

Temetalk

online

May 2020



In this month's issue

How our parishes are dealing with coronavirus

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Looking forward to Eastham Riverside Fête

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A community going forward with God

May 2020

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

Designed and typeset by
Sandra Griffiths, St Michaels

Printed by
Orphans Press, Leominster

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www.temevalleysouth.org.uk

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

Dear Villagers

In my April letter, I wrote the following:

“As Christians we proclaim a resurrection hope that Easter will still happen. However dark the days may be in the next few weeks, the light of Christ will not be put out. We know that God has not left us and has not brought this upon us as punishment, because God’s way is one of love and He stands with us.

“Let’s hold onto hope, look out for each other and look forward to one big party when this crisis is behind us, and once more we can with confidence grasp and shake our neighbours’ hand.”

On reflection most of this still holds true. In this past month we have celebrated Easter in new ways and enjoyed some beautiful spring days. Personally, I have learned a lot about the wonders of social media, on-line streaming and how to create and edit a virtual church service! It has been humbling to join on Zoom daily with a group of up to ten people for morning prayer. Praying for the sick, the coronavirus situation and TVS. We have been learning about being an Easter people not gathered in church buildings, but dispersed throughout Teme Valley South.

The thing I would change are my words looking forward to a big party. I think we should indeed celebrate appropriately as lockdown eases, but there will also be a need to remember and grieve for those who have been lost or affected by this virus. We will face a changed future for many months to come, and the impact of the virus may mean permanent changes for some. We will need to find a new normality.

In the meantime, for May, we need to live

Continued on page 2

Continued from page 1

In the meantime, for May, we need to live and support each other in lockdown, protecting our own mental health of and that of others. We can all do something, whatever our circumstances. It might be as simple as picking up the phone to check someone is ok, or sending a letter or email. I wonder what might you do to make a difference this month?

Finally a prayer for these times:

Keep us, good Lord,
under the shadow of your mercy
in this time of uncertainty and distress.
Sustain and support the anxious and fearful,
and lift up all who are brought low;
that we may rejoice in your comfort
knowing that none can separate us
from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Amen.

Rev'd Julia Curtis

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From the editor

Welcome to the May issue of TemeTalk Online, our first to be available online only with no print edition.

We're living in crazy times. Last month the door-to-door delivery of the magazine was difficult, this month would be pretty much impossible now that lockdown has been extended to 7th May.

So if you are reading this, please spread the word among your friends and neighbours that TemeTalk is available here.

I know that some people don't have access to the internet. I don't have a solution unless you are able to show them the magazine on your iPad or laptop.

Unless they have asked to be removed, all the advertisements are included as usual. Although many of the businesses are closed at present, they will want you to remember them once they are able to operate normally again. We won't be charging them for advertising while the magazine is online only.

So enjoy TemeTalk, stay home and stay safe.

Sandra Griffiths

Show off your flowers!

This month's front page photograph is of a clematis on our patio which I wanted to show off. As it's only visible from the back of the house, no-one else can see it and it's too beautiful to be hidden.

Do you have something beautiful in your garden that you would like to show off, if only you had some visitors to see it? Send us a photograph before 18th May and let's have a virtual flower show in June's TemeTalk!

Deadline 18th May

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Parish news

COVID-19 response

We may not have a Captain Tom Moore in TVS, but there are many examples of local heroes right here. All our local communities are coordinating a local response to the current situation offering contact, support and prescription pick-up. It is wonderful to see how individuals and groups have responded – thank you!

If you need help or would like to offer your assistance please contact one of the following.

People who are actively involved in this initiative:

- For Eastham: Celia Adams on 01584 781258 or ask to join the Eastham Covid-19 WhatsApp group – she will need your mobile number to do this and you will need to have WhatsApp installed on your 4G mobile.
- For the Hanleys: Peter Thorneycroft on 01885 410484 or Rev'd Julia (see below).
- For Rochford: Carole Powell, Jane Bull or Ann Prosser on 01584 781317. Rochford has a support page on Facebook called Rochford Tenbury Coronavirus Care.
- For Stanford: Robin Dean on 01886 853295 – Stanford also has a Covid-19 support page.
- For Stoke Bliss and Kyre: Maggie Kingston on 01885 410431

Our priests:

- Our priest-in-charge, Rev'd Julia Curtis by email (revjuliacurtis@gmail.com) or phone her on 01886 853286.
- One of our retired priests:
 - Rev Robert Barlow – phone him on 07947 600627
 - Rev Sally Jones – phone her on 01584 781526

If you would like a regular phone call to say hello and have a chat please do ask.

From the Registers

Our prayers and sympathy are with the family and friends of Mr T Gwyn-Jones of Kyre Park, whose graveside funeral in St Mary's churchyard is planned for 30th April.

May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

VE Day 75

Whilst the national celebrations for VE Day will be curtailed in the light of the current pandemic, 8th May still marks 75 years since VE Day. So on Sunday 10th May I will read out and share on social media the Tribute to the Millions, and pray for peace and international co-operation.

Ascension Day

On Thursday 21st May we will celebrate Ascension Day, so do join us in a service that evening at 7pm which will replace Night Prayer.

Regular services

At the time of writing our churches are closed for public worship and private prayer. During the virus outbreak we will be maintaining a pattern of regular prayer in our communities, gathering via Zoom.

See service schedule at the end of TemeTalk for times of daily prayers and weekly and Sunday offerings.

If you have a prayer request to be included please ring or email me or your local pastoral team member – see Teme Valley South contacts on page 28.

Tenbury Food Bank

The foodbank (which also covers our area) is seeing an increased demand at this time, with requests increasing tenfold. It is open on Wednesdays from 10.30am in the Methodist Chapel. A new initiative, including fresh goods, is a food-share scheme on Thursdays from 9am at St Mary's churchyard in Tenbury, where you can bring along surplus to donate and/or swap. Food parcel deliveries can be made by arrangement to those in complete lock-down.

If you wish to support the work of the Foodbank you can donate either by cheques payable to Tenbury Outreach Fund, c/o Rev Mark Inglis, St Mary's Church, The Vicarage, Church Street, Tenbury Wells WR15 8BP or by bank transfer (contact Rev Julia for details).

Rev'd Julia Curtis

Rochford 49 Club

Congratulations

to this month's £25 winners:

Wednesday winners

March 25th	No 9	Jennifer Gledhill
April 1st	No 30	Pat Mills
April 8th	No 7	Rosemary Ayres
April 15th	No 17	not sold

Saturday winners

March 21st	No 41	not sold
March 28th	No 11	John Cole
April 4th	No 25	Jan Winters
April 11th	No 50	not sold
April 18th	No 26	Carol Powell

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

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Teme Valley Tote

April's prize draw of the Tote, the first in this series, has been postponed until May. See page 11 for full details.



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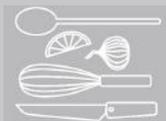
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Rochford Rochford Rochford

Rochford rallies round

With lockdown until 7th May at least, Rochford has been trying to support its residents and also the NHS. A small group of volunteers met before lockdown and the Rochford Tenbury Coronavirus Care Group was born, with a Facebook page and attached to the Rochford Parish WhatsApp group. Letters were delivered to every house in the village offering help to anyone self-isolating, such as collecting prescriptions and shopping. A telephone buddy system was also set up to keep in touch with all vulnerable people. The number of volunteers has increased with people in the village helping out with prescriptions, shopping and sharing on-line deliveries and local information.

We then found out that many front line hospital and care staff are short of important supplies and they particularly needed scrubs bags (to put used clothing in for washing) and head

bands to keep their hair back and support face masks. A message was sent out through Facebook and WhatsApp asking for donations of materials and help with sewing to make these items. These included pillow cases, sheets and duvet covers, together with buttons, cord and cotton.

Rochford rallied and the response has been overwhelming with materials delivered to the village hall and several ladies volunteering to sew. In addition there have been numerous gratitude gifts sent for NHS workers, including toiletries, soap, moisturiser, hand cream and most importantly chocolate. We have spoken to some frontline staff and they highlighted the need for chocolate and a sugar rush to keep them going. A generous financial donation has also been made and this has helped support the work of the group and some has also been sent to directly support NHS staff.

Tenbury, Malvern and Worcester hospitals will all benefit from your help and generosity, so a massive thanks to everyone who has contributed. This is still ongoing so any further donations and offers of help will be very gratefully received. (Please contact Jenny Barbé at muddybootsjen@gmail.com or just leave donations at the village hall).

Andrew Barbé

Rochford open gardens

The current lockdown has put villages into a planning blight with regard to arranging community and village fund raising activities. Rochford was hoping to arrange an Open Gardens and Afternoon Tea in late June and a traditional Garden Fête in July. At this time it seems unlikely that these will go ahead, but if you have been spending more time in your garden and would be willing to let people look around, please let us know and hopefully we will still be able to arrange something during this summer. It would be great to have a variety of gardens to visit in the village, finishing with afternoon tea.

TemeTalk

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The deadline for the next issue
is 18th May

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Stoke Bliss and Kyre

Lockdown in Stoke Bliss & Kyre

As you will have seen in Rev'd Julia's article on page 3, Maggie Kingston is the Stoke Bliss and Kyre co-ordinator – also, like many, in self isolation! On behalf of everyone I would like to express thanks for all the support being given by our team of helpers. Don't forget that if you need a friend, shopping, prescription collection, transport or any other help, just give us a ring.

Finding the positives

We are so fortunate here to be able to get out into the fresh air, either walking the deserted roads or getting on with the gardening and enjoying the recent sunshine. It feels quite surreal that I can treat this enforced isolation as a blessing, a time to 'be' and experience things slowly, whilst others, especially those in high rise flats and crowded conditions, are facing severe challenges in many ways. I have heard so many positive stories from friends that go some way to offset the other difficult aspects of our situation. I just hope that the positives that we are learning do not fade once we pass

beyond the crisis and that we can learn from the negatives.

Meanwhile I would like to share with you the words of a song that I learnt in the singing group I belong to, which resonate for me:

The kindness of strangers and a song in our heart,

They hold us together when things fall apart.

To free a captured butterfly tangled in a web of flowers,

To sit beside a stranger in the darkest of hours,

The kindness of strangers and a song in our heart,

They hold us together when things fall apart.

So as the current saying goes, stay safe.

Maggie Kingston

01885 410431

Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall

All village hall and other events have been cancelled for the foreseeable future, including the Open Gardens scheduled for 30th May and the Fête on 15th June.

TemeTalk deadline 18th May

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Eastham Jottings

Coronavirus in Eastham

April was a strange month in Eastham. Eastham Memorial Hall upgraded its website www.easthammemorialhall.org.uk and started a new Facebook group, Team Eastham. Eastham Residents Association launched a WhatsApp group, Eastham Covid-19 Care. Eastham church ran a video church service followed by coffee through Zoom. Eastham Parish Council updated its mailing list and kept all information flowing out to residents. Please Contact Celia Adams on 01584 781258 or easthamcourt@icloud.com for more information on any of these initiatives.

Eastham Memorial Hall

Get your eggs, apple juice and other items from the lobby, there's an honesty box for proceeds. There's a book swap at the red phone box.

Please see the website www.easthammemorialhall.org.uk for all Covid-19 information and the new Facebook page, Team Eastham – please join in with the activities. We are offering a **free** posting on our website until the end of the year, with an option to renew for £25 in January.

All events remain postponed until further notice including the Eastham Memorial Hall AGM on 8th June. The trust committee and sub committees have met during March and April via Zoom. Please contact the chair, Michael Potter on 01584 781061 or email admin@easthammemorialhall.org.uk for any further information.

The pub night is postponed until further notice and Jen would like to send best wishes to all the regulars – she looks forward to seeing you all again when the hall reopens.

Eastham church

The church is open all hours, virtually or otherwise, and hopefully we can clean it and do the flowers eventually.

Flowers, cleaning and sidesmen

May – Tammy Starling

Riverside Fête and Produce Show

We are optimistic that the 2020 Riverside Fête on 16th August will be better than ever, but we are all painfully aware that this is completely in the lap of the Gods. Government advice and regulations allowing, we will have our fête and the current enthusiasm for growing plants and vegetables bodes well for the produce show.

Fête schedules are being sent electronically this year and they are ready now, please email David at easthamfete@gmail.com. If you have not received yours by the middle of May, please let us know and we will send you a copy in the post. There will be some hard copies in the Memorial Hall and on the Eastham notice board.

There are classes for everyone, at every level from novice to expert, and we have stacks of prize cups waiting to find their way to your home for the year. Please have a go.

If the fête has to be cancelled we will investigate a way of entering some of the classes via the internet – everything is possible! Don't forget, you can't win if you don't enter and it's all for fun.

Celia Adams

See more Eastham Jottings on page 17

Your name on our front cover!

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Hanley Happenings

Help if you need it

I have tried to maintain contact with as many of you as I can but if you need any further support please contact me on 07836 733072.

Look for the positive!

In these surreal times living in the countryside seems to count as a blessing – if you never read a paper or heard the news you could almost be forgiven for thinking that nothing so dreadful in the world was happening. Like other parishes up and down the country, everybody and everything is affected but life goes on and one must try and be positive to see the way ahead.

If the pandemic has an upside, it gives us more time to observe nature. The wildlife is quite oblivious to our human problems so it was, as always, an exciting day last Saturday to witness the arrival of the swallows, just two days late this year, and to see a couple of red kites over the garden. The downside was a visit from a fox who took our ducks and Tom's/William's hens – so life goes on!

Caroline Clayton

Very sadly on 14th March Caroline Clayton (Savery) formerly of Hanley Court died from cancer which she had fought with great strength for over four years. Caroline was born and raised in the Hanleys and moved away to live near Hereford about six years ago. She was a lovely person, quite alternative in her outlook, and she was raising her young family with her husband Simon based on her beliefs and principles. She leaves Simon and two children aged 13 and 10. We send our deepest sympathy to them and the whole Savery family. A fuller appreciation will be published later.

Evelyn Grace Chantley

On a brighter note I am pleased to report that Natalie and Rob Chantley of the Broadheath were able to celebrate the safe arrival of Evelyn Grace in Worcester Hospital on Easter Day weighing in at 7lbs oz. They are doing well so many congratulations to them both.

Peter Thorneycroft

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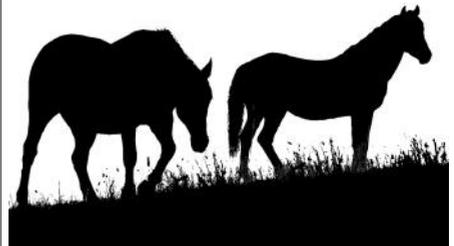
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Stanford • Stanford • Stanford

Where to begin?

At the time of writing (16th April) we have just finished Holy Week with lots of streamed events in Teme Valley South – go to www.temevalleysouth.org.uk/holy-week-2020/ to see how inventive our priests have been!

For me there was one bonus on Easter Morning – I didn't have to get up at 5am to light the brazier as I have done in past years. Thank you John for doing the equivalent on the Rectory log burner. Lesley and I sat on our sofa and watched the streamed version on her Facebook – unfortunately we did not get our full English breakfast as our chef was still in bed.

So what happens next – when will the churches re-open? When will we be able to have our usual train of events?

When the crisis is over, Amber Spilsbury (07966 294032) would like to host a fête – she is looking for people to help to make it happen. No date yet but maybe August?

Appeal for St Mary's

Until we can re-open St Mary's we are not receiving any collections or donations. Unfortunately we are still having to pay expenses. Therefore we would be grateful to receive regular monthly donations from anyone in the parish until we re-open. You can do this by internet banking if you have this facility – the account name is TVS PCC Stanford with Orleton, sort code 20-39-64 and account number 90778303

Teme Valley Tote

This has **not** been cancelled – however I decided to delay the start until May, so there will be two draws in May for April and May. You can still join by contacting Alexandra Winnington or Robin Dean – full details on page 11.

Advertise your event **FREE** in

TemeTalk

email ronsmum@btconnect.com

or call 01568 750665

Covid-19 Community Support

There is assistance available to those parishioners in Stanford with Orleton who may need help with shopping deliveries, medicines or phone contact with a friendly voice on a regular basis to support them through this emergency.

Please contact Robin Dean on 01886 853295 and he will direct your call to the right person.

For shopping deliveries please place your order at Bailey's Farm Shop by email at baileysofstanford@gmail.com or by text on 07891 596429.

Volunteers please – again

People have recently joined both the Church Committee and the Village Hall Committee but we would welcome some more, especially when the crisis is over. What should we do to celebrate the end of the crisis? Robin (01886 853295) is happy to explain what is involved and you are welcome to one of our meetings when they restart so that you can see what it is like. We need people to organise events and assist.

Robin Dean

Marika Harding
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And now for something completely different ...

*As promised a few more extracts from an old Burford Deaneries Magazine from September 1897
(Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee year)*

Eastham and its Chapelries

At a meeting of the Jubilee Committee for these parishes it was found that there was a surplus of £8, and it was resolved that, as the festivities had been celebrated at Hanley, this sum should be used in giving a festive tea drinking to the children of the four parishes at Eastham, which will take place on the 3rd of Sept. on the Rectory grounds, at 2.30 o' clock.

The 'Floral Services', as previously announced, were carried out most successfully. Contributions of flowers were sent as follows :-

Hanley William – the Deaf and Dumb Institution;

Hanley Child – Birmingham Infirmary;

Eastham and Orleton – Middlesex Hospital;

from all of whom grateful acknowledgments were received and conveyed to the different congregations. Mrs. Harris, Stoneyford, kindly conveyed the flowers from the Hanleys to the railway station.

Nash and Boraston

The Church Army Van Mission began at Nash on Sunday, August 1, and at Boraston on the following Sunday, August 8. Altogether the visit of the Van to our parish lasted a fortnight.

Notwithstanding the hindrances of harvest, great interest was taken in the Mission throughout. The meetings were well attended by our own people, and the Evangelists expressed themselves as grateful for the kindly hospitality shown to them by many of our parishioners.

At Nash the offertories in Church amounted to 11s. 4d.; a donation, 3s.; collections at meetings, 10s. At Boraston, offertories in Church, 8s. 4d. collections at meeting, 11s. 8d. Total raised throughout the Mission, £2. 4s. 4d. Receipts have been posted on the Church door.

The sums collected at meetings go towards the expenses incurred by the Church Army in connection with the Mission. But the offertories collected in Church are devoted, it seems, towards Church Army work amongst the outcast poor. It is in reference to our small contributions towards this work that the following acknowledgment has been received by the Rector from the Founder and Hon. Chief Secretary of the Church Army:- Dear Sir, Would you please convey to your kind people our deepest gratitude for the generous help for our poor outcast, Yours faithfully, W. Carlile.

Andrew Barbé



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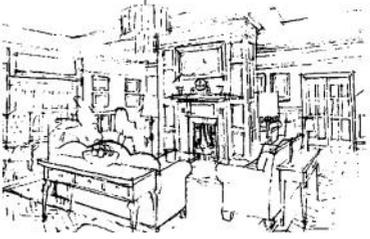
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Teme Valley Tote

The Teme Valley Tote starts a new series in May. Most of the subscriptions were collected before the current lockdown, but because of a misunderstanding by me, Knighton subscriptions have not been collected.

Because of the current difficulties, I decided to delay April's draw until May – so we'll have two draws in May! Again this year 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 or £30 or £20 each month

Your local Teme Valley South co-ordinators are:

Eastham – Celia Adams
Stoke Bliss and Kyre – Margaret Yarnold

Stanford – Alexandra Winnington

If you have not so far subscribed, please contact your local co-ordinator, or you can pay online – 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 also email me on robin.c.dean@gmail.com.

Or you can send a cheque made payable to Teme Valley Tote to me at Rectory Cottage, Stanford Bridge, Worcester, WR6 6ST

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

Robin Dean

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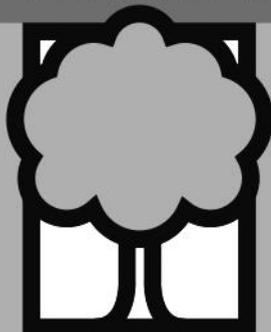
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In these trying times Mill Farm Country Retail at Stanford Bridge is trying to keep people's spirits up by providing a home delivery service to those who are self isolating or in quarantine.

Bailey's of Stanford has bread, milk, fruit, vegetables and other shopping essentials. The Den is also supplying cakes and quiche.

For more information or to place an order, phone John on 07891 596429 or email bailysofstanford@gmail.com

Tasty Meats Butchery has a wide selection of meats. For more information or to place an order, phone Paul on 01886 853212.

Angel Gardens has compost, vegetable seeds and any other plants you might need. To place an order call Lou on 07967 642270.

Items for all businesses are subject to availability. Once orders are placed you will be contacted to confirm and to take payment over the phone. Please place your order before 12 noon – deliveries should be with you within 48 hours. Minimum order is £5 and delivery is free.

Zoom in to Pilates

In these strange times we all need to find new ways to keep calm and carry on.

One person who has done just that is Emma Carpenter, who is running Pilates classes via Zoom. If you are interested in this, please get in touch with Emma via her website or direct message her via her Facebook page. She will need your email address so that she can send you instructions and the link for the class.

The four classes will be at the same time as her usual classes and will be £6 each.

Monday 8.30am

Tuesday 6.30pm

Thursday 8.30am and 7pm

In the meantime, Emma suggests that you order an exercise band and a soft pilates ball, and she looks forward to "Zooming" with you soon!

(And what could be more perfect than pilates at home with a morning coffee or an evening G&T!)

Emma Carpenter

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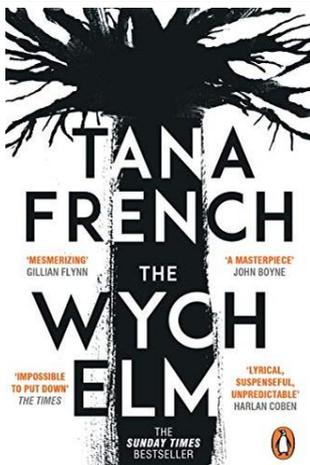
zoom  *emg*

Book Review – The Wych Elm by Tana French

It is only in the last few years that I have become addicted to thrillers. Author Lee Child is a firm favourite; Homeland with Claire Danes is terrifying but addictive; likewise the TV series Dublin Murders by Tana French with its familiar childhood settings was compulsive viewing.

I was delighted to get my hands on a copy of French's *The Wych Elm*. Apart from worrying about family and friends in this coronavirus pandemic, a decline in the height of my book stack beside the bed makes me panic! So I delved into this story where one night changes everything (familiar ring in these strange times?) with greedy glee.

French builds up her profile of main character Toby Hennessy and his life-changing injury slowly and deliberately. We need to understand him and just when I hoped for some action – POW! – a human skull appeared in the garden at the family home and I couldn't put the book down for a minute until the final page.



As I tried to work it all out, there were wonderful lazy summer days with cousins in the garden in the era when adults let children have freedom. As they got older there was experimental smoking and drinking at the bottom of the garden. Precious childhood memories shrouded in a rosy hue. Then maturity and some difficult harsh realities.

French's characters are well defined and memorable and her narratives are riveting with twists and turns when you least expect them. She is a gifted writer and new work is

eagerly awaited by her hungry fans.

Averil Opperman

The Wych Elm by Tana French, Viking 2018

'One of the most compulsive psychological mysteries since Donna Tartt's *The Secret History*' The Times

'An engrossing, unpredictable, beautifully written mystery' Sophie Hannah



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Take care of yourself and stay healthy

One of the best ways to protect others is to protect yourself.

⋮

Wash your hands regularly and thoroughly with soap and water for 20 seconds and dry thoroughly.

⋮

Isolate yourself from others as much as possible. Stay away from places where people gather, like bars, clubs and cinemas.



Call, chat, check

Swap phone numbers with your immediate neighbours.

⋮

Check on your neighbours and loved ones, particularly if they are elderly or vulnerable.

⋮

Help to provide them with food and other essential supplies if you can.

⋮

Alert relevant organisations if you are concerned about the wellbeing of others.



Be Kind. Think of others

Please shop considerately. Don't bulk-buy essential items like toilet paper, long-life foods or baby supplies.

⋮

Use local community social media groups to share information and advice.

⋮

If you have surplus supplies of essential items, consider offering them to people in need.

⋮

Avoid wasting food – you could even sow fast growing seeds like cress or lettuce.



Get online to stay in touch

Being in self-isolation doesn't mean cutting yourself off from others.

⋮

Consider using methods like video calling on your phone or computer to speak to friends and loved ones.

⋮

For those who are not online, a telephone call is the ideal way to stay connected.



Share accurate advice and information

We live in a world of rumour and misinformation – make sure you're accessing and sharing accurate news.

⋮

Use reputable and verified news sources – if you hear something that doesn't sound right, do some research on websites you trust.

⋮

Our website is being updated regularly with all the latest news about the ongoing situation.



The truth will out ...

Last week I watched *Quiz*, the drama about tv's *Who wants to be a Millionaire?* when Major Charles Ingrams won a million pounds and then faced a court appearance accused, with his wife Diana and another contestant, of cheating.

Their lawyer told the court about the frailty of human memory. She suggested that for all of us our memory of facts changes over time. And being human we find it easier to fit our memory into a story. If the facts don't quite fit the story the easiest thing is to slightly modify the facts, and people do this with no conscious intention to deceive. I tend to agree with her.

Apparently there are many people who remember watching the program live and notic-



a 26hp Vauxhall Kadett.

The truth will out.

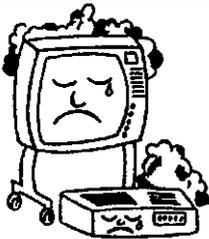
ing the coughing. In fact the episode was never shown. The press coverage, the documentary and the general news coverage and discussions of the story had no effect at all. The Ingrams were obviously guilty.

So it's important to write down facts and take photographs as soon as possible after any important event before your memory starts to play tricks with you and modify the facts remembered.

I have a memory from 1953 of me aged five with my father's Humber Super Snipe (a Rolls Royce of cars) but the photograph shows it was only

WBC

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WFH and how to deal with it

Since we've all been in lockdown, WFH (working from home) has become a thing and the papers and Sunday supplements are full of advice on how to cope with this strange new way of living.

Those of us who normally work from home can laugh, but it must be very hard for people used to commuting to the office, leaving their children in school or nursery and their homes in the care of a cleaner.

"Get up in the morning and get dressed" is one piece of advice I read recently. "Don't spend all day in your pyjamas – and don't work from your bed". Another 'expert' wrote, "Don't work in the kitchen or you'll be tempted to raid the fridge or make coffee every five minutes." Our nephew lives and works in London but came to his family's home in Herefordshire just before lockdown and is now WFH. "I bought myself a Sage Barista Pro coffee maker," he wrote, "Now I can make myself a hipster flat white so it's a bit like being at work."

And of course if you're spending a lot of time video-conferencing, your colleagues will all be keen to see your home so it's important to curate what's behind you – "you'd rather be seen sitting in front of a bookcase full of care-

fully chosen books and some tasteful ornaments than a kitchen sink full of breakfast dishes" goes the advice. And you must be smartly dressed up top even if you are wearing jogging bottoms and slippers under the desk.

So we've dealt with work, but what about the other problems of lockdown? If your cleaner doesn't come and you have to clean the house yourself, "think of it as something to enjoy, like gardening. If you love your house you should find looking after it a pleasure".

Exercise is another problem if you live in a city and can only go outside for half an hour a day, especially if you're used to daily workouts at the gym. This morning I read about someone who has booked three online training sessions every day – one at 7am to get her started, one at noon to save her from having lunch too early, and one at 6pm to delay the cocktail hour which also seems to be a 'thing' among those who WFH.

If you're not actually working, there are many suggestions in the press about what to do during lockdown. Read a book, tidy a cupboard, grow your own vegetables, learn to cook like a pro ... whatever it is, stay safe!

SG



Do you remember when Neil Armstrong walked on the moon?

Do you want to use PCs/laptops/tablets/phones etc to get better deals on insurance or energy, to make bookings, to shop online or to use eBay to buy and sell items?

Do you have problems connecting to the internet, printing, organising your files (documents and photos), setting up emails, using spreadsheets, producing documents (letters, reports, novels or diaries)?

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More Eastham Jottings

Every cloud ...

We asked people in Eastham if they had anything positive to say about the current crisis. This is what some of them said.

- "Community spirit at its best – the smaller local suppliers are getting more customers among local residents" (Jan Moseley)
- "All those small local shops and pubs who offer delivery services to the vulnerable and elderly are really important and we must continue to support them into the future" (Mike Palfrey)
- From two mums – "I get to spend much more time with Louisa, time seems so short when she's at school" (Nicky Webb) "Lots of help lambing this year as the kids were home from school – way behind with housework though" (Helen Matravers)
- From a newbie to Eastham – "The great way the community pulled together and helped each other with acts of kindness and support" (Paula Brown)
- From a (very) key worker – "Peace, calm and friends coming together when it feels as though all around is falling apart (Liann Flight)
- "Having the time to create a wonderful garden that will go on for years" (Jane Yarnold)
- "Keeping faith with family, sunshine, blossom and the sound of bird song and lambs" (Mel Cumming)
- "The amazing prescription service taken on by Becky and Sharon at their own cost to help break the twenty-people deep queues at the chemist in Tenbury that had created so many problems for those of us still trying to pick up and get to work" (David Clarke)
- "Just how lucky we are to live in such a great place" (Sarah Breen)
- "I am in awe of people's inventiveness: how quickly scientists have brought a new vaccine to trial; how quickly Mercedes adapted motor racing oxygen aids as an alternative to invasive ventilators; how an eight year old girl has used her grandmother's prototype and is producing visors for the NHS on a 3-D printer. It all gives me great hope and humble faith in human beings" (Averil Opperman)

Eastham Allotment Scheme

Enjoy the freshest vegetables, grown in Eastham. Eastham's country garden (allotment) scheme provides fresh vegetables throughout the year.

The land is tended with loving care by Debbie Powell, who does all the planting, watering, weeding, harvesting and delivery. She grows potatoes, onions, runner beans, broad beans, green beans, parsnips, marrows, pumpkins, squash ... plus a polytunnel with tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers and lettuce. There are also herbs of many varieties. She delivers throughout Eastham and to neighbouring villages.

The scheme is run through Temework Limited. Temework has distributed over £15,000 to the local community since it was set up 12 years ago, first with organic boxes and latterly with the allotment scheme.

Payment is by monthly standing order. A full subscription is £12 and week and a half is £6. For further information please contact Celia Adams on 01584 781258 or email eastham-court@icloud.com

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Loaf in a Mug!

These recipes might amuse young chefs now that flour has reappeared in our shops. First is a little loaf of bread cooked in a mug in a microwave oven. This version was adapted by Michele Coton.

Ingredients

40g (3¹/₂ tablespoons) self-raising flour
1 egg white
25g margarine, soft
Squeeze of lemon juice (optional)
1/3 teaspoon caster sugar
1/3 teaspoon baking powder
Poppy or sesame seeds

Method

Choose a mug (not too big). Whisk the egg white in your mug until frothy. Stir in baking powder and lemon juice. Carefully add all the other ingredients, stirring until smooth. Top with sprinkles of poppy or sesame seeds. Put in microwave on high for 80 to 90 seconds (you can use the timer on your phone!) and hey presto – you have a mini loaf of bread!

And the second recipe is ...

Mug Cake!

Ingredients

4 tbsp self-raising flour
4 tbsp caster sugar
2 tbsp cocoa powder
1 medium egg
3 tbsp milk
3 tbsp vegetable oil or sunflower oil
a few drops of vanilla essence
2 tbsp chocolate chips (optional)

Method

Add 4 tbsp self-raising flour, 4 tbsp caster sugar and 2 tbsp cocoa powder to the largest mug you have (to stop it overflowing in the microwave) and mix. Add one medium egg and mix in as much as you can, but don't worry if there's still dry mix left.

Add 3 tbsp milk, 3 tbsp oil and a few drops of vanilla essence and mix until smooth, before adding 2 tbsp chocolate chips, nuts, or raisins, if using, and mix again.

Centre your mug in the middle of the microwave oven and cook on high for 1¹/₂ to 2 minutes, or until it has stopped rising and is firm to the touch.



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Coronavirus Recruitment Campaign

Eclipse Home Care

In response to the CV19 crisis hospitals are trying to free up beds to cope with the expected surge, including preparing for at-home care for elderly and vulnerable patients. Eclipse Home Care have a contract with Worcestershire County Council to provide domiciliary care to people seven days after they have left hospital.

To cope with the increased demand for domiciliary care Eclipse is now undertaking an **urgent** county wide recruitment campaign for care workers. They have immediate vacancies for 80 carers in Worcester alone, and need to recruit 20 new carers a week over the next 12 weeks.

Brief Job Description

Daily tasks will involve a variety of jobs, such as preparing meals, assisting with personal care (washing and dressing) whilst providing essential company. You will have real responsibility, be out and about in the community helping a variety of clients, and every day will be different. All you need is a caring heart and a car.

Target Audience

Due to the nature of the job and additional demands you should be

- Aged 25 to 60, eg mothers and empty nesters
- Fit and healthy
- Car owner
- Have previous experience of care (paid or unpaid)
- Able to work shifts from morning to evening (preferred hours contract)
- May have lost job/reduced income due to Covid-19.
- Would like to contribute to the local Covid-19 response whilst getting paid

Some of the benefits to you

- New job or income top-up during coronavirus crisis – immediate start
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- Help vulnerable people in your community to live independently
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is 18th May



Facts about May

- The two flowers of May are the hawthorn and the lily of the valley.
- The birthstone is the emerald.
- May was known as the Month of Three Milkings, because cows could be milked three times a day in May
- May is named after the Greek goddess Maia, the goddess of fertility.



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More facts about May

- A maypole was built in 1543 that was 100 high. Isaac Newton bought the pole in 1713 and used it to prop up a telescope.
- Maypoles were actually banned in England in 1644. If you erected one you were fined five shillings for every week it stood.
- The Empire State Building was opened on 1st May 1931.



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Teme Valley Wildlife

No Mow May! No, it isn't a political slogan left over from last year, it's the rallying cry of the wildflower charity Plantlife in an effort to increase the amount of nectar and pollen available to pollinating insects. (Although it did, weirdly, coincide with the departure of a certain Prime Minister in 2019.)



This project went under my radar at the time, but a recent copy of the Plantlife magazine reported the results of last year's efforts with a promise to repeat the exercise this year, so I thought you might like to join in. Plantlife decided to harness "citizen science" to survey the flowers on people's lawns. They know that ordinary people want to do what they can for biodiversity and, acknowledging that there are 22 million gardens in the UK, they realised that here was a huge untapped resource for sustaining pollinating insects.

They set up a project called "Every Flower Counts" in which they encouraged anyone with a lawn to leave their mower in the shed for May, then to count the number of flowers in a metre-by-metre square of their longer-than-usual grass. They suggested throwing a ball over a shoulder to use the point where it landed as the centre of the square. A fun way to ensure randomisation I thought, and one clearly designed to encourage children to get involved in measuring and counting in their own back-gardens. The results were then submitted to the Plantlife web page, after which calculations were made and returned, as to how many bees your square of lawn could provide for.

A huge total of 495,676 flowers was counted. As you might have guessed, daisies, dandelions, buttercups and germander speedwell made up the greatest numbers. The results were then shared on the BBC's Gardeners'

World TV programme, in a feature on meadows. This prompted a follow-up survey in July. The commonest flowers at that time of year were white clover, selfheal and, to the surprise of Plantlife who thought it wasn't so common in lawns, bird's-foot trefoil. Out of more than 200 different plants recorded a few rarities

popped up, including seven species of orchid and meadow saxifrage – all of which would otherwise have been mown down.

Well I hope I have spurred your interest in this project. The surveys for 2020 will take place between 23rd and 31st May and between 11th and 19th July, so if you would like to take part, register your interest at www.plantlife.org.uk/everyflowercounts – then you can put your feet up when you might have been mowing and get on your hands and knees to count those daisies at the end of May.

The next meeting of the Teme Valley Wildlife Group on Thursday 14th May, which would have been highly appropriate, "Orchids in Meadows and Gardens", has been postponed. We're working to reschedule it for 2021. Whilst our meetings are out of action, do contribute your photos and thoughts to our Facebook group, join our Common Bird Survey or upload records of anything you spot to iRecord.

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.teme-valleywildlife.co.uk We normally meetings on the second Thursday of the month. All are welcome. Contact us by telephone on 01584 881397 or by email at twgw@outlook.com

Services

May 2020

Regular services and open churches

We are praying online daily so send me an email if you would like to join us.

Monday			7pm Night Prayer
Tuesday	9am Eastham	5pm Hanley Childe	7pm Night Prayer
Wednesday	10am Rochford		7pm Night Prayer
Thursday	9am Stanford	5pm Stoke Bliss	7pm Night Prayer
Friday	9am Kyre		7pm Night Prayer
Saturday	9am Hanley William		7pm Night Prayer

If you have a prayer request to be included please ring or email Rev'd Julia or your local pastoral team member – see Teme Valley South Contacts on page 28.

The Blessings Group continues to meet weekly and is coordinated by Richard Skerrett who can be contacted on 01886 853099 for details.

Every Sunday and for Ascension Day on 21st May, we are offering a virtual service: for details see:

- Teme Valley South Churches Facebook page
- Our website, www.temevalleysouth.org or google A Church Near You and put in your postcode to find us

Do also join in these signs of solidarity:

- Clap for Carers at 8pm on Thursdays – make a loud noise to resound around our parish!
- Light a candle in your windows at 7pm on Sundays, symbolising the Light of Christ alive and burning.

Wherever you happen to be I encourage you to pray at this time so we can be united in spirit if not actually in the same place.

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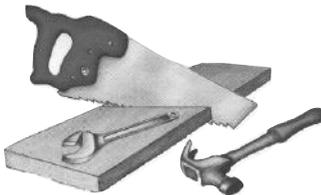
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Reader: Pete Thorp 07917 783159

Churchwardens

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Rochford: Ann Prosser 01584 781317

Jennifer Gledhill 01584 812500

Stoke Bliss and Kyre:

Hanleys: Ed Yarnold 07930 882728

Stanford: Robin Dean 01886 853295

Pastoral Team

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Hanleys: Peter Thornycroft 01885 410484

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Rochford: Ann Prosser 01584 781317

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