

JUNE 2025

PARISH NEWSLETTER

SERVICES FOR JUNE 2025

Sunday 1st June Sunday after Ascension

Day

10.15 am Holy Communion (Stanford)

4.00 pm Denys@4

Sunday 8th June Pentecost

10.15 am Holy Communion (Stanford)

4.00 pm Denys@4

6.00 pm Evening Prayer at All Saints,

Goosey

Friday 13th June

2.30 pm Stanford Primary School

Father's Day Service

Sunday 15th June Trinity Sunday -

Father's Day

10.15 am Holy Communion (Stanford)

4.00 pm Denys@4

Saturday 21st June

12 noon Wedding

Sunday 22nd June 1° Sunday after Trinity

10.15 am Holy Communion (Stanford)

4.00 pm Denys@4

6.00 pm Evensong at St George,

Hatford (BCP)

Saturday 28th June

2.00pm Wedding

Sunday 29th June 2" Sunday after Trinity

10.15 am Holy Communion (Stanford)

4.00 pm Denys@4

Sunday 6th July 3rdSunday after Trinity

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:

Annette Campbell

<u>Open House</u> 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

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

The Vicar Writes -

Dear Parishioner Being Peace-makers in a World of Tension Wherever we turn these days—on the news, in our communities, or even within our own families—we encounter tension conflict, and division. From global unrest to personal

tension, conflict, and division. From global unrest to personal disagreements, the world feels heavy with anxiety – and without much vision. Little, if any sense of what the country/world could be like **if only** we could do A.B.C to help move us in that direction.

Only last week, I was in a Zoom meeting with national clergy colleagues, and the conversation was going along with fun, banter and good temper. Then, out of nowhere, someone made a simple remark and a woman – usually quiet, reserved and graceful – let rip! Out came a series of statements that left most of us speechless. After a pause, those most embarrassed tried to fill the silence with lots of words – struggling for the right thing to say. A few (sadly) chose to equally get over 'their side' with as much passion, whilst others of us looked at our screens, silently thinking: 'What's the back-story here? What's led her to have these views and clearly caused her so much pain?'

Be it an outspoken politician, a passionate campaigner, someone on a picket line, or someone who is an enigma, quiet, calm most of the time - but known for the occasional outburst – there's almost always a back-story. I've learnt from bad experience that trying to respond to them without trying to take the time, and care to hear and understand their story (even if we don't agree with their solutions) can go a long way to bridging the gaps, to building a bridge towards peace-making.

In times like these, I'm reminded of Jesus's words: "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God" (Matthew 5:9).

Notice, Jesus doesn't say, "Blessed are those who love peace" or "Blessed are the peaceful," but *peacemakers*. That is, people who *create* peace, who step

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into the friction and help **calm** the storm. It's not always easy. In fact, being a peacemaker often requires courage, humility, and great faith.

Peace-making begins with our own hearts. When we're overwhelmed or unsettled inside, it's much harder to offer peace to others. As St Paul writes to the church in Philippi, "The peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." (Phil 4:7)

This peace is not something we generate on our own—it is a gift from God. When we spend time in prayer, in reading the bible and in quiet reflection, we're reminded that we are loved, we are secure, and we are held by God - no matter what storms rage around us. Once we receive this peace, we are called to extend it to others.

Peace-making can take many forms: offering a listening ear to someone who's hurting, choosing grace over retaliation in an argument, or simply refusing to pass on gossip and negativity. It can be as simple—and as difficult—as saying, "I was wrong, please forgive me," or "Let's find a way to move forward together."

But peace-making is not the same as avoiding conflict. Jesus Himself didn't shy away from difficult conversations or injustice. True peace is not the **absence** of conflict, but the **presence of** justice, mercy, and reconciliation. We're called not to sweep tensions under the rug, but to address them with love, truth, and a willingness to seek healing.

In our community and beyond, we can ask: Where is there brokenness? Where is there misunderstanding? And what can I do to bring light and calm rather than adding fuel to the fire?

Maybe it's reaching out to someone you've grown distant from. Maybe it's volunteering with an organisation that brings people together across divides. Maybe it's as simple as choosing kindness in a frustrating situation.

Let's also remember that peace-making is a *communal* effort. As a church, we're called to be a sign of God's kingdom—a place where love overcomes hate, where differences are held in grace, and where people find sanctuary from the storms of life. Our fellowship can be a powerful witness to a world desperate for hope.

Last month we celebrated the 80th anniversary of VE Day – a theme to which we shall return during the **Village Festival from 12-13 July**. This month, may I invite us all to reflect on where we are being called to be a peacemaker? Ask God to open our eyes to opportunities to bring calm where there is chaos, and healing where there is hurt. And when the task seems too great, remember that we follow the 'Prince of Peace', who has already overcome the world.

With every blessing,

Revd Paul A. Eddy, Vicar

ST DENYS CHURCH - REORDERING - AN UPDATE!

Paul

For the past 15 years or so, plans have been explored to make St Denys more adaptable for a wide variety of events and activities, serving the whole parish.

With our village population expanding all the time, and housing developments popping up without any new community facilities included, the village is desperately in need of an extra communal space which can be booked for all sorts of events, complimenting the extremely popular, but often already hired out, Village Hall.

Currently, St Denys has no formal kitchen and no toilet facilities – both of which severely reduces the potential use. Before I arrived as vicar in 2013, many in our village gave generously towards the Reordering project. Those funds have been held in an interest account, as a Restricted Fund. All donations made can **only** be used for the Reordering and not for any other church purpose. Such initial funds have enabled the Parochial Church Council (trustees) to consider, over time, with professional advice, the best way of developing the inside of the church in an appropriate manner for a Grade I Listed building. The funds have also paid for architect plans, heating consultant's reports and the purchase of new chairs, and round tables able to cater for eight places each.

Initial plans included a meeting room in the actual tower – which was later deemed unsuitable due to access and size. A variety of options then followed related to potential underfloor heating for when our existing boilers give up. But, heating technology is changing so fast that this style of heating is no longer deemed suitable in our case. Having come up with a revised plan, we were then hit by the Covid season and, with prices rising, we deemed it necessary to consider afresh our real 'needs' for the village against our many 'wants'.

I am delighted to say that following a huge amount of reflection, tweaking of plans and professional advice, we're now very close to securing agreement for the Reordering with the Oxford Diocese Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC). They recommend parish plans to the diocesan Chancellor, who grants a 'Faculty' (akin to a Planning Consent) on which we can proceed.

Because of rising building costs since our last estimates (just before Covid) and, the bad news that the Government has stopped the provision whereby churches can reclaim the VAT spent on building works (capping claims to only £25,000 a year!), we have just commissioned a Quantity Surveyor to price out each section of the recording. This includes, amongst other things, a disabled, and one other toilet on the ground floor of the tower, and a kitchenette against the south wall. Once this is to hand, and considering the VAT developments, the PCC will liaise with our architects, and the DAC, submit final plans for approval. Whilst we anticipate external 'consultees' such as English Heritage etc will come to review plans and make their representations to the diocese, we are advised a Faculty decision is possible this Autumn. We will then need to raise a balance of funds via trusts and public appeals, then go to Tender and then, formally, Commission the works to start!

So, for those of you who gave to the project many years ago, a big 'thank you' and here's an update. For those new to the village, we look forward to sharing with you the plans in more detail once a Faculty has been granted. This will be by way of public meetings, and plans etc on our church website, and displayed inside church.

If you have any questions about the Reordering, please feel free to contact me, vicar@stdenys.org, or by letter to: The Vicarage, 24 Church Green, Stanford in the Vale SN7 8HU. Revd Paul Eddy, Vicar

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Calling All Nature Lovers!

Many of us enjoy seeing the swifts flying high overhead, with their screaming calls reminding us of warm summer months. They are amazing birds – they migrate 3,400 miles twice a year and have a top speed of 69 mph. They pair for life and return to the same spot each year to nest. They eat, drink, mate and sleep on the wing, only landing to breed.

Swifts are now classed as endangered for risk of extinction in Great Britain due to a rapid fall in population. So we'd like to make sure their existing nest sites in the village are protected and new ones added to enhance breeding opportunities.

What makes a good site for a swift box?

- On the wall of a building at least 5 metres (16 feet) above the ground, tightly under the eaves.
- Must have clear access so it's easy for the swifts to fly into the box from beneath.
- Facing north, east or somewhere in between.

Swifts often nest in gaps under the eaves of buildings, so if you're having any repairs or building work done, please do this with consideration for swifts. This is extra important if you already have an existing nesting site. Can work be done outside the breeding season, taking care to preserve the bird's access to their nests?

There is a leaflet on the village Facebook groups about this or we can send it to you by email. As well as swift bird boxes, swifts can use specially placed holes made in soffits, or 'swift bricks'. Can you help in any of the following ways?:

- Do you know of a swift nest in Stanford? Please tell us where it is.
- Have you seen 'screaming parties' groups of two or more birds flying and calling loudly around or just above rooftop height. Please tell us where.
- You can log swift nests, boxes and screaming parties on swiftmapper.org.uk – or we can verify and add logs.
- Do you have a building with a swift nest? We can make sure you have the information you need to take good care of your swift family.
- Do you have a suitable location for a nest box? Or do you already have a swift box that hasn't been used yet?
- Would you like to make some swift boxes for people in the village?
- Are you good with ladders and able to fit some boxes?
- Are you the person who's already monitoring swifts in Stanford? If so thank you and we'd love to coordinate with you!
- Swifts eat insects, so you can also help by making your garden more wildlife friendly.

Find out more on the village Facebook groups documents pages, or get in touch with us by email: zoeswnews@gmx.com
Zoë Williams, Daryl Buck, Jez Elkin and Maz Holden

Church Bell Ringing

Around this time last year, we reported that the Stanford in the Vale Church Bell Ringers had taken part in a local Striking Contest. In May 2025, we took part again. Eight teams from around the Vale participated, each team ringing to the best of their ability with the aim of ringing the bells, at Longcot this time, to produce a lovely rhythmical sound.

Some teams are made of up of ringers with many years' experiences, while some, such as ours, include a number of ringers who are still at a relatively early stage in their ringing experience. Developing into a good bell ringer requires good listening skills and many hours of practice across months and years.

Last year, as a very new band, our attempt was rewarded with the "Most Improved" trophy, reflecting the achievement of the band which included 4 (out of 6) novice ringers. This year the same band successfully moved up in terms of ranking position but were again awarded the "Most Improved" trophy, this time reflecting the development of the band in now achieving a higher competence including more complex ringing.

This award (and the accompanying box of chocolates) was a welcome recognition, by our peers, of the progress that our new ringers have made in 12 months. Equally rewarding are the comments we receive from villagers who hear us ringing every week and who have commented that they can hear the obvious improvements in skill. Thank you for noticing.

As always, if you'd like to know more about church bell ringing or if you'd like to join us, please do get in touch via StDenysChurchBells@btinternet.com. We still have space for more learners (or returning ringers). We don't charge anything to learn, you just need to be available from 7.30-9pm on a Tuesday evening and 9.45-10.15am on a Sunday.

Stanford in the Vale Volunteer Hospital Taxi Service - UPDATE

Should you require a lift for a hospital or dental appointment and cannot get there any other way,- call **07473550559** and 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 Bobbie McWhinnie for volunteering to take on coordinating the Taxi Service. Please start using the new phone number above from July 1st.

We are STILL in need of more volunteer drivers so that this service will still be available for any villagers who need a lift for a hospital or dental appointment.

Contact the number above if you could help.

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 4th June 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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Stanford in the Vale Village Hall.

Stanford in the Vale Village Hall opened 1983. It has been continually improved and updated ever since. In 1999 the hall was extended with an extra small hall.

This last year improvements have included:

- The marking out of the car park
- New stage curtains thanks to PPC funding.
- Shelving in the cupboard in the small hall to aid hirers storage.
- The installation of the solar panels. Many thanks to the PPC for the grant to cover most of the costs.
- Changing all the lights in both halls to LED bulbs.

Both halls have their own kitchen facilities and toilets, including disabled. The surrounding area has been planted and includes a safe fenced children's outside play garden. There is a large car park with ample car parking space for about 40 cars. There are comfortable chairs, a large well equipped kitchen plus a smaller kitchen for the small hall, a stage and a PA system in the main hall. Bookings can be made on www.stanfordvillagehall.com

We now need to improve and update the kitchen facilities in the large hall. Is there any one in the village who could help with the designing or construction of the kitchen?

Contact Janet - imwarren302@gmail.com

Repair Café

The Repair Café will meet as usual in the Social Club on **Saturday 7th June 11am to about 2pm**. Try and call us beforehand if you can – it helps!. We have been going for 7 years this month. We are always looking for new volunteers

Stanford Coffee shop are holding a Hat Box flower workshop, on the **7**th June, cost is £40 per person, including nibbles, tea, coffee and a glass of prosecco. 3.30pm – 5:30pm. All material are included. To book - 07557967314

Art Group

On **Monday 9**th **June at 7.30pm** in the Small Village Hall, we are holding our annual "Life Class". An opportunity to develop your figure drawing skills with a live model. This Is usually very popular so make sure you come on time.

Members £2.00 visitors £5.00

STANFORD IN THE VALE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY WEDNESDAY 11th June @ 7.45pm in the Village Hall OXFORD IN THE ENGLISH CIVIL WAR

Speaker: Stephen Barker Refreshments available from 7.15pm All visitors welcome £5 entrance fee

STANFORD IN THE VALE SOCIAL CLUB - WHATS ON!

Gin tasting - Saturday 14th June

4-7pm

All welcome!

Race night - Saturday 14th June

8pm

STANFORD IN THE VALE FILM CLUB FRIDAY 13th JUNE GLADIATOR 11



Synopsis: From legendary director Ridley Scott, Gladiator II continues the epic saga of power, intrigue, and vengeance set in Ancient Rome. Years after witnessing the death of the revered hero Maximus at the hands of his uncle, Lucius (Paul Mescal) is forced to enter the Colosseum after his home is conquered by the tyrannical Emperors who now lead Rome with an iron fist. With rage in his heart and the future of the Empire at stake, Lucius must look to his past to find strength and honour to

return the glory of Rome to its people.

Village Hall • Friday 13th June • Pay by Card 18:30 for 19:00 start • Bar & Refreshments

AGE UK BIG KNIT COLLECTION

Thank you to all those of you who are knitting mini-hats to raise funds for Age UK.

The scheme ends on July 1st but, in order for me to get them to Age UK Headquarters, in Abingdon, on time, I need to have any contributions no later than <u>Friday 13th</u> <u>June</u>. Donations can be dropped in to <u>16 Hunters Field</u>, at any time before that but if you would like to call in, for a cuppa and cake, between 2.00 - 4.00pm on the 13th, I would love to see you. You can also help me with the count up! You can contact me <u>Jan Stenzhorn on 01367</u> **710724** if you have any questions.

Stanford in the Vale WI

The next meeting of Stanford in the Vale WI will be the talk "Top of the Greasy Pole" by Mike Brook on **Wednesday 18th June 2025 @ 7.30pm** in the Village Hall. For enquiries, please call Fay on 01367 710626

GARDENING CLUB

There will be no monthly meeting in the Village Hall. Details of the garden visit to Cerney House Gardens will be circulated direct to members.

Enquiries to Rosemary Packer: - 01367 710445.

GARDENING TIPS FOR JUNE

- Make direct sowings of runner beans, dwarf beans, salad crops etc.
- Harvest lettuce, radish and early potatoes.
- Plant up summer hanging baskets and containers.
- Pinch out side-shoots on tomatoes.
- Hoe borders regularly to keep down weeds.
- Mow lawns as needed but consider leaving some areas uncut for wildlife.
- Plant out summer bedding.
- Prune many spring flowering shrubs.

Shade greenhouses to keep cool & prevent scorch.

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Stanford in the Vale CE Primary School Summer Fete

Please join us on Saturday 21st June from 2pm - 5pm for our School Summer Fete. There will be a barbecue, bar, stalls, raffle, tombola, entertainment and much more.

Come and join the St Denys' Handbell Ringers in celebrating music on **Sunday 22**nd **June 2-6pm** at the Stanford in the Vale Village Hall! There will be live music, refreshments, and activities for all the family. If you would like to be involved in volunteering, or performing, please get in touch! You can contact Danielle at stanfordmusicinthevale@gmail.com, and find more information on the website at www.facebook.com/stanfordmusicinthevale.



Advance Notice

STANFORD IN THE VALE DRAMA GROUP Present 'Blue Murder at the Blue Parrot'

A murder mystery by Cheryl Barrett. Directed by Katie Tidy and Robert Carr

WHEN: Thursday 3rd July, Friday 4th July and Saturday 5th July 2025

At 7.30pm (doors open at 7.00pm)

WHERE: Stanford in the Vale Village Hall with light refreshments at tables. Bar available – Cash or Card.

TICKETS: £12.00 Cash only from Stanford Coffee Shop, next to the Coop. Not suitable for young children. No admittance on the door. Tickets must be purchased by 1.00pm on the day of the performance-limited numbers.

A murder mystery evening set in a seedy Soho nightclub in the 1920's. Your job will be to find 'who dunnit' whilst enjoying a fun evening.

Enquires: 01367 710400 Published by Lazy Bee Scripts.



Saturday 12th & Sunday 13th July

For over 30 years, St Denys has organised a two-day summer Festival to help bring the whole village together

and, to raise funds for village organisations. On the Saturday, the church provides outside events/entertainments etc., with all proceeds raised, once the costs of the festival have been deducted, going towards the year-on-year costs of maintaining St Denys church for use by the whole village – whether they worship there, or not. On the Sunday, we invite village organisations to book a stand to promote their activities/events, as well as raising funds for their group.

In recent years we as a church, as well as village groups, have increasingly found it difficult to secure enough volunteers to offer all the stands/activities we'd like. As a result, this has reduced the number of stalls, events, activities available for the enjoyment of all and, of course, reduces the fundraising potential at a time when all village groups need funds to keep going/develop their core activities.

This Festival there are many ways you can help us lay on a fantastic weekend for all. Just one hour's worth of help by lots of people is all that is needed. You might be able to help with:

- Setting up at 9am and packing away around 5pm each day
- Serving drinks for an hour in the village hall
- Making crepes or, e.g. Candyfloss on a stall
- Providing one hour's cover on a stand, before being replaced by another volunteer
- Putting up posters around the village
- Putting up, then taking down bunting around Church Green
- Making some new signage pointing people in the right direction to programme events
- · Donating raffle prizes
- Providing business sponsorship for entertainment/costs Invitations have gone out to village organisations asking if they'd like to take part this year. In 2024, many said they'd love to, but couldn't find any volunteers for the 4.5 hours on the Sunday. It would be great if we could find an army of volunteers for the Saturday and link volunteers up with village groups struggling to take their place this year.

If we don't secure more volunteers, the church may well have to consider reducing the Stanford Festival to just a one-day event which would be a real shame. With our faithful festival volunteers now retired, or getting older and needing to reduce their load, we really do need a **new generation of helpers** to take on the baton. If you can **help in any way**, please email **festival@stdenys.org** or, vicar@stdenys.org and we'll put you on the volunteer rota for the day/time slot of your choosing. Thank you so much! **Revd Paul Eddy**

Pre-school news - June 2025

We had a wonderful whole Pre-school outing to Roves Farm where we enjoyed a Tractor Ride, fed the lambs and played in the playground. We all made some lovely memories.

Vicar and Festival Charman

We have been busy planting in our growing garden. We

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chose flowers that are bee and wildlife friendly as well as nice to look at. We have been enjoying acting out stories and learning poems about animals and the seasons. 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
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.



<u>Stanford in the Vale CE</u> 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 - Aphea and James B

Foundation - We have been enjoying our PE lessons this term which have included using some of the gymnastics equipment as well going swimming! We are also making great progress with Maths and our understanding of numbers.

Year One - This term we have been learning all about the King. We have read and retold the story of Sleeping Beauty, written party invitations to the King and designed some new pants for him!

Year Two - We had an amazing trip to the SS Great Britain to support our learning all about Isambard Kingdom Brunel. It was such an interesting and exciting day where we learnt so much about Brunel, the SS Great Britain and what it was like to be on board and all about life in the 1800's.

Year Three - We have been learning all about the features of London this term including creating wonderful landscape pictures of the cityscape inspired by Charles Fazzino. Also, we have been writing stories, practising our use of speech marks.

Year Four - This term our learning has been all about the water cycle. We have explored the different stages of the water cycle and rivers. Alongside this we have written and performed a variety of poetry all about water!

Year Five - We have been learning all about Ancient Greece and in particular reading some of their most famous myths. Following this we have been writing playscripts based on these myths. We also had an excellent afternoon out at Abingdon school where we carried out some DT work.

Year Six - This term we had our SATs, we have been working incredibly hard all year to prepare for these and all of us did ourselves proud during the week of these tests. We then got to enjoy a well-deserved trip to the park complete with ice creams!

This term we celebrated Earth Day as a school. This involved every class carrying out activities that helped us to think about protecting our planet as well as taking part in a giant litter pick all around the village! It was a great opportunity to consider our impact on our world. We also held our final sharing assembly of the year which was a wonderful showcase of some of our amazing learning from this term!

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

Thank you for reading our report.



Artwork to celebrate 150 Years of Stanford School

In 2023 we celebrated the school being 150 years old. We thought it would be nice to create a piece of artwork to commemorate this occasion. We were fortunate to obtain an arts grant to finance it. We worked closely with a local blacksmith artist called Hazel Moore to create a piece that incorporates the flower names of the classrooms and some minibeasts to represent us being an Eco School and loving the outdoor environment. It has been installed at the front of the school. We hope you love it as much as we do!

Can you spot the seven flowers—sunflower, snowdrop, buttercup, bluebell, poppy, orchid and forgetme-not? What about the butterfly, damselfly, bumble bee or ladybird?

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