



JANUARY 2025

PARISH NEWSLETTER

JANUARY SERVICES FOR THE MONTH

Sunday 5th January *Epiphany*

10.15 am Holy Communion (Stanford)

4.00 pm Denys@4

Sunday 12th January *Baptism of Christ*

10.15 am Holy Communion (Stanford)

4.00 pm Denys @4

6.00 pm Evening Service (All Saints, Goosey)

Sunday 19th January *Epiphany 2*

10.15 am Holy Communion (Stanford)

4.00 pm Denys @4

Sunday 26th January *Epiphany 3*

10.15 am Holy Communion (Stanford)

4.00 pm Denys @4

6.00 pm Evensong (St. George, Hatford)

Sunday 2nd February *Presentation of Christ*

10.15 am Holy Communion (Stanford)

4.00 pm Denys @4

Open House Saturday's St Denys Church is open between 10 am and noon for coffee and tea, cake and chat. Do pop in

WHO'S WHO IN THE PARISH?

Vicar

The Revd Paul Eddy 710267

Church Wardens

Maz Galley 710211

Michelle Sinclair 07929733429

Verger

Susan Mayall 710138

The Vicar Writes – January 2025

Dear Parishioners

A very Happy New Year to you!

The turning of the calendar is a natural moment for reflection—on what has been, on what is, and on what is to come. It offers a sacred pause, a chance to consider where we've been as individuals, as a church, as a community, and to prayerfully seek God's guidance for the journey ahead.

The past year, like all seasons, was a mix of joys and challenges. Maybe you've celebrated weddings, or the birth of a child, or grandchild, or maybe mourned the loss of dear loved one?

As we begin this new chapter, I am reminded of the words of the prophet Isaiah: "See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland" (Isaiah 43:19).

This promise assures us that God is continually working in our lives, shaping us into His image and calling us toward His purposes. No matter how barren the path ahead may seem, God is already making a way. The challenge for us is to trust in His provision and to remain open to the "new thing" that He is doing in us and through us.

As a Church, this is a time to recommit ourselves to the mission of Christ. Let us strive to deepen our love for God, for one another, and for our wider community. In our first service of January, I will therefore encourage the congregation to prayerfully consider how they might grow in faith this year—whether it's through joining a homegroup, volunteering for a ministry, spending more time in prayer, or extending a helping hand to those in need. Together, we can continue to be a beacon of hope, faith, and love in our community.

2025 will undoubtedly bring its share of challenges but let us face them with the assurance that God is with us. Just as the wise men followed the star to find Christ, we too are called to keep our eyes fixed on Him, trusting that He will lead us into His light.

I also invite you to take time for personal reflection as we begin this year. What "new thing" might you do to? What habits, relationships, or attitudes might need renewing? What blessings can you share with others? Might you volunteer to help one of the many village organisations, or help with the Village Festival, 12-13 July.

Finally, let us walk into this new year with hope. Together we can look forward to all that God has in store for us—trusting in His love, rejoicing in His faithfulness, and embracing the opportunities He places before us.

May this new year be a season of blessing and growth for each of you. I hold you all in my prayers and ask that you keep me in yours.

With every blessing for 2024.

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

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PS. The **Village Compassion Fund** is there to help parishioners struggling with the 'Cost of Living' Crisis, or other emergency needs. For an application form to be considered for a small grant, please email vicar@stdenys.org

WHEELCHAIR LOAN

Did you know that there is a service in the village which allows you to loan a wheelchair, on a short term basis, free of charge?

This may be useful if you -

- have visitors coming to stay who have poor mobility,
- An appointment where a chair may be useful
- Wish to go on a day trip somewhere
- or simply want to be able to get around the village

Whatever the reason, providing you live in the Parish, you are more than welcome to get in touch with us to see if we can help. Tel: 01367 710724

THE BIG KNIT IS BACK!

Help raise money for AGE UK

If you are a knitter you may be interested! All it involves is knitting miniature hats - 28 stitches, 14 rows and a bobble!

Innocent Smoothies then put these hats on the top of their bottles and, for each one sold, 30p is donated to Age UK.

If you are interested, and want to know more, I am hoping to co-ordinate a group in the village so just give me a ring on 01367 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.

Repair Café

During January we will be open in the Coffee shop on **Saturday 4th January** from 11am – 1pm for advice and small items. We can take small items for you for repair. Derek 01367 710283 – reco@clara.co.uk

Wednesday 1st January

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

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A New Activity for the New Year

Why not make 2025 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 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, just in case there has been a change in arrangements). We look forward to meeting you.

STANFORD IN THE VALE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY
WEDNESDAY JANUARY 8th @7.30 in the large Village Hall
STANFORD IN THE VALE : A WORKING VILLAGE
(A look back through the photographic archive at the village farms , businesses and shops)

Speaker: Mary Vizoso

Visitors welcome £5 entrance fee

Tea and coffee available from 7.15pm

Stanford in the Vale Village Hall Film Club

Friday 10th January - The Critic



Synopsis: London, 1934. Jimmy Erskine (McKellen) is the most feared theatre critic of the age. He lives as flamboyantly as he writes and takes pleasure in savagely taking down any actor who fails to meet his standards. When the owner of the Daily Chronicle newspaper dies, and his son David Brooke (Strong) takes over, Jimmy quickly finds himself at odds with his new boss and his position under threat. In an attempt to preserve

the power and influence he holds so sacred, Jimmy strikes a Faustian pact with struggling actress Nina Land (Arterton), entangling them and Brooke in a thrilling but deadly web of desire, blackmail and betrayal.

Cast: Matthew Cottle, Alfred Enoch, Ed Madden, Ian McKellen, Mark Strong

Doors open 7.00 pm, film starts at 7.30pm.

Tickets: Adult £5 Card payments only
Bar and Refreshments available



Wanted: Monthly River Water Quality Testers!

Are you concerned about pollution in our local rivers and streams? Do you have 30 minutes to spare a month? If the answer is yes, then you could be a water watcher!

River charity Thames21 are looking for volunteer citizen scientists across the Vale of White Horse to monitor the health of local waterbodies every month. The data will be used to detect pollution hotspots and hold Thames Water, local councils and the Environment Agency to account. All training, equipment and ongoing support is provided free of charge.

There are two upcoming training events to hear in more detail about the project, meet other volunteers and learn how to take samples. Pre-booking is essential.

Saturday 11th January, 10am - 12pm, Letcombe Regis Village Hall, OX12 9LJ. Booking link:
<https://www.thames21.org.uk/event/freshwater-watch-training-ock-catchment/>

Friday 17th January, 10.30am - 12.30pm, One Planet Abingdon, OX14 3HG. Booking link:
<https://www.thames21.org.uk/event/freshwater-watch-training-abingdon-and-the-ock/>

Or alternatively, email / call Claire for more information: claire.robertson@thames21.org.uk / 07856715542

STANFORD IN THE VALE GARDENING CLUB

PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF TIME

The January meeting will be held on **Wednesday, January 22nd. at 2.30 pm in Stanford in the Vale Village Hall.**

The speaker will be Pip Bensley and her subject will be "The Road to Winchester - Creating a Flower Festival at the Cathedral during Covid". This talk will be via Zoom. Pip is a freelance journalist and floral designer. She is a senior RHS judge and a National NAFAS National judge, teacher and speaker.

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.
(<https://www.rhs.org.uk/fruit/apples/pruning-made-easy>)
- Clean pots and greenhouses ready for spring.
- Check watering of houseplants keeping them just moist.
- Inspect stored tubers of dahlia, begonia and cannas for rot or drying out
- Start forcing rhubarb.
- Cut off hellebore leaves at base to discourage black spot and show off flowers.
- Keep putting out food and water for the birds.



Stanford in the Vale WI

The next meeting of Stanford in the Vale WI is on Wednesday 15th January 2025 @ 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

We will be trying our hand at Circus Skills!

For enquiries, please call Rebecca on 01367 718719.

STANFORD IN THE VALE DRAMA GROUP

Proudly present 'ALICE IN CUCKOO LAND'

A Christmas Pantomime by Peter Nuttall

Directed by Katie Tidy At Stanford in the Vale Village Hall

DATES: Thursday 6th February 7.30pm

Friday 7th February 7.30pm

Saturday 8th February 2.30pm

7.30pm

Doors Open at 7.00pm (2.00pm for Matinee)

Cash bar available on evening performances,

TICKETS: £10.00 £5.00 Concessions

(Under 16 & Seniors)

Available from the Stanford Coffee Shop – Cash Only
The nasty Queen of Hearts has made time standstill & Stopped Christmas. Can Old Mother Wobbly & friends Work their magic and change her mind.

By permission of Lazy Bee Scri

Pre-school news –January 2025

Thank you to Megan Rolls for her support of the Pre-school again this year. By doing the refreshments at the Christmas Bazaar and proceeds from the raffle we were able to raise some much-needed funds for Pre-school.



The Companionship Café runs once a month at the Village Hall. It is open to all and it's free, being a charitable group by Home Instead Charities, with volunteers from the local Home Instead hosting it. Come along for a cuppa, cake, company and creative activities and fun quizzes. It's at 1.30-3.30pm drop in anytime, On **Monday 20th January**

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We have had a wonderful lead up to Christmas with plenty of singing and Christmas craft and stories. The children have been busy wrapping presents and writing letters to Santa in the Elf Workshop. They also made some wonderful Cards for the Santa to a Senior charity. We held our Christmas performance at the church again this year and the children did a great job of singing for their families. We also had a visit from Santa who gave all the children 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>

[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.whitehorselottery.co.uk)
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 and complete a Pre-Registration form or contact the Pre-school on 01367 718696.



Stanford in the Vale CE Primary School

We have been continuing to enjoy our learning at school and the term remains busy and exciting!

Pupil Parliament

Year One - Jackson and Macy

Year Two - Aria and Noah

Year Three - Willow and Isabelle

Year Four - James and Emily

Year Five - Elodie and Josh

Year Six - Apha and James B

What a busy end of term we have had at school! There has been so much going on to celebrate our learning and Christmas.

Key Stage 2 staged an absolutely wonderful performance of the Magical Jigsaw. It was enjoyed by everyone with amazing singing, brilliant dancing and a wonderful opportunity for all pupils to perform!

Key Stage 1 staged an equally brilliant version of Fleece Force. Again, this was a brilliant show with some delightful songs and dance moves accompanied by some amazing acting from our youngest pupils.

We would like to thank everyone who donated to Cancer Research at the performances, we raised a brilliant £367.77.

Alongside these brilliant plays we have enjoyed a variety of Christmas activities and continued working hard. On Friday 29th November the whole school participated in Christmas Art Day which this year was themed around 'The 12 Days of Christmas'. We have also been learning Christmas carols to sing at the Grange. There has been so much going on in classes as well to continue our hard work and learning; autumn walks to learn about the seasons, swimming, a trip to Winchester Science Centre and some excellent clay dragon eyes!

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

Thank you for reading our report.
Take care and keep safe.

To include items in February's newsletter please send to jmwarren302@gmail.com or telephone **01367 710789** and leave a message.
Closing date: 18th January 2025 Late items can no long be accepted

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