



**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.

# JANUARY 2024 PARISH NEWSLETTER

## SERVICES FOR JANUARY

<b>Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b><i>Epiphany</i></b>
10.15 am	Holy Communion (Stanford)
4.00 pm	Denys@4
<b>Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b><i>Epiphany 2</i></b>
10.15 am	Holy Communion (Stanford)
4.00 pm	Denys @4
6.00 pm	Evensong (All Saints, Goosey)
<b>Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> January</b>	<b><i>Epiphany 3</i></b>
10.15 am	Holy Communion (Stanford) with Bible Society Speaker.
4.00 pm	Denys @4
<b>Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b><i>Epiphany 4</i></b>
10.15 am	Holy Communion (Stanford)
4.00 pm	Denys @4
6.00 pm	Evensong (St. Georges, Hatford)
<b>Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b><i>Presentation of Christ</i></b>
10.15 am	Holy Communion (Stanford)
4.00 pm	Denys @4

### In Memory

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

**Phillip Ernest George Hingston  
Mary Sansome  
Christine May Sidebotham**

### WHO'S WHO IN THE PARISH?

<b>Vicar</b>	
The Revd Paul Eddy	710267
<b>Church Wardens</b>	
Maz Galley	710211
Michelle Sinclair	07929733429
<b>Verger</b>	
Susan Mayall	710138
<b>Parish Website:</b>	<a href="http://www.stdenys.org">www.stdenys.org</a>

### **The Vicar Writes – January 2024 A Very Happy New Year!**

Next month I'll mark 11 years as Vicar of Stanford in the Vale with Goosey & Hatford. Over that time, it has been my privilege to take dozens and dozens of baptisms, weddings, and funerals of parishioners.

I never cease to be amazed at the 'Circle of Life', and how in almost every funeral I take, the family tell me they have just celebrated the arrival of a new family member or, one is due imminently!

It reminds me of the huge privilege of parish ministry, especially after reaching a decade in one place. This Christmas, I looked out at the various faces in the congregations and saw people whose children I'd baptised, or maybe I officiated at their wedding. And of course, there were many who this Christmas were marking the festival alone, having lost a loved one in 2023, and I took the funeral.

It reminds me that new people moving into the village are not always aware that as a Church of England Parish Church, we are here to serve the whole parish and as such, we seek to recognise key points in individuals, families, and community life.

At the start of life, we offer **Baptism** for children or, a **Service of Thanksgiving**, if parents don't want to make the promises of raising the child within the church but wish to give thanks for the life and have an official Baby Naming Ceremony with family/friends present.

Another service which is offered, but not often known is a **House Blessing**. I get invited by new homeowners to come and join them in their new property, and I pray in each room, asking God's blessing and peace. I asked a clergy colleague to perform a House Blessing when we moved into the Vicarage here in January 2013.

Stanford in the Vale with Goosey and Hatford Newsletter January 2024. To include items for the newsletter: Janet Warren 01367 710789 or [jmwarren302@gmail.com](mailto:jmwarren302@gmail.com) Closing date this month is the 18<sup>th</sup> January.

Stanford Community Website for e copy - Local events, business listing, village history and more

Newsletter sponsored by Public Purposes Charity Stanford in the Vale



People often ask me to do this when they know someone had previously died in the house and occasionally, I get invited in when parishioners hear sounds, or have questions about Poltergeist activity.

**Weddings** are available in all three churches in the parish. I really enjoy working with couples on creating a tailor-made, personalised service. In my time here we've had everything from Christmas weddings with carols, military weddings, a Star Wars wedding (guess who), and everything in between. Do ask if you are considering where to get married.

Many couples also wish to celebrate a special wedding anniversary, be that 25, 50, 60<sup>th</sup> etc. Again, we tailor a special service where in the presence of family and friends, they renew the vows they made, standing in church where for over 800 years, villagers have made such vows.

But the **Renewal of Wedding Vows** can also be used for pastoral reasons. Sometimes marriages go through a rough period. Sometimes the couple split for a while, and then come back together. In addition to a public service, these vows and promises can also be made in private. Sometimes a couple want to formally come back together, perhaps one or both asking forgiveness, and ask God's blessing on their future life together. Such services are often conducted by me in the lounge, with just the couple present, and no one else knows about it. As with all pastoral conversations with a vicar, details are kept confidential. Be it marriage, relationship, or other pastoral issues, if approached early, I can often signpost to **specialised counselling** which has been very effective in the lives of many parishioners over the years. But the longer a person/marriage waits to get help, often the harder it is to deal with.

Finally in all three churches we offer **Funeral services** - whether the person had a faith or no faith. One of my key ministries as vicar is helping families create a fitting 'send-off' to their loved one and, crafting the service to being out the two elements: celebrating their life and, starting to 'let go'. I am happy to take services in all three chapels or, at the crematorium if the deceased only wanted a cremation service.

During 2024 it will be my honour and privilege to continue to journey parishioners, whether they be individuals, or as families, through the various

stages of the 'Circle of Life'. If I can help in any way, **please call me on 01367 710267, or via email, [vicar@stdenys.org](mailto:vicar@stdenys.org)**

Yours *Paul* **Revd Paul A. Eddy** Vicar

### **STANFORD DRAMA GROUP**

We are sad to report that we are unable to put on our annual panto. This is mostly due to lack of members to bring it up to a production by February, that we would be proud of, despite everyone's hard work.

We will be having a 'taster evening' in the New Year, (Oh yes we will) to invite all comers to come along and see what we do. More information will be announced in February's Newsletter.

Yvonne and Barry Child 01367 710400

### **Stanford in the Vale Volunteer Hospital Taxi Service**

Should you require a lift for a hospital or dental appointment - call **05603 660 122** which has been set up for voicemails only. Leave a message stating your name and the location, date and time of your appointments. One of our drivers will then be in contact with you - please allow 3 to 4 days for a response.

**New drivers would be very welcome. Contact Dan on 05603 660 122.**

### **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.

### **A New Activity for the New Year**

Why not make 2024 the year that you learn to **ring church bells**?

It's a hobby that provides opportunity to meet new people, learn new skills and to see new places; it provides gentle exercise, some mental stimulation and encourages social activity.

Ringling is also a service opportunity as we ring for all sorts of occasions, whether they are church

*Stanford in the Vale with Goosey and Hatford Newsletter January 2024. To include items for the newsletter:*

*Janet Warren 01367 710789 or [jmwarren302@gmail.com](mailto:jmwarren302@gmail.com) Closing date this month is the 18<sup>th</sup> January.*

*Stanford Community Website for e copy - Local events, business listing, village history and more*

*Newsletter sponsored by Public Purposes Charity Stanford in the Vale*



services or national or local celebrations.  
Come and see the ringers in action and understand what opportunities are available.

If you are interested – or you would just like to see the inside of the church tower and how bells are rung, please visit us in the church tower on a Tuesday (7.30-9pm) or Sunday (9.45-10.15am) (ideally contacting us in advance via e-mail at [StDenysChurchBells@btinternet.com](mailto:StDenysChurchBells@btinternet.com), just in case there has been a change in arrangements). We look forward to meeting you.

### Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2024

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

**Repair Café January**  
**Coffee shop 6<sup>th</sup> January 12.00-2pm** Advice on repairs, small items and **ULTRASONIC CLEANING FOR JEWELLERY**  
**Social Club 20<sup>th</sup> January 11am** – about 2pm. General repairs and servicing. Please let us know beforehand if possible so we can have tools and parts available  
Our work is varied but new Volunteers are always welcome Tele 01367 710283  
Email: [stanfordrepaircafe@silkie.co.uk](mailto:stanfordrepaircafe@silkie.co.uk)

### STANFORD IN THE VALE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

**Wednesday 10 January at 7.30 in the Large Village Hall.**  
**A HISTORY OF STANFORD IN PHOTOGRAPHS**  
Circa 1850's to 1940 **Speaker: Mary Vizoso**  
**Guests welcome: £5 entrance fee**

### Stanford in the Vale WI

The next meeting of Stanford in the Vale WI is on **Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2024** at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.  
Ann and Jon Ford will talk about the **Morris Minor in the Media.**  
For enquiries, please ring Annette on 01367710528.

### CHATTERBOX every Thursday

**We are open 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!

### STANFORD IN THE VALE GARDENING CLUB

The January meeting will be held on **Wednesday, January 24<sup>th</sup> at 7.30 pm in Stanford in the Vale Village Hall.**

The speaker will be Sally Cunninghama and her subject will be "Love Your Bugs".

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.
- If not too wet, dig over vacant plots.
- Clean pots and greenhouses ready for spring.
- Disperse worm casts in lawns.
- Inspect stored tubers of dahlias, begonias and cannas for rot or drying out.
- Start forcing rhubarb.
- Put out food and water for the birds.

### Stanford in the Vale Village Hall Film Club.

Many thanks to all the people who have volunteered to help at this event. We hope that our first film show will be on **Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February**, and then **every second Friday** in the month. More details next month.

Also, many thanks to all the organisations and businesses who donated a prize for the recent Christmas Bingo. Greatly appreciated.

### Pre-school news – January 2023

We are welcoming 12 new families to Pre-school this year. We are looking forward to getting to know them and their children.

The children enjoyed all the magic of Christmas in December. They did a wonderful Christmas

Performance for their families in the church. They then had a visit from Father Christmas who gave each child the gift of a book. They have enjoyed Christmas crafts, stories and role playing in the Santa Grotto.

We wanted to say a huge thank you to Megan Rolls for choosing the Pre-school as the recipient for all her fundraising efforts at the Christmas Bazaar on the 3<sup>rd</sup> December. The money will be put to good use supporting the Pre-school to remain open and financially viable. Thank you to all those people who have so kindly helped us out this year and given their time and services for free.

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.whitehorcelottery.co.uk>

You can also support the Pre-school by buying online through Easy Fundraising and choosing us as your good cause. At no cost to you every time you shop we will get a commission from the company. [https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stanfordpresch/?utm\\_campaign=raise-more&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_content=rm-en-e2](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stanfordpresch/?utm_campaign=raise-more&utm_medium=email&utm_content=rm-en-e2)

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](http://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 - Jonathan & Lola,  
Year 2 - Sophie & Luis,  
Year 3 - Ivy & Saffron,  
Year 4 - Conway & Anneke,  
Year 5 - Toby & Lottie,  
Year 6 - Tessa and Esmay



We have been getting into the festive spirit at school and enjoying a range of Christmas activities.

**Key Stage One** staged an amazing performance of 'Wriggly Nativity' that was enjoyed by all, they were absolutely wonderful! We have also enjoyed a variety of Christmas activities in class, including writing

about the contents of an Elf's pocket and writing letters to Rudolph.

**Key Stage Two** put on a spectacular performance of 'Stable Manners', everyone was amazing and some particularly brave year 5's took on major roles with solo performances. It was a wonderful treat for all of the audiences. We have also been writing instructions based on The Grinch, completing Christmas maths calculations and Geography quizzes!

The whole school very much enjoyed another wonderful Christmas Art Day. During the day we all completed five different art activities which we have used to decorate the hall and some we were able to take home. There was a mixture of artistic skills being practiced from sewing to painting, cutting and colouring. We also had a fantastic trip to the pantomime at the Wyvern Theatre last week - an outing which was thoroughly enjoyed by all!

Mrs Miozga currently runs our **cycling proficiency training for year 6 pupils and is in need of some volunteers to help supervise this.** If you are able to spare some time to help with this, please get in contact with the school.

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

Thank you for reading our report.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

To include items in February's newsletter please send to [jmwarren302@gmail.com](mailto:jmwarren302@gmail.com) or telephone **01367 710789** and leave a message. **Closing date: 18<sup>th</sup> January 2024. Late items cannot be accepted.**

*Stanford in the Vale with Goosey and Hatford Newsletter January 2024. To include items for the newsletter: Janet Warren 01367 710789 or [jmwarren302@gmail.com](mailto:jmwarren302@gmail.com) Closing date this month is the 18<sup>th</sup> January.*

*Stanford Community Website for e copy - Local events, business listing, village history and more*

*Newsletter sponsored by Public Purposes Charity Stanford in the Vale*

