

TemerTalk

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August 2026



Inside this month's issue
Steam Train Day, Eastham Fête, Stoke Bliss Summer Barbecue
and all your parish news

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TemeTalk

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A community going forward with God

August 2026

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

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www.temevalleysouth.org.uk

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

Dear Readers

In Psalm 40 verse 3, the psalmist writes

*He put a new song in my mouth,
a song of praise to our God.*

"Finding your voice" is a familiar phrase to many of us. To feel unheard can be isolating and exhausting and it can lead to a lack of confidence in yourself. So finding your unique voice is freeing and, I would say, deeply important. Each one of us will have something important to say and to be fully heard we need to speak in a way that others can hear and understand. In many ways that is a skill that is in short supply in our society today.

I wonder what it would be like if our speech started with praise. Finding our voice through appreciation, just like the verse from the psalm suggests. What would it be like if we greeted each other with a positive comment every time we met? If our very reason for being was to build up and not belittle – always and everywhere – I suspect we might just find ourselves heard and understood more often.

The other part of the quote talks of singing a new song. More than two years ago Teme Valley South Churches voted to do just that. Our PCC agreed to support a new venture as we began a choir. Many will have heard our choir sing and hopefully enjoyed the experience. Our now established choir is starting to think about future financing and this autumn is launching a friends scheme. A fundraising concert is planned for the afternoon of Sunday 6th September. So I encourage you to support the concert and consider joining the choir's friends scheme, so that voices will continue to be raised in song into 2027 and beyond!

May God bless all our voices this autumn.

Rev'd Julia

This month's cover photograph is of
two Soay sheep at Hollow Meadow,
Stoke Bliss – see page 12

TemeTalk deadline 18th August
mur@icloud.com or 07482 482629

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Teme Valley South Contacts

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Trevor Matthews 07768 942169

Hanleys: Ed Yarnold 07930 882728

Stanford: Alexandra Winnington 07891 346783

Pastoral Team

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Jenny Barbé 01584 781298

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Parish Safeguarding Officer: Kate Walton
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Rochford – Ann Prosser, 01584 781317

Eastham –

bookings@easthammemorialhall.org.uk

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hanleyvillagehall@outlook.com

Stanford – Catherine Mawby, 07831 303792

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Parish news

From the Registers

Baptism

Baby Margot Janet June Parker-Blakeway was baptised at St Michael & All Angels, Hanley Childe on Saturday 18th July. We welcome Margot into the church family.

Funeral

The funeral of Sylvia Jean Isherwood was held on Monday 29th June at St Mary's, Stanford. We send our condolences to her family and friends. *May she rest in peace and rise in glory.*

Confirmation

Confirmation is a joyful and public step of faith where a person affirms their baptism promises and receives the bishop's prayer for strength through the Holy Spirit. So we are delighted that Hugh, our new bishop, will be coming to Rock Church in the Muddy Boots Mission area on 20th September to lead a confirmation service at 4pm. Preparation will be part of the Exploring your Hidden Treasure sessions at Stanford Church on four evenings, 25th to 28th August.

Teme Valley Tots

Our tots and helpers are taking a break for August, returning in September.

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Do you love the Sound of Music?

No, I am not talking about nuns running across Austrian meadows, but the pure sound of human voices, brought together in musical harmony as found in our very own Teme Valley Choir. Many of you will have heard the choir whose broad remit has taken them to churches, farmyards and village halls around our area, sharing their music widely within our rural community. The choir want us all to be able to enjoy live choral music, both sacred and secular, and are launching a Friends of the Choir scheme to channel support for the choir activities.

The very first Friends event will be a fundraising afternoon of music on the lawn, featuring the Teme Valley Choir joined by accompanists, entertaining us with a songbook from their varied repertoire taking us from Elgar to the Beatles. An afternoon not to be missed! Hosted by kind permission of the owners at Harborough Bank, Shelsley Beauchamp WR6 6RA on Sunday 6th September at 4pm.

The concert is open to everyone, and tickets cost £10 on the door, or in advance contact Chloe at music.tvspcc@gmail.com or Jo our administrator at assistanttvspcc@gmail.com.

You can also become a Friend of the Choir from as little as £2.50 a month, with all subscriptions helping the choir to meet expenses including music rights, travel and accompanists. I hope that aspiring Friends of the Choir will come along to share the joy of music for what promises to be a delightful afternoon.

Rev'd Julia

Iona Worship 2026

A pattern of prayer, singing and imaginative engagement with scripture, Iona worship reflects our life together as rural communities as we gather to celebrate God's presence in our landscape and our lives.

**You are invited to join us at
Hanley Broadheath Village Hall WR15 8QU**
where you will find a warm welcome
and light refreshments

Services are at 4pm on the following Sundays

9th August – Lammas

13th September – Creationtide

8th November – Remembrance

*For more information please email
Rev'd Jen Jones at tvscurate@gmail.com*

Rochford 49 Club

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

Wednesday winners

24th June	No 10	Caroline Nichols
1st July	No 56	Not sold
8th July	No 45	Sarah Forsyth
15th July	No 34	Phil Bull

Saturday winners

20th June	No 44	Dan Taylor
27th June	No 24	Michael Ayres
4th July	No 47	Tina Lord
11th July	No 41	Anthony Bunn

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 Norma Goodall on
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TemeTalk

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Teme Valley Tote

July's draw, the fourth in this series, was decided when Rev'd Julia Curtis threw the dice on 5th July to determine the set of random numbers and the starting point. As a result, the prizewinners for July are:

£50 – **Sergey Ermolovich** of Eastham (No 197)

£30 – **Angela Williams** of Pensax (No 362)

£20 – **Mr R Hughes** of Knighton (No 602)

If you have any queries about the Tote, please contact Robin Dean on 01886 853295 or robin.c.dean@gmail.com – **he is still looking for someone to take over its running!**

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Rochford News

Rochford in August

August is a quieter month in Rochford as we take a break from community events and let Ann recover! Teme Valley Tots is on summer vacation but will resume in September, together with other community events for the autumn (see below).

If you have an idea for something that you think people will enjoy, please let us know. If you would like to arrange a community event that would be even better. Remember, we don't want to duplicate what is on offer in neighbouring villages but if you are interested in starting something new in Rochford, MHDC are offering a range of grants to help develop new community-based activities including: micro-grants – up to £250 – to help individuals start up new community events together with community wellbeing grants of up to £3,000 backing local ideas that help people live more happily.

Rochford Fête

This was a tremendous team effort. It was a very hot afternoon and we decided to take advantage of shade from the plum trees in the orchard and the well-trimmed yew trees (thanks Lee) in the churchyard which provided a wonderful shady area for cream teas and ice creams. In addition, the church is air conditioned (yes, it really is!) which was a great relief from the heat of the afternoon.

Around 140 people came along and enjoyed a wide range of stalls and games ending with the duck race down the river! Many thanks to Lee and Lou who organised and ran a barbecue and bar, which was a first for the fête and was very well received. Many thanks to everyone who helped make this a very successful event: all the stall holders and everyone who made cakes, gave draw prizes and donations and all those mowing the field, helping set up and put away. We couldn't do it without you. And thanks to everyone who came along and supported us. The afternoon, which raised over £1,800, would be nothing without you! Overall, a tremendous community effort, and so good to get together with friends and neighbours.

TemeTalk deadline 18th August

roismum@icloud.com or 07482 482629

Rochford Garden Party

Set in the beautiful garden at Rochford House, this was a great afternoon. The weather was perfect to sit in the garden, catch up with friends and neighbours, enjoy a delicious afternoon tea with fizz and Pimm's and covet the wonderful collection of classic cars. Very special thanks to our hosts Simon and Vittoria Thornley and to Ann for all her work in preparing a fabulous afternoon tea. Many thanks to everyone who supported the event which raised over £600 for village hall funds and to all those who helped to make the afternoon so enjoyable.

Neighbourhood lunches

Ann doesn't get that much of a rest! Dates for sit down and takeaway neighbourhood lunches are 25th August, 29th September, 27th October and 24th November. Everyone welcome. Booking for lunches is essential. Takeaways should be collected between 12.30 and 1pm. Book with Ann on 01584 781317 at least the previous week.

The Big Breakfast

The Big Breakfast is on Saturday 19th September at 9.30am at Rochford Village Hall. Get the weekend off to a good start; come along and enjoy one of Ann's breakfasts with, fruit juice, cereal, full English (with vegetarian option), toast, tea and coffee. Just £12, children half price. All welcome so please book with Ann to avoid disappointment. We were sold out last time!

Dates for your diary

Harvest Festival – Sunday 11th October

Village quiz – Friday 20th November

Church flower rota

Flowers for August: Ann Prosser, thank you.

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 village happenings, please send me your mobile number.

Andrew Barbé

News from Stoke Bliss & Kyre

Steam Train Day

Did you know that the Netherwood Estate at Kyre is home to a rather special steam railway? The Kyre Valley Railway is the longest privately owned narrow-gauge steam railway in the country. Its track, a mere 7¼ inches wide, traverses around nearly two kilometres of the scenic Netherwood Estate. Once again, by kind permission of Lord and Lady Darnly, the public will have a chance to experience the hissing and whistling of the steam locomotives and enjoy riding the railway, a journey that includes bridges, a viaduct and even a tunnel! Amongst the engines operating on the day will be Cassandra, a scale replica of a British built locomotive that ran on Bolivian railways in the 1920s. Train Day is a delightful afternoon for all the family and takes place at the Hyde in Kyre on Saturday 8th August from 2pm. Funds raised go to support the Stoke Bliss & Kyre village hall and St Peter's church.

Churchyard tidy sessions

Thanks to all our volunteers whose hard work has kept Saint Peter's churchyard in a much better state this year. The next tidy-up session is on Wednesday 19th August from 10am to 12:30pm. Everyone is welcome, refreshments provided.

St Peter's church roof update

We are currently still waiting for confirmation from the church authorities of our church works application, called a faculty. Once this is granted, we can start full discussions with potential contractors and grant funding bodies.

Social Night

Friday 26th August

Summer Barbecue

Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall from 6pm

Please book food in advance
at sbklvillagehall@gmail.com

Next Social Night is Friday 25th September
with BINGO

A date for your diary

Music on the Lawn on Sunday 6th September from 4 to 6pm at Harborough Bank, Shelsley Beauchamp. Full details on page 13.

Into the Breach

On Saturday 19th September the Stratford Theatre Co will perform the comedy play *Into the Breach* at the village hall. It's described as "Dad's Army meets the Vicar of Dibley", so a fun evening is expected.

Please see the main advert on page 16 and look out for the posters with information on how to book your tickets. The play will start at 7.30pm and the bar will be serving from 6.30pm. Come and join in the fun!

Keeping you informed

Stay up to date with village news and events for Stoke Bliss and Kyre via the community group on Facebook – search "Stoke Bliss & Kyre Community" to join. If you are not already on the SBK email list, contact Julia Berry at sbklvillagehall@gmail.com to join.

Jeremy Wyatt



Thursday 13th August

Thursday 10th September

at Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall

12.30pm welcome, lunch served at 1pm

Two courses plus refreshments

To book call 07396 813137

or sbklunch@gmail.com

We look forward to seeing you

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Eastham Jottings

Church flowers and cleaning

August – Mel Cumming

September – Alyson Brookes

More helpers needed

If you can join the rota for church flowers and cleaning that would be great, just contact Celia Adams on easthamcourt@icloud.com or 01584 781258.

Eastham Coffee Morning

Please join us for coffee, the monthly raffle and a catch up on Thursday 6th August at 10.30am to 12 noon at Eastham Memorial Hall. Please bring bric-a-brac, books and tombola prizes to go straight to the fête.

The rota for 2026 is:

6th August – Gill Deacon

3rd September – Tony and Ann Simpson

Autumn clean of churchyard and church

Make a diary note to come along on Saturday 17th October to keep our Grade 1 listed church and churchyard in tip top condition. Everyone welcome from 10 am to 12.30 pm.

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Bell ringing on fête day

We are delighted that Julie Hartridge (née Wylde) will be bringing a group of bellringers from Lilleshall near Telford to ring a quarter peal (roughly 45 minutes) for the fête. They will start ringing at about 1pm, end up with a good cuppa at the fête!

Pub Night

is on Friday 14th August from 7pm at Eastham Memorial Hall. Come along for a drink and a catch up, everyone is welcome. Look out for the usual banner.

Eastham fête

A final reminder, if you haven't noticed the signs out there, that Eastham Fête will be held this year on Sunday 16th August on and around the Memorial Hall in Eastham.

Please remember that all the stalls are stocked by donations so this is a final appeal for saleable books, bric-a-brac, plants and cakes for the sales stalls and the tea tent and help for the stalls and activities on the day. Please contact one of the organisers if you would like to donate something, join in or if you can help in any way.

We will start to put up the fête site on Saturday 15th August starting around 10am so please just turn up and someone will find you a job.

If you can't help this year, you can still contribute, just come along and join in the fun on the day. We hope to see you there.

Raffle tickets for cash prizes

The raffle is one of the best money earners at the fête and you can't win if you don't get a ticket. The more you buy, the better your chance. Please collect and return books and takings to Celia Adams – there are lots to be sold so make sure you have your quota.

Bottles for tombola

There is a box in the church for donations, which is emptied regularly. Thanks in advance.

Bric-a-brac

Donations taken at Lower House, Eastham from 9 am to 5 pm on weekdays

The church is open for donations which can be left at the back of the church.

Celia Adams

Hanley Happenings

Anyone for tennis?

If you are interested in a game of tennis at Town Farm, Margie is happy for the courts to be used. Just give her a ring on 07796 081857 to check that they are available. Donations please to Cure Leukaemia

Village hall refurbishment

At last we have secured the funding from Malvern Hills District Council to refurbish the hall. We returned the signed contract to them on 1st July and were promised that the cash would be forthcoming by the end of the month. On that basis we are closing the village hall on 17th August for refurbishment.

The work will include a new roof, a disabled toilet and ramp access to the front door, insulation and a refurbished kitchen. We are hoping that the work will take no longer than three months, weather permitting. We will update you here as the work progresses.

Fish and chips at the village hall

Tom of Hooked and Cooked has cancelled his slot on the village hall car park for the foreseeable future due to lack of sales at his last visit. We are hoping he will bring his delicious fish and chips back in the autumn.



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Services in Stanford

Sunday 2nd August

Holy Communion at 10am

Sunday 6th September

Holy Communion at 10am

Flowers for August

Helen Nichol

Volunteers for arranging flowers in the church would be most welcome as we need one or two more months taken care of. If you would like to help please contact Alexandra 07891 346783.

Harvest

The Harvest service at St Mary's church will be on Sunday 4th October at 11am. A Harvest lunch is planned afterwards at 12.30 pm for all who would like to attend at the village hall. Please contact Alexandra on 07891 346783 or Sue Softly on 07929 479865 if you would like to come.

Churchyard

The rate of summer grass growth has been overwhelming the churchyard, so grateful thanks to Iain Patton and Chris Wall who volunteered to cut some of it back and make the drive a safer place to enter and exit.

Confirmation classes

Confirmation classes at St Mary's church are on 25th to 28th August in the evenings. See page 17.

Sylvia Isherwood

The funeral of Sylvia Jean Isherwood took place in St Mary's church on 29th June. Rev Jen Jones officiated.

We are thinking of Sylvia's family and friends at this sad time on their journey of grief and mourning.

Alexandra Winnington

Derek Patton



Derek Patton, who died on 12th June. His son Iain writes:

"Derek loved his five years in the Teme valley. Up-rooted by Covid, he adored trips to Mill Farm to have coffee with Steve at The Den and see John at Baileys. Getting older, we took a big decision over a year ago to get him back to his wider family in Co Down where he was surrounded by the huge community of children he had taught, alongside members of the farming, church and village communities he knew. He died in June and is now buried alongside Mum who died in the valley at the end of the pandemic. Stanford did its bit, giving him a welcome home for some testing years. Thank you, Stanford."

Iain Patton

Kyre Park Garden



The Park consists of five lakes, waterfalls, follies, a Grade II listed Jacobean barn, a ruin and a Norman dovecote

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Suggested donation of £3.50

Dogs are welcome in the Park
and allowed off leads if kept under control
No cycles allowed in the grounds

Kyre Park, Tenbury Wells WR15 8RW

Activities at Eastham Memorial Hall

- Pilates – on Tuesdays at 1.10pm and 2.20pm. For details or a taster session please contact Sue on 07974 343609 or sue579@icloud.com. Starts again on 8th September.
- Yoga – every Wednesday at 10am. Ring Zoe on 07962 981456 or see www.zedyoga.co.uk. Taster sessions available. Starts again on 16th September.
- Fitball – Rejuven8 Fitness & Wellbeing is running a fitball class at Eastham village hall every Thursday afternoon from 1.30 to 2.30pm. Fitball offers a variety of exercises using a yoga ball, which can help improve strength, balance, coordination and flexibility. It is good fun and suitable for all abilities. If you would like to come and give it a go, please contact Michelle on 07837 359403. There is a WhatsApp group that keeps everyone up to date: contact Michelle for details.

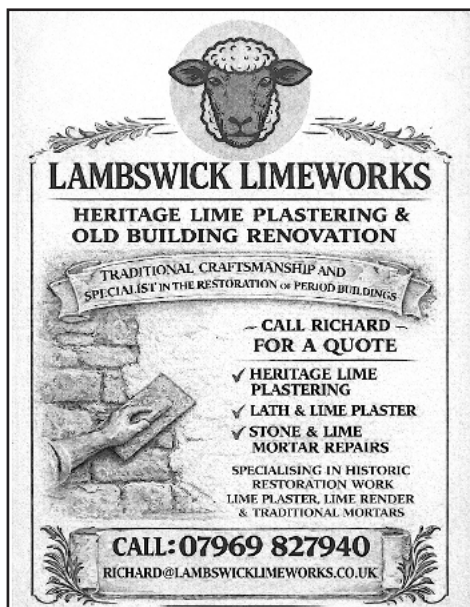
Classes will continue during August as long as there are enough numbers.

Rock Bridge Club

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It's official – the country is getting hotter!

Last month's heatwave was the third in what has become a remarkable year. As Amy Doherty, Met Office science manager, explains: "We're only halfway through summer, yet 2026 has already delivered more days above 30C than the whole of 1976 and become the first year on record to reach 35C in May, June and July. The warmth hasn't been confined to the daytime, with overnight temperatures tracking at record levels for this time of year. The high humidity so far has also been unusual, making conditions particularly uncomfortable."

"We are in a new climate now," Mike Kendon, Met Office climate scientist, said. "The climate in terms of temperature of the 20th century has gone. What used to be extreme is now becoming normal and what used to be normal is now actually quite cold."

In the 20th century one in five years were so cool that they failed to reach 30C anywhere in the UK, but these days 30C or more is routine every year. In the last century that only happened one year in ten, on average.

"Every year is adding to the body of evidence showing climate change in the UK," Kendon said. "We are right now living in a time of historic and unprecedented change and in terms of temperature, on annual, seasonal, monthly and daily timescales, this evidence shows that the climate of the 20th century has now gone."

The Filling Station

There is no meeting in August but we look forward to welcoming you to our September get-together on Thursday 17th September.

We look forward to seeing you at our evenings 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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Sylvia Breakwell

Sylvia left Eastham and moved to retirement accommodation in Tenbury only a few months ago; it was a shock to Eastham when she died suddenly aged 88. On 30th June a large group of family, friends and neighbours gathered at Wyre Forest Crematorium to give thanks for her life and to celebrate the unique contribution she made to Eastham and the surrounding community. Her family provided a comprehensive tribute and a photographic history during the service which also included the reading of a poem, Garden Parade Day, written by Sylvia in March 2006 which mentioned about 25 species of birds. A reception was held at The Peacock Inn.

Sylvia moved to Eastham with her husband, Clive in the early 1960s. She was born and brought up at Field Farm, Berrington, one of ten children. Growing up with seven sisters and two brothers ensured life was always lively and full of fun. Sylvia and Clive raised two sons.

Sylvia and Clive shared a love of dancing, travelling far and wide to meet friends and to perfect their skills. The family chose "Dancing Queen" as the exit music for the cremation service! Following Clive's death in 2002, Sylvia gradually regained her determination and enjoyed many adventures with her sister Phyllis, including trips to Australia



and New Zealand.

Sylvia was deeply involved in village life. She served on Eastham Parish Council for a number of years and even after leaving the council, rarely missed the bi-monthly meetings, attending faithfully as an interested observer for more than 25 years.

For many people, however, Sylvia will be remembered for her outstanding support of the Eastham Fête and Flower Show. The Home-craft and Preserves Cup was a familiar sight at Little Acre, reflecting her remarkable success over many years. Sylvia supported the fête from its beginning, taking part in the very first event and still entering classes at the 57th fête last year. Her jams were legendary; year after year she won the preserves classes. Last year she generously shared her Victoria sponge recipe in the fête schedule. She also excelled in handicrafts, painting, poetry and craftwork, frequently achieving the highest points across several sections.

Sylvia's enthusiasm, competitive spirit, kindness and willingness to encourage others enriched our village life for many years. Her beautiful entries, wise advice and friendly smile will be greatly missed by everyone involved with the fête and by the wider Eastham community.

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Two Soay sheep at Hollow Meadow

Our front cover photograph this month, which was taken by Maggie Kingston, is of two Soay sheep who live at Hollow Meadow, Stoke Bliss. Maggie writes:

“These Soays are celebrating their first year at Hollow Meadow. Eric is now three years old and Larry is two. They travelled down from the Staffordshire borders and bonded with the two Cotswold X sheep, Freckles and Wry. The Cotswolds taught them the land boundary and how to manage Maggie (make sure you only go

for shearing after she has given you treats!). The Soays reciprocated by widening the Cotswolds' diet to include bramble and nettle.

“Together they do a great management job on the slopes and look forward to tidying up the main Meadow now it has been cut and baled. Plenty of their favourite meadowsweet to nibble; it works wonders for the stiff legs as they race up and down the slope!

“If you would like to visit and learn more about Hollow Meadow just email hollowmeadow23@gmail.com to arrange a visit.”



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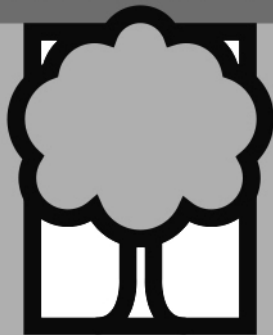
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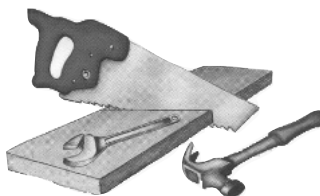
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What's on at The Regal in August

Arts screening

Sun 9th 6.00pm André Rieu's Summer Concert:
Viva Maastricht

Film

Fri 14th 1.00pm Moana (PG) – Singalong
Mon 17th 1.00pm Moana (PG)
Wed 19th 1.00pm Moana (PG)
Sat 22nd Noon Children's Cinema Club:
Minions and Monsters (U)

Live Music

Sat 15th 7.30pm The Orbison Project
Sat 22nd 4.00pm Supergirl (12A)

What's on at The Regal in September

Live Music

Sat 19th 7.30pm Harvest – A Celebration of
Neil Young

Live Theatre

Wed 16th 7.30pm Don't Go Into The Cellar presents
The Time Machine
Fri 25th 7.30pm The (almost) Complete History
of Britain

Live Entertainment

Fri 18th 7.30pm An Audience with Brian Blessed

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Deadline for the next issue of TemeTalk is 18th August

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Sunday 9 August, 6pm



ON SCREEN
Moana (PG) | Friday 14, Monday 17 &
Wednesday 19 August, 1pm



ON STAGE
The Orbison Project
Saturday 15 August, 7.30pm



ON SCREEN
Children's Cinema Club | Minions and
Monsters (U) | Saturday 22 August, 12pm



ON SCREEN
Supergirl (12A)
Saturday 22 August, 4pm



ON STAGE
Don't Go Into The Cellar presents The
Machine | Wednesday 16 September, 7.30pm



ON STAGE
An Audience with Brian Blessed
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3. Most handsome dog
4. Most obedient
5. Golden oldie (over 9 years)
6. Cutest Heinz 57 (over 2 years)
7. Dog who can retrieve best
8. Best young handler (under 14 years)
9. Best in show wins a prize



Entries from 12 noon, £2 per entry

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Ancient stories for contemporary wisdom

Elvis sang, "Are you lonesome tonight?" and the story continues with God making sure that Adam is not lonely. We left the story with Adam in the garden tending and keeping it. He was enjoying the fruits of creation and recognising the limits of consumerism.

But Adam was doing it on his own. The myth tells of God creating and Adam naming all the animals. While animals can – and do – provide friendship, none of them quite fulfilled the role God was looking for. What the story says God wanted for Adam was an "ezer" usually being translated as "helper". But that translation doesn't do justice to the word. That same word, ezer, is used in the Old Testament to describe God. One of the many examples is Psalm 33, 20 where the psalmist says, "The Lord ... is our help (ezer)". What God wanted for

Adam was someone to be godlike for him!

And the account of how God goes about providing the "ezer" is also one where our understanding of language can let us down. Most translations talk of Adam going in to a deep sleep and God taking a rib and making a woman from it. But the Hebrew word translated "rib" is "tsela". It means "side". It's a word used in architecture to describe the side of a house or other structure. In the Genesis myth, God separates one side of Adam from the other to create for each a Godlike helper. It's a story about mutuality and support. It's not, as it so often has been used, a story about superiority / inferiority.

That ancient story has much wisdom for our relationships today and recognising men and women as godlike helpers.

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Creamy Tuscan chicken



Ingredients

2 tbsp plain flour
1 tbsp smoked paprika
2 tsp oregano
4 skin-on chicken breasts
80g/3oz sundried tomatoes
chopped, plus 1 tbsp oil from the jar (or use olive oil)
4 garlic cloves
finely grated or crushed
125ml/4fl oz white wine
250ml/9fl oz chicken stock
200g/7oz spinach
150ml/¼ pint double cream
75g/2½ oz grated parmesan

Method

Combine the flour, paprika and oregano in a medium bowl, then add the chicken breasts and toss to coat. Heat the oil in a large frying pan over a medium heat and cook the chicken breasts, skin-side down, for 4-5 mins until the skin is golden brown. Turn over and cook for another 4-5 mins until golden on both sides. Remove to a plate and set aside.

Scatter in the sundried tomatoes and garlic and cook for 1 min, then add the wine and cook for 2-3 mins until the alcohol has evaporated. Return the chicken to the pan, then pour in the stock and simmer for 5 mins. Add the spinach and cook for a further 5-10 mins until the chicken has cooked all the way through and the spinach has wilted. Pour in the double cream, stir in half the parmesan and cook for 1-2 mins to heat through. Serve the chicken over cooked rice, if you like, with the remaining parmesan and parsley sprinkled over the top.

Serves 4

Make this dish up to two days ahead and store covered in the fridge. Reheat on the stove in a covered saucepan over a low-medium heat until piping hot.

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The day I met a man in a cupboard with a knife

Once upon a time, when TemeTalk was young and was actually called Teme Valley South News, back in the day when it had advertisements on the front cover like the Times used to, it was printed in the Bromyard Resource Centre on an electronic stencil cutter. When the Resource Centre closed, the stencil cutter was sold to a parish not far away where it was looked after by a man called, I don't know, let's call him Duncan.

The first time I took the magazine to Duncan to be printed he asked me to stay and help, to make sure he got it all right. I arrived at the parish hall at 9 o'clock, as he had asked, to find no Duncan, no sign of the machine and a ladies' keep fit class in full swing.

Eventually Duncan arrived. He introduced himself and, instead of apologising for being late, said "I expect you thought I would be taller". As I had only corresponded with him by email, I really hadn't formed any opinion about his height.

He then marched me across the hall, scattering the keep fit ladies in all directions, and into a cupboard. It was quite a big cupboard but definitely a cupboard. In it was the stencil cutter, which was about the size of an old-fashioned photocopier, as well as racks of equipment for toddler groups and craft sessions and whatever else happened in the hall.

We started work and all went well until Dun-

can said he had to go home to see his disabled wife. He lived next door, so wouldn't be long and he would bring me back a coffee. When the coffee arrived it was in the dirtiest mug I had ever seen. It looked as though someone had been painting and had used it for washing the brushes, with streaks of all different colours inside and out. I managed to hide it behind some toys on the shelf. As I turned around, Duncan was holding a very large knife. "I bet you didn't think you'd be in a cupboard with a strange man with a knife this morning" he said, as he bent to cut open a new box of paper.

We finished the job and after that he managed to do it on his own without my help, although there were hiccups. It was then that I started numbering the pages. And one day his collating machine broke down and we brought home eight piles of 700 sheets. We managed to recruit a couple of young girls who worked for us on the caravan park and we arranged the piles around the kitchen island and walked round and round until we had 700 collated magazines and we were all dizzy.

When Duncan decided to retire I went as quickly as I could to Orphans Press in Leominster and that's when Teme Valley South became TemeTalk.

SG



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Lessons from history



The ancient Greeks warned about it and so did Shakespeare ..

Icarus flew too close to the sun so it melted his wings and he fell to earth; Macbeth spoke of "vaulting ambition" before his fall.

I recently read about a man born in 1800 whose real life story is one of excessive exuberance and greed, followed by a fall.

George Hudson was born near York. By the age of six both his parents had died and he was raised by his older brothers. By the age of 20 he had served an apprenticeship and then married the daughter of the business. He was quite astute and by 1827 he owned the largest business in York. In 1827 he was left about £30,000 (about £2.7million today) in his uncle's will, just as the country was building railways at rates to shame our HS2 efforts today.

In the 1840s over 5,000 miles of rail track was laid. It was railway mania, and George piled in.

Fortunes were made (and some lost) but George just got richer and richer. He supported new rail projects and bought into others, Later he began merging independent rail companies to connect more towns and cities and actually make more sense of a growing network.

His fame and wealth kept growing. By the early 1840s his railway investments were enormous, he had support from investors for every new project, in 1836 he was Lord Mayor of the City of York and by 1845 an MP in Westminster. He was one of the richest men in the country.

Things then started to go downhill. He suffered from gout. His railway investments made on borrowed money were not so profitable. He fraudulently raised money to pay dividends to keep ventures afloat (by over-valuing properties ... remind you of anyone?).

He lost his seat in parliament. No longer an MP, he faced the risk of jail so he left for exile in France.

He returned to Yorkshire in 1864 and was very soon remanded in York debtors prison. A year later he was in debtors prison in London and was sued for fraud by some railway companies. He again left to live abroad.

In 1870 the Abolition of Imprisonment for Debt Act allowed him to return to England without going to jail.

He died in London in 1871. His body was taken by train from Euston Station to York where the hearse drove through the streets. Many turned out to pay their last respects.

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Teme Valley Wildlife

The Teme Valley Wildlife Group organised a second local wildlife survey this summer, the chosen site being an area of Worcestershire meadowland tucked away in the village of Stoke Bliss. Last year's meeting also included grassland, but the setting of Nash churchyard in Shropshire, although equally remote, felt quite different.



A bright yellow common rockrose

Such surveys have attracted the rather Star Wars-ish title of "bioblitzes", where a group of wildlife enthusiasts descend for a few hours to note down all the plants, birds, animals and insects which they happen to see. We were fortunate that both days saw sunny weather, meaning that mobile creatures were likely to be out and about, rather than hiding from wind or rain. Each event was open to all.

Stoke Bliss's Hollow Meadow is situated on a smallholding long managed for the benefit of wildlife. Lower lying meadowland has a stream running through it, and a pond has been created to increase its habitat opportunities. Slightly higher ground affords sunny banks, perfect for

butterflies and more delicate wildflowers. As our group enjoys the expertise of the county's moth recorder, a series of temporary traps emitting alluring pheromones was set up to allow us to see some very secretive moths. These were members of the clearwing family, a very pretty variety of moth distinguished by a trans-parent "window-pane"

area in the centre of each wing. Two types, the orange-tailed and the red-belted clearwings, were trapped almost immediately. Although they are day-flying moths, I've never actually seen one on the wing.

Dragonflies patrolled the stream whilst I helped to look at the flowers on the grassy bank. Low-growing yellow rockrose was abundant in one area, overtopping some of the ancient ant tumps. Lady's bedstraw, usually a tall plant, was stunted as it clung on in the same places. Medicinal betony and edible salad burnet, the latter has faceted globe flowerheads, were just coming into bloom.

Continued on page 24

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Continued from page 23

The grassland is kept short by a small flock of rare-breed Soay sheep, who were obliged to look on as we did our work in their usual pasture. We're lucky in the Teme valley to have small pockets of land which have never been brought into intense cultivation. Remote, hilly and inaccessible places contribute to a legacy of traditional meadow plants

which are a joy to see.

One of my co-workers asked me about a form of wildlife which I don't find a joy to see – my local muntjacs. I explained that although they're still visiting, I've managed to protect some flowers with canes and copious amounts of black cotton. Only crocuses and phlox have been deer-pruned this year. I could also report that Mitzi has a new partner, Malcolm, a smaller, lighter coloured and shorter-horned buck than her former beau, Marmaduke. I even felt sympathy for them, because I discovered a perfect, but dead, fawn lying beneath the large-leaved Gunnera plant in my front garden. There was nothing to indicate why it had died – RIP, little one.

The next meeting of the Teme Valley Wildlife Group will be at 7.30pm on Thursday 13th August at Stoke Bliss and Kyre Village Hall. We welcome Ellie Williams whose talk will be on the special wildlife to be found in meres and mosses. It is called "White-faced darters and the mosses". Members and friends are welcome; it is just £3 on the door.

Stephanie Macroft

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, newsletter and bird survey are available on our website at www.teme-valley-wildlife.org. We hold meetings on the second Thursday of the month from January to November. Everyone is welcome.



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Regal Tenbury's Giant Christmas Adventure

The wait is over! Tickets are now on sale for the Regal's spectacular 2026 pantomime, Jack and the Beanstalk, running from 11th to 31st December. This year's production promises to be the theatre's biggest festive adventure yet, taking audiences on a magical journey that reaches far beyond the clouds.

The Regal's latest production puts an exciting new twist on the beloved fairy tale, transporting the classic story into a dazzling 1950s sci-fi universe filled with glowing space beans, cosmic adventures, friendly aliens and plenty of festive fun.

When Jack swaps Pat the Cow for a handful of mysterious beans, he discovers a magical beanstalk that stretches beyond the stars. What follows is an unforgettable adventure packed with laugh-out-loud comedy, fantastic songs, audience participation, dazzling special effects and an epic showdown with the giant.

This year's season has been designed to ensure there truly is something for everyone at the



Regal. Alongside the traditional family performances, audiences can also enjoy:

- A brand-new Gala Performance, adding an extra touch of festive sparkle to the season with canapés and drinks plus a chance to meet the fantastic actors.
- The return of the hugely popular adult pantomime performances offering a cheekier, after-dark twist on the classic story.
- A relaxed performance featuring adapted lighting and sound levels to create a more

accessible and welcoming environment for audience members who may benefit from a more sensory-friendly experience.

A spokesperson for Regal Tenbury said, "We're thrilled to finally launch ticket sales for Jack and the Beanstalk. Every year our pantomime gets bigger and more ambitious and we want everyone to experience the magic of pantomime at the Regal".

Tickets on sale now at <https://bit.ly/4pmLS2l>

Fee-fi-fo-fum ... the panto you've BEAN waiting for is officially on sale!

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TemeTalk

Deadline 18th August

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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What's on in Teme Valley South

August

2nd	Sunday	Tai Chi and a cup of tea, Hollow Meadow, Stoke Bliss, 10.30am
6th	Thursday	Eastham Coffee Morning, Eastham Memorial Hall, 10.30am
8th	Saturday	Steam Train Day at The Hyde, Stoke Bliss, 2.00pm
9th	Sunday	Iona Worship for Lammas, Hanley Village Hall, 4.00pm
14th	Friday	Pub Night, Eastham Memorial Hall, 7.00pm
16th	Sunday	Eastham Fête, Eastham Memorial Hall, 12 noon Bellringing for the Fête, Eastham Church, 1.00pm Tai Chi and a cup of tea, Hollow Meadow, Stoke Bliss, 10.30am
19th	Wednesday	Churchyard tidy session, St Peter's Stoke Bliss, 10.00am
25th	Tuesday	Rochford Neighbourhood Lunch, Rochford Village Hall, 12.30pm
25th to 28th		Exploring Hidden Treasure, St Mary's Church, Stanford, 7.00pm
26th	Friday	Summer Barbecue, Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall, 6.00pm
28th	Friday	Stoke Bliss & Kyre Summer Barbecue, Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall, 6.00pm
30th	Sunday	Tai Chi and a cup of tea, Hollow Meadow, Stoke Bliss, 10.30am

September

3rd	Thursday	Eastham Coffee Morning, Eastham Memorial Hall, 10.30am
5th	Saturday	Supper and a Talk, Clifton upon Teme Village Hall, 6.30pm
6th	Sunday	Tai Chi and a cup of tea, Hollow Meadow, Stoke Bliss, 10.30am Music on the Lawn, Harborough Bank, Shelsley Beauchamp, 4.00pm
13th	Sunday	Iona Worship for Creationtide, Hanley Village Hall, 4.00pm
17th	Thursday	The Filling Station, Eastham Memorial Hall, 7.15pm
19th	Saturday	Big Breakfast, Rochford Village Hall, 9.30am Stoke Bliss Ploughing March, Leysters Farm HR6 0HS, 10.00am <i>Into the Breach</i> by Stratford Theatre Co, Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall, 7.30pm
20th	Sunday	Tai Chi and a cup of tea, Hollow Meadow, Stoke Bliss, 10.30am
25th	Friday	Social Night with Bingo, Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall, 7.00pm
29th	Tuesday	Rochford Neighbourhood Lunch, Rochford Village Hall, 12.30pm

October

1st	Thursday	Eastham Coffee Morning, Eastham Memorial Hall, 10.30am
4th	Sunday	Harvest Service, St Mary's Stanford, 11.00am <i>followed by</i> Harvest Lunch, Stanford Village Hall, 12.30pm
11th	Sunday	Harvest Fesitval, Rochford Church
17th	Saturday	Autumn clean of churchyard and church, Eastham church, 10.00am
27th	Tuesday	Rochford Neighbourhood Lunch, Rochford Village Hall, 12.30pm

November

5th	Thursday	Eastham Coffee Morning, Eastham Memorial Hall, 10.30am
24th	Tuesday	Rochford Neighbourhood Lunch, Rochford Village Hall, 12.30pm

**Send items for inclusion to Sandra Griffiths by 18th of the previous month
telephone 07482 482629 or email ronsmum@icloud.com**

Services

August/September 2026

Daily prayer continues at 9am and 7pm on Zoom, contact Rev'd Julia if you would like to join us.

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

Services Schedule

Sunday 2nd August

10.00am	Stanford Church	Holy Communion with hymns
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Sunday 9th August

9.30am	Stoke Bliss Church	Holy Communion
11.00am	Hanley William Church	Morning Prayer
4.00pm	Hanley Village Hall	Iona Communion for Lammass

Sunday 16th August

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

Sunday 23rd August

10.00am	Rochford Church	All Age Worship and Holy Communion
4.00pm	Kyre Church	Celtic Evening Prayer

Sunday 30th August

9.30am	Hanley Village Hall	Café Church
3.00pm	Old St Bartholomew Church, Lower Sapey	Thanksgiving Service with choir

Sunday 6th September

10.00am	Stanford Church	Holy Communion with hymns
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