



PARISH NEWSLETTER APRIL 2021

SERVICES FOR APRIL 2021

All services will take place at St Denys.

Sunday 28th March Palm Sunday

10.15am St Denys Church opening –
Morning Worship

Friday 2nd April Good Friday

2pm An Hour at the Cross (*an hour of
meditations, silence and hymns*) Starting in Church
then going to the Cross in the Churchyard

Sunday 4th April Easter Sunday

10.15 am Parish Communion

Sunday 11th April Easter 2

10.15 am Parish Communion

Sunday 18th April Easter 6

10.15 am Parish Communion

Sunday 25th April Easter 7

10.15 am Morning Worship

Sunday 2nd May Easter 8

10.15 am Parish Communion

Sadly, due to their small size and the need to socially distanced inside a church for 2m, it will NOT be possible to have any services in our **two Chapels, Goosey and Hartford**, until the Government changes its rules in indoor gatherings. We will, of course, keep you posted but cannot see services happening any time soon in these two chapels.

As ever, we would appreciate if when attending church, you only do so if you have no symptoms of Covid, or if you feel unwell, and that you bring a face covering with you.

On arrival, there will be the usual signing in, gelling of hands, and directed to a socially distanced seat, on which you will find an order of service etc. Instructions for receiving HC will be given, and at the end of the service, there will be a one-way system of going out so that no one is in close proximity to each other.

As usual, we request that you do not stop and mingle and talk to each other outside church, but rather disperse and go home. In this way, we fulfil both a letter and spirit of the law and, vitality, keep each other safe

From the Registers

Funeral Service

Tuesday 23rd March

Peter Kerr

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 - April

One of the problems of writing a piece two and a half weeks ahead of publication due to print schedules, is you have no idea what may have changed in the time between writing and you, dear readers, reading this!

But then for a whole year now, we have all got used to making tentative plans - only to await confirmation nearer the time.

I'm delighted therefore that St Denys Church can be open in time for Good Friday afternoon 2-3pm, and for Easter Day Holy Communion at 10.15am.

Many people have likened this pandemic time to that of the Jewish people being in Exile. Wandering around in the desert for years on end, wondering, dreaming, singing even, when things would be back to normal.

In my chats with parishioners, so many have expressed how so much of their life has been in hold, how they feel they have missed out on basic, but vital things like seeing family, and having a hug.

Others have shared with me their pain and frustration of the pandemic - wrecking their finances and immediate future, whilst others have shared the loss of a loved one to Covid.

For many others, though, these past 12 months have been a sieving process. With the

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Janet Warren 01367 710789 or jmwarren302@gmail.com Closing date this month is the 18th April

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shaking up of our lives, all that has not really been important has fallen to the ground and what's left are indicators of what is vital in our life or, questions about life we need, once and for all to sort out.

There was another well-known period of waiting though. And it was the 3 days from Christ's death on Good Friday (April 2 this year) and Easter Sunday (April 4) when Christ rise from death and appeared the first of many times before he ascended.

On Good Friday, all the human hopes for the future - the overpowering of the Roman dictatorship, the feeling of being held captive, never free, even in your own land, we are so real and draining. Christ, their only hope had died.

By Saturday, everyone who had heard anything about Jesus - from the close disciples to those who only attended Synagogue when a new child was born, around the time of a marriage, or for a main festival. For them, they were asking the deep questions about life and what happens when they died. And it must surely be more than just about death, yes. that is it - Jesus wanted a daily relationship with us through prayer and yet now, has even that hope gone?

But in just a few hours, Jesus appears alive. And please notice to whom. Not the Roman or Jewish leaders, or to the Religious zealots of the day to 'rub it in' after all, that he really was the King of the Jews.

No, Jesus deliberately appeared to Mary Magdalene. A woman. And in Jesus' time, women were not even allowed to give testimony - their worth and view counted for nothing. But not to Jesus. He deliberately planned it that he appeared first to her and from her lips, we're the others told.

Those people not only had to overcome their disbelief that anyone could rise from the dead, but sadly, in, I am sure, to at least some of the men, they had to have faith in Mary.

Jesus not only defeated death but through this one action sent a political earthquake in terms of Roman and Greek culture as to the value and respect in which women should be valued. Something very topical right now for us here in the UK - but also worldwide - even 2,000 years later.

Many of us are standing in that Saturday space at the moment in our lives. So much of what we thought made us happy pre Covid, we found we really could do without. Whilst other things, maybe things so deep because we've been burying them, have come up to the surface in their own resurrection and maybe, we need help and support to deal with them.

And for others, this Pandemic has finally brought them to a sense of new, or renewed life - focussing now on what really matters in life, and a renewed sense of the need to watch out for our neighbours needs and our loved ones needs.

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And maybe, just maybe, over this time, when for many they were potentially faced with death should they catch Covid and require ITU care, the stark reality of life and death has invited them, once again, to review the Easter story and to find in Jesus, the one, solid, reliable Hope in life - eternal life.

My long-awaited hip replacement is due April 8 and following a short time of small walks around the vicarage and churchyard, I'm greatly looking forward to seeing many of you over April and May onwards as I build up my walking and walk around the village.

May God grant you all a very Happy Easter!

Yours Paul Revd Paul A. Eddy

SITV Helpers

SITV HELPERS are still 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 7th April.**

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 THURSDAY 8th APRIL 2021**

Thursday 8th April at 2.30pm **Timothy Walker** will talk about **Gardening in the 21st Century**. The talk has been devised to meet the many requests of the future of gardening in the UK. This has been stimulated by the changes in our weather and climate. This talk looks at the many ways that gardeners can reduce their impact on the world's natural resources and at the same time help those plants whose habitat is evolving faster than they can. The talk is about much more than global warning and using peat!

Stanford in the Vale, Repair Cafe

All being well we will be opening again in the Coffee Shop in April; we will post the date on the Notice Boards. People can bring along their broken items such as toasters, table lamps, garden shears for sharpening etc We also carry out safely checks on electrical items i.e. PAT test. We make no charge for our work, but a donation is acceptable

In the meantime, you can bring items to one of two houses; we can then distribute the item/s to one of our repairers. 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

AGE UK Oxfordshire

BIG KNIT

To all mini bobble hat knitters out there.

As most of you know, the official collection time for the 2021 Big Knit, is not until sometime in October. However, since Covid restrictions are gradually being lifted, I thought it would be good to have an interim collection on Monday, 10th May 2.00pm - 4.00pm when, hopefully, I may be allowed to offer you a cup of tea, and cake, in the garden! It will also allow you to offload the hats you have knitted so far and give you the opportunity to meet other people in the group. I will put firmer details in the next newsletter but thought you may like to plan ahead and reach any targets you may have set yourself!

If you are not involved in this project but would like to join us, please give me a call on 710724 for further information.

Stanford in the Vale Pre School

It has been a very busy term with new children joining us. The children have been looking out for signs of Spring In the garden. Our blossom tree has been in full flower and the children have enjoyed seeing the bees collecting nectar.

The children all made wonderful individual Mother's Day cards to take home with them.

The children have enjoyed making bugs using clay and spending lots of time outside in the garden making dens and vehicles using loose parts.

We would like to thank Sean from Selkirk-Harris flooring for giving up his time to mend our Pre-school floor and Roger for his continued help and support.

Pre-school operates a waiting list. If you would like to place your child on our waiting list you can access a Pre-registration form at:
<https://stanfordpreschool.org.uk/enrolment/process>



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

We are so happy! We are all back in school! Since Monday 8th March we have all been back in school, learning in our classrooms with all our classmates.

Foundation We have been learning about different animals. We have also been getting to know our new class stick insects and watching our caterpillars grow.

Year 1 We have been tasting and evaluating different dips and dippers. In Maths we have been weighing and measuring.

Year 2 We have been learning about how we could have stopped the Great Fire of London.

Year 3 We have been learning about what people from the Bronze Age ate and made with bronze.

Year 4 We made dragon's eyes out of clay and painted them. We found out that Beowulf slays Grendal, the beast and Grendal's mother takes revenge.

Year 5 We have written poems on the Northern Lights picture and we've heard a few stories and some history about people from Norway. We have created picture collages of Norway with their famous landmarks and flag.

Year 6 We have been learning about the Mayans. We have learnt they lived in villages and built temples to sacrifice for their Gods. They played a ball game where they had 2 hoops and they couldn't use their hands or feet to move the ball, they used their arms, legs or waist. The losing team were sacrificed to the Gods.

Please do also check out our Mother's Day messages recorded on the school website under the class pages. We will also be recording the Easter Story, and this will go onto the school website at the end of March.

Thank you for reading our report.

Take care and keep safe.

Thank You

Many thanks to Vicki Whitworth in Goosey, Angela Finn and Gill Isles in Stanford in the Vale, all who have kindly delivered these newsletters in their areas of the villages for many years. Greatly appreciated.

Also, thank you to the people who have now taken over these deliveries.

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