

TemerTalk

March 2024

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In this issue
Easter Services • Easter Bingo • Films
and all your parish news

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TemeTalk

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A community going forward with God

March 2024

Published by the churches of the
Teme Valley South Group
and delivered free to every household

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Items for inclusion should be
sent to Sandra Griffiths
by the 18th of the preceding month
and will be included subject to space

Dear Readers

Wishing you all a very Happy Easter!

This year, the festival of Easter falls very early. Easter Sunday is 31st March, just 9 days after the earliest possible date it can be. I'm hoping for good weather so we're not standing outside for the dawn service on Easter morning in a blizzard!

At St Mary's Stanford that morning (whatever the weather) as the dawn chorus fills the air around, we will light a large candle from an outdoor fire and carry the light back into the church building. It's a wonderful moment when the candle is taken through the doors into the dark building and used to light many other hand held candles. Slowly the church is filled with a wonderful glow and we sing a joyful song. Easter has arrived.

By these actions, we symbolically take the light of Christ back into the church building where it was extinguished on a solemn Maundy Thursday. Easter Sunday's Communion bread will radiate out across our communities to services at a number of our other churches, including Eastham, Rochford and Stoke Bliss.

On the first Easter morning the scene which greeted the women who went to the garden tomb was not of light and hope. Where they expected to see a lifeless Jesus, they found a puzzling empty tomb. Each gospel writer gives us a different view on the women's reactions.

In Mark, the women are driven away by fear – and they say nothing ...

In Luke, the women return home and tell the apostles; Peter only believes them when he sees for himself ...

In Matthew, the women leave with a mixture of fear and joy. The earthquakes, lightning and quaking guards balanced by the great joy of meeting Jesus in the garden ...

Finally, John recounts an aching beautiful encounter between risen Jesus and Mary Magdalene.

Continued on page 3

This month's cover photograph
of wild daffodils is by Rev'd Julia

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Teme Valley South Contacts

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Assistant Curate: Jen Jones 07749 977821

LLM Reader: Pete Thorp 07917 783159

Retired clergy: Robert Barlow, Sally Jones

Churchwardens

Eastham: Celia Adams 01584 781258

Rochford: Ann Prosser 01584 781317

Stoke Bliss & Kyre:

Hanleys: Ed Yarnold 07930 882728

Stanford: Robin Dean 01886 853295

Pastoral Team

Stanford: Lesley Dean 01886 853295

Hanleys:

Stoke Bliss:

Rochford: Ann Prosser 01584 781317

Jenny Barbé 01584 781298

Eastham: Mel Williams 01584 781284

Parish Safeguarding Officer: Sue Softly

Village Hall Bookings

Stoke Bliss & Kyre

Janet Powell, 01885 410598

stokeblisskyrevillagehall@gmail.com

Rochford – Ann Prosser, 01584 781317

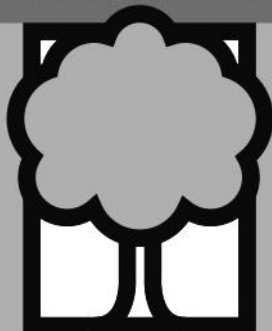
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Stanford – Catherine Mawby, 07831 303792

stanfordwithorletonvillagehall@gmail.com

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Dear Readers

Continued from page 1

After she has called Peter and John to the empty tomb, the lost is found and the gardener revealed as none other than the risen Christ.

I wonder how we respond when we encounter the marvellous, wonderful and puzzling God at work in the world? Do we:

Leave with fear and bewilderment ... and tell no one.

Or rejoice ... and bring others, saying, you have got to see this!

My prayer is that as we travel past the hot cross buns, chocolate eggs, daffodils and Easter bunnies, our communities will be ones filled with excitement and wonder and that we may have the courage to rejoice and tell others what is to be found in the Easter story. If we do, then the future of our glorious rural churches looks bright.

Rev'd Julia Curtis

Parish news

From the Registers

Funeral

Our sympathy and prayers are with the family and friends of

Juanita Mary Jones, funeral service at St Michael's Church, Rochford followed by burial in the churchyard on 12th February 2024.

May the souls of the departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

Teme Valley Tots

Sessions continue in Rochford village hall during March from 10.30am to 12 noon on Fridays. We'll finish for Easter on 22nd March and then meet again on 12th April.

Music in Teme Valley South

Our first Choral Evensong for the Teme Valley South Churches choir went very well. It was well attended with a lovely atmosphere afterwards as we enjoyed tasty refreshments. The next services will be at St Mary's, Stanford on 3rd March and 7th April at 4pm. Do come along and enjoy this musical offering.

If you are a tenor we would love to hear from you to join us on occasion. Please contact Chloe on music.tvspcc@gmail.com.

Palm Sunday

On the morning of 24th March we will gather at Hanley village hall with our friends from Clifton, Harpley and the Shelsleys to celebrate Palm Sunday. Palm crosses will be available to take home and at 10.30am we plan to walk around the Broadheath as we mark this important day in the church calendar.

Just the job for you?

Do you have a few hours to spare? Do you enjoy listening and organising? The PCC is still looking for a minutes secretary if you have a little time to spare.

Rev'd Julia

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Rochford 49 Club

*Congratulations to this month's
£25 winners!*

Wednesday winners

24th January	No 17	Not sold
31st January	No 55	Not sold
7th February	No 42	Not sold
14th February	No 24	Norma Goodall

Saturday winners

20th January	No 42	Colin Lord
27th January	No 16	Helen Barlow
3rd February	No 46	Not sold
10th February	No 34	Rob Perrin
17th February	No 43	Rosemary Ayres

There are still plenty of numbers available – why not join in? It's just £1 per draw and the profits are split between Rochford church and the village hall – plus you get two chances each week to win £25!

Remember, you must be in it to win it!
Ring Gill Smith on
07815 030050

Teme Valley Tote

February's draw, the eleventh in this series, was decided when Rev'd Julia Curtis rolled the dice on 1st January to select the set of random numbers. Prizewinners are:

£50 – **Daisy Wooley** of Lindridge (No 137)

£30 – **Mr J Griffiths** of Stoke Bliss (No 829)

£20 – **Nicky Webb** of Easthan (No 261)

You should now be saving up your £10s for the new series that starts in April. Full details on page 20. If you have any queries please contact Robin Dean on 01886 853295 or email robin.c.dean@gmail.com.



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Rochford News

Pancake supper

The Pancake supper on Shrove Tuesday was a sell-out. Huge thanks to Ann for all her work in preparing a wonderful choice of pancakes. Many thanks to Jon Adams for the eggs and thanks to everyone who came along and made the evening such a success.

Neighbourhood lunch

Dates for sit down and takeaway neighbourhood lunches are 28th March, 25th April, 30th May and 27th June. Everyone is welcome. Booking for lunches is essential and takeaways should be collected between 12.30 and 1pm. Please book with Ann on 01584 781317 at least the previous week.

Lambing café church

On Mothering Sunday, 10th March at 3pm. Your opportunity to get up close and personal with sheep and newly born lambs at Parsonage Farm, Rochford, where the sheep will be lambing. Come along and join in with lambing based activities. All are welcome, especially children (a surprise gift for mums too!). (No dogs please and unfortunately it is not suitable for pregnant women.) Wellies are essential. Parking is very limited so if you can walk, please park on the layby on the roadside and walk down.

Teme Valley Tots

Teme Valley Tots is on Fridays from 10.30pm to 12 noon at Rochford village hall and is going from strength to strength. It is good to welcome new tots to the group as the older tots move on. Thanks to all the volunteers who help. Please contact Ann if you would like to help.

Nita Jones

Nita unfortunately passed away on 22nd January 2024 aged 76.

Having lived in Rochford her whole life, she will be missed by many. Married to Chris, she was a loving Mum to Amy and Tom and grandmother to Oliver, Annie and Henry.

Following a small private funeral in February, there is a thanksgiving service to celebrate Nita's life on Saturday 9th March at 1pm at Rochford church, followed by refreshments in Rochford village hall. All are welcome. Please wear something colourful or a flower.

Easter church services

There will be no service at Rochford on Palm Sunday, 24th March. Instead there will be a joint service at Hanley village hall at 10.30am with a donkey or pony and possibly a procession.

There will be a communion service at Rochford church on Easter Sunday, 31st March at 10am.

Condolences

Sincere condolences to Chris Jones, Amy, Tom and their families on the sad death of Nita on 22nd January. Nita had been an active member of this community, was PCC secretary and sang in the church choir. The family had a private funeral service for Nita on 12th February but all are welcome to a memorial service on Saturday 9th March at 1pm at Rochford church.

What's on in Rochford?

Few community events are planned for spring and summer in Rochford at the moment, so if you have any ideas of events that will be enjoyed by our community, please get in touch.

Church flower rota

March/April – Easter lilies, Jennifer Gledhill
(Donations for Easter lilies please to Jennifer or Ann.)

Contacts

Ann on 01584 781317, Andrew on 07809 658484 or through the parish WhatsApp group

Andrew Barbé

TemeTalk deadline 18th March
ronsmum@icloud.com

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Stoke Bliss and Kyre

Village Spring Walk

Sunday 7th April

This year's Spring Walk will be an easily accessible route of just short of four miles, mainly around the lanes of Stoke Bliss and Kyre, to be followed by hot soup, drink and cake at the village hall. Meet at the village hall car park at 12.45 for a 1pm start.

The all inclusive price is £10, though if you just want to take advantage of the food, served at approximately 3pm, it will be £8. Dogs are welcome on the walk but not unfortunately at the hall for lunch.

If you wish to book food, please contact Julia at sbkvillagehall@gmail.com or phone 01885 410368 stating any dietary requirements.

Can you help?

Could you spare a little time each month to deliver eight copies of TemeTalk along the Bromyard road from the Blacksmith's Shop to the Worcester-shire Arms? If so please contact Alison at alison_izod@icloud.com.

Many thanks to Kate Scarborough who has been delivering these magazines for us.

Social & Pub Night

Friday 22nd March

Friday 26th April

Bar opens at 7, supper served at 8pm

Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall

Supper £5 (optional), dessert £2.50 (optional)

Reserve your meal with Julia on

sbkvillagehall@gmail.com or 01885 410368

Neighbourhood Lunch

Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall

Thursday 14th March

Thursday 11th April

Welcome at 12.30pm

Telephone 01885 410641 or email

lunchkasb@aol.com if you would like to come

Yoga class

at Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall

Tuesday mornings from 10 to 11am

Please contact Karen on 07789 913425

St Peter's church

This month we are hoping to see some repairs to the non-stained-glass windows on the northside at St Peter's, Stoke Bliss. As I write we are awaiting confirmation of an Archdeacon's faculty for the work to go ahead. This work will help ensure that there will be no further deterioration of these particular widows, which were installed around 1860. The funding for this work has come from a generous grant from the Headley Trust.

Services for March and Easter

10th March at 10am

Celtic Holy Communion at Kyre

29th March (Good Friday) from 10am to 4pm

Stations of the Cross at Kyre

31st March (Easter day) at 10am

Holy Communion at Stoke Bliss

We also invite you to our regular 'Take Breath', 30 minutes of silent prayer every Friday at 4pm at Kyre

For further information please contact Rev'd Jen Jones at tvscurate@gmail.com.

TemeTalk

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Eastham Jottings

Church flowers and cleaning

March – Celia Adams

April – Diana Clarke

Eastham Coffee Morning

The next Coffee Morning will be on Wednesday 6th March at 10.30am at Eastham Memorial Hall. Join us for coffee, the monthly raffle and a catch up. This year there will be a theme each month, starting in February with historical photos of the village which generated interest far and wide. Thanks to Rev'd Julia posting on Facebook, friends from Australia could join in.

For March there is a proposed seed swap. Do you have a seed box or tin with seeds you were given, or bought on a whim, which you will never plant but can't quite throw away? Bring your packets of seeds along, pass them on to someone who wants them and get something that you need in return. Please bring full or part-full seed packets (flowers, fruit or vegetables) or any seed you have saved from your own garden plants, clearly labelled. Please contact Celia Adams (07815 833892 or easthamcourt@icloud.com) if you have any questions.

The rota is:

Wednesday 6th March – Alison Neary

Wednesday 3rd April – Josie Ward

Let us know if you have any suggestions for themes for the coming months.

Eastham freestyle litter pick

Saturday 16th March from 9.30am to 12 noon. Join the merry band of pickers. High vis kit is supplied but bring gloves. Meet and greet at Eastham Memorial Hall and reassemble for coffee, tea, cake and goodies.

Eastham Pub Night

Friday 22nd March at 7 pm Eastham Memorial Hall. Make a date for this informal get together. Watch out for the usual banner. Thanks to Liz Cattani for February – a good time was had by all.

The next pub night is on Friday 19th April.

Church and churchyard spring clean

Please come on Saturday 27th April and help with the spring tidy up of the churchyard from 10am to 12.30pm followed by hot dogs at lunchtime. At the same time we will be tidying up the inside of the church for the summer months. Please bring along garden utensils, dusters, and mops. Everyone welcome!

Eastham's annual pumpkin competition

If you want to be in with a chance of winning the top prize at Eastham's annual pumpkin competition (and not let the glory go to Rochford again!) you will need to plant the seed during April/May and keep plants well-watered. No time to waste!

Teme Valley Tote

Subscriptions are due on 1st April for the next 12 draws for prizes of £50, £30 or £20 per month. Please get you tenners to Celia Adams on 01584 781258 or easthamcourt@icloud.com. You can buy multiples of £10. Pay electronically or set up a direct debit – just get in touch. You have to be in it to win it!

New pictures for the Memorial Hall

Entries are invited for pictures of Eastham to be judged in the summer with the winners being made into canvasses to decorate the hall. Get snapping. More to follow.

Dates for your diary

Quiz time at Eastham Memorial Hall on 20th April. More details next month.

Eastham Memorial Hall AGM on 23rd May at 7pm. This public meeting is open to all Eastham residents. Please come along, cash bar afterwards.

Hall committees' open evening

There will be a follow-up meeting open to all Hereford and Worcester hall committees and trustees at Pencombe Village Hall on Thursday 9th May at 7pm.

Telephone box

Many thanks to Diana Clarke and Ann Hadfield who keep the telephone box tidy and book swaps available. It's a great facility, please look!

Eastham Country Garden Allotment Scheme

After 16 years the Eastham allotment scheme will send out its final deliveries this month. Many thanks to everyone at Eastham Park for making this happen so successfully for all these years.

Thanks to Debbie for her dedication to the growing of so many amazing vegetables distributed across the Teme Valley.

Watch this space for future developments within Temework Limited.

Celia Adams

Hanley Happenings

Get moving!

Sarah and her Hanley Village Hall committee are full of enthusiasm to get us all off our "bums" in 2024 and engage in activities that are good for our health and wellbeing. They have many exciting events at the planning stage and some are already on the books for early spring. As the days get longer and the weather improves it's time to leave our cosy fires and comfortable chairs! The events are for us and involve a lot of hard work behind the scenes so the least we can do is give them a try. Cake and crafts are more my scene than zumba but the choice is yours.

The committee hopes to make improvements at the hall for the benefit of the whole community so it's once again a place worth visiting.

9th March – **Cake and Crafts**, £20 (please book in advance as places are limited).

28th March – **Menopause Party** to include refreshments.

30th March – **Easter Bingo**, 3-4.30pm, refreshments and raffle.

16th April – **Zumba**, 6.30-7.30pm, four-week taster event (first session free, £6 for remaining sessions), no need to book.

See ads for more information.



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Country style terrine with green peppercorns,
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Or roast vegetable cassoulet (V, VE)
Served with seasonal greens

Dessert

Palmier sweet treat

£26.50 per person

Reserve at www.hanleyhouse.co.uk

TemeTalk deadline 18th March

Get voting!

Many congratulations to The Fox Inn for gaining selection to the Midlands final of the Country Alliance Pub Award. Our popular watering hole has much to offer both residents and visitors. There is more information on Facebook, especially how to place your vote for The Fox at the end of the month.

Get gardening!

Now is the time for thinking about our gardens. If you are sowing seeds or splitting existing plants please put some aside for the village hall plant sale which will complement Hanley Open Gardens later in the year.

Carole Gardner

Hanley Childe Church Spring Work Party

Many hands make light work

Saturday 16th March, 9 to 10am

Free breakfast rolls, tea and coffee
Please bring mowers, strimmers, rakes etc



Hanley Parish Council

Hanley Parish Council is seeking a
Parish Clerk

This is a very interesting opportunity and there is also a salary for the post

For more information please contact
Philip Spilsbury, philspilsbury@icloud.com
or Margaret Yarnold,
courtfarmhanley@hotmail.com

Hanley Parish Council Councillors

Chairman – Philip Spilsbury
philspilsbury@icloud.com
Vice Chairman – Simon Spring
Treasurer – Christine Francis
Footpath Officer – Neil Collins
Planning Officer – Lesley Lloyd
Neighbourhood Watch Officer – Jason Yarnold
Clerk to Hanley Parish Council –

Stanford • Stanford • Stanford

Services in Stanford

Sunday 3rd March

Holy Communion with hymns at 10am

Evensong at 4pm

28th March, Maundy Thursday

Stripping of altar at 6.30pm

31st March, Easter Day

Dawn Service with Holy Communion and hymns at 6am*.

Full English breakfast at the Den at Mill Farm, Stanford from about 7am (after the service). The breakfast will cost £18 per person – if you wish to come, please contact Robin Dean on 01886 853295 before Wednesday 27th March so that he can reserve your place(s).

7th April

Holy Communion with hymns at 10am

Choral Evsng at 4pm

*Note that the clocks move forward that night so 6am BST will be 5am GMT – early to bed, early to rise!

Lights

Some while ago we looked at changing our current lighting from quartz halogen to more energy efficient lighting – at the time the cost of doing this did not justify the saving in electricity. Because of net zero, quartz halogen bulbs are not available and therefore we are having considerable difficulty in replacing fused bulbs. The area church committee has therefore decided to replace quartz halogen lights with energy efficient lights – we hope that once they are installed, you will not notice the difference but we will be using much less electricity!

AGM of ACC

All parishioners are invited to the Annual General Meeting of the Stanford with Orleton Area Church Committee at 7pm on Thursday 2nd May – put the date in your diary and try to attend. As an added incentive refreshments will be served!

St Mary's church

St Mary's is now open every day from dawn to dusk. The front door will be open (please do not shut) and the main door will be closed but unlocked. Please visit and sign the visitors book and leave any donations you wish in cash or by using the Payaz Card Reader. We are getting visitors from all over the world who are delighted to have the church open and comment on its beauty.

Whist Drives

There will be a whist drive at the village hall at 7.30pm on Tuesday 19th March.

Tenbury Food Bank

The box in the lobby at St Mary's continues to be used – thank you for all who have contributed – please keep your donations coming.

Teme Valley Tote

A new series starts in April – full details are on page 20.

Money

We need regular donations to St Mary's for day-to-day expenses. The Church of England has a parish giving scheme which allows you to give single amounts or regular monthly amounts. St Mary's page is at www.parishgiving.org.uk/donors/find-your-parish/stanford-with-orleton-st-mary-stanford-on-teme/ or you can phone their donation line on 0333 002 1271 quoting parish code 420642278 during office hours – you will need your debit card details, how much you wish to donate and how frequently, whether you pay tax (this allows them to claim gift aid on your donation) and whether you wish to increase your donation in line with inflation at each anniversary.

The diocese has identified a fund for the benefit St Mary's which will help us to maintain the church – this fund does not cover the day-to-day running of the church. More details next month.

We have installed a Payaz debit/credit card reader on a trial basis near the font – please use it to make donations to St Mary's at any time the church is open. We would welcome any comments you may have about it.

Volunteers please – again

We still need volunteers for the area church committee Robin (01886 853295) is happy to explain what is involved and you are welcome to attend one of our meetings, so that you can see what it is like. We still need people to organise and assist. Perhaps you would like to take over the writing of this page each month?

Robin is particularly looking for a churchwarden to assist him and take over – dare you volunteer? While it would be great to have a volunteer from Stanford, you can come from anywhere in Teme Valley South. You should be confirmed!

Robin Dean

BRAND NEW BABY GROUP!

TEME VALLEY TOTS!



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during March
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Rochford Village Hall**

**Tea and cake
Play and cuddles!**

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Activities at Eastham Memorial Hall

- **Pilates**, Tuesdays 1pm and 2.15pm Contact Sue on 07974 343609, sue579@icloud.com for details or a taster session.
- **Yoga**, ring Zoe on 07962 981456 or see www.zedyoga.co.uk. Wednesdays at 10am. Taster sessions available.
- **Zumba Gold**, Lucia on 07709 301030, lu.500@live.co.uk. Wednesdays at 12 noon, just turn up.
- **Kung Fu**, for youngsters on Saturdays at 9.30am. Ring Adam on 07720 643524.



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The Filling Station

Our next meeting is on Thursday 21st March at Eastham Memorial Hall at 7.15 for a 7.30pm start, when Eric Stirrup will be speaking to us. Eric was due to speak at our January meeting but was unable to because of ill health. He leads the fellowship that initiated the Tenbury Filling Station meetings and we look forward to hearing his message to us.

We look forward to your joining us for this evening of fellowship, worship, teaching and refreshments. If you are not on our mailing list and would like further information or details about our meetings please contact me on kate.harley6@gmail.com.

Opportunities in Eastham

The resources made available to the Eastham Country Garden Allotment Scheme

This includes the land and polytunnel used for the growing of vegetables

Other equine opportunities could be included

For further information please call
Paul and Frances Meier
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TemeTalk deadline 18th March

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Abberley – from Eobold to the Grey Lady

For many of us, Abberley is a place we pass through on the way to Worcester or the motorway. But it's much more than just a road to somewhere else!

The clock tower is a familiar local landmark. 161 feet tall overlooking the Teme valley, it can be seen from six counties. It was built in 1884 by John Joseph Jones, a cotton magnate who owned Abberley Hall, as a time keeper for his farm workers ... or maybe to keep up with his aristocratic neighbours at Witley Court!

Abberley is mentioned in the Domesday Book as Eoboldsleigh, or Eobold's settlement. Eobold was the leader of a small group of Saxons who, late in the sixth century, took this tiny clearing in the huge central forest of England from its native Britons, who had occupied it since pre-historic times, and built wooden huts and a mead hall. The village became part of the kingdom of Mercia and in the ninth century, when King Offa was baptised and Christianity was accepted by the kingdom, the first church was built in Abberley.

William the Conqueror granted the manor of Abberley to Ralph de Toden, his standard bearer at the Battle of Hastings and one of his most powerful barons. The estate passed through many families before it was bought by Joseph Jones in



1867 and inherited by his cousin John Joseph Jones in 1880.

As well as building the clock tower, John Joseph set about massive improvements to the gardens, built a model farm and the Victorian estate cottages which are such a feature of the village, and extended the estates.

Abberley village nestles at the foot of Abberley Hill which dominates the surrounding countryside. On top of the hill, marked by an oak tree, the Apostles' Oak, is the spot where, according to the Venerable Bede, St Augustine met the Welsh and Irish bishops in 602 in an abortive attempt to arrange a uniform celebration of Easter.

In the middle of the village is the Manor Arms, a delightful country pub. The front of the 300 year-old building, originally owned by the Lord of the Manor, is decorated with the coats of arms of many local families including the Norman de Toden family. And the ghost of the Grey Lady walks in the lane outside!

So the next time you whizz through Abberley on the way to somewhere else, think about all the many people who have been there before you and made it so much more interesting than you had ever imagined!

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Do you really need a washing up bowl?

Controversy is raging in the pages of the Times newspaper about whether a washing up bowl is necessary. According to some it's an old fashioned item that doesn't serve any useful purpose. What do you think?

Fish knives and forks, cheese knives, cake

forks, cake slices, lace doilies, antimacassars (which protected your armchair when men used macassar oil on their hair, or Brylcreme) ... many household items which were once in daily use are no longer seen. Can you think of any more?

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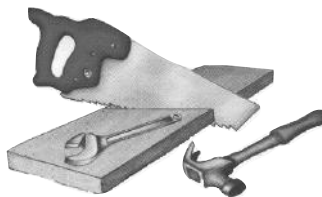
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**Sunday 31st March at 10am
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**Our traditional Family Service
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Easter egg hunt

Visit from the Easter bunny

Fresh hot cross buns

Tea and coffee

Fancy dress is encouraged but is not essential

For more information call Sarah 07796 170949



Meno-Party with Julie Menopause Coach

**Thursday 28th March, 6.30 to 7.45pm
at Hanley Village Hall**

Find out what menopause is –
hormones, symptoms

How to get help from your GP,
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Self-care advice

The role of a menopause coach

£5 per person, pay on the door

Refreshments available to buy

Family Easter Bingo

**Saturday 30th March at 3pm
Hanley Village Hall**

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Sunday 9th June at 4pm

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Sunday 7th April

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Films at The Regal Tenbury

1st March	7pm	All of us Strangers
3rd March	7pm	Tokyo Story
4th March	2pm	Blackbird Blackbird Blackberry
4th March	7pm	All of us Strangers
7th March	7pm	The Zone of Interest
9th March	7pm	The Taste of Things
17th March	7pm	La Chimera

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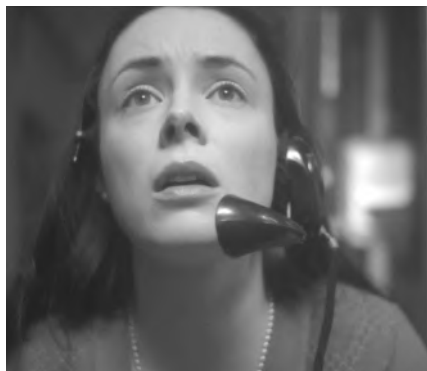
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Films at Hanley Village Hall



Sunday 24th March, 3.00pm

On the Line

Alderney, UK. 1964. A telephone operator ends up being the pivotal piece of a drama unfurling which puts professional integrity, and relationships, to the test.

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after the film

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Saturday 6th April, 6.30pm

The Great Escaper

In the summer of 2014 octogenarian Bernie Jordan staged a "great escape" from his care home to join fellow war veterans on a beach in Normandy, commemorating their fallen comrades.

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The Home Upgrade Grant is ready!

Government funding is now available for free energy improvements to make homes warmer and reduce energy bills for eligible households in Worcestershire.

If your annual household income is £31,000 or less and you are not connected to mains gas for heating, then you could be eligible.



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The Home Upgrade Grant scheme (HUGs) is designed to tackle colder homes that do not have mains gas central heating. Homeowners and tenants in Worcestershire could benefit from a variety of measures to help reduce energy bills including internal and external wall insulation, loft and cavity wall insulation, air source heat pumps, solar panels, draught proofing and many more.

For more information, including full eligibility and to register your interest, visit **www.warmerworcestershire.com** or contact your local energy charity Act on Energy on their free advice line **0800 988 2881** or email **advice@actonenergy.org.uk**



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Hot cross bun and butter pudding

If you like classic bread and butter pudding, you'll love this twist that uses hot cross buns instead – a great way to use up any Easter leftovers

Prep 20 minutes

Cook 50 minutes

Serves 8

Ingredients

300ml pot double cream

600ml milk

4 eggs

100g golden caster sugar

1 ½ tsp vanilla essence

8 hot cross buns

40g soft butter

100g marzipan, cubed

3 tbsp chunky marmalade

icing sugar, for dusting

Method

Heat oven to 170C/150C fan/gas 3. Warm the cream and milk in a pan over a gentle heat. Whisk the eggs, sugar and vanilla together with a fork in a large bowl, then gradually add the warm cream mixture.

Halve the buns and spread with the butter. Arrange in a large shallow ovenproof dish (approx 25 x 32cm), dot with the marzipan and brush the marmalade on top.

Pour over the cream mixture and set aside to soak for 15 mins. Press the buns down into the custard mixture as they soften.

Bake for 50 mins until set, then remove and allow to stand for 10 mins. Dust lightly with icing sugar and serve while still warm.



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A new series of the Teme Valley Tote starts in April. The last series paid out £1,200 to lucky winners and just over £3,300 was distributed to the parishes of Teme Valley North and Teme Valley South.

Once again the price of each subscription is £10 – for this you will be entered in each of 12 monthly draws with the possibility of winning £50, £30 or £20 each month.

Your local Teme Valley South co-ordinators are:

Eastham – Celia Adams

Stanford – Alexandra Winnington

Stoke Bliss and Kyre – Margaret Yarnold

They will try to contact you during March. If you have internet banking you can subscribe by Bank Giro Credit – the account name is North Teme Group of Churches Tote Account, sort code 20-39-64, account number 30947539. Please give

your name and district as a reference and email me on robin.c.dean@gmail.com.

If you currently pay by standing order you will automatically be entered. If there is a problem I will contact you when these come in on 1st April. If you wish to pay by standing order, I can send you the form.

Or you can send a cheque made payable to North Teme Group of Churches Tote Account to me (Robin Dean) at Rectory Cottage, Stanford Bridge, Worcester, WR6 6ST.

If you have any queries about the Tote, please telephone me on 01886 853295 or email robin.c.dean@gmail.com

Robin Dean

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Animal tales

When I was a young child I wanted to work in Dublin Zoo. In the elephant house to be precise. The keeper and I had an agreement; he would keep a job open for me when I was grown up. He was a very nice man and I worried about him.

In the office at the zoo was an elephant's foot on a mahogany plinth with a former keeper's name on a brass plaque. The bull elephant had taken a turn and killed his keeper. It never reduced my love of elephants, rather it strengthened it. I quite liked the idea that elephants had minds of their own and could throw a tantrum oblivious of their strength and size. They needed respect as well as care.

As the years passed our visits to the zoo became fewer; school, studies, life got in the way. But my love of animals, all animals, never waned. Dogs, cats, ponies, tortoises, hamsters, guinea pigs, white mice, budgerigars, goldfish – you name it, we've had it at some time!

My tortoise once disappeared and was found six months later walking down our road about half a mile away. I recognised him immediately by his markings. Okay, okay I can't promise he was a he; he might have been a she but I loved him/her dearly.

I didn't love our white mice as much but learned plenty about them before they were found dead, their tails caught in the top of their cage by accident when the latch was shut. Our animal graveyard grew that day following suitable tears, pomp and ceremony.

My budgies, called Sing and Song, were yellow and green and lived for many years. And our son's famous goldfish James Pond lived for over 25

years. He came from Tenbury Show in the days when a little fish in a plastic bag was deemed an acceptable prize. No longer, thank goodness.

It was okay in his case. He received five-star treatment. Every week I carried his massive bowl to the kitchen, gently scooped him out, cleaned and refreshed his water, stones and greenery then heaved him back to his table. The bowl was so heavy that every week, as my muscles bulged, I thought I would drop him. I realised too late that as I gave him larger, more elegant homes so he grew ever bigger and more beautiful ...

Cats too feature in this tale. One beautiful white Persian, beloved by all, once went walkabout for no apparent reason. Days later my brother was playing football at school, 20 miles away, when he glanced across the pitch and there was Oliver, a little skinny and in need of a bath but delighted to have tracked down his playmate.

His brother Twisty was a cheeky tabby who came for long walks with us and once jumped over a wall and down a waterfall. We ran, fearing the worst, and scrambled through the undergrowth beside the stream where we found a bedraggled, very wet and very angry cat.

We don't have a cat at present, just neighbours' cats visiting and oh, how I wish they wore collars with little bells. Dogs have to wear collars, why not cats? I would welcome them more warmly if they gave our precious garden birds a fighting chance.

Animals bring such joy to our lives. It is hell when they leave us but their memory and the shared fun times make it all worthwhile.

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Climate change – an alternative approach

Recent issues of Teme Talk have had a series of articles on climate change. It has been helpful to be reminded of one of the most critical issues we face. But I would suggest a different response, a response based on hope rather than fear and guilt.

This planet we live on is an amazing place. It is stuffed full of abundant life. Even with the world's population as it is there are enough resources for everyone to have a good quality of life without wrecking the world. So how can we live well with the resources that are available?

I would suggest that behaviour driven by fear isn't good for us or the planet. Fear of not having enough drives us to accumulate and hoard. Whether it's food in the fridge, clothes in the wardrobe or money in the bank, gathering more than we need just gives us more to worry about. So it doesn't actually do us any good and it harms the planet. At national level, fear leads to the destruction we have seen in the many wars that rage. From a Christian perspective it's worth remembering that the one command that Jesus repeated more frequently than any other to his followers was, "Do not be afraid".

Guilt may temporarily and begrudgingly persuade us to drive less, fly less or eat less meat (though the science behind that simplistic slogan is poor in the extreme) but isn't it better to travel as sustainably as possible, enjoy local holidays without spending hours cooped up in airports or waiting at passport control and enjoy the rich diversity of a local seasonal diet (of the kind that Averil Opperman in *Tesco Rules*, in February's TemeTalk, laments that Tenbury Tesco doesn't stock).

We are fortunate in this country and particularly in the Teme Valley to have access to food that is nutritious, tasty and sustainable. If, as I hope we all do, we want our diets to have a positive impact on the environment, we can eat locally sourced, sustainably produced seasonal food. That may well mean a wonderfully tasty locally sourced bacon roll rather than air freighted smashed avocado on toast.

I think it was David Jenkins, a former bishop of Durham, who said that a society that has hope for the future invests in the future. May we have hope, so our behaviour today invests in the future.

Robert Barlow



Richard Haines

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Teme Valley Wildlife

"When gorse is in blossom, kissing's in season" runs an old saying, which is handy for would-be sweethearts because gorse flowers can be found in any month of the year from January to November. Presumably the plant takes a break in December when it can hand over the job to



mistletoe for Christmas. Unromantic botanists point out that the long flowering season of gorse is due to most colonies being a mixture of two varieties; common gorse which flowers from January to June and western gorse which takes over between July and November.

We are all familiar with the spiky green gorse bush, also known as furze or whin, which opens into a sea of bright yellow flowers and has a pleasant coconutty scent. The pea-like flowers are apparently edible although I've never given one a try. Rather surprisingly, the plant was formerly used as animal feed and was first passed through

a mill, sometimes a cider mill, to soften the stems and take the edge off the spines. In fact gorse was once a very useful plant and local laws controlled how much could be cut in order to keep it as a sustainable resource. Furze-cutting was often limited to what could be carried on a man's back and

some districts forbade the grubbing up of whole bushes.

The main use of gorse was as a fuel, although it was sometimes taken to be made into brooms and chimney brushes. Being highly flammable it provided a quick hot blaze which was good for getting a fire going on a cold morning. It also found favour in domestic bread ovens and was used to fire both brick kilns and lime kilns.

Despite being so flammable, gorse is well adapted to survive the natural fires encountered when growing in its usual heathland habitat. New

Continued on page 24

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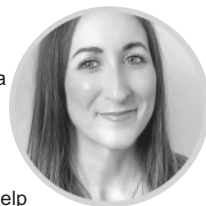
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Continued from page 23

shoots can spring up directly from the roots and the seed pods crack open and are scattered by fire. In this way, patches of predominantly old bushes can be rejuvenated by deliberate firing.

Gorse flowers are attractive to many species of bee because they produce large amounts of pollen. A trigger mechanism is activated when a bee

pushes inside the flower, releasing a burst of pollen grains onto the insect's abdomen. This is useful to pollen-seeking bees but other pollinators are less likely to visit because the flowers offer very little nectar.

Other creatures to value gorse are birds who take advantage of the thorny protection afforded to their nests. Birds with a particular liking for the plant include stonechats, whinchats and yellowhammers. It is said that the call of the stonechat, often to be seen perching on top, is remarkably similar to the sound of a gorse seedpod cracking open. I wonder what lies at the heart of that coincidence; nature has so many secrets.

The next meeting of the Teme Valley Wildlife Group will be at 7.30pm on Thursday 14th March at Stoke Bliss and Kyre Village Hall. We welcome Alison Wilkes who will be talking about the work of the Severn Rivers Trust. She will include details about a local project which is ongoing in the Kyre brook catchment area. Everyone is most welcome and it is just £3 on the door.

Stephanie Mocroft

For up-to-date information on what wildlife is being seen in the area, or to give us your sightings or comments, visit our Facebook page. Our programme of events, bird survey and archive photographs are available on our website www.temevalleywildlife.co.uk. We normally hold meetings on the second Thursday of the month. All are welcome. Contact us by email at tvwg@outlook.com.

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Our office is at 34 Teme Street, Tenbury Wells, WR15 8AA

We are open Monday to Friday from 9am to 1pm

email admin@ttrust.org.uk website www.ttrust.org.uk Follow us on Facebook

**If you would like to become part of this amazing organisation as a volunteer
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Farm Community Network

Confidential phone line 7am to 11pm

0845 367 9990

Samaritans

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What's on in Teme Valley South

March

6th	Wednesday	Eastham Coffee Morning, Eastham Memorial Hall, 10.30am
9th	Saturday	Cake'n'Craft, Hanley Village Hall, 2pm
10th	Sunday	Lambing Café Church, Parsonage Farm, Rochford 3pm
14th	Thursday	Neighbourhood Lunch, Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall, 12.30pm
16th	Saturday	Eastham Freestyle Litter Pick, 9.30am Hanley Childe church spring work party, 9am
19th	Tuesday	Whist Drive, Stanford with Orleton Village Hall, 7.30pm
21st	Thursday	The Filling Station, Eastham Memorial Hall, 7.15pm
22nd	Friday	Social and Pub Night, Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall, 7pm Eastham Pub Night, Eastham Memorial Hall, 7pm
24th	Sunday	Film at Hanley Village Hall, <i>On the Line</i> , 3pm
28th	Thursday	Neighbourhood Lunch, Rochford Village Hall, 12.30pm Meno-Party, Hanley Village Hall, 6.30pm
30th	Saturday	Family Easter Bingo, Hanley Village Hall, 3pm
31st	Sunday	Family Easter Service, Hanley Childe Church, 10am

April

3rd	Wednesday	Eastham Coffee Morning, Eastham Memorial Hall, 10.30am
6th	Saturday	Film night at Hanley Village Hall, <i>The Great Escaper</i> , 6.30pm
7th	Sunday	Stoke Bliss Village Spring Walk, SB&K Village Hall, 12.45pm
11th	Thursday	Neighbourhood Lunch, Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall, 12.30pm
14th	Sunday	Iona Worship, Hanley Village Hall, 4pm
19th	Friday	Eastham Pub Night, Eastham Memorial Hall, 7pm
20th	Saturday	Quiz Time, Eastham Memorial Hall
25th	Thursday	Neighbourhood Lunch, Rochford Village Hall, 12.30pm
27th	Saturday	Church and churchyard spring clean, Eastham, 10am Plant and Produce Sale, Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall, 2.30pm
26th	Friday	Social and Pub Night, Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall, 7pm

May

1st	Wednesday	Eastham Coffee Morning, Eastham Memorial Hall, 10.30am
2nd	Thursday	AGM of Stanford with Orleton Area Church Committee, 7pm
9th	Thursday	Neighbourhood Lunch, Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall, 12.30pm
12th	Sunday	Iona Worship, Hanley Village Hall, 4pm
23rd	Thursday	Eastham Memorial Hall AGM, 7pm
30th	Thursday	Neighbourhood Lunch, Rochford Village Hall, 12.30pm

**Send items for inclusion to Sandra Griffiths by 18th of the previous month
telephone 01568 750665 or email ronsmum@icloud.com**

**Deadline for the April issue of TemeTalk is 18th March
ronsmum@icloud.com or 01568 750665**

Services

March/April 2024

Daily prayer continues at 9am and 7pm on Zoom, contact Rev Julia if you would like to join us. The blessings group meets regularly and is co-ordinated by Richard Skerrett who can be contacted on 01886 853099 for details.

The Church of England has a pre-recorded weekly on-line service which can be found by searching 'Church of England Weekly Services' or accessed on their website www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/church-online/weekly-online-services

Services Schedule

Sunday 3rd March

10.00am	Stanford	Holy Communion and hymns
4.00pm	Stanford	Evensong

Sunday 10th March

10.00am	Kyre	Mothering Sunday Celtic Holy Communion
3.00pm	Parsonage Farm, Rochford	Lambing Café Church

Sunday 17th March

10.00am	Eastham	All Age Worship and Holy Communion
2.00pm		Walking Church

Sunday 24th March

10.30am	Hanley Village Hall	Palm Sunday Palm Sunday celebration for Teme Valley South, Clifton, Harpley and Shelsleys Churches
4.00pm	Hanley William	Evening Prayer

Thursday 28th March

6.30pm	Stanford	Maundy Thursday Stripping of the Altars
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Friday 29th March

10am to 12 noon	Rochford Village Hall	Good Friday Activity morning for children
10am to 4pm	Kyre	Stations of the Cross

Sunday 31st March

6.00am	Stanford	Easter Day Dawn Service and Holy Communion
10.00am	Eastham	Holy Communion
10.00am	Stoke Bliss	Holy Communion
10.00am	Rochford	Holy Communion
10.00am	Hanley Childe	Family Easter Service – Easter fun for all

Sunday 7th April

10.00am	Stanford	Holy Communion and Hymns
4.00pm	Stanford	Choral Evensong

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