

# TemerTalk

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June 2026



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# TemeTalk

EASTHAM • ROCHFORD • STOKE BLISS & KYRE • THE HANLEYS • STANFORD

*A community going forward with God*

**June 2026**

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*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*

The sunshine and the warmer weather bring us out of doors for the sheer joy of it – out into the garden and the countryside, for seaside jaunts and picnics, for sightseeing and barbecues. For walking.

Covering the ground on foot holds its own particular pleasures. We are fully engaged in the activity which can be sociable or solitary. The pace allows us to take everything in and yet the scene is always changing. We may be lost in thought as we move across the landscape or we may be conscious of every movement, of birdsong, animals, insects and the very air around us, the clouds above. By day the sun moves across the sky and at night the moon and a myriad stars shine above.

We find our place in the living universe.

The psalmist says:

*When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars you have set in their courses,*

*What are mortals that you should be mindful of them, their children that you should seek them out?*

*You have made them but little lower than the angels*

...

How precious are human beings, that we possess this sense of wonder? How is it that we have a sense of other, a sense of connection and relationship and the gift of independent thought?

As we get older we slow down. We don't walk so far or so fast. It used to be me overtaking the oldies along the pavements of Teme Street. Now I'm the slow one – no amount of effort will make me go further or faster. You can only do what you can do.

At the same time new pleasures find their way into the pattern of our days. There may be more time to revive old habits of reading, really listening to music of all kinds, reviving old skills, poking around on TV, radio or on-line to make new discoveries and revisit old favourites.

*Continued on page 3*

Our cover photograph this month is of lupins in Hannah Griffiths's garden in Stoke Bliss – one of the gardens taking part in this year's Open Gardens on 14th June

**TemeTalk deadline 18th June**  
ronsmum@icloud.com or 07482 482629

## Harriett Baldwin MP

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## Teme Valley South Contacts

**Priest-in-charge:** Julia Curtis 01886 853286

**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

Trevor Matthews 07768 942169

**Hanleys:** Ed Yarnold 07930 882728

**Stanford:** Alexandra Winnington 07891 346783

### Pastoral Team

Ann Prosser 01584 781317

Jenny Barbé 01584 781298

Mel Williams 01584 781284

**Parish Safeguarding Officer:** Kate Walton

07494 104781

## Village Hall Bookings

### Stoke Bliss & Kyre

Janet Powell, 01885 410598

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

**Rochford** – Ann Prosser, 01584 781317

**Eastham** –

[bookings@easthammemorialhall.org.uk](mailto:bookings@easthammemorialhall.org.uk)

**Hanley** – Diane Pagett, 07879 888336

[hanleyvillagehall@outlook.com](mailto:hanleyvillagehall@outlook.com)

**Stanford** – Catherine Mawby, 07831 303792



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# Parish news

## From the Registers

### Funeral

The funeral of **Elsie Phyllis Norman** was held at Wyre Forest Crematorium on Thursday 30th April. We send our condolences to her family and friends. May she rest in peace and rise in glory.

### Baptism

**Charles Owen Gilbert (Charlie)** was baptised on Sunday 17th May at St Peter and St Paul's Church, Eastham. We welcome Charlie into the Church family.

---

## Dear Readers

*Continued from page 1*

If we can't cover the ground like we used to we can still travel to the ends of the earth with David Attenborough or Michael Palin. We can watch countless tales of derring-do, romance and intrigue on screen, and read or listen to new found stories of fact or fiction. We can follow the activities of family and friends on WhatsApp and on Facebook. Who would have thought these things would ever be possible?

The world never ceases to surprise us. We can go on exploring until the end of our days to find new worlds beyond the limitations of our sight or understanding, beyond the blue horizon.

*Rev'd Sally Jones*

## 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**  
14th June – St Columba  
9th August – Lammas  
13th September – Creationtide  
8th November – Remembrance

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

## Tem Valley Tots

As Rochford Hall is now up and running again, our tots group have resumed meeting, which is great news. For more information do contact Tina via email on [tinaslord@gmail.com](mailto:tinaslord@gmail.com).

## Tem Valley South Churches Annual Meeting

For the first time our annual meeting in May was successfully combined with those other parishes I work with in the area. It was great to meet together and notice how many similarities there are with the work we all do in our different communities. We still have a few vacancies on the TVS PCC and if anyone would like to get involved do get in touch with me for a chat.

For those who were unable to come along, here is the vote of thanks included in my Rector's report.

*I would like to thank everyone who puts their heart and soul into being God's people in this area. Specifically thanking those involved in governance and looking after our buildings such as churchwardens, PCC secretaries or treasurers. Those who work hard to keep everyone safe eg safeguarding officers. Those who work in the community offering pastoral support and practical help. Those who lead worship and musicians. Those keeping our churches clean and welcoming, flower arrangers and churchyard working parties. And simply all volunteers across our area.*

*May we all feel fulfilled and part of something that is worthwhile and more than the sum of its parts.*

It is because of you these buildings and surrounds are open and oasis spaces in our communities.

## 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 the Muddy Boots Mission area on 20th September to lead a confirmation service. Do save the date and we will be in touch with more details for anyone who is interested in taking this step on their faith journey. Watch this space!

*Rev'd Julia*

# Rochford 49 Club

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

## Wednesday winners

22nd April	No 7	Roger Ayres
29th April	No 27	Not sold
6th May	No 20	Anthony Bunn
13th May	No 14	Dan Taylor

## Saturday winners

25th April	No 23	Jean Harrison
2nd May	No 19	Hannah Prosser
9th May	No 5	Not sold
16th May	No 20	Kath Hatton

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  
**07974 809242**

# Teme Valley Tote

We apologise for the delay – we have been counting up and reconciling the money.

Both April and May's draws were decided when Rev'd Julia Curtis threw the dice on 2nd May to determine the set of random numbers and the starting point.

As a result, the prizewinners for April are:

- £50 – **Michael Gwilt** of Stoke Bliss (No 752)
- £30 – **Mrs L Lear** of Knighton (No 666)
- £20 – **Tom Duff Gordon** of Eastham (No 238)

The prizewinners for May are:

- £50 – **Mr & Mrs Gittings** of Pensax (No 385)
- £30 – **Wendy Day** of Lindridge (No 144)
- £20 – **David Evington** of Stanford (No 457)

If you have any queries about the Tote, please contact Robin Dean on 01886 853295 or [robin.c.dean@gmail.com](mailto:robin.c.dean@gmail.com) – he is still looking for someone to take over its running! You are still able to join if you wish.

## TemeTalk

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# Rochford News

## Rochford Village Hall

I am very pleased to report that the village hall is back in service, although there are still a few bits to finish off. Many thanks to Ben and Hannah Lawrence (HB Property Maintenance) who carried out the work and didn't complain when I kept moving the goal posts as we found more things that needed to be done. Thanks also to everyone who helped with the preparatory work, the cleaning up and those who took rubbish to the tip.

The pancake evening to celebrate the reopening of the hall was very well supported. Huge thanks to Ann who made a wonderful selection of over 200 sweet and savoury pancakes.

The great entry for the village photo competition, to highlight the beauty of Rochford, was judged by public vote on the evening. The five favourite pictures will be enlarged to decorate the walls of the newly refurbished village hall.

The event raised over £400 for village hall funds including the raffle to support the purchase of new blinds for the windows, which raised a wonderful £120. Thanks to the generosity of everyone who bought tickets and donated prizes.

## Rochford Garden Party

The Rochford garden party is on Saturday 27th June from 2 to 5pm at Rochford House (by kind permission of Simon and Vittoria Thornley). Enjoy a quintessential English garden party in this beautiful Rochford garden with magnificent views.

Complete the afternoon with a delicious afternoon cream tea and add a glass of fizz for a little extra luxury, listening to serene live music. Just £15 for this unique afternoon to include: finger sandwiches, quiche, sausage roll, cakes, scone with jam and cream, together with tea or coffee and a glass of fizz or Pimms. **Booking for afternoon tea is essential** with Ann on 01584 781317.

## Neighbourhood lunches

Neighbourhood lunches are on 30th June, 28th July and 25th August in the newly refurbished village hall. Everyone welcome. Booking for lunches is essential. Takeaways should be collected between 12.30 and 1pm. Please book with Ann on 01584 781317 at least the previous week.

## Rochford Church Fête

The fête will be on Sunday 12th July. There is a fête planning meeting on 18th June at 7pm at Rochford village hall. Help is needed with setting up and running stalls, and we need donations of cakes, produce and other items for sale. Please let us know if you can help or have new ideas for the fête and come along to the meeting if you can.

## Farewell

Sadly we said farewell to two long term Rochford residents in May with the passing of Ursula Woodhouse and Val Rabbitt. We send our condolences to both families and friends and we remember the significant contributions they both made to our community.

## Church flower rota

We are looking for volunteers to help with church flowers to decorate the church for monthly services and harvest and Christmas. We are working towards more sustainable flowers and if you think you can help and provide flowers or foliage from your garden please contact Ann.

Flowers for June: Amy Jones. Thank you.

## Dates for your diary

**Big Breakfast** – Saturday 19th September

**Harvest Festival** – Sunday 11th October

**Village quiz** – Friday 20th November

## Contacts

**Ann** on 01584 781317

**Andrew** on 07809 658484 or through the parish WhatsApp group

*Andrew Barbé*



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# News from Stoke Bliss & Kyre

## History in the attic

I recently had the chance to explore an old archive of letters, accounts and documents relating to our churches at Stoke Bliss and Kyre that was rediscovered in a forgotten corner of the Rectory attic. I doubt that future historians will be able to trawl through old emails in quite the same way, so it has been a delight for me to read about some of the trials, tribulations and gripes that my predecessors as church wardens had back in the 1970s. As well as being entertaining to read, the documents have revealed some history relating to previous building repairs and so have proved helpful as we make slow progress with our roof restoration project which is still with the church authorities awaiting outline approval.

## Open Gardens returns

The Stoke Bliss & Kyre Open Gardens returns to our events programme this month. Held on Sunday 14th June from 2pm to 5pm, with varied private gardens across the village open and welcoming visitors, it is a wonderful opportunity to look, admire and pick up ideas for your own garden. Tickets are £5 for adults, available from the village hall on the day, with proceeds shared between the village hall and Stoke Bliss church.

A plant sale and teas will be available at Hall Farm during the afternoon which I know will make it a very enjoyable social occasion as well as a fascinating afternoon of garden discovery.

## Churchyard tidy sessions

Many of you will know that we have been supporting "No Mow May" in St Peter's churchyard, when we allow the grass to grow, enabling our many varieties of wildflowers to mature and set seed before being cut back. Having extra-long grass does make the big mow of June more work for our volunteers. However, the extensive wildflower display makes the extra effort worthwhile.

Our June working party will be on Saturday 27th June from 10am to 12 noon at St Peter's church, Stoke Bliss. All welcome, refreshments provided. Please note that this is a change from the 20th June date as previously published.

## 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 sbkvillagehall@gmail.com to join.

*Jeremy Wyatt*

## Village Hall News

The spring walk in May was a very enjoyable day and I thank the planners and the caterers for their efforts. It is an example of the variety of events that the village hall committee likes to offer. Continuing in that vein, now might be a good time to note that Train Day will be back at The Hyde on Saturday 8th August. On Saturday 19th September the Stratford Theatre Co will be performing a play, *Into The Breach*, at the village hall. So please make a note of those dates and look out for further details coming soon.

*Trevor Matthews*

*Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall Committee*



**Thursday 11th June**  
**Thursday 9th July**  
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**

## Social Night

**Friday 26th June**  
**Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall**  
Bar opens at 7pm, food served from 8pm  
*Please book food at sbkvillagehall@gmail.com*

**Next Social Night is Friday 31st July**

**TemTalk deadline 18th June**  
**ronsmum@icloud.com**

# Eastham Jottings

## Church flowers and cleaning

June – David and Suellen Ward

July – Judith Hobson

If you can join the rota please contact Celia Adams on 01584 781258 or email.

## Eastham Coffee Morning

Please join us for coffee, the monthly raffle and a catch up on Thursday 4th June at 10.30am to 12 noon at Eastham Memorial Hall.

The rota for 2026 is:

4th June – Nicky Webb

2nd July – c/o Blakehouse

## Autumn clean of churchyard and church

Make a diary note to come along on Saturday 17th October, 10am to 12.30pm, to keep our grade I listed church and churchyard in tip top condition. Everyone is welcome, chill out over a barbecue and beer at the end.

## Barbecue

Please join us at our barbecue on Friday 19th June at 6.30pm at Eastham Memorial Hall in the garden. Organised by Friends of the Fête and open to everyone. There will be burgers and a cash bar, please bring a pudding.

## Teme Valley Tote

Thanks to everyone who joined in. We sold 116 tickets (£1,160) and there was an early winner from Eastham!

## Eastham fête grant scheme

Don't forget that the fête committee takes £500 from reserves to offer a pot open to all residents of Eastham who would like to put on an event or regular meeting or club using the village hall.

The money would be to help get your idea up and running, so if you have an idea for a community based event and would like to progress it using the hall the fête committee can offer support in the form of small grants to cover (for example) the hire of the hall or the provision of refreshments, to cover the cost of a speaker or the hire of equipment.

The only rules are that you must use the Memorial Hall and the event must be open to all.

To apply please email [easthamfete@gmail.com](mailto:easthamfete@gmail.com)

## Eastham fête

Eastham fête is on Sunday 16th August starting at 12 noon.

If you haven't received your copy of the produce show schedule, please let us know and we will get a copy to you. There are plenty of classes to join, no matter what your interest and if you have never entered before, this could be a good time to start! Someone will help you with your entry if you ask.

If you would like to help with setting up or on the day or if you would like to run a stall or activity, please get in touch to let us know at [easthamfete@gmail.com](mailto:easthamfete@gmail.com) or contact Jane, Celia or David.

## Eastham Memorial Hall AGM

This took place on 18th May. The accounts were presented with the report of the independent examiner Jane Jenner ACA. For a copy of the annual report, please visit the Charity Commission website, charity registration number 1177355, Eastham Memorial Hall.

The trustees for the forthcoming year are Andy Chapman, Tom Duff Gordon, Rob Lawson, Beryl Lewis, Simon Neary and Celia Adams. The parish council trustee is Michael Adams.

## The Filling Station

The next meeting is 18th June at 7.15pm at Eastham Memorial Hall. Everyone is welcome. Please contact Kate on [karteharley6@gmail.com](mailto:karteharley6@gmail.com).

*Celia Adams*

## Activities at Eastham Memorial Hall

- Pilates – on Tuesdays at 1.10 and 2.20pm. For details or a taster session please contact Sue on 07974 343609 or [sue579@icloud.com](mailto:sue579@icloud.com).
- Yoga – every Wednesday at 10am. Ring Zoe on 07962 981456 or see [www.zedyoga.co.uk](http://www.zedyoga.co.uk). Taster sessions available.
- Rejuven8 Fitness and Wellbeing fitball class – on Thursdays from 1.30 to 2.30pm. An exercise class using yoga balls to help improve posture and balance, build strength, flexibility and co-ordination. Good fun and suitable for all abilities. If you would like to come please contact Michelle on 07837 359403.

# Hanley Happenings

## Village hall news

We are working towards securing grant funding for improvements to the village hall. These improvements will include making the hall more energy efficient and accessible. We are planning to start the work mid August. The hall is available to book from now until 10th August. For all hall bookings please call Diane on 07879 888336 or email [hanleyvillagehall@outlook.com](mailto:hanleyvillagehall@outlook.com).

## The cook's night off

Wheelie Good Pizzas came to the village hall on 6th May and was sold out by 8pm! A good selection of tasty pizzas cooked while you wait and no need to order! Apparently the vegetarian option was fantastic but we went for the spicy chicken. The van will return on the first Wednesday of each month.

The Hooked and Cooked fish and chip van will be back on 16th June.

*Carole Gardner*

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## Table tennis at Hanley Village Hall



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# Stanford • Stanford • Stanford

## Services in Stanford

### Sunday 7th June

Holy Communion at 10am with hymns

### Sunday 5th July

Holy Communion at 10am with hymns

## Flowers for June

Cecilia Jourdier

## Churchyard working party

The churchyard working party was organised by Andy Nicol. Participants were Andy, Louise Leftwich, Rosemary Brookes, Sue Softly, Anthony Winnington and Alexandra Winnington with refreshments served by Helen Nicol, who was also working in the garden. We are most grateful for all the help and had a fun morning clearing the winter storm debris of twigs, which mess up the strimmer, tidying the path to the church and cutting back the grass on the access to the graves. We have had some lovely comments recently on the peace and tranquility of the churchyard and church.



## Stanford Fête

We hope to see many visitors coming to the Fête and Dog Show on 6th June for some fun activities including tombola, coconut shy, tug of war, skittles, bowling alley, face painting, lucky dip and egg-shell game, splat the rat, football game, milking the cow, wheelbarrow of drinks, cake stall, bric-a-brac, and guess the weight of the cake.

Refreshments will include tea and cakes, bar and barbecue.

Donations for bric-a-brac or bottles for the wheelbarrow should be dropped at J W Lane and for the tombola call Helen Nicol on 07912 891044. Cakes and any other donations can be delivered to Orleton Court Farm from 9am on 6th June.

If you have any questions please contact Sue on 07929 479865 or Alexandra on 07891 346783

Proceeds from the fête are for Stanford village hall and St Mary's church.

## Annual General Meeting of St Mary's ACC

This was held on 13th May at St Mary's church and officers were elected.

Alexandra will continue as churchwarden, electoral role officer, and assisting treasurer at the diocese. PCC members will be Andy Nicol and Alexandra Winnington. Rev'd Julia Curtis acted as chairman and assisted with minutes as requested, for which we were most grateful. Thank you to those committee members who were able to attend.

Chris Ottershaw, who assists with the treasurer role, reported that the church had had a healthy year and he was pleased that 9% of fundraising had been donated to other charities.

We would be glad of more help with flowers, church duties, cleaning or gardening if you have an hour or two to spare. Please contact Alexandra on 07891 346783.

*Alexandra Winnington*



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## What happened when the Pope called customer service

About two months after Robert Francis Prevost, a Chicago-born cardinal, became Pope Leo XIV in the Vatican City, he put in a call to his bank back home.

The new Pope identified himself as Robert Prevost, saying that he wished to change the phone number and address that the bank had on file.

The Pope dutifully answered the security questions correctly.

Then the woman on the line for the bank told him that it wasn't enough — he would have to come to the branch in person. "Well, I'm not going to be able to do that," replied the Pope. "I gave you all the security questions."

The bank employee apologized. The Pope tried a different tack. "Would it help if I told you I'm Pope Leo?" he asked.

She hung up.

The matter was sorted out thanks to the intervention of another priest who had a connection to the bank's president. There was no word on the customer service representative who had cut off her call with the bank's most famous customer.

Could you imagine being known as the woman who hung up on the Pope?

*From the New York Times*

## The three little pigs are coming to the Regal

Once upon a time, in a muddy sty by the farm, there lived the three little pigs!

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# Elsie Norman



Elsie passed away peacefully at her home in Tenbury in early April aged 99 years. On 30th April Rev'd Julia Curtis conducted a service at Wyre Forest Crematorium to celebrate Elsie's long and full life. The service was attended by son David and daughter Carol and their spouses, Elsie's grandchildren and some great grandchildren, plus other relatives and friends.

David Norman gave an excellent eulogy which pinpointed the highlights from his mother's life. Like many of her contemporaries, Elsie was in service and while she and her friend Betty were working at Eastham Grange during the Second

World War they found a large stock of sugar! They were so upset at this unfair hoarding that they left and went to work at Strongs Factory in Tenbury making munitions. It was there that Elsie met Cyril and they married in 1949, moving into a newly built house in Astley Orchard shortly afterwards. They stayed there for over 60 years. Alongside bringing up her family Elsie did hop picking and fruit and potato picking, she was a member of the WI and the Floral Art Club and was well known for her baking skills, winning prizes at Eastham and Tenbury Shows. Cyril worked as a postman and was clerk to Eastham Parish Council for fifty years. In 2003 there was a family trip to Buckingham Palace for Cyril to receive his MBE.

Cyril and Elsie moved to Greenhill Close in Tenbury in 2013 and following Cyril's death in 2017 Elsie continued to live in her own home, latterly receiving excellent support from the district nurses, carers and family.

Donations received in memory of Elsie were donated to Eastham Church. Following the service the family hosted a very good reception at Whar-ton Park, Bewdley.

The Eastham church service to be held at 10am on Sunday 21st June will include a tribute to Elsie.

*Geoff Brookes*



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## To recycle or not to recycle ...

One of the cheeses that regularly arrives with our groceries comes poised delicately on a tissue, inside a plastic container, sealed with a plastic cover and presented in a cardboard package with all the writing on it.

How is one to recycle that lot?

My best guess is that the cardboard can be recycled, the plastic cover is too thin to be recycled, the sturdy box may be recycled but probably any remaining cheese needs to be rinsed out. The tis-

sue under the original cheese definitely cannot be recycled.

Wouldn't it be possible to redesign this whole product to eliminate at least two of these packaging items?

I find that most of our groceries come with guidance on recycling but the instructions are usually too small for my old eyes.

The one item without any guidance is our regular milk delivery in glass bottles with a red cap (semi skimmed). The bottles go back to the milkman but is the cap recyclable?

WBG



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## What's on at The Regal in June

### Live Music

Thu 4th	7.30pm	Cara Dillon
Fri 5th	7.30pm	ABBA Sensation
Sat 13th	7.30pm	The Blues Rock Roadshow
Sat 20th	7.30pm	The Tom Petty Legacy
Fri 26th	7.30pm	Up Close and Personal with former ELO 2 Star and Frontman Phil Bates
Sun 28th	7.30pm	Last Night of Tour: The Blues Rock Roadshow

### Film

Sat 6th	1.00pm	The Sheep Detectives (PG)
	7.00pm	The Devil Wears Prada 2 (12A)
Mon 8th	1.00pm	The Devil Wears Prada 2 (12A)
	7.00pm	The Devil Wears Prada 2 (12A)
Fri 12th	7.00pm	Regal Throwback: Space Jam (30th Anniversary)
Mon 22nd	1.00pm	Fairyland (15)
	7.00on	Fairyland (15)

### Live Theatre

Tue 16th	7.30pm	Regal Community Theatre: A Spooky Soirée
Wed 17th	7.30pm	Regal Community Theatre: A Spooky Soirée
Thu 18th	7.30pm	Regal Community Theatre: A Spooky Soirée

### Live Comedy

Fri 19th	8.00pm	Rich Hall Chin Music (14+)
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### Arts Screening

Mon 29th	7.00pm	National Theatre Live presents Les Liaisons Dangereuses (15)
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## Guardians of Hollow Meadow CIC is 30 months old

**Saturday June 13th**  
**2pm to 5pm**  
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You are cordially invited to celebrate and fundraise for Hollow Meadow (plus Maggie Kingston's 80th birthday!)

Train rides at Kyre Valley Railway  
Ticket price to cover all train trips  
£5 per adult, children under 12 free

Donations towards the general running costs of Hollow Meadow and wish list items welcome  
(No personal gifts for Maggie!)

**Contact hollowmeadow23@gmail.com to book**

Please state how many friends and family are coming – bring a cake, nibbles or drink to share

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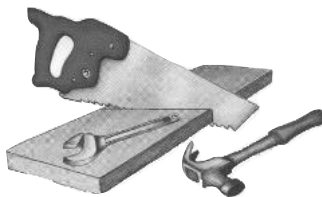
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# What's in a name?

In 18th century France King Louis XVI and his aristocratic chums were living the high life, ably supported by the aristocracy, the church and the whole feudal way of doing things. Corruption was out of control and the working population was starving. France was skint after overspending to help the USA gain independence from George III. Trouble had been brewing for some time. Then it all kicked off.

On 14th July 1789 a mob stormed the Bastille (the King's fortress and a prison with just seven prisoners). In 1793 they executed King Louis and his wife Marie Antoinette. This left all sorts of different groups competing for control (sound familiar?). Much blood was shed. Then things took a wacky turn.

A new age had been born. What better way to establish this than to start a new calendar. "We will start with Year 1", they said. Year 1 of a totally new age.



The old calendar with seven days in a week, varying days in a month, 365 days in a year plus a regular leap year to keep things straight was to be junked. The new calendar would have 10 days in a week and three weeks in a month. The days and the seasons would be renamed.

Having 12 months of 30 days each would leave them short of five or six days a year and there would be fewer weekends.

It was decided that the first day of the year was to be the autumn equinox, 22nd September, the day when the Republic was declared in 1792.

New names for the months were invented by the poet Philippe Françoise Nazaire Fabre. The republican year began with the month of Vendémiaire (the grape harvest/vintage) followed by Brumaire (fog) and Frimaire (frost). Then came the winter months, Nivôse (snow), Pluviôse (rain) and Ventôse (wind). Spring months were Germinal (germination/budding), Floreâl (flowers/blossom) and Prairial (meadow/pasture) and the summer months were Messidor (harvest), Thermidor (heat) and Fructidor (fruit).

We English mockingly dubbed these poetic month names "Wheezy, Sneezy and Freezy; Slippy, Drippy and Nippy; Showery, Flowery and Bowery".

The dates of the months were approximate and shifted slightly year-to-year to align with the autumn equinox. The year ended at the end of Fructidor on 16th September, so there were five supplementary days (jours supplémentaire) and a sixth, Jour de la Révolution, in leap years.

The names of the days were changed to primidi (first day), duodi (second day), tridi (third day etc), quartidi, quintidi, sextidi, septidi, octidi, nonidi and décadi.

Each day of the year was also given a name chosen from the names of flowers and trees, plants, animals and farm tools. My birthday, 17th August, was called Moulin (mill).

The calendar lasted until September 1805 when Napoleon abolished it.

- The calendar in use in Ethiopia has 13 months: 12 months with exactly 30 days each, plus a 13th month (Pagumē) of 5 or 6 days. Because of different calculations for the date of the birth of Jesus, Ethiopia is currently seven or eight years behind the rest of the world.

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# Incey wincey spider

One of my favourite television programmes is *Four in a Bed*, where b&b owners visit each other's establishments and pick holes in what's on offer, paying only what they think a night's stay is worth. The idea is to find the best value for money b&b, but of course it's much more about personalities.

The guests peer into every nook and cranny of their room, running their fingers along the tops of picture frames and wardrobes, inspecting the loo with a magnifying glass, pulling back the bedclothes to look at the mattress ... all the things that I imagine our holidaymakers doing when they move into one of our caravans.

Recently one of the guests was really upset by the "mould" on his mattress and insisted it be changed – which it was, only to realise that what he thought was mould was in fact part of the pattern on the fabric.

Hairs are very upsetting, in the bathroom or in the bed, and one couple was horrified to find evidence of mice in the depths of a settee. The owner was naturally mortified and apologetic, but remarked to the camera that mice were quite common in the middle of the countryside – something

that we know only too well.

Spiders are also common in the countryside. I was amazed to hear a woman say that if a room had been properly cleaned there would be no spiders in it. Apparently spiders in the bath and cobwebs in the corners are a sign that the room is very, very dirty. Which planet does she come from? Doesn't she know that a spider's sole aim in life is to hide from the vacuum cleaner or cobweb brush and then make a new cobweb as soon as the coast is clear?

Once I was showing some visitors into a caravan, having checked it about an hour earlier to make sure it was clean and ready. As I opened the door I noticed a cobweb stretching right across the doorway at eye level. I quickly pulled it away with my hand while pointing out the lovely view to the fast approaching guests!

Mice, spiders, flies – all creatures that people from the town are surprised to find in their holiday accommodation. But wait a minute – don't spiders spin webs to catch flies? So no spiders means more flies – and don't forget the old saying, "If you want to live and thrive, let a spider run alive".

SG



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ON STAGE

**ABBA Sensation**  
Friday 5 June, 7.30pm

ON SCREEN

**The Devil wears Prada 2 (12A)** | Saturday 6th June, 7pm, Monday 8th June, 1pm & 7pm

ON SCREEN

**Regal Throwback: Space Jam (30th Anniversary)** | Friday 12 Jun, 7pm

ON STAGE

**Regal Community Theatre: A Spooky Soiree** | Tuesday 16th, Wednesday 17th & Thursday 18th June, 7.30pm

ON STAGE

**Rich Hall - Chin Music**  
Friday 19 June, 8pm

ON STAGE

**The Tom Petty Legacy**  
Saturday 20 June, 7.30pm

ON STAGE

**Up Close And Personal With Phil Bates**  
Friday 26 June, 7.30pm

ON-STAGE

**LAST NIGHT OF TOUR: The Blues Rock Roadshow** | Sunday 28 June, 7.30pm

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# Life can be amazing

## A blackbird's song, a horse and trap and a kindly traffic warden all made my day!

Sometimes when you least expect it, little surprises cheer your day.

Recently my husband had a skin check at Kidderminster Hospital. Firstly, we found a parking space straight off! Then, as the doctor checked him, we could hear the most exquisite blackbird's song. Is that a recording, I asked her. No, she replied, but it's lovely. When we left, I looked at the drab building and there was one little bare tree, really no more than a twig, outside the doctor's open window. And there sat a blackbird singing his heart out. I hope he found a mate.

We returned some weeks later and again I found a parking space. As I slid into it, I heard horses' hooves. And along came a horse and trap

to the main entrance. Of course I had to have a chat and sniff the beautiful mare's neck.

The driver told me he could no longer drive cars so he travels the old-fashioned way. He bred the mare and has had her for nine years; she was in lovely condition. He was looking for a parking space! Good luck, I said, as we left, once again with a smile on my face.

Last week, I rushed into Tenbury to do some chores. Once I had finished, I longed to sit in the sunshine with a coffee, my little dog by my side, just the two of us sharing a moment of peace in a crazy world. But I looked at my phone and was worried I had over-stayed my parking time. There was a traffic warden by the café. I explained my predicament and she checked her ticket machine. You're not on my list, she said. Go on, enjoy yourself. I know you won't be long. I had to stop myself from giving her hug for her kindness and understanding.

AO



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# Ancient stories for contemporary wisdom

Welcome again to this series of short articles which look at ancient stories and wisdom for modern living. The last article took us to the end of the first story of creation in Genesis. We move now in to the second account of creation. Chapter 2 has a very different account of creation. In this story the raw material God is working with is a dry dusty land only watered periodically.

In that land, God is playing in the dust and from the dust God shapes a human being and names it "Adam". What we easily miss in our translation is the connection between "Adam" and "dust". The Hebrew word for "dust/soil/earth" is "Adamah". (For those of you who remember "Last of the Summer Wine", the example would be God playing in a compost heap and pulling out "Compo". For those of you too young to understand what I'm on about, ask someone older!)

Ancient wisdom teaches us that we're created from the dust to which we will ultimately return. Having created Adam from the adamah, the task that Adam is given is to "till the dust and keep it". The Hebrew words for "till" and "keep" are "avad" and "shamar". Unsurprisingly, they can carry a number of different meanings but significantly they are words which appear later in the Old Testament stories where we see that "avad" doesn't only mean "till" but also means "serve" and "shamar" means "keep" or "observe"..

"Avad" is used to describe humans' relationship with God. "Shamar" is used to describe our relationship with the commandments. We are to serve/avad God. We are to observe/shamar his instructions.

What we see from this ancient wisdom is that our relationship with creation is an indication of our relationship with God. We cannot pretend that we are honouring the Creator if we are at the same time trashing the Creation.

*Robert Barlow*

## The Filling Station

Our next meeting will be on Thursday 18th June at Eastham Memorial Hall at 7.15 for a 7.30pm start.

Our speaker will be Kevin Sadler. Kevin is a retired senior pastor and he and his wife Mags are based with their son and daughter-in-law in Halesowen but spend much time in Eastham, which is where they feel God wants them to be involved in His work in discipleship and mentoring.

We look forward to your joining us for these 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](mailto:kate.harley6@gmail.com).



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# Quickest ever no-churn strawberry ice cream



Strawberries and cream is the ultimate summer dessert combination, especially in this quick-to-prepare ice cream. Rich clotted cream gives this version an extra touch of indulgence, but you can use 600ml of double cream or whipping cream instead.

smooth. Add the whipping cream and whisk until soft peaks form (about five minutes).

Fold in the strawberry mixture until combined. Pour into a 900g loaf tin, cover with baking parchment and freeze for at least six hours or overnight.



## Ingredients

600g strawberries, chopped into 1cm pieces  
2 tbsp golden caster sugar  
276g clotted cream  
300ml whipping cream  
397g condensed milk

## Method

Put the strawberries and sugar in a pan set over a low-medium heat and cook for 10 minutes. Leave to cool for 5 minutes, then whizz until smooth in a food processor.

In a large bowl, beat the clotted cream with an electric whisk at a medium speed until smooth. Add a pinch of fine salt, then gradually add the condensed milk, whisking constantly, until

## Nice in ice cream, not in soup ...

The other day I made some parsnip and apple soup. I peeled and chopped the parsnips, onion and apples, grated the garlic, made the stock, searched for curry powder. I cooked it until it was nice and soft and blitzed it in the liquidiser. I returned it to the pan and went to the cupboard for a tin of coconut milk to thin it and make it even more delicious. I found a tin ...

I took the lid off the tin. I poured the liquid into the soup. I scraped the tin out with a spatula so that not a drop was left inside. I began to stir the soup. It was strangely thick. Only then did I realise that the tin contained not *coconut* but *condensed* milk.

Condensed milk doesn't make parsnip soup even more delicious. It makes it cloyingly sweet with a very strange aftertaste. But waste not, want not – my husband bravely ate it all.

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# Just another day in the office ...

You know those rare occasions when you wake up full of go? Determined to fill the day with useful endeavour? Yes, they're like hen's teeth and hard to remember, but it was a day like that when I decided to muck out my office ...

What an idiotic idea. From a relatively organised space, it became impassable with papers and folders all over the floor. I drank litres of coffee in an attempt to power through; it didn't work. I just got hyperactive and shaky.

I found some bizarre items – a cuddly toy, funny photographs (private) and, disaster, the formal certificate of authenticity my son had been looking for for years, for work.



After that shock (“I promise I have looked **everywhere**”) I needed a short break for a glass of water and a chocolate biscuit and a distracting chat with anyone I could find.

An hour later, I returned. But it got worse. I discovered a child's suitcase which, obviously, had to be checked out. Diaries from the 60s! Well, how could anyone resist taking a peek ...

Hours later I needed another glass of water and a chocolate biscuit but no chatting. I was too immersed in thought. Did I really feel so strongly about everything? Was he really that mean to me? Why did I do *that*?



The next few hours were productive as, in another world, I cleared and dusted shelf after shelf and admired my three pink recycling bags full of ancient receipts, appointment books and other detritus. I gazed in admiration at such tidiness and tackled another wall of shelves. Old cables for computers, laptops, phones and goodness knows what else got fired into a bag for possible recycling. But what to do with old phones, iPads and laptops

which didn't match any of the chargers? How could I be sure I had deleted everything from the hard drives? Could I dare recycle them in this state? Had I any secrets to worry about?



Time for another glass of water and another chocolate biscuit to soothe the worry.

Soon I was back at it. I had decided to delegate the tech problem to a young friend. Because now I had something more serious to dig into. I had found another, bigger suitcase full of letters. There were letters from my mother, father and various relations. But there were also old love letters! I needed to check these out.

I once had a boyfriend who lived across the fields from us. One night we planned to meet at midnight under a full moon. I tied a piece of string around my toe, as you do, and dropped the rest out of the window. Sure enough I awoke the instant my toe was tugged and opened the window with a big smile. Hello there, I said. Hello yourself, he grinned, waving his torch in my face. Suddenly there was an almighty bang and all I saw was torchlight zigzagging at speed into the distance. My mother had heard him and fired her shotgun into the air, instantly cooling our ardour.

Later he was sent off to board at Gordonstoun School many miles away in Elgin. But he wrote regularly telling me of the adventures and mishaps of the boy who was to become our King. These were the letters I was after but, alas, I never found them.

By now it was getting dark and definitely time for a glass of wine and some crisps. After the second glass I decided I had done a wonderful job and the rest could wait for the next time that I wake up full of go and determination. And, as you've guessed, that day hasn't come yet, partly because now I spend days trying to find stuff. My advice to you is to ignore any of those get-up-and-go tidy-the-office moments; the good intent will pass quickly with luck.



Averil Opperman

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# Teme Valley Wildlife

The idea for this month's article was sparked by the Royal Horticultural Society's recent advice on coping with moss in lawns – which is to learn to love it. I seem to remember that the RHS said the same thing about the garden slug, but I suspect that gardeners will find their suggestions equally unwelcome. But moss itself is an interesting subject. It is a primitive form of land plant covering many different species which have each adapted over the millennia to live in a surprisingly wide variety of habitats. Mosses differ from higher plants in having no proper leaves, roots or stems. Nor do they have a system of xylem cells to circulate water and nutrients. Instead, they absorb water through every part of their structure. Mosses are made up of thin "leaves" arranged spirally round flimsy stems with strong thread-like rhizoids to anchor them down. They don't have roots because they don't need soil. All flourish in damp places where they can find light, water and a few nutrients. In dry conditions, they simply turn brown and wait for



some moisture before greening up again.

Winter is the time when many mosses come into active growth. Within woods they may be the sole sign of winter green. They grow on the ground, on trees, on stones and sand-dunes and in the cracks between paving slabs. They also live in watery domains such as bogs and may even be found in streams, holding fast to pebbles and tree-roots. One specialist moorland moss has made its home on the dung of grazing animals; another colonises the barely habitable surface of burnt ground. In fact, a major aid

to the identification of mosses is the knowledge of where each type grows. More familiar to gardeners are the sphagnum mosses, which are commonly used as hanging-basket water absorbers. This is not surprising given that their leaves are full of hollow cells capable of being waterlogged by many times their own weight in water.

The life cycle of mosses is curious too. A film of water across the moss's surface allows the male

*Continued on page 24*

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Continued from page 23

elements to "swim" to the female elements to fertilise them. The next generation of plants to grow sends up slender stems carrying spore capsules at the top. The shape of the spore cases provides another feature which can aid identification. These dry out and release spores onto the wind. The spores are dispersed and grow into another generation of plants which only produces the male and female elements once again. It seems that mosses don't have enough energy to produce both together and so have opted for an alternate generation system.

Finally, here's something which has potential usefulness to ramblers. Moss usually grows out of the reach of the prevailing wind, so tends to grow on the north of west facing trunks of trees. Should you get lost, this information could help you with a little route-finding. My husband once mentioned this to a much younger work colleague and re-

ceived a mystified look in return. "What's moss?" she asked, having been brought up within the sheltered confines of a large city. I'm glad we don't have to ask.

The next meeting of the Teme Valley Wildlife Group will be held at 7.30pm on Thursday 11th June at Stoke Bliss and Kyre village hall. We welcome Carol Wood whose talk will be on swifts, swallows and martins. All members and friends are 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, newsletter and bird survey are available on our website at [www.teme-valley-wildlife.org](http://www.teme-valley-wildlife.org) We hold meetings on the second Thursday of the month, January to November. All are welcome.

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		4	2		8	1			
5			7				9	4	
		8	9					1	
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6					5	7			
4	5				9			6	
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# What's on in Teme Valley South

## June

- 4th Thursday Eastham Coffee Morning, Eastham Memorial Hall, 10.30am  
6th Saturday Stanford with Orleton Fête and Dog Show, Orleton Court Farm, 2pm  
7th Sunday Come and Sing, All Saints Church, Shelsley Beauchamp, 4pm  
11th Thursday Stoke Bliss & Kyre Neighbourhood Lunch, Stoke Bliss & Kyre VH, 12.30pm  
13th Saturday Hollow Meadow CIC celebration, The Hyde, Stoke Bliss, 2pm  
14th Sunday Stoke Bliss & Kyre Open Gardens, from 2pm  
Open Garden, Lower House Farm, Vine Lane WR15 8RL, 11am-4pm  
18th Thursday The Filling Station, Eastham Memorial Hall, 7.15pm  
19th Friday Friends of the Fête barbecue, Eastham Memorial Hall, 6.30pm  
26th Friday Social Night, Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall, 7pm  
27th Saturday Churchyard working party, St Peter's, Stoke Bliss, 10am  
Rochford Garden Party, Rochford House, 2pm  
30th Tuesday Rochford Neighbourhood Lunch, Rochford Village Hall, 12.30pm

## July

- 2nd Thursday Eastham Coffee Morning, Eastham Memorial Hall, 10.30am  
9th Thursday Stoke Bliss & Kyre Neighbourhood Lunch, Stoke Bliss & Kyre VH, 12.30pm  
12th Sunday Rochford Church Fête  
28th Tuesday Rochford Neighbourhood Lunch, Rochford Village Hall, 12.30pm  
31st Friday Social Night, Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall, 7pm

## August

- 6th Thursday Eastham Coffee Morning, Eastham Memorial Hall, 10.30am  
8th Saturday Train Day at The Hyde, Stoke Bliss  
13th Thursday Stoke Bliss & Kyre Neighbourhood Lunch, Stoke Bliss & Kyre VH, 12.30pm  
16th Sunday Eastham Fête, Eastham Memorial Hall, 12 noon  
25th Tuesday Rochford Neighbourhood Lunch, Rochford Village Hall, 12.30pm

## September

- 3rd Thursday Eastham Coffee Morning, Eastham Memorial Hall, 10.30am  
10th Thursday Stoke Bliss & Kyre Neighbourhood Lunch, Stoke Bliss & Kyre VH, 12.30pm  
19th Saturday Big Breakfast, Rochford Village Hall  
Stratford Theatre Co, *Into the Breach*, Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall

## October

- 1st Thursday Eastham Coffee Morning, Eastham Memorial Hall, 10.30am  
10th Thursday Stoke Bliss & Kyre Neighbourhood Lunch, Stoke Bliss & Kyre VH, 12.30pm  
11th Sunday Harvest Festival, Rochford Church  
17th Saturday Autumn clean of churchyard and church, Eastham Church, 10am

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

# Services

## June/July 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](http://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/church-online/weekly-online-services)

### Services Schedule

#### Sunday 7th June

10.00am Stanford Church Holy Communion with hymns

#### Sunday 14th June

9.30am Stoke Bliss Church Holy Communion  
11.00am Hanley William Church Holy Communion  
4.00pm Hanley Village Hall Iona Service celebrating St Columba

#### Sunday 21st June

10.00am Eastham Church All Age and Holy Communion  
2.00pm Walking Church

#### Sunday 28th June

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

#### Sunday 5th July

10.00am Stanford Church Holy Communion with hymns

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