

# TemerTalk



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March 2025

## Inside this issue

Daffodil Day • Pancake Day • Lent Groups  
and all your parish news

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# TemeTalk

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

*A community going forward with God*

## March 2025

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

Designed and typeset by  
Sandra Griffiths  
Telephone 01568 750665  
ronsmum@icloud.com

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### Editor:

Sandra Griffiths  
Grey Gables, St Michaels  
Tenbury Wells WR15 8TW  
Telephone 07482 482629  
ronsmum@icloud.com

### Distribution:

Alison and Keith Tompsett  
(Stoke Bliss & Kyre)  
Averil Opperman  
(The Hanleys, Eastham and Rochford)  
Sue Softly (Stanford)

### Priest-in-charge

Rev Julia Curtis  
Telephone 01886 853286  
revjuliacurtis@gmail.com

### Parish website

[www.temevalleysouth.org.uk](http://www.temevalleysouth.org.uk)

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

## Dear Readers

### Be still, and know that I am God. (Psalm 46:10)

Lent often arrives quietly, slipping into the calendar without the fanfare of Christmas or the excitement of Easter. And yet it carries a depth that is both challenging and refreshing – a time to pause, to reflect and to begin again. It is a season of preparation, not unlike the careful planning that comes before a journey.

This year, as Lent approaches, I find myself preparing for my first caravanning trip of the year. The checklist grows daily – checking the tyres, ensuring the water system is working, stocking up on provisions. Each task is necessary to ensure a smooth journey, and it strikes me that Lent is not so different. It, too, is a time of preparation—a spiritual journey where we make space for renewal, casting aside what clutters our minds and hearts and making room for something fresh.

It can be tempting to think of Lent as simply a time to give something up – chocolate, coffee, social media. But what if we saw it instead as a time to take something on? Just as the land begins to stir after winter, preparing for the new life of spring, so too can we use this time to refresh our spirits. Renewal is not always about dramatic changes; sometimes, it is in the quiet and steady routines where we find the deepest transformation.

### A season of reflection

Lent encourages us to step back and look at the bigger picture. Just as farmers allow the land to rest before planting anew, we, too, can take a pause. In our world of constant noise and busyness, where every minute seems accounted for, when do we truly stop? The psalmist's words remind us to "be still" – not just physically, but in mind and spirit. It is in these still moments that we find clarity, that we hear the quiet whisper of God's presence, reminding us that we do not walk alone.

Perhaps this season is an opportunity to create

*Continued on page 10*

This month's front cover photograph of agapanthus in Kaikura, New Zealand was taken by Sandra Griffiths

Agapanthus grows wild in New Zealand and is considered a weed, but the blue and white flowers look so cheerful on grass verges by the roadside

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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

**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:** Sue Softly  
01584 881342

## Village Hall Bookings

### Stoke Bliss & Kyre

Janet Powell, 01885 410598

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

**Rochford** – Ann Prosser, 01584 781317

**Eastham** – Helen Matravers, 07580 158673

**Hanley** – Judy Bayliss, 01886 853813

**Stanford** – Catherine Mawby, 07831 303792

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

## 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](mailto:harriett.baldwin.mp@parliament.uk) or call her constituency office on **01684 585 165**.

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# Parish news

## From the Registers

### Funerals

**Gillian Mary Tyler** was buried on Friday 31st January at St Peter & St Paul, Eastham.

A funeral service for **Harry Davies** was held on Friday 7th February at Worcester Crematorium.

A funeral service for **Rachael Elizabeth Watkins** was held on Friday 7th February at Wyre Forest Crematorium.

### Teme Valley Tots

Our Tots group continues to meet on Fridays from 10.30am to 12 noon at Rochford village hall. We are meeting throughout March. For more information do contact Tina on [tinaslord@gmail.com](mailto:tinaslord@gmail.com).

### Lent groups

This Lent once again we will be offering the same course across our Muddy Boots Mission Area, see page 13. Groups will run on Tuesdays in Harpley, Wednesday afternoons in Great Witley, Fridays in Stanford and Wednesday evenings on Zoom. Do get in touch if you are interested in joining the sessions; so far we have 45 people involved, but there is always room for more!

## Lambing service and Ash Wednesday

The countdown to Easter begins this month and you are invited to mark this by coming along to two of our special services. Lambing Café Church is at Parsonage Farm, Rochford at 3pm on 2nd March and Holy Communion for Ash Wednesday is at St Mary's, Stanford at 7pm on 5th March.

## Electoral Roll – count me in

The church electoral roll is a way of telling us that you belong, support or wish your voice to be heard on matters affecting Teme Valley South churches – both buildings and people in the communities we serve. Help us to relish being rural churches in this special place.

During March and April we will be putting together a completely new roll, so get in touch with me, TVS Admin or the person for your local area and we will tell you how to sign up.

Eastham – Celia Adams

The Hanleys – Sarah Geggie

Rochford – Norma Goodall

Stanford – Alexandra Winnington

Stoke Bliss & Kyre – Jeremy Wyatt

07720 056671 or [sbchurch@fastmail](mailto:sbchurch@fastmail)

TVS general – Rev'd Julia

or [assistanttvspcc@gmail.com](mailto:assistanttvspcc@gmail.com)

*Rev'd Julia*

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## Rochford 49 Club

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

### Wednesday winners

8th January	No 21	Not sold
15th January	No 20	Not sold
22nd January	No 43	Not sold
29th January	No 56	Not sold
5th February	No 52	Not sold
12th February	No 17	Not sold

### Saturday winners

11th January	No 57	Not sold
18th January	No 46	Not sold
25th January	No 50	Not sold
1st February	No 2	Sue Bridge
8th February	No 51	Not sold
15th February	No 1	Not sold

There are still plenty of numbers available – why not join in? It's just £1 per draw – plus you get two chances each week to win £25!

Remember, you must be in it to win it!  
Ring Gill Smith on  
**07815 030050**

**Deadline for the next issue 18th March**

## Teme Valley Tote

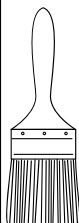
February's prize draw, the eleventh in this series, was decided when Rev'd Julia Curtis rolled the dice on 5th February to select the set of random numbers and the starting point. Prizewinners are:

£50 – **Hugh Yarnold** of Eastham (No 278)

£30 – **David Pearson** of Stoke Bliss (No 831)

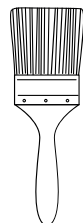
£20 – **Diane Ralph** of Eastham (No 284)

A new series starts in April, so save up for that. There is an announcement about the new series on page 20. If you have any queries, please contact Robin Dean on 01886 853295 or by email ([robin.c.dean@gmail.com](mailto:robin.c.dean@gmail.com)).



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## Hello and goodbye

Welcome to Kevin and Samantha, who have recently moved into Cold Green Cottage. We hope you will enjoy living in Rochford and make the most of everything this community has to offer.

Unfortunately, this means we had to say farewell to Jackie Hughes. We wish Jackie well in her new home near her son in Dorset and thank her for her involvement in our community and particularly for her help with a wide range of village and church activities.

## Snowdrop service

The snowdrop service was well attended with some well-known hymns chosen by members of the congregation.

There was an interesting twist to the snowdrop theme with a visiting speaker from St Richard's Hospice in Worcester, which uses snowdrops as its emblem. We heard all about the work of the hospice and the support they give to both families and patients in a welcoming and happy environment. Hospices receive just 20% of their funding from the NHS and therefore St Richard's has to raise some £800,000 a month through their shops, cafés, and a wide range of events and other activities. Thanks to the generosity of the congregation, we collected £179 for the Hospice.

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## Lambing Café Church

Your opportunity to get up close and personal with sheep and hopefully newly born lambs on 2nd March at 3pm at Parsonage Farm, Rochford. All are welcome especially children. (Unfortunately it is not suitable for pregnant women.) We are pleased to welcome the TVS choir who will lead the singing. Wellies and warm clothing essential. Parking limited, so if you can walk, please park on the layby and walk down.

## Pancake evening

Rochford's pancake evening is on Shrove Tuesday, 4th March at 7pm at Rochford Village Hall.

Forget cooking and come along for a wonderful selection of savoury and sweet pancakes. This is open to all villages so please book early with Ann. It's just £10, under 10s half price. There's no bar so please bring your own drink.

## Neighbourhood lunch

Dates for sit down and takeaway neighbourhood lunches are 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.

## Open gardens

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

## Church flower rota

March: Lent

April: Easter lilies, Jennifer Gledhill

(donations for Easter lilies 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*

**TemeTalk deadline 18th March**

# Stoke Bliss and Kyre

## New treasurer

After many years of dedicated service, Maggie Downs, has decided to step down from the role of treasurer. The Stoke Bliss and Kyre ACC is now looking for a volunteer to take up the role. Typically, this involves managing a bank account, issuing payments, maintaining records and attending quarterly meetings. If you have some free time and are interested in helping, please contact Jen Jones on 07749 977821 or at tvscurate@gmail.com.

The committee would like to thank Maggie for her support and contributions whilst treasurer.

## Graveyard tributes

Our churchyards are very special places which we aim to manage sympathetically so that everyone may enjoy their solitude and beauty, away from the pressures of everyday life. This is why we ask that only natural materials are used to adorn gravesides. Memorials should be in harmony with the natural environment and in keeping with the beautiful surroundings of our churchyards. Tributes made from plastics and other artificial materials potentially damaging to local wildlife and the environment are not permitted and may be removed. If in doubt, any queries or questions you may have will be happily answered by a member of the ministry team or the churchwardens. Your cooperation is very much appreciated.



**Thursday 13th March**

**Thursday 10th April**

**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**

## St Peter's church roof

It is great to report that further progress is now being made towards the restoration of the ceiling and roof at St Peter's church, Stoke Bliss. Our consulting architect has completed the specifications and schedule of works and we are seeking tenders from contractors for the work. Once the full cost is known we will be able to start applying for grants to fund the work from charitable foundations and community giving. Some of the funds raised to date have been used for payment of the architect's fees for getting us to this and the tendering stage. The area church committee would like to thank all those who have donated and supported our restoration this far. Without your support we would not be able to progress as far as we have.

## Take Breath

With spring just around the corner our sessions of meditative reflection and silent prayer will restart after our winter break on Friday 7th March at 4pm at Kyre Church.

## Social & Pub Night

Friday 28th March

Bar opens at 6, food served at 7pm

Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall

*The next Social & Pub Night will be*

*on Friday 25th April*

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# Eastham Jottings

## Church flowers and cleaning

March – Celia Adams

April – Helen Matravers

## Eastham Coffee Morning

Please come to the coffee morning on **Thursday 6th March** at 10.30am at Eastham Memorial Hall and enjoy a coffee and a chat. Remember to bring along £10 in cash to join the Tote for 2025/26.

Last month we were joined by Diane Thompson of Air Ambulance who was given a cheque for £160 from the raffle at the Christmas market. (See photograph on page 16.)

## Yoga

We are celebrating three and a half years of yoga classes in the rebuilt Eastham Memorial Hall! Zoe and the Zed Yoga class would like to thank all those involved in the coffee morning for agreeing to move to Thursday mornings. This has enabled us to meet for yoga every week of the month at 10am on Wednesdays. If you would like to join us, please contact Zoe via [info@zedyoga.co.uk](mailto:info@zedyoga.co.uk).

## Freestyle litter pick

Join the merry band of pickers on Saturday 15th March from 9.30am to 12 noon. High vis kit is supplied but bring gloves. Meet and greet at Eastham Memorial Hall and reassemble for coffee, tea, cake and goodies.

## Pub Night

The next pub night is on Friday 21st March at 7pm at Eastham Memorial Hall. Watch out for the usual banner. The January pub night turned in a good profit as the Eastham Book Club came along. For further information on the book club please contact Tracey Fell directly or through Celia Adams 07815 833892.

## Activities at Eastham Memorial Hall

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

## Teme Valley Tote

The new series starts in April. Get cash please to Celia Adams as soon as possible so we can raise the usual £1,000 by selling 100 numbers at £10 each. Households can have more than one go. On-line payments are accepted, please contact Celia for bank details on 01584 781258 or [eastham-court@icloud.com](mailto:eastham-court@icloud.com). Last year we had several winners – “you’ve got to be in it to win it!”

## Crochet classes

Crochet classes at Eastham Memorial Hall is a great initiative and we have several proficient crotchetters now! See the Eastham Fête schedule for the chance to enter your efforts.

## Goodbye to Sharley Hughes

The village said goodbye to Sharley this month on her move to Devon. Sharley had lived in the village for 47 years (see also Eastham Fête).

## Dorothy Inge

Condolences were sent to John and his daughters Philippa and Rebecca on the death of Dorothy on 25th January. John and Dorothy moved to Longnor near Shrewsbury in August 2018 after living at the Old Farm, Eastham since 1961. During those 57 years John and Dorothy supported many activities in Eastham.

## Lamberts Family Grocers

The mobile shop calls at Eastham Memorial Hall every Wednesday from 9.45 to 10am for an hour, calling at the church at 10.45 to 11 am.

## Church and churchyard spring clean

Please make a note in your diary now to come along on Saturday 26th April from 10am. More details next month.

## Eastham Memorial Hall site tidy-up

There was a great turnout on 26th January to redo the base for the fête shed and then reload it tidily, clean out the hall gutters which were full of leaves and reassemble the damaged fête tents. (See photograph on page 16.)

Let’s make this an annual event at the end of January – see you on Saturday 24th January 2026.

*Celia Adams*

**Save the date for Eastham Fête – 17th August!**  
**See page 21**

# Hanley Happenings

## Cash for charity

Rav, our local taxi driver, has done a great job, rattling a can in the Hanleys and getting us all to donate our loose change – the money that spills into a handbag or gets washed in the machine in men's trouser pockets! He raised nearly £100 for the village hall.

## Hanley Open Gardens

This year's Hanley Open Gardens will be on 24th May from 10.30am to 4pm. Light lunches and tea or coffee will be available and the proceeds will be shared between Cure Leukaemia and the village hall.

Pay at the village hall and collect a map of participating gardens (Hanley Broadheath, Hanley William and Hanley Childe).

Call Margie on 07796 081857 if you are happy to open your garden or if you can help in any way.

## Pudding night

I think we all missed out on an enjoyable event at the village hall. A pudding night is my idea of heaven so why didn't I go? I put it down to winter inertia (ex physics teacher). The cold dark nights don't encourage us to leave our comfy sofas and warm fires!

However congratulations to Judy Bayliss on her winning banoffee pie. Toothache didn't stop her entering the competition but it stopped her from attending!

The committee works very hard to provide us with a diverse programme of events to entertain us so I for one will be making a greater effort to support them. Many thanks for all they do, our hall has had an impressive makeover due to all the monies they have raised.

*Carole Gardner*

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## Table tennis at Hanley

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# Stanford • Stanford • Stanford

## Services in Stanford

### Sunday 2nd March

Holy Communion at 10am

### Wednesday 5th March

Ash Wednesday service at 7pm

## Fire at Mill Farm

It was so sad to see the devastation caused by the fire at Mill Farm on 26th January. The building and surrounding area at Angel Gardens was burnt down and Louise Mawditt's business is closed until further notice. The fire-fighters did their best to act swiftly and make everyone safe and their hard work was much appreciated by the Sparey family. Local support was in abundance and a number of people came to help. There was a ray of light when Daphers the cat was found in the polytunnel, safe and sound, as Louise was greatly concerned for her. We look forward to seeing the re-opening of Angel Gardens.



*Daphers the cat survived the fire at Angel Gardens*

## Daffodil Day

On 22nd March from 2.30 to 5pm in Stanford village hall, with artist Mel Williams and lay minister Jill Smith who will be running an arts and crafts workshop with tea and cakes. Suggested donation £5, all proceeds to the church.

## Easter dawn service

The Easter dawn service will be at 6 am on Sunday 20th April followed by breakfast at Stanford village hall. Please book your place with Alexandra on 07891 346783 or Sue on 07929 479865. Donations will be for St Mary's church.

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or call 07482 482629

## Lost

A pendant without a chain was found at St Mary's church a few weeks ago. It is round and has some lovely small sentimental features in the relief, including a small red rose. If you have lost it, please contact Alexandra on 07891 346783.

## Churchyard working party

Another working party in the churchyard will be announced shortly so please watch this space if you would like to take part.

## Can you help?

We are always looking for help at St Mary's church. If you are interested in getting involved or helping at events, please contact Alexandra on 07891 346783.

## 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. Please donate the usual well packaged food items.

## Church flowers

Flowers for March – Sue Softly.

*Alexandra Winnington*

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Continued from page 1

those moments intentionally. It could be as simple as taking a walk without distractions, sitting in silence for a few minutes each day, or making space for prayer and reflection. Not as another item on a to-do list, but as a gift to ourselves – a reminder that we are more than our responsibilities.

### The journey of renewal

Much like a journey, Lent is not about racing to a destination but about what we learn along the way. It is about recalibrating our hearts. The world encourages us to strive—to do more, be more, achieve more. Yet Jesus calls us to something different. *“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.”* (Matthew 11:28)

Rest does not mean stopping everything but finding balance—learning to carry life’s responsibilities with a lighter heart. During Lent, we can ask ourselves: What am I carrying that I do not need? Maybe it’s anxiety, frustration or the endless pursuit of perfection. Perhaps it’s the fear of uncertainty or the weight of past regrets. Just as I carefully decide what to pack for my caravanning trip, ensuring I take what is needed and leave behind what will only take up space, we, too, can choose what to carry spiritually.

### Carrying light into the world

One of the beautiful aspects of Lent is that it doesn’t just call us inward but also outward. Reflection should lead to action, not in grand gestures but in small, meaningful ways. A kind word, a moment

of patience, a phone call to someone who might need encouragement. Galatians 6:2 reminds us: *“Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way, you will fulfill the law of Christ.”*

We are not called to go through life alone, just as we are not meant to journey through Lent in isolation. Walking alongside others – sharing burdens, listening, offering support – this is where renewal happens in its fullest sense. We are reminded that God’s light is not something distant but something that shines through us when we choose to love and serve those around us.

### Looking forward

As we prepare for the weeks ahead, let this Lent be more than just a season of self-denial. Let it be a journey – a journey of renewal, of pausing to see the beauty in simplicity, of making space for God’s voice, of walking with kindness and light. And as the days lengthen and the first signs of spring appear, may we be reminded that renewal is not just for the world around us but for our own hearts as well.

At the heart of all this is hope – the hope that we are being shaped and prepared, not just for the end of Lent but for something greater. Just as the land, after its time of rest, brings forth new life, so too does God’s love work within us, bringing renewal, restoration, and peace.

May this Lent be a time of gentle renewal for us all.

*Pete Thorp*

*Reader, Teme Vally South Churches*

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# Snapshots from New Zealand

Just back from a month's holiday in New Zealand, what are the moments that stand out?

Sitting in the sunshine and eating Clevedon Coast oysters with curly fries. We started our trip here, just south of Auckland. After a few days to recover from the long journey we flew to Christchurch, hired a car and drove to Dunedin.

In Dunedin we visited St Paul's Cathedral. Built in the early 1900s to replace an earlier building, with soaring pillars of pale Oamaru sandstone and a huge vaulted ceiling, it was left unfinished for 50 years. The chancel was completed in 1971 and is semi-circular in a contrasting modern style. Behind the pulpit steps are three inset stones, one from Canterbury in Kent, one from Iona and one from St Paul's Cathedral in London.



We spoke to Mother Barbara, one of the ministry team, who was keen to tell us that the first woman to become a diocesan bishop was consecrated and enthroned in St Paul's in 1989.

Heading north again via Wanaka we arrived in Geraldine where we went to the cinema. The front rows of seats had been replaced by old comfy sofas and armchairs. As the lights went down and before the film could begin, the screen was filled with a huge Union Jack complete with a picture of the King and a stirring rendition of *God Save the King* was played.

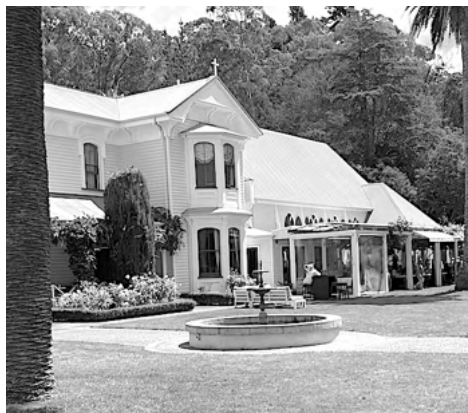
On the way back to North Island we stayed near Blenheim in a beachfront apartment and got up at 6 o'clock in the morning to see the sun rise

over the sea just outside our window.

Over the Cook Strait to Wellington. We visited Zealandia, a nature reserve where we saw tuatara. These reptiles look like little dinosaurs but are in fact the last survivors of an order that flourished 200 million years ago. They live for 60 years on average but can reach 100 years old.



Then on to Napier, rebuilt after the 1931 earthquake in the Art Deco style. It's set in the renowned wine producing area of Hawke's Bay, so we went to the Mission winery for a superb lunch. An iconic landmark, this is New Zealand's oldest winery established in 1851 by French missionaries.



Back in Clevedon, our last treat was a ferry ride from Pine Harbour to downtown Auckland – racing over the sparkling blue sea under a deep blue sky, it's always been one of our favourite things to do when we visit New Zealand.

And so, after a 43 hour journey door to door, here we are back in the rain with only our memories of a fabulous month on the other side of the world.

SG

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**11th May – Christian Aid Week**  
**8th June – St Columba**  
**13th July – for the summertime**  
**10th August – Lammas**  
**14th September – Harvest**  
**9th November – Remembrance**

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

# The Filling Station

Our next meeting is on Thursday 20th March at Eastham Memorial Hall at 7.15 for a 7.30pm start.

It is planned that our speaker will be William O'Leary, senior minister at Jubilee Elim Church in Kidderminster, but as yet we have not had full confirmation of this. If you receive messages about our events via our mailing list you will be notified if this is not the case.

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

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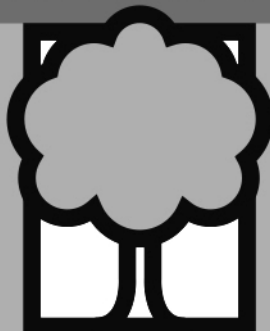
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### What's Lent about?

Lent may originally have followed Epiphany, just as Jesus' sojourn in the wilderness followed immediately on from his baptism, but it soon became firmly attached to Easter. It became the principal occasion for baptism and for the reconciliation of those who had been excluded from the Church's fellowship for whatever reason. This history explains the characteristic notes of Lent – self-examination, penitence, self-denial, study and preparation for Easter.

### Muddy Boots Mission Area Lent Reflections

As usual there will be Lent reflections across the Muddy Boots Mission Area (Wyre Forest West, Four Rivers and Teme Valley). We'll be following the book *Clinging to the Cross* by Mark Tanner who is the current Bishop of Chester – he writes in an easily understandable manner.

*Mark Tanner says about the book: "Faithful to Christ, loving your neighbour ... it has always been a challenge, and it doesn't get any easier for the Christian in*

*the modern world. This, though, is the heart of the Christian's call, the core of our identity, and our greatest privilege.*

### Locations and times

**Great Witley** – there will be face to face sessions for the Four Rivers Group at 2 to 3pm on Wednesdays at the Rectory, 1 Chiltern Close, Great Witley: 12th, 19th and 26th March, 9th and 16th April. Contact David for details.

**Online** – via Zoom on the Wednesdays in Lent at 7 to 8.30pm. Contact Sallie for more details.

**Around the Teme Valley** – these will be held on Tuesdays in Lent from 2 to 3.30pm at The Hatt, Harpley. Contact Jill Smith for details. Also on Fridays from 10.30am to 12 noon in various people's homes. Contact Julia or Jen for details.

Feel free to mix and match to suit your commitments.

Contact details:

Jill Smith on 01886 853311 or email [jill.together@gmail.com](mailto:jill.together@gmail.com)

Rev'd Sallie Butcher on 01299 896837 or email [sallie@psc-abberley.co.uk](mailto:sallie@psc-abberley.co.uk)

Rev'd Julia Curtis on 01886 853286 or email [revjuliacurtis@gmail.com](mailto:revjuliacurtis@gmail.com)

Rev'd Jen Jones, email [tvscurate@gmail.com](mailto:tvscurate@gmail.com)

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# Pancake Day

Tuesday 4th March  
at 7pm  
Rochford Village Hall



Come along and enjoy a selection of delicious savoury and sweet pancakes!

Just £10 (under 10s half price)  
No bar – please bring your own drink

Please book with Ann on 01584 781317  
Everyone welcome!

# Celebration Daffodil Day

at Stanford on 22nd March  
Come and enjoy an arts event  
inspired by the daffodils

Tile painting  
Card making for Mothering Sunday  
3D art  
Painting pictures

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2.30 to 5pm  
Refreshments

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and allowed off leads if kept under control  
No cycles allowed in the grounds

Kyre Park, Tenbury Wells WR15 8RW

# Photographs from Eastham



Eastham residents repairing tents on a beautiful spring day in time for this year's Eastham Fête




Liz Cattani and Nicky Webb present Air Ambulance with a donation of £160 from the Christmas Market

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# The humble hanky!

I was in Tenbury recently and as I stood chatting to an old friend we both produced cotton hankies and dabbed our noses. Snap, we said. Cold weather makes a blocked tear duct more tearful than ever and we agreed that tissues are not nearly as kind as a well-washed and loved cotton handkerchief. My little lace ones from childhood are too small so I borrow my husband's. I only use them for the runny nose produced by tears; instantly destructible tissues are required for colds or flu.

It was a lace hanky that led to my husband's birth and our marriage years later. His parents, like many young people in that period, spent their holidays with their parents in Paignton, Devon. The families tried to introduce their young to suitable potential suitors.

One warm summer's evening, Josephine was walking on the seafront with her sister when they



came across two handsome brothers they had met briefly the previous day with their parents. Jo dropped her lace hanky and Ernest picked it up – but didn't return it to her! They were married four years later.

After Jo died in her late 90s, Ernest was staying with us when he put his hand in his pocket, produced his wallet and there, tucked away, wafer thin and faded, was Jo's lace hanky. "I have carried it close to my heart since that summer in 1928 when we met" he said.

When he died, I wanted to frame the hanky with this wonderful photograph of them in Paignton but I was overruled and, even in death, it remained close to his heart.

There could be no more romantic tale in favour of the return of the humble hanky.

*Averil Opperman*

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**Sun 4th May, 7.30pm**  
**Wagner: Die Walküre Act I Unveiled**  
Experience Act I of Wagner's Die Walküre live with Wagnerian singers including soprano Erika Mädi Jones and tenor Brian Smith Walters, with Kelvin Lim at the piano live on stage.

**Sat 10th May, 7.30pm**  
**A Night at the Opera**  
Enjoy a gala evening of arias, duets, and ensembles by Bizet, Mozart, Verdi and more, perfect for opera buffs and newcomers alike, featuring talented opera singers, a pianist, and a community choir.

**Wed 14 May, 5.15pm**  
BROADCAST | THE ROYAL OPERA  
**Die Walküre**  
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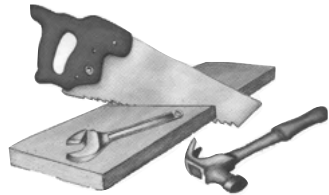
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# Gill Tyler

On Friday 31st January we met again in Eastham church to lay to rest Gill Tyler of Rectory Cottage, having buried husband Carl in 2023.

Gill had lived in the sight of Eastham church for over 50 years and had the most beautiful garden which could be seen over the church wall. Gill loved flowers, propagating and potting. She grew some vegetables, especially runner beans and potatoes, but it was her quintessentially English garden which many of us knew her for. Indeed, she attracted the attention of a group of Japanese visitors about 20 years ago. They left spellbound with many beautiful photos of Gill's English country garden.

Gill was born in Tavern Lane, Newnham Bridge, the youngest of four children. She went to school in Tenbury and then studied biology and zoology at college. Gill met Carl at a pub near Quatt and the couple went on a working holiday



to Alderney, marrying at Eastham church on 24th October 1974. A 50-year wedding anniversary milestone was reached the week before Gill went into hospital.

Gill worked at Hop Developments of Eardiston and then in Stourport. After Emma and Oliver were born, Gill did farm work while the children were small. She loved travelling, visiting Hong Kong, the United States and Europe, often with Carl's sister Carol and her husband. Of course, there are happy memories of Gill's many visits to Italy to see Ollie.

Gill learned to drive when she was about 40 and despite not driving for many years she got behind the wheel again after Carl died in 2023.

Since 2019 Gill had been poorly herself and bravely battled cancer to the very end. Even then she didn't want to give up. Gill was a strong and determined woman who will be greatly missed.

**Deadline for the next issue of TemeTalk is 18th March**



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## Teme Valley Tote

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

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

Your local Teme Valley South co-ordinators are:  
Eastham – Celia Adams

Stanford – Alexandra Winnington

Stoke Bliss and Kyre – Margaret Yarnold

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

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

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

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

*Robin Dean, Teme Valley Tote Organiser*

## Responsible riding



Hopefully 2025 will see more responsible riding in our parishes. It is hard for riders when the weather is always wet and the ground sodden. To exercise their horses, they must do roadwork, work in a manège or indoor school or box up and head to the hills. Fortunately there are quite a few

manèges in our area and wonderful places like Bircher Common to ride.

It is wrong to ride over land, public or private, when the ground is wet. Our photograph shows the serious damage that can be done by either ignorant or thoughtless riders. This path, which runs through a garden, has been unusable for weeks. It is a quagmire with deep holes that neither the elderly nor children can walk through. When the ground froze solid, it was impassable and a serious danger to walkers; as were the deep frozen hoof prints elsewhere. Someone, no doubt the land owner, will have to flatten and re-seed these areas - all because of selfish riders.

*Averil Opperman*

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## Eastham Fête 2025 – save the date!

Eastham Fête will be held this year on Sunday 17th August with all the fun starting at 12 noon – so book your holiday now if you don't want to be involved!

We hope to have all the usual stalls and attractions and will be running a barbecue for the helpers in June.

This year there will be a bit of a change in the old guard on the stalls. Sharley Hughes has moved away from Eastham after successfully running the tombola with her family for as many years as anyone can remember, so we need someone else to organise and run this very popular stall which contributes significantly to funds raised.

Nicky Webb will not be able to organise the children's tent this year, so if you are sufficiently qualified and would like to coordinate and run this service on the day, please step forward.

We would like to expand on last year's success with even more tractors, vintage vehicles and old farm implements or working engines – we even have space for a heavy horse or two.

If you would like to be part of this and bring something along, please get in touch sooner rather than later on easthamfete@gmail.com or have a word with Celia, Jane or David.

Watch this space for updates as the day gets closer.

**Deadline for the next issue of TemeTalk  
is 18th March**  
ronsmum@icloud.com  
07482 482629

### What's on at The Regal in March

#### Films

Sat 1st	12 noon	Dragon Ball Z: Battle of Gods (Extended Cut) 12A
Mon 3rd	2.00pm	Two Strangers Truening Not to Kill Each Other (15)
Tue 4th	7.00pm	Hard Truths (12A)
Fri 7th	10.00am	Bridget Jones: Mad About the Boy (15)
	7.00pm	Bridget Jones: Mad About the Boy (15)
Sat 8th	2.00pm	Holy Cow (12A)
	7.00pm	Bridget Jones: Mad About the Boy
Tue 11th	2.00pm	The Return (15)
Tue 18th	7.00pm	September 5 (15)

#### Live Comedy

Sat 1st	8.00pm	Shazia Mirza
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#### Live Music

Wed 12th	7.30pm	The Fureys
Thu 13th	8.00pm	Maddie Morris (plus support)
Fri 14th	7.30pm	Smith & Brewer and The 4 of Us
Sat 15th	2.30pm	An Afternoon with Grey Wolf
	7.30pm	Police Dog Hogan

#### Live Theatre

Thu 27th	7.15pm	A Chorus of Disapproval <i>Regal Community Theatre</i>
Fri 28th	7.15pm	A Chorus of Disapproval
Sat 29th	2.15pm	A Chorus of Disapproval
	7.15pm	A Chorus of Disapproval

#### Broadcast

Thu 20th	7.15pm	The Royal Ballet: Romeo & Juliet
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# Teme Valley Wildlife

2025 seems to have delivered more dark and gloomy days than usual with lots of grey skies, mist and fog. Rain and flooded roads have kept me at home, so I've used the time to think up a few ideas for excursions to make when the rain stops and the sun comes out. Last year I had a little list on which was a visit to Gloucester to see the cathedral. Whilst in the area, a climb up the Cotswold scarp to find Hetty Pegler's Tump, a Bronze Age burial mound, afforded fantastic views over the Severn valley and its tidal river. I was not surprised to find a host of wildflowers on the grassy top of the barrow. They had probably been flourishing there undisturbed for centuries.



A trip to Gloucestershire is on my list again this year because I've recently read an article about Pasque flowers at a site of special scientific interest near Cirencester. I have never come across these plants in the wild, although they are sometimes planted in gardens, so to see their purple bellflowers or silky seedheads would really be something special. Although you hope to find

what you are looking for on such occasions, it's always a bit "hit and miss". You have to accept that the plants might no longer be there or that they're not in flower on the day you visit. I've planned a couple of other wildlife walks too, in the hope of seeing otters or hares, using a Shropshire Hills area of outstanding natural beauty walks leaflet called "Walking with Offa".

I'm also hoping to visit Caynham church and camp, the latter being the only hill fort in the area that I haven't yet seen. Gardens are another priority. Last year, a trip to the National Trust's Weir Garden in Herefordshire was on my list, it is said to be best in spring but constant rain kept me away. A sunny, blue-skied day in May was a great success though, when I ticked off Hergest Croft Gardens near Kington. This is a garden whose footpaths I've tramped on a couple of occasions and whose gates I've passed many times, always with the comment, "must come back for a visit". And I can heartily recommend it. A fabulous ar-

*Continued on page 24*



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Continued from page 23

-boretum full of inspired plantings of rhododendrons and azaleas was truly stunning and the tea and cakes were rather good too.

Getting out into the great outdoors is a source of enormous enjoyment. Despite my forward planning, it's not necessary to go far and it never fails to surprise me that it is possible to find interesting places and amazing wildlife close by. Last year, a circular walk from Stanford church involved following deer slots on muddy footpaths for literally miles and was made special by the sight of a pair of hares and a pair of wheatears in the same field. And all within a stone's throw from home.

The next meeting of the Teme Valley Wildlife Group will be at 7.30pm on Thursday 13th March at Stoke Bliss and Kyre village hall. We welcome Dr Kate Ashbrook from the University of Worcester who will be telling us about "Enhancing biodi-

versity for sustainable food production". Members and friends are welcome, it is just £3 on the door or £25 for a year's membership.

Stephanie Mcroft

For up-to-date information on what wildlife is being seen in the area, or to give us your sightings or comments, please visit our Facebook page. Our programme of events, bird survey and archive photographs are available on our website [www.temevalleywildlife.co.uk](http://www.temevalleywildlife.co.uk) We normally hold meetings on the second Thursday of the month. All are welcome. Contact us by email at [twwg@outlook.com](mailto:twwg@outlook.com) of events, bird survey and archive photographs are available on our website [www.temevalleywildlife.co.uk](http://www.temevalleywildlife.co.uk) We normally hold meetings on the second Thursday of the month. All are welcome. Contact us by email at [twwg@outlook.com](mailto:twwg@outlook.com).



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**Marika Harding**  
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# What's on in Teme Valley South

## 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.
6th	Thursday	Eastham Coffee Morning, Eastham Memorial Hall, 10.30am
13th	Thursday	Stoke Bliss & Kyre Neighbourhood Lunch, Village Hall, 12.30pm
15th	Saturday	Eastham Freestyle Litter Pick, 9.30am
20th	Thursday	Filling Station, Eastham Memorial Hall, 7.15pm
21st	Friday	Eastham Pub Night, Eastham Memorial Hall, 7pm
22nd	Saturday	Daffodil Day, Stanford Village Hall, 2.30pm
25th	Tuesday	Rochford Neighbourhood Lunch, Rochford Village Hall, 12.30pm
28th	Friday	Social and Pub Night, Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall, 7pm

## April

10th	Thursday	Eastham Coffee Morning, Eastham Memorial Hall, 10.30am Stoke Bliss & Kyre Neighbourhood Lunch, Village Hall, 12.30pm
20th	Sunday	Easter Dawn Service, St Mary's Stanford, 6am
25th	Friday	Eastham Pub Night, Eastham Memorial Hall, 7pm Social and Pub Night, Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall, 7pm
26th	Saturday	Plant & Produce Sale and cream teas, Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall, 2.30pm Eastham church and churchyard spring clean, 10.30am
29th	Tuesday	Rochford Neighbourhood Lunch, Rochford Village Hall, 12.30pm

## May

1st	Thursday	Eastham Coffee Morning, Eastham Memorial Hall, 10.30am Hall Committees Open Evening, St Michaels, Tenbury
20th	Tuesday	Eastham Memorial Hall AGM, 7pm
27th	Tuesday	Rochford Neighbourhood Lunch, Rochford Village Hall, 12.30pm

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

## March/April 2025

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

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

### Services Schedule

#### Sunday 2nd March

10.00am	Stanford	Holy Communion and Hymns
3.00pm	Parsonage Farm, Rochford	Lambing Café Church

#### Wednesday 5th March

7.00pm	Stanford	<b>Ash Wednesday</b> Holy Communion
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#### Sunday 9th March

10.00am	Rock	Muddy Boots launch service with Bishop Martin and combined choirs
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#### Sunday 16th March

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

#### Wednesday 19th March

10.30am	Shelsley Walsh	Mid-week Communion
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#### Saturday 22nd March

2.00 to 4.00pm	Stanford Village Hall and Church	Daffodil Festival
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#### Sunday 23rd March

10.00am	Rochford	All Age and Holy Communion
4.00pm	Hanley William	Evening Prayer

#### Sunday 30th March

9.30am	Hanley Village Hall	<b>Mothering Sunday</b> Café Church
10.30am	Clifton	All Age Celebration for Mothering Sunday

#### Sunday 6th April

10.00am	Stanford	Holy Communion and Hymns
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#### Sunday 13th April

4.00pm	Hanley Village Hall	<b>Palm Sunday</b> Joint Palm Sunday Celebration Iona Service
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