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November 2025

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A Strange Day Out

and all your parish news

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TemeTalk

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A community going forward with God

November 2025

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

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www.temevalleysouth.org.uk

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

Dear Readers

Autumn has been a time of bringing in the harvest, a time of thanksgiving and, at last, gratitude for rain. October goes out in a blaze of glory as it makes way for approaching winter.

In our churches we celebrated harvest in the traditional way with gifts of food and produce and songs of praise and thanksgiving. In our villages we gathered for jolly harvest meals, raising funds for those who are not so blessed.

As the leaves began to fall and nature started its preparations for winter sleep so, at the Feast of All Souls, we remembered our loved ones who have been laid to rest. And at All Saints we rejoiced with all the company of heaven. In the misty half-light the boundaries between earth and heaven become blurred.

On 11th November and on Remembrance Sunday our ponderings are brought into sharper focus. We honour those who have given their lives in defence of a freedom that all may share, and liberation from tyranny. We pray for peace. Always we pray for peace.

In these times, in our churches, on Zoom and in our homes, we have been praying at all times for peace. The desire to live at peace is deeply human. We seek peace between nations, in our communities and relationships, peace in our hearts. In truth, because humanity is greedy, short-tempered and prone to take sides, the pursuit of peace requires constant effort and close attention. It is not easy at any level.

Jesus said, "Peace I leave with you. I give you my peace. Not as the world knows it ... Deep peace ... Don't be worried or distraught. Do not be afraid." So, peace is a gift beyond our imagination, but surely within our grasp if we turn to the task. It comes with letting go of anxiety and fear, collective and personal. So we pray.

Peace. In the language of Jesus, *Shalom, Salaam.*
Rev'd Sally

This month's front cover
A silver washed fritillary
Photograph by Stephanie Mocroft

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

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Trevor Matthews 07768 942169

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07494 104781

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Janet Powell, 01885 410598

stokeblisskyrevillagehall@gmail.com

Rochford – Ann Prosser, 01584 781317

Eastham –

bookings@easthammemorialhall.org.uk

Hanley – Sarah Geggie, 07796 170949

hanleyvillagehall@outlook.com

Stanford – Catherine Mawby, 07831 303792



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Parish news

From the Registers

Funeral

The funeral of Margaret (Peggy) Kerby was held at Wyre Forest Crematorium on Thursday 16th October. We send our condolences to her loved ones. May she rest in peace and rise in glory.

Sabbatical communications

During November please contact Rev'd Jen Jones for ministry matters in Teme Valley South Churches (email tvscurate@gmail.com or phone 07749 977821) and our part-time administrator Jo for other queries (email assistanttvs-pcc@gmail.com).

The parish office phone will be monitored twice a week, so if you leave a message it will be picked up and responded to, but probably not the same day.

Teme Valley Tots

We meet on Fridays from 10.30am to 12 noon at Rochford village hall. We start again on 7th November after half term. For more information about our tots group do contact Tina via email on tinaslord@gmail.com.

Deadline for the next issue of TemeTalk is
18th November

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Bible Reflection Group

We are a small group who meet weekly on Friday mornings to share a cuppa and a biscuit (or two) and delve into scripture. We do this in a relaxed and easy-going way sharing our thoughts and reflections on what we have read using a study guide book.

This is an invitation for you to accompany us as we travel through Advent and await the arrival of the baby Jesus.

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

The Filling Station

Our next meeting will be on Thursday 20th 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 in Tenbury Wells. We look forward to welcoming him to the Filling Station again and to the message he will bring us.

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



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Rochford 49 Club

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£25 winners!*

Wednesday winners

24th September	No 25	Barbara Weaver
1st October	No 27	Not sold
8th October	No 51	Not sold
15th October	No 52	Not sold

Saturday winners

20th September	No 22	Gill Smith
27th September	No 59	Not sold
4th October	No 42	Colin Lord
11th October	No 53	Not sold
18th October	No 19	Hannah Prosser

As you can see from the numbers of tickets 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 Norma Goodall on

07974 809242

Teme Valley Tote

October's prize draw, the seventh in this series, was decided when Rev'd Jen Jones rolled the dice on 1st October to select the set of random numbers and the starting point. Prizewinners are:

£50 – **Sue Softly** of Stanford (No 522)

£30 – **Jack Campbell** of Stanford (No 489)

£20 – **David Moule** of Pensax (No 333)

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



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Rochford News

Neighbourhood lunch

Dates for sit down and takeaway neighbourhood lunches are 25th November and 16th December, which is the neighbourhood Christmas lunch with a Christmas raffle.

Everyone is welcome and booking for lunches is essential. Takeaways should be collected between 12.30 and 1pm. Please book with Ann on 01584 781317 at least the previous week.

Rochford Quiz

On Friday 21st November at 7.30pm at Rochford village hall we are pleased to welcome back the West Midlands Premier Quizmaster who has arranged a fun quiz for all with a great range of rounds including trivia, true or false, sport, music and many more. Please book your place with Ann or Andrew, either in a team of four or come along and join a team on the night. Fish and chip supper is included for just £12. No bar so please bring your own drink.

All Souls Service

On Sunday 2nd November at 3pm, Rochford church will once again host this service where we remember those loved ones we have lost by the reading out of names and the lighting of candles. It is always a very moving service and everyone is welcome.



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Remembrance Service

The annual combined churches Remembrance Service will be held at Rochford church on Sunday 9th November at 10.45am, with the TVS Choir to lead the singing.

In this service we remember and honour the service and sacrifice of the armed forces from our communities. We will remember them.

Farewell

On 22nd October we said farewell to Ann's daughter Emma, who had been battling cancer. Our sincere condolences to Ann, Edward and the family.

MHDC Legacy Grant Scheme

We made an application to the Legacy Grant Scheme, supported by councillor Andrew Willmot, to improve the insulation and décor of the village hall and also to refurbish the kitchen. The scheme was oversubscribed but fortunately our application was successful.

We are currently looking for quotes for the work which should hopefully take place in the new year. The village hall will be designated as a community hub and will continue to provide a community venue for everyone for generations to come.

November church flower rota

Jennifer Gledhill, thank you.

Dates for your diary

Sunday 14th December: Village Christmas lunch followed by Carol Service.

Sunday 24th December: Christmas Eve Midnight Mass with choir.

Contacts

Ann on 01584 781317

Andrew on 07809 658484 or through the parish WhatsApp group

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

Andrew Barbé

TemeTalk deadline 18th November
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07482 482629

Stoke Bliss and Kyre

Social Night

Friday 28th November

Bar opens at 7, food served at 8pm

Please book food at sbkvillagehall@gmail.com

Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall

Sunday 14th December – Christmas Lunch

Thank you

to Alison and Keith Tompsett who have been delivering TemeTalk in Stoke Bliss for six years and are now moving away. We appreciate all your hard work.

And thanks to Jeremy Wyatt and Trevor Matthews who are taking over the deliveries between Kyre and Bannalls Lane.

Christmas is coming!

As the autumn colours explode across the countryside, planning has begun for the festive season. Key dates for your diary are the Darkness-into-Light Service held this year at St Mary's Church Kyre on 7th December at 4pm, and the annual Carol Service at St Peter's Stoke Bliss on 21st December at 3pm. Our Relishing Rural Choir will be singing at both services.

Christmas Tree Festival

Stoke Bliss and Kyre churches will be entering the Stanford Christmas Tree Festival again this year, held over the weekend of 6th/7th December. Our entry will build on last year's theme of Recycle, Reuse and Rejoice. Look out for posts on the village Facebook page and email list for when the crafting session will be held.

Church roof restoration update

Tenders are currently being assessed by our managing architects. At time of going to print, no further details of the project costs are available. Our aim is still to carry out works in the third quarter of 2026, subject to securing funding.

Harvest Festival at St Peter's

There was a colourful display at St Peter's Church for this year's Harvest Festival in early October, a time when we gave thanks for the food on our tables and the hard work and dedication of our farmers. Donated foodstuffs were delivered to Tenbury Food Bank after the service.

Churchyard tidy sessions

As seasonal growth slows, so does the need to volunteer in the churchyard. The committee would like to thank all the many volunteers for their hard work during 2025. Dates for next year will be published in February.

Keeping you informed

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

Jeremy Wyatt

See page 14 for details of our Christmas Lunch

Wear your white poppy with pride

White poppies for remembrance will be available to collect from Kyre Church as usual. Wear one with your red poppy, commemorating all service personnel, or alone. They commemorate all affected by war and the work for peace that is so much needed.

Hollow Meadow needs you!

Plantlife has given us 420 small hedgerow saplings to plant on Hollow Meadow between 17th and 27th November. Rewards are one sapling to take away to plant elsewhere for every 10 saplings planted plus of course tea and cake! Spread the word! Email hollowmeadow23@gmail.com.

Maggie Kingston



Thursday 13th November

Thursday 11th December

at Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall

12.30pm welcome, lunch served at 1pm

Two courses plus refreshments

To book call 07396 813137

or sbkclunch@gmail.com

We look forward to seeing you

Eastham Jottings

Church flowers and cleaning

November – Diana Potter

December – Christmas team

Eastham Coffee Morning

Please come to the November coffee morning on Thursday 6th November, hosted by Liz Cattani. Diane Thomson of Air Ambulance will be joining us to tell us more about how the air ambulance works and as ever looking for volunteers.

Our Christmas coffee morning will be on Thursday 4th December hosted by the Christmas team.

Thanks to everyone for supporting the Macmillan coffee morning in October which raised £650 gross for Macmillan Cancer Support. Thanks to Nikki's Kitchens for sponsoring the afternoon tea for two. Congratulations to Tony Wood who won the guess the coffee beans competition, Stella Wood who won the tea bag hurling competition and Janice Lucas who won this year's Macmillan quiz. A brilliant result all round – thanks to everyone for the support and especially for lots of donations in advance and in arrears.

Pub Night

The next pub night will be on Friday 21st November from 7pm at Eastham Memorial Hall. Everyone is welcome for a drink and a catch up, look out for the usual banner.

Autumn clean of churchyard and church

Thanks to everyone who came on 18th October to help with the churchyard and get the church ready for the Harvest Festival.

Christmas Fayre

Our Christmas Fayre will be on Sunday 16th November from 10am to 3pm at Eastham Memorial Hall. There will be a vast array of stalls inside and outside the hall including Christmas gin, Christmas gifts and wreaths, Christmas cards, jewellery and lots more including honey galore. The raffle will be for three fabulous Christmas hampers. Come and enjoy an Eastham barbecue, tea and coffee, cakes and mince pies and a fully licensed bar.

For the children there will be a craft room all day. It's a bit early for Father Christmas so there will be a chance to write and send letters to him.

For more information please ring 07968 190534 or email events@easthammemorialhall.org.uk.

Christmas Fayre Fun Dog Show

There will be a fancy dress dog show at the Christmas Fayre with classes for the best dressed puppy under 12 months old, the best dressed dog and the best dressed dog and owner. Registration is at 11.30pm with the show at 12 noon. Thanks to Bonnies for sponsoring the prizes.

Christmas wreath making

Come along on Tuesday 9th December from 7 to 9pm to a repeat of last year's class run by Lucy Lawson with a vast selection of fresh and dried foliage to choose from. £25 per person, to include a festive drink and nibble. Ring or text 07855 132894 to book. Wild by Lucy Lawson.

Lamberts Family Grocers

The mobile shop calls at Eastham Memorial Hall every Wednesday at around 10.30am. Mike carries Ashley's Bakery, Wyre Pie etc. If Mike is ever not there when you expect or you want an exact time for that week, please ring Celia Adams on 01584 781258.

EV Charger at Eastham Memorial Hall

Good news! We now have our own electric car charger that's ready to use. So if you (or your visitors) drive an electric car, you don't need to go far to top up anymore – it's right here.

It couldn't be simpler:

- Spot it in Zap Map or just read the instructions on the Hall door.
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Celia Adams



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Hanley Happenings

Macmillan Coffee Morning

The Macmillan Coffee Morning at Tally Ho Cottage raised a creditable £380 plus some loose change which was very pleasing considering the number of attendees. Raffle prizes were won by Dawn Williams, Ed Yarnold, Gillian Evans, BG, Phil, Kerry and Percy, who won the plant! There was even enough cake for people to take some home to eat later!

Thank you for all the donations and to all those who gave so generously to the worthy cause.

Relaxation Evening

Relaxation for body, mind and soul at Hanley Village Hall on Friday 14th November from 6.30 to 8.30pm. A nourishing session – leave feeling lighter, brighter and deeply recharged. Just £22 – your investment in calm. To sign up go to www.thesacredvalley.co.uk. Full details on page 16.

Jazz in the Village

The tickets for the jazz evening on Saturday 22nd November at 7.30pm have been reduced to £8 as an incentive to attend. The feedback on the performances has been excellent so why not give it a try? Tickets available from Lexi on 07471 192649. See page 15 for full details.

Christmas family bingo

Family Christmas Bingo is always a success so put the date in your diary now – Sunday 21st December at Hanley Village Hall, eyes down at 3.30pm.

Race Night

A disappointing turnout for the race night didn't deter the organisers or those who attended. It was a most enjoyable evening for everyone there.

Apples

It's been a bumper year for us gardeners, especially for runner beans and fruit, but it's sad to see all those beautiful cooking apples rotting on the ground at the village hall. My husband gathered a few but they are there for all the village so please go and collect some.

Carole Gardner



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Services in Stanford

Sunday 2nd November

Holy Communion with hymns at 10.00am

Sunday 9th November

Remembrance Service for combined churches with the TVS Choir at Rochford at 10.45am

Sunday 6th December

Holy Communion said service at 9.00am

Flowers for November

Karon Jamous

Christmas Tree Festival

The Christmas Tree Festival will be at St Mary's on Saturday 6th and Sunday 7th December from 10am to 4pm, with carol singing on Saturday 6th at 4pm. If you would like to enter and decorate a tree, please contact John Curtis, johncurtis@gmail.com. For visitors it's a wonderful sight and brightens the darker days of winter.

Carol Service

If you would like to help decorate the church for our carol service on Christmas Eve at 5pm, it would be greatly appreciated. Many hands make it easier.

Autumn churchyard working party

Thanks to Andy Nicol for organising his enthusiastic team of helpers (pictured below) and to Helen for refreshments. Sue and Alexandra had a go with the trimmer, Andy mowed the grass and Anthony keeps the path looking immaculate! Helen cleared up as well.



Harvest Festival

On 5th October we had a lovely church service thanking the farmers and growers for all our food in prayer. With the beautiful singing of our Teme Valley South Choir conducted by Chloe Evans it was very special.

Thanks to Sarah Burgoyne for another fabulous harvest decoration in the church. It was really lovely.

The service was followed by a delicious harvest lunch provided by a wonderful team including Sue Softly, Ann Wall, David and Tina Lane and Jane Smith. Many thanks to you all. Various kind parishioners donated a quiche or a cake which was much appreciated. We held an auction of the produce; thanks to David Evington who was our very entertaining auctioneer and also to Anton Sparey and Judy McLeish and everyone who donated gifts, particularly Kim for her prize-winning crab apple jelly. Donations raised £419 for St Mary's church.

Tenbury Food Bank box

If you would like to bring any donations for Tenbury Food Bank please deliver to St Mary's before or after the services detailed above, or bring with you if coming to the service. We are looking into a better place for the box in the village where it is more accessible to all and will update you in the new year.

Alexandra Winnington

Parish Social Meeting

We had a very pleasant get together on 25th September at Stanford village hall, with wine and nibbles, to discuss local government reorganisation. Those present decided unanimously that we wished to keep our status as a civil parish meeting.

It was also agreed that Tom Spilsbury should take over the chairmanship from Robin Dean and David Evington should take over as parish clerk from Lesley Dean. Clem Softly will continue as treasurer for the time being. He has been in this role for over 40 years and is happy to stay on for continuity.

Tom Spilsbury proposed a vote of thanks to Robin and Lesley, the outgoing chair and clerk.

Thanks to Sue Softly for the catering and also for organising this event.

Robin Dean

TemeTalk deadline 18th November
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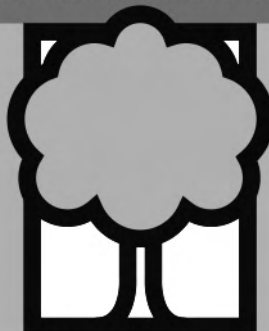
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A strange day out

We were looking forward to our day out in London. As my husband is elderly, we were lucky enough to have someone to drive us there. I relished the thought of a little nap during the journey, but no chance. To my horror our driver was chatty. But in no time I was completely absorbed.

He used to be a prison officer. He got on better with the inmates than with the prison officers, many of whom he disliked. "I had the same background as many of the inmates," he said. "Too many guards are middle class. As a child we all had our own buckets. There were chalk marks on the floor and whenever it rained we had to rush to our mark with our bucket to collect the water pouring from holes in the roof. When the building was condemned we were moved on."

His stories were mesmerising. Was he ever attacked, I asked. Not often. "But once I was checking through the Valentine's Day post. There was one large card with big velvety roses on it which I thought looked odd. Sure enough, the prisoners' supply of drugs for a week was inside the roses." He told us that sometimes drugs would pass from mouth to mouth in a visiting partner's kiss.

We arrived at the restaurant we had booked for lunch. Here another surprise awaited us. No booking! My favourite Italian restaurant had opened another one just six doors up the street and that was where I had inadvertently booked. "Why on earth have you opened another place so close by?" I asked. "Because we are too close to Piccadilly Circus and the increasingly unpleasant goings-on around it." Oh, the naivety of us country folk.

Next we visited Church's shoe shop on Jermyn Street so I could look for some longer laces for my husband's shoes. One of the lovely assistants looked at the number of eyes on my husband's shoes and disappeared. "Just as I thought," she smiled, triumphantly. "We have some. Let me fit them for you."

She recognised the shoes as old Church's shoes. "They need a decent polish", she said. "I did buff up the toes this morning," I said sheepishly. "I can see that," she grinned "but I think we can do better." Off came the shoes and she worked her magic. Fifteen minutes later, we walked out with smiles on our faces, my husband's shoes

looking like new and no charge. That's what I call old-fashioned service.

Later we set off in an Uber for the party. It was a 100th birthday celebration, our son's 60th and his wife's 40th. I gave the driver the address. He said he didn't need the postcode. A long time later I knew something was wrong. We arrived at a derelict tenement. "Here you are," he said. "I don't think so," I said, sounding braver than I felt. He had read St for Street instead of Saint and taken us miles out of our way, to Balfour Street instead of

Balfour Saint Barts! He was furious, but thankfully controlled, when I pointed out his mistake and reminded him that I had offered him the postcode.

Finally we made it to the party, an hour late but delighted to join in the fun – wine, food and dancing and many familiar faces. When it was time to leave, my stepson ordered an Uber. "Look after my parents," he said and the handsome young man promised he would.

Less than a mile from our hotel we were suddenly surrounded by police in flak jackets. We were ushered to an inspection area. "Keep the windows closed," we were ordered. "Stay in the car." The car was searched from top to bottom and underneath. The nervous young driver had his papers checked. Eventually we were let go but not before I had lowered my window and said in a haughty voice, "You've brought us the wrong way up a one-way street and we were only going around the corner." "No problem, madam," – and we were given a police escort to our hotel!

What a day! And what a blessing next morning to arrive safely back in Worcestershire!

AO



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Pumpkinfest at Eastham Harvest Festival

There were some amazing entries for the heaviest and widest pumpkin competition at Eastham Harvest Festival on 19th October.

The prize for the heaviest went to Colin Lord with a pumpkin weighing 100lb – quite a buster! The prize for the widest girth went to the same pumpkin with a girth of 62 inches. The pumpkin had a trip to Teme Valley Tots on the following Friday.

The prize for three squashes went to Nicky Webb – well done.

The children's prize for the funniest vegetable was won by Matty Matravers, the runners-up



were Emma Matravers and Thomas Adams.

All the winners were awarded prizes donated by Eastham Riverside Fête. A large amount of donated vegetables and fruit including the winning pumpkins was delivered to Maggs Day Centre in Deansway, Worcester (thanks

to Jim Cumming) to be made into many bowls of pumpkin soup and many apple pies for the homeless.

The collection at the Harvest Festival was sent to Tenbury Food Bank along with a further donation of £100 from St Peter and St Paul's church.

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Tea and cake
Hamper prizes
and other prizes
up for grabs!



Sunday 21st December
Doors open 3pm, eyes down 3.30pm
Hanley Village Hall

*Bingo books and refreshments
are cash only*



Mulled Wine
&
Mince Pies

Treasure
Hunt



Teme Valley Christmas Tree Festival

Saturday 6th
and Sunday 7th December

10am to 4pm

Carol Singing from 4pm on the 6th

St Mary's Church, Stanford Bridge

Don't forget ...

to include your January and February dates in the
joint December/January issue of TemeTalk



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Fancy Dress Dog Show
Barbecue and Bar
Raffle

events@easthammemorialhall.org.uk



FANCY DRESS DOG SHOW

AT EASTHAM
CHRISTMAS FAYRE
SUNDAY 16th NOVEMBER 2025

Registration from 11:30am
Show starts 12 noon

Class 1: Best Dressed Puppy (under 1)
Class 2: Best Dressed Dog
Class 3: Best Dressed Dog & Owner

£1 entry - each entry will receive a gift
Winner of each class wins a hamper from Bonnie's

TemeTalk deadlines

The deadline for the joint December/January magazine is **18th November**.

The deadline for the February magazine is **18th January**.



Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall

Christmas Lunch

Sunday 14th December, 1pm

Roast turkey, all the trimmings, dessert, complimentary prosecco, vegetarian option

Prepared by the village hall cook teams

Bar available from 12.30pm

£17.50 per person, under 12s £10

Book early to avoid disappointment - we had a waiting list last year!

Bookings will close on 30th November if not before

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Friday 21st November

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Saturday 22nd November

7.30pm

Tickets £8

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Together these practices create a cocoon of peace, helping you to let go of stress, invite balance and return home to yourself – leave feeling lighter, brighter and deeply recharged

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**Friday 14th November, 6.30 to 8.30pm
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Clifton upon Teme Village Hall Love, Laughter, Loss



A film about WAAF officer Patricia Rickman during the Second World War. Inspired by the newspaper cuttings and photographs she kept in leather bound albums and the stories she told her family, this evocative film by Rory MacColl vividly portrays the life of one young woman serving her country in wartime Britain.

Introduced by her daughter,
Alexandra Winnington

Thursday 6th November

Doors open at 7pm for 7.30pm screening

**Tickets £10, drinks and canapés
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The gate hangs well ...?

Can we please thank all those landowners and neighbours, large and small, who do their bit to keep bridleways and gateways clear, safe and usable.

Horse-riders in this area consider themselves extremely lucky to have access to such beautiful countryside and value a safe alternative to the hazardous public roads. We are a decent lot and will often report fallen stock, help unstuck a stuck sheep and generally help out whenever we can but we do need gates to be "horse-friendly" so we can get through quickly and safely.

If you have a bridleway gate on your land and are unsure about your legal obligations or want to make sure your existing or proposed gateway is compliant and safe, there is a very useful document on www.bhs.org.uk/accessadvice – go to "advice notes" and "what you may find on bridleways and byways".

GG

Iona Worship

You are invited to join us at
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9th November at 4pm – Remembrance
Please email Rev'd Jen Jones at
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NOVEMBER/DECEMBER AT THE REGAL

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LIVE MUSIC

Jazz Nights with Ludlow Jazz Collective

Thu 13 Nov, 7.30pm

LIVE MUSIC



Midland Concert Orchestra
Sun 16 Nov, 6pm



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Xmas Market • Thu 20 Nov, From 6pm

LIVE MUSIC



The Rat Pack - Christmas In Vegas!
Fri 21 Nov, 7.30pm



LIVE MUSIC

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Sat 22 Nov, 7.30pm



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Bonfire Night Fun

Tenbury Young Farmers Club is once again hosting its annual Charity Bonfire and Fireworks Night at the Burgage, Tenbury Wells on Saturday 1st November. Gates open at 6 pm and the bonfire is lit at 7pm followed by a spectacular fireworks display at 7.30pm by Jubilee Fireworks.

There will be a licensed bar serving Spilsbury & Jones beers run by Tom and Amber Spilsbury, along with hot food and drinks available throughout the evening.

Entertainment will be provided by DJ Toolie with great music throughout.

Admission:

Adults (16 and over) £8, under 16s £5

Under 5s free

Family ticket (2 adults + 3 children): £25

A great evening in support of local causes. Everyone welcome!

Activities at Eastham Memorial Hall

- Pilates, Tuesdays at 1pm and 2.15pm starting on 4th November. Contact Sue on 07974 343609, sue579@icloud.com for details or a taster session.
- Yoga, every Wednesday at 10am. Ring Zoe on 07962 981456 or see www.zedyoga.co.uk. This year we're celebrating four years of Zed Yoga classes at Eastham.
- Zumba Gold, Lucia on 07709 301030, lu.500@live.co.uk. Wednesdays at 12 noon, just turn up.

New class on Thursdays – watch this space!



**Tenbury YFC
Charity
Bonfire and
Fireworks**

**Saturday 1st
November**

Gates open at 6.00
Fire lit at 7.00
Fireworks at 7.30

Licensed Bar • Hot food and drink
Entertainment
D J Toolie

**The Burgage
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A letter to the editor

Dear editor,

I agree with you wholeheartedly about the lost art of letter writing and the importance of keeping in touch.

I am an embracer of family and friends and only let the occasional friend slip away. Like, for instance, when I arranged to meet a school pal near Edinburgh where I was staying at the time. We agreed a time and place for this great reunion after 35 years. I waited, slightly nervous, wondering how we would get on after all these years of hand-written letters. I need not have worried – she didn't show. Concerned, I rang her. "Oh sorry, I forgot." Really? I don't think so. I knew it was time to let her go.

Yes, I miss those fat hand-written envelopes with familiar writing which heralded pages of news from a faraway friend. Those airmail envelopes which sometimes included a photograph you could look at whenever you wanted to without having to scroll through endless photographs on your phone.

Two of my best letter writers have reverted to text and What'sApp instead of their long, witty letters. One was an opera singer of some acclaim who awoke one morning to complete silence. A virus had robbed her of her hearing overnight.

Tragedy. End of her career. No more phone calls. Fortunately she was an avid letter writer, her immaculate calligraphy instantly recognisable. Now her What'sApp messages are long and filled with photographs. The other friend was an artist until migraines ended long hours at her easel. Her hand was a distinctive, creative scrawl. Now it's texts. But better than nothing.

Where I disagree with you, dear editor, is regarding social media. I love being able to check in on friends with a quick text message – "everything okay?" "Are you coping?" "You'll never guess ..." Alas, I prefer to reply by email to long texts and What'sApp messages. My fingers were reared on old fashioned typewriter keys and are too wide to text accurately or with speed.

I have told friends that I am always delighted to receive a thank you via email. I prefer that to a short, polite letter: "Thank you very much ..." At least in an email there is the chance of a little news or chat as well.

As for grandchildren sending thank you notes – oops, was that a pig I saw flying by ...? Their great grandmothers would write angry notes of disapproval.

Kind regards,

Averil Opperman

And while we're on the subject ...

Writing a letter

To sit at a computer-free desk with a fountain pen, to pull out a sheet of your hand-printed headed notepaper, to write those first two words 'Dear Friend', and then to pause awhile before letting the ink flow onto the page with tales of your doings and your worries, to fold up the paper, slip it into the envelope, write the address out, stick on the stamp, drop it into the letterbox and then to imagine the pleasure that your letter will bring, the physical pleasure of opening it and reading it at the other end – ah, is this not happiness?

*from The Book of Idle Pleasures, edited by
Dan Kieran and Tom Hodgkinson*

If you would like to comment on anything in TemeTalk, would like to make a contribution or have any suggestions, please write to the Editor at ronsmum@icloud.com.

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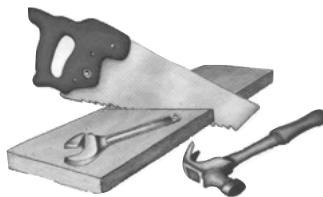
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Pumpkin pie



Fill a sweet shortcrust pastry tart case with lightly spiced squash to make a traditional American treat just right for Thanksgiving. Serves 8

Ingredients

750g/1lb 10oz pumpkin or butternut squash, peeled, deseeded and cut into chunks
350g/12oz sweet shortcrust pastry
plain flour for dusting
140g/5oz caster sugar
½ tsp salt
½ tsp fresh nutmeg, grated
1 tsp cinnamon
2 eggs, beaten
25g/1oz butter, melted
175ml/6 fl oz milk
1 tbsp icing sugar

Method

Place the pumpkin in a large saucepan, cover with

water and bring to the boil. Cover with a lid and simmer for 15 minutes or until tender. Drain pumpkin and let cool.

Heat the oven to 180C/160C fan/gas 4. Roll out the pastry on a lightly floured surface and use it to line a 22cm loose-bottomed tart tin. Chill for 15 minutes. Line the pastry with baking parchment and baking beans, then bake for 15 minutes. Remove the beans and paper and cook for a further 10 minutes until the base is pale golden and biscuity. Remove from the oven and allow to cool slightly.

Increase the oven to 220C/200C fan/gas 7. Push the cooled pumpkin through a sieve into a large bowl or blend to a puree in a food processor. In a separate bowl, combine the sugar, salt, nutmeg and half the cinnamon. Mix in the beaten eggs, melted butter and milk, then add to the pumpkin purée and stir to combine. Pour into the tart shell and cook for 10 minutes, then reduce the temperature to 180C/160C fan/gas 4. Continue to bake for 35-40 minutes until the filling has just set.

Leave to cool, then remove the pie from the tin. Mix the remaining cinnamon with the icing sugar and dust over the pie. Serve chilled with cream.

SG

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Peggy Kerby

Margaret (Peggy) Kerby was born at Bromfield, near Ludlow, where she grew up with her older brother John. She went to the local primary school and to Ludlow Girls Grammar School, where she had many friends including Betty and Brenda. In her teenage years Peggy and her family moved to the Pool House at Broadheath where her father kept pigs.

She was an excellent hockey player and played for Tenbury Ladies where she made many long-lasting friends. She continued to play for many years.

Peggy married Mick Kerby in 1955 when she was just 17 years old and moved to the Broach Farm. Trevor was born a year later and Ian in 1961. She helped on the farm, especially with calf-rearing, lambing, hay-making and damson picking.

Mick and Peggy often went to dances at the Bridge and the Oak in Tenbury. They had several family holidays at Saunderfoot and at Southport visiting cousins. They went to Smithfield Show most years and Peggy had lots of walking holidays with her friend Brenda, visiting castles and gardens. Mick and Peggie moved to Coppice End in 1994 where they enjoyed their garden and loved spending time with their four grandchildren.

Peggy was very involved in village life. She was on the village hall committee and used to help

at the Hanley Friday Market, making coffees and chatting with friends. She walked round the parish delivering the parish magazine, often accompanied by her grandchildren. She went swimming at Tenbury pool on Thursday nights for many years. She went to the local churches, often walking to Hanley William with her dog Kim, who was part of the congregation! She enjoyed being a member of the local history group, finding out lots of interesting local knowledge, and she went to art classes.

Peggy looked forward to the Stoke Bliss and Kyre neighbourhood lunches once a month where she met with many friends including Josie and Maureen, both very good friends to her especially when her mobility started to decline.

Saturdays were often spent out with her friend Doss. They looked forward to visiting the Hop Pocket every November.

Peggy joined her family most Sundays for lunch, to catch up with the grandchildren. She loved taking them out, especially to Ludlow Castle. Later they would mow her lawn, help in the garden and take her to visit her friends.

Most of all Peggy liked company and was happy to sit and listen to whoever called to visit her.

She died on 8th September in Haresbrook Care Home, Tenbury Wells, aged 88.

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Teme Valley Wildlife

Autumn is here, bringing a welcome end to the soaring temperatures of summer 2025. I took the opportunity of some cooler walking conditions to complete the Isbourne Way, a route which traces the River Isbourne from its source in the Cotswold Hills to the River Avon at Evesham, which I had begun to walk earlier in the year. The latest section began at Wormington in Gloucestershire

but soon crossed into Worcestershire. There were few hills to negotiate but on tackling a low rise across recently harvested fields I looked down to see what crop had been grown there. Lots of shiny red-brown field beans littered the surface and I wondered which animals or birds might come along to take advantage of such free food.

As I bent down to pick up a bean my eye was caught by a small fossil lying on the soil surface. It was rather unexpected and proved to be a fossil which I recognised as the shell of a long-extinct oyster called *Gryphaea*. Walking along, I saw that



Five "devil's toenails" and a field bean

there were hundreds, possibly thousands, of these shells littering the field, a sight I had never come across before. I have always been excited by finding fossils and knew that a band of fossil-bearing limestone crossed Britain from Lyme Regis in Dorset to Whitby in Yorkshire. However, I hadn't realised that it crossed the south-east corner of Worcestershire. The ancient oysters lived in

warm shallow seas during the Jurassic period when Britain looked very different from the way it looks today.

The abundance of these fossils led to them receiving the common name of "devil's toenails" and in the past they were used as charms and in some parts of the country were thought to be able to ward off rheumatism. Here in Worcestershire, not far from the Malvern Hills, I thought of the opening to the medieval poem *Piers Ploughman* who looked down on "a fair field full of folk" and

Continued on page 24

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Continued from page 23

thought that I had in front of me "a fair field full of fossils" instead.

The walk was very enjoyable with every imaginable autumn fruit and berry on display. Even a spray of hops fell across the path, which I plucked and draped round my neck, much to the amusement of some sewage plant workers I met along the way.

Those of you who know me, know that I am equally interested in local wildlife and local history. I hope, then, that you will not mind me mentioning the recent publication of a book I have written on Teme valley history called *Teme over Time*. It is published by Brewin Books and is available from the Tourist Information Centre and Nice Things gift shop in Tenbury and from Wyre Forest Books in Bewdley. It is also available online from the publisher or directly from me, for a lower

price: contact stephaniemicroft@gmail.com

The next meeting of the Teme Valley Wildlife Group will be at 7.30pm on Thursday 13th November at Stoke Bliss and Kyre Village Hall. We welcome Robin Pote whose talk is called "Birds of the Western Isles of Scotland". Members and friends are welcome, it is just £3 on the door.

Stephanie Microft

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 tvwg@outlook.com



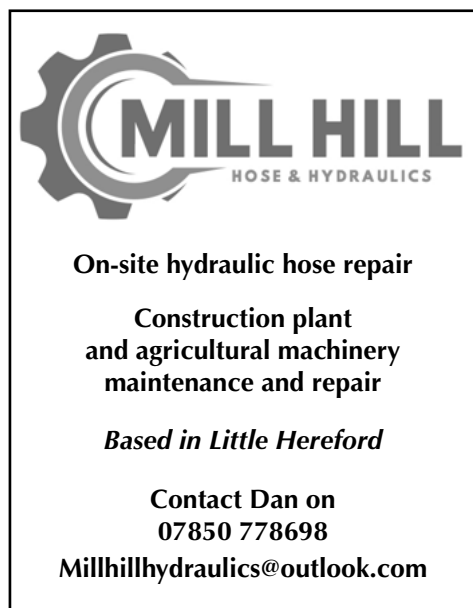
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The Piece Hall in Halifax

When our children gave us a short break away for our fiftieth wedding anniversary they thought we would go to the Lake District or Wales or somewhere with a nice cathedral – they know their father is partial to a nice cathedral. When we said we wanted to go to Halifax they were astonished. Has Halifax got a nice cathedral? No, it hasn't got a cathedral at all.

What Halifax has got is the Piece Hall, the oldest remaining Georgian cloth hall in the world. It is absolutely stunning, a huge quadrangle surrounded by four colonnaded sides containing 315 small rooms which were used by traders to store their cloth.

It opened on New Year's Day in 1779 as a public market for the sale of "pieces" (a 30 yard length of fabric produced on a handloom) of woven woollen kersey cloth and cost about £9,000 to build, equivalent to over half a million pounds in today's money.

One of the most remarkable things about the Piece Hall is that it was only used for two hours a week for trading cloth, from 10am to 12 noon on Saturdays. The rest of the time it was locked.



But the Industrial Revolution, the introduction of powered machinery and the evolution of the factory system, caused the decline and eventual extinction of the small scale self-employed clothiers that used the Piece Hall for trade. By the early 1830s fewer than 200 rooms were occupied. As the weekly textile market declined, the building was used for a variety of social gatherings, eventually becoming a wholesale fish, fruit and vegetable market in 1871. It remained a wholesale market for almost a century.

Today this unique building is once again a bustling centre of activity with lots of small shops, cafés and restaurants as well as an art gallery and a museum.

So thank you to our children who gave us two nights at the charming and very comfortable Shibden Mill Inn just outside Halifax and the opportunity to visit this jaw-droppingly amazing place – and the chance to experience the roadworks which seem to completely fill the centre of Halifax and utterly confused us and our sat-nav!

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What's on in Teme Valley South

November

- 6th Thursday Eastham Coffee Morning, Eastham Memorial Hall, 10.30am
Film *Love Laughter Loss*, Clifton Village Hall, 7pm
- 13th Thursday Stoke Bliss & Kyre Neighbourhood Lunch, Stoke Bliss & Kyre VH, 12.30pm
- 14th Friday Relaxation Evening, Hanley Village Hall, 6.30pm
- 16th Sunday Eastham Christmas Fayre, Eastham Memorial Hall, 10am
Eastham Christmas Fayre Fun Dog Show, Eastham Memorial Hall, 11.30
- 21st Friday Rochford Quiz Night and supper, Rochford Village Hall, 7.30pm
Pub Night, Eastham Memorial Hall, 7pm
- 22nd Saturday Jazz in the Village, Hanley Village Hall, 7.30pm
- 25th Tuesday Rochford Neighbourhood Lunch, Rochford Village Hall, 12.30pm
- 28th Friday Social Night, Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall, 7 for 8pm

December

- 4th Thursday Eastham Christmas Coffee Morning, Eastham Memorial Hall, 10.30am
- 6th Saturday Christmas Tree Festival, St Mary's Stanford, 10am
Christmas Tree Festival Carol Singing 4pm
- 7th Sunday Christmas Tree Festival, St Mary's Stanford, 10am
- 9th Tuesday Christmas Wreath Making, Eastham Memorial Hall, 7pm
- 11th Thursday Stoke Bliss & Kyre Neighbourhood Lunch, Stoke Bliss & Kyre VH, 12.30pm
- 14th Sunday Rochford Village Christmas Lunch followed by Carol Service
Stoke Bliss & Kyre Christmas Lunch, Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall, 1pm
- 16th Tuesday Rochford Christmas Neighbourhood Lunch, Rochford Village Hall, 12.30pm
- 21st Sunday Carol Service, St Peter's Stoke Bliss & Kyre, 3pm
Christmas Family Bingo, Hanley Village Hall, 3pm

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

November/December 2025

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

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

Services Schedule

Sunday 2nd November

10.00am	Stanford	Holy Communion and Hymns
3.00pm	Rochford	All Souls Service

Sunday 9th November

8.30am	Stoke Bliss	Holy Communion (said)
10.45am	Rochford	Service of Remembrance <i>with TVS Churches Choir</i>
4.00pm	Hanley Village Hall	Iona Service

Remembrance Sunday

Sunday 16th November

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

Sunday 23rd November

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

Sunday 30th November

9.30am	Hanley Village Hall	Café Church
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Saturday 6th and

Sunday 7th December	Stanford	Christmas Tree Festival
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Saturday 6th December

4.00pm	Stanford	Christmas Tree Festival Carol Singing
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Sunday 7th December

9.00am	Stanford	Holy Communion (said)
4.00pm	Kyre	Advent Darkness to Light Service <i>with Choir</i>

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