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November 2024

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TemeTalk

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A community going forward with God

November 2024

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

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

As November settles in, we find ourselves in a time of reflection, remembrance and quiet waiting. The days grow shorter, the nights colder and darker, and the natural world begins to rest. It's a month when we pause to remember—particularly on Remembrance Day—the sacrifices made in conflicts past and present. In these moments, we honour those who endured so much for the sake of peace, while also reflecting on the ongoing struggles in our world today.

Yet the Bible reminds us that even in the darkest times, God is present. "Do not fear, for I am with you" says Isaiah 41:10, a promise that speaks to those carrying heavy burdens. In these moments of darkness, we remember that God's light shines undimmed, offering hope and strength to all who turn to Him.

The month of November also invites us to reflect on the seasons of life. Just as the earth prepares for rest, so too are we invited to pause and renew our spirits. In Matthew 11:28 Jesus says, "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest". This season, with its quieter, slower rhythm, offers an opportunity for rest, to pause and reflect on the ways God has been faithful in our lives.

As we remember those who have gone before us, we are also called to carry forward their legacy by being peacemakers and agents of reconciliation in our own lives. Galatians 6:2 encourages us to "carry each other's burdens", a call that takes on added meaning in a time when many are struggling. Through acts of kindness and compassion we become a light for those around us, reflecting God's love and offering hope to others.

As we approach December and the celebrations leading up to Christmas, the deepening darkness of winter reminds us of the promise of

Continued on page 3

This month's cover photograph is by Alexandra Winnington and shows some of the beautiful decorations for Harvest Festival at St Mary's Church, Stanford, donated and arranged by Sarah Burgoyne

TemeTalk deadline 18th November

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Website: temewheels.org.uk

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



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:

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

Rochford – Ann Prosser, 01584 781317

Eastham – Helen Matravers, 07580 158673

Hanley – Judy Bayliss, 01886 853813

Stanford – Catherine Mawby, 07831 303792

stanfordwithorletonvillagehall@gmail.com

Harriett Baldwin MP

Member of Parliament for West Worcestershire

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

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

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Parish news

Dear Readers

Continued from page 1

new light. Just as nature prepares for renewal, so too does the world await the hope of Christ. In this time of reflection and remembrance, may we hold fast to the truth that, even in the darkest of times, hope endures and God's light will shine.

Pete Thorp

From the Registers

Marriage

Whoops, an amendment to an announcement in the September issue:

Congratulations to Claire Blakeway and Thomas Parker who were married at St Michael and All Angels, Hanley Childe on Saturday 20th July.

We wish them every happiness. May their marriage be lifelong and life affirming.

Funerals

Our sympathy and prayers are with the family and friends of:

Susan Margaret and Stanley Bowen whose ashes were interred at St Peter and St Paul, Eastham, and of

Sandra Joan Burbridge whose ashes were interred in a family grave at St Peter's, Stoke Bliss.

Reunited with relatives and held in God's love. May they rest in peace.

Iona inspired services

We loved our pilgrimage to Iona last September and wanted to bring a little of Iona to the Teme Valley. Our next in the series of Iona services begins at 4pm on 10th November with a theme of remembering. These services involve a pattern of prayer, singing and imaginative engagement with scripture that reflects our life together as community as we celebrate God's presence in our lives. So, you are invited to join us at Hanley Broadheath Village Hall. Do give them a try.

Highlights for the parish

We have two combined services hosted on behalf of all our churches in the next few weeks.

On Saturday 2nd November at 3pm at Rochford church, a service to remember our loved ones, followed by refreshments and a chance to chat.

On Sunday 10th November at 10.50am at Eastham church, Remembrance Sunday Service with TVS churches choir, including the first singing of a new anthem specially written for the occasion.

All are welcome at these services to mark significant points in our lives together.

Teme Valley Tots

Our Tots group continues to meet on Fridays from 10.30am to noon at Rochford village hall. In November this will be from 8th to 29th November, as the first Friday is during half-term. For more information do contact Tina via email on tinaslord@gmail.com.

Updated website

We have been working hard behind the scenes to update our website. Look out for the new look website going live during November at <https://www.temevalleysouth.org.uk>.

As we now work closely with our neighbours in Clifton upon Teme, the Shelsleys and Lower Sapey (Harpley), their services are also included in the calendar.

Home communions

It is not always possible for health or access reasons to join in with a communion service in one of our churches. So if you would like to receive home communion this can easily be arranged. Please contact assistanttvspcc@gmail.com to arrange a visit.

Rev'd Julia

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25th September No 2 Not sold
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16th October No 43 Not sold

Saturday winners

21st September No 56 Not sold
28th September No 12 Jennifer Gledhill
5th October No 19 Not sold
12th October No 37 Ann Prosser

There are still plenty of numbers available – why not join in? It's just £1 per draw and the profits are split between Rochford church and the village hall – plus you get two chances each week to win £25!

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

Teme Valley Tote

October's prize draw, the sixth in this series, was decided when Rev'd Julia Curtis rolled the dice on 3rd October to select the set of random numbers and the starting point. Prizewinners are:

£50 – **Helen Nicol** of Stanford (No 579)
£30 – **Andrew and Lynn Nunn** of Pensax (No 358)
£20 – **Mrs A Stanley** of Knighton (No 637)

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

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Neighbourhood lunch

Dates for sit down and takeaway neighbourhood lunches are 26th November and 17th December, which will be our Christmas lunch with raffle, proceeds going to Kyrebrook Day Centre. Booking for lunches is essential and takeaways should be collected between 12.30 and 1pm. As food prices are rising the price of lunch is increased to just £7. Please book with Ann on 01584 781317 at least the previous week.

Harvest service and supper

Rochford Church was beautifully adorned for the Harvest festival. Thanks to everyone involved in donating hops, flowers and produce and especially to the very talented people who produced some wonderful flower arrangements. Around 30 of us sat down for a delicious two-course supper with wine on Sunday evening – so good to get together and enjoy the company of friends and neighbours. Many thanks to Ann for a delicious supper, to everyone who came and particularly to everyone who generously donated gifts for Tenbury Food Bank, with fresh produce going to the Maggs Day Centre in Worcester. Those gifts really will be much appreciated by those who need them.

Rochford Quiz

On Friday 8th November at 7.30pm at Rochford village hall – see page 14 for details. Please book your place with Ann or Andrew. Supper included for just £12.

Musical evening

On Saturday 30th November at 7.30pm at Rochford church we are pleased to welcome back Corrine Frost (cello) and friends for a light-hearted evening of music and readings. This is a very special evening and we are so fortunate to have such talented musicians to play for us. Please invite your friends and family and contact Ann for tickets, just £10 including light refreshments.



Churchyard tidy-up

We need a working party to help tidy up and maintain the churchyard: trim trees, edge paths, paint railings, etc. Date and details to be confirmed, please look for notifications on the parish WhatsApp group.

Remembrance Sunday

The joint Remembrance Service will be at Eastham church on Sunday 10th November at 10.50am. The TVS choir will sing a wonderful anthem.

All Souls Service

Rochford will once again host this service on Saturday 2nd November at 3pm when we remember the loved ones we have lost. It is always a very moving service when the names of loved ones are read out and candles lit to remember them.

Village Christmas Lunch

Sunday 22nd December, 12.30pm at Rochford village hall. A great start to the Christmas festivities with a full three-course Christmas lunch with wine and crackers. This is always popular and is just £15 per head, under 12s half-price and under 5s free. All are welcome but please book your place to avoid disappointment.

After lunch you are welcome to come to our warm church, beautifully decorated for Christmas, to celebrate the festive season with a traditional carol service followed by tea, coffee and mince pies.

Midnight Mass

On Christmas Eve at 11.30pm at Rochford church. Everyone is welcome to this uplifting service when we greet Christmas Day.

Church flower rota

Jennifer Gledhill, thank you.

Contacts

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

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

Andrew Barbé

Stoke Bliss and Kyre

Race / Pub Night

Friday 29th November
Bar opens at 7, first race at 7.30
Two course meal
Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall
Please book food in advance at SBKVillage-Hall@gmail.com



Thursday 14th November
at Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall
12.30pm welcome, lunch served at 1pm
Two courses plus refreshments

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We look forward to seeing you

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Race Night

Just a reminder that the last pub night of the year will have a slightly different format. Alongside the usual tasty grub (please book in advance as usual), we are holding a race night with the first race starting at 7.30 and continuing throughout the evening. Look forward to seeing you on Friday 29th with the bar available from 7pm.

Christmas lunch

Sunday 15th December is the annual Christmas Lunch from 12.30 with food served at 1 o'clock. Further details on the advertisement on page 16. Please pay at the time of making your booking and remember that we were over subscribed last year so it will be first come, first served in terms of booking.

Quiz 2025

Finally, whilst it is daunting to think of 2025, feedback from last year's AGM indicated a feeling that we should reinstate a social/pub night in January. We will be organising a Quiz Night on Friday 31st January. No excuses – it's time to get a diary and/or calendar for next year and ensure that date is entered. More details in the next edition.

White poppies

White poppies will be available at Kyre Church as usual. Call in any day between 10am and 5pm to collect one and whilst there hold in your thoughts all affected by war and hostility.

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A logo for 'Super Jetwash Man' featuring a stylized superhero figure in a red and black suit, holding a jet wash wand. The figure is positioned in the bottom right corner of the advertisement, overlapping the contact information.

Eastham Jottings

Church flowers and cleaning

November – Diana Potter
December – Christmas team

Thanks to those who have volunteered for the spare months. There is always room for more!
Please contact Celia on 01584 781258.

Reg Perkins

A massive thanks to Reg who has kept the churchyard in great shape for a very long time. Reg is making this his last year. He remembers Cyril Norman bringing him down to inspect the task in hand when he retired – that was 17 years ago. Thanks Reg, you have done a brilliant job all these years.

Eastham Coffee Morning

Please come to the November coffee morning on 6th November at 10.30am at Eastham Memorial Hall. Tenbury Transport Trust will be telling us more about their services.

The Christmas coffee morning will be on Wednesday 4th December.

6th November – Liz Cattani

4th December – Christmas team

Thanks to everyone who supported the Macmillan coffee morning in October which raised £500 for Macmillan Cancer Support. Congratulations to Tony Wood who won afternoon tea at Spotty Dog in the raffle, to Wayne Tomlinson for winning 'guess the coffee cups', to Stella Wood who won the tea bag hurling competition and to Jane Spilsbury who won this year's Macmillan quiz. Thanks for all your support, especially the many donations in advance and in arrears.

Christmas Market

There will be a Christmas market at Eastham Memorial Hall on Sunday 1st December with indoor and outdoor stalls, a cash bar and hot food. Please phone Beryl on 01584 781920 or email events@easthammemorialhall.org.uk if you would like to have a stall. Be quick as most pitches are now sold.

Come along and see Father Christmas arriving at 2.30pm. He will have presents for children under 12. There will be a free children's craft room all day. The Ludlow Male Voice Choir will sing carols around the Christmas tree from 3pm with the lights switched on at 4pm.

The grand Christmas raffle with lots of prizes will be drawn at 4.15, proceeds to Air Ambulance.

Pub Night

Pub night will be on Friday 22nd November at 7pm at Eastham Memorial Hall. Watch out for the usual banner and make a date for this informal get together.

Autumn clean of churchyard and church

Thanks to everyone who came on Saturday 19th October to help with the churchyard and get the church ready for the Harvest Festival.

Worcestershire and Dudley Historic Churches

Eastham church was delighted to be part of the Worcestershire and Dudley Historic Churches Trust annual tour on Wednesday 16th October which also visited churches at Tenbury Wells, Bockleton, Kyre and Rochford. Although it rained all day, the 25 visitors enjoyed touring the Grade 1 and 2 churches. Tim Bridges gave a potted history to the group at each church. The visitors then returned to Tenbury for tea and cakes before leaving



the town as the river Teme started to fill up with water coming downstream from Shropshire.

Celia Adams

Activities at Eastham Memorial Hall

- Pilates, Tuesdays 1pm and 2.15pm. Contact Sue on 07974 343609, sue579@icloud.com for details or a taster session.
- Yoga, ring Zoe on 07962 981456 or see www.zedyoga.co.uk. Wednesdays at 10am.
- Zumba Gold, Lucia on 07709 301030, lu.500@live.co.uk. Wednesdays at 12 noon, just turn up.
- Kung Fu, Adam on 07720 643524, for youngsters on Saturdays at 9.30am. Available on request.

Hanley Happenings

Macmillan Coffee Day

Well done to all those who contributed or donated to the MacMillan coffee day. My house was full for most of the day, cakes rapidly being devoured before Percy helped! We made the brilliant total of £216 for this worthy cause.

Race Night

Thanks to everyone who came to the Race Night on 5th October. Numbers were few but everyone had a great evening and we raised £150 towards a new roof.

Relaxation Evening

Back by popular demand! Relaxation evening and sound bath on Friday 29th November at 6.30pm. The cost is £15, please book direct with Lynney on www.sacredsoundand yoga.co.uk.

Film Club

We will be showing *Secondhand Lions* on Saturday 16th November. Doors open at 6.30pm and a traditional two-course meal will be served at 7pm for £15. Film only is £5 and starts at 8pm. Book with Lex on 07471 192649.

Family Christmas bingo

On Sunday 22nd December, at 3pm – eyes down at 3.30. Hamper prizes, stand up, sit down and bonus ball! Tea and cake.



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Pudding night

On Saturday 18th January at 7pm. Bring a home-made or shop bought pudding to share. Prize for the best pudding! Entry £2.50, small cheese board £5, pop-up bar. A great evening to get rid of the January blues!

Carole Gardner

Days out in south Herefordshire

Ed Yarnold continues the story of his days out in the south of the county

The church I wanted to visit was St Peter's in Peterchurch, in the Golden Valley on the Hereford to Hay-on-Wye Road.



It is a big church with a strong village hub. My main reason for visiting was to see the burial place of a soldier who had been involved in the defence of Rorke's Drift against the Zulus in South Africa. The film starring Michael Caine and Stanley Baker seems to be on the television every Christmas!

He was born in Monmouthshire and worked as a farm labourer until he joined up at the age of 14 in 1876 and took part in the battle in 1879. He and ten others were awarded the Victoria Cross, the most ever awarded in one battle.

He continued his service in India before transferring to the Army Reserves. On his return home he settled in Peterchurch, marrying a local girl and fathering five children. In the summer of 1898 he complained of headaches and in September of that year he was found dead with his gun beside him.

At the inquest the verdict was given as suicide and as the church was against suicide he was not allowed a proper funeral in the church – his coffin had to be lifted over the wall and his tombstone faces in the opposite direction to all the others in the graveyard. His grave is well cared for by the Welsh Regiment and his descendants, who still live locally and continue to campaign for him to have a proper funeral. His VC remains in the hands of Michael Ashcroft, a wealthy industrialist.

The museum of The Welsh Regiment in Brecon has more information regarding the Zulu wars.

Ed Yarnold

Stanford • Stanford • Stanford

It has been a busy month and the temperature has certainly dropped. October saw some wonderful displays of the aurora borealis – it was lovely to see so many different images of this beautiful phenomenon. The dark days of winter will be even more cheered, after the excitement of Hallowe'en, by the fireworks on and around 5th November. Remember to keep safe and take care of your pets who will be frightened.

Services in Stanford

Sunday 3rd November

Holy Communion at 10am

Evensong with choir at 4pm

Sunday 1st December

Holy Communion at 10am

Advent service: Darkness to Light at 4pm with choir

Church flowers

Flowers for November will be from Alexandra Winnington.

Many thanks to Sarah Burgoyne for the most stunning display for the harvest service in October. Flowers and fruit were in abundance and every window was decorated with a theme. We even saw a Spilsbury & Jones wooden box on the window sill!

Harvest celebrations

The church was very full for the harvest service and the congregation all enjoyed the decorations and the beautiful singing by the Teme Valley South Church Choir.

The service was followed by lunch at the village hall organised by Sue Softly and Tina Lane and their team. They laid on a lovely meal with contributions from themselves and members of the village. Thank you to all involved.

The fruit and vegetables from the church were all taken to the hall. Much of the produce was grown by Anton Sparey. His brussels sprouts were commented on for their magnitude! David Evington took an auction with great enthusiasm and encouraged guests to part with their pennies for all the lovely produce. With the collection from the church donations and all donations from the lunch and auction, around £430 was raised, plus Gift Aid, for the Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution, which supports farmers' mental health and financial difficulties.

Thanks to the village hall for hosting the occasion and to all who supported the event.

Community Gathering

A party was held on 28th September at St Mary's church to bring villagers from Stanford together. It was well attended and drinks and canapés enjoyed by all. Thanks to Cecilia Dean for organising it and making the canapés with Alexandra and helpers. Thanks to Anthony Winnington for providing the wine.

Christmas Tree Festival

This will take place on Saturday 7th December and Sunday 8th December from 10am to 4pm at St Mary's church. The Rev'd Canon Mark Badger, Archdeacon of Worcester, will be visiting the Festival and helping to judge the interesting aspects of the tree decorations or their sheer beauty. It is a wonderful sight and brightens the darker days of winter. Carol singing at 4pm on the Saturday. Refreshments will be served. If you would like to join the team and decorate a tree, please contact John Curtis by email at johnccurtis@gmail.com.

Alexandra Winnington

Mill Farm Country Retail News

Mrs Best Paper Co writes: As we approach our sixth anniversary we're also excited to celebrate another significant milestone – 20,000 customer orders since we first opened our turquoise doors in November 2018. We owe this achievement to the incredible support of our local community and we want to express our heartfelt thanks to all of you for being part of our journey over the past six years.

As a token of our appreciation, we're offering a special gift to our 20,000th customer: a luxury hamper worth approximately £200. We expect to reach this milestone in the coming weeks, so if you'd like to be in the running for this fabulous prize, simply make a purchase in our shop. The lucky customer who places our 20,000th order will be awarded their gift on the spot!

Keep an eye on our social media channels for updates and a sneak peek at the prize. You can follow us on Facebook and Instagram at [@mrsbestco](https://www.instagram.com/mrsbestco). Once again, thank you for your unwavering support of our independent store. It means the world to us!

Temetalk deadline 18th November
email ronsmum@icloud.com
or call 07482 482629

TemeTalk deadlines

The first issue of TemeTalk in 2025 will be a joint January/February issue and the deadline will be 6th January. Please include details of any early January events in the December issue, deadline 18th November.

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The Filling Station

Our next meeting is on Thursday 21st November at Eastham Memorial Hall at 7.15 for a 7.30pm start. Our speaker for the evening will be Rev'd Mark Inglis, Team Vicar at St Mary's Church, Tenbury Wells. We look forward to hearing his message to us.

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.

Eastham Parish Council

Teme Valley Ward

Vacancy for two parish councillors

The above parish council will consider filling by co-option two casual vacancies for councillors at its next meeting on 26th November 2024. Those who are interested in serving the community in this way and who want to become a candidate for co-option should obtain an application form from: <http://e-services.worcestershire.gov.uk/myparish> Select Eastham – Publications for application form

Completed application forms should be returned to the clerk by 4pm on Friday 22nd November 2024.

Clerk – Lesley Jenkins, 07942 363070
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More Eastham Jottings

Pumpkinfest and Harvest Festival

Well done to everyone who entered the heaviest pumpkin competition. This has not been a good year so anyone growing a pumpkin did well. And well done to winners of the animals made from fruit or vegetable. All the donated vegetables and fruit including the winning pumpkin were delivered to Maggs Day Centre in Worcester (thanks to Jim Cumming) to be made into many bowls of pumpkin soup and apple pies for the homeless. The collection at the Harvest Festival was sent to Tenbury Food Bank along with a donation of £100 from St Peter and St Paul's church and donations from visitors on the Worcestershire and Dudley Historic Churches Trust annual tour.

Celia Adams



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Charity Event

Fri 1st 7.30pm Dial Medicine for Murder

Fundraising Event

Fri 15th 6.30pm Betty's Bingo Night

Broadcast

Sat 2nd 2.00pm Wolf Witch Giant Fairy
Family Opera

Films

Sat 9th 7.00pm Joker: Folie à Deux (15)

Thur 21st 7.00pm Throwback Thursdays

Fri 22nd 2.00pm Red One (12A)

7.00pm Red One (12A)

Mon 25th 1.00pm Red One (12A)

25th/27th 7.00pm Red One (12A)

Live Comedy

Thur 7th 7.30pm The Scummy Mummies

Wed 20th 8.00pm Joe Pasquale: The New Normal

28th/29th 7.30pm Ian Ashpitel and Jonty

Stephens Eric and Ern at Christmas

Live Music

Fri 8th 7.00pm Swift and Styles

Sun 10th 7.30pm Talon - The Best of Eagles

Sat 16th 7.30pm The Rat Pack Christmas Show

Sat 23rd 7.30pm The Fleetwood Mac Songbook

Sat 30th 7.30pm ABBA Sensation

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Sun 17th 2.00pm Indigo Moon Theatre presents
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Friday 29th November



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TemeTalk deadline 18th November

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



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Deadline for the January/February issue is 6th January



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Films at Hanley Village Hall

Saturday 16th November, 7.30pm (12)

Secondhand Lions

Fourteen-year-old Walter Caldwell's irresponsible mother Mae sends him to live with his bachelor uncles, Hub and Garth, so that she can go on yet another husband-hunting trip.

Stars **Haley Joel Osment, Michael Caine, Robert Duvall**

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Guardians of Hollow Meadow – our first year

We have been very busy in the year since we registered Guardians of Hollow Meadow CIC (Community Interest Company limited by guarantee). Hollow Meadow is now owned by the CIC which secures its future. It is also a local wildlife site. If the group disbands, the Charities Commission regulator is responsible for ensuring that it goes to a suitable similar enterprise and is not allowed to be sold on the open market.

Natural Networks, Severn Rivers Trust and Coronation Orchards have supported us and funded the following projects.

Coronation Orchards supplied nine fruit trees from Frank Matthews. Wade Muggleton from the Countryside Commission and our group helped plant them in February. The selection was made to spread the flowering and cropping season, so with these trees and the ones around the village hall the whole parish should be able to drink local apple juice all year! As well as apples there are pears, cherries and a plum, Marjorie's Seedling (in memory of Marjorie and Fred Janes who were the first to welcome me to Stoke Bliss in 1984). They join a medlar planted in 2022 and bearing fruit this year.

Realigning the fencing to be below the footpath was the next task, with footpath gates courtesy of Worcestershire County Council Footpaths department. Thanks to the stalwart 'volunteers' who removed the section of old fencing.

Cutting the figure of eight footpath around the

meadow, pruning hazel, dogwood and willow (plus bramble and thistles) was also done with the help of volunteers. A regular task, so save money on the gym and have your workout on Hollow Meadow instead.

Meadow hay was cut and baled and some taken to seed other sites in Teme Valley South. The Tai Chi group of instructors experienced the meadow on a lovely summer's day.

On Monday 20th September there was a mass invasion of grant makers, tree surgeon, digger and driver and a newt specialist. Soup and cakes encouraged all to work hard on the shallow scrape on the left of the field, in the meadowsweet border. Once the ash tree had its low hanging limbs trimmed and assessed for ash dieback, all decamped to the east end of the field.

Then it was time to create a swale and an alleviation pool. A long-disused badger tunnel didn't help but we were eventually successful. Now it is only the hedgerow planting to be done in November – see you there?

We have also dealt with risk assessments, land transfer, had a business masterclass, become part of Malvern Hills Nature Therapy group etc etc. The general consensus is that GOHM CIC has certainly put its roots down – and plenty of cake always helps!

Maggie Kingston



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Remember, remember ...



*"Remember, remember,
the fifth of November
Gunpowder treason and plot ...*

Our grandchildren, born and brought up in America, know nothing of Guy Fawkes. They love Hallowe'en, dressing up in outlandish costumes, trick-or-treating around the neighbourhood and coming home with bucketsful of candy, but Bonfire Night? Guy who?

Guy Fawkes Day commemorates the failure of the Gunpowder Plot of 1605, when a group of conspirators made a dastardly plan to blow up the Houses of Parliament during the state opening, meaning to blow King James I and all the members of Parliament to smithereens.

The conspirators, led by Robert Catesby, were Roman Catholics and under James I England was a protestant country. Catesby and his friends, including Guido (Guy) Fawkes, were angry at the king for refusing to grant greater religious tolerances for Catholics.

The plotters stored 36 barrels of gunpowder in the cellars of the Houses of Parliament, but the plot failed – the king's guards caught Guy Fawkes red handed in the cellar with the gunpowder on the evening before the planned attack. He was arrested, tried, convicted, hanged, drawn and quartered – not a nice way

to go. The other traitors all suffered the same fate, except the ones who were shot while trying to run away.

Parliament declared 5th November a national day of thanksgiving. The first celebration was held in 1606.

Guy Fawkes Day, or Bonfire Night, is celebrated on 5th November every year

in the UK with bonfires and fireworks. Effigies of Guy Fawkes are burnt on the bonfires. Fireworks and sparklers, representing the explosives that were never used by the plotters, are a big part of the celebrations.

And even today guards search the Houses of Parliament and its cellars on 5th November to check for arsonists, although this is now more ceremonial than serious.

*We see no reason why gunpowder treason
Should ever be forgot ..."*



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Roof and ceiling repair project at St Peter's Stoke Bliss

What we have done so far

- In 2022 we applied for a grant from the Handley Trust and were awarded £4,700 which enabled us to carry out much-needed repairs to some of the leaded windows on the north and south sides of the church.
- We have been successful in our applications for funding to Dieterich Preservation Trust, Lassiter and Worcester diocese and can now carry out the repairs to the buttress on the north west corner of the church.
- We have appointed a new architect, John Middleton. In October he began the process of drawing up tendering specifications for repairs to roof and ceiling. Once the tendering process is complete we will have some more precise figures to work from and can begin applying for grants.

What next?

Grant funders will expect us to raise some of the money towards the major repair work to the roof and ceiling and to evidence that we are in support of the church.

In 2022, as a result of Covid, we were very fortunate in being granted funding for the repairs to window tracery in the Lady Chapel at St Mary's, Kyre, by Heritage England. We raised additional funds through the sale of Maggie Kingston's

books and individual donations.

Our churches at St Mary's, Kyre and St Peter's, Stoke Bliss need regular donations to support the day to day running costs of the church – electricity, insurance and general maintenance. We do this currently through the joint coffee mornings and other events shared with the village hall

How can you help?

- One way to raise funds to support the general running costs of both our churches is through parish giving – forms are available on how to sign up to this scheme. It doesn't have to be a major monthly contribution, just £5 a month will help. Please contact us for details.
- You can sponsor at tile at £5 each here: www.acocanthera.com/church/
- You can buy one or both of Maggie Kingston's books about Kyre or Stoke Bliss.
- You can make an individual donation – please contact us for information on how to do this.

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Thank you for your support.

Rev'd Jen Jones



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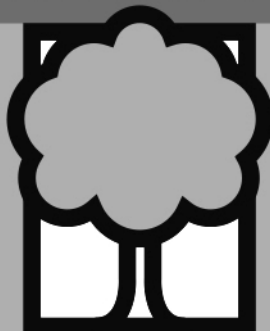
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New local business sponsors Tenbury Under 11s



Tenbury's Under 11s got the new football season off to a flying start with great teamwork, tactical skills and positivity giving the mixed-sex team a 6-1 win. The close squad have been training together every Friday night on Palmers Meadow for the past three years, under the watchful eyes and expert coaching of two local volunteers, all a part of the large and growing Tenbury United FC. This year, with a few new players and a new sponsor, The Holiday Butler, the team are already building on their past successes.

Fraser Stark, who left his career as a high school English teacher to set up The Holiday But-

ler in 2023, was persuaded to sponsor the boys' and girls' new kit by coach Sam Elliott.

"Sam was a big supporter of me as I launched the new business, giving me lots of encouragement and advice about working with our local community", says Fraser, who now looks after families' homes, pets and gardens when they go away. "So when he told me the team needed funding for a new kit, it made sense that I did something in return for that community. I would encourage other local business owners to do the same – kids playing team sports, supported by a network of volunteer adults, is just a really good cause."

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Teme Valley Wildlife



In this month's photograph a field sown with sunflowers and other seed-producing plants is seen against the splendid backdrop of the Cleve Hills. After writing earlier in the year about the seed mixes farmers use to support pollinating insects, I hadn't expected to be following it with a few words about plants grown for birds. However, the use of "cover crops", "herbal leys" and "green manures" by farmers and gardeners alike is becoming more common.

The idea behind such crops is to employ natural methods to improve the fertility and structure of the soil. By ploughing plants back in at the end of the season, soil humus levels can be usefully increased. In addition deep-rooted plants can help to loosen compacted ground and nitrogen-fixing plants can help restore nutrient levels. It is hoped that less artificial fertiliser will be needed to grow a subsequent cereal crop. That birds, insects and small mammals get a boost from cover crops is a secondary but very welcome benefit.

Sunflowers are always lovely to see and were very successful when the Teme Valley Wildlife Group grew a bird seed mix in a field at Eastham some years ago. The sunflower gets its name from the fact that its flower heads turn to face the sun and gradually move by the hour as the sun travels

Continued on page 24



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across the sky. Its Latin name of *Helianthus annuus*, literally annual sunflower, reflects this. Although it is probably the largest flower in Britain to exhibit this behaviour, it is by no means the only one. Bright red field poppies do the same.

Some flowers open when the sun is shining and close when it goes in. The tiny flower of the scarlet pimpernel opens at about 8 o'clock in the morning and closes at 2 o'clock in the afternoon, earlier if it is dull, and has acquired the name "poor man's weather-glass" because of this. Similar behaviour is exhibited by goat's beard, a tall dandelion-headed flower which opens in the morning but has shut by noon. This plant also goes by the name of "Jack-go-to-bed-at-noon". Quite why these plants act as they do, I'm not really sure. Some flowers need to protect their pollen against rain and shut up in damp conditions, wood anemones do this, but why flowers shut up for the afternoon I do not know.

Another fascinating fact is that some types of water lily sink their buds under water over night which then rise up at daybreak to open, before closing and sinking again in the evening. The Nile lily was observed to do this by the ancients who saw it as a symbol of resurrection, dying every evening and being reborn every morning in the eternal cycle of death and resurrection. Who would have thought that plants could tell us so much?

The next meeting of the Teme Valley Wildlife Group will be at 7.30pm on Thursday 14th November at Stoke Bliss and Kyre village hall. We welcome Jo from Haven4Wildlife whose talk is called "Gardening with wildlife in mind". Members and friends are all welcome, it is just £3 on the door. This will be our last meeting for 2024.

Stephanie Mcroft

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

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What's on in Teme Valley South

November

| | |
|---------------|--|
| 2nd Saturday | All Souls Service, Rochford Church, 3pm |
| 5th Thursday | Christmas Wreath Making, Eastham Memorial Hall, 7pm |
| 6th Wednesday | Eastham Coffee Morning, Eastham Memorial Hall, 10.30am |
| 8th Friday | Rochford Quiz with supper, Rochford Village Hall, 7.30pm |
| 9th Saturday | Knitwear Sale, Stanford Village Hall, 9am |
| 10th Sunday | Joint Remembrance Sunday service, Eastham Church, 10.50am Iona Service, Hanley Village Hall, 4pm |
| 14th Thursday | Neighbourhood Lunch, Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall, 12.30pm |
| 16th Saturday | Film Night at Hanley Village Hall, <i>Secondhand Lions</i> , 6.30pm |
| 26th Tuesday | Neighbourhood Lunch, Rochford Village Hall, 12.30pm |
| 22nd Friday | Pub Night, Eastham Memorial Hall, 7pm |
| 29th Friday | Social & Pub/Race Night, Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall, 7pm Relaxation Evening, Hanley Village Hall, 6.30pm |
| 30th Saturday | Musical evening with Corrine Frost in Rochford Church, 7.30pm |

December

| | |
|---------------|--|
| 1st Sunday | Christmas market, Eastham Memorial Hall, 10.30am |
| 4th Wednesday | Eastham Coffee Morning, Eastham Memorial Hall, 10.30am |
| 7th Saturday | Christmas Tree Festival, St Mary's, Stanford, 10am |
| 8th Sunday | Christmas Tree Festival, St Mary's, Stanford, 10am |
| 15th Sunday | Christmas Lunch, Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall, 12.30pm |
| 17th Tuesday | Rochford Neighbourhood Lunch, Rochford Village Hall, 12.30pm |
| 22nd Sunday | Rochford Village Christmas Lunch, Rochford Village Hall, 12.30pm Family Christmas Bingo, Hanley Village Hall, 3pm |

January

| | |
|---------------|---|
| 18th Saturday | Pudding Night, Hanley Village Hall, 7pm |
| 31st Friday | Quiz Night, Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall |

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



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Services

November/December 2024

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 details.

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

Services Schedule

Saturday 2nd November

3.00pm Rochford All Souls Service

Sunday 3rd November

10.00am Stanford Holy Communion and hymns
4.00pm Stanford Evensong

10th November

9.00am Hanley William Holy Communion, said
10.50am Eastham Service of Remembrance
4.00pm Hanley Village Hall Iona Service

Remembrance Sunday

Monday 11th November

11.00am Hanley William Observance of Armistice Day
11.00am Clifton Village Green Observance of Armistice Day

Sunday 17th November

10.00am Kyre Holy Communion
2.00pm Walking Church

Sunday 24th November

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

Sunday 1st December

10.00am Stanford Holy Communion with hymns
4.00pm Stanford Advent Darkness to Light Service with Relishing Rural Choir

Advent Sunday

Deadline for the December issue of TemeTalk is 18th November
Deadline for the January/February issue is 6th January
Don't forget to include your early January events in the December issue

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