



FEBRUARY 2025 PARISH NEWSLETTER

SERVICES FOR FEBRUARY 2025

Sunday 2nd February *Presentation of Christ*

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

Sunday 9th February *4th Sunday before Lent*

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

Sunday 16th February *3rd Sunday before Lent*

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

Sunday 23rd February *2nd Sunday before Lent*

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

Sunday 2nd March *Sunday next before Lent*

10.15 am Holy Communion (Stanford)
4.00 pm Denys@

IN MEMORY

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

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
Parish Safeguarding Officer	
Liz Ward	710255
Verger	
Susan Mayall	710138

The Vicar Writes – February 2025

Dear Parishioners

One month of 2025 has already passed and I find myself reflecting on the changing world around us.

In our village, the rhythm of life may at times feel steady, marked by the seasons and the familiar faces we see in the COOP or at the school gate. Yet beyond our peaceful surroundings, the world seems to be shifting in ways that can leave us feeling unsettled.

Wars continue to rage or, to be on a knife edge in distant lands, bringing heartache to millions. A new President of the United States assumed office on January 20th and with that comes a swirl of opinions, promises, and uncertainties about what lies ahead for the global stage.

Closer to home, the rising cost of living, evidence of climate challenges, and other pressures remind us that none of us is untouched by the uncertainties of life.

In moments like these, it is natural to feel a sense of unease. We long for certainty, for peace, for a world that feels secure. But for Christians, we are reminded that our ultimate hope is not rooted in the ever-changing landscape of global politics, economics, or even our own circumstances. Our hope is in the unchanging, faithful God who holds the world and each of us in His loving hands.

The Bible speaks directly to moments of uncertainty. In Isaiah 41:10, God offers this promise: *“Do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.”*

This is the foundation of the Christian faith: that no matter what storms may rage

around us, we can trust in God's unshakable presence and care. He is not a distant observer, detached from the pain and chaos of our world. He is Emmanuel, "God with Us" as we celebrated only in our Christmas services in December!

If you would like to explore this year how faith in Jesus can act as a firm anchor in your storms, a very warm welcome awaits you at any of the four services this month in our three churches. See the Service Timetable on this front page for details and if you'd like more details, do call myself or one of our two churchwardens. We'd be delighted to talk to you.

Every blessing Paul

BIG KNIT for AGE UK

The Big Knit is a national fundraising incentive between Innocent Smoothies and Age UK. In the January newsletter, I mentioned that I was hoping to coordinate a group of knitters in the village who would be willing to support this Scheme. I have already had several volunteers get in touch, but now it is time to go for a serious appeal!

All you have to do is knit, or crochet, tiny hats - 31 stitches, 14 rows and a bobble - which will be put on innocent smoothie bottles. For each one sold 25p will be donated to Age UK.

To find out more you can visit the Big Knit Age UK website, phone me on the number below, or come along to the Chatterbox Coffee mornings, (Small Village Hall), on the **6th or 20th February** where I will have wool, needles and more information available.

Over the past 10 years Stanford 'knitters' have raised over £5,300 by knitting these hats so please help us keep up the good work. Thank you.

Jan 01367 710724

Stanford Church Bell Ringers would love to see new people joining them. Please contact us at StDenysChurchBells@btinternet.com. You don't need to be a church-goer. Come and find out more - we look forward to meeting you.

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.

Stanford in the Vale with Goosey and Hatford Newsletter February 2025. To include items for the newsletter: Janet Warren 01367 710789 or jmwarren302@gmail.com Closing date this month is the 18th February..

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Repair Cafe

For the time being we are now going to meet once a month in the Social Club on the First Saturday. We would like prior notice by 'phone or email if possible so we can make sure we have the right tools etc available. The first meeting will be on **Saturday 1st February 11am until about 2pm**

Wednesday 5th February

7.30 pm Stanford in the Vale Parish Council

Meeting in Stanford in the Vale Primary School - check noticeboards or Parish Council website for details.

Members of the public are welcome to attend.

Please note change of venue.

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

Stanford in the Vale Village Hall Film Club

WEDNESDAY 12th February Yesterday

Synopsis:

Academy Award-winning director Danny Boyle joins celebrated screenwriter Richard Curtis for a new comedy starring Lily James, Himesh Patel and Kate McKinnon

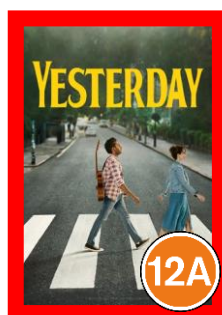
Director(s): Danny Boyle

Doors open 2.00 pm, film starts at 2.30pm.

Tickets: Adult £5

Card payments only

Tea and Cake



STANFORD. IN THE VALE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY
WEDNESDAY 12th February @ 7.30 in the large Village Hall. A very short AGM will precede the talk.

THE ROLE OF THE RIVER THAMES IN WORLD WAR 2
Speaker : BILL KING(of Walking the Thames Path fame)
Visitors welcome : £5 admission fee
Refreshments available from 7.15pm

Stanford in the Vale Village Hall Film Club
Friday 14th February ‘Small Things like these’



Synopsis: While working as a coal merchant to support his family, he discovers disturbing secrets kept by the local convent — and uncovers truths of his own — forcing him to confront his past and the complicit silence of a small Irish town controlled by the Catholic Church.

Cast: Michelle Fairley, Cillian Murphy, Emily Watson

Doors open 7.00 pm, film starts at 7.30pm.

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

Stanford in the Vale WI

The next meeting is on
Wednesday 19th February 2025
@ 7.30pm in the Village Hall

Our speaker is Rachel Tredwell on
Positive Impact Travel

For enquiries, Rebecca Isaacs
01367 718719



Home Instead 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 **2.15 -3.45** pm drop in anytime, On **Monday 17th February**

GARDENING CLUB

Please note change of time

The February meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 26th at 2.30 pm in Stanford in the Vale Village Hall.

The speaker will be Vanessa Berridge and her subject will be **"The Princess's Garden: Royal Intrigue and the Untold Story of Kew Gardens"**.

Vanessa launched The English Garden in 1997. She now writes on gardens and garden history. She gives talks on

gardens and garden history at literary festivals, garden clubs and U3A meetings. She is county organiser for the National Garden Scheme in Gloucestershire.

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, especially earlies.
- Protect blossom on Peaches, nectarines and apricots.
- Net fruit and vegetable crops to keep the birds off.
- Prune winter flowering shrubs that have finished flowering.
- Prune Wisteria.
- Renovate overgrown hedges with pruning

Pre-school news –February 2025

We are pleased to welcome 7 new families to the Pre-school this term. We have enjoyed being outside in the cold weather and observing the environment. We made marks in the ice and freed frozen objects from ice using hammers and tools.

We have been learning some new songs and poems and circle games using a big piece of stretchy lycra. This has been very exciting, and the children have enjoyed working together to get the material to do what we need it to.

We have also been taking part in woodwork this term. The children have amazed us with their skills and creativity. It has been great for developing their confidence and self-esteem.

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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-](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stanfordpresch/?utm_campaign=raise-more&utm_medium=email&utm_content=rm-en-e2)

[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 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

Foundation - We are working really hard on our phonics this term, looking at how to segment and blend words to improve our reading. We have also been learning all about different toys from throughout history.

Year One - We are learning all about what our school might have looked like in the past,

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particularly during Victorian times. We have also been reading our book Handa's Surprise and doing some wonderful retelling and writing based on it.

Year Two - We have been looking at the geography of the UK and thinking about the different physical features. Also, in English we have been working really hard on our sentences and creating noun phrases.

Year Three - We have started swimming this term and we are all enjoying our lessons. We have also started our Romans topic including learning a traditional Roman dance.

Year Four - We have been working really hard on our times tables and our multiplication and division skills this term. We are also learning about how volcanoes and earthquakes occur and their impact.

Year Five - We have been learning all about climate change this term with a focus on single use plastics. We are enjoying our new book The Last Bear and have been inspired to think about our impact on the planet.

Year Six - We are learning all about evolution this term and have been enjoying finding out about Mary Anning and Charles Darwin and their work. We have also been writing biographies about people who inspire us.

Already this term we have been lucky enough to have a whole school visit from some charity workers from Bangladesh to talk to us about their work and the way of life for people in Bangladesh. In addition, we are looking forward to marking Children's Mental Health Week and Safer Internet Day over the next couple of weeks.

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 March's newsletter please send to jmwarren302@gmail.com or telephone **01367 710789** and leave a message.

Closing date: 18th February 2025

Late items can no longer be accepted

