ST DENYS
STANFORD IN THE VALE

NOVEMBER 2026 PARISH NEWSLETTER

Sunday 1st November
ALL SAINTS DAY & WORLD CHURCH DAY

10.15 am Holy Communion (Stanford)
4.00 pm Denys@4 – All Age Service
6.00pm Patronal Festival - Evening Service at All Saints Church , Goosey (NB.one week earlier)

Sunday 8th November
REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY
10.15 am Morning Worship - Remembrance Service (Stanford)
11.00 am Act of Remembrance outside at the War Memorial Uniformed Groups and Villagers gather outside at 10.45am.
4.00 pm Denys@4 – All Age Service

Wednesday 11th November
10.45 am Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial

Sunday 15th November
2nd Sunday before Advent & Eco Sunday
10.15 am Holy Communion (Stanford)
4.00 pm Denys@4 – Denys Deep Delve

SATURDAY 21 NOVEMBER
11.30 AM-2.00PM CHRISTMAS BAZAAR – STANFORD VILLAGE HALL

Sunday 22nd November
Sunday before Advent
10.15 am Holy Communion (Stanford)
4.00 pm Denys@4 – All Age Service
6.00 pm Evening Prayer (BCP) at St George, Hatford

SATURDAY 28 NOVEMBER
5-5.45PM – CHURCH GREEN
LIGHTING OF CHRISTMAS TREE & ST DENYS CHURCH FOLLOWED BY CAROL SINGING & HOT REFRESHMENTS

Sunday 29th November ***ADVENT SUNDAY - The Church's New Year's Day!***
10.15 am Holy Communion (Stanford)
4.00 pm Denys@4 – All Age Service

Sunday 6th December
2nd Sunday in Advent
10.15 am Holy Communion (Stanford)
4.00 pm Denys@4 Christmas Meal

ADVENT BIBLE READINGS & DEVOTIONAL
If you would like a copy of the daily Bible Readings for Advent to help prepare for Christmas, and/or, a specially written daily Devotional Booklet by the vicar on Christmas through the eyes of Joseph, Jesus' earthly father, please email ***vicar@stdenys.org*** *and we'll send to you.*

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 –
Dear Parishioners
Over recent months, many of us have experienced the sadness of losing people precious to us. Some have said farewell to family members or dear friends or, like me, several dear mentors. Many are carrying the pain of multiple bereavements in a short space of time.

When someone we love dies, we lose not only that person, but their familiar presence, conversations,

laughter, prayers and place in our everyday lives. When losses come close together, grief can feel overwhelming. We may feel bereft, weary, tearful or unable to concentrate. If this is how you feel, please know that you are not alone. There is no timetable for grief, and you need not feel guilty for your sadness. Grief is not weakness or a failure of faith; it is the natural expression of love.

The hope we have in Christ

As Christians, we grieve, but not without hope. Our hope rests in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. He told his disciples, "Do not let your hearts be troubled," and promised to prepare a place for his people (John 14:1–3). Paul reminds us that we do not grieve as those without hope, because we believe Jesus died and rose again. (1 Thessalonians 4:13–14).

This does not mean our tears should be smaller. It means death does not have the final word for those who believe and trust in Jesus. Jesus says, "I am the resurrection and the life" (John 11:25), and Revelation promises a day when God "will wipe every tear from their eyes" (Revelation 21:4).

Giving ourselves permission to grieve

Please be gentle with yourself. Grief comes in waves; a song, a place, an empty chair or an anniversary may bring sadness to the surface. This is not necessarily a step backwards. Take each day as it comes, keep up small daily routines where possible, share memories, stay connected with people who care, and make space for God without putting pressure on yourself. You do not have to be strong for everyone else, and it is all right to ask for support.

Healing does not mean forgetting. Over time, it means learning to carry memories with love while living each day in the light of God's presence.

Please do not struggle alone

I am here for you. If recent bereavements feel difficult to bear, please get in touch. We can talk, pray, or simply sit together. You may also contact Cruse Bereavement Support at www.cruse.org.uk, or 0808 808 1677. They offer confidential support, including online sessions. Seeking support is wisdom, not weakness.

A final invitation

As your Vicar, I believe a personal relationship with Jesus brings comfort and assurance - not only for the life to come, but for each day now. Whether you have attended church for decades, or hardly ever at all, but are unsure whether you know God in your daily life, or have never chosen to follow him, please speak with me in confidence.

Death for a Christian is not the end. It is just a blink of an eyelid from life here on earth (which is temporary), to eternal life with God – and all others who have trusted him in their daily lives on earth. I'd be delighted to meet with you, read the Bible and pray together.

With my love and prayers.

Paul Revd Paul A. Eddy, FRSA Vicar
vicar@stdenys.org

🏐 **Stanford in the Vale Ladies Netball Club**

Looking for a fun, friendly way to keep fit and meet new people? Stanford in the Vale Ladies Netball Club welcomes women aged 16+, whether you're a netball regular or simply fancy giving it a try!

🗓️ Mondays, 7–8pm

📍 Stanford MUGA

💪 Fitness • Friendship • Fresh air • Just for fun!

Come along and try a session for FREE! If you decide to join, there's a small annual contribution of approximately £15 towards insurance.

✉️ Contact: sitvnetball@gmail.com

Everyone is welcome — come and have a go!

St Denys Church Bell Ringers

We reported in a previous newsletter that we were expecting visiting ringers at Stanford in October and that they were hoping to ring a Quarter Peal. A Quarter Peal requires the bells to be rung for about 40-45 minutes, and for the ringers to complete a pattern of ringing which involves the bells changing places (in the ringing order) at least 1260 times. Each bell is rung by one ringer and the ringing has to be continuous. It requires concentration in addition to the physical ability to control and ring the bell. It is a noteworthy achievement. Their attempt was a success and they happily celebrated with lunch in the village coffee shop – which they thoroughly enjoyed.

The Quarter Peal was dedicated to the memory of Philip Tapley. Philip had been a dedicated member of the band of ringers at Stanford in the Vale, additionally undertaking a range of supporting activities in addition to the actual ringing of bells. It was thanks to him that emergency lighting was first installed in the tower. And decent heaters. And, with Margaret, the

hosting of an annual barbecue - as well as much more.

The current band of ringers continues to practice and to develop their ringing skills (and rope splicing and bell maintenance). We enjoy the ringing and we enjoy the company and teamwork.

If you would like to join the ringers at Stanford in the Vale - whether as a learner or as a returning ringer – we would be delighted to welcome you. If you would just like to know more about how the bells work, please get in touch too. Contact us via StDenysChurchBells@btinternet.com or visit us when we are ringing on a Tuesday evening (or Sunday morning).

Boys and Girls Football

Stanford in the Vale only has one youth team at the present time with Under 13s being mixed boys and girls who are enjoying a good start to the season playing our home games on a Sunday morning at the football club. Our 3-0 win against Chalgrove Cavaliers on Oct 11th being our best performance so far, it took us to second place in the Oxfordshire Youth League, with a 30 yard screamer of a goal from our defensive Centre Half being a highlight. We train on a Wednesday night for an hour and are looking for new players to join us. The majority of our players live in the village and have played for the youth teams for some years. We have two coaches, if your child is interested in joining us then please contact Tony King 07379 457354.



Musical handbells in Stanford in the Vale

According to historic records, the village had a team of handbell ringers at the end of the 19th century. Little, however, is known about them and there are no known records relating to the bells that they would have used.

In 1993, a chance conversation between parents at a toddler group led to the formation of a new group of Stanford in the Vale handbell ringers who, through various fundraising efforts, managed to purchase a new set of bells as well as various other pieces of equipment and music over the course of the following years.

The group now owns 38 bells which provide more than 3 octaves of notes, have appeared on TV and radio and have raised more than £10,000, supporting a range of local and national charities.

The group meets weekly, on a Wednesday evening in Stanford in the Vale, to practice. Practices are relaxed although our aim is always to be able to present our audiences with a lovely sound. Members often comment that a practice evening is a great way to de-stress from all the usual burdens of a day. Our audiences often comment that they had not expected the bells to sound so wonderful.

We play a variety of music and, significantly, we use a form of notation which is traditional for handbells and which is not the "dots and staves" that most English music is written with. It is therefore possible for a complete novice to make very rapid progress as a musical handbell ringer.

We would love to welcome anyone with an interest in making music to come and join us. You genuinely do not need any musical experience, several of our group had no experience before starting to ring handbells.

If you'd like to know a bit more about the group and what we do, we would be very happy to show you. Please get in touch with Danielle or Jackie, via *StDenys.HBR@btinternet.com*

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

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

Wednesday 4th November 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

St Deny's Church invites you to a Women's breakfast
On: Saturday 7th November.
Venue: Stanford in the Vale Village hall (Large hall)
Time: 8.30am for an 8.45 am start.
Talk by Julie Jones of the Torch trust (www.torchtrust.org)
To book your place or for more information, please email Womensbreakfast@stdenys.org, sign up in Church, or leave a message on 07880655102.
There is no charge, although donations towards the cost of the breakfast are gratefully accepted.

Stanford in the Vale Village Hall
Quiz Night
Saturday 7th November 2026
£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 710789

STANFORD IN THE VALE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY
WEDNESDAY 11th NOVEMBER
@ 7.30 in the Village Hall
MY FATHER'S WAR YEARS BY FAY PENDELL,
Refreshments from 7.15 with the talk starting at 7.30. All visitors welcome, entrance fee £5

Folk Session – Thursday 12th November 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 13th November –



Synopsis: A mainstay of the London art scene since his starry breakout in the creative explosion of the 1960's, Julian Sklar (Ian McKellen) has drifted into a cluttered, self - imposed seclusion. His two estranged children (James Corden, Jessica Gunning) enlist Lori (Michaela Coel), a young painter and sometime - forger, to pose as a prospective assistant and gain access to a fabled series of unfinished canvases Julian has buried deep in his home studio, in a deceptive bid to secure an inheritance for themselves
Director(s):Steven Soderbergh Certification:15
Cast:James Corden, Jessica Gunning, Ian McKellen.
Village Hall • Friday 13th November• Pay by Card
19.00 for 19:30 start •Bar & Refreshment





St Denys Church
CHRISTMAS BAZAAR
SATURDAY
21st NOVEMBER
Stanford Village Hall
11.30 am – 2.00 pm
Homemade Soup and puddings
Gifts, Toys, Books
Christmas Food
Plus more !!

STANFORD IN THE VALE GARDENING CLUB

The November meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 25th at 7.30 pm in Stanford in the Vale Village Hall.
This meeting will be the AGM followed by Social Evening with Bring and Share Supper. Details will be circulated to members.
For more information contact Rosemary Packer. Tel. 01367 710445

GARDENING TIPS FOR NOVEMBER

- Protect outdoor containers from frost using hessian sacking or bubble wrap. Avoid waterlogging by raising them off the ground.
- Plant new fruit trees and bushes, provided that the ground is not waterlogged.
- Sow overwintering broad beans outside or under cloches in well drained soil.
- Prune roses to protect them from wind rock.
- Protect brassicas from pests such as pigeons using netting.
- Store potatoes in hessian sacks to allow the crop to breathe.
- Divide mature clumps of rhubarb once they are dormant.

Stanford in the Vale Village Hall
Prize Christmas Bingo
Friday 27th November 2026
Doors open at 7 for Eyes-down at 7.30pm
Cash prize for Last House
Bar and raffle
Contact: J. Warren jmwarren302@gmail.com or 01367 710789

ADVANCE NOTICE
STANFORD IN THE VALE VILLAGE HALL
The Large Village Hall will be closed in the Ney Year from Monday 4th January to Friday 22nd January whilst the kitchen is updated and refitted. Regular hirers will be informed.



Pre-school news – November 2026

The children have been making the most of what Autumn has to offer with outings to the church yard to collect conkers and trips to the park to make homes for the hedgehogs to hibernate in using leaves. The children have used the conkers to paint with, rolling them in a tray with paper to make wonderful colourful patterns. They have used them for counting, weighing, rolling, shaking, hammering and rolling down tubes and along tracks.

They have been learning a new song linked to the Owl Babies story, and they accompany this with tapping sticks and small blocks of wood scraped together. They have also been learning a poem called The Wide Eyed Owl and the actions that go with it.

We held our AGM and had a good number of people attend. We are excited for the year ahead with new members on our committee.

We are signed up as a good cause on the new White Horse Lottery. This is a great way to 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.

We are all very excited to be back at school and have had a fantastic return to school with our learning now in full swing! This year we are continuing to run our school council as a Pupil Parliament and so pupils prepared speeches which they then delivered and were chosen to be our school leaders this year
Year 3 – Ella C, Ava, Tosia, Emily and Oscar
Year 5 – Jessica and Eira
Year 6 – Georgina and Nefaine

Foundation – We have been so busy learning all about our families and communities this term. We have also enjoyed our dough disco activities to improve our fine motor skills.
Year One – This month we have been enjoying exploring seasonal changes and how we can tell when it is a different season. We have also been working really hard to practice our counting.
Year Two – We had a wonderful trip to Cotswold Wildlife Park this month where we enjoyed learning all about the different animals. It was a really great trip and we all had a brilliant day!
Year Three – We have been busy practicing our gymnastics skills and making excellent progress with our balancing and movement. We have also been learning all about different seasonal foods that are grown in Britain ready to make our own soups!
Year Four – We enjoyed a morning out at Buscot Weir where we were extending our learning all about the water cycle. We did some wonderful sketching and had a lovely tour around.
Year Five – We all enjoyed an excellent trip to Appleton Rutherford Laboratory to start learning all about space ready for our Space topic after half term.
Year Six – We had an amazing trip to Coleshill where we learnt all about the auxiliary soldiers who were trained there during the war in case there was a German invasion of Britain. We had excellent day learning all about World War 2.

Please support 100 Club.
Pay £10.00 and possibly win much more!
Can be purchased via the link: https://foss-sitv.sumupstore.com/

We celebrated Harvest as a school with a wonderful Harvest service where we shared songs, prayers and poems to recognise this important time of year.

Please do look on our school website for more information about what we have been doing. Keep an eye out for the exciting projects Pupil Parliament are planning for the year ahead!

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

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