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April 2021



**In this month's issue
Signs of spring!
and all your parish news**

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TemeTalk

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A community going forward with God

April 2021

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

Designed and typeset by
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Printed by
Orphans Press, Leominster

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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 Villagers

"How long, O Lord, how long"

Not a cry from the back seat on a long car journey, but the people's repeated Biblical cry to God. They were looking for an end to their oppression, and we too look for an end to the restrictions on our lives. It has been a long Lent! Yet all around the Teme valley hosts of golden daffodils are once more in bloom and lambs are bleating in the fields.

For a second year we will not be making long journeys to go on Easter holidays – no voices asking "how much longer?" – but we can still mark Easter. On Good Friday we plan a short service as seven crosses arrive in the Rectory garden from our TVS churches, all of which will be open again for worship from Easter Sunday. Yes, we will still have restrictions but the hope of them lifting this summer is real. This Easter we can emerge from the darkness of winter blinking at the promise of a new world. With each shot of vaccine, confidence grows that we are finding a way to live with Covid. Aided by scientific innovation and a respect for the health of others we can live in the light of a resurrection of sorts.

In the garden of Gethsemane after his resurrection, Jesus said to Mary – do not touch me, not yet. How we can sympathise with Mary's need in her joy to grab hold of Jesus. We too can say with confidence, "Yes, we are nearly there". "There" is not exactly the same as the place we came from, but it is filled with hope, promise and a humbler appreciation of the many gifts we have, the precious nature of human life and our communities.

May you know the joy of renewal and resurrection this Easter!

Rev'd Julia

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TemeTalk

Deadline 18th April

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

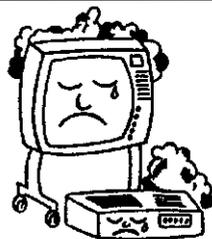
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Parish news

From the registers

Our prayers and sympathy are with the family and friends of Paul Northwood after his funeral and burial took place at Llangunllo, near Presteigne, on 18th March.

We also remember the families and friends of Ed Williams of Stoke Bliss and Tom Beaumont of Vine Lane, Kyre, who sadly died recently. Also Barbara Savage, formerly of Stoke Bliss, whose funeral was on 15th March at Hereford Crematorium. Barbara moved into care in Pencombe in 2019.

May they all rest in peace.

APCM

Our Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) for Teme Valley South will be at St Mary's church, Stanford on Wednesday 28th April at 7.30pm. Churchwardens will be (re)elected for the coming year and it's the chance for all those on the electoral roll of the parish of Teme Valley South to stand as a member or vote for the new PCC.

Last year our APCM was postponed until October due to the pandemic and this year we are getting back to the more usual timings! A huge thanks to all who have served our church committees and the communities of Teme Valley South in the past six months as churchwardens, treasurers PCC or ACC members. Without your service we would not be able to function.

A number of people have stood down during the past year so we have PCC vacancies for some church areas. Do get in touch if you feel you might be able to help and so secure our churches' future in this special rural area.

Logs

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Services in April and beyond

As we start to follow the road map out of lockdown, our churches will begin to have services more regularly. We are still following Covid guidelines so masks and social distancing will be needed with no congregational singing.

We will return to old patterns initially with the retention of daily prayer on Zoom and a monthly pre-recorded service. This will be reviewed as we assess the impact of the pandemic on congregation numbers and volunteer availability and work out what a sustainable and suitable way of being God's church in Teme Valley South might be. There will be an opportunity to contribute to this debate on 15th May so please hold that date.

Service times and openings

Our church buildings remain open as below, but if you would like to visit outside of these times, please contact the churchwardens, who will do their best to accommodate this. You are very welcome to come and spend some time in these spaces to reflect, to pray and just to 'be' for a quiet moment.

St Peter & St Paul, Eastham

Tuesday 9am to dusk

St Mary, Stanford on Teme

Thursday 9am to dusk

St Mary, Kyre Wyard

Friday 2.30pm to 5pm

Church to be attended

Silent Prayer 'Take Breath' 4 to 4.30pm

St Michael, Rochford

Wednesday and Sunday 9am to dusk

St Peter, Stoke Bliss

Friday 10am to 4pm

All Saints, Hanley William

Saturday 9am to 4pm

Thanks to all of you who are willing to air the churches and have offered to lock and unlock. Without you we could not re-open.

Continued on page 4

Front cover photograph is a wedding bouquet by Georgina's Flowers, this month's sponsor – see page 11.

Parish news

Continued from page 3

Take Breath

Would you describe yourself as spiritual, but not religious? Then silent prayer may be for you. Silence goes beyond words; beyond absolutes. It draws us towards something that is hard to define, yet the practice of holding silence in a small group can be a very powerful one.

With the start of a new year, I invite you to join with us at Kyre church to try a time of silent prayer and Take Breath. As we explore this together the time of silence will be gradually lengthened, but we will start by gathering for 30 minutes from 4pm on Fridays. All welcome and we will observe Covid secure guidelines. Please bring a mask.

Rev'd Julia

Deadline 18th April

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

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Bird boxes

We are very grateful to the Welcome to our Future charity for the provision of 15 bird boxes free of charge to Teme Valley South. We received three types of nesting boxes suitable for small birds such as robins, wrens, blue tits and great tits, and these have been installed at Stoke Bliss, Hanley William and Kyre churchyards and also at the Rectory. They arrived just in time as the days lengthen and our feathered friends start to seek out nesting sites for this year.



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Rochford Rochford Rochford

Well “spring is sprung”, with primroses and daffodils, and lambs playing in the fields. With the government’s four-step roadmap offering a route back to a more normal life, we are starting to plan some community activities over the coming months, subject to the stages of the roadmap being implemented to the timescale planned.

Easter Sunday

4th April will see a physical Holy Communion service at Rochford church at 10am. We look forward to getting back together in church. The church is always beautifully decorated for Easter with the heady scent of lilies. If anyone would like to donate towards the Easter lilies please contact Ann or Jennifer.

Pizza Night – back by popular demand!

There will be a Pizza takeaway night at Rochford Village Hall on Friday 23rd April. Mother Earth Pizza (namely Sara and Angela) will return to the village hall car park from 5 to 8pm, serving delicious pizzas and loaded fries prepared and cooked fresh in front of you in their mobile wood fired pizza oven.

Everyone is welcome from all local villages but all food must be pre-ordered by 6pm the previous evening at the latest on 07498 941699. Payment is cash on collection or bank transfer in advance. See page 14 for menu details and check out their Facebook page for more info. Get your orders in early to avoid disappointment as it has previously been a sell out.

Rochford Open Gardens

Subject to Covid restrictions we hope to have an open garden event with cream teas in June or July. We would like to thank everyone who offered to open their garden for this fund raising event last year and we would like to take you up on your offers this year, together with anyone else who would like to join in. It would be great to have a variety of gardens to visit in the village, so please can you let Ann know if you are willing to open your garden.

Neighbourhood lunches

With many thanks to Ann, take-away neighbourhood lunches will resume on Friday 16th April. They can be collected or delivered to your home for just £5 (please bring your own plates). Please contact Ann on 01584 781317 by Monday 12th April if you would like one.

Dates for your diary

I think we all need a good party, so we are planning Rochford Rocks in August, with live music, hot food and a bar. Rochford Fête is also planned for August. Watch this space for more information.

Andrew Barbé

Thanks

The Powell family of Rochford would like to record our sincere thanks to everyone who has supported us through an extremely stressful ordeal over the last five years.

The warmth, love, gifts, cards and messages received from so many people is much appreciated and overwhelming. It is evidence that honesty, dignity and faith really do pay dividends. We hope now that we can move on and enjoy a peaceful retirement. Sincere thanks to one and all.

Dave Powell



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Stoke Bliss and Kyre

St Mary's Kyre window update

Based on the architect's specifications, quotes range from £20,000 to £40,000 (including VAT, which we hope to be able to reclaim) – we are budgeting for the lower end!

We are applying for grants to secure matched funding for the work (£10,000) and over the past couple of months we have been able to add a further £500 from donations. Permission to carry out the work has been granted by the diocese and we are confirming contacts with a view to the work commencing in July/August.

Any support with donations or grant schemes would be greatly appreciated, and please let us know if you can help us with applying for crowdfunding.

Meanwhile thanks those of you who have asked for the history of their house and given generous donations. I currently have two in progress which will have been delivered by the time you get this magazine. Thanks to lockdown, I am also finalising the draft of the history of Kyre Manor and church and that of Stoke Bliss Manors and Church for printing as a book, so watch this space!

Mothering Sunday surprises!

I had the task of delivering some surprise Mothering Sunday plants to various people in the area and they all wanted to express their thanks and appreciation to Teme Valley South for the thought.

I hope that we were all able to celebrate the day in some way and perhaps find new meaning in it – having to be innovative in the absence of hugs to show that we care.

Maggie Kingston

TemeTalk

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Eastham Jottings

Coffee morning

The next coffee morning will be on Wednesday 7th April at 10.30am by Zoom. This month's facilitator is Paula Brown and the theme is "something positive that started in lockdown". If you have a positive lockdown story you would like to share and cannot make the meeting, please send your comments to Celia and they will be shared.

If you would like to join and/or need help with Zoom, please call Celia Adams on 01584 781258 or email easthamcourt@icloud.com. Regulars will get an invite on the morning of the coffee morning.

May's meeting will be on 5th May with Diana Clarke as facilitator.

Eastham Residents' Association

The AGM was held on 18th February. The minutes for last year's AGM were approved and a new committee appointed. For any information or help please contact the secretary, Liann Flight on liannseramail@gmail.com.

Eastham Memorial Hall

Although hospitality venues are set to open for outdoor events from 12th April, it has been decided that it's too cold for coffee mornings outside and that the Memorial Hall will open on Monday 17th May.

All events are welcome and regular dates have been booked – coffee mornings, pub nights, gardening club, parish council meetings and the AGM, which is on 17th May. The hall is booked for local elections on Thursday 6th May under Covid rules. For any further information please contact Mike Palfrey on 07976 854267 or email mike.palfrey@easthammemorialhall.org.uk. For bookings please ring Helen Matravers on 01584 781510 or email Helen at admin@easthammemorialhall.org.uk – for rates see the website, www.easthammemorialhall.org.uk.

Donations

See the full wish list of donations for the new hall on the hall website and if you would like to donate please call or email Mike Palfrey.

Community garden

Before the opening date of 17th May it would be great to tidy up and repair the Memorial Hall garden. The Residents' Association would like to give everyone the chance to have an input into the new garden area and will be starting work on the site soon. There is work to repair the grass area and to put together some wooden planters and do some planting. If you would like to help make sure the site is looking its best in time for the opening please contact David on 01584 781505. Where there's a will, there's a way!

Spring cleaning

The spring clean of the churchyard is planned for Saturday 24th April from 10am to 12 noon (depending on Covid regulations) with the church interior in the afternoon. Dusters and mops will be needed.

Eastham Riverside Fête

The 53rd Riverside Fête is on Sunday 15th August. The schedule is already printed, kindly sponsored by Nick Champion. The band is booked and the raffle tickets have been ordered. Please start planting – make sure your potatoes are planted ready to grow and flourish – and perfecting your cooking during the summer.

Annual Pumpkin Competition

If you want to be in with a chance of winning top prize in the pumpkin competition you'll need to plant the seed during April/May and keep the plants well watered. Don't let the Hanleys have all the glory!

Teme Valley Tote

Subscriptions for the new year are due on 1st April. Full details are on page 12. Thanks to Robin Dean for organising the tote every year.

Flowers, cleaning and sidesman

April – Josie and Stuart Ward
May – Tammy Starling

Celia Adams

Hanley Happenings

As I write this I recollect that it is exactly one year since we arrived back from Spain after a three week driving holiday throughout the country. When we arrived there was a hardly a mention of Covid but by the time we left, the French border was on the point of being closed. On getting back here we self isolated much to the bemusement of some of our neighbours and yet within about a week we were all locked down and the speed at which it seemed to affect us all didn't prepare us for what has followed. However there are signs to be optimistic and perhaps by the end of the summer normal or something close to normal village life will once again resume.

Village Hall

The committee has now applied for planning permission for the extension and refurbishment. As I said last month two new table tennis tables have been ordered. The hall will be open as a polling station for the local elections on 6th May and it is hoped that the art classes and table tennis club will be able to resume shortly afterwards in mid May, following a thorough clean. People are very keen to get going again!

Telephone box

Two suggestions have been made for the telephone box on the main road – either a book or veggie swap or a map of the local area with some photos of local scenes. Any others would be welcome before a final decision is made – please contact Tracy.

Plant Sale

There will be a plant sale on Saturday 8th May at Hanley Court Gardens, Hanley William from 10am. Don't miss this chance to buy some of Anna Fletcher's wonderful plants, all in aid of the Air Ambulance and local community projects. Full details in next month's TemeTalk.

New arrivals

We welcome John and Joy Mitchell who have come to live at Leewood on Bell Lane. They have moved in with their son and Joy's father and have already experienced the Broadheath wind! John has been working mainly in Africa after a career in the services and is keen to get involved in village life once things get back to normal.

Peter Thorneycroft



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Where to begin again?

At the time of writing (16th March) we are still in lockdown 3 with a very long roadmap before we are back to a new normal.

Spring is springing and we will have our usual beautiful display of daffodils in the churchyard and on the roadside thanks to the Lane family.

The new normal Easter

Maundy Thursday (1st April) – this will be held at 6.30pm. All are welcome to attend subject to safeguards and any rules then in place.

Good Friday (2nd April) – we will be taking part in a walking pilgrimage with a cross from Stanford church at 2.15pm to Hanley Rectory for a brief outdoor service at 3.00pm. All other churches in Teme Valley South will be walking from their church. This assumes that there are no restrictions in place to prevent this. If you would like to participate please let Robin know.

Easter Day (4th April) – Dawn service at St Mary's at 6.10am. If you feel that you are able to get up that early, you are all welcome. Please could you let Robin know if you intend to come? We will start around the brazier before we go into the darkened church. There will be social distancing measures in place during the service. We will try to stream the service and record it. Regrettably there will not be an Easter breakfast at a local hostelry!

AGM of Stanford with Orleton Area Church Committee

This meeting, on 22nd April at 7.30pm, is your opportunity to help guide our church committee. The meeting will probably be via Zoom (please contact Robin for the Zoom link) and you have the opportunity to join the committee and become one of the officers (chair, secretary or treasurer) and the nominees to represent the area on the Parochial Church Council (PCC). We are also seeking an additional churchwarden. Anyone on the Civil Parish electoral register is able to attend.

**Deadline for the May issue
of TemeTalk is 18th April**

APCM

The Teme Valley South Annual Parochial Church Meeting will be on 28th April at 7.30pm. This meeting reviews the last year and elects the officers of the PCC and seconders. We hope that subject to any restrictions in place, this will be held physically at St Mary's with a Zoom link for anyone who is not able to attend. Please contact Robin for the Zoom link.

Teme Valley Tote

There are full details on page 12.

Parish Giving Scheme (PGS)

There are details on how you can join, either by phone or online, on page 10.

Communications

If you wish to be kept in the 'village loop', please let me have an email address. If you don't have one, please let me know and we will try to phone you. Alexandra and Cecilia are maintaining a Stanford Facebook page which will have the latest information. There is also a Teme Valley South Parish website and a Teme Valley South Facebook page.

St Mary's

In Stanford we will open St Mary's from 9am to 6pm every Thursday during April. There will be a continued need for social distancing when in the church and you will be asked to use the provided hand sanitiser both on entering the church and on leaving. Thank you to Anthony for opening up each Thursday.

Volunteers please – again

People have recently joined both the church committee and the village hall committee but we would welcome some more especially when the crisis is over. What are we going to do to celebrate the end of this crisis? Robin (01886 853295) is happy to explain what is involved and you are welcome to attend one of our meetings when they return so that you can see what it is like. We still need people to organise and assist.

Robin Dean

Parish Giving Scheme in Teme Valley South

The last year has been very difficult as we have not had regular services or collections during the services, so all our churches have suffered from lack of funds. However it is possible to make regular contributions to either your local church or to the parish via the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS). Last year I wrote about this new method of regular giving to our individual churches or the general TVS fund. Some of you have already enrolled and are giving regular amounts each month – thank you.

At that stage you could enrol either by filling in a paper form or by calling 0333 002 1271 and giving your details.

Since 1st March you are now able to join via the internet. You can do this by going to

www.parishgiving.org.uk/donors/find-your-parish/ on your computer.

Enter the name of your church or use the appropriate PGS code:

Eastham – 42064 2264

Hanleys – 42064 2281

Rochford – 42064 2276

Stanford – 420644 2278

Stoke Bliss and Kyre – 42064 2283

TVS General – 42064 2280

When you get to your page you can donate from this page or download a QR code (at the bottom of the page) – if you have a 4G mobile phone, you can then photograph this and it will take you immediately to your church's donate page on your mobile.

Hopefully you will find PGS an easy way to regularly donate to your church or TVS.

If you have any queries, please contact me or your treasurer.

Robin Dean

Secretary of Teme Valley South PCC

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Rochford, Tenbury Wells where she designs fresh floral arrangements from flowers sustainably sourced from her country garden. All of her orders are custom made and personalised from one off gifts to large scale weddings. Weddings are always a favourite commission because it allows Georgina to really get creative, working with someone to help bring their vision to life. Each wedding is unique, and Georgina enjoys the challenges that come when working on both a small and intimate scale as well as a much grander scale.

The real turning point for her business was last Christmas when orders for wreaths came flooding in. Since then, this family business has rapidly expanded and will only continue to grow once lockdown ends.

When restrictions are lifted, Georgina will once again begin hosting her small, informative, hands-on art classes. These will include watercolours, lino printing and a wide range of creative courses for all skill levels.

For more information on her courses, to place an order for one of her beautiful floral arrangements, or to book her for your special event, please visit her website at www.georginasflowers.com. For a free wedding flower consultation, please email her at georginasflowers@outlook.com – she still has availability.

Georgina Painter-Black

Tel 07868 377359

email georginasflowers@outlook.com

www.georginapainterblack.com



Teme Valley Tote – a new series starts this month

The last series of the Teme Valley Tote paid out £1,200 to lucky winners and just under £2,600 was distributed to the parishes of Teme Valley North and Teme Valley South.

This year the price of each subscription is again £10. For this you will be entered in each of 12 monthly draws with the possibility of winning £50 or £30 or £20 each month.

I appreciate that with current restrictions, it will not be easy to collect your subscriptions.

Your local Teme Valley South co-ordinators are:

Eastham – Celia Adams

Stanford – Alexandra Winnington

Stoke Bliss and Kyre – Margaret Yarnold

If you have internet banking you can subscribe online – the account name is North Teme Group of Churches Tote Account, sort code 20-

39-64, account number 30947539. Please give your name and district as a reference and also email me on robin.c.dean@gmail.com.

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If you have any queries about the Tote please contact me on 01886 853295 or email robin.c.dean@gmail.com

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Tenbury Food Bank

Eastham Church has made donations of £100 to each of two Tenbury charities during the pandemic. In particular Tenbury Food Bank was very grateful to receive the donation to help its outreach to the villages of Teme Valley South.

For further information on the food bank in Tenbury please contact Mark Inglis on 01584 819030.



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Fire up the barbie for a tasty Easter treat

Now that we're allowed to meet outside, either with one other household or within the "rule of six", including in private gardens, why not dust off the barbecue and cook this delicious spicy leg of lamb for an Easter treat. The best thing about this recipe is that you get the smoke and theatre of the barbecue without having to worry about it being properly cooked, because you give it a bit of a head start in the oven.

Ingredients

3 sticks lemon grass
5cm piece fresh root ginger, peeled and chopped
5 cloves garlic, peeled and chopped
6 lime leaves
1 good pinch ground cumin
1 lemon, zest and juice
sea salt and freshly ground black pepper
1 quality leg of lamb, boned and butterflied
a few sprigs fresh mint, finely chopped
fat-free natural yoghurt
1 lemon

Method

- Preheat the oven to 200°C/ 400°F, gas 6. Light the barbecue and prepare a hot side and a cooler side.
- Halve the lemon grass lengthways, peel and roughly chop the ginger and garlic, then bash in a large pestle and mortar with the lime leaves.
- Add the cumin and the finely grated zest and juice of the lemon. Mix well.



- Season the lamb with salt and black pepper, then rub the marinade all over and leave to marinate for at least one hour, preferably overnight.
- Place the lamb in a snug-fitting roasting tin, cover tightly with a double layer of tin foil and roast for 40 minutes if you like the meat pink, or slightly longer if you prefer it well done.
- Transfer the lamb to the hot side of the barbecue for 10 to 15 minutes, or until you have a lovely smoky, crispy surface. It will sizzle and there might even be a few flames, but move it around to stop it burning. Remove to a board to rest.
- Finely chop the mint leaves, add a few good dollops or yoghurt and a good squeeze of lemon juice, then mix together and season.
- Slice up the lamb and serve with the minty yoghurt and wedges of lemon for squeezing over.

With thanks to Jamie Oliver

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Murder most foul ...

All through the long dark evenings, locked in at home by Boris with not a lot to do, we seek entertainment from the television. Not the news, that's too miserable, we just watch that at lunchtime.

Most evenings we look for something not too demanding. Often this ends in violence. No, not a domestic with Mrs G. The violence is on the screen, with Vera, Lewis, Endeavour or Barnaby following the clues and arresting the bad guy just before 11 o'clock.

The detective usually has a difficult home life. Vera the lonely spinster, Lewis the sad widower until he falls in love with the pathologist and becomes happy, Endeavour practising to become the grumpy Inspector Morse of fond memory. (Barnaby is an exception, with a lovely house, charming wife and pretty daughter.)

The odd thing is how our heroes are constantly dealing with the most appalling situations – corpses, pathologists, mad/crafty offenders – and yet they carry as if nothing much has happened, each helped by his or her faithful sidekick. The murders come thick and fast, the corpses pile up, the number of suspects grows until everyone in the cast has been interrogated, and finally our brilliant detective has a eureka moment and it's all cleared up in a

trice, all nice and tidy, no loose ends.

We know this isn't real life, we know that when murder really happens it is horrible, nasty and very upsetting. But the television companies know this too. They believe their audience (us) enjoys a good murder or two – but without too much realism.

I would love to see greater variety in our television drama so we could sometimes have an evening without murder most foul. Luckily most of the plots are so far fetched that I still sleep well!

Brian Griffiths

Lambing time

All our local farmers have been lambing since February during some pretty mixed weather. Ed Yarnold in Hanley Childe was on night duty and felt that the whole of the lambing shed roof was going to disappear in March's gales – thankfully only one sheet suffered damage.

Ed bought eight Swarbel ewes (black with a white face) and crossed them with a white Texel tup hoping to get some white lambs with black faces but no, they are all completely black! Better luck next year perhaps.



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Hedge laying – a real country craft

One of the joys of this time of the year is to see some wonderfully laid hedges which have been laid over the winter. No hedge cutting is allowed after 1st March to allow the birds to nest and rear their young.

Richard Jones from Kyre is part of a three man team of hedge layers from Tenbury and a recent stretch

they have completed was at Dilwyn, to the west of Leominster, which featured in their local magazine.

Over the centuries, different areas developed their own distinctive styles of hedge lay-



ing, based on local customs and also on the locally different requirements and available materials.

Rich and his colleagues use the Midlands style, also known as bullock style because it was traditionally used by farmers with large stock to prevent them pushing the hedge over.

Some would say it is one of the most attractive of all methods. A combination of distinctive stakes and heathers (binders) is used where the heathers are woven along the top for maximum strength and the ends wedged behind the stakes.

A properly laid hedge should last for about 25 years. So next time you pass a newly laid hedge, have a good look and give thanks that this ancient craft is still being continued by dedicated country people.

Peter Thorneycroft

Hanley Parish Council

will be holding a
Parish Council Meeting and AGM
on Tuesday 11th May
at 7.15pm at Hanley Village Hall
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Tom Beaumont

Tom Beaumont of the Vine Farm, Kyre, died peacefully on 7th March 2021, on the day before his 88th birthday at the farm where he was born in 1933. Tom was the middle son of Ellen 'Tot' and Richard 'Dick' Beaumont with older brother John and younger brother Jim.

He grew up and worked on the family farm all his life, only agreeing to take things easier over the last couple of years. Despite growing up through the times of heavy working horses, Tom wasn't keen on them and preferred the 'modern' tractor. In his younger days he was a local champion plougher with his Fordson Major. Farming was his life and when not look-



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ing after the sheep or the orchards, he enjoyed gardening and spending time with his family.

Tom met his wife Gill while she was working as a nurse at Kyre Hospital, then a tuberculosis hospital. They married in 1957 and went on to have six children: Helen, David, Raymond, Colin and Linda, with late-hatch Neil arriving in 1982. The family went on camping and caravan holidays, mainly at Poppit Sands near Pembroke, Pendine and Symonds Yat where brother Jim lived. After Gill's death in 1996, Tom enjoyed holidays with his children and grandchildren across the country in cottages or canal boats, always accompanied by a faithful collie dog.

He loved passing his farming knowledge down to the younger generations, mostly by taking them to local agricultural shows and ploughing matches. Tom's nine grandchildren knew their grandfather as a fun-loving and mischievous family man who had them helping with the sheep from the time they could walk or sitting in the cab of the tractor whilst haymaking. Tom's favourite time of the year was the harvest season with family picnics in the orchard between cider apple or damson picking.

In later life Tom liked going to parish meals and Christmas lunches which is why the family have decided to send funeral donations to Stoke Bliss and Kyre village hall. We would love to hear your stories of Tom and invite you to email the family at thevinefarm@gmail.com.

Karl Asthana

Karl was born in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, on 4th April 1932. His parents came from Agra, India, where they lived close to the Taj Mahal. The eldest of nine children, Karl soon took on the responsibilities of caring for and helping his siblings, as is the custom in Asian families.

At school Karl excelled academically and also loved sport, especially cricket. His ambition was to be educated in England and he took the long sea journey in 1950, when he was eighteen years old, and went to Birmingham University to study medicine. After two years his father called him back to Africa and when he returned he opted to study pharmacy at Brighton. Once qualified he went back to Africa to open a pharmacy but his idyllic life was cut short by the political situation. The African government took over businesses and property owned by Asians and Karl lost his business, home, tobacco and sisal plantations and also a coffee plantation in the Usambara Hills.

Luckily Karl managed to get his family to England and then followed with £200. On his return to this country in 1966 he had to work very hard to rebuild a life for his family and in the years that followed he successfully managed a pharmacy in Handsworth and opened

the Lychgate Chemist in Worcester and pharmacies in Droitwich and Birmingham.

Karl always felt an affinity with the UK and loved our history, literature and culture. He was an accomplished linguist, speaking Hindu, Gujarati, Swahili and, of course, perfect English. He later studied Spanish, Italian and French at night school.

Karl and Margaret bought Mill Cottage, Stanford Bridge in the 1980s and this is where his final fulfilling years were spent part time. They were welcomed immediately into the village by Peter and Margaret Sparey and the Lane family. Karl was soon immersed into village life and became a member of the village hall committee. From there followed a full life of church functions, village dinners, many parties and lots of laughter with very dear friends. Stanford Bridge was where his heart lay.

Karl had three children he loved dearly, nine grandchildren and five great grandchildren to date! He was a kind, thoughtful, helpful and generous gentleman and a wise counsellor to many. He will be very sadly missed and our thoughts are with Margaret.

Robin Dean



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Tenbury pool set to reopen as lockdown lifts

Exciting news from Tenbury Community Pool as the pool, gym and studio are set to reopen on 12th April, in line with the latest government guidelines.

As TCP looks forward to the lifting of the latest lockdown it's important to make plans for a brighter future as the facility celebrates its 50th anniversary in May this year.

Malvern Hills District Council has agreed to continue its support of the facility through an annual grant for the next two years which will help TCP and Freedom Leisure achieve financial stability.

TCP is fully committed to working with Freedom Leisure to develop the swimming pool, gym and studio by making the facility sustainable and to improve the activities offered to encompass all age groups regardless of health and disability. Improvements already include smart newly refurbished changing rooms with hairdryers in the ladies, new poolside cupboards and skimmers.

A public consultation meeting in the town to ensure the community is involved is planned

when the Covid-19 restrictions are lifted.

During the last few weeks of the lockdown please think about the facility and share any ideas and thoughts for the future with us via email or phone. Our ideas include providing new sessions for the over 60s and young parents, as well as activities such as sitting exercise, Pilates, yoga, zumba, nap-time yoga (with support from Action for Children) and swimming for target groups such as elderly residents and those in care homes. We hope that transport can be provided by Tenbury Transport Trust.



A walking group is also planned in partnership with the Sports Partnership in Worcester.

TCP and Freedom Leisure would love to open the facility on Saturdays and Sundays too but let's not run before we can walk as we need more trained staff first!

Please email TCP at info@tenburypool.co.uk or phone 01584 819653 if you have any suggestions.



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Farewell to Sally



Sally Jones has finally completed the sale of her house on the Highwood and moved to Tenbury. Here she is on the doorstep of her new home with flowers arranged and delivered by Georgina Painter-Black from all her friends in Eastham and Teme Valley South.

Poems for April

April is the cruellest month, breeding
Lilacs out of the dead land, mixing
Memory and desire, stirring
Dull roots with spring rain.

T S Eliot, The Waste Land

Oh, to be in England
Now that April's there,
And whoever wakes in England
Sees, some morning, unaware,
That the lowest boughs and the brushwood sheaf
Round the elm-tree bole are in tiny leaf,
While the chaffinch sings on the orchard bough
In England—now!

Robert Browning, Home Thoughts, from Abroad

Loveliest of trees, the cherry now
Is hung with bloom along the bough,
And stands about the woodland ride
Wearing white for Eastertide.

Now, of my three score years and ten,
Twenty will not come again,
And take from seventy springs a score,
It only leaves me fifty more.

And since to look at things in bloom
Fifty springs are little room,
About the woodlands I will go
To see the cherry hung with snow.

A E Housman, A Shropshire Lad



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Rochford 49 Club Congratulations

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Wednesday winners

Feb 24th No 13 Dave Hughes
March 3rd No 52 not sold
March 10th No 17 not sold
March 17th No 9 Jennifer Gledhill

Saturday winners

Feb 20th No 10 Michael Cook
Feb 27th No 20 Kath Hatton
March 6th No 15 Di Ricketts
March 20th No 20 Kath Hatton

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

Ring Gill Smith on
07815 030050

Teme Valley Tote

March's prize draw of the Tote (the last in this series) was decided when Rev'd Julia Curtis rolled the dice on 2nd March to select the set of random numbers. Prizewinners are:

£50 – **Win Stones** of Stanford (No 507)
£30 – **Mr & Mrs Jason Spencer** of Pensax
(No 344)
£20 – **Mr W Austin** of Lindridge (No 188)

If you have any queries please contact the organiser, Robin Dean, on 01886 853295 or by email at robin.c.dean@gmail.com. A new series starts on 1st April – details on page 12.

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Teme Valley Wildlife



*If you ever visit Tenbury take any road that comes
When April turns to beauty the cherries and the plums*

Last April was a quiet time in the Teme valley. As our everyday hustle-bustle came to a stop, a landscape opening into spring gave succour to all stay-at-home residents, fearful as they were for family, neighbours and friends.

David Hockney, famous for trying to capture its wonder in paint, was reported as saying, “nothing can stop the spring” and how right he was. By wonderful chance, a lengthy spell of dry and sunny weather came along and the valley’s glory, its fruit blossom, put on the best display that I can remember. Wild cherries in woodland and hedgerow, then orchard trees of damson, plum, pear and apple contributed to the show. Although the sight must be vastly less than in its heyday, there’s still enough blossom in the valley to admire and in 2020 it was particularly welcome. Let’s hope for a repeat show in 2021.

Cherries are of interest because they have always done well in our area. We share with Kent the right conditions to suit them and, of course, the same is true of hops. Three cherry species are thought to have existed in Britain since the last Ice Age; *Prunus spinosa*, the sloe, *Prunus avium*, the wild cherry, also known as

the gean, and *Prunus padus*, the bird cherry. This latter is less familiar and has small white blooms in spires, like tiny horse chestnut flowers.

Cherries were first cultivated by selecting wild cherries which bore good fruit. These were grafted onto hardy stocks to plant as orchard trees. In Tudor times new varieties were brought in from France and the Low Countries, they were promoted by Henry VIII who loved cherries. After the Civil War, following great destruction to all manner of crops, there was increased interest in fruit-growing. By 1665 an influential book by John Rea of Kinlet recommended 16 different cherry varieties. Over a century later another pioneering local horticulturalist, Andrew Thomas Knight of Elton in North Herefordshire, developed many more new varieties. Some, such as Elton and Knight’s Early Black, are still in cultivation today.

Bewdley once had a cherry fair and an old charter mentions that the custom of selling cherries near the church was already ninety years old by 1601. Cherry-growing has revived

Continued on page 24

Continued from page 23

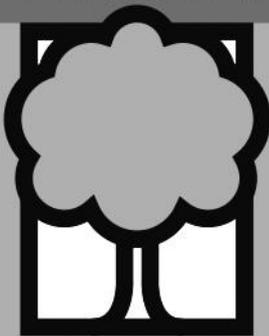
of late in Herefordshire. Plastic poly-tunnels are now used to protect the flowers from frosts and the fruit from rain and the trees are on dwarf stock for ease of picking. Gone are the days when people rose early to start picking the crop at 4am, protecting it from birds by clanging scrap-metal and packing it into wicker baskets for the lorry to Newnham Bridge station. Some of you will remember though, some of you will even have climbed those ladders.

The next meeting of the Teme Valley Wildlife Group, on Thursday 8th April, will be conducted via Zoom. The talk, "Growing native orchids in meadows and gardens", is by Suzanne Noble. For details of how to join please consult our website or Facebook page. Everyone is most welcome.

Stephanie Mcroft

For up-to-date information on what wildlife is being seen in the area, or to give us your sightings or comments, visit our Facebook page. Our programme of events, bird survey and archive photographs are available on our website www.temevalleywildlife.co.uk We normally holds meetings on the second Thursday of the month. All are welcome. Contact us by telephone on 01584 881397 or by email at twwg@outlook.com

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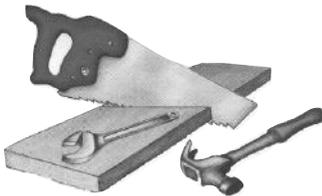
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What's on in Teme Valley South

April

- 7th Wednesday Eastham Coffee Morning by Zoom, 10.30am
16th Friday Rochford Neighbourhood Lunch (collected or delivered)
22nd Thursday AGM of Stanford Area Church Committee
23rd Friday Pizza Takeaway Night, Rochford Village Hall car park, 5 to 8pm
24th Saturday Spring clean of Eastham church and churchyard, 10am
28th Wednesday APCM, St Mary;s Church Stanford, 7.30pm

May

- 5th Wednesday Eastham Coffee Morning by Zoom, 10.30am
8th Saturday Plant Sale, Hanley Court Gardens, Hanley William, 10am
11th Tuesday Hanley Parish Council meeting and AGM, Village Hall, 7.15pm
17th Monday Eastham Memorial Hall AGM, Eastham Memorial Hall

August

- 15th Sunday Eastham Riverside Fête, Eastham Memorial Hall, 12 noon

Send items for inclusion to Sandra Griffiths by 18th of the month
telephone 01568 750665 or email ronsmum@btconnect.com

TemeTalk Deadline for the May issue is 18th April
Don't forget – the sooner you send in your copy,
the more likely it is to be included



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Services

April/May 2021

We are praying online daily via Zoom so do email Rev'd Julia if you would like to join us. If you have a prayer request to be included please ring or email Rev'd Julia or your local pastoral team member – see Teme Valley South Contacts on page 2.

The Blessings Group continues to meet weekly and is coordinated by Richard Skerrett who can be contacted on 01886 853099 for details.

Online Sunday services continue. For details see:

- Teme Valley South Churches Facebook page
- Our website, www.temevalleysouth.org
- Google 'A Church Near You' and put in your postcode to find us
- The Church of England has a pre-recorded weekly online service: search Church of England weekly services or go to www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/church-online/weekly-online-services

Sunday Services

(Subject to change – check with your churchwarden or Rev'd Julia)
Please bring a facemask for services inside a church building

Thursday 1st April

6.30pm Stanford (physical)

Maundy Thursday

Streamed

Friday 2nd April

3.00pm Walk of crosses from each church in Teme Valley South
Hanley Rectory Garden

Good Friday

Physical and recorded short service

Sunday 4th April

6.10am Stanford
10.00am Eastham, Rochford,
Stoke Bliss,
Hanley William

Easter Day

Dawn Service including Holy Communion

Holy Communion

Sunday 11th April

10.00am Hanley William
6.30pm Rochford

Holy Communion

Evening Service

Sunday 18th April

10.00am Eastham
2.00pm
6.30pm Hanley Childe

All Age and Communion

Walking church

Evening Service

Friday 23rd April

Pre-recorded service for St George's Day

Sunday 25th April

10.00am Rochford
6.30pm Kyre

All Age and Communion

Celtic Evening Service

Sunday 2nd May

10.00am Stanford
6.30pm Stoke Bliss

Holy Communion

Evening Prayer

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