



FEBRUARY 2024 PARISH NEWSLETTER

SERVICES FOR FEBRUARY

Sunday 4th February *Presentation of Christ*

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

Sunday 11th February *Sunday before Lent*

10.15 am Holy Communion (Stanford)
4.00 pm Denys@4
6.00 pm Evensong at All Saints, Goosey

Thursday 15th February

12.30pm Lent Lunch

Sunday 18th February *Lent 1*

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

Thursday 22nd February

12.30pm Lent Lunch

Sunday 25th February *Lent 2*

10.15 am Holy Communion (Stanford)
4.00 pm Denys@4
6.00 pm Evensong at St Georges, Hatford

Thursday 1st March

12.30pm Lent Lunch

Sunday 4th March *Lent 3*

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:

Pat Haddock
Ina Henry

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.

WHO'S WHO IN THE PARISH?

Vicar

The Revd Paul Eddy 710267

Church Wardens

Maz Galley 710211

Michelle Sinclair 07929733429

Verger

Susan Mayall 710138

Parish Website: www.stdenys.org

Lent Lunches

At lunchtime on **Thursdays in Lent**
In the church, 12.30-1.30 on 15th, 22nd, 29th February, 7th, 14th and 22nd March. Snack lunch of home-made soup and bread *Come and join us*

The Vicar Writes – February 2024

I don't know about you, but the older I get I'm sure the days, weeks and months go quicker! January was but a 'blink of an eye', and now we are into February and Spring is on its way.

February, of course, is the month where love is commercialised, and the prices of cards, chocolates and restaurant food seems to double the closer you get to Valentines Day (the 14th). But at the heart of the day is an opportunity to pause and to reflect, and to say 'thank you' to those we love: be they a spouse, partner, parent, sibling children or others close to us.

Linked to the speed with which life seems to be passing, it is also a reminded of how we all need to pause and to be grateful in life. Our commercial world bombards us with all sorts of things marketeers say we need to have in order to be happy, and there is a real temptation to never be satisfied.

A few months ago, a friend of mine, in his 40s, was diagnosed with Young Parkinsons. It's quite rare at that age, but for a man who worked out in the gym, did extreme sports, lived the 'thrill and the chase', the diagnoses, whilst being a major shock, has, he said, been a huge 'wake-up call' on his life. He says somehow now, even a walk to the shops he notices trees and flowers, or neighbours and friends he would otherwise just pass, with a cursory wave to the latter. He says he's realised his spending on material things has more than halved, and he has a renewed commitment to relationships, and to trying to support others with YP – and to make a real difference in his life and others.

One of his key ways of coping with the bad days -which he says is about 50% of the time already, is at the end of the day, before he goes to bed, to list 3 things he is grateful for, and at the end of the week, to look back and whilst he's realised some of his symptoms may be getting stronger, he has 21 things to be grateful for, often 21 people to be grateful for which he would have otherwise taken for granted.

I don't know how you will spend Valentines Day this year, but maybe it could be a day to start a new ritual in your life: to write down three people/things for which you are grateful that day, which in most of our cases, will be people whom we love.

In the bible there's a lovely story of people flocking to hear Jesus and he's conscious of the way the Roman culture is very

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much about wealth and power, and yet he tells them a story and says: "Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?" ²⁷ Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life^[a]? ²⁸ "And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labour or spin. ²⁹ Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendour was dressed like one of these. ³⁰ If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith?" Matthew 6: 26-30.

May this Valentines Day be a day when we all pause and focus on those we love, rather than on material things and in so doing, develop a new sense of gratitude.

On the subject of gratitude, Tony Howells has been doing a remarkable job in researching many of the men who gave their lives in the two world wars from this parish. He has uploaded various people's histories onto the village Facebook page, and we hope, in time, to upload them all onto the church website so you can all read of our villager's histories, and of the sacrifice and service they each gave for our freedom. Thank you, Tony, for all your hard work behind the scenes. We are soon to erect some Commonwealth War Grave Notices on the entrances to the churchyard on which there is a QR code. This is part of a nationwide project and aims to bring to the public attention War Graves contained in churchyards.

Yours Paul **Revd Paul Eddy** Vicar

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.

Church Bell Ringing

One of our younger ringers suddenly realised at Christmas ringing that she, along with the other new ringers, had made more progress than she had anticipated when she started and that the new ringers were suddenly all able to ring together without 1-1 supervision. It has been so fantastic to watch the progress and to see our new ringers reach this milestone.

Two of the slightly more advanced young ringers have said that they wanted me to report that they would like everyone in the village to know how well they are doing and how great it would be to see even more people come and see what we do.

So why not do so? Maybe even make 2024 the year that you learn to ring church bells?

It's an interest 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.

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Ringling is also a service opportunity as we ring for all sorts of occasions, whether they are church services or national or local celebrations.

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, just in case there has been a change in arrangements). We look forward to meeting you.

Stanford Community First Responders

Stanford's Community First Responders (CFRs), Les Harding and Jeanette Gill, have recently received long-service badges, which recognise their combined total of 25 years of volunteering for South Central Ambulance Service.

CFRs are required to be available for 240 hours a year (20 hours a month) to respond to life threatening emergencies. In 2023, Les and Jeanette were on standby for a combined total of over 1,700 hours and responded to 122 emergency calls in Stanford and surrounding communities.

If you can be available for 20 hours a month to respond to life threatening emergencies and help people in their hour of need, please visit

<https://www.scas.nhs.uk/what-we-do/community-first-responders/> to find out more or email les.harding@sca-charity.org.uk

Repair Café Saturday 3rd February Coffee Shop 11.00am – 1.00pm NOTE EARIER TIME

Small items and advice on larger items
Jewellery Ultrasonic Cleaning

Saturday 17th February Social Club 11.00am until about 2.00pm

Ideally please give us prior notice of items for repair
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

STANFORD DRAMA GROUP PRESENTS

'A word in your Ear' based on the best seller 'How to volunteer, have fun and entertain people'!

We are an established Drama Group who present Pantomimes and Summer Plays in the Village Hall in Stanford in the Vale.

We have our own large store of costumes and props and an up-to-date lighting system.

We are looking for new recruits for the Group who meet



on Tuesday evenings from 8 – 10 pm in the Village Hall. We would like people to join us for both on-stage and off-stage roles.

So, if you would like to **act, paint scenery, make props or costumes, help with make-up, be our stage manager or just a scenery shifter** and become part of our friendly group please. **Ring Yvonne or Barry on 01367 710400 or join us on Tuesday 6th February at 8pm in the Village Hall**

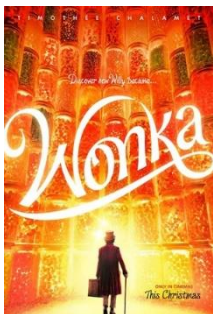
To come and meet us for wine, soft drinks and nibbles. If you want to act, then we would like you to be able to attend regular Tuesday evening sessions but scenery painting and prop making are carried out on Saturdays or Sundays. For scenery shifters it might be just the few weeks before performances that you will be required. Age is no barrier – 14+ to 90 years old will all be welcome.

We look forward to seeing you on Tuesday 6th February at 8pm in the village Hall.

Wednesday 7th February 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.

Stanford in the Vale Village Hall Film Club



Friday 9th February – WONKA (PG)

Willy Wonka – chock-full of ideas and determined to change the world one delectable bite at a time – is proof that the best things in life begin with a dream, and if you're lucky enough to meet Willy Wonka, anything is possible.

Stars: Rowan Atkinson, Timothée Chalamet, Olivia Colman, Hugh Grant, Keegan-Michael Key
Film Duration : 112 minutes (with an interval)

Stanford in the Vale Village Hall

Doors open 7.00pm, film starts at 7.30pm.

Tickets: U18 £3; Adult £5 ; Family £12

Card payments only

Bar and Refreshments available

**Every second Friday in the month.
Look out for the film in March.**

STANFORD IN THE VALE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Wednesday 14th February at 7.30 in the Large Village Hall. AGM (very short)

Followed by SIX WARRIOR WOMEN OF THE ENGLISH CIVIL WAR 1642-1651

SPEAKER :STEPHEN BARKER

Guests welcome: £5 entrance fee

Stanford in the Vale WI

The next meeting of Stanford in the Vale WI is on **Wednesday 21st February 2024** in the Village Hall. There will be a talk on the **Ridgeway Bees**. For enquiries, please ring Annette on 01367710528.

St Denys' Church invites you to a Women's Breakfast.

When: Saturday 24th February 2024

Where: Stanford in the Vale Village Hall (Large Hall)

Time: 8.30 am for 8.45am start.

Talk by Talk by Dr Rachel Wenham:

Sleep Training (Career, toddlers and travel)

Seats are limited, so to book your place, or for further details, please leave a message on 07880655102, sign up in Church or email the Breakfast Team

via Womensbreakfast@stdenys.org

STANFORD IN THE VALE GARDENING CLUB

The February meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 28th at 7.30 pm in Stanford in the Vale Village Hall.

The speaker will be Katherine Crouch and her subject will be "Plants in Difficult Places".

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 FEBRUARY

- Prepare vegetable seed beds and sow some vegetables under cover.
- Chit potato tubers.
- Protect blossom on apricots, nectarines, and peaches.
- Net fruit and vegetable crops to keep the birds off.
- Prune winter-flowering shrubs that have finished flowering.
- Prune Wisteria.

Prune hardy evergreen hedges and renovate.

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Village Voices Concert

Saturday 2nd March at 7.30

St Denys' Church

'SINGING BRITAIN' Songs and music of the British Isles.

Refreshments at the end. All very welcome.

Donations to the Medical Detection Dogs.

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.

Pre-school news – January 2023

We are delighted with how well the children have settled back into Pre-school after the Christmas break. We have been busy visiting the new children joining us in their homes and also welcoming them into Pre-school for their Stay and Play sessions.

The children are enjoying playing in our role play Café. They have been taking orders and preparing food for each other. This has led to lots of opportunities around developing language and vocabulary, social skills, imaginative play and number and money.

We have also been enjoying music sessions using a variety of different instruments. These sessions have been noisy and fun but most importantly they have supported children in their learning.

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>

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.easypfundraising.org.uk/causes/stanfordpresch/?utm_campaign=raise-

[more&utm_medium=email&utm_content=rm-en-e2](https://www.easypfundraising.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 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

What a wonderful and busy return to school for the new year we have had! Everyone has come straight back in with renewed enthusiasm for learning.

Foundation have been getting to know our new teacher Mrs Warner-King and have been looking at some Kipper books. We have been practicing our fine motor skills using pens, pencils, scissors and pom poms!

Year One have been enjoying beginning their new topic all about the history of our school. It has been really interesting to think about how much it has changed and grown over the years.

Year Two have been starting to discover the differences between the countries of the UK - it has been really interesting to see how they are similar but also different. We have also been making great progress in gymnastics.

Year Three have started swimming this term and have been enjoying learning some new strokes and skills. We are also thoroughly enjoying our new topic learning all about the Romans, we have been making links to other periods of history that we have studied before.

Year Four have made an enthusiastic start to our new topic all about volcanoes and earthquakes, we started with an exploration of Mount Everest. We have also been enjoying building our skills during our PE lessons where we are learning how to play basketball.

Year Five have started out new topic all about how we impact the Earth. We have been recycling in DT to create junk model pieces of art as well as exploring the use of single-use plastics.

Year Six have made a wonderful start to our new topic all about Mary Anning and Charles Darwin. We have been exploring fossils and their importance. In Maths we have started our unit on fractions which was made particularly enjoyable with the addition of some bars of chocolate!

As a school we are getting very excited about the upcoming Stanford's Got Talent which sees pupils from every year group showcase a wide range of wonderful talents!

School council have signed up to the 'Ox Trail' in aid of Sobell House Hospice. As part of this we will be sent an ox which we can decorate. In return for this we need to raise money for Sobell House, we are planning a collection at Stanford's Got Talent and a cake sale. We must also raise £400 in matched funding from a local business or organisation to support the great work of Sobell House. If you, or someone you know, would be interested in donating towards this total please do contact the school office.

Best wishes

School Council.

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