



AUGUST 2026

PARISH NEWSLETTER

SEVICES FOR AUGUST 2026

Sunday 2nd August 9th after Trinity

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

Sunday 9th August

10th Sunday after Trinity

10.15am Morning Worship – Anne Taylor, (Stanford)
4.00 pm Denys@Home
6.00 pm Hymns & Pimm's in Alec's Garden, Goosey

Sunday 16th August

11th Sunday after Trinity

10.15am Morning Worship with Baptism (Stanford)
4.00 pm Denys@Home

Sunday 23rd August

12th Sunday after Trinity

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

Sunday 30th August

13th Sunday after Trinity

10.15am Holy Communion (Stanford)
2.00pm Gaylor & Nigel Archer
Renewal of Wedding Vows
4.00pm Denys@Home

Sunday 7th September

14th Sunday after Trinity

10.15am 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 – August

For many people, August has long been associated with holidays, lighter schedules and a change of pace.

Some may be setting off on adventures, while others will be staying close to home. For many, life will carry on much as usual, perhaps even becoming busier as routines change around us. Yet wherever we find ourselves this month, August offers us an invitation that is open to everyone: **the invitation to rest.**

Rest is not simply the absence of work; it is a gift from God. From the very beginning of Scripture, we see the pattern of creation culminating in **Sabbath** - a day set apart to delight in God's presence, to lay down our burdens, and to remember that our worth comes not from what we achieve but from whose we are. Jesus himself invited those who were weary and burdened, "*Come to me... and I will give you rest.*"

Not all of us are able to take a holiday, but all of us can seek moments of Sabbath. It may be an unhurried walk, time in the garden, sitting quietly with a cup of tea/glass of wine, reading the Bible, praying, enjoying the company of family or friends, or simply allowing ourselves to be still for a few moments each day. In a culture that often values busyness above all else, **choosing to rest is not laziness; it is an act of trust in God.**

Rest also gives us the space to reflect.

We live in a world where opinions are often expressed quickly and loudly. Public debate can become harsh, disagreements easily become personal, and social media can amplify anger rather than understanding. It is easy to be drawn into the same patterns without even noticing.

Christians are called to something different. Jesus describes his followers as peacemakers, and St Paul

encourages us, "If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone." We may not be able to solve the divisions in our nation or our world, but each of us can make a difference in the conversations we have every day.

We can choose to listen before speaking, to seek understanding before judgement, and to look for opportunities to build bridges rather than deepen divides. Sometimes the gentlest word is the strongest witness to the love of Christ.

As we enjoy this August, perhaps we might ask God to renew us - not only in body and mind, but also in spirit. And as September arrives and the familiar rhythms of life return, perhaps we can make one simple commitment: to be more intentional about the words we use. Whether we are speaking face to face, writing an email, posting on social media, or commenting on the latest news, may our words reflect the grace we ourselves have received.

May this month be one of refreshment, however that looks for you. May God grant you true Sabbath rest, deepen your peace, and help each of us to become bridge-builders and healers in a world that longs for hope.

With every blessing. *Paul* Revd Paul Eddy
Vicar vicar@stdenys.org



St Denys Church Bell Ringers

Stanford church bell ringers were joined by ringing friends (from Oxfordshire and Cornwall) during July in order to be able to ring the bells for both the opening of the village festival and for the Primary School Leavers' Service.

It is great to be able to "make a joyful noise" for such events, in addition to our usual Sunday morning ringing.

A big thank you to Dee for the wonderful "bells" flower arrangement at the festival. Lovely to see the different bell references picked up there.

We continue to offer a welcome to anyone interested in joining the tower band – all training provided free of charge. We would also be very pleased to welcome back anyone that has been a ringer in the past and who would like to resume the activity now.

Please get in touch via 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.

Stanford Drama Group

Stanford Drama Group would like to thank all the lovely audiences who came to support our recent production, in spite of the heat. We hope you had as good a time watching, as the group did putting it on. Special thanks go to Jo and her staff at the coffee shop for selling our tickets and Nick Ponting for letting us use storage at the farm.

We are planning next February's Panto, and as always, we are looking for new people to join our happy group. Not only to take part but to help with painting, building sets and props, or stage crew at performances, make up etc.

We meet again on Tuesday September 8th in the large village hall. 7.15 – 9.15pm. Why not come along and have a chat or find us on Facebook – Stanford in the Vale Drama Group. What have you got to lose, and you might even enjoy it – Oh yes you will!

St Denys Churchyard.

The kind team of volunteers who mow and care for God's Acre in Stanford have asked me to pass on a message.

Would those that walk dogs through the churchyard please ensure they clean up and take away any mess. As you will understand, it is rather unpleasant to encounter dog mess when mowing or tending to the churchyard. It is an increasing problem, so your assistance is appreciated.

I would add that dogs should not be allowed to urinate on memorial headstones or the ancient church walls. Whilst disrespectful, it is also damaging to the stone.

We do welcome our four-legged friends, as shown by our continuous supply of water for them. I will

provide a small supply of bags inside the porch in case anyone forgets to have one in the pocket!
Many thanks, Church Warden.

OPEN MIC NIGHTS in the village:

From **8pm every 1st and 3rd Wednesday** of the month in the Horse & Jockey pub and **every 3rd Thursday** of the month in the Social Club (all welcome). Check with each venue in case of changes to the normal dates/times.

Come along to enjoy a fun night of free entertainment and/or to perform to an enthusiastic audience

Folk Session - Thursday 13th August 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 Village Hall Film Club

No film in August but

- **Friday 11th September**
- **The Devil wears Prada 2**
- **Pay by Card**
- **19.00 for 19:30 start**
- **Bar & Refreshments**



GARDENING CLUB

There will be no evening meeting in August. Details of the Summer Lunch on Sunday 30th will be circulated to Members. Contact Rosemary Packer. 01367 710445

GARDENING TIPS FOR AUGUST

- Prune trained apple and pear trees.
- Deadhead flowering plants regularly.
- Prune Wisteria.
- Water containers and new plants, preferably with Grey recycled water or stored rainwater.
- Collect seed from garden plants.
- Harvest sweetcorn and vegetables as they become ready.
- Cut out old, fruited canes on raspberries and loganberries.
- Pot up rooted strawberry runners.
- Keep ponds and water features topped up.

Pre-school news – August 2026

Our final term of the year has absolutely flown by. We have done listening walks in the church yard enjoying the sounds of birds and identifying other environmental sounds that we heard. We held our Sports Day and Leavers ceremony in the village hall this year due to the heat. The children really enjoyed participating in the races and our Leavers were given a certificate and medal to say goodbye. We wish them all the best in their new schools.

We are looking forward to welcoming 14 new families to the pre-school in September.

We are 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

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 – As we approach the end of our first year at Primary School, we have been working really hard on our writing and Maths. Also, this month we had a very exciting visit from a police car and fire engine!

Year One – This month we have been practicing our cooking skills by making all sorts of delicious foods! We have also been busy writing jungle themed poems!

Year Two – This month we have been learning all about the Great Fire of London! We have also been learning all about fractions and how to find fractions of amounts.

Year Three – We have been hard at work learning how to tell the time – we have worked really hard on this! Also, this term we have been exploring shadows and pneumatics.

Year Four – We have been continuing to work hard during our swimming lessons with some excellent progress. In addition, we all enjoyed our DT lessons where we created our own pasta sauces!

Year Five – We have all been creating our CAM toys this term. These required a lot of planning, patience and skill and we were all so pleased with how they turned out.

Year Six – What a busy final few weeks we have had! We put on two wonderful performances and shared a fantastic leaver's service with our families. All topped off with a brilliant day out at Gulliver's Land!

As a school we have been incredibly busy this term with our wonderful Sports and Science week featuring science workshops, martial arts and dance lessons, science investigations, sports day and an amazing colour run!

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

To include items in September's newsletter please send to jmwarren302@gmail.com or telephone **01367 710789** and leave a message.
Closing date: 18th August 2026
Late items can no longer be accepted

