



MAY 2026

PARISH NEWSLETTER

SERVICES FOR MAY 2026

Sunday 3rd May *Easter 5*

10.15am Holy Communion (Stanford)

4.00 pm Denys@4

Sunday 10th May *Easter 6*

10.15 am Holy Communion (Stanford)

4.00 pm Denys@4

6.00pm Evening Service at All Saints,
Goosey

Sunday 17th May

Sunday after Ascension Day

10.15 am Morning Worship followed
by Annual Parochial Church Meeting
(Stanford)

4.00pm Denys@4 with Holy
Communion

Saturday 23rd May

1.00 pm Wedding

Sunday 24th May *Pentecost*

10.15 am Holy Communion (Stanford)

4.00 pm Denys@4

6.00 pm Evensong at St Georges,
Hatford (BCP)

Sunday 31st May *Trinity Sunday*

10.15 am Holy Communion (Stanford)

4.00 pm Denys@4

Sunday 7th June *1st Sunday after Trinity*

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 stanford in the vale

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 – May 2026

Dear Parishioner

As we move gently into the warmth and promise of summer, our thoughts in Stanford turn once again to one of the most cherished moments in our village calendar: **the Stanford Village Festival**, taking place this year on the **11th and 12th of July**, in and around Church Green and the Village Hall.

This year's theme invites us to reflect on the historic link between the United Kingdom and the United States, marking the 250th anniversary of American Independence. It is a theme rich in history, culture, and shared experience - one that reminds us how relationships can evolve, deepen, and endure across generations.

It would be naïve to ignore that we are living in a time when the world can feel increasingly divided. There are strong opinions, deeply held convictions, and, at times, a tendency to attribute blame - sometimes directed towards political leaders. Yet, as we consider the long arc of history, we are reminded that the relationship between our two nations is far older and far more significant than any one individual or any single term of office. It is a relationship shaped by shared values, mutual support, and enduring cultural ties.

In our ever-changing world, perhaps this is the moment to reflect not only on what has been, but on what ought to be. We are called, in our own small but meaningful ways, to build bridges rather than put up walls; to seek dialogue rather than resort to aggression; and to strive for understanding rather than insisting that others simply adopt our point of view. These are not easy tasks, but they are vital ones - both globally and within our own community. And that is where the true beauty of our village Festival lies.

For this one special weekend each year, the whole village has the opportunity to come together. It is, quite simply, the only time in the calendar when every corner of Stanford can unite in a shared spirit of celebration and cooperation. From the youngest to the

oldest, from long-standing residents to newcomers, everyone has a part to play.

Over the course of those two days, Church Green, St Denys, and the Village Hall will be filled with laughter, creativity, and fellowship. There will be fun and festivities for all ages, but more than that, there will be a living, breathing example of what it means to work together for the good of all. In a world that can sometimes feel fractured, this is something truly precious.

So, I warmly encourage you to join in, to volunteer to take part, and to help make this year's Festival a joyful expression of unity, friendship, and shared purpose. In celebrating our history, may we also renew our commitment to one another - here in Stanford, and beyond.

The Festival committee worked hard to try to ensure we did not clash dates with Folly Fest. However, having announced that FF would be on 4/5 July, and us then booking events and activities for 11/12 July, FF moved their dates to 11/12 July for good strategic reasons for them. Sadly, this means we will, again, be on the same dates. However, we hope that by announcing this early, families and individuals can plan their weekend and maybe enjoy both? The FIFA World Cup, based in America, will also be drawing to a close as we celebrate the Festival – hopefully with our team still in!

All around us are villages, towns, and schools with summer Saturday events and so it is becoming a very crowded eight weekends in which to schedule all. For 2027 we have provisionally booked a number of weekends with the Village Hall in the hope of moving our dates to not clash with FF. But we can't guarantee and, the popular village drama group also have their own schedules, including a July performance and so it's not straightforward. We appreciate your understanding.

Over the coming weeks we will be using the Stanford Facebook page to outline various exciting items/activities in this year's Festival and, the re-launch of a much-loved, former part of the Festival weekend – watch this space!

For more information about the festival, to book a stall or to volunteer to help, please email festival@stdenys.org

Your vicar *Paul* **Revd Paul A. Eddy, FRSA**
Vicar & Chairman Stanford Festival 2026

Repair Café

Due to the lack of volunteers, we are reluctantly having to postpone the "Café" until we can get more volunteers. This is a pity as we have been meeting for 7+ years now and have many satisfied customers. If you would like to volunteer, please contact me on by email. However, I can still do sharpening at home
Please note new email address reco@recolab.co.uk

Peter Gill Honoured

Last month, I was delighted to accompany Peter and Jeanette Gill to Pembroke College, Oxford at which Peter was given a High Sherrif of Oxfordshire award for a lifetime of service to children and young people.

The High Sherrif is an ancient office which today is largely ceremonial but includes supporting the diary and also promoting charity and voluntary work in the county.

The current Sherrif, John May CVO OBE DL, decided to invite nominations of people who had devoted their time to helping young people on the margins of society. Or those who don't have access to many of the resources or opportunities that their peers have.

Peter was nominated for decades of work with SEND pupils and even in his retirement in the village, was instrumental in getting the current recreation ground/Skateboard Park up and running. He is, of course, also known for his consistent one to one support and encouragement of young people across the village, and has been a valued Mentor to many villagers over the years.

Huge Congratulations Peter – you deserved it!

Revd Paul Eddy, Vicar



St Denys Church Bell Ringers

Did you know that there are 8 bells in the church tower? Do you know how they are rung? Would it surprise you to know how heavy the bells are? Each bell is rung by a single person – a ringer who has been trained and has practised in order to be able to safely make the bell ring accurately. The smallest church bell at Stanford weighs 166kg; the heaviest weighs 427kg. How can one person ring a bell that heavy? Would you like to know more?

Please talk with any of the current ringers or get in touch via StDenysChurchBells@btinternet.com - or come and visit us when we are ringing on a Tuesday evening (or Sunday morning).

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 with Goosey and Hatford Newsletter May 2026. To include items for the newsletter: Janet Warren 01367 710789 or jmwarren302@gmail.com Closing date this month is the 18th May. 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 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.

COMMUNITY FIRST RESPONDERS

After 12 and 17 years respectively, Jeanette Gill and Les Harding have decided, for different reasons, to step down from their role as volunteer Community First Responders.

In this time, they have attended thousands of patients in Stanford and the surrounding towns and villages who dialled 999 for an ambulance.

They say that it has been a privilege to support the community in this way and they are so grateful for the support they have received over the years.

Les will continue to be the guardian for the public access defibrillators in the village and an emergency responder for GoodSAM (www.goodsamapp.org).

VILLAGE VOICES – for over ten years Stanford’s ‘community Choir’ – for anyone who enjoys (or thinks they might enjoy) singing songs of all sorts: folk, old, new, silly, serious, classical, rounds, songs from the shows.....No previous experience or musical knowledge necessary and no audition. We meet on Thursdays , 7 – 8pm in St Denys’ Church, Stanford. Do come and join us

For further information, if you’re not sure, from Margaret Williams 01367 710254.

Wednesday 6th May 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 FILM CLUB

H IS FOR HAWK

FRIDAY 8th May 7 for 7.30pm

Synopsis: H is for Hawk follows Helen (Foy), who, after the sudden death of her father (Gleeson), loses herself in the memories of their time birding and exploring the natural world together and turns the ancient art of falconry—rooted

in European tradition—training a wild goshawk named Mabel to profound loss. But as she teaches



12A

navigate her Mabel to hunt and fly free, Helen discovers how deeply she has neglected her own emotions and life. What begins as an act of endurance transforms into an intimate journey of resilience and healing.

Certification: 12 :2026 Cast: Lindsay Duncan, Claire Foy, Brendan Gleeson, Denise Gough

**Village Hall • Friday 8th May • Pay by Card
19:00 for 19:30 start • Bar & Refreshments**



Six talented makers reveal intriguing, sometimes surprising, skills to create beautifully handcrafted works

2 - 4 May and 8 - 10 May 2026
10:30am - 4:00pm



Coleshill Heritage & Rural Skills Centre
Coleshill SN6 7PT

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**PLANT SALE - SUNDAY, MAY 10TH.
11.00 TO 1.30pm in the Village Hall**

Variety of Plants for sale.
Raffle Tombola and Refreshments.
Donations of plants for sale will be welcome.
For more information contact Rosemary Packer.
Tel 01367 710445

**Stanford in the Vale Village Hall
Tuesday 12th May AGM**

7.30pm in the Committee Room of the Village Hall
All welcome

**STANFORD IN THE VALE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY
WEDNESDAY 13th May at 7.30 in Stanford Village Hall.**

**WALLINGFORD IN THE CIVIL WAR
JUDY DEWEY : CURATOR OF WALLINGFORD MUSEUM**

All visitors welcome Admission fee £5.
Tea and coffee available from 7.15

**Folk Session - Thursday 14th May 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>



**Goosey Plant, Book and Cake Sale
Saturday 16th May 12-3pm, All Saints Church, SN7 8PA**

Refreshments available

Free Entry & Free Parking. Cash & Card Payments

All money raised will go to the All Saints Church Building Fund



**PENNYHOOKS FARM TRUST
PLANT SALE**

**Saturday 16th 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)



GARDENING CLUB

The May meeting will be held on **Wednesday, May 27th at 7.30 pm in Stanford in the Vale Village Hall**. The speaker will be Val Bourne and her subject will be "The Natural Garden".

Val is an award-winning garden writer, organic gardener and lecturer. She writes for The Daily Telegraph, Saga Magazine, Garden Answers, The Hardy Plant Society Journal and many others. She gardens on the wind-swept Cotswolds at Spring Cottage - High above Bourton-on-the-water in Gloucestershire. Her third of an acre garden is managed without using chemicals - something Val

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has always believed in. She is a hands-on gardener and committed plantaholic.

This talk will be delivered via Zoom.

Refreshments and a Raffle

Visitors welcome for a £5.00 entry fee.

PLANT SALE - SUNDAY, MAY 10th.

11.00 TO 1.30pm

Donations of plants for sale will be welcome.

For more information contact Rosemary Packer. Tel 01367 710445.

GARDENING TIPS FOR MAY

- Look out for late frosts and protect tender plants
- Plant out tender bedding plants once risk of frost has passed.
- Check for nesting birds before pruning.
- Earth up potatoes and promptly plant any remaining.
- Water early and late to get the most out of water, recycle water where possible.
- Hoe off weeds in vegetable patches.
- Mow lawns and consider leaving some areas uncut for wildlife, or mow less often so flowers can bloom.
- Lift and divide overcrowded clumps of daffodils and other spring-flowering bulbs.
- Watch out for Viburnum Beetle and Lily Beetle Grubs and remove by hand.

Pre-school news – May 2026

We have been busy planting potatoes and peas in our Forest school session, and the children have been keeping a close eye on their progress and talking about what is happening.

We have welcomed 4 new families to the Pre-school and are looking forward to working closely with them to support their children.

We have been doing lots of large-scale mark making inside and out using a variety of materials. The children have also made some wonderful models using 3d modelling materials and lots of tape!!

We are looking forward to our whole Pre-school outing to Roves Farm this term and also a family trip to the Folly.

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/stanforddpresch/?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.



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 had a wonderful trip to Farmer Gows as part of our learning on life cycles. We are also really enjoying our drawing club lessons where we get to practice our fantastic writing!

Year One - We enjoyed a very interesting trip to the STEAM Museum in Swindon as part of our learning all about trains. We took part in workshops and enjoyed learning all about the history of trains.

Year Two - To finish our learning about Africa we designed our own biscuit recipes using African flavours and then got to bake and taste them - they were delicious! We have also been hard at work on our column addition in Maths.

Year Three - We are really excited to start learning all about London this term. We are enjoying our new story 'The Secret of Platform 13' and also starting our Tennis lessons in PE.

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Year Four - We have enjoyed starting our new topic all about the Vikings. We are starting to design our own dragon eyes to be created out of clay, starting with drawing our own eyes focusing on the details.

Year Five - This term we will be learning all about the Ancient Greeks and we have started this week by exploring our existing knowledge. To support this, we are reading a wonderful book called about Odysseus where we will be learning all about Greek mythology.

Year Six - We have started our new enquiry question all about rainforests - we have looked at where rainforests can be found around the world. We are also enjoying our PE lessons focusing on athletics.

Before the Easter holidays we celebrated Easter with a wonderful and thoughtful Easter service where each class re-enacted a part of the Easter story. We followed this up with an Easter egg hunt and decorated egg and bonnet parade back at school. Coming up this term we are looking forward to marking Earth Day, International Women's Cricket Day and French Day!

Thank you for reading our report.
Take care and keep safe.

To include items in June's newsletter please send to jmwarren302@gmail.com or telephone 01367 710789 and leave a message.

Closing date: 18th May 2026

Late items can no long be accepted

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