



**APRIL 2025**

**PARISH NEWSLETTER**

**SERVICES FOR APRIL 2025**

**Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> April**  
12.30pm - Lent Lunch

**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> April**      **Lent 5**  
10.15 am    Holy Communion (Stanford)  
4.00 pm                  Denys@4

**Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> April**  
12.30pm - Lent Lunch

**Holy Week**  
**Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> April**      **Palm Sunday**  
10.15 am    **Palm Sunday HC Service at**  
   **St Denys**  
4.00 pm      **Denys@4**  
6.00 pm      **Evening Service at All Saints,**  
   **Goosey**  
**Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> April**      **Maundy Thursday**  
7.00 pm    **HC with Hand Washing Service**  
  
**Friday 18<sup>th</sup> April**              **Good Friday**  
2.00 – 3.00 pm    **An Hour at The Cross**  
   **reflective service at All Saints, Goosey**  
  
**Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> April**              **Easter Day**  
10.15am    **Joint 1015 and Denys@4**  
   **Family Holy Communion at St Denys**

**Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> April**              **Easter 2**  
10.15am    **Holy Communion (Stanford)**  
4.00pm      **Denys@4**  
6.00 pm    **Holy Communion Service at St**  
   **Georges, Hatford**

**Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> May**              **Easter 3**  
10.15 am    **Holy Communion (Stanford)**  
   **Guest preacher: Canon Chris Sugden**  
4.00pm      **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?**

<b>Vicar</b>	
The Revd Paul Eddy	710267
<b>Church Wardens</b>	
Maz Galley	710211
Michelle Sinclair	07929733429
<b>Parish Safeguarding Officer</b>	
Liz Ward	710255
<b>Verger</b>	
Susan Mayall	710138

**The Vicar Writes – March 2025**

Dear Parishioners

**Easter Greetings!**

*"He is not here."*

What a surprising thing to say! Two thousand years or so ago, some people went to a graveyard in Jerusalem. They were going to one of the tombs, just one among countless other similar tombs there: carved out of rock like little caves.

According to their culture and tradition, they were going to anoint the body of their friend (Jesus) who had died and had been buried there a couple of days previously. But as they approached the place, they saw that the huge stone that had been put across the mouth of the tomb had been moved. And, even more surprising, they were met by someone who said this odd thing: "Why are you looking for your friend? He is not here."

He is not here? But he must be here. We saw him laid here with our own eyes two days ago, surely?

And so, the most baffling, extraordinary and sensational story of all time began in earnest.

As you pass St Denys Church, your parish church this Easter time, look up at the cross in the churchyard. It's a reminder of the season – but note there is no-one on the cross.

On Easter Sunday, Christians celebrate three things:

**The Cross is Bare**

**The Tomb Is Empty**

**The Throne (in heaven) is occupied (by Jesus)**

It is surprising, the Easter story: the arrest, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The Christian Church was born out of a surprise and continues, to some surprisingly, to this very day. It will continue surprising everyone long after you and I have gone. If, after looking at the cross you look at St Denys



itself, you will see the doors of the building are open – as they are every day during daylight hours.

Unlike that easter tomb, inside St Denys on Easter Sunday at 1015am you will not find it empty. You will find it full of joy, and of colour and of hope and of love as our 1015, and 4pm Denys@4 congregations come together to celebrate Easter.

That is perhaps the most surprising thing about Easter. From the empty tomb comes a full building. Join us, if you can. You will be pleasantly surprised. Not least because nowadays, we no longer say 'he is not here'. We are able to say with complete confidence:

**"He is here; his spirit is with us. Alleluia!"**

May God bless you and those you love this Easter and always.

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

### **Stanford Church Bell Ringers**

We are currently teaching new starters. If you've heard bells on a Saturday morning, this is why.

We hope you enjoyed the church bell ringing on the afternoon of Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> March when we hosted a get-together of church bell ringers from across the Vale. An afternoon of ringing, chatting, being thankful .....and cake!

Next up for our bells is a little repair to the headstock of the 7<sup>th</sup> heaviest bell. Our local bellhangers, Whites from Appleton (near Oxford), will be taking the headstock away on the 31<sup>st</sup> March and returning it on 4<sup>th</sup> April. It should be easier to ring once that is done. Our next social engagement is a District Quiz.

If you might be interested in becoming a bell ringer, please get in touch. We are always happy to teach new starters - and to welcome back any "lapsed" ringers. Come and see us when we are ringing or contact us at

[StDenysChurchBells@btinternet.com](mailto:StDenysChurchBells@btinternet.com).

### **Lent Lunches**

At lunchtime on **Thursdays in Lent**

**In the church, 12.30-1.30 on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> 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.

### **Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April**

**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 SOCIAL CLUB - WHATS ON!**

**AGM Meeting - Friday 4th April @ 8.30pm**

**Race Night - Saturday 5th April @ 8pm**

**Easter Bingo - Friday 11th April, eye down at 7.30pm ALL WELCOME!**

**Fish & Chip Night - Friday 2nd May @ 8pm**

**Repair Cafe - 1st Saturday of every month, 11-2pm**

#### **OPENING HOURS:**

**Monday, Thursday & Friday 8 - 11pm**

**Saturday 4-11p Sunday 2 - 7pm**

**Tuesday & Wednesday - CLOSED (Opening hours are subject to voluntary bar staff availability)**

### **REPAIR CAFÉ**

The next meeting is on April we are going to hold a special meeting on **5<sup>th</sup> April in the Social Club 11am – about 2pm**. We look forward to 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](mailto:stanfordrepaircafe@silkie.co.uk)

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

**When: Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:Womensbreakfast@stdenys.org)**

### **Stanford in the Vale Village Hall Grand Quiz Night Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> 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 with Goosey and Hatford Newsletter April 2025. To include items for the newsletter:**

**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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**Newsletter sponsored by Public Purposes Charity Stanford in the Vale**



## St Denys' Handbell Ringers

Please come and join us at Buscot Park on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2-4pm where we will be playing to raise money for the Samaritans!

If you enjoy music, and would like to try something new, then the handbells could be for you! No prior musical experience is required, we can teach you everything you need to play. Playing the handbells is great for mindfulness, boosting concentration, and being part of a team. If you would like to find out more about joining or booking our group, please contact Jackie at [StDenys.HBR@btinternet.com](mailto:StDenys.HBR@btinternet.com).

## STANFORD IN THE VALE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Wednesday April 9<sup>th</sup> at 7.45 in the Large Village Hall  
**THE PECULIAR HISTORY OF FISHPONDS AND FISH IN OXFORDSHIRE** (An Archeological Perspective)  
Speaker : STEPHEN WASS  
Refreshments will be available from 7.15 (Tea & Coffee 50p) Visitors welcome: £5 Entrance Fee

## ART GROUP

The next meeting of the Art Group will be in the small Village Hall on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30pm. Kobel Iri Goyden will be demonstrating "Landscape in Colour" Remember..... New visitors come FREE for the first visit  
Phone 01367 710283 Email [reco@clara.co.uk](mailto:reco@clara.co.uk)

## Stanford in the Vale WI

The next meeting of Stanford in the Vale WI will be a talk on "Scams and How to Protect Oneself" by Sonia Robinson on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2025 @ 7.30pm in the Village Hall. For enquiries, please call Rebecca on 01367 718719



**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 21<sup>st</sup> April**

## STANFORD VILLAGE HALL FILM CLUB - WICKED



Synopsis:

Wicked, the untold story of the witches of Oz, stars Emmy, Grammy and Tony winning powerhouse Cynthia Erivo (Harriet, Broadway's The Colour Purple) as Elphaba, a young woman, misunderstood because of her unusual green skin, who has yet to discover her true power, and Grammy-winning, multi-platinum recording artist and global superstar Ariana Grande as Glinda, a popular young woman, gilded by privilege and ambition, who has yet to discover her true heart. The two meet as students at Shiz University in the fantastical Land of Oz and forge an unlikely but profound friendship. Following an encounter with The Wonderful Wizard of Oz, their friendship reaches a crossroads and their lives take very different paths. Glinda's unflinching desire for popularity sees her seduced by power, while Elphaba's determination to remain true to herself, and to those around her, will have unexpected and shocking consequences on her future. Their extraordinary adventures in Oz will ultimately see them fulfil their destinies as Glinda the Good and the Wicked Witch of the West.

Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2.30pm – doors open 2.00pm and

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> April 7.30 pm – doors open 7.00pm

Adults £5 Children £3 Families £10  
Card Payments Only - Stanford Village Hall

## THE LAST PUB IN THE VILLAGE

This is an appeal to all Stanford in the Vale villagers on behalf of the Horse and Jockey public house. This being the last of 13 public houses that used to thrive in this village needs your support to continue and stay open.

Ian and Kath are trying their hardest to make this pub as welcoming as possible and to return it to the hub of the community it used to be in the old days. Without our support Ian and Kath will not be able to make this happen, so think on, we should use it, or we could lose it.

I for one don't want to see this happen and I sincerely hope that the majority of you villagers will feel the same.  
Gerry Austin

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## **GARDENING CLUB**

The April meeting will be held on **Wednesday, April 23rd at 7.30 pm in Stanford in the Vale Village Hall.**

The speaker will be Geoff Hodge and his subject will be **"Happy, Healthy Roses"**.

Geoff is a freelance writer for various magazines and websites. He was previously the Web Editor for the Royal Horticultural Society, Gardening Editor of Garden News Magazine and Technical Editor of Gardening Answers Magazine. He has written eight gardening books on various subjects and broadcasts on BBC Radio

Cambridgeshire and BBC Radio Essex.

This talk will be presented via Zoom.

Refreshments and a Raffle

Visitors welcome for a £3.00 entry fee.

### **PLANT SALE - SUNDAY, MAY 11TH. 11.00 TO 1.30pm**

**Please pot up and grow on plants for sale.**

**For more information contact Rosemary Packer. Tel 01367 710445**

### **Gardening Tips for April**

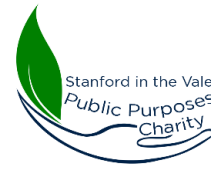
- **Sow hardy annuals, herbs and wildflower seeds outdoors.**
- **Protect fruit blossom from late frosts.**
- **Remove weeds that can smother seedlings and young plants.**
- **Increase water and feed to houseplants.**
- **Plant new pond plants and divide water lilies.**
- **Sow new lawns and repair bare patches.**
- **Last chance to prune climbing and rambling rose**

### **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.**



## **BIG CHANGE AT PPC!**

Nearly 9 years ago I took up the challenge of becoming the Clerk/Correspondent of PPC. This was a task I accepted with great pleasure as the whole purpose of PPC is to give money to Stanford in the Vale's various organisations and groups providing service or benefit to the community.

In that time PPC has provided hundreds of thousands of pounds to sport, history, education, drama, playgrounds, church, allotments, celebrations and Covid relief, the foundations that keep our village strong and vibrant. I am delighted to announce that Mike Penman will be taking over as the Clerk/Correspondent from April 2025. I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know and working with so many people who are running organisations, providing services and giving their time and energy for the benefit of Stanford in the Vale. I will stay involved as a Trustee and look forward to continuing my involvement at a less intense level. I will try to ensure that no emails go astray but please note that the new email for any PPC inquiries is [mike.penman@ppcstanford.org](mailto:mike.penman@ppcstanford.org).

PPC is managed by a small group of Trustees who ensure that each grant provides benefits to the fabric of our Village and falls within the guidelines required of us by the Charities Commission. PPC does not seek to raise funds from the Public but simply delivers on grant applications for capital expenditure to our collective benefit.

Keep a watch on the Village Hall roof – we are delighted to be supporting a great initiative there!

For those of you who are already engaged with other activities, then you might like to consider whether PPC can help your group or organisation with essential equipment or support. Check out some of the projects we have supported and see the grant guidelines at:

<https://ppcstanford.org/projects>

See the website at [www.ppcstanford.org](http://www.ppcstanford.org)

Caryl Oliver  
Clerk/Correspondent  
[Caryl.oliver@ppcstanford.org](mailto:Caryl.oliver@ppcstanford.org)

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## **Pre-school news – April 2025**

This term we have been talking about the arrival of Spring and looking for signs around us that it is coming. We have blossom on the tree in the garden and we have seen daffodils popping up in our garden. We will be planting vegetables in our garden and helping them to grow.

Water play has been popular this term and the children have created water activities using guttering and stands and have used them to transport water. This has led to discussions about what they have observed “water is wobbly”. They have developed their problem-solving skills, creativity and collaboration

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](http://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 - Willow and Toby

Year Three - Aira and Noah

Year Four - James and Emily

Year Five - Elodie and Josh

Year Six - Apeha and James B

**Foundation** - Continuing our work on celebrations we marked Shrove Tuesday with some delicious pancakes. We have also been enjoying exploring the giant's castle in our outside area.

**Year One** - It is our turn to go swimming this term and we have all been very brave and working hard in our lessons. We have also been hard at work practicing our phonics - our teacher is very proud of our hard work!

**Year Two** - We have created some amazing silhouette pictures of African mammals; we thought about how their shadows might look and created stunning backgrounds to put them on.

**Year Three** - We had an amazing trip to the living rainforest - we particularly enjoyed seeing the sloth and learning all about the plants that chocolate and vanilla come from.

**Year Four** - We are having a wonderful time learning about where our food comes from, we have been taste testing Italian food ready to create our own seasonal and local dishes!

**Year Five** - We have been really enjoying our Science this term where we are investigating materials by exploring their properties and trying to separate and classify them.

**Year Six** - We have been working really hard on our Maths this term, recapping and combining all of our previous learning to learn how to do algebra. We are also busy designing and making Mayan headdresses.

We marked World Book Day with lots of wonderful activities including a quiz, dressing up and shared reading. Do look on our website for lots of wonderful photos of the fun we had!

We also supported Comic Relief this year by coming to school in bright clothes and designing our own red noses.

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 April'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 2025**

**Late items can no long be accepted**

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