Foundation Topic = This is me.

Year One Topic = When the stars come out.

Year Two Topic = Into the forest.

Year Three Topic = Roald Dahl.

Year Four Topic = Down the rabbit hole.

Year Five Topic = The Extraordinary Egyptians!

Year Six Topic = World War II

Please do look on our school website for more information about these topics or to see some of the things the children have been working on.

**Chatterbox Thursdays 10 – 12 noon
Small Village Hall**

Chatterbox will reopen on **Thursday 10th September**. It will be different, with separate entrance and exits, where social distancing rules will be observed. Please will people bring their own mugs.

Stanford Pre-school News

July 2020

It has been so lovely to welcome a large percentage of our children back after we were closed for several months due to the pandemic. We are so delighted how amazingly well they have settled back in after the break, it's like they have never been away!

Since returning they have enjoyed being outside in the garden playing and being active. They have also really enjoyed watching a pair of pigeons on their nest who moved in when the Pre-school was closed and must have been very surprised when we came back!

They have also enjoyed digging up the potatoes we planted before lockdown and taking them home to eat.

We would like to wish lots of luck to the group of children leaving us in July to go to school. We will miss you all. We look forward to welcoming 12 new families to the Pre-school in September.

Many thanks to the Village Hall that have allowed us to store some of our equipment for several months.

It is our AGM on Thursday 17th September at 7:30pm. We would love to welcome members of the community along. We will be looking for a new treasurer in September as our current one is stepping down after several years of service. If anyone in our community has some financial background and would consider taking on this important and rewarding role, please get in touch.

To include items in October's newsletter please send to send to jmwarren302@gmail.com or telephone 01367 710789 and leave a message. **Closing date: 18th September 2020.**
Late items cannot be accepted.

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