



PARISH NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2021

Sunday Services

(Correct when newsletter printed but may differ due to future COVID restrictions)

Sunday 3rd January 2nd Sunday after Christmas
10.15 am Parish Communion (Stanford)

Sunday 10th January Baptism of the Lord
10.15 am Parish Communion (Stanford)

Sunday 17th January 2nd Sunday of Epiphany
10.15 am Parish Communion (Stanford)

Sunday 24th January 3rd Sunday of Epiphany
10.15 am Morning Worship (Stanford)

Sunday 31st January 4th Sunday of Epiphany
10.15 am Parish Communion (Stanford)

Sunday 7th February Presentation of Christ
10.15 am Parish Communion (Stanford)

In Memory

**Our thoughts and prayers
go to all the family and friends
of people who have recently died.**

Sadly, these include:

Sandra Ledbury

Simon Hardman

George (Dan) Smith

WHO'S WHO IN THE PARISH?

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

Vicar Write's

Well, what are year 2020 was!

I am sure that I am not the only one, humanly speaking, who will be glad to hear the church bells toll 12 times on December 31, ringing in 2021.

Each New Year's Eve, I pray an ancient, simple prayer, that goes like this: "Father, for all that has been – thank you, for all that is to come - yes!"

It is an acknowledgement that not everything that has happened has been great, often far from it, but I want to thank God for being with me through everything that has happened.

2020 was certainly a difficult year for me (like for most of you). For me it was a year of increasing frustration and severe pain as I have been waiting a full hip replacement. I have so desperately wanted to be back as part of the church family again, and being an active, public part of village life, out and about amongst many families and people - as has been my custom since February 2013, when I arrived here.

The truth is that throughout 2020, I do have much to give thanks to God for – as I have grown to learn more about myself, and about God, throughout the year, and now have new insights, priorities, and perspectives.

As for "all that is to come – yes" well, that is a prayer of faith!

No one standing with a glass of bubbly at one second into 1 January 2020 could have guessed all that would impact their life last year, in the same way that no one, neither you, nor I, can know what 2021 will hold for us. But for Christians, we can say 'yes' in faith - because God knows the future - and He will see us through whatever life throws at us.

As you start 2021, why not ask yourself if you can pray that ancient prayer as well?

And if you do, my prayer for you for 2021 is that throughout each month of the year, you will increasingly know God guiding you, strengthening

you, providing for you as you repeat that prayer in faith, time and time again - as a way of inviting God to partner you through life - as He created you and intended for you from the start of creation.

Yours Paul Revd Paul A. Eddy Vicar

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. Drivers have COVID equipment and follow their COVID risk assessment.

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 6th

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

FARINGDON & DISTRICT U3A ON THURSDAY 14th JANUARY 2021

Talk on Thursday 14th January 2021 at 2.30pm by Zoom

The speaker is Jessica Beare who works for the Vale of White Horse District Council as their Recycling and Education Officer. Recycle or bin? Part of Jessica's job is to explain to local communities what happens to the waste which is collected from the kerbside and how recycling works. The talk is accessed on Zoom and all U3A members will be sent zoom access about one week before the meeting.

Vandalism in the village.

Recently we have seen an increase in vandalism in the village. Particularly broken alcohol bottles on the skate park and the Millennium Green which then means these areas are unusable and extremely dangerous. The Parish Council do employ a litter picker who has been cleaning up the weekly damage, unfortunately this means they have less time to pick litter in other areas of the village.



The above was picked up in one morning, the playground had already been cleaned that week

A bench at the community woodland has also been destroyed, it appears its legs were burnt.

If any residents see anyone engaging in this sort of behavior, please call the Police on 101. It is anti-social behavior and will be taken seriously.

SITV Helpers

SITV HELPERS are on hand if anyone in the village requires help with:

- Shopping and
- Prescriptions

especially if another lockdown or any other emergency.

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

Stanford Church Bells

Back in March our report noted that we planned to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the current ring of church bells being installed in the tower of St. Denys' Church in Stanford in the Vale. I said that the bells were dedicated in July 1970 and had been rung very regularly ever since. Of course, shortly after you read that, the bells – along with so much else – were silenced or closed down.

We, the ringers, and you, the villagers, have noticed and missed the sound of the church bells which usually ring to mark so many occasions throughout the year and probably even more so at Christmas and the New year. We are sorry that in 2020 we were not able to generate the sounds that we usually do.

Bell ringing is still subject to various restrictions and, while we are in Tier 2, we are only allowed to have "one household" present in the ringing chamber at any one time. As we do not currently have larger family groups in Stanford, this has meant that only a single bell has been rung for most of the recent Sunday morning services – but at least we have been able to do that and thank you for noticing and for your lovely comments. For Christmas, there is a slight relaxation of the rules and we hope to be able to ring at least 3 bells.

We would love to hear from anyone wishing to become a church bell ringer in 2021 although, as the early stages require one-to-one teaching, we are unlikely to be able to commence lessons for a few months. We would be very happy to talk through the stages beforehand though.

Each bell (and there are 8 at Stanford) is rung by one individual bell ringer. Ringing is a challenging sport, great fun and a service to the community. It is also a very social activity because you need to work with others to achieve the delightful sound. Ringing is suitable for almost anyone (from about age 10 and upwards) and it can be a great activity for the whole family – grandparents as well as grandchildren ringing together.

It's also quite impressive to think that you can learn to ring a bell that weighs so much more than you. The largest bell at Stanford weighs just over 8 cwt (about

400kg); the smallest weighs just over 3cwt (about 150kg) and could easily be rung by a (experienced) 10-year old.

To find out more please speak to any of the ringers or contact us via e-mail at StDenysChurchBells@btinternet.com. We look forward to hearing from you.

Jackie O'Hagan

AGE UK OXFORDSHIRE BIG KNIT 2021

Hello everyone. Happy New Year to you all.

"The Big Knit, a partnership between Innocent Drinks and the Age UK Network is returning for 2020/2021. Last year, you knitted a whopping 40,000 hats. With each hat equating to 25p, this meant that you raised £10,000 to support local older people. This year, our target is to knit another 40,000 hats - can you help?"

The above statement was a quote from Age UK Oxfordshire's magazine, Engage, which I received a few days ago. Last year, volunteers in Stanford knitted 2,611 which meant that our contribution was worth £652.75p! It would be great if we could increase that amount for 2021. With the festivities nearly over, and the winter months looming, I am hoping that some of you might like to take up the challenge and get knitting. The hats are only tiny, - basically 28 stitches and 14 rows, - so it isn't an arduous task, and every 4 knitted is another £1 towards the target. I can supply wool, needles and patterns and you can keep knitting all the way up to October 1st 2021 when hats will appear on smoothies in supermarkets. I shall be holding collections throughout the year, (hopefully), - with tea and cakes! - so why not join us and support a good cause.

If you think you can help, and want to know more, please give me a ring on 01367 710724 or email at jan.stenzhorn@gmail.com. I look forward to hearing from you.

Stanford in the Vale with Goosey and Hatford Newsletter January 2021 To include items for the newsletter: Janet Warren 01367 710789 or jmwarren302@gmail.com Closing date this month is the 18th January Stanford Community Website for e copy - Local events, business listing, village history and more Newsletter sponsored by Public Purposes Charity Stanford in the Vale



Stanford in the Vale Pre School

The Pre-school has had a busy December getting into the Christmas spirit. The children have enjoyed drawing pictures and writing letters to Santa and wrapping up presents in the Elf workshop.

They made their own salt dough decorations for their family and decorated them lots of glitter and sparkly things.

We filmed the Christmas performance for parents to watch and enjoyed a socially distanced visit from Father Christmas who brought all the children a book.

We are all ready for the Christmas break and are looking forward to welcoming 11 new families who are joining us in January.

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

Stanford in the Vale CE Primary School Reported by the School Council:



Year 1 - AJ & Mary,
Year 2 - Isla & Lewis,
Year 3 - Scarlett & Ethan,
Year 4 - Tommy & Toby,
Year 5 - Ruby & Orlaith,
Year 6 - Alex & Whitney

Foundation - We have been busy making Christmas decorations and we learnt We Are Going On a Baby Hunt and performed it for our parents.

Year One - We made paper chains to decorate our classroom and snowmen Christmas cards. Father Christmas came to visit and gave us some presents. We have been learning the Christmas Story and discussing why we give presents.

Year Two - We have been making Christmas decorations and have written chorus poems. As a treat we had a movie afternoon with hot chocolate and popcorn.

Year Three - In our RE lessons we have been looking at light and darkness in different religions and the symbols used to show light.

Year Four - In PE we have been working in small groups to perform a dance. We have enjoyed making Christmas hats and Christmas cards.

Year Five - We have been busy completing end of term tests. We had a Christmas Jumper Day to raise money for Save the Children and made Christmas cards for the Grange.

Year Six - In PE we have been practising our football skills. We have learnt how to write diary entries and completed end of term tests.

Please do look on our school website for more information about what we have been doing. If you want to get into the Christmas spirit, why don't you watch our Christmas Plays - Straw and Order & Humph the Camel or join in with our Carol Service - all available on the school website!

We would like to wish you all a Safe and Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

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