



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

Charlie Robinson

PARISH NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2021

SERVICES FOR MARCH 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 March, there will be Parish Communion at 10.15 am each Sunday except the 4th Sunday in the month – 28th March Palm Sunday, 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 n 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

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

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 - March

Dear Friends

As I write this, we've just reached 15 million people having been vaccinated, and we're a few days off the Prime Minister starting to announce the overall plan of how we're to come out of Lockdown. So, as ever, I am conscious that anything I write can be out of date within hours of typing it!

That said, with the positive news of the vaccines, the impact it's having on slowing the spread, as well as act as a saving grace to catching a severe form of COVID-19, that, coupled with all that our brilliant A&E, ITU and Thoracic experts have discovered with therapeutic drugs and advances in treatment - we are in a hugely different place now than we were a year ago – then, having no idea of the enemy that we were facing!

And so, I believe even the most pessimistic of people have good reason to have confidence that as the months proceed, we shall start to get more and more into a new way of living, freed from the many restrictions we have all had to abide by for the good of others - as well as ourselves.

When it is possible for the village to gather in a communal way, there are a number of plans afoot as to how we might celebrate as a village and, for the first time in months, to catch up with each other. More about that as the months proceed and based on Government advice.

But as we look ahead to being set free from the many restrictions, it is good to pause and reflect on what we have each learnt from this season in our lives, in our family's life, and in our community life.

As a church, we shall soon be starting a 7-yearly Review of our Events, Activities and Ministries - asking questions like: Why did we start them?

What need did it seek to meet? Has that need now been met or, changed, and if so, might we need to change how we respond or, is it time to lay that down so we have more time to focus on more important/pressing things?

We shall be looking at how we can continue to meet the spiritual, worshipping, and pastoral needs of our older church members and community whilst also, seeking to reach young people and families – all of whom have been asking some of the big questions about life over this COVID-19 season.

When much of what forms part of our identity is stripped back from us; our work, our social life, our gatherings/clubs/associations/hobbies, we each get back to the very core questions of who am I? What is the purpose of life? What things bring me most satisfaction and purpose? And what values sustain me?

These are questions that we, as a church community, shall be starting to reflect on over the coming year as we seek to understand God's calling on us as a Church and how He would have us serve the community He has given us to share His love, and His purposes with.

Our reflections will take time - these are profound questions which go back to the very heart of what life is really all about - what matters most in life when everything else has been stripped away. What is really at the centre: our calling and purpose.

So as I sincerely hope our Prime Minister will be in a position by the time you read this to unveil the Recovery Plan, and as I join with you in celebration at the possibility of meeting with others again, travel, gathering for meals, or a great pint at the Horse and Hockey!, may I also encourage you to perhaps take a few of those questions that we as a Church shall be asking over the coming months and ponder them for yourself and for your family?

And as you do, if you'd like to meet with me to discuss some of your thoughts (still over Zoom I suspect for several more months to come), then please let me know and I'd be delighted to send you a Zoom link, or we can chat in the phone.

May you and your loved ones start to re-live lives to the full again - and build on everything that you have discovered about yourself, your family and friends, and your community during this time.

Yours Paul Revd Paul A. Eddy, Vicar

Andrew Tustin

Sandra, Neil and Ellie Tustin would like to say 'Thank You' for all the cards, letters and phone calls they have received since their sad loss of Andy. A dear son, brother and uncle who is missed so much by us and all his family and friends. Your support means a great deal to us.

Clive Norton

Ann, Kevin, Sarah and the Norton family would like to thank everyone for their support since the sudden passing of Clive in January.

From cards, flowers, meals, phone calls and heart-warming words of comfort, we thank you all at this difficult time.

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

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

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 MEETING
ON 11TH MARCH '21**

The meeting will be held on Zoom on Thursday 11TH March at 2.30pm. Link details of the meeting will be sent in advance if you are a U3A member. Follow the screen instructions to attend the meeting. **The speaker is Dr Richard Fisher. His topic is Three Choirs and a Reformation: The Cathedrals of Hereford, Gloucester and Worcester under Henry VIII.**

The survival of the cathedrals through the turbulent years of Henry VIII's reign is one of the anomalous features of his peculiarly English version of a reformed church. Despite his determination to dissolve all the monastic foundations across the nation Henry inaugurated six new cathedrals in former large abbey churches. What happened in three cities in the west of England? Dr Fisher now teaches medieval art-history at Bristol University will explore this topic.

**Churchyard Working Party
Saturday 27th March**

Can you spare an hour or two to help with a variety of jobs in the churchyard on Saturday 27 March.

Just turn up any time from 9.30am. Your contribution will be most welcome. It will help to keep the Churchyard in good order for the benefit of the whole village.

Government Covid restrictions at the time will apply.
Margaret Grant.

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

Stanford in the Vale, Repair Cafe

It is now over 18 months since we started a REPAIR CAFÉ in the Village Coffee Shop. It is impossible for us to meet in the Coffee Shop for the time being so for the foreseeable future we are working differently. People can bring along their broken items such as toasters, table lamps, garden shears for sharpening etc. to one of two houses. We then can distribute the item/s to one of our repairers.

Note: we also carry out safely checks on electrical items i.e. PAT test. There is no charge, but a donation is acceptable

For more information contact:-

Derek Sayers email: reco@clara.co.uk or 'phone 710283 or

Bill Hart email stanfordrepaircafe@silkie.co.uk or phone 07768486262

Stanford in the Vale Pre School

We have had a busy term here at the Pre-school. The children enjoyed making Vegetable Soup and enjoyed tasting it afterwards. This gave lots of opportunity to talk about healthy eating, practice our cutting skills, talk about knife safety and lots more.

We have been taking part in the RSPB Big Birdwatch. By putting out bird feeders we have attracted lots of wonderful birds into our garden. The children have used binoculars and have been identifying them using pictures and then recording them using tally charts, and their own methods of recording.

We have been enjoying the icy weather, wrapped up warm in the garden. We have been observing the effect of ice on the environment and looking at thermometers and what the numbers mean.

We would like to thank the village Public Purposes Charity for their continued support of the Pre-school during these difficult and uncertain financial times. It really is appreciated.



Reported by the School Council:

We continue to have limited on-site provision with most children being taught remotely at home. Everyone is doing a fabulous job remaining calm, resilient, and positive throughout. We wait to see what will happen after the 8th March!

Foundation have been learning about dragons and dinosaurs and whether they came out of eggs. They even studied the Loch Ness Monster. The children also learnt about the Chinese New Year, with it being the Year of the Ox and some of the traditions and food.

Year 1 have been creating their own Handa Surprise inspired stories and following in the footsteps of the artist Arcimboldo, creating people's faces from fruit. The children enjoyed baking cup cakes for Well Being Wednesday and have been learning their 2-, 5- and 10-times tables.

Year 2 have been creating and using tally charts and pictograms in Maths. The children worked hard creating their valentine's cards and stain glass windows. They have been busy writing poetry using their own names and alliteration.

Year 3 enjoyed decorating biscuits and cakes on Well Being Wednesday and doing some mindful drawing and colouring. The children have been developing their ball skills – throwing and catching, dribbling, and using a ball and racket. They have written acrostic poems about themselves and learnt some food names in French.

Year 4 were extremely excited on Well Being Wednesday to make explosions! The children have been busy writing stories about Grendel and they created some amazing dragon eyes from clay.

Year 5 have been busy writing stories based on Norse Myths. In maths they have been busy learning fractions and in science they have learnt about all the planets and the astronomer, Nicholas Copernicus. The children have also created some amazing lego people.

Year 6 have painted themselves in the style of the artist Frida Kahlo. In science they have been learning about blood cells and blood. PSHE has focused on dreams and goals and thinking about their own achievements and dreams. To develop their reading comprehension skills the children have been studying The Lorax and in maths have been learning about decimals, fractions and percentages.

Thank you for reading our report.

Take care and keep safe.

Census 2021: Your letter is on its way

Households across Oxfordshire are being asked to take part in Census 2021.

Census day is on March 21, but households will now be receiving letters with online codes explaining how they can complete their forms. If you don't get one in the next couple of weeks, please get in touch with the Census contact centre. You can also request a paper questionnaire if you'd prefer to complete your Census that way.

Keep an eye on local council websites because we'll be confirming the local Census support centres in the coming weeks. Staff will offer help for people not confident online, who don't have a computer or need help completing on paper.

The Census is a once-in-a-decade survey that gives us the most accurate estimate of all the people and households in England and Wales. It has been carried out every decade since 1801, with the exception of 1941.

All information is held securely for 100 years. Statistics are only compiled based on anonymised data. Personal information is not shared with any organisation and is never sold.

For more information, and to find out how to get help, visit [Census.gov.uk](https://www.census.gov.uk) or call the Census national contact centre on 0800 141 2021.