



## FEBRUARY 2026

### PARISH NEWSLETTER

#### SERVICES FOR FEBRUARY 2026

##### Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> February *Presentation of Christ*

10.15 am Holy Communion (Stanford)

4.00 pm Denys@4

##### Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> February

##### 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday before Lent

10.15 am Holy Communion (Stanford)

4.00 pm Denys@4

6.00 pm Evening Service at  
All Saints, Goosey

##### Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> February *Sunday before Lent*

10.15 am Holy Communion (Stanford)

4.00 pm Denys@4

##### Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> February *Ash Wednesday*

7.00 pm Holy Communion with 'Ashing'

##### Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> February Lent Lunch

##### Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> February *Lent 1*

10.15 am Holy Communion (Stanford)

4.00 pm Denys@4 Fellowship Meal

6.00 pm BCP Evensong at  
St George, Hatford

##### Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> February Lent Lunch

##### Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March *Lent 2*

10.15 am Holy Communion (Stanford)

4.00 pm Denys@4

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

Vicar The Revd Paul Eddy 710267  
Church Warden Maz Galley 07585 553883  
Parish Safeguarding Officer  
Liz Ward 07808726780  
**Web Site – [stdenys.org](http://stdenys.org) [stanford in the vale](http://stanford in the vale)**

#### IN MEMORY

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

Greta Malein

Susan Hull

John Travis

**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 –

#### The Many Faces of Love

Dear Parishioner

February arrives trailing a faint scent of roses, chocolate, and mild panic. Card shops groan under the weight of pink envelopes, restaurants dust off their most romantic tablecloths, and many of us are reminded that Valentine's Day is coming whether we are ready or not. Some approach it with delight, others with dread, and quite a few with a quiet hope that nobody is keeping score.

St Valentine himself would probably find it all rather bewildering. The historical Valentine was not a purveyor of heart-shaped balloons but a priest who quietly and faithfully served others, even at great personal cost. He is remembered not for grand gestures but for commitment – the sort that keeps going when things are hard, inconvenient, or unpopular. Not exactly the stuff of romantic comedies.

One of the challenges with modern Valentine's Day is that it tends to focus on just one type of love: eros – the heady, heart-racing, butterflies-in-the-stomach kind. There is nothing wrong with eros. It's exciting, joyful, and occasionally makes us behave in ways we later find mildly embarrassing. It has its place. But it is not the only kind of love, nor is it the one that sustains relationships, families, churches, or communities over time.

The Bible talks about several kinds of love. There is philia – friendship love, the sort that shows up with a casserole or remembers your birthday without Facebook reminders. There is storge – the steady, often unnoticed love of family, built on years of shared life. And then there is agape – the long-suffering, faithful, dependable love that keeps its promises, sticks around when enthusiasm fades, and continues even when appreciation is in short supply.

Agape is not glamorous. It doesn't sell chocolates. But it is the love that builds strong marriages, holds families together, sustains friendships, and creates healthy villages. It is the love that volunteers, listens, forgives, turns up again and again, and quietly carries one another through difficult seasons.

If our community is to flourish, it will not be because we are all wildly in love with each other (that would raise entirely different concerns), but because enough people are committed to this deeper, steadier love. The love that says, "I'm here," even when life is messy. The love that chooses patience over irritation, kindness over indifference, faithfulness over convenience.

So, this February, whether you are celebrating Valentine's Day with enthusiasm, avoiding it entirely, or simply hoping the chocolates go on sale soon, perhaps we can all take a moment to reflect on the many faces of love. And maybe - just maybe - we can practice the kind that lasts.

After all, flowers fade, cards get recycled, but love that is faithful, long-suffering, and dependable? That's what truly keeps a village beating.

Yours Paul

### Stanford Church Bell Ringers



**APOLOGIES** – to all those who missed our annual greeting of the New Year through church bells at midnight.

Regrettably, we just didn't have enough ringers available for the 2025 transition into 2026.

Maybe with your help, we can ring for 2026 into 2027?

We've been teaching one new learner since November and another new learner started in January. It's a great time to join us and become part of the growing team.

We are always pleased to hear from anyone wanting to find out more about church bells and bell ringing. We don't charge for tuition, and it's generally a very inexpensive hobby. Some coordination and a modest sense of rhythm is required, as well as a commitment to come to the weekly practice, and Sunday morning ringing once you've achieved a certain level of competence. If you are interested in knowing more please contact us via e-mail at

[StDenysChurchBells@btinternet.com](mailto: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.

## 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.**

### St Denys Handbell Ringers

We have had a great start to the New Year with the boat-themed HRGB Birthday Rally on 3<sup>rd</sup> January; it is always great playing among so many ringers and learning new ways of ringing. We are now looking forward to having a quieter couple of months of practice and sorting music for the coming year. We will also be holding our AGM on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> February.

Would you like to try something new for the new year? Why not give handbells a try? We are a small, friendly group welcoming to all ages and abilities. No prior musical experience is required but a good sense of rhythm is a plus!

For more information on joining or booking our group, please e-mail Jackie at [StDenys.HBR@btinternet.com](mailto:StDenys.HBR@btinternet.com). You can also visit our website at [stdenysshandbells.co.uk](http://stdenysshandbells.co.uk), and our facebook page at [www.facebook.com/StDenysHandbellRingers](http://www.facebook.com/StDenysHandbellRingers).

### Panto

Sadly, with lots of sickness through the group our panto for this year has been pulled.

Huge thank you to the efforts of the cast and crew for what was turning into a fantastic production.

We are hoping to reschedule but as you can imagine, the effort to get so many people available at the same time takes a lot of planning ahead.

If you fancy joining the group, get in touch, we meet Tuesday evenings 7:15 to 9:15. We always need more people for everything from on stage to the front of house people.

**Stanford in the Vale with Goosey and Hatford Newsletter February 2026 . 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> February.**

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

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



### Repair Café

We will be meeting as usual on **Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> February** at the Social Club from 11am until about 2pm. Anything that stopped working Christmas we might be able to fix. Why not join us as a volunteer we need more people

Email [stanfordrepaircafe@silkie.co.uk](mailto:stanfordrepaircafe@silkie.co.uk) phone 01367 710283

**Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> February 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 LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY**  
**WEDNESDAY 11th February at 7.30 in Stanford Village Hall**

**OXFORDSHIRE MEDIEVAL GARDENS**  
**With STEPHEN WASS**

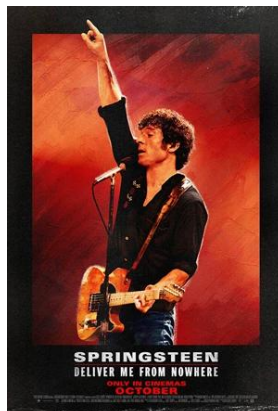
The meeting will start with a short AGM and refreshments will be available from 7.15 in Stanford Village Hall. Visitors are welcome, entrance fee £5

**Folk Session - Thursday 12th Feb,**  
**8pm (2nd Thu of the month)**

Come to the Horse & Jockey for an informal evening of traditional folk tunes and songs. Play, sing, join in with the choruses and or listen and soak up the atmosphere – all welcome. Folk songs and tunes from our region are often featured, as well as trad and trad style music from further afield. Further details here <https://sitvfolkmusic.wordpress.com>



### STANFORD IN THE VALE VILLAGE HALL FILM CLUB FRIDAY 13<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY – SPRINGSTEEN,



#### DELIVER ME FROM NOWHERE.

Synopsis: "Springsteen: Deliver Me from Nowhere" chronicles the making of Bruce Springsteen's 1982 "Nebraska" album when he was a young musician on the cusp of global superstardom, struggling to reconcile the pressures of success with the ghosts of his past. Recorded on a 4-track

recorder in Springsteen's New Jersey bedroom, the album marked a pivotal time in his life and is considered one of his most enduring works—a raw, haunted acoustic record populated by lost souls searching for a reason to believe. Certification: 12A  
Cast: Jeremy Allen White, Stephen Graham, Paul Walter Hauser

**Village Hall • Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February • Pay by Card**  
**19:00 for 19:30 start • Bar & Refreshments**

#### Lent Lunches

At lunchtime on **Thursdays in Lent**  
**In the church, 12.30-1.30 on 19<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> February;**  
**5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> March.** Snack lunch of home-made soup and bread. All very welcome.

***Do come and join us***

#### Stanford Gardening Club

The February meeting will be on **Wednesday February 25th at 2.30 pm** in the Village Hall.

The speaker will be **Ann Stallabrass** and her subject will be **"My Gardening and other originals"**. Plus a plant sale. Visitors welcome £5 Refreshments and Raffle. Please note the change of time for this meeting. The March meeting will also be in the afternoon.  
Enquiries: Rosemary Packer 01367 710445

#### Gardening Tips for February

- Prepare vegetable seed beds and sow some vegetable seeds under cover.
- Chit early and maincrop seed potatoes.
- Protect blossom on Nectarines, Peaches and Apricots.
- Net fruit and vegetable crops to keep birds off.
- Prune winter flowering shrubs that have finished flowering.
- Divide bulbs such as snowdrops and replant in the green.
- Renovate overgrown hedges with pruning.

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

**When: Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2026**

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

**Time: 8.30 am for 8.45am start.**

**Talk by Trish Matthews "God in the garden: gardening for the soul"**

**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)**

**Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2025**

**St Denys Church invite you all to  
Afternoon Tea in the Village Hall**

**Come for a free, delicious Afternoon**

**Tea in the Village Hall 2.30-4.30pm**

**All welcome and bring a friend**

**Pre-school news – February 2026**

It has been a busy term with lots of excitement during the last couple of weeks regarding Christmas. The children have made saltdough decorations for their Christmas trees and used a variety of resources to make cards for their families. They have been busy wrapping presents and writing letters to Father Christmas in the Elf Workshop. We have shared Christmas themed stories – the children favourite being Father Christmas Needs a Wee. We finished of the term with our performance of songs in the church for the families.

Many thanks to Megan Rolls for supporting the Pre-school again this year. She very kindly gave us the opportunity to sell refreshments at her Christmas Bazaar where we made some extra funds for the Pre-school.

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-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**

Year 2 - Ava and Teo

Year 4 - Millie

Year 5 - Rosie

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

**Foundation** - We have had a wonderful return to school after Christmas and have been hard at work practicing our writing, we are building up our fine motor skills for this. We have also been learning all about

**Year One** - We had a wonderful Victorian workshop to support our learning all about what Stanford was like in Victorian times. It was great fun pretending our school was like it might have been a long time ago and we learnt so much about the time.

**Year Two** - Our enquiry question this term is all about the UK and we really enjoying learning all about the different geography of the countries of the UK. We have also been working hard to practice our addition and subtraction skills.

**Year Three** - We have had a very busy return to school and are excited to learn all about the Romans this term. We are also busy with swimming lessons; we have all made an enthusiastic start to our lessons.

**Year Four** - We have made a positive start to the new term and are enjoying learning all about the Anglo-Saxon invasion of Britain. We are also having great fun practicing our map work skills to create maps of our school site.

**Year Five** - We are busy learning all about climate change and have created some amazing artwork from recycled materials. Also, we are very excited to be doing football in PE this term and have made an excellent start.

**Year Six** - Our enquiry question this term is all about evolution and we are enjoying reading our new text Darwin's Dragons which is based on Darwin's voyage on the HMS Beagle. We are also having great fun learning all about photography. Thank you for reading our report.

Take care and keep safe.

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