



# DECEMBER 2025

## PARISH NEWSLETTER

### DECEMBER SERVICES FOR THE MONTH

#### Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> November

5pm Lighting of St Denys & Christmas Tree in St Denys Churchyard followed by the singing of Carols & Hot Refreshments

#### Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> November Advent

10.15 am Holy Communion (Stanford)  
4pm Denys@4 – Advent focus

#### Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> December

2pm and 6pm Stanford School Year 3, 4 and 5 Christmas Performance

#### Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December Advent 2

10.15 am Holy Communion (Stanford)  
4pm Denys@4 – Christmas Meal at Stanford Primary School

#### Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December

2pm and 5.30 pm Stanford School Foundation Stage and Key Stage One Christmas Performance

#### Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> December

4pm Carols by Candlelight –  
All Saints, Goosey

#### Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December Advent 3

10.15 am Holy Communion (Stanford)  
6pm Carols by Candlelight –  
St George, Hatford

#### Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December Advent 4

10.15 am Holy Communion (Stanford)  
6 pm Carols by Candlelight –  
St Denys, Stanford

#### Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> December

##### Christmas Eve

4.00pm Crib Service at St Denys

10.00pm Holy Communion at St Denys

#### Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> December

##### Christmas Day

10.15 am Family Holy Communion at  
St Denys

#### Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> December

10.15 am Morning Worship (Stanford)

4pm Denys@4 (and others invited)

End of year Walk – meet in church

#### Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> January

10.15 am Holy Communion (Stanford)

4pm Denys@4 - New Year, New  
Start & Holy Communion

#### WHO'S WHO IN THE PARISH?

##### Vicar

The Revd Paul Eddy 710267

##### Church Wardens

Maz Galley 07585 553883

Michelle Sinclair 07929 733429

##### Parish Safeguarding Officer

Liz Ward 07808726780

**Web Site – [stdenys.org](http://stdenys.org) stanford in the vale**

**Open House** Saturday's St Denys Church is open between 10 am and noon for coffee and tea, cake and chat. Do pop in

#### **The Vicar Writes ...Vicar's Christmas Message**

Dear Parishioners

As we draw once again to the close of another year and approach Christmas, our hearts turn toward the familiar story that has shaped our faith for generations: a child born in a manger, a star shining in the night, and the promise of hope breaking into a weary world.

It is a story we know well, yet it never ceases to surprise us. For in the birth of Jesus, the Light of Christ enters the darkness, not only the darkness of a winter's night, but the darkness that still clings to the world and, at times, to our own lives.

This year, perhaps more than in many others, we are acutely aware of how deep that darkness can feel. We witness conflict and division both far away

and close to home. We see communities fractured, relationships strained, and people carrying burdens of anxiety, grief, or uncertainty. Nations are at odds, neighbours struggle to understand one another, and in the midst of it all many are left asking where peace can be found. Into this troubled landscape comes a child with a name that defies the chaos around Him: *the Prince of Peace*.

The peace Christ brings is not a fragile or fleeting peace. It is not dependent on our circumstances or on our success in solving every problem. Instead, it is a peace born of God's presence, a peace that reassures us we are never abandoned, never forgotten, never beyond the reach of grace. In Jesus, God enters fully into our human story, taking on our vulnerability, sharing our joys and sorrows, and offering a love strong enough to unite even the most divided of hearts.

This is the miracle of Christmas: that God's answer to the darkness is not force or fear, but light; not a shout from the heavens, but the cry of a newborn child. The Light of Christ does not overwhelm us; it gently grows, inviting us to turn our faces toward hope. And as that light grows within us, we are called to reflect it into the world - to be bearers of peace in our conversations, in our homes, and in our community.

During this Christmas season, may we become attentive to the small, quiet ways that Christ's peace is already at work: in acts of kindness, moments of reconciliation, shared meals, and prayers whispered in faith. And may we also have the courage to be messengers of that peace, especially where the world is most wounded.

My prayer this Christmas is that each of us will encounter afresh the transforming light of Jesus, the light that no darkness can overcome, and that together we may share that light with a world longing for hope. We look forward to welcoming you to one of the many services across the parish this Christmas season.

Wishing you and your loved ones a blessed and peaceful Christmas. In Christ

*Paul*                      **Revd Paul A. Eddy**                      **Vicar**

### **Stanford Church Bell Ringers**

As we have said before, the church bells do not ring themselves - - each of the 8 bells requires a person to be ringing it. If you can only hear 3 or 4 bells ringing, then it means that we need help!

We have been delighted to welcome another new learner in November and to see the great progress already being made.

If you might be interested in becoming a bell ringer – or perhaps learn more about how the church 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](mailto:StDenysChurchBells@btinternet.com).

### **CHRISTMAS IN THE CHURCHYARDS**

In this Parish, we are sensitive to the needs of families and friends to visit the resting place of their loved ones, especially at Christmas.

It would be appreciated, in line with Diocese Regulations and for the safety of wildlife, that any tributes placed in churchyards should be made of natural flowers and greenery only. Plastic ornaments and flowers are not suitable. Lights of any kind are also not acceptable and can cause offense to some families. Please could any floral tributes be removed from plastic wrapping, and Christmas wreaths etc be taken away before Candlemass in February. Many Thanks. Church Wardens.

### **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 Volunteer Hospital Taxi Service -**

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

**Would you be happy to drive someone needing to get to a doctors or hospital appointment? Could be just local in Faringdon or Wantage, or further afield in Oxford and Swindon. We are down to very few drivers, and this is a very important service for people who cannot easily get to these appointments. It would be very sad if we had to close the service. Please contact Bobbie on the above phone number for more details.**

*Stanford in the Vale with Goosey and Hatford Newsletter December 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> December.*

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

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



## COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH

Community Speedwatch is a national initiative where proactive members of local communities join with the support and supervision of their local police to record details of speeding vehicles using approved detection devices. Registered keepers of vehicles exceeding the speed limit are contacted - initially with a letter explaining the potential risks and consequences of their dangerous behaviour. Repeat offenders will receive a visit from the local police, irrespective of where they live. Beyond these friendly gestures, focused enforcement and criminal prosecution follow based on the collated evidence. The Stanford in the Vale Speedwatch Group would like new members. If you are interested, please contact [mjfoulkes57@gmail.com](mailto:mjfoulkes57@gmail.com)

**Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 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 Prize Christmas Bingo Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2025**

Doors open at 7 for Eyes-down at 7.30pm

**Cash prize for Last House**

Bar and raffle

Card payments preferred

Contact: J. Warren [jmwarren302@gmail.com](mailto:jmwarren302@gmail.com) or  
01367 710789

### **Repair Café**

The next Repair Café will be on **Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> December**, as usual in the Social Club from 11am until about 2pm. Can you let us know what you might be bringing for repair. We can check Portable Appliance Testing (PAT) of electric Christmas Decorations for instance. Tele 01367 710283 Email [stanfordrepaircafe@silkie.co.uk](mailto:stanfordrepaircafe@silkie.co.uk). May we be the first to wish you a Merry Christmas!

**STANFORD IN THE VALE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY  
WEDNESDAY 10<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER @ 7.30pm  
in the Large Village Hall.  
THE NAMING OF OXFORDSHIRE PUBS  
Speaker ANDREW LONG  
All visitors welcome : admission £5.  
Mulled wine and mince pies available from 7.15pm**

### **STANFORD IN THE VALE VILLAGE HALL FILM CLUB FRIDAY 12<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER THE MIRACLE CLUB**



Synopsis:

Three close friends who have never left the outskirts of Dublin (much less Ireland) get the journey of a lifetime — a visit to Lourdes, the picturesque French town and place of miracles.

Cast: Kathy Bates, Laura Linney, Maggie Smith

12A

**Village Hall • Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December • Pay by Card  
19:00 for 19:30 start • Bar & Refreshments**

### **STANFORD IN THE VALE GARDENING CLUB**

There will be no monthly meeting in December.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday January 28<sup>th</sup> at 2.30 pm in the Village Hall.

The speaker will be Fay Pendell and her subject will be "My Dad and the Chelsea Garden". Fay's father was Bill Pendell of the 11<sup>th</sup> Armoured Division. He was chosen by D-Day Revisited to represent the Normandy veterans in this garden at the Chelsea Flower Show. The garden was then gifted to the town of Arromanches in Normandy.

Visitors welcome. Refreshments and Raffle.

Please note the change of time for this meeting. The February and March meetings will also be in the afternoon. Enquiries: Rosemary Packer 01367 710494

### **Gardening Tips for December**

- Prune open-grown apples and pears (but not those grown against walls).
- Prune Acers, Birches and Vines before Christmas to avoid bleeding.
- Harvest leeks, parsnips, winter cabbage, sprouts and remaining root crops.
- Trees and shrubs can still be planted and transplanted.
- Take hardwood cuttings.
- Protect stored produce from mice.
- Reduce watering of houseplants.

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## **Pre-school news – December 2025**

We had a nice break for half term and are now back with the run up to Christmas. The children are enjoying singing books at group time. A particular favourite is Dump Truck Disco. We will shortly start learning Christmas songs ready for our Christmas Performance in the church.

In our Forest school sessions, we have been subitising with natural objects. We have also been learning all about hibernation and nocturnal animals. The children enjoyed putting on bat wings, curling themselves up and trying to hang upside down!! To tie in with this they have enjoyed the book Wow Said the Owl.

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.whitehorselottery.co.uk)  
[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-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](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 are all very excited to be back at school and have had a fantastic return to school with our learning now in full swing! This year Pupil Parliament has been selected in a slightly different way so you will notice that the members are no longer 2 pupils from each class.

Year 2 - Ava and Teo

Year 4 - Millie

Year 5 - Rosie

Year 6 - Imogen, Melody, Phoebe, George and Mary

**Foundation** - We are busy continuing to practice our phonics and forming our letters this term. We have been very excited to continue exploring our outside learning space and enjoying nature school.

**Year One** - This month we have been doing some wonderful writing as well as improving our Maths. We have also been enjoying learning more about our village as part of our geography.

**Year Two** - We have been busy learning how to add numbers that cross over 10 this month - it has been tricky, but we have worked really hard on it. We are really enjoying our swimming lessons this term.

**Year Three** - We are really enjoying learning about the differences between our local area and Northern France this term - we have thought about how the geography is different and similar. We have also been making Matisse inspired artwork.

**Year Four** - We are busy exploring how electricity works in year 4 this month, we are using this knowledge in DT to create light up signs. We have also been working hard in Maths to practice our addition and subtraction skills.

**Year Five** - We are learning all about space this term and exploring the different planets. We have been focussing on learning how to write speech in our narratives to help advance the action.

**Year Six** - We have had a very exciting start to the term with our week away at PGL. We had such an exciting week building our independence as well as pushing ourselves to try new things such as rock climbing, canoeing and abseiling.

As a school this month we have marked Remembrance Day by joining the whole village act of Remembrance and laying a wreath. As well as this we have celebrated Friendship Week by completing Acts of Kindness and ending the week with a non-uniform day in support of Children In Need.

Thank you for reading our report.

Take care and keep safe

To include items in January'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> December**

**Late items can no longer be accepted**

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