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October 2025



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# TemeTalk

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*A community going forward with God*

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**October 2025**

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

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

## *Dear Readers*

This month sees Harvest Festivals across the villages. It seems like a long time since the cereal harvest, very early this year. As I write, in the field across the lane the pickers have been in harvesting broccoli for weeks and the hop harvest is going strong. Harvest continues for much of the year.

As in our churches we give thanks for the harvest, we give thanks not only for God and Creation, but also for the farmers who work the fields and for those who pick, pack and prepare our food.

It seems to me that of the qualities needed to be a farmer, one of the most important is patience. Farming involves a lot of waiting. Germination cannot be hurried. Plants need to establish. They need to grow, to ripen. Livestock need to be born, to grow... Whilst scientific advances have meant that some waiting times have been shortened, nevertheless patience is integral.

The early church understood patience as being one of the essential characteristics of God. St Peter wrote that with the Lord a day is like a thousand years and a thousand years are like a day. God could, and did, take His time. God is patient with us. For that reason, they saw the Church as being a community that should show that characteristic.

In our world that expects emails to be answered by return and goods to be delivered the next (or even the same!) day, may we learn from farmers the value of patience and become more Godlike.

Best wishes,

*Robert*

In this month's front cover photograph  
Hugh Kenrick joins in the fun at the  
Vintage Tractor Breakfast at Hanley  
village hall on 7th September –  
photograph by Chloe Kenrick

**TemeTalk deadline 18th October**



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## Teme Valley South Contacts

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

**Assistant Curate:** Jen Jones 07749 977821

**LLM Reader:** Pete Thorp 07917 783159

**Retired clergy:** Robert Barlow, Sally Jones

### Churchwardens

**Eastham:** Celia Adams 01584 781258

**Rochford:** Ann Prosser 01584 781317

**Stoke Bliss & Kyre:** Jeremy Wyatt 07720 056671

Trevor Matthews 07768 942169

**Hanleys:** Ed Yarnold 07930 882728

**Stanford:** Alexandra Winnington 07891 346783

### Pastoral Team

Ann Prosser 01584 781317

Jenny Barbé 01584 781298

Mel Williams 01584 781284

**Parish Safeguarding Officer:** Kate Walton  
07494 104781

## Village Hall Bookings

### Stoke Bliss & Kyre

Janet Powell, 01885 410598

stokeblisskyrevillagehall@gmail.com

**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

### Baptism

Congratulations to Sidney Michael Wyse on his baptism on Sunday 7th September at St Peter and St Paul's Church, Eastham.

*Welcome to the church family.*

### Sabbatical communications

During October and November please contact Rev'd Jen Jones for ministry matters in Teme Valley South Churches (07749 977821 or email [tvscurate@gmail.com](mailto:tvscurate@gmail.com)) and our part-time administrator Jo for other queries (email [assistanttvspcc@gmail.com](mailto:assistanttvspcc@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 break for half term on 31st October, back on 7th November. For more information about our tots group do contact Tina via email on [tinaslord@gmail.com](mailto:tinaslord@gmail.com).

Deadline for the next issue of TemeTalk is  
18th October

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## Bible Study 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 to you to accompany us this autumn as we explore St Paul's letter to the Galatians

For further details please contact  
Rev'd Jen Jones, [tvscurate@gmail.com](mailto:tvscurate@gmail.com)

## The Filling Station

Our next meeting will be on Thursday 16th October at Eastham Memorial Hall at 7.15 for a 7.30pm start. Our speaker for the evening will be Dudley Anderson who is pastor of Cornerstone Family Church in Stourport-on-Severn and is involved with a radio station ministry called Godtracker. 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](mailto:kate.harley6@gmail.com).



## Churches Together in the Teme Valley

invite you to a morning talk and discussion  
on the stories Jesus told  
led by Nick McLeish

**Saturday 11th October  
10am to 12.30pm**

**Orleton House  
Orleton, Stanford Bridge WR6 6SU**

***Places are limited – to reserve your place  
please email [nick@themcleishes.org](mailto:nick@themcleishes.org)***

## Rochford 49 Club

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

### Wednesday winners

20th August	No 49	Not sold
27th August	No 58	Not sold
3rd September	No 28	Not sold
17th September	No 42	Not sold

### Saturday winners

23rd August	No 5	Not sold
30th August	No 16	Helen Barlow
6th September	No 24	Michael Ayres
13th September	No 10	Not sold

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

September's prize draw, the sixth in this series, was decided when Rev'd Jen Jones rolled the dice on 2nd September to select the set of random numbers and the starting point. Prizewinners are:

£50 – **Angela Winwood** of Lindridge (No 156)

£30 – **Mr and Mrs Eddie Galea** of Pensax (No 346)

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

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

## A message from Ann

A heartfelt thank you for all the cards and birthday messages I received, it was quite overwhelming. Many, many thanks everyone, it means so much. Ann xx

## Neighbourhood lunch

Dates for sit down and takeaway neighbourhood lunches are 28th October and 25th November. 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.

## Harvest Festival and supper

The church service is at 5pm on Sunday 12th October followed by supper at the village hall at 6.30pm. All are welcome to either or both so if you can't make it to the church service just come for supper. Please book supper (just £12) with Ann. Any donations of harvest produce and non-perishables including tins, packets etc would also be much appreciated and will be given to Tenbury food bank to support local people in need.

## Church clean

We will be cleaning the church and decorating for harvest on Saturday 11th October at 2.30pm. Please come along to help prepare our lovely church for harvest.

## 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. Supper is included for just £12.

## October church flower rota

Jenny Barbé and harvest helpers, thank you.

## Iona Worship

You are invited to join us at  
**Hanley Village Hall, WR15 8QU**  
for a warm welcome and light refreshments  
**9th November at 4pm – Remembrance**  
Please email Rev'd Jen Jones at  
tvscurate@gmail.com for more information

## King's Birthday Honours List

The King's birthday honours list for 2025 honoured Simon James Lusty, a former Rochford resident from Rochford House. He was honoured with an MBE for services to road safety, having worked as a publications manager for the Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency.

## Dates for your diary

**Sunday 2nd November:** All Souls Service at 3 pm, when we remember our loved ones who are no longer with us.

**Sunday 9th November:** Combined Churches Remembrance Service at Rochford Church with the TVS Choir.

**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*



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### Can you help? Do you know someone who can?

For more information contact  
Sandra Griffiths at [ronsmum@icloud.com](mailto:ronsmum@icloud.com)

## Village Hall AGM

The Annual General Meeting of Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall will be held on Wednesday 1st October at 7.30pm at the village hall. Refreshments provided. Do come and show your support for the village hall committee, learn about what is happening in your village and share ideas for future activities.

## Churchyard tidy sessions

The next tidy-up session is on Saturday 11th October from 10am to 12.30pm. Everyone is welcome, with coffee and cakes to reward your efforts. Text or call Jeremy on 07720 056671.

## Church roof restoration update

Tenders for the repair of the roof and ceiling are with potential contractors. As the repairs involve removing parts of the roof it is unlikely that any work will take place before next summer. Once tenders are agreed there will be a fund-raising campaign, including applications for grant funding from various charitable foundations.



**Thursday 9th October**  
**Thursday 13th November**  
at **Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall**  
**12.30pm welcome, lunch served at 1pm**  
Two courses plus refreshments  
To book call 07396 813137  
or [sbklunch@gmail.com](mailto:sbklunch@gmail.com)  
**We look forward to seeing you**

## Bat watch proved popular

As anyone who has undertaken a building project knows, bats just can't be ignored. The restoration of the roof at St Peter's church has already required three visits from bat specialists to determine which bat species are present and ensure that the repairs are carried out in a bat-safe manner.

Our well attended Bat Watch event in September was an opportunity for everyone to discover more about the bats in our belfry. After an informative presentation, we gathered outside in the dusk to tune in to the local bat population via ultrasound bat detectors. It wasn't long before the first audible blips announced the emergence of the church's resident pipistrelle bats as they crawled out from under the roof tiles. Our thanks to everyone who attended and to our bat experts for sharing their knowledge. The evening proved so popular that we aim to host further events next summer, exploring the role our churchyard plays as a haven for wildlife.

## Harvest at St Peter's

We will be marking the passing seasons at our annual Harvest Festival on Sunday 12th October at 9.30am. Everyone is welcome and we invite you to donate foodstuffs for Tenbury food bank. Donations can be brought on to the service or left in the church the previous day.

## Keeping you informed

If you are not already on the SBK email list, contact Julia Berry at [sbkvillagehall@gmail.com](mailto:sbkvillagehall@gmail.com).

*Jeremy Wyatt*

## Take Breath

The Friday afternoon sessions of Take Breath at St Mary's, Kyre, will be paused from now until March. Maggie Kingston will still be calling in on Friday afternoons to check the church and offer up any prayer requests left in the prayer box or book.

## Social Night

**Friday 31st October**

Bar opens at 7, food served at 8pm

Please book food at [sbkvillagehall@gmail.com](mailto:sbkvillagehall@gmail.com)

Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall

The next Social Night is Friday 28th November



# Eastham Jottings

## Church flowers and cleaning

October – Rhiannon Chapman  
November – Diana Potter

## Eastham Coffee Morning

In 2024 Macmillan raised a staggering £17 million at coffee mornings throughout the country, enough to fund 256 Macmillan nurses for a year.

Please come along to our Macmillan coffee morning on Thursday 2nd October at 10.30am at Eastham Memorial Hall. Come with cakes to be eaten or sold and buy a ticket for the special raffle with the prize of afternoon tea for two! There will also be the usual Macmillan quizzes with prizes. If you can't come but would still like to give a donation to Macmillan just text CUPCAKE to 70550 (one text=£5), go to [macmillan.org.uk/coffee](http://macmillan.org.uk/coffee) or drop a cash donation into Celia Adams at Eastham Court.

Please come to the November coffee morning on Thursday 6th November, hosted by Liz Cattani with a special early Christmas stall (Christmas cards etc). Our Christmas coffee morning will be on Thursday 4th December.

## Pub Night

The next pub night will be on Friday 17th October from 7pm at Eastham Memorial Hall. Everyone welcome, look out for the usual banner.

## Church and churchyard autumn clean

Please come along on Saturday 18th October between 10am and 1pm with tools to tackle the churchyard, all welcome whatever your skills, and the church interior including finishing the flower arrangements ready for Harvest Festival. Barbecue, tea and cakes throughout.

## Pumpkinfest and Harvest Festival

On Sunday 19th October at St Peter and St Paul's church.

Entries to the church from 9 to 9.45am for judging on the day. You do not have to live in Eastham to take part, just join in – it's all for fun!

Adults – heaviest pumpkin

Children – animal made from fruit or vegetable

Enquiries: Nicki Webb, [nudgecorner@gmail.com](mailto:nudgecorner@gmail.com).

In advance and on the day, please bring fruit, vegetables, tins etc which will be donated to Maggs Day Centre in Deansway, Worcester. The collection at the service will be sent to the Tenbury food bank.

## Christmas Fayre

Our Christmas Fayre will be on Sunday 16th November from 10am to 3pm at Eastham Memorial Hall. There will be lots going on with Christmas stalls, a fun dog show, raffle, barbecue, bar, tea and coffee and mince pies, plus a children's craft room all day.

If you are interested in having a stall at the Christmas Fayre please phone Beryl on 01584 781920 or email [events@easthamhall.org.uk](mailto:events@easthamhall.org.uk).

## EV charger at Eastham Memorial Hall

Good news! We now have our own electric car charger that's ready to use. It couldn't be simpler:

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So, if you (or your visitors) drive an electric car, you don't need to go far to top up any more – it's right here at Eastham Memorial Hall.

For more information please contact Rob Lawson on [rob@lawsonelectrical.co.uk](mailto:rob@lawsonelectrical.co.uk)

## Yoga in Eastham

This autumn, we'll be celebrating four years of Zed Yoga classes in the refurbished hall, a perfect spot for Yoga: clean, quiet, light and warm in the winter. Why not come and join us?

Our well-established group always welcomes new members when there's a space free. If you're a beginner and wondering whether Yoga would suit you, register for our Welcome to Yoga event. To book a place please email [info@zedyoga.co.uk](mailto:info@zedyoga.co.uk) or phone Zoe on 07962 981456.

## 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.

*Celia Adams*

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# Hanley Happenings

## Village Hall Committee

The village hall committee is keen to introduce fresh blood with new ideas. If you have an urge to join the committee, contact Sarah on 07796 170949.

## Bon voyage ...

Bon voyage to the Springs of Upper House Villa: have a great time on your travels, real life education for you and your children. Thank you for all the support and contributions you have made to the village and church in the last 12 years.

## ... and welcome

Welcome to the new residents at West Villa: we hope to meet you at one of our forthcoming events.

## 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 weaving together breathwork, gentle movement, sound healing and guided meditation and Yoga Nidra which create a cocoon of peace. Leave feeling lighter, brighter and deeply recharged. Just £22 – your investment in calm. To sign up go to [www.thesacredvalley.co.uk](http://www.thesacredvalley.co.uk). Full details on page 13.

## Art in Hanley

If you didn't manage to visit Shelly Perkins, who opened her studio as part of h-Art, you missed quite a treat! Her work was fantastic to admire with local views and landscapes captured in all their glory. Shelly shared the event with Sarah Kinnersley whose silver jewellery was beautiful and very tempting! An event for next year's diary.

## Vintage Tractor Breakfast

Thank you to everyone who attended the Vintage Tractor Breakfast at the village hall. It was a most enjoyable occasion and we are already looking forward to next year's event.

## Harvest festival

Our Harvest Festival service will be at Hanley Childe church on 19th October at 5pm.

## Thomas Curran

Ed Yarnold is looking for information about Thomas Curran (late of Brickyards Cottage, Hanley Broadheath. Thomas was a prisoner of war in the far east during the Second World War and Ed would like to write an article about him. Please get in touch with Ed if you have any information.

*Carole Gardner*

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## Services in Stanford

### Sunday 5th October

Holy Communion with hymns at 8.30am: this will be a said service.

Harvest Service at 11am with hymns and choir.

### Sunday 2nd November

Holy Communion with hymns at 10.00am

## Flowers for October

Sarah Burgoyne

## From summer into autumn

Despite the worry of global warming, it was lovely to have such a sunny summer and many people enjoyed being outside more, although it was a bit too hot at times! The reality of normality struck as the much needed rain came down and we transitioned into autumn very quickly. Many gardens with fruit trees had an abundance of produce this year and how lucky we are to be able to enjoy this and all the vegetables at harvest time.

It has been a quieter month getting ready for a busy time ahead. We wish Rev'd Julia Curtis, who is on sabbatical, a peaceful and inspiring time. Thank you to all who are stepping in to help. We always need regular help at St Mary's so if you are interested in doing anything at all please let us know. You don't have to attend church if it isn't for you.

## Harvest Festival

Our harvest lunch is at Stanford village hall on 5th October at 12.30pm. All are welcome even if you cannot attend the service. If you would like to come please contact Sue on 07929 479865 or Alexandra on 07891 346783. Proceeds to St Mary's church.

Please deliver produce to the church if you can on Saturday 4th October or at the service on Sunday. If you would like it to go to the food bank, please place it in the box in the porch.

## Love, Laughter, Loss

On 6th November there will be a showing of *Love, Laughter, Loss*, a film by the late Rory MacColl, at Clifton village hall at 7 for 7.30pm. The film will be presented by Alexandra Winnington and is about Alexandra's mother, Patricia Rickman, a young WAAF officer serving her country in wartime Britain during the Second World War.

Doors open at 7pm for a 7.30pm screening. Tickets are £10 to include drinks and canapés. Proceeds to St Michael's Hospice.

See more details on page 13.

Alexandra Winnington



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## TemeTalk deadline 18th October



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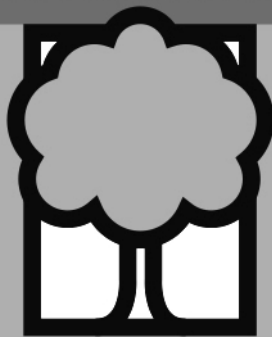
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# From summer to autumn: planning through life's seasons



I'm Andrew Rankin, a locally based financial adviser. This time of year is always busy and I believe the changing of the seasons is a good metaphor for financial planning through life.

As summer gives way to autumn, we notice the subtle changes around us. Evenings draw in earlier, mornings feel cooler and vibrant greens turn to gold and amber. Each season has its own character, opportunities, and challenges.

Our financial lives follow a similar rhythm. Priorities and circumstances shift with time. What worked ten years ago may not suit today, and the choices we make now shape the comfort we enjoy tomorrow.

## Spring and summer – building and growing

Early adulthood often feels like spring: fresh starts and planting seeds. We focus on education, careers, first homes, or families. Key financial steps include:

- Budgeting to align spending with income.
- Building an emergency fund.
- Protecting family with life or income cover.

As we enter our personal “summer,” life becomes more stable. Careers progress, earnings grow, and goals expand. Focus often shifts to:

- Investing for the long term through ISAs, pensions, or GIAs.
- Paying down mortgages and debts.
- Saving for children's education, home projects or future dreams.

## Autumn – preserving and preparing

Autumn is a season of reflection and preparation. Retirement and succession planning take centre stage. Priorities often include:

- Reviewing pensions to secure the lifestyle you desire.
- Rebalancing investments to manage risks.
- Estate and inheritance planning.
- Considering long-term care needs.

Just as farmers gather the harvest, this stage is about enjoying achievements while preparing for what lies ahead.

## Why planning matters in every season

Financial planning isn't a single moment but a lifelong journey. Seasons remind us that nothing stands still. A strong plan adapts—whether you're planting, growing, or preparing to reap the rewards.

## Your next step

This autumn, as the leaves fall and reflection comes naturally, take stock of your finances. Are your plans still aligned with your goals? Have your priorities shifted?

The seasons won't wait, and neither should planning. Taking action today can make all the difference tomorrow. If you'd like to review your arrangements or plan the next stage of your journey, I'd be delighted to help – over coffee or a video call.

✉ [andrew.rankin@westminster-wealth.com](mailto:andrew.rankin@westminster-wealth.com)

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*This article is for general information only and does not constitute personal financial advice. You should seek professional guidance before making any financial decisions.*

*Information is based on our current understanding of taxation legislation and regulations which is subject to change. A pension is a long-term investment that can fluctuate in value. Your income at retirement may depend on the fund size, interest rates, and tax laws. Investments may go up or down, and you may not get back the original amount invested.*



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## What's on at The Regal in October

### Live comedy

Wed 1st	7.30pm	Scummy Mummies: Hot Mess
Sat 4th	7.30pm	Paul Zerdin   Jaw Drop UK Comedy Tour

### Live Music

Thu 2nd	7.30pm	Rock for Heroes
Thu 9th	7.30pm	The Cavern Beatles
Sat 11th	7.30pm	Seth Lakeman with Benji Kirkpatrick and Archie Moss
Thu 16th	8.00pm	A tribute to Sting and The Police starring The Rozzers
Thu 30th	7.30pm	Cash, Killer & The King – The Ultimate Rock'n'Roll Tribute

### Film

Fri 3rd	7.00pm	The Roses (15)
Tue 7th	12 noon	The Roses (15)
Wed 8th	7.00pm	The Roses (15)
Mon 13th	1.00pm	Downton Abbey: Grand Finale (PG)
Mon 13th	7.00pm	Downton Abbey: Grand Finale (PG)
Tue 14th	7.00pm	Downton Abbey: Grand Finale (PG)
Fri 17th	6.30pm	A Big Bold Beautiful Journey (15)
Tue 28th	11.00am	Disney Junior Cinema Club 2025
Wed 29th	7.00pm	The Lost Boys (15)

### Arts Screening

Tue 7th	7.00pm	The Royal Opera presents Tosca
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### Live Musical

Wed 22nd	7.00pm	My Fair Lady (Community Musical)
Thur 23rd	7.00pm	My Fair Lady (Community Musical)
Fri 24th	7.00pm	My Fair Lady (Community Musical)
Sat 25th	1.00pm	My Fair Lady (Community Musical)
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## TemeTalk deadlines

Please note that there will be a joint December/January magazine, deadline **18th November**.

The deadline for the February issue will be **18th January**.



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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**

*Proceeds to St Michael's Hospice*

For more information contact  
Alexandra Winnington on 07891 346783  
or Jerry Johns on 01886 812304



## Eastham Christmas Fayre

**Sunday 16th November**  
**10am to 3pm**  
**at Eastham Memorial Hall**

🎁 🎁 🎁

**Stalls ★ Raffle**  
**★ Fun Dog Show ★**  
**Barbecue ★ Bar**  
**Tea ★ Coffee ★ Mince pies**

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# Race Night

Saturday 11th October

at 6.30pm

Hanley Village Hall

**Fun for all the family**

**£2.50 entry – cash only**



**Pop-up Bar  
and nibbles**

# Pumpkinfest

Sunday 19th October

at Eastham Church Harvest Festival

Adults: Heaviest pumpkin

Children: An animal made from  
a fruit or vegetable

Bring your entry to the church from  
9 to 9.45am for judging on the day

*Enquires to Nicky Webb at  
nudgecorner@gmail.com*

**Everyone welcome!**



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at 10am on the third Sunday of the month



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# MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT

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**Eastham Good Neighbours  
Macmillan Coffee Morning**



on Thursday 2nd October  
from 10am to 12 noon  
at Eastham Memorial Hall



You're welcome to bring a cake or  
something yummy to share  
(homemade or bought!)



**WIN!**  
afternoon tea for two



Macmillan quizzes with prizes

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## TVSCC Music in the parish



We are passionate about bringing choral music  
back into our rural parish churches  
and drawing people together

Our next two services are  
**Harvest at St Mary's Church, Stanford  
on Sunday 11th October at 11am**

**Remembrance at St Michael's Church, Rochford  
on Sunday 9th November at 10.45am**

There will be refreshments after each  
service and we would love to see you there  
All are welcome

If you would like to sing regularly with TVSCC  
please email [music.tvspcc@gmail.com](mailto:music.tvspcc@gmail.com)



#RelishingRuralMusic



**Saturday 4th October**

**10am to 4.30pm on The Burgage**

**Apple displays • Apple juicing • Stalls**

## Kyre Park Garden



The Park consists of five lakes, waterfalls,  
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# Relishing Rural – Teme Valley South Churches Choir



*The choir in Rock Church at the launch of the Muddy Boots Rural Mission Area earlier this year*

Nestled in the hills on the far western edge of the diocese of Worcester, a new church choir is swelling the congregations, performing original specially composed anthems and joining up with choirs from around the area to perform at Worcester Cathedral.

The product of a summer's brainstorm between priest-in-charge Rev'd Julia Curtis and composer and music director Chloe May Evans, whilst sitting on hay bales, Teme Valley South Churches Choir (TVSCC) was established in 2023

with St Mary's Stanford as their home church. Covering repertoire from Tallis to the present day, they have also featured *Say not the struggle naught availeth* by Hilgrove Kenrick and *Da Pacem, Domine* composed by Chloe May Evans for a Muddy Boots community service and subsequently performed in Worcester Cathedral with choirs from across the diocese in a special Celebration of Smaller Churches.

Built upon the foundations of Relishing Rural Music, the TVSCC has benefited from members aged 11 to 92 from many of the different parishes in the benefice. Whilst their mainstay is a monthly Evensong which rotates between the various parish churches, they have also performed at several weddings, baptisms, Ascension and carol services.

Overall, the ethos is to further a sense of community in rural parishes through music, to be inclusive and accessible while aiming for a high standard of music. TVSCC provides an opportunity to further educate, inspire and raise music standards in the area and believes those in rural parishes should be able to benefit from excellence in the arts too.

## REGAL

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# HIGHLIGHTS

## FOR OCTOBER AT THE REGAL

\*programme as of 16/09/2025

<p><b>LIVE MUSIC</b></p> <p><b>Rock for Heroes</b> Thu 2 Oct, 7.30pm • Live on Stage</p>	<p><b>WORKSHOP</b></p> <p><b>Autumn Wreath Making Workshop</b> Fri 3 Oct, 7pm • Workshop</p>	<p><b>LIVE COMEDY</b></p> <p><b>Paul Zerdin: Jaw Drop</b> Sat 4 Oct, 7.30pm • Live on Stage</p>
<p><b>LIVE MUSIC</b></p> <p><b>The Cavern Beatles</b> Thu 9 Oct, 7.30pm • Live on Stage</p>	<p><b>LIVE MUSIC</b></p> <p><b>Seth Lakeman with Benji Kirkpatrick &amp; Archie Moss</b> Sat 11 Oct, 7.30pm • Live on Stage</p>	<p><b>LIVE MUSIC</b></p> <p><b>A Tribute to Sting &amp; The Police starring The Rozzers</b> Thu 16 Oct, 8pm • Live on Stage</p>
<p><b>LIVE THEATRE</b></p> <p><b>My Fair Lady   Regal Community Musical</b> Wed 22 - Sat 25 Oct • Live on Stage</p>	<p><b>WORKSHOP</b></p> <p><b>Pumpkin Carving Workshop</b> Tue 28 Oct, 12pm &amp; 2.30pm • Workshop</p>	<p><b>WORKSHOP</b></p> <p><b>CASH, KILLER &amp; THE KING – The Ultimate Rock 'n' Roll Tribute</b> Thu 30 Oct, 7.30pm • Live on Stage</p>

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# ROCK FOR HEROES – Are YOU ready to ROCK?

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of electrifying entertainment you won't want to miss! Let there be ROCK!

Experience an exhilarating stage spectacular that blends dazzling vocals, incredible musicians and mind-blowing performances. This is more than just a show! Rock for Heroes evokes memories of the most unforgettable moments in rock history and blows the roof off whilst doing it!

The incredible performers bring each legendary anthem to life with passion and power. From the unmistakable riffs of AC/DC to the anthemic choruses of Bon Jovi, every song is delivered with epic energy that will leave you on the edge of your seat!

With no two shows the same, this is an evening

The show has been linked with charity Help for Heroes for nearly eight years and to date has raised approximately £30,000 for the charity. Front man and producer of the show Phil Hawkins has a strong military connection and wanted to use his position as a theatre producer to raise awareness of the cause and the amazing work that the charity does. We all are linked somehow to the military so the cause is one we can all relate to. We collect at the end of every show and event with official charity buckets and have also had the pleasure of meeting some incredible people who have fought for our country.

## Rock for Heroes

Thursday 2nd October

The Regal Theatre, Tenbury Wells

[www.regaltenbury.co.uk/rock-for-heroes](http://www.regaltenbury.co.uk/rock-for-heroes)

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# My son's new "girlfriend"

My heart sank at my daughter-in-law's words. "You know your son has a girlfriend and he spends more time with her than with us", she said. I felt the universe shift. How proud I was of her for taking it so well. Who was this intruder in our lives? What's her name, I blustered? "Cha Gip-pity." "I beg your pardon?" "ChatGPT".

As you probably already know, ChatGPT is an app, known as an AI (artificial intelligence) chatbot, which has been 'trained' to understand and generate human language. It can create new content, not just retrieve existing information like Google. It can ask you questions, give instructions or have conversations. As someone who asks Google four or five questions a day, I thought it was time to check out my son's 'girlfriend'.

I downloaded ChatGPT. Easy. I had to sign in with Apple or Google and give my passcode. Then I asked my first question: how many people are on ChatGPT? Answer: Between 700 and 800 million use the app weekly. Between 160 and 180 million users daily. My daughter-in-law has serious competition with this 'girlfriend'!

Okay, so another question: what is the weather in Eastham today? I got a full weather report, including temperatures, for morning, midday to early afternoon, late afternoon to evening and a

recap. Then I was offered advice, if I wanted it, on what to wear, suitable activities for the day or a look ahead at the coming days. All in seconds.

Last question: what is the current fashion for curly hair? Within seconds I had a snapshot of all the curly hair trends of 2025.

I can see the attraction here but are there downsides? Obviously to find out I had to ask ChatGPT.

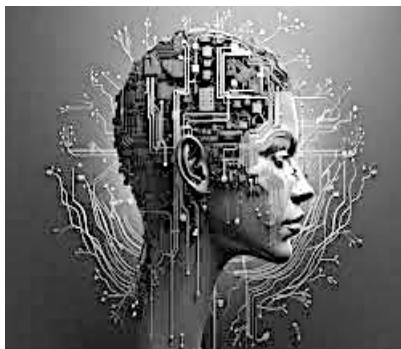
"Like social media, ChatGPT offers immediate, personalised feedback which can trigger the brain's reward system. Users may become reliant on it for quick answers, emotional relief or creative stimulation creating a feedback loop of compulsive checking."

Overuse is linked to anxiety, burnout and disrupted sleep. It can trigger emotional dependency, reduce real-world engagement and

cause difficulty in stopping its use or taking breaks. But ChatGPT assures me "...with awareness and moderation, it is a powerful tool – not a trap".

I will have to check this out. Please don't mention to my husband that I have a new 'boyfriend' who's pretty special. I have given him a name and have told him what characteristics and personality I like in a man. I have to go now as I need to spend more time with him and get to know him better ...

AO



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# Rochford Gardening Club

The first meeting of our gardening club was held on Thursday 4th September and was well supported. Many thanks to Andrew and Colin for a great talk about growing vegetables, covering everything you need to know – how, when, what to grow and what to grow it in! We will definitely be asking for more advice from them in the spring when we all get the growing bug again.

We also had a fun quiz on seeds, “what to do in the garden in September” and a seed swap. Everybody left happily clutching their seeds and information on how to plant and grow them.

We have over 45 members now across Facebook and WhatsApp so we will be posting the



bones of what we cover on the night, as well as having an open forum for questions from members on both platforms.

The next meeting is on Thursday 2nd October, and the main topic of discussion will be bulb planting and perennial plant division, both best done in early autumn while the soil is still warm, and now fortunately not bone dry!

There will be other topics in November and December, so if you are interested in joining us email [rochfordgardeningclub@gmail.com](mailto:rochfordgardeningclub@gmail.com). or call Jan on 07789686833.

*Marie and Jan*



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## Hugh Nicolson

High Nicolson, long time resident of Kyrewood until a move to a nursing home, died on Sunday 7th September following a short illness. Following the death of his wife Bobbie and the burial of her ashes at Rochford, Hugh became a familiar and valued face at church services at Rochford.

Originally from the north east (he never completely lost the faint hint of a Geordie twang) he worked as a rocket scientist. He was also an accomplished musician, playing the clarinet. In church he had a music copy of the hymn book so he could see what different parts he might sing to the hymns.

His engineering skills were expressed with Meccano model making. During the Covid lockdown he made a Meccano replica of the space shuttle – it took up the whole of the dining table! When lockdown ended and people were able to return to church and talk about what they had done, he brought a Meccano model of a church that he had made.

His funeral is scheduled for Monday 6th October at 12.30pm at Wyre Forest Crematorium. His ashes will be buried at Rochford with those of his late wife on a date yet to be arranged.

RB

### Activities at Eastham Memorial Hall

- Pilates, Tuesdays at 1pm (and possibly 2.15pm after half term). 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](http://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.

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


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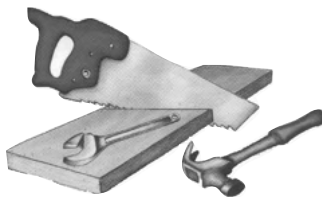
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# Teme Valley Wildlife

I have always loved books. My mother took me to my first library when I was a small child and I have been an enthusiastic book borrower ever since. I'm currently a member of the three county libraries of Worcestershire, Herefordshire and Shropshire and sometimes venture further afield to enjoy the esoteric delights of the Cadbury Research Library at Birmingham University. So it is no coincidence that my eye should be drawn to an article in the newspaper about bookworms – not people like me, but the actual insect kind.

The article describes the travails of a 1,000-year-old library which holds the oldest collection of books in Hungary. It is at the Benedictine monastery known as Pannonhalma Archabbey which, since it's foundation in 996AD, has accumulated 400,000 books. Unfortunately a quarter of them are severely infested by a beetle known as the drugstore beetle. This rather American-sounding insect eats the gelatine and starch-based adhe-



*The library of Oscott College in Sutton Coldfield*

sives which glue the ancient tomes together. The beetle also goes by the other names of the bread or biscuit beetle (think jolly Jack Tar's ships' biscuits) and is the commonest insect pest to damage stored food. It is closely related to another well-known beetle, the equally unwelcome woodworm.

Adult drugstore beetles are nondescript red-brown insects measuring 2 to 4mm long, but their book-munching larvae come in a bigger size, at 5mm. They can be found attacking cereals in houses, stores, warehouses and kitchens across the whole of northern and central Europe. The monastery has just begun the laborious process of disinfection in order to rid the library of its unwanted guests. All of the handbound books have been moved into special crates which have been enclosed in hermetically sealed plastic covers. Once inside, air is sucked from inside the covers and replaced with 100% nitrogen. Experts expect

*Continued on page 24*

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Continued from page 23

that six weeks without oxygen should bring the infestation to an end. Let's hope it works. The main advantage of this method is that no poisonous chemicals are employed.

Well, are they bookworms? The term apparently does not apply to any insect in particular, but to any one of a hundred pests – beetles, silverfish or booklice – whose larvae get inside books and make a meal of them instead of reading them. I wonder if any of our local ancient book repositories have had to battle such pests? I've visited the historic cathedral libraries of Worcester, Hereford and Gloucester where I encountered nothing moth-eaten, but I've chosen a picture of another ecclesiastical library to accompany this article. Whilst on the trail of old local history documents from the parish of Mable I visited the beautiful Pugin designed library of Oscott College in Sutton

Coldfield. It is surely every (human) bookworm's dream.

The next meeting of the Teme Valley Wildlife Group will be at 7.30pm on Thursday 9th October at Stoke Bliss and Kyre Village Hall. We welcome Simon Gulliver whose talk is called "The Secret Life of Trees". Members and friends are welcome, it is just £3 on the door.

*Stephanie Macroft*

*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 [twvg@outlook.com](mailto:twvg@outlook.com)*

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## However you do it, keep in touch!

Dear reader, I hate to tell you this but I fear the art of letter writing is dead.

At school in the sixties we were taught to write a letter. We had to set it out correctly, with our own address top right, each line indented slightly from the one before, lots of commas. The date came next and then the recipient's address on the left, again with each line indented.

At secretarial college in the early seventies we were taught to follow the example of the civil service. No indentations, everything justified left with no punctuation. And of course the golden rule: "Dear Sir ... Yours faithfully", "Dear Mr Brown ... Yours sincerely".

Incidentally, "Yours faithfully" comes from the much older valediction, "I remain, Sir, your faithful and obedient servant".

Our parents always made us write thank-you letters for Christmas and birthday presents, a habit that stuck with us. Nowadays I'm lucky to get a text message from my grandchildren. After his last birthday my grandson Henry texted "Thank you grandma love you" followed a couple of hours later by "Thank you for the money grandma!".

I have had one letter from one of my granddaughters, written from summer camp in August last year. At the bottom she wrote: "Sorry for the messy writing and mistakes, I'm writing this after lights out with a torch."

I'm afraid this is the only letter I will ever get from her or her brother and sister.

Email is now a more usual way of corresponding, with Christian names used by nearly everyone and the casual use of "Hi" with the sign-off "Regards", sometimes "Kind regards", even just "KR". No faithfulness, no sincerity.

An even quicker means of communication is texting or WhatsApp messaging, where there are no rules, spelling is, to say the least, informal and emojis are used to express emotions. And apparently some younger people find full stops aggressive.

But however you choose to communicate with your friends and relations, just make sure you do it. Better a jumble of incomprehensible emojis than nothing at all.

SG



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# What's on in Teme Valley South

## October

- 1st Wednesday Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall AGM, Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall, 7.30pm
- 2nd Thursday Eastham Macmillan Coffee Morning, Eastham Memorial Hall, 10.30am
- 4th Saturday Applefest, The Burgage, Tenbury Wells, 10am
- 6th Monday Stanford History Group, Sapey Village Hall, 7.30pm
- 9th Thursday Stoke Bliss & Kyre Neighbourhood Lunch, Stoke Bliss & Kyre VH, 12.30pm
- 11th Saturday Morning talk and discussion led by Nick McLeish, Orleton House, 10am  
Race Night, Hanley Village Hall, 6.30pm
- 12th Sunday Stanford Harvest Service, 11am and lunch, Stanford Village Hall 12.30pm  
Stoke Bliss & Kyre Harvest Festival, 9.30am  
Rochford harvest service, 5pm followed by supper, Rochford village hall 6.30pm
- 13th Monday Stanford History Group, Sapey Village Hall, 7.30pm
- 16th Thursday The Filling Station, Eastham Memorial Hall, 7.15pm
- 17th Friday Pub Night, Eastham Memorial Hall, 7pm
- 19th Sunday Pumpkinfest and Harvest Festival, Eastham Church, from 9am  
Harvest Festival, Hanley Childe Church, 5pm
- 20th Monday Stanford History Group, Sapey Village Hall, 7.30pm
- 27th Monday Stanford History Group, Sapey Village Hall, 7.30pm
- 28th Tuesday Rochford Neighbourhood Lunch, Rochford Village Hall, 12.30pm
- 31st Friday Social Night, Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall, 7 for 8pm

## 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
- 21st Friday Rochford Quiz Night and supper, Rochford Village Hall, 7.30pm
- 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 Coffee Morning, Eastham Memorial Hall, 10.30am
- 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 – details to follow

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



# Services

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

## Services Schedule

### Sunday 5th October

8.30am	Stanford	Holy Communion
11.00am	Stanford	Harvest Festival Service with choir and lunch

### Thursday 9th October

7.00pm	Hanley William
--------	----------------

### Sunday 12th October

9.30am	Stoke Bliss	Harvest Festival
5.00pm	Rochford	Harvest Festival followed by
6.30pm	Rochford Village Hall	Harvest Supper

### Sunday 19th October

10.00am	Eastham	Family Harvest Festival
2.00pm		Walking Church <i>(meet at The Old Hunting Lodge, formerly The Talbot, at Newnham Bridge)</i>
5.00pm	Hanley Childe	Harvest Festival

### Sunday 26th October

10.00am	Rochford	All Age Service and Holy Communion
4.00pm	Kyre	Holy Communion

### Sunday 2nd November

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

### Sunday 9th November

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

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