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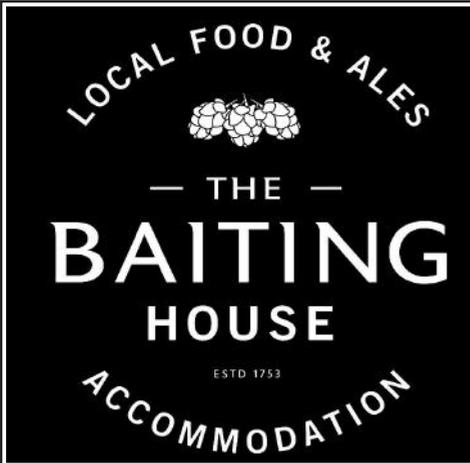
October 2020



## In this month's issue

**Memories of John Lane • Dan grows tallest sunflower  
Live 8 adventures remembered  
and all your parish news**

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# TemeTalk

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*A community going forward with God*

## October 2020

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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 Villagers

We are now firmly in autumn and the time has come to celebrate harvest in our churches across Teme Valley South. This year we will be using the National Food Strategy, written by Henry Dimbleby and published in July 2020, as our theme for reflection. It is the first comprehensive review of food matters in the UK for 75 years and has some interesting points. More details can be found at [www.nationalfoodstrategy.org](http://www.nationalfoodstrategy.org)

Henry Dimbleby writes:

“Part one of a two-part National Food Strategy does not present a comprehensive plan for transforming the food system: that will follow in part two. Instead, it contains urgent recommendations to support this country through the turbulence caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, and to prepare for the end of the EU exit transition period on 31 December 2020. It contains a set of targeted recommendations for government, covering three main themes:

- Support for our most disadvantaged children. Eating well in childhood is the very foundation stone of equality of opportunity. I make a series of recommendations to ensure that our most disadvantaged children get the nutrition they need.
- Sovereignty, standards and scrutiny. With the right mechanisms in place, I argue that we can ensure high food standards, protect the environment and be a champion of free trade.
- Health: a wake-up call. We can no longer ignore the damage our diets are doing to our health and well-being. I argue that Covid-19 is a teachable moment on diet-related diseases and make recommendations to support people to make the healthy choice.”

Alongside reflection and prayers we will be actively supporting the first main theme by donations to local food banks making dry and fresh collections.

*Continued on page 3*

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**Teme Valley South Contacts**

**Priest-in-charge:** Julia Curtis 01886 853286  
**Associate Priest:** Sally Jones 01584 781526  
**Reader:** Pete Thorp 07917 783159

**Churchwardens**

**Eastham:** Celia Adams 01584 781258

**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**

**Stanford:** Lesley Dean 01886 853295

**Hanleys:** Peter Thorneycroft 01885 410484

**Stoke Bliss:**

**Rochford:** Ann Prosser 01584 781317

Jenny Barbé 01584 781298

**Eastham:** Helen Matravers 01584 781510

**Parish Safeguarding Officer:** Sue Softly  
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# Parish news

## From the registers

Our prayers and sympathy are with the family and friends of Sadie Monte of The Oaks, Kyre. Following her funeral in St Peter's Church she was buried in the churchyard at Stoke Bliss on 1st September.

Also we pray for the family and friends of Jean Wilding, who lived and farmed in Rochford for many years. Her funeral in St Michael's Church was on 22nd September and she was buried in the churchyard afterwards. Reunited with husband John on their wedding anniversary.

May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

## Regular services and private prayer

Our church buildings remain open for private prayer as below. You are very welcome to come and spend some time in these spaces to reflect, to pray and just to 'be' for a quiet moment.

<b>St Peter &amp; St Paul, Eastham</b>	
Tuesday	9am to 6pm
<b>St Mary, Stanford on Teme</b>	
Thursday	9am to 6pm
<b>St Mary, Kyre Wyard</b>	
Friday	2.30pm to 5pm
Church to be attended	
<b>St Michael, Rochford</b>	
Wednesday and Sunday	9am to 6pm
<b>St Peter, Stoke Bliss</b>	
Friday	10am to 4pm
<b>All Saints, Hanley William</b>	
Saturday	9am to 4pm

Thanks to all of you who are willing to air the churches and give them a spruce up before opening and have offered to lock and unlock. Without you we could not re-open.

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*Continued from page 1*

We will also be collecting monetary donations for the locally run charity Farmers Overseas Action Group.

Our experiences of the past few months have highlighted our farmers as key workers and vital to keeping this country fed, so this during October do take a moment to give thanks for all they do, and let us pray for a good future of all.

*Rev'd Julia*

## Service times

As the clocks change this month and the evenings shorten we will move to our winter timing pattern for services and so the evening service will be at 3.30pm from 25th October until the spring arrives!

## Annual meeting of parishioners, followed by annual meeting of church council

Once every year we meet to elect church wardens, church officers and to receive annual reports. Our original date in April was not possible (as we were in full lockdown then) and so these meetings will now be on 21st October at 7.30pm. You can join us either on Zoom or face-to-face in St Mary's Stanford.

At the annual meeting of parishioners we will elect church wardens for the parish. Anyone living in the parish of Teme Valley South or on the church electoral roll will be welcome to come along and vote on churchwardens. We do have vacancies, so if anyone would like to stand do ring Rev'd Julia for an informal discussion about what this involves.

This meeting will be immediately followed by the annual meeting of the church council. Here we receive the annual report and the new PCC is formed.

If you would like a Zoom link do email Rev'd Julia or if you would like to attend in person, we will be gathering in Stanford church. With this face-to-face meeting we will need to wear facemasks please and observe the usual social distancing.

*Rev'd Julia Curtis*

This month's front cover picture is 'Castle storm' Ludlow, Shropshire, by Shelly Perkins Limited edition print 50 x 19cm Available from [www.shellyperkins.co.uk](http://www.shellyperkins.co.uk)

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# Rochford 49 Club Congratulations

to this month's £25 winners:

## Wednesday winners

Aug 19th	No 5	not sold
Aug 26th	No 45	Sarah Forsyth
Sept 2nd	No 12	Sheila Palmer
Sept 9th	No 55	not sold
Sept 16th	No 45	Sarah Forsyth

## Saturday Winners

Aug 22nd	No 12	Jennifer Gledhill
Aug 29th	No 16	not sold
Sept 5th	No 32	Andrew Barbé
Sept 12th	No 14	Mrs Robinson

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!

It would be great to see fewer unsold tickets next month!

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

**07815 030050**

## Teme Valley Tote

September's prize draw of the Tote (the sixth in this series) was decided when Rev'd Robert Barlow rolled the dice on 1st September to select the set of random numbers. Prizewinners are:

£50 – **Trisha Hayward** of Pensax (No 335)

£30 – **John Hughes** of Stanford (No 477)

£20 – **Cecilia Dean** of Stanford (No 537)

A number of people in Knighton have not been entered because their subscriptions were not collected. If you wish to take part from 1st October to 31st March, the subscription will be £5. Please contact Duane or Robin if you wish to join.

If you would like to join please contact the organiser, Robin Dean, on 01886 853295 or by email at [robin.c.dean@gmail.com](mailto:robin.c.dean@gmail.com), or contact your local co-ordinator.

## A greengrocer's apostrophe

On my daily walk I pass a house with a table outside containing several bags, a pot for money and a notice, chalked on a small blackboard, which until today read "Sloe's £1 a bag".

Today I noticed that someone had rubbed out the rogue apostrophe. It made my day!

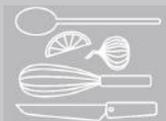
SG

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# Rochford Rochford Rochford

## Coronavirus update

We are still very conscious of social distancing and therefore trying to arrange outdoor community events where possible. Hopefully things will improve soon.

## Neighbourhood Lunches

Take-away neighbourhood lunches (delivered or collected) will be available on Friday 16th October. They can be collected or delivered to your home for just £5 (please bring your own plates). Please contact Ann on 01584 781317 by Monday 12th October if you would like one.

## Congratulations and welcome

We are pleased to congratulate Mark and Sue Bridge on the birth of their grandson Elliot, at a whopping 10lb 2oz, and Ross and Hayley Gillard of Dunstan Villa on the birth of their son Griff.

We are pleased to welcome Graham and Carolin Neighbour at Hope Cottage, Church Lane and we hope they will be very happy in Rochford and will enjoy everything this community has to offer.

## Rochford Harvest Festival

Rochford Harvest Festival will be on 11th October at 3pm. Because of Covid restrictions it will be a service with a difference this year. Everyone is welcome from all the local villages. It will be an afternoon open air service adjacent to the church followed by pizza and fries. Mother Earth Pizza has been booked to serve at 4pm, eat on site or take home. Come along to the service or just come for a pizza.

As usual pizzas must be ordered before midday on the day. Payment is cash only on collection or bank transfer in advance.

If you would like to donate harvest gifts to the service, they should be in packets or tins so they can be taken to the local food bank. (Unfortunately they do not accept perishables). Money collected from the service will go to the Farmers Overseas Action Group (FOAG).

## Rochford church

Rochford church is open for private prayer on Sundays and Wednesdays from 9am to 6pm, so please feel free to visit and enjoy the lovely peaceful location and the welcome that Rochford church will give you.

Church services (with risk assessment safeguards in place) are being held in the church and are also still being streamed on Facebook. See page 28 for October services and please come along.

## Services

Other church services planned include:

All Souls Service on 1st November

Remembrance Service on 8th November

Please put these dates in your diary and look out for more details next month.

*Andrew Barbé*

## Jean Wilding

Many years ago, when I was first involved with Teme Valley South News, Jean Wilding, who died in August aged 88, wrote the news from Rochford.

She wrote her notes on lined foolscap paper, her exuberant scrawl covering both sides of the page, climbing up the sides and upside down at the bottom, with many crossings out, paragraphs out of order and sweeping arrows to indicate where they should go. Not an inch of wasted paper. No cut and paste in those days, it was quite a challenge to bring order out of chaos and turn her (sometimes several) pages into a coherent report. She signed herself Church Mouse.

The Rochford News has never been quite the same since Jean toiled up the hill on her bicycle to deliver her copy.

SG

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# Stoke Bliss and Kyre

## Opening the churches for services

It was really good to return to the church for worship in August. A little strange with masks on yet special to worship again in familiar ways. Practising the sign of the Peace in its symbolic gesture that is almost like the wings of a flying bird as it goes out to others. Taking communion as individuals to receive the bread (but not the wine, that was only by Julia at the end – no, she didn't bless enough for us all!). Spread out in the pews, though come to think of it that was the least strange bit, but we were encourage to sit at the front first – a challenge for a CofE congregation ...

Then afterwards to be able to speak to others that we had not seen for months – of course always at an anti-social distance. Discussing the bible readings at Kyre, led by Pete Thorp, always a source of deepening understanding as we unpack the meaning and its many layers.

Good to hear that the internet services will continue in some form and hopefully we will be able to see and talk to the people who have joined us in those services at some point.

So as we slowly move to the 'new normal'

may we not lose all that we have gained in having to stop and be still but take it with us as we journey on.

For me having time to appreciate my land and walk the labyrinth created in autumn/winter 2018 on a daily basis, seeing the seasonal changes with eyes and minds that were not focusing on what next to do, but able to 'be' and turning the diary pages to discover what it was I was not 'doing' were unforeseen bonuses.

So to quote from Dag Hammarskjöld's *Markings*, 'To all that has been Thanks, to all that will be Yes.'

*Maggie Kingston*

## Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall

The management committee would like to thank the local community for their patience during these difficult times. We have carefully studied the guidelines issued to village halls and have started putting into place the relevant changes that are needed to make the hiring of the hall compatible with Covid regulations. We will hopefully have more news next month.

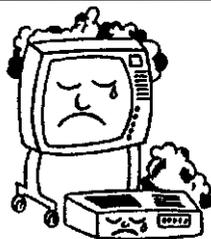
*Mike Williams*

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# Eastham Jottings

## Coronavirus update

October is the seventh month of our new socially distanced norm. The swaps of produce and other sales has yielded another £100 into the honesty jar – well over £500 now for the Memorial Hall. Thanks to everyone.

## Eastham church weekly opening

Eastham church is open on Tuesdays from 9am to 6 pm. The first service in the church for six months was on 21st September.

## Flowers and cleaning

St Peter's and St Paul's church is open for cleaning and flower arranging, in line with instructions from the diocese. The rota is:

October – Rhiannon Chapman

November – Diana Potter

## Autumn clean of churchyard and church

Saturday 17th October, churchyard 10am to 1pm and inside the church 2pm to 4pm.

Please come along at any time with gardening utensils to tackle the Churchyard with social distancing – there's lots to be done to straighten everything up ready for the winter. Church interior from 2 pm to 4 pm including polishing off the flower arrangements ready for Harvest Festival. Please bring dusters and brass cleaning utensils to tackle the inside of the church.

## Pumpkinfest@harvest

Sunday 18th October at Eastham church. Entries to the church from 9 to 9.45 am. We hope that Curate Philip will conduct the judging on the day. You don't have to live in Eastham to take part – just join in, it's all for fun!

Classes are:

1. 3 squash
2. Display of home-grown vegetables
3. Heaviest pumpkin
4. Largest pumpkin by circumference
5. Children – an animal made from fruit or vegetable

Enquiries to Nicky Webb, email [nudgecorner@gmail.com](mailto:nudgecorner@gmail.com) or Jen Jones, email [jonesjengem@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jonesjengem@yahoo.co.uk).

## Eastham Coffee Morning

Our Macmillan coffee morning planned for 7th October was moved to 30th September.

Last year we raised £500 for Macmillan Cancer Support and this year we are targeting at least £200. If you would like to donate, you can make a cash donation to Celia Adams at Eastham Court, pay electronically by scanning the QR code below with your phone or tablet, or email [easthamcourt@icloud.com](mailto:easthamcourt@icloud.com) for details of how to pay by bank transfer (gift aid can be claimed).

Many thanks to Hilary for donating the star prize in the draw of afternoon tea for two at Spotty Dog.

*Celia Adams*



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# Hanley Happenings

## Local talent

This month's local talent takes us into the world of poetry and we are publishing the this poem (right), written by a local resident of the Hanleys who wishes to remain anonymous (and it's not me !). The poem was originally written on the eve of the millennium and the poet felt that it's perhaps as relevant now as it was then – hope for the future in an uncertain world. There is more of this work to come at a later date and I hope you like it.

## Hanley Village Hall

As soon as the village hall committee convened to organise the re-opening of the hall, the rule of six was introduced. The table tennis club is meeting to see if they can comply with the new regulations and to assess what would be required in cleaning etc. If this does not appear to be possible at this stage, the committee will keep an eye on the situation – it is committed to re-opening as soon as it's practically possible.

## Can you help?

The hall committee urgently requires new members who are able to help out on basic jobs, perhaps organising new events when appropriate and generally bringing new ideas. We have a wonderful resource in the building and both Ed Yarnold and Tracy would love to hear from you if you are interested in helping in whatever capacity. They can be contacted on 07930 88728 and 07972 183164.

## The Churches

It was good to be able to meet for an outside service at Hanley William on 13th September when eight people joined Julia and Robert on the north side of the church. There aren't many days in the year when that would be possible but we were blessed with a bright warm autumn morning. There was also an outside service at Hanley Childe on 20th September.

*Peter Thorneycroft*

## Ode to the Millennium Dawn

I looked up to the stars,  
The universe displayed  
The answers to my questions  
God's mysteries to unfold  
From deep within my soul did yearn  
To know the meaning of existence  
Upon this troubled Earth of ours.  
Then someone in symbolic way  
Told how Jesus came to live, to love  
And die upon the cross  
To lose and yet to win. I knew then  
That life is not in vain.

So if you find yourself alone  
Look up to the stars  
Don't be narrow minded  
Look to the far horizons.  
Man has walked upon the moon  
We stand on the threshold of space  
Yet God is with us here on Earth  
That great vastness to control.  
Give one small act of kindness  
One tiny word of comfort  
Will bring God's blessings flowing  
Then we will know that God is near.

The new millennium fast approaches  
There is a new age dawning  
A bright new future lies ahead  
For children to inherit.  
Will the world succumb to darkness?  
No! We will always see the light  
A flickering candle in the breeze  
Never, ever to be extinguished.  
So raise up your glasses, drink a toast  
Let's be merry, give a cheer,  
Ring the bells and sing joyfully  
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# Stanford • Stanford • Stanford

## Where to begin?

At the time of writing (17th September), we are back down to groups of six and local lockdowns are in effect in Birmingham, South Wales, the north west and the north east. We had a parochial church council last night and we looked at what might happen over Christmas. We are looking for your ideas to celebrate Christmas – please let me have them? We talked about ‘drive in’ films and on the news this morning talked about ‘drive in’ pantomimes because of restrictions on opening of theatres – perhaps Teme Valley South is ahead of the game! What about a Zoom crib service? We are still planning a Christmas Tree Festival but it is not clear what form it will take. We will have details in November’s TemeTalk.

## Communications

In these uncertain times it is not always possible to communicate immediately via TemeTalk so if you wish to be kept in the village loop, please let me have your email address. If you don’t have one, let me know and we will try to phone you. Alexandra and Cecilia maintain a Stanford page on Facebook which has the latest information. There is a Teme Valley South website and a Teme Valley South Facebook page.

## The new normal

This is the third month of having public services in Teme Valley South. Holy Communion at St Mary’s will be at 10am on 4th October. Social distancing measures will be in place during the services. Masks should be worn at all times unless you are doing a reading or prayers. We also need to collect your names and details for contact tracing – these lists will be destroyed after 21 days. We will continue to try to stream services or record them and to record special services and publish them on Facebook and the TVS parish website.

## Private prayer

St Mary’s will be open from 9am to 6pm every Thursday during October. There will be a need for social distancing in the church and you will be asked to use the provided hand sanitiser on entering and leaving the church. Thank you to Anthony for opening up each Thursday.

## Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)

While we intend to hold the meeting, on Wednesday 21st October at 7.30pm, via Zoom, we plan to hold a socially distanced face to face meeting for the whole parish in Stanford church connected to the Zoom meeting – if we can work out the technology to make this happen! If you intend to join the meeting via Zoom, please let me have your email address and I will send you a link. If you intend to attend in person, please let me know so that we can ensure limited numbers in the church.

Some days before the APCM, we will need to hold an AGM of the Stanford Area Church Committee to which anyone will be welcome. This will be to elect the officers (chairman, secretary, treasurer, churchwarden and representatives on Parochial Church Council). Currently the following are on the ACC: Alexandra Winnington, Brian Mills, Cate Mawston, Cecilia Dean, Janet Mills, Jo Strickland, Lesley Dean, Robin Dean, Stuart Strickland, Sue Softly, Tracey Dewis and Rev Julia Curtis (ex officio). We would welcome new members if you would like to be involved.

## Harvest festival

As we had no suggestions as to what we might do – we are doing nothing! There will be an online service based around Stanford on the weekend of 4th October.

## 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.

## Parish Giving Scheme

Please see the article on page 10. If you need any further information, please let me know.

## John Lane

There is an appreciation of John Lane on page 19.  
*Robin Dean*

## Giving in the parish of Teme Valley South

With the current difficulties with handling cash and having no collections or donation boxes in our churches when they are open, we have greatly reduced levels of donations coming into our churches.

To overcome this, we have set up two methods for giving.

### The Parish Giving Scheme (PGS)

This scheme is supported by the diocese. PGS allows you to make a telephone call and set up regular donations to a church of your choice by direct debit. There is an option to remain anonymous but we would encourage you to reveal your name so that we can thank you for becoming involved in the scheme. PGS collects and returns Gift Aid to your church, if you are eligible for it to be reclaimed. Currently there is no handling charge for this service.

If you choose to give in this way, please do not feel obliged to make contributions at regular services. However, should you wish to leave extra then there will be a retiring collection and the plate will be available at special services.

If you currently make donations by standing order, this scheme will replace the standing order if you wish to make the switch. The advantage to your church is that if your donations

are eligible for Gift Aid, this will be sent to the church without the need to fill in collection envelopes or make separate claims to HMRC. We have produced a separate guide which is available from your churchwardens or treasurers entitled *Parish Giving Scheme comes to Teme Valley South*.

### Give.net

This scheme has been set up by an organisation called Stewardship and is available on the internet at [www.give.net/tvspcc](http://www.give.net/tvspcc). This page allows you to make single donations or regular payments. Give.net collects Gift Aid if you are eligible for it to be reclaimed. There is a small handling charge. There is a single account for the PCC so if you want your donation to go to a specific church you should make this clear. We would encourage you to reveal your name.

Anything you are able to donate will be very much appreciated.

If you have any concerns or queries about these methods of giving, please contact your churchwarden or treasurer.

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## Our Live 8 Adventures – Part Two

At 2pm the crowd erupted. I'm sure the roar of 120,000 is pretty deafening, but when you are in the thick of it you just go with the flow. The Coldstream Guards gave us a short trumpet fanfare and then Paul McCartney and U2 performed *Sgt Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band*. There followed mainly fantastic but just a few not so fantastic performances. Sting, Annie Lennox, REM, Sir Elton and many more all fantastic. Surprisingly, Robbie Williams, who I can take or leave was brilliant and really got the crowd going. Strangely though I still seemed to know all the words to his songs!

When Bob Geldof came on stage with Birhan Woldu the crowd was silenced. Birhan is the girl from Ethiopia whose photo stunned the world in 1985 and played a huge part in bringing Live Aid to the world. Here she was, no longer close to death but a beautiful fit and healthy young lady. The emotion was palpable. She held hands with Madonna throughout her performance of *Like A Prayer*. She had been asked who she would like to be on stage with



*Birhan Woldu and Madonna on stage*

and chose Madonna because she was the only pop star she had heard of. Rather humbling, don't you think. Birhan's appearance was very much a highlight of the day.

I really was having the time of my life, singing and dancing, when the Old Man said

he was feeling a bit weary and sat down. I didn't take a lot of notice but then Snoop Dogg came on gave a not very impressive performance with a lot of swearing. The crowd started booing and I turned to the Old Man who was no longer sitting down but lying down and fast asleep and even snoring! No wonder people around were having a good laugh.

There were many famous faces introducing the acts, each one reminding us why we were there. Kofi Annan and Bill Gates spoke to us, Lenny Henry, Dawn French and David Beckham, to name a few, but the biggest roar was for Peter Kay with his impromptu singing of *Is This The Way To Amarillo* and introducing The

*Continued on page 12*



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*Continued from page 11*

Who as The Spice Girls! Then, ladies, Brad Pitt came on to introduce Annie Lennox! Me within an arm's length of Brad ... Well ok, but we were in the same park!

A young man passed us several times carrying a large flagpole, which he was forlornly waving high in the air. Attached to the flagpole was his shirt on which he had written "Fiona, where the ... are you". It made us chuckle. "Excuse me, excuse me, coming through" and we turned to find a friend who lived in Bromyard coming towards us. She had arrived at Hyde Park at 7am and still ended up behind us. We made sure not to mention our inadvertent queue jumping.

The event was due to finish at 9.30pm. Not a chance! Sir Bob kept telling us if we had trains to catch, we should leave as the powers that be were not laying on extra trains. We looked at each other. It was a no-brainer. We certainly weren't going to miss the Pink Floyd reunion. It would be fine, we'd find somewhere to stay.

Pink Floyd did not disappoint and as people had left, we got marginally closer so the dots on the stage were slightly larger. At 12.30 am Paul McCartney closed Live 8 with a long version of Hey Jude. Brilliant ending to a brilliant day.

We were wrong. No room at the inn. Full everywhere. Hotels were even letting people bunk down in their foyers. Not us; always last in the queue. We got to Paddington Station and chatted with a few others who had the same problem, discussing which would be the best

doorways to look for. Luckily, security at Paddington said we could stay there and opened up a waiting room, even putting a policeman on guard outside, and a coffee booth stayed open all night. Once again at the back of the queue, no chairs left, so we hunkered down on the floor. *Not* recommended for future London visits. We were dozing in fits and starts when surprisingly, at 2.30am a train stopped and out poured those who had been at Henley Regatta, very much worse for wear. (Huh! So they got a late train). It was amusing to see people who had probably been very well groomed at the start of the day now with smudged makeup, stilettos slung over shoulders, boaters askew and large clanking wicker picnic baskets being dragged along. They were all very noisy.

We certainly didn't get much sleep that night and were extremely stiff when we boarded the first train back to Worcester. We slept all the way, got home and went straight to bed. I was treasurer of Rochford PCC at the time and it was fête day. I set my alarm for an hour's time, got up and managed to be there just before 2pm. I got a second wind and managed to last the afternoon, just! When I got home the Old Man was as fresh as a daisy having slept most of the afternoon. I didn't complain as he had cooked me a lovely dinner. The trouble was I couldn't stay awake to eat it.

What a weekend to remember – I wouldn't change a thing!

*Jane Bull*

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# Eastham Memorial Hall update

The rebuild is on schedule with the new building taking shape. We had the first drawdown from the Lottery mid-month, so we can keep on top of our payment schedule. Outside the Hall we intend to create a lovely area with benches, water butts and raised beds. We are looking forward to pressing ahead with this project, so any help making benches during the next few months is most appreciated. Please call Mike Palfrey on 07976 854267.

## Time capsule

The time capsule has not been sunk into the concrete under the building so ideas are still welcome, we hope to work with Lindridge School on this project so we can bury the time capsule in the Memorial Hall garden.

## Memorial Board

Readers were interested to read again last month of those listed on the Memorial Board. We hope to bring more details next month about the Great War and also memories of the Second World War. Send us any memories to add to the collection. The Memorial Board is being refurbished ready for its place in the new hall.

## Wish list for donations

We have had a great response to our wish list for donations but we still need items including the pre-rinse shower tap (£200), the first aid kit (£20) and others. If you would like to donate please email [mike.palfrey@easthammemorial-hall.org.uk](mailto:mike.palfrey@easthammemorial-hall.org.uk) or telephone Mike on 07976 854267.

*Celia Adams*

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# Dan wins tallest sunflower competition

Rev'd Julia Curtis and I were absolutely honoured to present Albert 'Dan' Taylor of Tenbury Wells with his trophy and prize for growing the tallest sunflower – a whopping 11ft 5in (350cms) tall.

We asked Dan for some tips to share with you in preparation for next year's competition.

1. Water and feed your seed and plant regularly
2. Talk to them – they are living things
3. Provide them with good sunlight and a nice thick stake for support

Dan then told what can only be described as the parable of two seeds. I feel we may well hear the whole story in one of Julia's sermons very soon!

When he opened his sunflower kit there was one big, plump, shiny, healthy seed and one puny, shriveled, tiny seed that looked good for nothing. Dan planted them at the same time and treated them both the same with water, feed and a true gardener's love and passion.

For a number of weeks the tiny seed was al-



ways about six inches smaller than the bigger seed. Then Dan noticed that the smaller seed's stem began to swell and the flower head was above that of the seemingly healthier plant. Both sunflowers were extremely tall and would have won the competition outright, but the sunflower that grew from the smallest seed was the tallest, proudest plant, with a sunflower head the size of a large dinner plate, and was the one that gave Dan his victory. The moral of this story is that amazing things can grow from small and seemingly weak things and you should never judge strength of character on first impressions!

Dan is very kindly donating his prize of gardening vouchers to another entrant who is not well at the moment, along with a handmade card to cheer them up and wish them a speedy recovery.

Many, many thanks to everyone who took part and sent in your wonderful photos and videos. I look forward to next year's competition and hope you will feel encouraged to grow a sunflower in 2021.

*Jo Strickland*



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# Walking Church - an update

Our first Walking Church was back in March. Just before lockdown and after that incredibly wet winter, it seems a long time ago. A mixed group of humans and dogs slithered around in the mud of Hanley Childe. After months of prayerful planning we had made a start and those who took part all said it was good.

Then came lockdown. Walking together was banned and Walking Church went online. The Walking Church's Facebook group had posts of walks with reflections which were appreciated locally and further afield. (I heard that Rogation made it at least as far as Northamptonshire!)

With restrictions eased but limited to six people, Mark Wild and Jen Jones led a Walking Church from Eastham in July. Thinking we would still be limited to six people we decided to hold two Walking Churches in August, but the rules changed and we were allowed more people. Nevertheless we still had two walks that month, one from St Peter's Stoke Bliss on the second Sunday and another from All Saints Hanley William on the fourth Sunday. Both had nearly a dozen people (plus dogs!) and both were excellent.

As I write this, churches are not restricted to the rule of six. The guidelines from the national church for outdoor worship have not changed since July. We held a Walking Church on 20th September from Kyre, and this month we will

hold a Walking Church on Sunday 18th October, the feast of St Luke, starting from St Michael's Rochford, meeting at 2pm.

Walks are usually around three to four miles and require a moderate level of fitness. Recent walks have been able to avoid stiles, a great plus for those of us with dogs. The people taking part have been a mixture of ages and backgrounds and have all said how good the walks have been. All are welcome but as the type of risk assessment we need to do depends on numbers, we do ask that you let us know if you're coming. If you think you might like to give it a go, please get in touch for a conversation about what it's like.

*Robert Barlow*

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# Keep calm and buy art



This autumn The Artists' Gallery, a cooperatively run gallery space in Bromfield, Ludlow, will open its doors to a wide range of local artists and creative practitioners in a three-week showcase. The gallery was founded by Broadheath resident and wildlife artist Shelly Perkins back in October 2019 and is run by Shelly and seven other local artists. It has now established itself as a popular outlet on the Ludlow Farmshop retail site.

As with many small businesses, creative arts practitioners have been hit hard by the effects of Covid-19 and the knock-on effect it has had on the economy. Some artists have suffered the crippling loss of a year's worth of events. Where temporary exhibitions, showcases and fairs are their only retail outlet, many creative practitioners find themselves without a 'shopfront' for their work.

Historically the eight permanent members of The Artists' Gallery have supported other creative businesses by offering weekend pop-up events in their large warehouse space adjacent to the main gallery. These Open Art Days have been a way of enabling a wide range of artisans to have an affordable showcase for their work, allowing them to present it to the public in a 'meet the maker' setting. The cooperative group now seeks to offer a longer-term exhibiting solution in a specially curated event span-

ning the three busiest shopping weeks of the year – from 31st October until 22nd November.

As the event is focused around supporting local makers, the entry fees for the event will be used in promotion and building the infrastructure to make the event look and feel like a large gallery space. Businesses have needed to think laterally with the unexpected effects of the virus and the safety of both artists and visitors to the event is paramount. The gallery will adhere to its normal stringent cleaning policies and visitor numbers will be capped with a rolling rota of the visiting artists being available at the gallery on set days to minimise the number of people at the event. A one-way system will also be in place.

The eight members of the gallery hope the event will provide a footing for other businesses who have lost their income streams due to the virus and help kickstart customer spending in the creative arts sector in the area.

[www.theartistsgalleryludlow.co.uk](http://www.theartistsgalleryludlow.co.uk)

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Paul and Cathie prefer to teach at their house in Kyre but are prepared to travel to your home if this is more suitable. During the recent period of lockdown, they successfully delivered online lessons.

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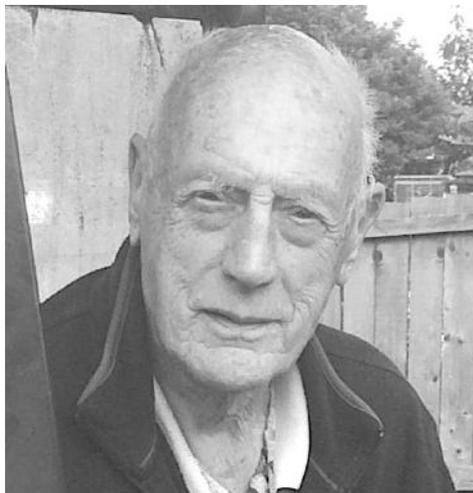
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# John Lane – an appreciation

*Engineer who connected valley houses and farms to water and sanitation*



Born at The Forge, Stanford Bridge to Jack and Emma on 12th July 1925 in a thunderstorm, John Lane almost arrived before the midwife.

His memoirs tell of a very happy childhood growing up in the village with sisters Dorothy and Jean. He was often late arriving at the village school having been distracted by some interesting project on the way. The first, at the age of

nine, involved a raft, pole and overhead line across the river.

On leaving King Charles Grammar School, Kidderminster, in the summer of 1943 aged eighteen, John discussed which service to join with his father.

"I think I'll join the Air Force, Dad."

"No son, too much sky."

"Well the Navy then?"

"No son, too much water."

"The Army?"

"Yes son. That way you have a chance of being found – dead or alive!"

He joined the Royal Horse Guards and qualified as an artificer for military vehicles. On one leave he arrived home to be greeted not only by Dorothy but her friend from college, Margaret. They married in June 1948 at St Mary's Church.

He was a wonderful father and life was never dull. We three children – Susan, Margaret and David – wanted for nothing. Whatever it was, he made it: a swing and climbing frame out of angle iron, dolls' cots from welded steel and go carts from lawnmower wheels and pushchair seats, and we always had to do our bit in the construction.

*Continued on page 20*



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In 1947 he joined Burgess's agricultural engineers in Worcester, initially to assemble combine harvesters that had been shipped across the Atlantic in pieces. Then as British manufacturing picked up he was loaned out to help in the development of Salopian balers and potato harvesters.

In 1955 John and Meg started the business of JW Lane. They were a team. She had given up a career in teaching to support the venture and he never forgot it.

The firm, as he called it, grew and became a limited company in 1961. During the 60s they extended the workshop to include an ironmongery stores and acquired their first mechanical digger to work on connecting the valley's houses and farms to mains water and sanitation. The firm played a key role in replacing the old privies with WCs and septic tanks.

John's introductory words to new apprentices were: "Do as I say and not as I do. If you can't make it strong, make it heavy. And get your hands out of your pockets!"

He retired, initially, in July 2000. There was a collection, a clock, a party and the next day he was back in the workshop. He continued working until the week before he died.

John loved the valley. It was his home all his life and the people who lived in it were part of

that love. He was a man who never minced his words at work but he cared about people and would help in his practical way. He was always interested and always interesting.

He installed the first boiler in St Mary's Church, helped convert the school into the now village hall in 1956, gained lottery funding in the 1990s for the extension and for many years coordinated the British Legion poppy collection through the valley and beyond.

Sadly the love of his life, Meg, passed away in 2012. His grief was private. He still worked and found new hobbies and interests. She would not have believed his stint at baking, even succeeding in making pork pies.

John embraced new technology and the computer became invaluable to his trade. He uploaded all his old maps to secure his irreplaceable knowledge for the future. As he became frailer the computer enabled him to continue contributing to the firm.

He will be missed dreadfully but he leaves behind so many wonderful memories of a life lived to the full.

*This is a shortened version of the eulogy given by members of the Lane family at the funeral of John Ward Lane on 15th August.*

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# Harissa tagine balls – a delicious energy boost



## Ingredients

- 50g flaked almonds
- 190g chickpeas, drained and dried on kitchen paper
- 100g chopped dried apricots
- 10g natural yeast flakes
- 1 spring onion, chopped
- juice of half a lemon
- 2 tsp (10g) harissa rose paste
- 1 tbs tomato purée
- 2 tsp tahini
- 1 tsp sumac
- ¼ tsp cayenne
- ½ tsp cinnamon
- ¼ tsp nutmeg

## Method

Process the chickpeas in a food processor until roughly crushed.

Add all the other ingredients and mix to a rough dough consistency.

Shape into 18g balls with your hands, pressing the mixture firmly together. Makes about 25 balls.

*These balls will keep in a sealed container in the fridge for up to a week.*

This delicious recipe comes from a new book, *Healthy Snacks for Active People* by Tricia Blaxill. The book includes both sweet and savoury no-cook energy ball recipes combining great nutrition and energy giving ingredients.

A keen skier, Tricia created the book during lockdown. It is, she says, “a simple recipe book that all active, busy people can use whenever the tank needs refuelling, there’s no time for lunch or you just fancy a pick-me-up!”

The recipes, with names like cheese, walnut and sultana bites, black eyed Susies, millionaire bliss balls and almond fizz bombs, combine different flavours and textures and use healthy ingredients designed to give a boost when you need it. Tricia has created most of the recipes herself although some have been donated.

But the most important reason for the book is to raise funds for Disability Snowsport UK.

To order your copy of this fabulous little book (with a foreword by Rory Bremner) go to [www.trixski.com](http://www.trixski.com) where you’ll also find Tricia’s range of ski accessories all designed to make life easier on the slopes.

The book costs £6.95 of which £3.50 goes to Disability Snowsport UK. (Order three books – great Christmas gifts for active friends and family – to get free postage.)



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# Teme Valley Wildlife

Following the many footpaths that criss-cross our island is an excellent way of keeping fit, seeing the countryside and enjoying the great outdoors. In 2006 my husband and I set out to walk the length of the River Teme in the company of two friends who also lived in the valley. Fourteen years and thirteen long-distance paths later, we arrived at the Worcestershire Beacon on a sunny day in



July to celebrate 1000 miles of walking together. Looking back over our rambles, many of them in the beautiful Welsh Marches, I wondered how much wildlife we had seen and what had been our most memorable encounters. Admittedly, four people chattering along a narrow

path is not the ideal way to find God's creatures, but we did have some interesting moments.

Deer were the largest animals we met. On the Mortimer Trail we were lucky to spy a good-sized herd of the unusual long-haired fallow deer that inhabit the Mortimer Forest. They are unique to that place and are thought to have been there since Norman times. Occasionally we had a

glimpse of the larger red deer, but these were invariably sprinting away as we emerged from woodland into quiet valleys. Badgers, foxes, stoats, rabbits and rodents all kept their distance, but we enjoyed looking at their tracks,

*Continued on page 24*

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Continued from page 23

especially when newly printed in snow. The best sightings were of hares, starting up from the long grass and jinking off out of danger with long ears bobbing. Wonderful.

Birds were easier to spot. Many of our walks were accompanied by skylarks and red kites often soared overhead. High up the Carding Mill valley we reversed the situation by looking down on a kite hunting below, whilst at the same time a cuckoo called in the distance. Sometimes we saw birds we didn't recognise. On the Teme at Martley a flock of smart water-birds proved to be a group of female goosanders and on brassica fields near Bredon we came upon a pair of yellow wagtails. By water we caught the odd flash of kingfisher blue and saw lots of herons, both real and plastic. Once we came upon a dark pond lined with half-dead trees. In the branches were perched dozens of hunched-up herons, looking very disconsolate on a wet, Welsh, winter day.

More lively were insects. My interest in dragonflies meant that sometimes I was able to contribute a few records for the further-flung parts of Worcestershire. Out with the field-guide though, for some busy yellow moths fluttering along a sunny woodland edge. These were brimstone moths and just as beautiful as their namesake butterflies.

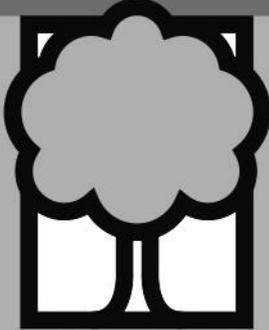
We saw lots of flowers. I had my first sightings of early purple orchids on the Worcestershire Way, moschatel on the Offa's Dyke Path and autumn crocus on the Herefordshire Trail. Over the years we covered many types of terrain from lowland arable and meadowland to upland pasture, moor and marshland. We enjoyed countless stunning views of the countryside, deepening our love for the wonderful area we live in. We only hope that the next 1000 miles will be as fine as the first.

The next meeting of the Teme Valley Wildlife Group is on hold whilst we await the re-opening of our venue. Our meetings are usually held at Stoke Bliss and Kyre village hall at 7.30pm. It is just £2 on the door and everybody is most welcome.

*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](http://www.temevalleywildlife.co.uk) We normally holds meetings on the second Thursday of the month. All are welcome. Contact us by telephone on 01568 750413 or by email at [trwvg@outlook.com](mailto:trwvg@outlook.com)*

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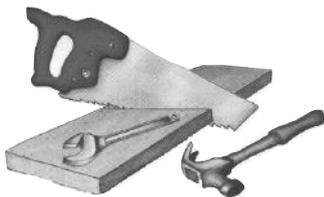
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# What's on in Teme Valley South

## October

- 11th Sunday Outdoor harvest service at Rochford, 3pm  
followed by pizzas from Mother Earth Pizza at 4pm
- 16th Friday Rochford takeaway Neighbourhood Lunch
- 17th Saturday Autumn clean of Eastham Churchyard and Church, 10am
- 18th Sunday Pumkinfest@harvest, Eastham Church, 9am  
Walking Church, St Michaels Rochford, 2pm
- 21st Wednesday Annual Meeting of Parishioners, Annual Meeting of Church Council,  
St Mary' Stanford or on Zoom, 7.30pm

## November

- 1st Sunday All Souls Service, Rochford
- 4th Wednesday Eastham Coffee Morning via Zoom, 10.30am
- 8th Sunday Remembrance Service, Rochford

Send items for inclusion to Sandra Griffiths by 18th of the month  
telephone 01568 750665 or email [ronsmum@btconnect.com](mailto:ronsmum@btconnect.com)

### TemeTalk

Deadline for the November issue  
is 18th October

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# Services

## October 2020

We are praying online daily via Zoom so do email Rev'd Julia if you would like to join us. 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 2.

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

Online Sunday services continue. For details see:

- Teme Valley South Churches Facebook page
- Our website, [www.temevalleysouth.org](http://www.temevalleysouth.org)
- Google 'A Church Near You' and put in your postcode to find us.

### Sunday Services – please bring a face mask for indoor services

#### Sunday 4th October

	Online	Harvest Celebration
10.00am	Stanford	Holy Communion
6.30pm	Stoke Bliss	Celtic Evening Service

#### Sunday 11th October

10.00 am	Hanley William	Holy Communion
3.00pm	Rochford	Outdoor Harvest Service

#### Sunday 18th October

10.00am	Eastham	All-Age Harvest
2.00pm	Rochford	Walking Church
4.30pm	Hanley Childe	Outdoor Harvest

#### Sunday 25th October

10.00am	Rochford	All-Age and Communion
3.30pm	Kyre	Celtic Evening Service

#### Sunday 1st November

	Online	All Souls
10.00am	Stanford	Holy Communion
3.30pm	Stoke Bliss	Celtic Evening Service
6.00pm	Rochford	All Souls

## Village Hall Bookings

### Stoke Bliss & Kyre

Janet Powell, 01885 410598  
[stokeblisskyrevillagehall@gmail.com](mailto:stokeblisskyrevillagehall@gmail.com)

Rochford – Ann Prosser, 01584 781317

Eastham – Helen Matravers, 01584 781510

Hanley – Judy Bayliss, 01886 853813

Stanford with Orleton – Robin Dean,  
 01886 853295

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