



MARCH 2025

PARISH NEWSLETTER

SERVICES FOR MARCH 2025

Sunday 2nd March *Sunday before Lent*
10.15 am Holy Communion (Stanford)
4.00 pm Denys@4

Thursday 6th March
12.30pm Lent Lunch

Sunday 9th March *Lent Mothering Sunday*
10.15 am Holy Communion (Stanford)
4.00 pm Denys@4
6.00 pm Evening Service at All Saints,
Goosey

Thursday 13th March
12.30pm Lent Lunch

Sunday 17th March *Lent 2*
10.15 am Holy Communion (Stanford)
4.00 pm Denys@4

Thursday 20th March
12.30pm Lent Lunch

Sunday 23rd March *Lent 3*
10.15 am Holy Communion (Stanford)
4.00 pm Denys@4
6.00 pm Evensong at St George, Hatford

Thursday 27th March
12.30pm Lent Lunch

Friday 28th March
2.30pm Stanford in the Vale Primary
School Mother's Day Service

Saturday 29th March
12.00 Wedding

Sunday 30th March *Mothering Sunday*
10.15 am Holy Communion (Stanford)
4.00 pm Denys@4

Thursday 3rd April
12.30pm Lent Luch

Sunday 6th April *Lent 5*
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
Parish Safeguarding Officer	
Liz Ward	710255
Verger	
Susan Mayall	710138

The Vicar Writes – March 2025

Dear Parishioners

As the days begin to lengthen and the first signs of Spring emerge, we enter the season of Lent, a time of reflection, renewal, and preparation. But what is Lent really about? Why do Christians observe it, and how can it deepen faith?

Lent is a 40-day journey leading up to Easter, mirroring the 40 days Jesus spent in the wilderness, fasting, and resisting temptation. It's a season of spiritual discipline, a time to pause and consider our relationship with God. Traditionally, it has been marked by prayer, fasting, and almsgiving practices designed to draw us closer to God, to remind us of our dependence on Him, and to encourage us to live with greater compassion.

One of the most familiar aspects of Lent is giving something up, perhaps chocolate, coffee, or social media. But the purpose of sacrifice is not merely self-denial; it is to create space in our lives for God. When we step away from distractions, we can focus more clearly on prayer, scripture, and service to others. Instead of only giving things up, many Christians also take something on: committing to daily acts of

kindness, volunteering, or setting aside time for quiet reflection.

Lent is also a season of repentance, a word that can sometimes feel heavy or uncomfortable. But repentance simply means turning back to God, realigning our lives with His love and grace. It is not about guilt but about transformation, acknowledging where we have strayed and seeking a fresh start. We are reminded that God's mercy is endless, and His desire is always to restore and renew us.

At its heart, Lent is a journey toward Easter, toward the promise of resurrection and new life. As we walk this path may we use this season as an opportunity to grow in faith, to serve with love, and to rediscover the deep joy of God's presence in our lives.

As we journey through Lent, we're reminded that it is not just a time of solemnity but also of hope. The 40 days lead us to the celebration of Easter, where we rejoice in the resurrection of Jesus and the victory of life over death. Lent prepares us to fully embrace the joy of Easter by helping us to shed what hinders us and to embrace the new life Christ offers.

May this Lenten season be a time of deep spiritual growth for each of us. Let us use this time to draw closer to God, to renew our commitment to following Christ, and to share His love with the world. Together, as a parish family, let us walk this journey with faith, hope, and love, trusting that God will meet us and transform us along the way.

Every blessing, *Paul* **Revd Paul A. Eddy, Vicar**

+++++

STANFORD FESTIVAL -- 12/13 JULY

Did you make a note of this year's Festival?

Village organisations and businesses are being contacted with further information, and we are always looking for villagers to join the small task group which organises the two-day community event.

If you are interested, or want to know more, please email: festival@stdenys.org

Stanford Church Bell Ringers

We are currently teaching new starters. If you've heard bells on a Saturday morning, this is why. We are always happy to teach new starters and if you would like to join too, please contact us at

StDenysChurchBells@btinternet.com.

The church bells will also be ringing on the afternoon of **Saturday 15th March** as we are hosting a get-together of church bell ringers from across the Vale. Do listen out!

Lent Lunches

At lunchtime on **Thursdays in Lent**

In the church, 12.30-1.30 on 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th March . 3rd and 10th April. Snack lunch of home-made soup and bread. All very welcome. **Do come and join us**

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.

BIG KNIT - AGE UK

The Big Knit is now up and running in Stanford.

Thank-you to everyone who responded to my appeal for knitters, in last month's newsletter. We now have more than 20 volunteers knitting mini bobble hats to raise money for charity. These tiny hats are put on 'innocent' smoothie bottles and, for every bottle sold 'innocent' donate 25p to Age UK.

Although we have a good number of knitters already, the final collection date will not be until late June, so it is not too late to join us. The basic pattern is very simple but you can be as creative as you like - if you enjoy more of a challenge! If you would like to find out more, or would like to see some of the hats, either contact me on the number below or call into Chatterbox on a Thursday morning, in the Village Hall, between 10.00 and 12.00. Not only will you be very welcome but you can get a cup of tea/coffee and a biscuit at the same time!

With so many knitters we would also be grateful for any oddments of double knitting wool you may wish to be rid off. Contact: Jan Stenzhorn 01367 710724.

Stanford Drama Group

Stanford Deama Group would like to thank everyone who supported us in our recent successful, production of our panto – 'Alice in Cuckoo Land'. We hope you enjoyed it as much as we did and if you did not come – you don't know what you missed! Also, many thanks to all the groups who gave up their hall bookings for us.

As always, we are still looking for new members to join our small, friendly group. We can be found on social media or enquiries on 01367 710400. We would love to hear from you. Oh yes we would.

St Denys' Handbell Ringers

February has been a quiet month for us, with only our AGM scheduled. We would like to thank Jackie for all of her work as treasurer over the past year (we are very sorry to see you go), and to Dee for taking on the new role; all other positions remain the same. Over the past year we have managed to raise £150 for the Samaritans and have chosen to support this worthy charity for another year.

Stanford in the Vale with Goosey and Hatford Newsletter March 2025. To include items for the newsletter:

Janet Warren 01367 710789 or jmwarren302@gmail.com Closing date this month is the 18th March..

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

Newsletter sponsored by Public Purposes Charity Stanford in the Vale



Over the past month we have been enjoying practicing our 2-octave music ready for our next performance in April, and hopefully some upcoming busking opportunities. If you have ever thought about giving handbells a try, then now is the perfect time! Perhaps you're a young parent in need of some mindfulness or recently retired and looking to keep the mind active; come and give it a go! No prior musical experience required, we will teach you everything you need to know during our weekly practices (Wednesdays 8-10pm Stanford in the Vale small village hall). We would love to see you!

If you would like more information about our group, whether to join or to book, please contact Jackie at StDenys.HBR@btinternet.com.

REPAIR CAFÉ

The next meeting will be on **Saturday 1st March in the Social Club 11am until about 2pm.** In April we are going to hold a special meeting on 5th April in the Social Club where we will be inviting new volunteers to come and see and chat about what we do and also give advice on how to DIY things yourself. If possible, please give us some prior notice so we can try and have parts and tools available. 'phone 01367 710283 email stanfordrepaircafe@silkie.co.uk.

Wednesday 5th March

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. **Please note change of venue.**

ART GROUP

The next meeting of the Art Group will be in the small Village Hall on **Monday 10th March at 7.30pm.** We will be reviewing Artwork. Come and share your thoughts and pictures with us to promote new ideas. New visitors FREE for the first visit. Phone 01367 710283 Email reco@clara.co.uk

STANFORD IN THE VALE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Wednesday 12th March @7.45 in the Village Hall
THE GREEN MAN TRAIL IN OXFORDSHIRE
Speaker : TIM HEALEY
 Tea & Coffee available from 7.15
 Visitors welcome £5 entrance fee



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 March**

Stanford Village Hall Film Club Friday 14th March



Synopsis:

PADDINGTON IN PERU brings

Paddington's story to Peru as he returns to visit his beloved Aunt Lucy, who now resides at the Home for Retired Bears. With the Brown Family in tow, a thrilling adventure ensues when a mystery plunges them into an unexpected journey through the Amazon rainforest and up to the mountain peaks of Peru.

Certification: PG

Cast: Antonio Banderas, Olivia Colman, Emily Mortimer, Ben Whishaw

Village Hall • Friday 14th March • Pay by Card

Tickets: U18's £3 Adult £5 Family £10
19:00 for 19:30 start • Bar & Refreshments

Stanford in the Vale WI

The next meeting of Stanford in the Vale WI will be the AGM on **Wednesday 19th March 2025 @ 7.30pm** in the Village Hall. For enquiries, please call Rebecca on 01367 718719.

STANFORD IN THE VALE GARDENING CLUB

The March meeting will be held on **Wednesday, March 26th at 7.30 pm in Stanford in the Vale Village Hall.** The speaker will be Doug Stewart and his subject will be "Easy Gardening for Tired Joints".

Doug is a horticultural business consultant, speaker and trainer. He is the co-presenter of The Great Outdoors, a gardening phone-in programme on BBC Radio Humberside. This talk will be presented 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 March

- Prune bush and climbing roses

Stanford in the Vale with Goosey and Hatford Newsletter March 2025. To include items for the newsletter: Janet Warren 01367 710789 or jmwarren302@gmail.com Closing date this month is the 18th March..
Stanford Community Website for e copy - Local events, business listing, village history and more
Newsletter sponsored by Public Purposes Charity Stanford in the Vale



- Plant onion sets and shallots
- Plant summer flowering bulbs
- Lift and divide overgrown clumps of perennials
- Plant early potatoes
- Leave a few dandelions to flower to support early bees
- Start off dahlia tubers in pots or trays of moist, peat free compost

STANFORD IN THE VALE SOCIAL CLUB

WHATS ON.....

- Cheltenham races 11th - 14th March – Club open daily from 1 – 4pm
(Normal club opening hours will not change over this period)
- AGM Meeting – Friday 4th April @ 8.30pm
- Race Night – Saturday 5th April @ 8pm
- Bingo (Easter eggs and cash prizes) – Friday 11th April – eyes down 7.30pm – ALL WELCOME!
- Repair CAFÉ – 1st Saturday of every month 11 - 2pm

Friday 28th March 2025

Afternoon Tea in the Village Hall

Come for a free, delicious **Afternoon Tea** in the **Village Hall**
All welcome and bring a friend
2.30-4.30pm

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

When: Saturday 5th April 2025

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

Time: 8.30 am for 8.45am start.

Talk by Dense Townsend : Wantage Food Bank

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 Village Hall

Grand Quiz Night

Saturday 5th April

£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

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:

We would still like more drivers to be able to cover all of the villagers needs. If you are able to spend just a few hours a month helping with this valuable service, please contact Dan on 05603 660 122.

Pre-school news –March 2025

This term has flown past so quickly. We have been involved in the RSPB Big Bird Watch, and this has led to the children being able to identify the most common bird visitors to our garden. We have used the opportunity to develop all areas of development including maths – recording number with tally charts and making marks.

We had a wonderful Valentine's breakfast where the children brought along 'someone they love'. We shared a wonderful breakfast together and parents stayed to play afterwards.

This term we have been had some sessions of Tennis Tots with Tom in the village hall. This has proved really popular with the children who have been developing their physical skills. We will be having these sessions monthly moving forward.

We cooked Vegetable Frittata with the children this term. They chopped, whisked, grated and spooned the ingredients to make something delicious to take home to share with their families.

Stanford in the Vale with Goosey and Hatford Newsletter March 2025. To include items for the newsletter:

Janet Warren 01367 710789 or jmwarren302@gmail.com Closing date this month is the 18th March..

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

Newsletter sponsored by Public Purposes Charity Stanford in the Vale



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

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 - Apeha and James B

Foundation - We have been celebrating Chinese New Year and Valentine's Day this month. We have been cooking, dancing, singing and making cards to learn about all of these exciting events

Year One - We had a very exciting Victorian School Day where we pretended we went to school in Victorian times. We also had a really fun walk around the village looking at how it has changed over the last 100 years!

Year Two - We have been writing our version of the Owl and The Pussycat. We looked closely at the rhyme and then rewrote it with different types of transport.

Year Three - We have been working really hard in Maths to practice our multiplication skills and learn some of our times tables. We have also enjoyed creating Roman mosaics.

Year Four - We have been continuing to practice our times tables this term as well as improving our division skills. As well as this we have been working really hard on our recorder playing skills.

Year Five - We have made some wonderful, sustainable artwork using cardboard and other recyclable materials. We have also been making climate pledges to protect the planet.

Year Six - We had a very interesting IMPS workshop to learn about first aid skills. We also concluded our work on evolution by pretending to be Darwin's finches.

The whole school enjoyed marking Children's Mental Health Week by looking at the theme 'Know Yourself, Grow Yourself.' We thought about our skills, likes and dislikes as well as what we can do to support our mental health and grow.

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 March 2025

Late items can no longer be accepted

Stanford in the Vale with Goosey and Hatford Newsletter March 2025. To include items for the newsletter:

Janet Warren 01367 710789 or jmwarren302@gmail.com Closing date this month is the 18th March..

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

Newsletter sponsored by Public Purposes Charity Stanford in the Vale

