



PARISH NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2021

SERVICES FOR FEBRUARY 2021

AT PRESENT SUNDAY SERVICES IN ST DENYS CHURCH HAVE BEEN SUSPENDED TO SUPPORT THE GOVERNMENTS MOVES TO STOP THE SPREAD OF COVID-19.

The Parochial Church Council will keep this decision under constant review, and should services resume in February, there will be **Parish Communion at 10.15 am each Sunday except the 4th Sunday in the month – 28th February, which would be Morning Worship, if open.**

We will announce any changes in service patterns on the St Denys Church Facebook Group, and via our YouTube Channel, and via the village Facebook pages. Notices will also be posted in the Church Porch Doors.

Each Sunday a sermon is recorded and uploaded to our YouTube Channel, or send out as a Word document via email. If you would like a copy, simply ask via vicar@stdenys.org

However, if you would like to watch a full service and join in with others, virtually, you may find the following links helpful:-

<https://www.oxford.anglican.org/coronavirus-covid-19-2/livestream/>

The official weekly Oxford Diocese service, recorded in churches around the diocese with different preachers involved

<https://staldates.org.uk/online>

St Aldates Church, Oxford (more charismatic/lively in emphasis)

<https://stebbes.org/online/>

St Ebbes Church, Oxford – known for excellent bible teaching

If you have any questions regarding services, or a pastoral need, please feel free to contact the vicar on 01367 710267 or via email, vicar@stdenys.org

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

Clive Norton

Andrew Tustin

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 - February

OVER the past four months or so, I have been increasingly concerned at what I can only describe as a 'Spirit of Division' brewing up in society.

There is no doubt that the pressure of 11 months of living under a pandemic, lack of sleep, lack of balance, frustrations etc. can boil over. Criticisms start first, then personal attacks, and when fully brewed, into outright attack and violence as we saw in Washington DC last month, and a variety of demonstrations, mostly peaceful – others not so, last year.

I've noticed how Facebook groups, even comprised of mature folk, have been tetchier, and people increasingly defensive and argumentative. This latest lockdown, coming as it has in the winter, has taken its toll even on those for whom 2020 was manageable.

I believe this spirit of division in society is something we need to watch, carefully, to pray against, to be peacemakers and reconcilers,

wherever we can and be aware that division is one of Satan's tried and tested methods of distracting nations from pursuing justice and peace.

COVID has exposed, once again, the disparity and inequality in many aspects of our social life, from racial inequality through to children living in inadequate housing, lack of access to IT or, even basic day to day food – hence our foodbanks are at full stretch.

Post COVID, we must pray that our political leaders unite across the divides and really take a fresh look at issues such as housing, education, health and social care, and the widening gap between those who have and those who have not. These cannot continue to be Party Political issues. They need a new united focus. And of course, they are Kingdom issues, and issues of justice and as such, the Church must have a prophetic voice into solutions and play a practical role.

In the meantime, division zaps our energy, diverts our eyes and goals, and can become incredibly time-consuming.

Of late, I have been reading again John Stotts 'The Living Church' and was reminded how distraction and division are two of Satan's key weapons.

I have recently had to handle a few issues where people could have grown further and further apart if they had not been gently shown that division was like a cancer, and that we must not allow it to spread.

So, let us pray for each other, seeking to restore unity in society and maintain unity in our families.

Colossians 3:13 says: "Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you." Our model of forgiveness is Jesus, who is also the Prince of Peace.

So, as we start another month in lockdown, let us pray that the Lord would help us to be gracious and patient, wise in the way we respond to people, personally or via social media, and let's remember to pray for our national and international leaders who, after 11 months of incredible pressure, need God's strength and wisdom to lead us through this pandemic.

Blessings on you in your own, unique situation as a peacemaker and reconciler.

Yours **Paul** **Revd Paul A. Eddy** **Vicar**

**The next Parish Council Meeting
is on Wednesday 3rd February.**

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

SITV Helpers

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

- Shopping
- Posting letters
- Prescriptions
- Just for a talk

during this lockdown or any other emergency. By now you should have received a note giving updated details about your street's helper. If you need any sort of help, please do not hesitate to contact them.

We also have a Facebook page "**SITV Helpers**" where helpful information is shared.

Any other problems or concerns contact sitvhelp@gmail.com – phone number 07710760894 or 07891013114.

Also contact, if you are happy to join this group and be on hand should help be needed.

Wantage Advice Centre is also there to refer families for food, heating vouchers and the **Government's COVID Winter Grant**. They are also able to offer advice on legal matters, benefit, education, housing etc over the phone. Contact them on -

01235 765348 / help@wantageadvice.org.uk

Very many thanks to all again

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



U3A by Zoom on Thursday 11th February 2021 at 2.30pm

Mike St Maur Sheil will give a talk about World War One by Zoom. Mike is a professional photographer who collaborated with the late Professor Richard Holmes to produce a major photographic exhibition "Fields of Battle, Lands of Peace. This considers every theatre of war except Iraq. The exhibition was viewed by 13 million people in 9 different countries and resulted in the creation of an award-winning book for the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

This talk can be viewed by Zoom; details will be sent to **every U3A member** a few days before 11th February. If you are unsure whether you have received the link, search through your computer, including spam and junk mail. It will be there somewhere! NO luck - contact Ricky Cunningham on 01367 242 626 for help.

Half Term Hearts Fri 12th - Sun 21st February



Decorate your windows with hearts and send love to the village for Valentine's Day and Half Term.

For your daily exercise, see how many hearts you can spot.

You might also like to do a random act of kindness or two. Remember to sanitise anything others might touch.

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!

Stanford in the Vale Pre School

We were lucky enough to have the rotten broken fence in our growing garden replaced and the children have enjoyed spending time out there, getting involved in Forest School activities, bug hunting and filling up our bug hotel with any creatures we found. We look forward to digging and planting over the coming weeks.

3D modelling has been a huge area of interest this term with some amazing creations from cars to kitchen's to princess castles, robots and much more. The children have designed and planned their work and used their fine motor skills with cutting, sticking, and painting their masterpieces and proudly taken them home.

There has been lots of physical activity outside with running games, scooter and trike play as well as jumping from our climbing cubes. We enjoyed a trip to the park's grass area where we made footprints in the frost and looked at the beautiful work of art the spider makes with his web. We learnt about temperature, what we use to measure it and the differences between freezing and warm and numbers.

Our maths interest area has been a huge success and the children have enjoyed using rulers to measure each other and different objects, making patterns with different shapes and using their describing words to look at the differences. We have enjoyed weighing and estimating what would be heavier and what would be lighter.

For those families who may be interested on looking around and wanting their child to attend in future we have a virtual tour available on our website at www.stanfordpreschool.org.uk. We do operate a waiting list and we advise parents wishing to secure a place to get their child's name down as soon as possible. Forms are available to download from our website. If you wish to make an enquiry or need further information, then feel free to contact us on 01367 718696.

Stanford in the Vale CE Primary School



Reported by the School Council:

What a start to the term! Not the start we had expected but everyone has adapted to the enforced changes really well. We are still open but only to the children of critical workers and vulnerable children which is about 70 - 80 children. We have all risen to the challenge of delivering online, live lessons using Microsoft TEAMS. Staff, parents and children are all doing exceptionally well with this new way of working considering we only had 12 hours notice!

All classes have started learning their new topics:

Foundation: Jurassic Journey

Year 1: Tea, Toast and Tomato Ketchup

Year 2: London's Burning

Year 3: Stone Age - Iron Age

Year 4: Viking invaders and Saxon settlements

Year 5: Aurora and Wonder!

Year 6: The Mysterious Maya

Foundation have learnt about dinosaur skin and colours, painted dinosaurs and been reading dinosaur stories.

Year 1 have been learning their times tables, reading the story 'Handa's Surprise' and working on purple mash on the laptops.

Year 2 are growing beans, helicopter seeds and dandelion seeds. They have been learning how to multiply and all about fire safety - stop, drop, roll!

Year 3 have listened to a stone age story, been dividing amounts in maths and learning food words in French.

Year 4 have been learning a bear wolf story, practising multiplication and division and started learning about Anglo Saxons and Viking.

Year 5 have been learning a Norse myth, been working on short multiplication and in art have created a Snow Queen and 3D lego bricks.

Year 6 have learnt about the artist Frida Kahlo and drawn her head and flowers, in maths they completed a quiz on teams, in science they have been grouping animals and in English learnt a story about the hero twins.

Thank you for reading our report.

Take care and keep safe.

To include items in March's newsletter please send to send to jmwarren302@gmail.com or telephone **01367 710789** and leave a message. **Closing date: 18th February 2021. Late items cannot be accepted.**

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

