



# MARCH 2026

## PARISH NEWSLETTER

### SERVICES FOR MARCH 2026

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

10.15 am Holy Communion (Stanford)  
4.00 pm Denys@4

#### Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March

12.30pm Lent Lunch

#### Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> March *Lent 3*

10.15 am Holy Communion (Stanford)  
4.00 pm Denys@4  
6.00 pm Evening Service at All Saints,  
Goosey

#### Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March

12.30pm Lent Lunch

#### Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March

2.30pm Stanford in the Vale Primary  
School Mother's Day Service

#### Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March *Mothering Sunday*

10.15 am Holy Communion (Stanford)  
4.00 pm Denys@4 Mother's day tea

#### Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March

12.30pm Lent Lunch

#### Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March *Lent 4*

10.15 am Holy Communion (Stanford)  
4.00 pm Denys@4  
6.00 pm BCP Evensong at St George,  
Hatford

#### Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March

12.30pm Lent Lunch

#### Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March

9.30am Stanford in the Vale Primary  
School Easter Service

#### Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March *Palm Sunday*

10.15 am Holy Communion (Stanford)  
4.00 pm Denys@4

#### Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April *Maundy Thursday*

7.00 pm Fellowship Meal and  
Reflections/Prayer in St Denys

#### Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April *Good Friday*

1030am Easter Garden-Making  
for children and families in St Denys  
2 – 3 pm An Hour at the Cross –  
at St George Hatford

#### Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April *Easter Day*

10.15am Joint Parish Family Holy  
Communion at St Denys for all  
Congregations, with Easter Egg Hunt in  
churchyard for children

#### 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***

#### IN MEMORY

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

Valerie Alsop  
Connie Bush  
Ian Griggs

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

**The Vicar Writes –** Dear Friends,

I am delighted to commend to you this year's **Stanford Village Festival**, taking place on **11th and 12th July**. This year is especially significant as we celebrate the **250th anniversary of the UK-USA Friendship**, a partnership that has enriched our community in so many ways over the years. It is a wonderful opportunity not only to enjoy ourselves, but to give thanks for relationships that have grown through shared experiences, hospitality, and goodwill.

The theme of friendship feels particularly timely. As our Festival unfolds, the FIFA World Cup will also be in full flow in the United States. That global tournament will draw together nations from every continent in a spirit of competition, celebration and, at its best, mutual respect. Sport has a unique way of reminding us that, despite our differences of language, culture, and outlook, we share common hopes and a longing to belong.

We do not have to look far to see that our world is marked by tension and division. Nations disagree, communities feel strained, and even within families there can be sharp differences of opinion. In such times it is easy to retreat into our own circles and to focus on what separates us from others. Yet the call of Christ is always towards reconciliation. We are invited to look first for what unites us rather than what divides us.

The festival offers us a small but meaningful way to live that calling out. By celebrating US-USA Friendship, we affirm that differences need not be barriers. Instead, they can be gifts - opportunities to learn, to listen and to grow. When we take time to build genuine friendships, we begin to understand why people hold the views they do, even when we disagree with them. Understanding does not require uniformity, but it does require patience, humility, and grace.

As Christians, we are called to be peacemakers. Jesus tells us, "Blessed are the peacemakers," and that calling is not reserved for diplomats or world leaders alone. It belongs to each of us - in our homes, our workplaces, our parish, and our wider community.

Supporting and participating in the festival may seem like a small gesture, yet such shared moments of joy, conversation and cooperation help to weave the fabric of peace at a local level.

I warmly encourage you to come along to volunteer if you are able, and to invite friends and neighbours. Let us make this 250th anniversary celebration one that reflects the very best of our village: hospitality, generosity and a spirit of friendship that reaches beyond borders.

If you would like further information or to find out how you can be involved, please email [festival@stdenys.org](mailto:festival@stdenys.org). There are lots of exciting details to follow, especially over our local social media sites.

With every blessing,

**Your Vicar, Paul**

### **STANFORD CHURCHYARD – NEARLY FULL**

Dear Parishioners

I regret to say that after the next two full burials, **St Denys Churchyard in Stanford in the Vale will be FULL.**

From that point on there will only be two options, locally:-

- 1) If you have an EXISTING Family Grave where there is space for a full burial above a loved one who died some time ago, provided the Next of Kin of that person agrees, I can authorise burial in the family grave. Or ...
- 2) Ashes, once the body has been CREMATED can be Interred, either in the Garden of Remembrance near the North Porch of the church or, into an existing family grave. We usually start interring at the headstone end so up to SIX lots of ashes in caskets can be interred – more via other methods I can explain.

This won't come as a surprise to readers of this Newsletter as I have mentioned the churchyard space several times over my 13 years here. The Parish and Vale Councils have used their best efforts to secure local land for a new cemetery, but nothing is suitable/available at present. There are some grassy areas in the churchyard but many of those have graves under them.

There are some private Burial Grounds in the wider area which Funeral Directors can advise, but once the two remaining grave spaces are used up, then I am afraid we will be unable to offer full burials in the churchyard.

If you have any questions, do contact me direct.

**Tel: 01367 710267** [vicar@stdenys.org](mailto:vicar@stdenys.org)

**Revd Paul Eddy, Vicar.**

## NORTH BERKS REFEREES ASSOCIATION -

90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary 1936-2026

**The North Berks Referees Association chalks up 90 years of its existence this year.**

Formed on 16 July 1936 at "The Junction Hall" in Didcot with subsequent meetings held at the "Barley Mow" Abingdon and then at various pubs and venues across the area, a geographical location known affectionately to many as, North Berks, a colloquialism arising from its old Parliamentary Constituency name which, with but slight alteration, became known as "The Abingdon Constituency" which existed between 1895 and 1983 when it was abolished (map below) although it had already ceased to be in Berkshire when county boundary changes came into effect in 1974 (on April Fool's Day!).

The local football league and the Association retained the North Berks tag as a token of pride marking its heritage, history and development. It is fifty two years since the change to South Oxfordshire from Berkshire, yet another example of how fleet footed time seems to be.

The Association would love to hear from any of its former members, other referees, former players, club officials and spectators so they can keep them informed of the varied events and activities they are planning to mark and celebrate this landmark in their history of which those listed are all a part.

Please contact: Ernie Tilley -

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

### St Denys Church Bell Ringers Quarter Peal Success



CONGRATULATIONS to one of our young ringers, Eddie Lucas, who successfully rang his first quarter peal at Stanford on 17<sup>th</sup> February.

The band of 6 ringers rang 1260 changes of a bell ringing method called Stedman Doubles. It took us 43 minutes – without stopping – so requires constant concentration as well as a certain amount of physical endurance. Eddie rang the tenor, the heaviest bell, which weighs just over 8cwt (about 420 kg). Stanford ringers, Eddie and Jackie, were joined by ringers from Faringdon, Longcot and Shrivenham to achieve the quarter peal. If you are interested in knowing more about the church tower bells or about bell ringing 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.**

**Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March 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

**Lent Lunches** continue at lunchtime on **Thursdays** during Lent, **In the church, 12.30-1.30 on 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>t</sup>, 19<sup>t</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> March.** Snack lunch of home-made soup and bread. All very welcome. **Do come and join us**

### 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

## Repair Café

The next meeting is **VERY IMPORTANT** on **Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March in the Social Club 11am until 2pm**. WE NEED MORE VOLUNTEERS. The first part of the meeting will be usual repairs, however we are in dire need of more Volunteers. If we are not successful, we will have no alternative but to close down for the time being.

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

**STANFORD IN THE VALE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY**  
**WEDNESDAY 11th MARCH at 7.30 in Stanford Village Hall**

**NUFFIELD COLLEGE'S " ISLAND SITE " in West Oxford**  
**SPEAKER : LIZ WOOLLEY**

Refreshments available from 7.15.

All visitors welcome , admission fee £5

## Folk Session - Thursday 12th March 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> MARCH**  
**THE ROSES**

Synopsis:

Life seems easy for picture-perfect couple Ivy (Olivia Colman) and Theo (Benedict Cumberbatch): successful careers, a loving marriage, great kids. But beneath the façade of their supposed ideal life, a storm is brewing – as Theo's career nosedives while

Ivy's own ambitions take off, a tinderbox of fierce competition and hidden resentment ignites.

Cast: Olivia Colman, Benedict Cumberbatch, Andy Samberg

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



## Stanford in the Vale WI

The next meeting of Stanford in the Vale WI will be our Annual Meeting and Games Evening on **Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2026 @ 7.30pm** in the Village Hall. For enquiries, please call Rebecca on 01367 718719.

## Social Club Easter Bingo

**FRIDAY 20th MARCH EYE'S DOWN AT 7.30pm**  
**EVERYONE WELCOME**  
**IT IS A PRIZES BINGO THIS TIME with a CASH FLYER.**

## Stanford Gardening Club

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

The speaker will be Geoff Hodge and his subject will be "Plants for Problem Places".

Geoff is a freelance gardening and horticultural writer, author, editor and radio and TV broadcaster.

This talk will be delivered via Zoom

Visitors welcome £5

Refreshments and Raffle.

Please note the change of time for this meeting.

Enquiries: Rosemary Packer 01367 710445

## Gardening Tips for March.

- Prune Bush and Climbing Roses.
- Plant Onion Sets and Shallots.
- Plant Summer Flowering Bulbs such as Gladioli, Lilies and Eucomis.
- Lift and divide overgrown clumps of perennials.
- Plant Early Potatoes.
- Cut back herbaceous perennials and ornamental grasses that have been standing over winter.
- Start off Dahlia tubers in pots or trays of damp, peat-free compost.
- Leave a few dandelions to flower to benefit early bees.

*Stanford in the Vale with Goosey and Hatford Newsletter March 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> March. Stanford Community Website for e copy - Local events, business listing, village history and more Newsletter sponsored by Public Purposes Charity Stanford in the Vale*

## Stanford in the Vale Village Hall

### Grand Quiz Night

Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March

£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 71078

[jmwarren302@gmail.com](mailto:jmwarren302@gmail.com)

### Pre-school news – March 2026

We had a successful week of Bird Watching with the children recording the birds using tally charts. By the end of the week many of the children were able to identify the most common visitors to the garden. Despite the terrible weather this has not stopped the children from being outside. We have been focusing on length and weight this term, and the children have been comparing, ordering and measuring various different things. They filled up different sized socks and ordered them according to length and weight.

They have been sewing, making and playing with gloop, painting ice, making bird feeders and getting messy. We had a lovely end to the term with a Valentine's breakfast for our children and their loved ones.

We have welcomed some new families to the Pre-school this term and look forward to getting to know them and their children. We will be taking part in Storytelling Week sharing the importance of sharing stories with young children.

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.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.



Love, Hope, Community

### 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 been thinking all about different celebrations including making pancakes for Shrove Tuesday. We are also really enjoying our drawing club and making great progress with our writing.

**Year One** - We have been reading Handa's Surprise and practicing retelling the story out loud and in our written work. We have also enjoyed our Science this term, thinking about different animals and how we can group them.

**Year Two** - In DT we have been exploring, designing and creating our own bunting. It was great fun coming up with our designs and then we worked really hard on our cutting and sewing skills.

**Year Three** - We have been making our own Roman inspired mosaics this month. We learnt all about the importance of mosaics before creating our designs and experimenting with printing them before finally creating our finished pieces out of tiles.

**Year Four** - This month we have been excitedly designing and creating our own Anglo-Saxon masks. We have also worked really hard in Music, learning how to rap along to a wonderful song about stopping bullying.

**Year Five** - We have been writing balanced arguments this month on the subject of protecting the Earth. We enjoyed researching the impact of climate change, linking it to our class book and then expressing our own opinions through our writing.

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



**Year Six** - We had a great time in Science this term exploring the significance of the beak shapes of Darwin's finches by pretending to be finches eating a variety of different 'food.' We have also enjoyed creating travel guides all about the Galapagos islands.

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> March 2026**

**Late items can no long be accepted**