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April 2025



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# TemeTalk

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*A community going forward with God*

## April 2025

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

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

## Dear Readers

One of my favourite seasons of the year is the spring, and Easter in particular. Much as I love cuddling up under a blanket in front of the log burner with a good book and a warming drink. Much as my eyes love to feast upon the sparkle and glitz of Christmas lights and decorations. Much as I love to sing Christmas carols and songs. It is spring which I find the 'most wonderful time' of the year.

April is a time when new life is bursting through all around. The lambs are growing fit and strong in the fields, as they gather into groups and charge around for no reason other than that they can. Our gardens are filling with blossom and colour. Here at Hanley Rectory we will see whether John's exploits with pruning our apple trees, after some excellent local advice, quite literally bear fruit.

Alongside this we have the drama of the Easter story, which we retell and enter into each year. For the second time all the churches I oversee will be holding a joint Palm Sunday service with a short procession from the Rectory to Hanley village hall. Following the events of Holy Week we think about the last week of Jesus's earthly life; reflecting on the joy and the pain that it brought in such a short space of time.

In the world today we see events unfold just as quickly as they did that first Easter. We are witnesses to the turning of political moods on the head of a pin. In the midst of everything, what shines through is the hope promised by renewal and new life seen on Easter Day. That is what makes this the most wonderful time of the year for me.

That, and the promise of chocolate after a long Lent without it!

Wishing you a hope-filled Easter!

*Rev'd Julia Curtis*

This month's front cover picture is one of the winning entries in the photograph competition at Lambing Café Church at Parsonage Farm, Rochford on 2nd March – see page 17

**TemeTalk deadline 18th April**

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**We are open from 9am to 1pm Monday to Friday**  
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## **Teme Valley South Contacts**

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**Assistant Curate:** Jen Jones 07749 977821

**LLM Reader:** Pete Thorp 07917 783159

**Retired clergy:** Robert Barlow, Sally Jones

### **Churchwardens**

**Eastham:** Celia Adams 01584 781258

**Rochford:** Ann Prosser 01584 781317

**Stoke Bliss & Kyre:** Jeremy Wyatt 07720 056671

**Hanleys:** Ed Yarnold 07930 882728

**Stanford:** Alexandra Winnington 07891 346783

### **Pastoral Team**

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Jenny Barbé 01584 781298

Mel Williams 01584 781284

**Parish Safeguarding Officer:** Sue Softly  
01584 881342

## **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, 07580 158673

**Hanley** – Judy Bayliss, 01886 853813

**Stanford** – Catherine Mawby, 07831 303792

[stanfordwithorletonvillagehall@gmail.com](mailto:stanfordwithorletonvillagehall@gmail.com)

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# Parish news

## From the Registers

### Banns

We are pleased to announce that the banns of marriage between **Alice Mary Crump** and **James William Gove** and between **Tessa Louise Champion** and **Joshua Euan Nicholas Lovegrove** will be called on 23rd March at Rochford, on 6th April at Stanford and on 20th April at Eastham.

### Teme Valley Tots

Our Tots group continues to meet on Fridays from 10.30am to 12 noon at Rochford village hall. We are meeting throughout April except for our Easter break, so not on 18th or 25th April. For more information do contact Tina on [tinaslord@gmail.com](mailto:tinaslord@gmail.com).

### Electoral roll revision

This month all our churches, along with every Church of England parish, are making new electoral rolls. These are lists of those who have an interest in our church, church buildings or the connected groups which meet across Teme Valley South. It is separate from the civic electoral roll and is redone every five years.

If you want to have a say in how the future is shaped in these communities, and especially what the future of our church and its buildings might

look like, do get a form and sign up to be on the roll. A healthy number on the roll means there is local support and also that our communities value activities such as tots, neighbourhood lunches, weddings, christenings, services and indeed this magazine which are all run under the umbrella of Teme Valley South churches.

The good news is it is free to sign up! The numbers on the roll do not have any impact on the finances of each church, nor funding requests from central church, but they may help support grant applications by emphasising how involved the local communities are. Your local contacts for a simple form to complete are:

Eastham – Celia Adams

The Hanleys – Sarah Geggie

Rochford – Norma Goodall

Stanford – Alexandra Winnington

Stoke Bliss & Kyre – Jeremy Wyatt (Ivy Cottage)

Or email our administrator Jo at [assistanttvspcc@gmail.com](mailto:assistanttvspcc@gmail.com) and she can send you one.

Don't delay as the new rolls are only open for a month.

*Rev'd Julia Curtis*

*See page 17 for the winners of the Lambing Café Church photograph competition*

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**email: [Claire.tva-accounts@outlook.com](mailto:Claire.tva-accounts@outlook.com)**

# Rochford 49 Club

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

## Wednesday winners

19th February	No 8	Roger Gough
26th February	No 24	Norma Goodall
5th March	No 58	Not sold
12th March	No 44	Not sold

## Saturday winners

22nd February	No 5	Not sold
1st March	No 53	Not sold
8th March	No 21	Not sold
15th March	No 28	Bernard Reece

There are still plenty of numbers available – why not join in? It's just £1 per draw – 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**

**Deadline for the next issue 18th April**  
**ronsmum@icloud.com**  
**07482 482629**

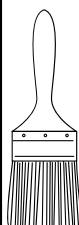
# Teme Valley Tote

March's prize draw, the last in this series, was decided when Rev'd Julia Curtis rolled the dice on 1st March to select the set of random numbers and the starting point. Prizewinners are:

£50 – **David Evington** of Stanford (No 454)  
£30 – **Oliver Denton** of Eastham (No 246)  
£20 – **David Evington** of Stanford (No 456)

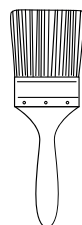
Very unusually, the same person has won two of the prizes with two different numbers – well done David!

A new series starts in April, so save up for that. There is an announcement about the new series on page 12. If you have any queries, please contact Robin Dean on 01886 853295 or by email (robin.c.dean@gmail.com).



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# Rochford News

## Lambing café church

Lambing café church at Parsonage Farm on 2nd March was very successful with over 40 adults and 20 children attending, greatly helped by a lovely sunny afternoon. The TVS Choir was really looking forward to singing the Vicar of Dibley's version of Psalm 23 and everyone enjoyed it. It was a real change from singing evensong for the choir. The afternoon ended with drinks and cakes – thanks to everyone involved especially those providing and serving refreshments.

## Pancake evening

Pancake evening was again a very successful event. We are so fortunate to have Anne who made all the pancakes with a wonderful array of savoury and sweet fillings. Thanks to everyone's support, the event raised £300 for village hall funds.

## Neighbourhood lunch

Dates for sit down and takeaway neighbourhood lunches are 29th April, 27th May, 24th June, 29th July and 26th August. Booking for lunches is essential and takeaways should be collected between 12.30 and 1pm. Please book with Ann on 01584 781317 at least the previous week.

## Open gardens

Rochford gardeners have once again agreed to open their gardens on Sunday 27th July. You don't need a big or immaculate garden so please get in touch if you are willing to open your garden, it would be great to have some different gardens for people to visit.

## Rochford church services

The Easter Sunday communion service is at Rochford church at 10am on Sunday 20th April.

There will be a church clean on Saturday 19th April at 2.30. Please come along if you can help get our lovely church ready for Easter. We will also arrange a churchyard spring clean over the next few weeks, please look out for notification on the WhatsApp group and come along and help if you can.

## Church flower rota

April: Easter lilies, Jennifer Gledhill  
(If you would like to give a donation for the Easter lilies in memory of loved ones, please contact Jennifer or Ann.)

May: Pam Powell and Norma Goodall

## A date for your diary

This year's Fête and Flower Festival will be on Sunday 13th July.

## Contacts

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

If you would like to be added to the parish WhatsApp group to keep you up to date with all the village happenings, please send me your mobile number.

*Andrew Barbé*

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# Stoke Bliss and Kyre

## Village Hall News

A reminder that our website is now up and fully functional. Scheduled events, hire rates and a full booking facility are available at [www.stokeblissandkyrehall.co.uk](http://www.stokeblissandkyrehall.co.uk).

We have tried to hand deliver a leaflet with forthcoming events to every household in the area. The next few Social Nights are at the regular times with the bar opening at 7pm and food being served at 8pm. Please remember to book in advance at [SBKVillageHall@gmail.com](mailto:SBKVillageHall@gmail.com).

## Help with energy costs

Have you been struggling to keep warm this winter? Would you like some free energy advice? Have you spent more time in bed than living?

At the Stoke Bliss & Kyre Neighbourhood Lunch on 13th March, Kirsty Hughes from Malvern Age Concern explained a government funded scheme to help you. This involves free home energy checks and if necessary installation of energy saving equipment, all round advice on keeping warm and paying less to achieve all the above. The scheme ended at the end of March but will be followed by another similar scheme!

Contact Kirsty on [www.ageukwmhl.org](http://www.ageukwmhl.org), or 03301 647006.

Jessica Middleton



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## Stations of the Cross



**St Mary's Church, Kyre**  
**Good Friday, 18th April**  
**10am to 4pm**

*The display will be in the church from*  
*Maundy Thursday, 17th April*  
*until weekend of 26th/27th April*

## Social & Pub Night

**Friday 25th April**

**Bar opens at 7, food served at 8pm**

**Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall**

**[SBKVillageHall@gmail.com](mailto:SBKVillageHall@gmail.com)**



**Thursday 10th April**

**Thursday 8th May**

**at Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall**

**12.30pm welcome, lunch served at 1pm**

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**We look forward to seeing you**

## Yoga class

**at Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall**

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**Please contact Karen on 07789 913425**



# Eastham Jottings

## Church flowers and cleaning

April – Helen Matravers  
May – Tammy Starling

## Eastham Coffee Morning

Please come to the coffee morning on **Thursday 3rd April** at 10.30am at Eastham Memorial Hall and enjoy a coffee and a chat and win a raffle prize. Thanks to Lisa Phillips from Age UK for attending to explain and arrange home visits on all questions of fuel. If you want a chat please call Lisa on 07301 061931 or [lisa@ageukwmb.org](mailto:lisa@ageukwmb.org).

The rota is

Thursday 3rd April – Josie Ward

Thursday 8th May – Diana Clarke

Eastham Memorial Hall will be a Polling Station for the local elections on Thursday 1st May so please note that the coffee morning will be Thursday 8th May.

## Eastham freestyle litter pick

A great turnout on a beautiful March morning. We were joined by our MP Dame Harriett Baldwin. Many thanks to Sarah Breen and Paul Meier for the fabulous refreshments.



## Teme Valley Tote – last call!

The new series starts on 1st April. Get cash please to Celia Adams as soon as possible. Online payments are accepted. Please contact Celia for bank details on [easthamcourt@icloud.com](mailto:easthamcourt@icloud.com) or 01584 781258.

## Church and churchyard spring clean

A final reminder for this month's tidy up for the summer months on 26th April from 10 am to 12.30 pm followed by hot dogs at lunchtime. At the same time, the spring clean of the inside of the church, tidying up for the summer months. Please bring along gardening utensils, dusters, polish etc. Come at any time for however short a period. Everyone welcome!

## Pub Night

The next pub night is on Friday 25th April at 7pm at Eastham Memorial Hall. Watch out for the usual banner.

## Lamberts Family Grocers

The mobile shop calls at Eastham Memorial Hall every Wednesday around 10am. It carries products from Ashley's Bakery, Wyre Pie etc.

## Eastham Memorial Hall AGM

The public meeting on Tuesday 20th May at 7pm is open to all Eastham residents and there will be a Zoom/Teams link for those not able to attend in person – please contact Celia Adams in advance for the link details. The accounts will be posted on the website in advance of the AGM when Barbara Selkirk ACMA has completed the independent examination.

Villagers wishing to join as Trustees please contact Mike Palfrey (07976 854267) or Celia Adams (01584 781258) or email [admin@easthammemorialhall.org.uk](mailto:admin@easthammemorialhall.org.uk) for an information pack. Nominations are required by 5th May 5th (14 days in advance of the AGM).

## Eastham Parish Council Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the parish council is on Tuesday 27th May at 7.30pm.

## Christmas at Eastham Church

Early notification that this year's service will be a Crib Service on Christmas Eve at 3 pm.

*Celia Adams*

## Activities at Eastham Memorial Hall

- Pilates, Tuesdays 1pm. Contact Sue on 07974 343609, [sue579@icloud.com](mailto:sue579@icloud.com) for details or a taster session. Last session this term on 8th April
- Yoga, ring Zoe on 07962 981456 or see [www.zedyoga.co.uk](http://www.zedyoga.co.uk). Wednesdays at 10am in term time. Last session this term on 2nd April.
- Zumba Gold, Lucia on 07709 301030, [lu.500@live.co.uk](mailto:lu.500@live.co.uk). Wednesdays at 12 noon, just turn up.

**TemeTalk deadline 18th April**  
**[ronsmum@icloud.com](mailto:ronsmum@icloud.com)**

# Hanley Happenings

## Sheila Macdonald

It is with some sadness that we share news of Sheila Macdonald's death on 14th February following a period of time spent at Haresbrook Park Care Home. If you didn't know her by name, you may remember her as the lady in the blue coat often seen following a carefully chosen route from her home in Bell Lane across the fields towards Broach Cottage and also along Rectory Road and back to Bell Lane via the B4204. Inclement weather was never a deterrent to Sheila. And despite her failing health, she was determined to maintain her daily routine, enjoying the sights and sounds of nature and happily chatting to others out walking their dogs in the parish.

Sheila will be sadly missed and we send our prayers and blessings to her family.

## Hanley House

Exciting news from Hanley House. The eight rooms are nearly complete and as the children are older, especially baby Toby, the supper club evenings will begin again soon. Watch this space for details. There will also be an open day for us locals to poke our noses in and see what the young couple has achieved.

**TemeTalk deadline 18th April**  
**ronsmum@icloud.com**



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07901605640

## Supper Club and film

Thanks to everyone who attended the film evening in February. We had a good turn out with 22 people supporting the event, in part due to the wonderful supper prepared by Sarah and Barbara.

The film, *Greenfingers*, was a big hit. Watch this space for the next film

## Lamberts mobile grocery

We now have a regular visit from Lamberts mobile grocery van. It's an Aladdin's cave of local vegetables and bakery products, packets and cans, eggs and dog treats. He even has local butchers' items in his freezer! Wednesday mornings at 11.30 in Hanley House car park – it's well worth a visit.

## Walking the Herefordshire trail

The "boys", Michael Gardner and Graham Francis and their dogs Percy and Floss, have nearly finished walking the Herefordshire Trail, this time from Leintwardine to Richard's Castle. There were many things to enjoy; the weather was bright and clear. Walking through the Downton Estate they caught sight of Downton Castle, a magnificent building. They discovered 17th century cast iron grave coverings with clearly visible inscriptions. The associated church was not as old, Next time it's Richard's Castle to Leominster and the final walk is from Leominster to Bromyard. If you are thinking of doing this trail the advice is go ahead and do it. There is so much of this beautiful country that you would not normally see.

*Carole Gardner*

## Take your litter home

We live in a beautiful part of the country. Lovely views, local pubs and towns and a strong community spirit. However a small percentage of local residents are being rather selfish and continue to leave litter. Not wrappers or Costa Coffee cups, but nicely filled plastic dog poo bags. They have been hiding these in hedges and gateways along Bell Lane and Rectory Road. Uncollected dog poo is left on verges. Families walk with prams and children and step onto the verge to let vehicles pass. Tractor drivers cutting the hedge are covered in the contents of these plastic bags.

Please think of others who live in this village, who collect their pets' daily offerings. At least flick the poo with a stick so it cannot be stepped in, and please don't leave plastic bags to rot in the hedgerow.

*Tracy Stuart-Allen*

# Stanford • Stanford • Stanford

## Services in Stanford

### Sunday 6th April

Holy Communion at 10am

### Thursday 17th April

Maundy Thursday service with choir  
at 6.30pm

### Sunday 20th April

Easter Dawn Service at 5.30am

## Flowers for April

Sarah Burgoyne

Thanks to Sue Softly for covering the last three months and supplying delicate narcissi until Ash Wednesday, after which churches are bare of flowers until Easter when they are a central emblem of celebration and hope.

## Easter dawn service

The Easter dawn service will be at 5.30am on Sunday 20th April followed by breakfast at 7am at Stanford village hall. Please book for breakfast with Alexandra on 07891 346783 or Sue on 07929 479865, whether you are attending the service at dawn or just want to join in with breakfast. Donations will be for St Mary's church.

## Christening

The christening of Hugh Mark, the son of Hilgrove and Chloe Kenrick, took place on Saturday 22nd March at St Mary's. It was a joyous occasion attended by some 70 family and friends and a number of children. The choir sang some beautiful anthems. The service was taken by the Rev'd Ashleigh Henderson from Kendal Parish Church in the Lake District.



*Hilgrove, Chloe and baby Hugh with Rev'd Ashleigh Henderson at the christening*

## Commiserations

Commiserations to Rev'd Julia Curtis who broke her arm in a fall whilst on holiday in the Lake District. John organised the emergency services and she was rescued by the mountain rescue team and could not praise them more highly. We all wish her a speedy recovery.

## Teme Valley Tote

The next series starts in April and if you wish to continue to pay the £10 by cheque or cash please contact Alexandra on 07891 346783. Please contact Robin Dean on 01886 853295 if you would like to set up a standing order or join as a new member. £10 covers a ticket for each month's draw for the year, and you can win £50, £30 or £20 each month.

## Stanford on Facebook

Facebook page Stanford with Orleton News is a good place to see what's going on nearby and for businesses to update their services or goods. Do join if you use Facebook.

## Shelsley Fête

Shelsley Fête is to be held on 29th June and they are looking for more helpers. If you would like to be a part of it, please contact Louise Hutton on: 07803 614078.

*Alexandra Winnington*

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# Why the Easter bunny brings Easter eggs

Once upon a time, there was a king who had a very powerful magician at his court.

One day, the magician gave the king a hen that laid beautiful eggs. The king liked the eggs but he was greedy and he told his magician that he would like the hen better if she could lay eggs of gold. So the Magician worked another magic spell and sure enough the hen started laying eggs of gold.

The king was delighted. He became very rich and the envy of the other kings. He kept his special hen in a golden cage next to his throne. He knew that one day someone would try to steal his hen, so whenever visitors came he asked his magician to come and hide the magic hen and substitute an ordinary hen in the golden cage.

Sure enough, one day someone ran off with the hen in the golden cage. The king was glad he had asked his magician to switch the hens. He sent word for the magician to bring back

his magic hen. But the next day, when the king looked in his golden cage all he found was a little white rabbit. "What's this!" said

the king. "Little rabbit, how did you get in here?" The King opened the cage and asked his footman to take the rabbit back out to the woods where he belonged. Then he called for his magician.

"Where is my magic hen?" asked the king. "I told you to bring her back." "I did bring her back," said the magician. "I put her in the cage but I just didn't have time to change her from a rabbit back into a hen."

They never did find the little white rabbit, but from that day on, children found colourful eggs hidden all over the kingdom. And some say that every once in a while someone found a golden one.



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# Blue Mountain Skiing

Watching huge chunks of ice shift and crash into one another in Georgian Bay made me think of the Arctic. Not surprising really because the North Pole is a scant 3,000 miles north of the charming little town of Thornbury in Ontario where we stayed.

I hadn't planned a trip to Canada this month but when I asked my granddaughter what she wanted for her birthday on 16th March, she said: "You, granny!" It was too precious a gift to deny us both, especially as we could celebrate her sister's birthday too.

Our days were spent at Georgian Peaks, a ski resort in the Blue Mountains where the family skied, including the two year old! It was lovely to see whole families enjoying March Break together out on the slopes – and to watch our son and his daughter racing one another down what seemed to me very steep runs. Watching them made me wish I had started skiing at a younger age – and had kept at it.



There were some freezing days but not too shocking because, strangely, Thornbury and Tenbury Wells are not that far apart in latitude. The difference is in humidity; it's easier to keep warm in Canada!

I enjoyed exploring Thornbury which is a very pretty little town on a large bay of Lake Huron. It has some

charming independent shops and boutiques and a fabulous bakery and café where everything is cooked to order – freshly baked bread, croissants, pies, cakes, buns. Perfect snacks to take to the lake shore.

I was fascinated by the marina which looked almost ghostly, the deserted moorings discernible in ice formations, the boats all safely tucked away nearby. It was here when temperatures rose that melting ice got tossed and jostled in the wind and formed dangerous ice ledges and floating icebergs.

*Averil Opperman*



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**11th May – Christian Aid Week**

**8th June – St Columba**

**13th July – for the summertime**

**10th August – Lammas**

**14th September – Harvest**

**9th November – Remembrance**

Please email Rev'd Jen Jones at  
tvscurate@gmail.com for more information

## The Filling Station

Our next meeting is on Thursday 17th April at Eastham Memorial Hall at 7.15 for a 7.30pm start. It is planned that our speaker will be Kevin Sadler, retired senior pastor, but we have not had full confirmation of this. If you receive messages about our events via our mailing list you will be notified if this is not the case.

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



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## Teme Valley Tote

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

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

Your local Teme Valley South co-ordinators are:

Eastham – Celia Adams

Stanford – Alexandra Winnington

Stoke Bliss and Kyre – Margaret Yarnold

You can subscribe by bank giro credit: the account name is North Teme Group of Churches Tote Account, sort code 20-39-64, account number 30947539. Give your name and district as a reference and email me on [robin.c.dean@gmail.com](mailto:robin.c.dean@gmail.com).

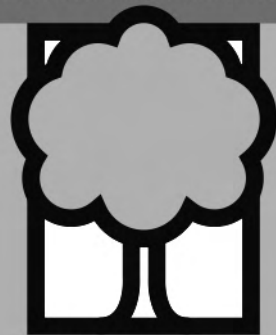
If you currently pay by standing order, you will automatically be entered. If there is any problem, I will contact you. If you wish to pay by standing order I can send you the form.

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

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

*Robin Dean, Teme Valley Tote Organiser*

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# Table settings

As a child in a family with two parents and six siblings I remember how we always, always ate together (although not for breakfast) in a large farmhouse kitchen with a very large table. We all had our place and we always sat in our own place automatically. Even today I can still remember who sat where.

Now, living with just my lovely wife, the two of us have slightly different dining table arrangements, but they do hold to a regular weekly pattern.

Imagine a rectangular table with place settings A and B on one side with C and D on the opposite side. For breakfast, which I eat alone, I always sit in place A and when my wife arrives she sits in place D opposite.

For lunch I sit in place B and my wife sits in place A.

For supper I sit in place A and she sits in place B.

But on Sundays when I get up second, ready for my full English breakfast, I sit in place D with my wife in place A.

The only time place C is occupied is when we have guests or when Liz, our gardener, comes in for a cup of coffee or a small glass of grape juice.

Confused?

WBG

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**Saturday 24th May**  
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## What's on at The Regal in April

### Broadcast

Tue 1st 7.15pm The Royal Opera: Turandot  
 Thu 3rd 7.00pm National Theatre Live:  
 Dr Strangelove

### Film

Wed 2nd 7.00pm The Last Showgirl (15)  
 Sat 5th 12 noon Captain America: Brave  
 New World (12A)  
 Sat 5th 7.00pm Anora (18)  
 Sat 12th 7.00pm André Rieu's 75th Birthday:  
 The Dream Continues  
 Sat 19th 11.00am Disney's Snow White (PG)  
 Mon 21st 12 noon Disney's Snow White (PG)  
 Tue 22nd 11.00am Disney's Snow White (PG)  
 Wed 23rd 7.00pm Mr Burton (12A)  
 Thu 24th 5.00pm Disney's Snow White (PG)

### Live Music

Fri 4th 6.00pm Kids' Party Live: A Live  
 Music Show for Kids  
 Sat 12th 5.30pm The Grimm Ball featuring  
 Disco Daddy  
 Tue 15th 7.30pm Mark Radcliffe and David  
 Boardman  
 Fri 18th 7.30pm The Simon & Garfunkel Story  
 Sat 19th 7.30pm Teddy Swimmz Tribute  
 Fri 25th 7.30pm A Foreigner's Journey  
 Sat 26th 7.30pm Hejira

### Interactive Family Show

Mon 14th 2.30pm Mark Thompson's  
 Spectacular Science Show

### Live Theatre

Tue 8th 7.30pm The Hound of the Baskervilles  
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## TemeTalk

Deadline 18th April

Please note this is the *last* day for  
 contributions – the sooner you send  
 your items to the editor, the more  
 chance there is that they will be included



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# Lambing Café Church photograph competition

What a wonderful afternoon we enjoyed at Parsonage Farm, Rochford on 2nd March. Thanks to all who sent in entries for the photograph competition. It was too difficult to choose a single best photo so the two winners are:



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# Simnel cake – the perfect Easter treat

## Ingredients

250g mixed dried fruit (a mixture of sultanas, currants, raisins and candied mixed peel)  
1 orange, zested and juiced  
500g pack marzipan  
250g butter, softened  
200g light brown soft sugar  
4 eggs plus 1 beaten to glaze  
175g plain flour  
100g ground almonds  
1 tsp baking powder  
1 lemon, zested  
2 tsp mixed spice  
1 tsp vanilla extract  
100g glacé cherries, halved  
3 tbsp apricot jam

## Method

Put the mixed dried fruit in a bowl with the orange juice and zest and 2 tbsp water. Cover and microwave for 2 mins, then leave to cool completely.

Heat oven to 150C/130C fan/gas 2. Roll out a third of the marzipan and use the base of a deep 20cm cake tin as a template to cut out a circle. Wrap any offcuts and the remaining two-thirds of marzipan and set aside for later. Butter and line the cake tin with a double layer of parchment. Beat the butter and sugar together until creamy. Add the eggs, flour, almonds, baking powder, lemon zest, mixed spice and vanilla (all in one go) and mix until well combined. Mix in the cooled soaked dried fruit and fold in the cherries.

Scrape half the cake mixture into the tin. Top with the disc of marzipan, then the remaining cake mixture, and level the top with a spatula. Bake for 2 hours. Check it's cooked by inserting a skewer to the centre of the cake, if any wet mixture clings to the skewer, return to the oven for another 10 mins, then check again. Cool in the tin for 15 mins, then



turn out onto a wire rack and leave to cool completely.

Brush the top of the cake with apricot jam. Roll out half of the remaining marzipan and use the base of the cake as a template to cut out another disc. Place it on top of the cake and crimp the edges. Roll the remaining marzipan into 11 equal-sized balls for the 11 apostles (excluding Judas). Brush the marzipan with beaten egg and arrange the apostles in a circle around the outside. Brush them with a little egg too. Put under a hot grill for a minute or two until just starting to caramelize – be very careful as the marzipan will burn easily. Leave to cool and wrap a ribbon around the cake.

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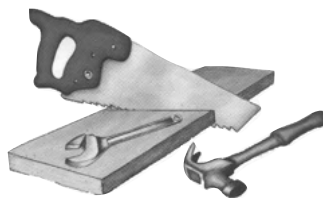
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**Doctor Who's Colin Baker and The Archers' Terry Molloy  
return in Sherlock Holmes'**

***The Hound of the Baskervilles* – a radio play live on stage**

After delighting audiences up and down the country in 2022 and 2024, Crime And Comedy Theatre Company are reuniting *Doctor Who* stars Colin Baker (*Doctor Who*, *The Brothers*) and Terry Molloy (*The Archers*, *Doctor Who*) one final time in their new stage adaptation of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's world-famous tale *The Hound of the Baskervilles*. Audiences are invited to this radio-play-on-stage, to be transported to the mysterious moors of Devonshire in this classic detective tale on 8th April.

Once facing each other as mortal enemies as the Doctor and Davros in *Doctor Who*, Baker and Molloy – who is best known for playing Mike Tucker in *The Archers* for over 40 years – return as the iconic dynamic duo of Holmes and Watson respectively. Joined once again by Dee Sadler (*No Place Like Home*, *All Creatures Great and Small*) as Doctor Mortimer, this production brings to life one of culture's great detective mysteries.

Adaptor and director Martin Parsons comments, "We originally staged this brand new adaptation of *The Hound of the Baskervilles* in 2022 to commemorate the 120th anniversary of the novel's publication. However, such has been the popularity of the tour with audiences that we're delighted to be returning to theatres with it one last time in 2025. The key to its success is the pitch-

perfect performances of Colin Baker and Terry Molloy in their portrayals of Sherlock Holmes and Dr Watson. We're in for another treat and I'm thrilled to be able to bring two such fine actors together again on stage in these iconic roles."

The cast is completed by David Sandham (*The Wind in The Willows*, National Tour, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, National Tour), Kate Ashmead (*The Importance of Being Earnest*, Palchetto Stage, *Educating Rita*, Regent Theatre) as Mrs Barrymore, Martin Parsons (*Doctor Who*, *Eric Chappell's Ground Rules*, UK Tour) as Jack Stapleton and Imogen Jones as the Stage Manager.

The setting is a radio studio, the actors ready as if for a radio broadcast and the sound effects created live on stage, all combining to transport the audience from Baker Street to Dartmoor, as this tale of murder, mystery and horror is brought to life – surely the greatest detective story ever told! A rare chance to see these popular actors live at your local theatre, this is a play not to be missed.

**Live at the Regal Tenbury Wells**

**on Tuesday 8th April at 7.30pm.**

**Book tickets now at [www.regaltenbury.co.uk](http://www.regaltenbury.co.uk)**

For theatre dates and ticket links, please visit:  
[www.crimeandcomedytheatrecompany.co.uk/dates](http://www.crimeandcomedytheatrecompany.co.uk/dates)

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<p><b>INTERACTIVE FAMILY SHOW</b></p>  <p><b>Mark Thompson's Spectacular Science Show</b> Mon 14 Apr, 2.30pm</p>	<p><b>LIVE MUSIC</b></p>  <p><b>Mark Radcliffe and David Boardman</b> Tue 15 Apr, 7.30pm</p>	<p><b>LIVE MUSIC</b></p>  <p><b>The Simon &amp; Garfunkel Story</b> Fri 18 Apr, 7.30pm</p>
<p><b>LIVE MUSIC</b></p>  <p><b>Teddy Swims Tribute</b> Sat 19 Apr, 7.30pm</p>	<p><b>LIVE MUSIC</b></p>  <p><b>A Foreigner's Journey</b> Fri 25 Apr, 7.30pm</p>	<p><b>LIVE MUSIC</b></p>  <p><b>Hejira – Celebrating Joni Mitchell</b> Sat 26 Apr, 7.30pm</p>

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# Eastham Fête

Sunday 17th August starting at 12 noon

Eastham fete is another month closer already.

If you live in Eastham you should receive a produce show schedule with this edition of TemeTalk. If you have been missed off or you live outside Eastham and would like one please let us know at 01584 781505 or east-hamfete@gmail.com, and we will get one to you.



Now the days are getting longer it's time to look through your seed tin and your schedule and work out what you should be planting in time to enter the competition.

Hopefully you have already planted your tomatoes but April is a good time for peas, beans, onions and shallots. Good luck!

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## Come and stay, if you can find us!

We let our holiday caravans at Wigley Orchard in Stoke Bliss through our agent, Hoseasons, and Hoseasons let through Booking.com. So we visited the Booking.com website to see what it had to say about us.

To begin with Wigley Orchard is quite hard to find. It's no good searching for properties in Worcestershire, Bromyard, Tenbury Wells ... according to Booking.com we are a resort village in Clifton upon Teme.

The local attractions listed are interesting. First is Margery Thorn Farm in Harpley, which is a listed farmhouse and barn but also a private house. In Bromyard you'll find The Time Machine Museum of Science Fiction, as well as The Knapp, a children's playground which has a dog exclusion order and is in the restricted alcohol zone. Local restaurants include Pensons in Stoke Bliss which closed some time ago and was replaced by Native, now also closed.

The nearest airport is Gloucester, 42 miles away so just a bit nearer than Birmingham but a hub for private charter flights with no scheduled flights since 2017. Citywing used to be based there and flew to the Isle of Man.

Facilities at Wigley Orchard apparently include a tennis court. We did consider building a tennis court about 20 years ago but decided against it. The area where it would have been is now a pond.

Interestingly the languages spoken on site in-

clude Danish, Croatian, Norwegian and Polish as well as French, German, Spanish and English. I don't think English is a problem, the others may be a stretch too far.

Check-in time at Wigley Orchard is given as 4pm to 11.59pm. In fact we encourage visitors to arrive at 4 o'clock and are not very pleased if we have to wait until after 8 o'clock to welcome our guests.

Are dogs welcome at Wigley Orchard? Yes, in some caravans, but not at all according to Booking.com. However we apparently have a caravan which will accommodate four adults and up to three children, although our largest unit is for just four people.

I had to put in the dates I required to access the site and unfortunately there was no accommodation available at Wigley Orchard for those dates. But the site was happy to recommend similar properties which I might consider – at Ribblesdale, Filey, Scarborough and Aberdeen.

So we're looking forward to welcoming a family of seven from Croatia who are keen to play tennis and are disappointed to find that Clifton on Teme is not by the seaside. Happy days!

SG

*My sister-in-law looked for Wigley Orchard Caravan Park on Booking.com and eventually gave up. Your challenge – can you find it? Let me know!*

David Ward  
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# Teme Valley Wildlife

If you go down to the woods today ... you might find a woodcock, as I very possibly did a few weeks ago when I entered my nearest patch of woodland to see whether the hazel catkins were out. They weren't, but a largish bird flew up from the dried leaves of the woodland floor some ten feet in front of me, then zig-zagged



*Dry leaves on a forest floor*

silently between the trees and away out of sight. The lack of a squawk, an accurate flightpath and middling size suggested that this had not been a pheasant, although I was left with an impression of colourful feathers. Sadly, I did not catch a glimpse of a head or beak so cannot be certain exactly what it was.

My local wood offers many features capable of attracting an unusual bird such as a woodcock. It is deciduous, has open rides, deep dry leaf-litter and plenty of wet areas where small springs seep out to a nearby brook. The woodcock is technically a wader, having a long arched bill, but has adapted to life amongst trees rather than on the

shoreline where its relatives the curlew and sandpiper are more likely to be found. It uses its long bill for dabbling in soft mud to retrieve worms, small insects and molluscs and feeds largely in the early evening, resting up during the day in drier parts of the wood. It has large eyes for seeing in low light conditions and these are unnatu-

rally placed high up on the sides of its head, providing a very wide arc of vision.

Woodcock reach about the size of a wood pigeon and have mottled russet feathers, a perfect camouflage for sitting amongst dried leaves. Two populations live in Britain, a native one present all year round and a migrant population flying in across the North Sea in September to escape the frozen winter ground of northern climes. The latter departs in March. Resident birds nest on the ground between March and June, producing four mottled eggs. Both parents care for the chicks and are reputed to carry them between their legs to

*Continued on page 24*



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Continued from page 23

protect them in times of danger. In summer, male birds exhibit a slow territorial flight at dusk and dawn. Slow wingbeats and a triple croak followed by a whistled "tsiwick" cry characterise this unusual behaviour, which is known as "roding".

For centuries the woodcock has been a game bird. Shakespeare wrote of dusk as "cock-shutt time", a time when men set up cockshuts, which were nets suspended vertically between two poles to catch birds for the table. Some places recall this activity in present-day names such as Cockshutt Wood, but the name is derived from the much more ancient Anglo-Saxon phrase, "Cocc sciete".

One final woodcock curiosity is that an old Worcestershire apple was named after it. Used for eating and cider-making, this large, oblong, red-

streaked apple was held on a long stalk thought to resemble a woodcock's beak. I wonder, does anyone still grow it?

The next meeting of the Teme Valley Wildlife Group will be at 7.30pm on Thursday 10th April at Stoke Bliss and Kyre Village Hall. We welcome Kevin McGee whose talk is called "Bees, wasps and the buzz around their brilliant diversity". Members and friends, welcome, £3 on the door.

*Stephanie Mcroft*

*For up-to-date information on what wildlife is being seen in the area, or to give us your sightings or comments, please 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 hold meetings on the second Thursday of the month. All are welcome. Contact us by email at [twg@outlook.com](mailto:twg@outlook.com).*



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# What's on in Teme Valley South

## April

- 3rd Thursday Eastham Coffee Morning, Eastham Memorial Hall, 10.30am  
Stoke Bliss & Kyre Neighbourhood Lunch, Village Hall, 12.30pm
- 17th Thursday The Filling Station, Eastham Memorial Hall, 7.15pm
- 20th Sunday Easter Dawn Service, St Mary's Stanford, 5.30am followed by  
Breakfast at Stanford Village Hall, 7am
- 25th Friday Eastham Pub Night, Eastham Memorial Hall, 7pm  
Social and Pub Night, Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall, 7pm  
Eastham Pub Night, Eastham Memorial Hall, 7pm
- 26th Saturday Plant & Produce Sale and cream teas, Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall, 2.30pm  
Eastham church and churchyard spring clean, 10.30am
- 29th Tuesday Rochford Neighbourhood Lunch, Rochford Village Hall, 12.30pm

## May

- 8th Thursday Eastham Coffee Morning, Eastham Memorial Hall, 10.30am  
*(Note change of date)*  
VE Day 80th Anniversary Celebrations, Hanley Village Hall, 4.30pm
- 11th Sunday Spring Walk, Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall
- 20th Tuesday Eastham Memorial Hall AGM, 7pm
- 24th Saturday Hanley Open Gardens, 10.30am
- 27th Tuesday Rochford Neighbourhood Lunch, Rochford Village Hall, 12.30pm  
Summer Barbecue, Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall, 4pm  
Eastham Parish Council Annual Meeting, Eastham Memorial Hall, 7.30pm

## June

- 5th Thursday Eastham Coffee Morning, Eastham Memorial Hall, 10.30am
- 27th Friday Social and Pub Night, Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall, 7pm

## July

- 3rd Thursday Eastham Coffee Morning, Eastham Memorial Hall, 10.30am
- 13th Sunday Rochford Fête and Flower Festival
- 27th Sunday Rochford Open Gardens
- 29th Tuesday Rochford Neighbourhood Lunch, Rochford Village Hall, 12.30pm

Send items for inclusion to Sandra Griffiths by 18th of the previous month  
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# Services

## April/May 2025

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

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

### Services Schedule

#### Sunday 6th April

10.00am Stanford

Holy Communion and Hymns

#### Sunday 13th April

10.30am Hanley Rectory and Village Hall  
4.00pm Hanley Village Hall

#### Palm Sunday

Joint Palm Sunday Celebration  
Iona Service

#### Thursday 17th April

6.30pm Stanford

#### Maundy Thursday

Maundy Thursday Service with Choir

#### Friday 18th April

10am to 4pm Kyre  
1.00pm St Kenelm's Clifton

#### Good Friday

Stations of the Cross  
Devotional Hour

#### Sunday 20th April

5.30am Stanford  
  
10.00am Rochford  
Hanley Childe  
  
2.00pm

#### Easter Day

Dawn Service and Holy Communion  
*followed by breakfast at Stanford Village Hall*  
Holy Communion  
Easter fun for all  
Walking Church

#### Saturday 26th April

4.00pm St Kenelm's, Clifton

Welly Church

#### Sunday 27th April

10.00am Rochford  
4.00pm Kyre

All Age Worship and Holy Communion  
Evening Service

#### Sunday 4th May

10.00am Stanford

Holy Communion with Hymns

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