



MAY 2025

PARISH NEWSLETTER

SERVICES FOR MAY 2025

Sunday 4th May Easter 3

10.15 am Holy Communion(Stanford)

4.00 pm Denys@4

Sunday 11th May Easter 4

10.15 am Holy Communion (Stanford)

4.00 pm Denys@4

**4.30pm Evening Service with Baptism
at All Saints, Goosey**

Sunday 18th May Easter 5

**10.15 am Morning Worship followed by
Annual Parochial Church Meeting - APCM
(Stanford)**

4.00 pm Denys@4 with Holy Communion

Sunday 25th May Easter 6

10.15 am Holy Communion (Stanford)

4.00 pm Denys@4

**6.00 pm Evensong at St Georges, Hatford
(BCP)**

Sunday 1st June

Sunday after Ascension Day

10.15 am Holy Communion (Stanford)

4.00 pm Denys@4

IN MEMORY

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

Diana Axford

Jean Hall

Maurice Hull

Gordon Campbell

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

New Church Web Site: stdenys.org stanford in the vale

The Vicar Writes – May 2025

Dear Parishioners

As we look ahead to our much-loved annual **Stanford Village Festival weekend, 12-13 July**, I find myself reflecting on the deeper purpose behind the bunting, music, stalls, and shared laughter. Yes, the Festival is a time of great fun, but it is so much more than that. It is a powerful reminder of the strength and beauty of our community when we come together with open hearts and shared purpose.

In an age when people often live side by side without truly knowing one another, the festival is a rare and wonderful opportunity to break down barriers. It doesn't matter whether you've lived here all your life or only recently moved in—during festival weekend, everyone belongs. We meet not as strangers, but as neighbours and friends, united by our shared love for this village and its people.

One of the most moving aspects of the festival is how it brings together generations. Children running around the village green, grandparents helping on stalls, teenagers lending a hand with setting up or running games—it is a beautiful sight. These moments of connection across age groups create lasting memories and plant seeds of understanding and respect. Our elders offer wisdom and stories; our young people bring energy and fresh ideas. Each generation has something vital to contribute, and the festival gives us the space to appreciate one another more deeply.

Volunteering lies at the heart of the weekend's success. Behind every stall, every performance, every tidy-up effort, is someone who has generously given their time and talent. To volunteer is to love in action. And what we see time and time again is that when we give of ourselves, we receive so much more in return—new friendships, a sense of purpose, and the joy of making a difference. Whether you've helped for years or are considering it for the first time,

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know that your contribution matters more than you may realise.

When we join in this shared effort, we weave a stronger fabric of community. We learn to listen to each other, to celebrate our differences, and to work together toward something meaningful. In doing so, we discover the essence of what it means to be part of a village, a church, and a wider human family.

As your Vicar, I am constantly inspired by the spirit of this village. The Village Festival is not just a weekend of celebration—it is a glimpse of what is possible when we live with generosity, curiosity, and compassion. Let it encourage us to carry that spirit into the rest of the year, supporting one another and continuing to build a village where everyone feels welcome, valued, and loved.

So let us come together once more, not just to celebrate, but to deepen our connections, to bridge divides, and to show the world what a united, joyful community can look like. If you can help in any way, or would like information about running a stall, please email festival@stdenys.org

With every blessing,
Paul **Revd Paul Eddy, Vicar**

Stanford Church Bell Ringers

Thanks to the bell engineers from Whites of Appleton, two of our bells are now – once again – much easier to ring and this was tested by a recent visit by young bell ringers from the Vale (and beyond).

If you might be interested in becoming a bell ringer – or perhaps learn more about how the bells work and are maintained, 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.

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

The next meeting is on April we are going to hold a special meeting on **3rd May in the Social Club 11am – about 2pm**. 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

Join us for Liuba's Pancakes, Coffee & Music for a Cause!

Saturday, 3 May | 11AM–2PM

9 Whistler Way, Stanford-in-the-Vale

Come together with friends and neighbours for a cozy spring gathering with Ukrainian pancakes (mlyntsi), fresh coffee, and music — all while supporting a deeply meaningful cause. We're fundraising for Platzdarm, a search group helping locate people who've gone missing due to the war in Ukraine. Every cup and pancake makes a difference.

All proceeds go via UAid International Charity directly to Platzdarm. More information about the search group here:

www.instagram.com/_platsdarm

To learn more about the charity, visit www.uid.org.uk

Feel free to share and bring a friend!

Wednesday 7th May

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 VILLAGE HALL FILM CLUB A COMPLETE UNKNOWN



Synopsis:

Set in the influential New York music scene of the early 60s, **A COMPLETE UNKNOWN** follows 19-year-old Minnesota musician **BOB DYLAN's** (Timothée Chalamet) meteoric rise as a folk singer to concert halls and the top of the charts – his songs and mystique becoming a worldwide sensation –

culminating in his groundbreaking electric rock and roll performance at the Newport Folk Festival in 1965.

Director: James Mangold

Certification:15

Timothée Chalamet, Eriko Hatsune, Edward Norton, Joe Tippett

Friday 9th May 7.30 pm – doors open 7.00pm

Adults £5 Children £3 Families £10

Card Payments Only - Stanford Village Hall

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PLANT SALE - SUNDAY, MAY 11TH. 11.00 TO

1.30pm in the Village Hall

Variety of Plants for sale.

Raffle Tombola and Refreshments.

Donations of plants for sale will be welcome..

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

The next Art Group meeting is on Monday 12th

May at 7.30pm My life in Photography – A talk

**with slides by Al Kane. New people free for the first
meeting Come and join us!**

More information call Derek 01367 710283

STANFORD IN THE VALE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

WEDNESDAY 14th MAY @ 7.45pm in the Large

Village Hall

ANTONIA KEANEY ODD MEN & NECESSARY

WOMEN - The Servants at Blenheim Palace

Visitors welcome meeting fee £5

Refreshments available from 7.15



PENNYHOOKS FARM TRUST

PLANT SALE

Saturday 17TH May 2025 10.30am – 1.30pm

We are delighted to welcome visitors to our annual Plant Sale at Pennyhooks Farm. We will have some quality bedding plants for sale, nurtured by our students, planters and bird houses.

Come and share a drink and home-made cake with us, visit the animals and enjoy a walk around the farm, well-behaved dogs on leads welcome - - Bring your wellies!

Find us at Pennyhooks Farm, Shrivenham, Oxon. SN6 8EX (signed just off the A420 between Shrivenham & Watchfield)

Stanford in the Vale Village Hall

Tuesday 20th May AGM

7.30pm in the Committee Room of the Village Hall

All welcome



All Saints Church Goosey, SN7 8PA

Plant, Book and Cake Sale

Saturday 17th May 12-3pm,

Refreshments available

Free entry & Free Parking

*All money raised will go to the All Saints Church
Building Fund*

Heritage Crafts
Coleshill

14-18 May 2025
11am - 5pm

Coleshill Heritage & Rural Skills Centre
Coleshill SN6 7PT

OXFORDSHIRE
art
WEEKS
www.artweeks.org

Sally Barnes
Cloelea Jewellery
Helen Pakeman
Fireside Bellows

Visit Stanford in the Vale villagers
Chloé, Sally and Anne

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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 19th Ma**

Stanford in the Vale WI

The next meeting of Stanford in the Vale WI will be a talk on "Those Extraordinary things we say" by Jennifer Cowling on **Wednesday 21st May 2025 @ 7.30pm** in the Village Hall.

For enquiries, please call Rebecca on 01367 718719.

GARDENING CLUB

The May meeting will be held on **Wednesday, May 28th at 7.30 pm** in Stanford in the Vale Village Hall. The speaker will be **Melanie Gibson-Barton** and her subject will be **"Parks and Gardens of Flanders"**.

Melanie is a full time speaker and presents talks on a wide variety of subjects

This talk will be presented via Zoom.

Refreshments and a Raffle

Visitors welcome for a **£3.00** entry fee.

Gardening Tips for May

- Watch out for late frosts and protect vulnerable plants
- Earth up potatoes
- Plant out summer bedding at the end of the month
- Water early and late to get most out of water and use recycled water where possible
- Check carefully for nesting birds before clipping hedges
- Lift and divide overcrowded clumps of daffodils and other spring flowering bulbs
- Watch out for viburnum beetle and lily beetle grubs and remove by hand

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.

Many thanks to Dan Huby who has been coordinating this service for the last few years and set up an easy system to find drivers. However, he has now moved out of the village, so we need someone to else to take on this job.

For the time being Dan has kindly agreed to still coordinate things from his new home, BUT we really need a villager. It mainly entails taking messages from people who need a lift, then sending out e mails to the drivers list. Drivers respond if they are able to taxi someone for the appointment. Would YOU be happy to do this? Please contact Janet Warren for more information 01367 [710789/jmwarren302@gmail.com](mailto:jmwarren302@gmail.com).

Advance Notices

STANFORD IN THE VALE SOCIAL CLUB - WHATS ON!

Gin tasting - Saturday 14th June 4-7pm

All welcome!

Race night - Saturday 14th June 8pm

Repair cafe - 1st Saturday of the month 11-2pm

STANFORD DRAMA GROUP

KEEP THE DATE

We will be performing another great 'Murder Mystery' evening on:

Thursday 4th July

Friday 5th July

Saturday 6th July

'**Blue Murder at the Blue Parrot**' is set in a seedy Soho nightclub in the 1920's. Your job will be to find the murderer whilst enjoying a fun evening.

Put the dates in your diary. Tickets will be limited.

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Pre-school news – May 2025

We finished off the term with a visit from the librarian from Wantage Library to help us celebrate World Book Day. The children loved listening to the stories she brought along, and they then sang some songs for her. The children made coaters for their Mums for Mother's Day. Each was completely unique and special. I'm not sure how many of them will be suitable to put a drink on though!!

We have continued with our Tennis Tots sessions in the village hall. The children are really enjoying these and picking up new skills very quickly.

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>

<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 - Willow and Toby

Year Three - Aira and Noah

Year Four - James and Emily

Year Five - Elodie and Josh

Year Six - Apha and James B

Foundation - We had a wonderful trip to Farmer Gow's to support our learning all about animals and life cycles. We were also looking for signs of spring while we were there.

Year One - We had an excellent day out to Didcot Railway station. It was an interesting and exciting trip where we learnt all about the history of the railways and looked at how they work.

Year Two - We have really enjoyed making biscuits this term, we carefully considered how biscuits are made and the ingredients needed before creating our own versions.

Year Three - This term we have been busy learning about plants and what they need to grow. We also looked at pizzas in DT, thinking about what makes a pizza taste good before planning and making our own recipes.

Year Four - We have been enjoying learning all of our times tables this term ready for June. Also, in science we have been learning about the digestive system including carrying out an interesting but quite disgusting investigation.

Year Five - We have been reading Brightstorm this term and have thoroughly enjoyed this text. Following this we have written some wonderful newspaper reports.

Year Six - We have been learning all about the circulatory system this term and how blood is moved around our bodies, we played a game where we took on the roles of the different parts of this system. We also wrote instructions on how to play the ancient Mayan game of Pok-a-Tok.

We held a brilliant Mother's Day service and then an excellent Easter service at St Denys just before the Easter holidays. There is much to look forward to as we approach the final term of the school year.

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

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Late items can no longer be accepted

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