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January/February 2025

*Wishing all our readers a happy
and peaceful New Year*

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TemeTalk

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A community going forward with God

January/February 2025

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

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Telephone 01568 750665
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Printed by
Orphans Press, Leominster

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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

*'Continuity' – the fact of something continuing
for a long period of time without being
changed or stopped*

With each passing year the seasons come and go and the church year continues the liturgical cycle. As I write it is New Year's eve 2024 and as you read, this event may well seem like quite a while ago.

In the church calendar we celebrated the birth of Jesus, then in January the arrival of the Magi or Wise Men and now on 2nd February it's Candlemas. Here we celebrate the presentation of the baby Jesus in the Temple and purification of his mother Mary.

This day marks the completion of forty days since his birth. Joseph and Mary bring the baby Jesus into the temple and there are two people who for many years have been awaiting this moment: a fragile old man named Simeon who acclaims the baby as 'the light to enlighten the nations' and with him the prophet Anna who proclaims Jesus as her Redeemer.

The festival of Candlemas is celebrated, of course, with lots of lighted candles. These lights signify that 'Jesus is the light shining in the darkness and the darkness did not overcome it'. These words were announced forty days ago in the reading from John's gospel that was read at Christmas services in churches across the world.

At Candlemas, Anna takes on the role of evangelist, preaching to all the people of God that the Messiah has come to redeem the world. Simeon and Anna have seen salvation with their own eyes, they hand this salvation on to others, on to us, and this becomes our role too.

'Continuity' – here over 2000 years on we are called to share that light, to share the message of hope and salvation to all the world.

*Rev Jen Jones
Assistant Curate*

Thanks to Rev'd Julia for this month's cover photograph of snowdrops

TemeTalk
deadline 18th February

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We are open from 9am to 1pm Monday to Friday
We look forward to hearing from you



Teme Valley South Contacts

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stanfordwithorletonvillagehall@gmail.com

Harriett Baldwin MP

Member of Parliament for West Worcestershire

Harriett Baldwin MP can help constituents with a wide range of issues.

To contact Harriett, please write to her at the House of Commons, email harriett.baldwin.mp@parliament.uk or call her constituency office on 01684 585 165.

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Parish news

Teme Valley Tots

Our Tots group continues to meet on Fridays from 10.30am to 12 noon at Rochford village hall. We look forward to seeing you on 10th January. We will take a half-term break on 14th February. For more information do contact Tina on tinaslord@gmail.com.

What's better than one Rev'd Jen? Two!

We are delighted to say that in the New Year the Rev'd Jen Denniston, from Harpley, will be licensed as an associate priest with the benefice of Teme Valley South, within the Muddy Boots Rural Mission area. The service will take place on 12th January at 10.30am at All Saints, Shelsley Beauchamp, led by the Archdeacon of Worcester. All are most welcome to attend and our Area Dean will also be with us. Jen's ministry will continue to be primarily focussed on the communities of Lower Saprey (Harpley), The Shelsleys and Clifton. As with all of us, including our curate Jen Jones, Jen Denniston will be working collaboratively across our communities.

Do pray for Rev'd Jen Denniston as she prepares to take this next step in her ministry, giving thanks for all she has already offered amongst us and looking forward to all that is to come.

Training for leading prayers

Would you love to read or lead prayers in a church service, but need a confidence boost before you try? Please get in touch if you would like to have a taster and some training by emailing expressions of interest to assistantstvspcc@gmail.com.

Do you need help?

A new year can be an anxious time, so below are some suggestions of where you might turn for help if you are struggling a bit at the moment:

• Pastoral team and ministry team

A group of us work together to offer a confidential listening ear across the parishes of Teme Valley South. We are happy to talk via phone calls or to visit and our details are in this magazine and on the Teme Valley South Churches website.

• Loans

Malvern Hills District Council offers a No Interest Loans Scheme (NILS) for those on low income or benefits. There is a maximum loan of £300 to help with necessary items such as the purchase of white goods, medical appliances and school uniform. You can find more details on their website www.malvernhillsnils.co.uk

• Trusts

We are very lucky to have two historic trusts in this area, which were set up by generous benefactors of the past. They are able to offer small grants to assist people who are coping with illness or life's hardships. Please contact Rev'd Julia or Rev'd Jen Jones for a confidential chat.

Rev'd Julia

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18th February

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Rochford 49 Club

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

Wednesday winners

20th November	No 30	Not sold
27th November	No 6	Not sold
4th December	No 3	Rob Perrin
11th December	No 19	Not sold
18th December	No 38	Rod Ricketts
25th December	No 31	Rosemary Ayres
1st January	No 41	Not sold

Saturday winners

23rd November	No 56	Not sold
30th November	No 17	Not sold
7th December	No 18	Not sold
14th December	No 3	R Faulconbridge
21st December	No 8	Jane Bull
28th December	No 55	Not sold
4th January	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

Teme Valley Tote

December's prize draw, the eighth in this series, was decided when Rev'd Julia Curtis rolled the dice on 5th December to select the set of random numbers and the starting point. Prizewinners are:

£50 – **Peter Day** of Lindridge (No 143)

£30 – **Mr G Peel** of Knighton (No 623)

£20 – **Phil Ralph** of Eastham (No 285)

You can still take part in this year's series of monthly draws by contacting Robin Dean at robin.c.dean@gmail.com or call 01886 853295.

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Rochford News

Happy New Year and as the year begins we are thinking about the activities and events which will be enjoyed by Rochford residents and the wider community. Looking back over the previous year we had a pancake evening, lambing church, the garden party, the village fête, music events, a quiz and wassail together with monthly neighbourhood lunches and Teme Valley Tots. Thanks to everyone who supported our events. If you have any suggestions of different events or activities you think would be good for Rochford, please let us know and get involved.

Christmas in Rochford

Christmas was well celebrated in Rochford and thanks to everyone who helped with and supported all the Christmas events. Over 90 people enjoyed Ann's Christmas lunches and we had a full church for the Carol Service. We had another full church at the midnight service on Christmas Eve with mince pies and mulled wine – many thanks to Jon Adams for the lovely Christmas tree in the church. Huge thanks to Ann who provided over 100 Christmas lunches and hundreds of mince pies, we are so lucky to have her.

Neighbourhood lunch

It was great to see so many people sit down for the Christmas neighbourhood lunch. Dates for sit down and takeaway neighbourhood lunches are 28th January, 25th February, 25th March, 29th April, 27th May and 24th June. 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.

Pancake evening

Rochford pancake evening is on Shrove Tuesday, 4th March at 7pm in Rochford Village Hall. Forget cooking that evening, there will be a wonderful selection of sweet and savoury pancakes. This is open to all villages, so please book early with Ann for this popular event. Just £10, under 10s half price. There's no bar so bring your own drink.

Teme Valley Tots

Teme Valley Tots is on Fridays from 10.30 pm to 12 noon at Rochford village hall and is going from strength to strength. It is good to welcome new Tots to the group as the older Tots move on. Thanks to all the volunteers who help. If you are interested in helping, please contact Ann.

Snowdrop Songs of Praise

Snowdrop Songs of Praise is on 9th February at 3pm. Come and sing your favourite hymns. The service will be followed at 4 o'clock with snowdrop themed activities for all ages together with tea and cake in the village hall.

Lambing Café Church

Lambing Café Church on 2nd March at 3pm will be held at Parsonage Farm in Rochford, where the sheep will be lambing. All are welcome so come along and join in with lambing based activities.

Church flower rota

January – Sarah Forsythe

February – Jackie Hughes

March – Lent, no flowers

April – Easter lilies, Jennifer Gledhill (donations for Easter lilies please to Jennifer or Ann)

Contacts

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

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

Social & Pub Night and Quiz Night

Friday 31st January
Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall
Booking essential at
SBKVillageHall@gmail.com

Village Hall News

A happy New Year to all and very best wishes for 2025. The first thing to say is a huge thank you to those who prepared the food for the very successful Christmas lunch back in December. The hard work they put in made for a very pleasurable afternoon.

Looking ahead, the little elves on the village hall committee have been rather busy over the festive period, planning a variety of different events.

We start on Friday 31st January with a combined Quiz and Social Night. Similar to the last time with tables of no more than four, £10 a head which includes supper. A bar will also be available and perhaps particularly welcome if you observe dry(ish) January. To reserve a place please book via SBKVillageHall@gmail.com.

Behind the scenes a small team has been working hard to create a helpful and easy to use website. You can access it at www.stokeblissandkyrehall.co.uk. It is not yet fully functioning, but do have a look at the various sections and tell us what you think.

We are run as a charity and will hold our annual AGM on Wednesday 12th February at 7 pm. Come along to meet the committee, find out more about what we do and offer support or suggestions for improving in the future. Tea, coffee and delicious biscuits will be available free of charge.

In other news a small but dedicated group has been revising and updating our constitution. As a charity we are required to have one that is publicly available. This is now completed in draft form and will be discussed and adopted at the AGM. It should be available for your considered perusal on the website. Again any feedback is most welcome.

We look forward to seeing you at the village hall soon.

Take Breath

The shared quiet time at Kyre church on Friday afternoons at 4pm will pause over the next couple of months and resume on 7th March. All are welcome to join us with a short reflection to begin with followed by about 20 minutes of shared quiet. We certainly appreciate the pause and feel refreshed as we stop and still our thoughts. A good antidote to screen activities!

Snowdrops at Hollow Meadow

On Saturday 8th and Saturday 15th February you are welcome to visit Hollow Meadow, Stoke Bliss, between 2 and 4pm to enjoy the snowdrops along the stream – weather and floods permitting! There will be hot apple juice and cake too. Contact Maggie Kingston for details on 01885 410431 or at hollowmeadow23@gmail.com.



Thursday 9th January

Thursday 13th February

at Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall

12.30pm welcome, lunch served at 1pm

Two courses plus refreshments

To book: 07396 813137 or sbklunch@gmail.com

We look forward to seeing you



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Eastham Jottings

Church flowers and cleaning

January – Adrian and Joanna Worsley
February – Stuart and Josie Ward

Eastham Coffee Morning

Please come to the February coffee morning on **Thursday 6th February** at 10.30am at Eastham Memorial Hall and enjoy a coffee and a chat.

The rota for 2025 is:

6th February – Helen Matravers

The February coffee morning is on Thursday for a one month trial. This is so that the yoga class, which has now been running for four years, can be at the hall every Wednesday during term time, instead of moving to an alternative venue in the first week. Zoe Herington and her class members greatly appreciate this attempt to accommodate them.

Pub Night

There is no pub night in January (Eastham is having a dry January) so the next one is on Friday 21st February at 7pm at Eastham Memorial Hall. Watch out for the usual banner.

Eastham Memorial Hall extension

This was finished on 8th November, making a lot of extra storage space. As promised in last month's TemeTalk, here are some photographs of the new extension and of Tony Bounds and his assistant Christian Roberts finishing the job on the final day.



Christmas at Eastham church

We were delighted to forward a donation from the Christmas Day service at Eastham to the Lindridge Food Bank. Thanks to everyone who gave so generously, and thanks from Lindridge for the donation.

Crochet classes for beginners

Thursdays 9th and 16th January (in the committee room) and 23rd January from 6.30 to 9pm at Eastham Memorial Hall. Starter pack with hook and three colours and stitch markers. For further details please contact Sarah on 07527 576530.

Filling Station

Meetings on Thursday 16th January and Thursday 20th February at Eastham Memorial Hall. Everyone is welcome.

Celia Adams

Eastham Memorial Hall site tidy on Saturday 25th January

The hall grounds and sheds have become a bit of a mess again and there is lots to do to try to bring them back to some sort of order so that they do not detract from our lovely hall.

Please come along with your warm coats and gloves on Saturday 25th January at 10am, unless it is snowing or raining heavily, to help out. Strong backs and arms are needed as there are all sorts of tasks that involve lifting and carrying but we can provide warm drinks and biscuits.

The main jobs we have to do which hopefully will not have to be done again are:

- Redo the base for the fête shed and then reload it tidily.
- Clean out the hall gutters which are full of leaves.
- Reassemble the damaged fête tents so that we can see if they are salvageable. (Three of the important tents were badly damaged after the fête in the strong winds.)
- Install a new base for the old hall sign board.

Quite an ambitious list, I hear you say, but if we don't do it, who will? So please do come along and help us out. Next year there should be much less to do. If you have any questions please contact 01584 781505 or easthamfete@gmail.com.

Hope to see you there.

David Clarke

TemeTalk deadline 18th February

Hanley Happenings

Pudding night

On Saturday 18th January at 7pm. Bring a home-made or shop bought pudding to share. Prize for the best pudding, to be judged by Mr Ed Yarnold himself! Entry £2.50, small cheese board £5, pop-up bar. Please book with Lex on 07471 192649.

Table tennis at Hanley

If you would like to join in the fun come along to Hanley Village Hall on Monday evenings at 7pm.

Bats and balls are provided.

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The Herefordshire Trail

Michael Gardner has got the walking bug and now he has a new pal, Percy the dog. Along with Graham Francis and Floss, they have been walking the Herefordshire trail, a section at a time! They were fascinated to read Ed's pieces as their walk shadowed his explorations. The trail goes from church to church and they still can't quite fathom why some of the most isolated spots have large churches.

The first section they did, back in the summer, was from Edvin Ralph to Ledbury and they waxed lyrical about the glorious countryside they walked through. Vineyards, lakes and deciduous copses, each one meticulously cared for and out of view from roads.



Kilpeck church: the tympanum

On one of their more recent expeditions they came across Kilpeck church and were amazed by the stonework. They sat outside and ate their picnic – well, Michael did. Percy stole Graham's! Floss and Percy have a love hate relationship. He loves her and she snaps at him if he gets too close!

The walks usually culminate in local inns where they mull over their day and enjoy a refreshing beer.

The trail is highly recommended and is not too difficult to follow with clearly marked signage and well maintained styles. For more information go to www.herefordshiretrail.com.

Carole Gardner

Stanford • Stanford • Stanford

Services in Stanford

Sunday 5th January

Holy Communion at 10am
Evensong with choir at 4pm

Sunday 2nd February

Holy Communion at 10am
Refreshments will be served after all services

Stanford Christmas Tree Festival

27 trees were entered this year. With battery power all the lights carried on twinkling through the two power cuts. Huge thanks to John Curtis and Sue Softly for organising the festival, assisted by Daisy Mawby and all the helpers who cleared up. The people's vote prize went to Abberley Nursery School. Archdeacon Mark Badger came to judge the trees and the adult trophy went to Brockhill Estate with a woodland theme and the children's trophy to Clifton Nursery School (see pictures on page 13). The knots on the Scouts' tree decorations were much commented on!

Darkness into Light

There was a wonderful Advent service, Darkness to Light, on 1st December with battery candles and featuring the TVSPC's singing. We have been so lucky to enjoy evensong services with the choir this year and some of Hilgrove Kenrick's compositions. Thank you to all involved and to Chloe Evans for conducting. It is wonderful to have this choir based at St Mary's church.

Lost property

After the Darkness into Light service a pair of black and grey prescription glasses was found in St Mary's. Please contact me if it is yours.

Carol Service

About 70 people, including children, came to the Carol Service on Christmas Eve. There were ten readers for the nativity story and a solo of the first verse of *Once in Royal David's City* by Annika, sung by carriage lamplight. It was very special.

December's storms

December saw the most dramatic storm of the year and many people had challenging experiences. Trees were down, roads blocked, water and electricity were lost. Stanford had no power for at least three days. A large old oak tree was blown over in Jonathan Rushton's garden at Bank House.

We need a treasurer

Sadly the St Mary's Area Church Committee treasurer has resigned to return to her previous career. If you would like to volunteer to help us with book-keeping skills, or if you know anyone who could, please contact Alexandra on 07891 346783.

Daffodil Day

On 22nd March at 2pm in Stanford village hall, Daffodil Day will be a craft session with a theme of painting daffodils on tiles or making cards inspired by Stanford's masses of daffodils. There will be a short talk about daffodils. Tea and cakes. Suggested donation £5, all profits to St Mary's church.

Food to spare?

There are two boxes to help feed those in need. One is for the village and the other for Tenbury Food Bank, which will usually be in situ for the church services. We can make sure the items get to the Tenbury box if it is not there. Please donate the usual well packaged food items.

Church flowers

Flowers for January and February – Sue Softly. Many thanks to Sarah Burgoyne for December's flowers.

Alexandra Winnington

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Bible Study Group

We are a small group which meets weekly on Friday mornings to share a cuppa and a biscuit (or two) as we delve into scripture. We do this in a relaxed and easy-going way.

This is an invitation for you to accompany us as we explore the Gospel of Luke. We will be doing this using a series of six short videos and follow-up questions to guide us as we reflect on Luke's interpretation of the life of Jesus Christ.

In addition we will be joining the Muddy Boots Rural Mission Area (MBMA) in offering a weekly reflection during Lent.

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

The Filling Station

Our next meeting is on Thursday 16th January at Eastham Memorial Hall at 7.15 for a 7.30pm start. Our speaker will be Eric Stirrup, one of the founder members of the Filling Station in Tenbury, and we look forward to hearing his message to us.

We look forward to your joining us for an evening of fellowship, worship, teaching and refreshments.

Our February meeting will be on Thursday 20th February. For details please contact kate.harley6@gmail.com.

If you are not on our mailing list and would like further information or details about our meetings please contact me on kate.harley6@gmail.com.

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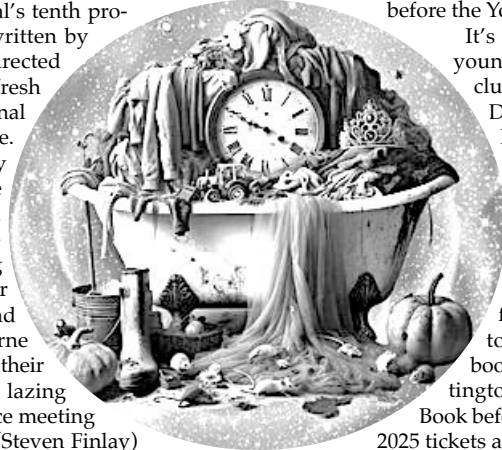
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A very good pantomime – Oh yes, it was!

What happens when a man in a striped jumper sits in the very middle of Row B at the Regal to see CinderElla? He gets picked on from the stage! Oh, no he doesn't! Oh, yes he does! I know this because when we went to the pantomime in December, that was the seat my husband chose to sit in. The two little girls we took with us now sing "Oh Brian, you're so fine ..." all the time!

CinderElla, the Regal's tenth professional pantomime written by Andrew Pollard and directed by Chris Garner, is a fresh new take on the traditional panto with a farm theme. Poor farmgirl Ella (Lily Sitzia) must do all the work on the farm, with a sprightly Buttons (Andrew McGillan) keeping her spirits up, while her Ugly Sisters Kylie and Miley (Daniel Hawthorne and Alan French) spend their time shopping and lazing around. But can a chance meeting with Prince Charming (Steven Finlay) in the woods, an invitation to the Young Farmers' Ball and a lost silver welly change everything?



Just leave it to Debra Penny's Fairy Godmother to sort it all out!

Director Chris Garner keeps the pace up, helped by Richard Fox's toe-tapping original songs, played live by Richard Fox, Peter Cabara and Andrew Gillan. But it's the Ugly Sisters who steal the show with their many hilarious costume changes and a very funny scene in the bath before the Young Farmers' Ball.

It's always nice to see local young people in the cast, including Amelia Jones as Dandini and Queen Goblin, and Cleo Pile as Young Company Apprentice, as well as lots of children running around, dancing and singing.

If you missed this year's fabulous Regal pantomime, make sure you book early to see Dick Whittington in December 2025.

Book before the end of January for 2025 tickets at 2024 prices!

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Sat 15th 7.00 TfO String Orchestra in Concert
Sat 22nd 7.30 Lindisfarne
Thu 27th 7.30 Awake my Soul: The Mumford and Sons Story

Live Theatre

- Fri 14th 7.00 Rain or Shine Theatre presents Murder Most Wilde

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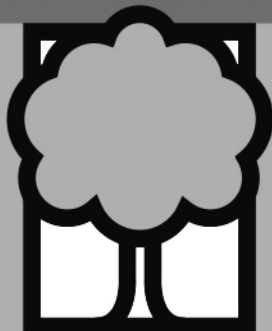
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Steamed sponge pudding with honey butterscotch sauce

If you're going to Pudding Night at Hanley Village Hall on 18th January, why not make this delicious steamed sponge pudding with honey butterscotch sauce – a real winter warmer!

Ingredients

175g butter, softened, plus extra for greasing
175g light muscovado sugar
1 tbsp honey
3 large free-range eggs
175g self-raising flour
Ice cream, to serve

For the butterscotch sauce:

50g butter
100g light muscovado sugar
150g honey, plus extra to serve
150ml double cream

Method

Generously grease a 1 litre/1¾ pint pudding basin with butter. Cream the butter and sugar together until light and fluffy. Beat in the honey, then beat in the eggs, one at a time, adding a spoonful of flour with the last egg. Fold in the remaining flour. Cover the basin with a piece of greased foil, pleated in the centre, and tie in place with string.



Place in a steamer basket over a pan of boiling water, cover with the lid, and steam for 2 hours, topping up the pan with boiling water if needed.

To make the butterscotch sauce, place the butter, sugar and honey in a pan over a low heat, stirring until all the ingredients have melted and combined. Stir in the cream and keep warm.

To serve, remove the foil from the pudding basin and carefully run a knife around the edge of the basin to loosen the pudding. Cover with an inverted plate and turn out. Cut into wedges and serve with the honey butterscotch sauce, ice cream and more honey if you like.



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Stanford History Group Spring Lectures

Stanford History Group's second spring programme of five consecutive lectures begins on Monday 3rd February at 7.30pm at Upper Sapey village hall.

Our aim is to cover a wide range of topics including music, the arts, travel and scientific/technical subjects. Lectures are delivered by experienced specialists who are keen to share their knowledge and personal experience.

Topics include solving the mystery of the disappearance of vessels sent to explore the North

West Passage in 1845. What we know, and what we do not know, about the origins of the universe. Colour in Victorian Britain, when life was not as sombre as many believe.

The cost is £10 per lecture, payable at the door, or £30 for the five lecture course. For more information contact Simon Neary on 01584 781698 or simon.neary1@googlemail.com, or visit our website <https://stanfordhistorygroup.com> which is regularly updated.

The Spring Cultural Series

Date	Subject	Presenter
3rd February	Captain Cook: The Man behind the Legend	Seb Coulthard <i>Fellow, Royal Geographic Society</i>
10th February	The Rise of Nationalism in C19th Europe and its Impact on Music	Dr Paul Rodmell, <i>Senior Lecturer University of Birmingham</i>
17th February	The Colour Revolution in Victorian Art, Fashion & Design	Dr Madeline Hewitson <i>Research Fellow, University of Birmingham Art History</i>
24th February	The History of the Universe	Prof Trevor Ponman <i>Emeritus Professor of Astrophysics University of Birmingham</i>
3rd March	Sir John Franklin's Northwest Passage and the discovery of HMS Erebus	Sarah Scriver Coulthard, <i>Fellow Royal Canadian Geographic Society</i>

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LIVE MUSIC

FO String Orchestra in Concert Sat 15 Feb, 7pm

INTERACTIVE FAMILY SHOW

Party Animals with Corner Exotics Tue 18 Feb, 2pm

BROADCAST

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LIVE MUSIC

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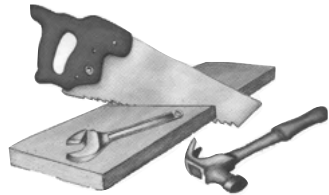
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The Fox Inn hosts Bill Boatwright cup

On a cold and windy December evening the great and the good of the Bromyard Crib League gathered at the Fox Inn at Hanley Broadheath for a crib drive. As a break from the usual league matches, this annual event is an opportunity to socialise with players from other teams and to compete to hold the magnificent Bill Boatwright cup for the coming year.

Eighteen pairs of players took part. They came from as far away as Much Cowarne and Pencombe, from Bredenbury and Bromyard and from Clifton. Each pair played five games of crib, the loser of the first game moving to a new table after each one.

The winners of the trophy were Malcolm Wood and John Ford. The only couple representing the



The Bill Boatwright Memorial Cup

home team, Brian and Sandra Griffiths, came fourth. Pat Mullen and Ray Neave won the wooden spoon!

The evening was a great success, with delicious food served by Sharon and her team and a glittering array of raffle prizes.

Thanks to Ray Neave of the Lion crib team for organising the event and making sure it ran smoothly, to Sharon for her excellent hosting and to everyone who came along.

- If you would like to join the Fox Inn crib team please let me know – we are always on the lookout for new players. Tuition can be given! Games are on Wednesday evenings at 8.30, either at the Fox or away.

SG



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Rochford's stained glass windows

At the All Souls service in November, Rev'd Julia gave a fascinating sermon about the stained glass windows at Rochford church. Several people asked for a precis of the keypoints, so here they are.

The way we remember our loved ones is individual to each of us. We may have a favourite place or have their photo to hand or come to the side of somebody's grave and say a silent prayer or talk to them. As we look around Rochford church, the memory of particular individuals is through more permanent items such as stained glass.

At the back of the church there is a striking stained-glass window from the studio of William Morris & Co in Westminster. It depicts St Michael the Archangel and is in memory of Selina, wife of WE Maund, a long-time worshipper here, who lived at Cold Green, or Coal Green as it was then.

On the left hand side of the nave is the window in memory of Warwick and Jennifer Gledhill's son Kieron Gledhill and the candle holder remembers their daughter Nicola. They both died so unexpectedly. The window to the left of the altar is a lovely springtime scene in memory of Hilda and Cliff Johnson, who were lifelong worshippers at Rochford church.

Above the altar is a window that depicts the nativity, an early William Morris design by Morris Marshall, Faulkner & Co. Research shows that the original watercolour drawing for it is in the Burne-Jones catalogue and held in a collection in San Marino, California. The two larger angels were indeed designed by William Morris and the middle panel and the angels at the top were designed by Edward Burne-Jones, who was very familiar with this area. He was from Birmingham but visited Shelsley Beauchamp, just along the Teme, on many occasions. The flower design on the panels also appears in glass in William Morris' family home, The Red House in Bexleyheath, where he lived between 1860 and 1865.

If you look carefully, this window also has an inscription running along the bottom which reads, *"In memoriam Sarah Constantia Clark, obit 2nd*



November 1863". But who on earth was Sarah Constantia Clark? She's not buried in Rochford churchyard but in a cemetery in London close to where William Morris's company offices were in Red Lion Square. She was born in Jamaica in 1835, baptised in 1862 in London, married in June 1863 to stockbroker Frederick Clark but sadly died on 2nd November 1863, just a few short months afterwards, at just 29 years old and is buried in Kensal Green Cemetery with her sister Agnes who died in 1881. So we find ourselves with a rather special memorial window and a bit of a mystery. We

know a bit about who Sarah was and we know a bit about the window itself but the connection we are currently missing is why is she remembered here in Rochford in this particular way. That's the thing about memory; we don't always need to know the whys and wherefores or even to be able to express and process all of our feelings to be able to respect and honour someone's life.

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Teme Valley Wildlife

Dear, oh deer! It had not been my intention to write about deer but a large female muntjac appeared in my garden and as muntjac are notorious for grazing all known garden plants, I took heed of her presence, in broad daylight, in front of my windows where she generally made herself conspicuous and loitered for photographs, and decided it was wise to change my mind.



Muntjac are one of the six breeds of deer living in Britain today. They are not native and therefore arguably not a suitable subject for this article, but they are easily the most common deer to be seen in the Teme valley. Their numbers have increased over the last thirty years and I have noticed them particularly frequently since the pandemic lockdown. I have come across as many as three animals together, usually in the early morning or evening, and now see them during the daytime too. Last summer I watched a buck come across a sunny field towards me as I stood in the shade of

some trees. He looked at me with some curiosity, coming forward with tentative steps, but then thought better of himself and dived into a thick bramble patch. This was the first time I had seen a muntjac head on, and I was struck by his very attractive striped face and neat short horns. Before that, my sight-

ings had always been from behind, where a sloping back and shortish rear legs prompted the thought, "what an odd-looking dog".

Muntjac are, indeed, dog size, about the same as a labrador, and hail originally from the subtropical forests of south-east Asia. More correctly they are known as Reeves' Muntjac, named after a John Reeves (1774-1856), once a tea inspector for the East India Company. The word muntjac originates from Indonesia, but Reeves saw his first specimens in China. They came to Britain in 1894, to grace the Duke of Bedford's deer park at Woburn, but soon escaped it and were first noted

Continued on page 24



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Continued from page 23

in the wild in the 1920s. Despite Britain's climate being decidedly far from "sub-tropical", the little deer settled in well and now live across the whole of England, much of Wales and have recently reached Scotland.

Another name for the muntjac is "barking deer". This has arisen because of the very loud and rather distressing bark that the female emits when she is seeking a mate. The sound is a cross between a cough and a shriek and apparently is used shortly after a female has given birth. There is no breeding season as such, a female can produce a faun, usually just one, at any time of year. Their rich red-brown coat changes to a darker hue in the winter, which was indeed sported by my garden visitor who, my neighbours informed me, had been barking loudly in a nearby orchard a week or so before.

The next meeting of the Teme Valley Wildlife Group will be at 7.30pm on Thursday 13th February at Stoke Bliss and Kyre Village Hall. We welcome Richard Gosling whose talk will describe how the RSPB goes about investigating crime against wild birds. Members and friends are all welcome, it is just £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 We normally hold meetings on the second Thursday of the month. All are welcome. Contact us by email at twwg@outlook.com



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What's on in Teme Valley South

January

- 9th Thursday Stoke Bliss & Kyre Neighbourhood Lunch, Village Hall, 12.30pm
Crochet Class, Eastham Memorial Hall, 6.30pm
- 16th Thursday Crochet Class, Eastham Memorial Hall, 6.30pm
The Filling Station, Eastham Memorial Hall, 7.15pm
- 18th Saturday Pudding Night, Hanley Village Hall, 7pm
- 23rd Thursday Crochet Class, Eastham Memorial Hall, 6.30pm
- 25th Saturday Eastham Memorial Hall site tidy, 10.00am
- 28th Tuesday Rochford Neighbourhood Lunch, Rochford Village Hall, 12.30pm
- 31st Friday Pub, Social & Quiz Night, Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall, 7.00pm

February

- 3rd Monday Stanford History Group lecture, Upper Sapey Village Hall, 7.30pm
- 6th Thursday Eastham Coffee Morning, Eastham Memorial Hall, 10.30am
- 9th Sunday Snowdrop Songs of Praise, Rochford church, 3pm followed by
Tea and cakes and snowdrop activities, Rochford Village Hall, 4pm
- 10th Monday Stanford History Group lecture, Upper Sapey Village Hall, 7.30pm
- 12th Wednesday Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall AGM, 7.00pm
- 13th Thursday Stoke Bliss & Kyre Neighbourhood Lunch, Village Hall, 12.30pm
- 20th Thursday The Filling Station, Eastham Memorial Hall, 7.15pm
- 17th Monday Stanford History Group lecture, Upper Sapey Village Hall, 7.30pm
- 21st Friday Pub Night, Eastham Memorial Hall, 7.00pm
- 24th Monday Stanford History Group lecture, Upper Sapey Village Hall, 7.30pm
- 25th Tuesday Rochford Neighbourhood Lunch, Rochford Village Hall, 12.30pm

March

- 2nd Sunday Lambing Café Church, Parsonage Farm, Rochford, 3pm
- 3rd Monday Stanford History Group lecture, Upper Sapey Village Hall, 7.30pm
- 4th Tuesday Pancake Evening, Rochford Village Hall, 7pm.
- 5th Wednesday Eastham Coffee Morning, Eastham Memorial Hall, 10.30am
- 13th Thursday Stoke Bliss & Kyre Neighbourhood Lunch, Village Hall, 12.30pm
- 22nd Saturday Daffodil Day, Stanford Village Hall, 2.00pm
- 25th 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

January/February 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

Services Schedule

Sunday 5th January

10.00am Stanford
4.00pm Stanford

Epiphany

Holy Communion and hymns
Evensong

Sunday 12th January

10.00am Hanley William

Holy Communion

Sunday 19th January

10.00am Eastham
2.00pm

All Age and Holy Communion
Walking Church

Sunday 26th January

10.00am Rochford
4.00pm Kyre and on Zoom

All Age and Holy Communion
Celtic Evening Prayer

Sunday 2nd February

10.00am Stanford
4.00pm Eastham

Candlemas

Holy Communion and Hymns
Choral Evensong

Sunday 9th February

10.00am Hanley Childe
3.00pm Rochford
4.00pm Rochford Village Hall

Holy Communion
Snowdrop Songs of Praise
Snowdrop Tea and Crafts

Sunday 16th February

10.00am Eastham
2.00pm

All Age and Holy Communion
Walking Church

Sunday 23rd February

10.00am Rochford
4.00pm Stoke Bliss and on Zoom

All Age and Holy Communion
Evening Prayer

Sunday 2nd March

10.00am Stanford
3.00pm Parsonage Farm, Rochford

Holy Communion and Hymns
Lambing Café Church

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