



WHO'S WHO IN THE PARISH?

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

PARISH NEWSLETTER
JANUARY 2023

SERVICES FOR JANUARY 2023

Sunday 1st January

10.15 am Holy Communion (Stanford)
3.00 pm **Denys@4 New Year's Day Fellowship Walk** to Hatford & back, then approx. 4pm in church for Hot Chocolate & Marshmallows. Members of ALL church congregations welcome to join in this New Year's Day Walk!

Sunday 8th January Epiphany

10.15 am Holy Communion (Stanford)
4.00 pm Denys @4

Sunday 15th January Epiphany 2

10.15 am Holy Communion (Stanford)
4.00 pm Denys @4

Sunday 22nd January Epiphany 3

10.15 am Holy Communion (Stanford)
4.00 pm Denys @4

Sunday 29th January Epiphany 4

10.15 am Holy Communion (Stanford)
4.00 pm Denys @4

Sunday 5th February Presentation of Christ

10.15 am Holy Communion (Stanford)
4.00 pm Denys @4

EVENSONG

At the time of going to print in December, the results of the Evensong Survey had not been complete. For details, please visit www.stdenys.org or email vicar@stdenys.org

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

Vicar writes

It was so good this Christmas to finally be able to welcome the school and the village back fully into St Denys Church, for all the various services/events without the Covid restrictions!

These past three years have seemed to many as a season where we lived in a foreign land, did things in different ways, and all the normal routines, rhythms and pleasures of life have, mainly, been on hold.

I know for some it's been a season of finding new resources, being creative and it's been a positive time. But for others, the opposite has been true.

Covid finally caught up with me just before Christmas, and although laid low for two weeks, I was extremely grateful for the Booster Jab I had just 12 days before my positive test.

As a church community Covid affected our worship attendance and yes, some have not returned. However, as we came out of 2022 real signs of new life and growth emerged.

Whilst 9am Book of Common Prayer Holy Communion was not a service many of our older folk felt able to re-join, by moving the service to 6pm, and offering a monthly Evensong at Goosey and Hatford once a month, we found 40 people, on average, gathering for worship!

For the past five years, our monthly Messy Church attracted young families. So, from October, we launched Denys@4, a weekly Sunday service at 4pm for children and parents in church, but very informal and interactive. On average 30/35 have attended each week, from a regular pool of around 60 children and adults.

So, In September, we saw around 30 worshippers attending our 1015am service, but by the end of the year, we were seeing roughly 100 adults/children attend one of our services. Quite a growth rate!

For many of these people, the season we have gone through has raised all sorts of questions and they are looking for answers. For others, they are seeking deeper community amongst others.

As a parish, we are glad to offer three completely different services for people to try. As you start 2023, maybe you have deep questions you are looking for answers to meet? Maybe you are looking to become part of a community, and find friendship and support?

Maybe you are just curious about faith, and have

passed St Denys on hundreds of occasions but never come in? Whatever your background, whatever your motive, you'll always be assured of a warm welcome and support!

May 2023 be a year where we can leave the worst of the past three years behind us and together, walk into the future in faith, knowing that God knows what lays ahead of us.

All we need to do is to hold His hand and walk knowing He promises to be beside us.

Yours Paul

Revd Paul A Eddy, FRSA

Vicar

Thank You – Bridget Howard

Bob, Richard, and family would like to thank everyone who attended Bridget's funeral, and for the cards and kind words which were a comfort to us. Thank you for your generous donations for Thames Valley Air Ambulance and Community First Responders.

St Denys' Telephone Support Group

If you are dreading the short days and long dark evenings, windy wintry weather and staying indoors...

Perhaps a friendly telephone call might help?

Please speak to Maz Galley and join this group.

01367 710211 07585553883

HELP

Volunteer Taxi Service

We **STILL** need someone to take on coordinating the **Village Volunteer Taxi Service** as Marjorie Gooding has given this up. This is an essential service that arranges transport to medical and dental appointments for villagers who have difficulties getting there.

It involves taking phone calls requesting transport then sending out an e mail to the drivers list asking for a volunteer to answer the request. Then just coordinating the results. You do not have to be a driver, and this can all be done from home.

The number of requests goes up and down, but this service is greatly appreciated. And essential to many, many villagers.

Can you help? Someone is needed to coordinate this service!

Very many thanks to Marjoie Gooding for her years of doing this job.

Delivering this Newsletter

We also **STILL** need a volunteer to deliver this newsletter once a month to Sheards Lane, Treadwells and Marlborough Lane.

Contact Janet Warren – 01367 710789 or jmwarren302@gmail.com for further information.

Open Mics

Another big thank you – this time to the SITV Public Purposes Charity for a generous donation to help buy a new Public Address system for use at our regular village open mics. Together with donations by locals and musicians and from The Repair Café we have now raised the required funds. This is very much appreciated by all the performers and locals who enjoy these great nights of free entertainment which run from 8pm every 1st Wednesday of the month in the Horse and Jockey and every 3rd Thursday of the month in the Social Club. These open mics are open to all (performers and audience) so come along and hear our new equipment and join in the fun.

RECRUITING RINGERS

We have 8 church bells in the tower at Stanford but we don't have enough ringers to ring them all at the same time. It would sound much more interesting if we could. Please come and learn this fantastic skill. It is suitable for almost anyone (from about age 10 and upwards). Ideally we would begin teaching you now so that we have enough ringers for celebrations coming up in 2023.

Need more incentives?

- there is always something different to try;
- keeps the mind active;
- boosts concentration, teamwork, listening and analytical skills;
- effective exercise for posture and toning muscles, it is gently aerobic - and it burns calories;
- meet new people and visit new places;
- a great activity for parents and children to learn and enjoy together;
- the glorious sound – from the largest and loudest (unamplified) musical instruments in the world!

To find out more please visit us in the church tower on a Tuesday or Sunday (times below) (ideally contact us in advance via e-mail at

StDenysChurchBells@btinternet.com).

We meet on Sunday mornings at 9.45 to ring for the 10.15 church service and (supported by visiting ringers from other towers) on Tuesday evenings to practice from 7.30-9pm.

St Denys' Handbell Ringers

We are a fun amateur group, meeting on Wednesday evenings at the Village Hall. Our music ranges from classical to traditional melodies which we play at clubs and societies, village fetes and festivals and so on. We belong to the Handbell

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Ringers of Great Britain which organises events where we ring with other teams and eat cake! We would love to hear from potential new recruits as we have a full three octave of bells and still not quite enough hands to ring them. It helps if you have a good sense of rhythm, but you don't need to be able to read standard musical notation. Please contact us at StDenys.HBR@btinternet.com. Jackie O'Hagan

Wednesday 4th January 2023

7.30 pm Stanford in the Vale Parish Council Meeting in Stanford in the Vale Village Hall – Large hall - check noticeboards or Parish Council website for details. Members of the public are welcome to attend

OPEN MIC NIGHTS in the village:

These start at 8pm every 1st Wednesday of the month in the Horse and Jockey and every 3rd Thursday of the month in the Social Club (no need to be a Social Club member to attend the open mics). Come along to enjoy a fun night of free entertainment and/or to perform to an enthusiastic audience.

Repair Café

Saturday 7th Januarys ADVICE DESK in the Coffee shop 12.00 – 2.00pm, where we can discuss whether we can effect a repair at the Social Club and do PAT testing on electrical items.

We meet on **Saturday 21st January** in the Social Club 11.00am until 3.00pm where there is more room for repairs.

Stanford in the Vale History Group

Wednesday 11th January at 7.30 in the Large Village Hall

A Walk Along The Thames Path from Near Cirencester to Oxford with Bill King, Radio & TV Historical Advisor

Visitors welcome £5 admission fee

Stanford in the Vale WI

The next meeting of Stanford in the Vale WI is on **Wednesday 18th January 2023** in the Village Hall. Lawrence Ward will be talking about **A Stroll Through Stanford in the Vale**. For enquiries please ring Annette on 01367710528.

Millennium Green Trust AGM

Wednesday 25th January at 7.30pm in Stanford School Hall. All welcome

STANFORD IN THE VALE GARDENING CLUB

The January meeting will be held on **Wednesday, January 25th** at 7.30 pm in Stanford in the Vale Village Hall.

The speaker will be Fergus Garrett, Chief Executive of the Great Dixter Charitable Trust. His subject will be "Designing With Plants".

This talk will be delivered via Zoom

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 January](#)

- Prune Apple and Pear trees.
- Clean pots and greenhouses ready for spring.
- Dig over vacant plots that have not already been done.
- Inspect stored tubers of Dahlia, Begonia and Cannas for rot or drying out.
- Last but not least, keep putting out food and water for hungry birds,

Aladdin

Stanford Drama Group is back and waiting to entertain YOU !!!

Come and join us for the Village Pantomime on

Thursday 2 February, Friday 3 February or

Saturday 4 February (matinee and evening performances) 2023

Evening performances commence at 7.30pm and the Matinee at 2.30pm

Tickets (£8/£6) are available from Stanford Coffee Shop (cash only)

Bar available for evening performances

The Pantomime is the perfect post-Christmas/New Year

family entertainment - fun **WILL** be had by all!!!

Pre-school news – January 2023

We held a very successful fundraising event at the Christmas bazaar on the 4th December. Thank you to Megan Rolls for selecting the Pre-school as the chosen charity and donated the money from the raffle and offered us the opportunity to fundraise by providing refreshments. Thank you to the parents, staff and committee members who came along to help.

The children have been enjoying getting in the Christmas spirit. They have been having a wonderful time wrapping up presents and writing cards and letters to Santa in the Elf workshop and making their own salt dough

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decorations and cards to their families.

We had a magical evening at the church performing for friends and family. The children were truly amazing, very keen to stand on the stage and sing for everyone. We then enjoyed a visit from Santa where all the children received a book.

We have now signed up as a good cause on the new White Horse Lottery. This is a great way to support the Pre-school and also win some money yourself. Information on how to join can be found here: <https://www.whitehorselottery.co.uk>

The Pre-school would be delighted to hear from any companies or individuals who would be interested in supporting the Pre-school financially. Due to a mixture of long-term insufficient funding from government (our only income) and rising financial costs the Pre-school continues to be in a very precarious financial state.

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 - William and Daisy,

Year 2 - William and Mara,

Year 3 - Mary and Dylan,

Year 4 - Jake and Evie,

Year 5 - Jasmine and Lily,

Year 6 - Amelia and Lewis

What a busy few weeks we have had!

Children in Need

On Friday 18th November to help raise money for BBC Children in Need, school council helped to organise a few events to raise money. The children came dressed up in their SPOTacular outfits, entered a guess the baby competition and brought in coins for the coin trail. We also talked about when Children in Need began and how it helps others. The children had lots of fun and raised £331.11.

Baarmy Bethlehem!

Last week, foundation and Years 1 and 2 put on a heart-warming performance of Baarmy Bethlehem. The children confidently and enthusiastically performed the nativity story. There was brilliant singing and fabulous acting. Well done!

Bethlehem the Musical!

Years 3, 4 and 5 put on a wonderful performance of Bethlehem the Musical. The children worked really

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hard to learn all of the songs and their words. The children did a fabulous job with amazing singing, acting and dancing throughout.

Over all the Christmas Performances managed to raise £348.76 from donations. This money this year is going towards the NSPCC.

Christmas Big Sing

On Tuesday 29th November our choir took part in the Christmas Big Sing at Oxford Town Hall.

It was an amazing evening and the children sang beautifully. Our choir sang their own song, two songs with the nine other school choirs at the event and five carols alongside the audience and other choirs.

Well done to the choir and to Mrs Dharmasiri and Miss Bowden. It was a great experience singing with so many other children and a live band.

Christmas Art Day

Christmas Art Day 2022 was a complete success, thanks to the very hard-working year 6s who lead the craft activities for the day and the amazing staff who helped set up the day.

For our Christmas Art Day, we made poinsettias prints, Frosty the Snowman, origami stars, lollypop stick reindeer, suncatchers, pompom snowmen, felt Christmas decorations, melted snowmen drawings and wreaths and angels made from paper plates.

The children loved all the different activities and really showed off their excellent art skills! Now everyone has some exciting new Christmas decorations to take home and enjoy.

Panto at the Wyvern

On Thursday 15th December we all went to the Wyvern Theatre to watch 'Beauty and the Beast.' Oh no you didn't, oh yes we did! We had a great time booing, cheering, clapping, singing and dancing. We all thought Belle's dad had a stunning voice and Frank was amazing with all his impersonations. We also got to enjoy an ice cream in the interval!

We hope you all have a wonderful Christmas break and a Happy New Year.

Please do look on our school website for more information about what we have been doing.

We have a few spaces in Foundation, Year 1 and Year 6 classes. If interested, please do contact Oxfordshire County Council admissions.

Lastly, we are still looking for some help to hear readers or help out with cycling proficiency. Please contact the school office if you are able to help.

Thank you for reading our report.

Take care and keep safe.

