



PARISH NEWSLETTER
MARCH 2022

SERVICES FOR THE MONTH

Thursday 3rd March

12.30 pm Lent Lunch

Sunday 6th March Lent 1

10.15 am Holy Communion (Stanford)

Thursday 10th March

12.30 pm Lent Lunch

7.30 pm Lent 2022

Sunday 13th March Lent 2

10.15 am Holy Communion (Stanford)

Thursday 17th March

12.30 pm Lent Lunch

7.30 pm Lent 2022

Sunday 20th March Lent 3

10.15 am Holy Communion (Stanford)

Thursday 24th March

12.30 pm Lent Lunch

7.30 pm Lent 2022

Sunday 27th March Mothering Sunday

10.15 am Holy Communion (Stanford)

Thursday 31st March

12.30 pm Lent Lunch

7.30 pm Lent 2022

Sunday 3rd April Lent 5

10.15 am Holy Communion (Stanford)

St. Denys Kids is held every Sundays during term time, where during the main Holy Communion Service the children go to the Village Hall.

WHO'S WHO IN THE PARISH?

Vicar	The Revd Paul Eddy	710267
Wardens		
	Maz Galley	710211
	Nigel Archer	718163
Verger	Mrs Susan Mayall	

Open House On most Saturdays St Denys Church is open between 10 am and noon for coffee and tea, cake and chat will start on Saturday 2nd April. Do pop in. You'll find a warm and friendly welcome.

In Memory

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

Elsie Pauling
Pete Varney
Peter Martin
Shirley Adey

Vicars Write:

FINALLY – this month sees the end of Winter, and we start to look forward to what Spring brings.

And as we come out of what has been a very difficult two years since the PM first announced Lockdown, we are praying, I am sure, that the country starts to regain its feet, businesses start to recover, those in education are able to make up for time lost and, that we all remember the lessons learned over these past 24 months and, what we have all discovered to be of real value.

In recent weeks a number of families, who have sadly lost a loved one, have commented to me how they appreciate our churchyard and how well it is kept.

This is done by a group of very hard-working volunteers, who devote several hours a week (and in some cases very many more than that) to ensuring the churchyard is maintained to bring pleasure to all, and is a place of tranquillity at the heart of the village.

On **Saturday 2 April**, we are having a **Spring Working Party** in the churchyard, where we start the grass-cutting season, trim around headstones and clear the gullies around the church so that water drains away from the building.

If we get a good group of volunteers, the work is easily done from 9am-12noon but, if only a few are able to make it, the jobs go on for weeks and weeks!

So, if you appreciate your village churchyard, and have a few hours to spare on April 2, please come along, armed with a rake, a strimmer if you have one, and a wheelbarrow and join in the fun.

Hot drinks shall be provided, as April 2 is also the starting day for **OPEN HOUSE** in church again. A time, every Saturday morning, from 10am-12noon, where you can meet fellow villagers over a cuppa and cake and have a chat.

We look forward to seeing you on April 2 - either in the churchyard, or in church!

With my prayers

Paul

Revd Paul Eddy

VICAR



Thank You – Pete Varney

Gladys, Yvonne, Carole & Sara would like to pass on their sincere thanks for all the kind messages, cards, flowers and condolences received after the sad, recent passing of Pete Varney. Also, for the generous donations of £238+ from the service and the continuing online donations made to Sobell House Hospice in remembrance of Pete. To know he was well loved in the village by so many, means so much'

Knitting for Charity

Over the past couple of years, I have been inundated with offers of wool to knit up for charitable causes. Not a great knitter myself, I have encouraged a few friends to help me out with reducing the 'stash' of yarn that has been donated. However, we don't seem to be knitting quickly enough as my wardrobe is still 'bulging'! SO ... I am making an APPEAL - Is there anyone out there who enjoys knitting, or crochet, and would like to give us a hand to increase our output? We knit a large variety of items - from mini hats for Age UK: to hats, scarves and gloves for people who are homeless; clothes for babies and children, toys and anything else that we deem saleable, to raise money for those in need.

If you feel that you would like to know more about what we do, or are able to help us out in our quest to allow me to reclaim my wardrobe, then just phone me, Jan, on 01367 710724 Thank you.

MENTORING MEN

Two statistics hit me from a newspaper feature at the start of this year. The biggest killer of men under 40 in the UK is Suicide and, the average male has less than three close male friends they talk to regularly!

By and large, women are more sociable and have more friends. They are often better at expressing their feelings. Men, on the other hand, bottle things up, rarely go to the GP, are good at hiding their emotions and don't process their emotions.

For the past decade, this has been a key research area of mine. I've read well over 200 books and academic articles on these and related issues of male identity, and I am a Fellow of the RSA, working with other Fellows on ways we can help encourage boys to change the environment and culture and to be more open.

One of the biggest needs for men is to have a trusted, confidential Mentor. Someone who will journey with them through the various transition points of life where men often have little help. These are:- Boyhood to manhood (especially if no male role model/father figure at home), manhood to fatherhood, midlife change (often around 35-55), pre-retirement/retirement and bereavement.

In the 9 years I've been vicar here I've helped countless men (as well as women) - often encouraged by their wife, partner or GP to come and see me.

Stanford in the Vale with Goosey and Hatford Newsletter March 2022. To include items for the newsletter: Janet Warren 01367 710789 or jmwarren302@gmail.com Closing date this month is the 18th March
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If you are a male villager, struggling with an issue and have no one to talk to or, maybe you are at a transition point in your life - maybe considering a change in career or a new focus, and you'd like to talk things through, identify the hurdles and how to get around them, I'd be very happy to meet with you for 40-minute Mentoring sessions in confidence. These are typically done via zoom at present, but have also been done on a walk, or over a pint at the Horse & Jockey! If you'd like support, or know a man who does, please email me at vicar@stdenys.org, or call 01367 710267. Revd Paul Eddy, Vicar
Kind regards Paul Revd Paul A Eddy, FRSA, MCIPR

The next Parish Council Meeting is on Wednesday 2nd March 2022

Venue to be confirmed - check noticeboards or Parish Council website for details. Members of the public are welcome to attend.

Lent Lunches

At lunchtime on Thursdays in Lent

In the church, 12.30-1.30 on 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th, 31st March and 7th April Snack lunch of home-made soup and bread *Come and join us*

Stanford in the Vale, Repair Cafe

The Repair Café is now opening on the first Saturday in the month from 12.00 – 2.00pm in the Coffee Shop – **Saturday 5th March**. 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

St Denys' Church Invites you to A Women's Breakfast. Saturday 5th March 2022

Venue: Stanford in the Vale Large Village hall
Time: 8.30am for an 8.45am start.

Talk by Mandy Patterson: "Expressing Faith through Art." Booking is essential as Covid safety measures will be in place and seats are limited. We also ask that you take a lateral flow test the evening before you come. Please leave a message on 01367718163, sign up in Church or email the Breakfast Team via Womensbreakfast@stdenys.org for further details



Stanford in the Vale Local History Society
Wednesday 9th March at 7.30 in the Large Village Hall COME ALONG AND LISTEN to 'The Romans of Oxfordshire' with Marie Louise Kerr
Visitors welcome

FARINGDON & DISTRICT U3A MEETING ON 10THMARCH

Our January Japes had to be cancelled due government restrictions and our concern for the health of our members. The overwhelming response to an e-mail requesting names of people wishing to attend the lunch told us how keen people were for life to return to normal. We are therefore delighted to announce that we are holding the lunch as **March Merriments on Thursday 10th March at 12 noon for 12.30pm**. People who have already booked will have been contacted and numbers have been made up to a safe figure. The afternoon talk will proceed as usual with the talk taking place in the Corn Exchange at 2.30pm. Members are welcome to come to listen to the talk if they have not been to the meal. The speaker is Phil Holt, a retired air Traffic Controller; his talk is entitled "Keep calm – I am an Air Traffic Controller". He covers the history and development then talks about present day flying. This humorous, yet factual, presentation will fascinate everyone so, prepare for take-off! Refreshments will follow as usual.

STANFORD IN THE VALE WI

The next meeting is our AGM on **Wednesday 16th of March at 7.30 pm in Stanford in the Vale Village Hall**. After refreshments we are having a regifting session when you can exchange any unwanted presents, etc. for items perhaps more to your taste. Bring up to 5 articles. Enquiries ring Joan 01367 710562.

CHATTERBOX every Thursday

We are open again every Thursday **10.00 – 12 noon In the Small Village Hall**. We look forward to welcoming everyone- old friends and new – to join us to share coffee/tea etc and chat!

HATFORD JUMBLE SALE

Saturday 19th March 2022

2pm to 4pm in

Stanford in the Vale Village Hall

Bargains galore at our first Jumble Sale In two years including: nearly new clothes, jewellery, books, toys, bric-à-brac, cake stall, etc. plus a bumper raffle with super prizes and homemade refreshments. All profits in aid of St. George's Church Preservation Fund. Any inquiries please ring Joan 01367 710562 or Pam 01367 710593

Stanford Gardening Club

The next meeting will be on **Wednesday, March 23rd in the Village hall at 7.30pm**.

The speaker will be Katherine Bradley. Her subject will be "19th Century Gardens - including Waterperry". Refreshments and a Raffle. Visitors will be welcome for a £3.00 entry fee.

For more information contact Rosemary Packer. Tel. 01367 710445

Gardening Tips for March

Net vegetable crops to keep birds off.
Prune winter flowering shrubs that have finished flowering.
Divide snowdrops and replant "in the green".
Prune Wisteria.
Prune hardy evergreen hedges and renovate overgrown deciduous hedges.
Prune roses.

Stanford in the Vale Village Hall

Grand Quiz Night

Saturday 26th March

£20 per team of 4 if booked in, or £25 at the door, both including ploughman's supper. **Doors open 7pm for 7.30pm**

Raffle and Bar

Contact: J. Warren 01367 710789

Jmwarren302@gmail.com

Churchyard Working Party

Saturday 2nd April 2022 – 9.30-

3.30pm Can you spare some time on 2nd April to help maintain our Churchyard? Main tasks will be collecting broken branches, pruning and trimming. Longer grass areas may need strimming and also mowing. We had an excellent time in October last year so hope we can repeat that experience. If interested please email cpngill46@gmail.com. 01367 718224
Hope to see you there!! Peter Gill- St Denys Church

Diary dates for 2022



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

**Sunday June 5th 2022
12.30 – 5.00 pm
On the football field.**

Plans for a **Big Lunch** plus other entertainment are underway.
Villagers are invited to make any celebration suggestions by e mailing
Tina - tjenkinssitv@gmail.com

Stanford Summer Festival

Saturday 18th June and Sunday 19th June 2022
Flower Festival Theme: 'Thank You' as so much to be thankful for this year - Health; nature; sea; animals; neighbours etc
Any local craft people who would a stall to sell their goods on the Green either on the Saturday or Sunday please e mail Janet – jmwarren302@gmail.com for further information.

Pre-school news – March

We have had a busy term at the Pre-school. We have been taking part in the RSPB Birdwatch. The children used the binoculars to spot birds in the garden and then identify them using pictures of the most common birds. They made marks to record how many they saw, and we encouraged them to predict which bird would visit our garden the most.

With the very windy weather and linked to a story we have been reading the children enjoyed making their own kites and flying them in the garden. We also made dens to 'hunker' down out of the wind and rain. We have been talking about keeping fit and made indoor and outdoor obstacle courses, observing what happens to our bodies when we exercise. This led onto lots of discussion about the heart and how it works.

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 - Bella,
Year 4 - Harry & Merryn,
Year 5 - Edward & Faith,
Year 6 - Orlaith & Ruby

This has been a long and busy half term.

Stanford's Got Talent

On Tuesday 25th January, we held our annual Stanford's Got Talent. Well done to all the performers, who wowed us with their talents! We had singers, dancers, comedians, instrumentalists, and gymnasts. It was an amazing night, and the audience were astounded by the amount of talent on show. Thank you and well done to all the performers - you were true stars and demonstrated such confidence.

Girl's Football

On Wednesday 9th February the girls football team—Skye, Ella, Aimee, Freya, Frankie, Paige, Beth and Faith played against Goring CE Primary School. We did the best we could. We did lose 4-1 but we had so much fun and everyone enjoyed it very much. At the end of the first half the score was 0-1 but in the second half we were really tired.

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On Wednesday 16th February the girls football team— Skye, Ella, Aimee, Freya, Frankie, Paige, Beth and Faith played in a tournament at St James School. There were six teams involved and we came fifth. Wantage 0-2 (Frankie scored both goals). Grove 2-0. Charlton 3-0. Wantage A 1-1 (Frankie scored). St James 1-0. It was really good fun and we scored lots of goals. We can't wait for the next game, now we are getting used to our team! We loved it!

Number Day

On Friday 11th February, we celebrated Number Day. We used this opportunity to launch our journey into Timestable Rockstars and Numbots. Numbots is aimed at the younger children and helps them on their journey to secure the concepts of addition and subtraction. Timestable Rockstars supports the children on the next stage of their maths journey helping them to understand multiplication and division facts. These are crucial building blocks into more difficult concepts in maths. We started the day with our launch assemblies. The children were given the red-carpet treatment, hounded by paparazzi on their arrival, enjoyed singing dancing and acting like a rockstar. We also raised £120.45 for the NSPCC.

Safer Internet Day

On Tuesday 8th February the children celebrated Safer Internet Day, coming together to explore respect and relationships online. Using the internet safely and positively is a key message that we promote in our school, and celebrating Safer Internet Day is a great opportunity for us to re-emphasise the online safety messages we deliver throughout the year.

Foundation - We have been learning some diagraph sounds - reading them, saying them and writing them. For the Chinese New Year, we made lanterns, fans and did some Chinese writing. Sophie even brought in some Chinese New Year Cards. Our book, Seren's Seasons has taught us about the four seasons, and we have even learnt a song about it.

Year One - We have been learning about the seven continents - what they are like, the

population and key features. We have started swimming at Faringdon Leisure Centre and are doing really well. Within our maths lessons we have been adding numbers and counting backwards and forwards.

Year Two - We said a sad farewell to Mrs Scanlon but a warm welcome back to Mrs Webb. We have been learning about Australia's weird creatures as well as the States of Australia. Maths has seen us creating tally charts and pictograms of birds, insects and trees.

Year Three - We got to make our own chocolate bars and designed and made the wrappers for them. In Maths we are learning to use the column method for multiplication and are developing our understanding of fractions. Based on sweets and Roald Dahl's Dirty Beasts, we have written Haiku poems.

Year Four - Our dragon eyes look amazing. We designed them, sketched them, produced them in pastels and then clay, which we have now painted. Our tennis and tag rugby skills have developed. We are currently reading and working on the text Beowulf and writing our own Viking stories based on 'How to train a dragon.'

Year Five - It has been really interesting listening to everyone's homework projects about different Scandinavian Countries. In Art we have been developing our understanding of dimension and perspective and applying colour through our work with lego bricks. Our hockey skills have developed, and we are now able to dribble, pass, shoot and tackle.

Year Six - We have learnt how to play a Mayan ball game called Pok-A-Tok and our now writing instructions to inform others. We have now performed and recorded our Hip Hop Dances which will be shared during Sharing Assembly. In RE we have been considering the question, does the way people dress express their beliefs?

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.

Take care and keep safe.

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Some Parish Council information got lost in last month's newsletter hence this extra sheet.

New Parish Clerk

We are delighted to announce that we have appointed Claire Lewis as the new Clerk to the Parish Council. Some of you may know Claire already as she is Chair of the School Governors and was one of the instigators of the Stanford Helpers Covid-19 mutual-aid group that has been supporting parishioners throughout the pandemic. In addition to her local knowledge, Claire brings a wealth of experience to the Parish Council accrued during a career in programme management.

There will be a period of transition while Claire settles into her new role, and we will endeavour to make this as seamless as possible from the point of view of the services the Council provides. As ever, contact details for the Clerk and all councillors are listed on the Parish Council website – <https://www.stanfordinthevalepc.co.uk>

Councillor Vacancy

Following the resignation of Cllr. John Williams, we have a vacancy for a councillor to join our dedicated team of volunteers. We are looking for someone with knowledge and interest in local affairs who is willing to represent the council and our parishioners. You will need good interpersonal skills and the ability to communicate clearly both orally and in writing. Experience of working with public bodies or voluntary/community groups would be an advantage but is not essential as relevant training will be offered. You will be expected to attend our monthly council meetings, held on the first Wednesday of the month in the evening. If you're interested in finding out more or wish to register your interest in the role, please contact our parish clerk, Claire Lewis at: clerk@stanfordinthevalepc.co.uk.

Skate Park Repairs

We have now appointed a contractor to repair the damaged equipment in the Skate Park. The cost of repairs is being fully funded by a grant to the Parish Council from the Stanford in the Vale Public Purposes Charity (<https://ppcstanford.org>). Our best estimate at the moment is that the work will be carried out in the spring, but the date is subject to some uncertainty due to the supply chain problems many contractors are experiencing as a result of the pandemic. We realise the park is well-used and an important facility for young people in the village, and we hope to have everything back up and running as soon as we can.

Play Area Swings

We have also engaged a contractor to repair the broken swings in the play area. Again, the date for the repair is subject to some Covid-related uncertainties but we are pushing for the work to be complete as soon as possible. We are also taking the opportunity to upgrade some of the play area facilities and will also be installing a basket swing in the near future.

Speed Indicator Devices

Having written to affected residents, we are moving forward with our plans to install speed indicator devices in Cottage Road, Joyce's Road, Church Green and the High Street. These will show a individual driver's speed along with a message to alert them if they are exceeding the limit and will be mounted on the highway verge.

The cost of the devices themselves is being met jointly by the Parish Council and a grant from the Public Purposes Charity, while the mounting poles are being funded by Oxfordshire County Council. We have now taken delivery of the devices themselves and are waiting for the poles to be installed.

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