



**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.

**The Vicar writes ....**

AS this newsletter drops through letterboxes, it is Easter week.

For some, this means a much-needed few extra days break from work, with Spring now bringing lighter nights and what seems to have been a very long, hard winter, behind us.

I know many people look forward to Easter weekend as strategically, it is turning point from the dark winter into a season of lighter days, and possibilities and yes, often hope.

Perhaps ironic, then, that it means to many people (in practical ways) what, to Christians is believed and felt at a much deeper, spiritual level.

**Good Friday**, of course, represents the death of Jesus and Him descending to the dead - due to the sin that He carried on behalf of all of us. The Bible stories describe the painful sight of those he loved, watching on, as Jesus was nailed to a cross. Having been taken down, his body was put in a secure tomb – and then to be sure, the Roman authorities posted two guards at the entrance.

**Easter Saturday**, however, is where so many people live their lives today – even if they are glad the winter is over, and summer is approaching. They have turned their backs, metaphorically, on the past, but are waiting for the future hope?

To the followers of Jesus, despite what he told them would happen, having experience his death first hand, at a totally understandably human level, they believed Jesus to dead. Gone, and that was it. Final!

It is perhaps not surprising, then, that the first witnesses to His resurrection were shocked, ran back and told the disciples - who too were unconvinced and had to go and experience the truth for themselves. Even then, for many, until they actually experienced Jesus resurrection, they did not believe. That is also true of many people today: until; they experience Jesus, they cant say 'yes', or I believe'

Over the past year or so, despite the continued downward trend in Church of England attendance, I am delighted that in this parish, **in addition** to our weekly Parish Holy Communion Service at 1015am on Sundays at St Denys, we have experienced real shoots of new life! The once-a-month evening service at 6pm at **All Saints, Goosey** (2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday) and **St George, Hatford** (4<sup>th</sup> Sunday) have seen good numbers attending – many for the first time, some returning after years away from church, whilst others used to worship there before Covid. Whatever reason, it is a joy that they are part of our **growing worshipping community** and are welcome. We look forward to continued growth in

# APRIL 2024 PARISH NEWSLETTER

## SERVICES FOR APRIL 2024

<u>Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> April</u>	<i>Easter 2</i>
10.15 am	Holy Communion (Stanford)
4.00 pm	Denys@4
<u>Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> April</u>	<i>Easter 3</i>
10.15am	Holy Communion (Stanford)
4.00pm	Denys@4
6.00 pm	Evening Prayer at All Saints, Goosey
<u>Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> April</u>	<i>Easter 4 St George's Day</i>
10.15 am	Holy Communion (Stanford)
4.00 pm	Denys@4 with Thanksgiving for a Child
6.00pm	Holy Communion at St Georges Hatford – St George's Day (NB. change of week)
<u>Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> April</u>	<i>Easter 5</i>
10.15 am	Holy Communion (Stanford)
4.00 pm	Denys@4
<u>Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> May</u>	<i>Easter 6</i>
10.15 am	Holy Communion (Stanford)
4.00 pm	Denys@4

### 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>

### In Memory

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

Steve Williams

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

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those services at Goosey & Hatford in the years to follow.

Our **Denys@4**, our 4pm, weekly Families (informal) Sunday service, launched on October 9 (St Denys Day) 2022 at St Denys, has now seen around 55 adults and children attending at some time over a five-week period. Given the practicalities of family life, we don't get them all worshipping together at one time, but we are now seeing a regular 25/30, most of whom, before Denys@4, would not have worshipped regularly in church.

Whether people attend at 1015am, 4pm or 6pm, or in whatever church building, each is on a journey from Good Friday, through the questions of Easter Saturday, into the life and purpose of living daily with God - thanks to the work Jesus did on the cross of defeating death and sin, rising for us so that whether we live here on earth, or in the life to come, our daily relationship with God, our Faither will be a continuum. That fact and daily experience brings a security, depth, purpose and meaning to life that many are finding satisfies a deep longing and fills a God-shaped hole in their lives.

So, this Easter time, as you look at the cross that will be displayed throughout the Easter Season in St Denys churchyard, although the cross may be in the churchyard, note one key thing: **The Cross is Bare, the Tomb is Empty and the Throne (in Heaven) is now occupied.**

May the hope and joys of the promise of summer ahead be accompanied in your life with an increasing awareness that God's love and desire for us all is to walk in faith from Good Friday through to Easter Day. And then, to the Ascension - for in the same way Jesus ascended to be with His Father, for those who believe and trust in Him, 'even though they die, yet shall they live' - as they will spend eternity with God, and all those who also have committed their lives to Him.

So a very Happy Easter season and Spring!

Yours Paul **Revd Paul Eddy** **Vicar**

### **PS. Stanford Festival 2024**

Theme: **Paris Olympics** (French & sport links), **13/14 July** - look out for social media posts/posters in the coming months. Or, for more info, email [festival@stdenys.org](mailto:festival@stdenys.org)

### **Church Bell Ringing**

Our local area began organising ringing sessions specifically for Young People during the latter part of 2023. These are open to all young ringers in the Vale of the White Horse as well as invitees from neighbouring regions. The ringers, with parents and ringing tutors, meet roughly monthly at a church in the area and enjoy the opportunity to ring together, either on church bells or on a portable mini-ring (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IKfUwLE3Jeg>).

The February event, at Shrivenham, was attended by at least 8 youngsters aged under 18. They were shown the church bells and the church clock as well as tower views across the Vale and they enjoyed drinks and snacks before ringing on the 10 church bells. We will be hosting the April meeting at Stanford in the Vale using church bells and the mini-ring again.

The Vale area also hosts monthly evening practices, open to ringers of all ages, and these also rotate around the district and give opportunity to advance learning as well as to catch up with ringing friends across the Vale.

The Vale ringers additionally organise social events and recently enjoyed a quiz evening at Uffington with the bonus of a fish and chip supper between rounds. A riverside picnic is planned for the summer.

If you'd like to join us, please do get in touch via [StDenysChurchBells@btinternet.com](mailto:StDenysChurchBells@btinternet.com). We would love to hear from you.

### **Thank You**

A Very Big Thank You to the Village Voices for not only a very entertaining evening "Singing Britain" but also for the generous donations totalling **£229.93** in aid of Medical Detection Dogs.

Our dogs save lives every day by alerting to an imminent collapse and also are working to identify cancers, Parkinson's and other diseases, at early stages.   
Tim and Danielle Mills

### **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.

#### **HOWEVER:**

Looking back over the last 20 requests we've only been able to provide drivers for 60%, **so we need more drivers to get to the coverage we need. If you are able to spend just a few hours a month helping with this valuable service, please contact Dan on 05603 660 122.**

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### AGE UK - BIG KNIT

A message to all those people who have, over the past years, been knitting mini bobble hats to fund raise for Age UK,

As I had received no communication from the Oxfordshire Branch about this years deadline for collection, I contacted them this morning to ask for details. Sadly, the receptionist told me that the Scheme was not going ahead this year, but she didn't know the reason why. (It was originally instigated by the drinks company 'innocent smoothies') Apparently, they have a cupboard full of hats, in the Abingdon Office, so if anyone has any ideas on how they can be recycled, do let me know.!

I am really sorry that I have not been able to pass this news on before now but was totally unaware of the situation. However, I would like to thank everyone single one of you who have participated over the past 15 years and helped to raise over £,6000 by just knitting up scraps of wool. Thank you so much. Jan Stenzhorn 710724

### 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.

### Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 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

**Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> April COFFEE SHOP 11am, - 1pm**  
Advice and small items. We can also do a PAT for you

**Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> April SOCIAL: CLUB 11am – 2pm**  
Please try and give us prior notice so we can get spares etc

Contact phone 01367 710283

Email [stanfordrepaircafe@silkie.co.uk](mailto:stanfordrepaircafe@silkie.co.uk)

### STANFORD IN THE VALE HISTORY SOCIETY WEDNESDAY 10<sup>th</sup> April

**KELMSCOTT MANOR** ( William Morris's Heaven on Earth ) With Dr. Kathy Haslam Curator  
@ 7.30 in the Large Village Hall  
Visitors welcome : £5 entrance fee

### Stanford in the Vale Village Hall Film Club FRIDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> APRIL BARBIE (2023) 12



#### Synopsis:

Eccentric and individualistic, Barbie is exiled from Barbieland because of her imperfections. When her home world is in peril, Barbie returns with the knowledge that what makes her different also makes her stronger.  
**Stars:** Michael Cera,

America Ferrera, Ryan Gosling, Margot Robbie

**Film Duration:** 114 minutes with an interval.

Stanford in the Vale Village Hall

**Doors open** 7.00pm, film starts at 7.30pm.

**Tickets:** U18's £3    Adult £5    Family £12

Card payments only

Bar and Refreshments available

*Every second Friday in the month. What will come in May?*

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### **Stanford in the Vale WI**

The next meeting of Stanford in the Vale WI is on **Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2024** in the Village Hall. Marae Brown will give a talk on **The Art of Jaipur** [block printing]. For enquiries, please ring Annette on 01367710528.

### **STANFORD IN THE VALE GARDENING CLUB**

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

We will be hearing about "Root and Branch", which is an independent charity located in the Vale of the White Horse, providing activities that promote recovery for people who experience mental health difficulties.

Their garden is at the heart of what they do.

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 APRIL**

- Sow hardy annuals, herbs and wild flower seed outdoors
- Protect fruit blossom from late frosts
- Tie in climbing and rambling roses
- Mow lawns when necessary but where there are bulbs leave at least six weeks after flowering
- Keep weeds under control
- Increase watering of houseplants
- Feed shrubs and roses

### **Stanford in the Vale Village Hall**

#### **Grand Quiz Night**

**Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> April**

New Quiz Master

£28 per team of 4 if prior notice given,

or £32 at the door,

both including ploughman's supper.

#### **CARD PAYMENTS ONLY**

Doors open 7pm for 7.30pm. Raffle and Bar

Contact: J. Warren 01367 710789

### **Pre-school news – April 2024**

We celebrated World Book Day with a visit from the librarian from Wantage library. The children really enjoyed listening to the stories she had brought along to share, and they all enjoyed sharing their own favourite books from home with each other.

The children planted sweet pea seeds to give to their Mum's on Mother's Day. They also drew a picture and shared their thoughts on their favourite things to do with their mum.

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.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.

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## 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 L

Year 6 - Tessa & Esmay

We have had another action packed and exciting month with various different events taking place for all of us!

**Foundation** had a wonderful trip to Farmer Gows where we got to feed and stroke lots of different animals including lamb, goats and pigs. We learnt lots about all of the different animals to support our learning all about life cycles.

**Year One** have been working really hard in English to retell the story of Zog. We have learnt the story and created some amazing retellings. We have also really enjoyed going swimming this term and we are all becoming much more confident with our swimming!

**Year Two** have been enjoying learning all about Nairobi and comparing it to the countries of the UK. We have also been exploring the different parts of a plant and their life cycles.

**Year Three** have been busy exploring seasonal foods and designing recipes that use these different fruits and vegetables. We have also been working hard in PE taking part in circuit training sessions.

**Year Four** have been learning all about where our food comes from this term and have had the chance to speak to two different UK based farmers to learn all about how dairy and sheep farms operate.

**Year Five** had a very exciting trip to RAF Brize Norton to visit their STEM team and had the opportunity to explore one of the aircraft. We have also been learning how to bake different types of bread.

**Year Six** have been finding out all about the ancient Mayan civilisation and exploring their way of life and lasting impact. We also took part in a mock SATs week, where we all worked really hard and Miss Stott was very proud.

As a whole school on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March we held our Mother's Day Service now at St Denys - it was lovely to be able to celebrate all of our mother's together with songs, prayers and memories. On Friday 15<sup>th</sup> we took part in some 'funny' activities to raise money for Comic Relief - everyone came dressed in something funny and we shared some jokes in class.

School council have now launched our mini Ox to the whole school and are awaiting design submissions ready to decorate him in the summer term! Best wishes School Council

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## Earth Day at Stanford in the Vale Primary School

Every year, the children at Stanford in the Vale Primary School take part in the world-wide event, Earth Day. This year, we will be celebrating Earth day on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> April. The theme for this year is 'Planet Vs Plastics', which primarily focuses on looking at climate change and environmental issues and what we can do now to help.

Some of the activities that our Eco Committee has suggested we complete in school include:

- Litter picking – each class has a designated area within the school or village that they will complete a litter picking activity.
- Having an electricity free day – all lights, computers, interactive whiteboards will be switched off for the whole day!
- Each class will then complete activities in line with the 5 R's – Reduce, Reuse, Repurpose, Recycle, Refuse.

### How Can You Help?

Earthday.org pledge to reduce the use of plastic by 60% by 2040 and we can all do our bit to help.

- Always carry a reusable bag
- Join a local clear up
- Look at ways to reduce the amount of plastic coming into your house (reusable containers for washing liquid etc.)
- Ensure all plastic is recycled appropriately
- Use reusable bottles/cups for drinks

We are really looking forward to celebrating such a wonderful day and doing our part to help our planet!



HAPPY EARTH DAY!

BYEONE

## Our Eco Code

Ensure you always recycle and remember the 5 R's (reduce, reuse, recycle, repurpose and refuse).

Composting unwanted food is good for the environment.

Our climate is something we should care for and look after.

Cars = only use them when you need to. Walk, cycle or scooter if you can.

Our Eco Club is the best.

Don't use too much electricity – turn off lights and whiteboards.

Eat healthier food, like vegetables and fruit.

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To include items in May'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> April 2024. Late items can no longer be accepted**