



**APRIL 2026**

**PARISH NEWSLETTER**

**SERVICES FOR APRIL 2026**

**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***

**10.30 am Denys@4 Easter Garden  
making in church**

**2 – 3 pm An Hour at the Cross at  
St Georges Hatford**

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

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

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> April *Easter 2***

**10.15am Holy Communion (Stanford)**

**4.00pm Denys@4**

**6.00 pm Holy Communion at All Saints,  
Goosey**

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April *Easter 3***

**10.15 am Holy Communion (Stanford)**

**4.00 pm Denys@4**

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April *Easter 4***

**10.15 am Holy Communion (Stanford)**

**4.00 pm Denys@4**

**6.00pm Patronal Festival, St Georges,  
Hatford – St George's Day**

**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May *Easter 5***

**10.15 am Holy Communion (Stanford)**

**4.00 pm Denys@4 Fellowship Meal**

**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:**

**Sue Tobin  
Mike Dixon  
Elsie Erbsmehl**

**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 Parishioners**

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

As this Newsletter drops on your mat, in church we shall celebrate Easter together. Whatever is happening in our divided world, Easter helps us to lift our hearts and eyes in hope and gratitude.

This most joyful season in the Christian year reminds us that light triumphs over darkness, love conquers fear, and life has the final word. The empty tomb stands at the centre of our faith - not as a symbol of absence, but as a powerful promise: God is always at work, even when we cannot yet see the outcome.

For many, the past months may have carried their share of challenges - quiet worries, unexpected losses, or simply the weariness of daily life. Easter does not ignore these realities; instead, it speaks directly into them.

The resurrection of Jesus assures us that no situation is beyond renewal, no heart beyond healing, and no night so long that dawn will not come.

In our parish, I see countless signs of this resurrection hope already at work. It is present in small 'acts of kindness' carried out this Lent by Stanford School Pupils, and between neighbours, in the faithful service of volunteers, in the laughter of children, and in the quiet prayers offered day by day. These moments, though simple, are powerful reminders that God's love continues to move among us, gently transforming our lives and our community.

Easter also invites us to look outward. The message of new life is not meant to be kept to ourselves but shared generously with others. A kind word, a listening ear, a helping hand - these are ways we become bearers of the resurrection in our own time. Each of us, in our own circumstances, can reflect something of that Easter morning joy to those around us.

As your vicar, I want to thank you for being part of this parish family. Whether you join us regularly in worship, connect through community activities, or simply receive this newsletter at home, you are valued and remembered. The church is not just a building; it is people - people like you - journeying together in faith, hope, and love.

In the coming weeks, may you find moments to pause and notice the signs of new life around you: the lengthening days, the blooming flowers, the fresh beginnings that spring brings. Let these be gentle reminders of the deeper truth we celebrate at Easter - that God is making all things new, including us.

If you have been away for a while, know that you are always warmly welcome to join us again. If you are searching, questioning, or simply curious, there is a place for you here. *Easter is a season of invitation, and that invitation is open to everyone.*

May the peace of the risen Christ fill your homes, strengthen your hearts, and guide your steps in the days ahead. And may the joy of Easter remain with you, not just for a day, but as a steady light throughout the year.

With every blessing, *Paul*  
Revd Paul A. Eddy, FRSA          Vicar

**Connie Bush** - The family of Connie Bush would like to thank everyone for their cards, notes and good wishes following the passing of our dear Mum, Nana, Grana, Auntie Con. We have been very touched by the kindness and friendship shown during her eight years in the village. A private funeral, and a thanksgiving service have taken place.



### St Denys Church Bell Ringers

We regularly report through this newsletter about the activities undertaken by church bell ringers, and especially the great progress our new ringers continue to make.

If you think you might be interested in joining the band we would be happy to show you what is involved in the art of church bell ringing so that you can decide whether you might like to take up this interest. Please get in touch via [StDenysChurchBells@btinternet.com](mailto:StDenysChurchBells@btinternet.com) or come and visit us when we are ringing on a Tuesday evening (or Sunday morning).

## 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. Contact Bobbie on the above phone number for more details.**

### St Denys' Handbell Ringers

This month we have been busy preparing our 12-bell pieces for Busking at Buscot. We have enjoyed playing a whole range of short pieces from classics such as Ode to Joy through to sea shanties such as The Mermaid. This year any money raised will be split 50:50 between our group and Helen and Douglas House.

**Come and join us at Busking at Buscot – Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2-4pm at Buscot Park walled garden.**

We are also beginning preparations for Making Music Day on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> June. If you enjoy music we would love for you to join us at this free interactive community concert. If you play music (at any level) and would like to perform or get involved please get in touch! For more information please visit the facebook page

[www.facebook.com/StDenysHandbellRingers](http://www.facebook.com/StDenysHandbellRingers)

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 [stdenyshandbells.co.uk](http://stdenyshandbells.co.uk), and our facebook page at [www.facebook.com/StDenysHandbellRingers](http://www.facebook.com/StDenysHandbellRingers).

### OPEN MIC NIGHTS in the village:

These start at **8pm every 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday** of the month in the Horse and Jockey and every 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> April 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 8<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30 in Stanford Village Hall.**

**JOHN LEIGHFIELD**

**PUTTING STANFORD IN THE VALE ON THE MAP (mapping the village from the Tudors onwards )**

**All visitors welcome, admission fee £5**

**Tea and coffee available from 7.15**

Stanford in the Vale with Goosey and Hatford Newsletter April 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> April.

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

Newsletter sponsored by Public Purposes Charity Stanford in the Vale



**Folk Session - Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> April at 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 10th APRIL 7 for 7.30pm in the Village Hall**



**Synopsis:** 1916. As war rages on the Western Front, the Choral Society in Ramsden, Yorkshire has lost most of its men to the army. The Choral's ambitious committee, determined to press ahead, decides to recruit local young males to swell their ranks. They must also engage a new chorus

master, and despite their suspicions that he has something to hide, their best bet seems to be Dr. Henry Guthrie (Ralph Fiennes) – driven, uncompromising, and recently returned from a career in Germany. As conscription papers start to arrive, the whole community discovers that the best response to the chaos that is laying waste to their lives is to make music together. Cast: Mark Addy, Roger Allam, Ralph Fiennes

**Stanford in the Vale Village Hall  
Spanish Tapas Themed Evening**

**Saturday, 18<sup>th</sup> April  
7.00 for 7:30pm  
In Stanford Village Hall  
Bar available  
Tickets: £20.00 each  
Limited Numbers – Book Early!  
Fund raising for the revamped hall kitchen  
Contact: [jmwarren302@gmail.com](mailto:jmwarren302@gmail.com)  
07891013114**

**Stanford Gardening Club**

The April meeting will be held on **Wednesday, April 22nd at 7.30 pm in Stanford in the Vale Village Hall.** The speaker will be Sarah Trafford-Brown and her subject will be **"Creating a Community Garden in Abingdon"**.

Refreshments and a Raffle  
Visitors welcome for a £5.00 entry fee.

**PLANT SALE - SUNDAY, MAY 10th. 11.00 TO 1.30pm**

Please pot up and grow on plants for sale.

For more information contact Rosemary Packer. Tel 01367 710445

**Gardening Tips for April**

- Sow hardy annuals, herbs and wild flower seed outdoors.
- Protect fruit blossom from late frosts.
- Increase the water given to house plants.
- Plant new pond plants and divide waterlilies.
- Sow new lawns or repair bare patches.
- Last chance to prune climbing and rambling roses.
- Towards end of month, plant up hanging baskets for the summer

The next meeting of Stanford in the Vale WI will be  
**"Tales of a Midwife" by Dorothy Cook on  
Wednesday 15th April 2026 @ 7.30pm in the  
Village Hall.**  
For enquiries, please call Fay on 01367 710626.



**PENNYHOOKS FARM TRUST  
PLANT SALE**

**Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2026 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)

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## Pre-school news – April 2026

We celebrated World Book Day with a visit from the Librarian from Wantage Library. The children enjoyed listening to the stories she had chosen to share with them and shared their own favourite stories from home.

The children made wonderful Mother's Day cards for their mum's using Hapa Zome – using a stone to imprint the shapes and colours of fresh flowers onto a piece of material and then mounted in a card. The children then shared what they love about their mums and what they think their mums are good at.

We have been planting potatoes in Forest school and also learning about road safety for the Brake charity's Beep Beep Day.

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](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 been working hard on our phonics again this term and practicing our letter formation. We are learning all about life cycles as well as the moment, looking at the life cycle of different animals.

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**Year One** - This term we have been reading and retelling the story of Zog. We have been working really hard on our letter formation and sentence structure. We are also enjoying our work on Mondrian in Art.

**Year Two** - In year 2 we have been learning all about Africa and how different it is to the UK. In Maths we have been practicing our multiplying and dividing skills including exploring some of our times tables.

**Year Three** - We are busy creating our soup recipes this term. We have been taste testing a variety of seasonal vegetable before considering which combinations would make a tasty soup. We are very excited to create and eat them next week!

**Year Four** - This term we are learning all about volcanoes, how they are formed, where they form and why they erupt. We have been enjoying reading our book all about volcanoes also, The Pebble in my Pocket and using it to help us write a descriptive journey.

**Year Five** - We have been learning all about reversible and irreversible changes to materials in science this term, exploring how some mixtures can be separated and some can't. We are particularly enjoying our class book this term 'Brightstorm' - it is a very exciting story, and we can't wait to find out what happens next!

**Year Six** - This term we have been studying the Ancient Mayans. We have learnt all about where they lived, how they lived and their religious beliefs. We have also been designing and creating our own Mayan masks.

As a school we enjoyed a wonderful Mother's Day Service where we were all able to celebrate our own mums and share what makes them so special. We also had a fantastic World Book Day! We spent the day in our pyjamas and doing lots of reading including reading with our grown-ups, sharing a book in assembly and a book-based scavenger hunt!

Thank you for reading our report.

Take care and keep safe.

To include items in A'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> April 2026**

**Late items can no long be accepted**



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