



PARISH NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2021

SERVICES FOR THE MONTH

Saturday 4th December

5.00 pm Lighting of the Tree in St Denys Church Churchyard, followed by the singing of Carols and hot refreshments

Sunday 5th December *Advent 2*

10.15 am Holy Communion (Stanford)

Tuesday 7th December

6.00 pm Stanford School Year 3, 4 and 5 Christmas Performance

Wednesday 8th December

2.00 pm Stanford School Year 3, 4 and 5 Christmas Performance

6.00 pm Stanford School Year 3, 4 and 5 Christmas Performance

Sunday 12th December *Advent 3*

10.15 am Holy Communion (Stanford)

Monday 13th December

5.30pm Stanford School Foundation Stage and Key Stage One Christmas Performance

Tuesday 14th December

5.30 pm Stanford School Foundation Stage and Key Stage One Christmas Performance

Sunday 19th December *Advent 4*

10.15 am Holy Communion (Stanford)

6.00 pm Carols by Candlelight at Stanford

Friday 24th December *Christmas Eve*

5.00pm Crib Service at Stanford

Saturday 25th December *Christmas Day*

10.15 am Family Holy Communion at Stanford with Revd Eddy officiating

Sunday 26th December

No service

Sunday 2nd January

10.15 am Holy Communion (Stanford)

In Memory

Our thoughts and prayers go to all the family and friends of people who have recently died.
Sadly, this includes:

Matt Godwin

Dave King

Miriam Peck

Vicky Whitworth

Anne Moorman

Di Welch

WHO'S WHO IN THE PARISH?

Vicar The Revd Paul Eddy 710267

Wardens

Maz Galley 710211

Nigel Archer 718163

Verger Mrs Susan Mayall

Vicars Write:

Dear Parishioners

A villager said to me this week that they felt they were constantly living in a departure lounge, ready for their longed-for destination, but that the plane's departure was always being delayed, or, they were 'called', and just about to embark, only for the flight to be cancelled!

It is as if we are almost 'back to normal' but not 100% and of course, were holding our breath over the effect of this winter on the NHS.

It can all feel a bit gloomy at times, but it reminds me very much how the Jewish people felt having been back from the final exile, back in Jerusalem, and awaiting the Messiah. Yet it was generation after generation of waiting before the Messiah came.

The world 2,000 years ago was an oppressive one. One without hope. One without opportunity - unless you did everything the Roman Empire demanded.

God's people – the Jews – had been holding out for so long for their long-awaited Messiah, the one who would bring light into their darkness. Who would create a 'new world order' before their eyes. And one who would bring salvation and peace and hope.

Of course, when Jesus came, tragically, the Jewish people, by and large did not receive Him – they still don't as Messiah. And yet, they perhaps didn't receive Him as their perceptions of the Messiah was one of strength and power and might. A new General to demolish by human power the oppression of the Romans?

Instead, Jesus came as a baby, into an average family and his 'new world order' was not to be achieved by might, but through love and forgiveness and a new direction from within.

It was not a power demonstrated through brute

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means, but through an individual desire to come to Him, to personally repent of what each person had done wrong, and a commitment to follow Him and His new way of living – His new world order.

Of course, for those who did receive Him, who became a child of God, their lives were turned upside down – for eternity. The rest, well, they are still waiting in the airport lounge for something, or someone, to take them to their own promised land.

We've all been through so much these past two years. **Here at St Denys, we are delighted to be able to invite people to indoor Christmas services this year.** However, due to the continuing Covid risk (*and to help stop the spread of chest infections/flu*), we will have some restrictions in place for everyone's safety.

We will be requiring everyone who can to wear a mask during the services (including for singing), and we would encourage you to take a Lateral Flow Test before the service. These are FREE, and can be ordered via <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>

Hand gel will be provided and must be used on entry, before communion and on exit.

If you'd like to come, to help with seating plans, could you please indicate if you are planning to come to any/all of the following: Carol Service (6pm, 19 Dec), Christmas Eve Crib service (5pm) and Christmas Day service (1015am).

Please send contact details for one of your family, and how many in total for the different services to Janet Warren at jmwarren302@gmail.com, or on 710789. Please also let us know if you are from Hatford or Goosey, so that we can try to seat you in the same area if possible.

You are still welcome to come if you haven't replied but replying will help us plan things more safely for your benefit, and for others.

This Christmas we may still be in the Lockdown/Covid airport lounge for some things in our lives, but the promised land, the destination which our Souls long for is to be found within – if, we open our hearts and lives to receive the Christ child. What better time to do that than at Christmas – and this year, through attending one of our services?

A very Happy and Blessed Christmas to you all.

Yours **Revd Paul Eddy, Vicar**

Stanford in the Vale Community First Responders

Over the last few years, Stanford's Community First Responders (Jeanette Gill and Les Harding) have studied for and now been awarded a nationally recognised qualification in ambulance service first responding. Topics covered include assessment of casualties, basic airway

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management; basic life support and external defibrillation; management of medical conditions and injuries; and the emergency care of wounds, bleeding, and trauma.

They have also completed the National Volunteer Certificate from NHS Health Education England. To qualify for this award, they were required to complete online training modules and complete 60 hours of voluntary work. Jeanette and Les have each committed thousands of hours on call during their time as CFRs – a combined total of over 20 years.

The South Central Ambulance Charity (Registered Charity no 1049778) exists to raise funds to support the work CFRs do by providing money for services, projects and equipment that is not supplied by Government NHS funding. If you would like to help us by making a contribution, please visit the charity's Just Giving page at <https://www.justgiving.com/scas>

For more information about CFRs, please visit www.scas.nhs.uk/our-services/community-and-co-responders/

Tribute to Betty Moore

Betty lived in Stanford and was a quiet, gentle and kind lady who, sadly, died earlier this year. She was a keen knitter and when her bungalow was being cleared several bags of wool were discovered. On further inspection, the bags also included a number of unfinished knitting projects. As there were quite a lot of small items such as baby jackets, dolls clothes, gloves, hats, etc., which were retrievable, a group of friends got together to 'finish them off'. They sewed and knitted where necessary, adding buttons, ribbon, elastic etc, as the finishing touches... about thirty items in all.

These items were then taken to Masons Wool shop in Abingdon, where they were put on sale in aid of Cancer Research. I am sure that Betty would have been pleased to think that her hard work had not been wasted and that she had helped a good cause.

Thank you so much Betty



**The next Parish Council Meeting
is on Wednesday 1st December
in the large Village Hall at 7.30 pm**

Members of the public are welcome to attend. Details published via our web site and noticeboards.

**Stanford in the Vale Village Hall
Christmas Bingo
Friday 3rd December 2021**

Doors open at 7 for Eyes-down at 7.30pm

Cash prize for Last House

Bar and raffle

Contact: J. Warren jmwarren302@gmail.com or
01367 710789

Saturday 4th December

5.00 pm Lighting of the Tree in St
Denys Church Churchyard, followed by the
singing of Carols and hot refreshments

Stanford in the Vale, Repair Cafe

The Repair Café is now open on the first Saturday in the month from 12.00 – 2.00pm in the Coffee Shop – **Saturday 4th December**. 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. 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 2 Hunters Field, Email
reco@clara.co.uk
or Bill Hart Silkie, Chapel Road Email
is stanfordrepaircafe@silkie.co.uk

**STANFORD IN THE VALE & DISTRICT
LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY**

A very Happy Christmas to all our members and potential members.

There is no meeting in December but we will be back in the New Year with a talk by David Peacock on “ West Berkshire in the Anglo Saxon Period”
12th January at 7.30 in the large Village Hall

Faringdon & District U3A on

Thursday 9th December at 2.30pm A Zoom/ hybrid talk by **Andy Smith on Wartime and Romance**. This talk will take place both by Zoom and in the Corn Exchange, and will be followed by refreshments afterwards. Andy is a performance poet who will share real-live perspectives of two world wars gleaned from family and friends over several decades. He weaves romance and humour into an entertaining poignant presentation which stimulates a response from audiences. The Zoom link will be sent out a few days in advance to all members

Dates for your 2022 diaries

They're back

Aladdin will be performed by the talented members of our local Stanford in the Vale Drama Group. A Pantomime not to be missed!!

Put a note in your diary for

**Thursday 3 February, Friday 4 February or
Saturday 5 February (matinee and evening
performances) 2022.**



**Village Celebrations for
the Queen's Platinum
Jubilee**

Sunday June 5th 2022

Stanford Summer Festival Returns

**Saturday 18th June and Sunday 19th June
2022**

Pre-school news – December

The children have enjoyed going round the village on Autumn walks collecting leaves, conkers and sticks. They have used them back at Pre-school in the mud kitchen, on the painting easel and added them to our Autumn interest table.

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The children have enjoyed using the woodwork bench. Learning how to use tools safely and follow instructions. They enjoy selecting resource to nail or screw onto their piece of wood and have enjoyed showing these to the other children at group time. Our committee organised a Halloween Party for the children and families. This was a lovely opportunity for parents to meet up and the children had a wonderful time.

Our AGM was well attended, and we are delighted that we have a committee in place for the coming year. We are looking forward to working with them.

Unfortunately, we have to report that we have had ongoing issues with people trespassing inside the Pre-school Garden and also climbing onto our roof. During the half term there was quite a lot of damage to our equipment as well as general vandalism. We are very concerned about people climbing onto our roof. They are doing damage to our guttering and, we are concerned that they are going to hurt themselves. We have been in touch with the Police and also spoken to the Parish Council about this. Please do remind people if you see them either on our roof or on our property that they are breaking the law.

We are a charity, and we regret having to spend money to repair things that have been vandalised rather than spending it for the benefit of the children attending the setting.

The Pre-school operates a waiting list. If you are interested in registering your child with us please visit www.stanfordpreschool.org.uk and complete a Pre-Registration form or contact the Pre-school on 01367 718696



Stanford in the Vale CE Primary School

Reported by the School Council:

- Year 1 - Holly & Isabel N,
- Year 2 - George & Phoebe,
- Year 3 - James H & Bella,
- Year 4 - Harry & Merryn,
- Year 5 - Edward & Faith,
- Year 6 - Orlaith & Ruby

Foundation - We have been busy playing with our friends. We learnt about fireworks and the colours, shapes and sounds they make and even painted some of our own. Mrs Cook taught us about why we celebrate Remembrance Day and we got to paint poppies and create them from pins. We have also been discussing people who are special to us, drawing

them and creating a special picture frame to put their picture in.

Year One - Linked to November the 5th, we have learnt about fireworks, painted pictures of them, created firework dances and wrote poems. In PE, we have been running around and catching different objects. We have learnt about the weather, created our own weather reports and even recorded them.

Year Two - We have started swimming every Friday and are really enjoying it. We have been practising our Christmas Performance and look forward to showing it to our parents. In Geography we have learnt the seven continents and five oceans and have been effectively using atlases.

Year Three - We had an amazing trip to The Living Rainforest. We were taken on a tour around and told lots of facts. It was hot in the rainforest but not as hot as we thought it would be! We especially enjoyed seeing the different animals, particularly the snakes and tarantulas. Our recorder playing has recently improved a lot.

Year Four - We have written a non-chronological report about Oxford after using the internet to gather information. In Maths we have learnt to subtract with exchange. Our dance lessons at the moment are based on the Mad Hatter's Tea Party from Alice in Wonderland. We are busy working on our Christmas Performance and can't wait to perform to our parents.

Year Five - We have written explanations of the mummification process. In PE we have started learning tag rugby and we all enjoy getting stuck in and dirty. We have started focusing on a new book, called The Island. Reading chapters of the text and doing activities on it, including a big discussion on how women and men are treated differently in the text.

Year Six - We had an amazing residential to Liddington PGL. It was great being away with our friends and we were all really good at keeping our rooms tidy! We took part in many activities, a couple of our favourites were The Giant Swing and Archery. A couple of the evening activities we enjoyed were Ambush (hide and seek in the dark) and Splash. Everyone enjoyed the wonderful food, especially cooked breakfast every morning. Please do look on our school website for more information about what we have been doing.

We have a few spaces in Foundation and Year 5. If interested, please do contact Oxfordshire County Council admissions.

Thank you for reading our report.

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