

TemerTalk

Delivered FREE to every household

December 2023/January 2024



**Wishing all our readers
a very merry Christmas
and a happy and peaceful New Year**

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

G HERBERT BANKS

EST. 1898



125 Years of Professional Property Advice

- | | |
|--|--|
|  Estate & Letting Agents |  Land & Estate Management |
|  Landlord & Tenant Negotiations |  Planning Consultants |
|  Auctioneers |  Rural Consultancy Services |
|  Chartered Surveyors |  Professional Services |
|  RICS Registered Valuers |  AMC Finance |



RESIDENTIAL • AGRICULTURAL • COMMERCIAL

Chartered Surveyors & Estate Agents

01299 896 968 | gherbertbanks.co.uk



CARPET AND UPHOLSTERY CLEANING SPECIALISTS

- Fully trained and insured operators
 - Latest equipment
 - Minimum drying times
 - We move furniture
- Customer satisfaction guarantee
 - Oriental rug specialists
 - Stainshield treatment
 - Deodorizer treatment
 - Quotations on request

Carpet and Upholstery Cleaning Specialists

Highfields, Knightwick, Worcestershire WR6 5QG

01886 821554 or 07971 603007

TemeTalk

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

A community going forward with God

December 2023/January 2024

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

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

Printed by
Orphans Press, Leominster

Editor:

Sandra Griffiths
Grey Gables, St Michaels
Tenbury Wells WR15 8TW
Telephone 01568 750665
ronsmum@icloud.com

Distribution:

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

Priest-in-charge

Rev Julia Curtis
Telephone 01886 853286
revjuliacurtis@gmail.com

Parish website

www.temevalleysouth.org.uk

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

Dear Readers

As November and the Church year end, we celebrate 'Christ the King' and move into Advent season. This is a time of watching and waiting for the arrival of the baby Jesus – 'the Christ child', the 'Light of the world' offering hope to all.

This has been a tough year for many and in the Teme valley we have lost loved ones and some dear friends, we have faced the vagaries of the weather, hardships and the effects of rising energy prices. These darker times can feel overwhelming and we can struggle to see the love of Christ, asking where God is at work in the apparent darkness? Yet there have also been many causes to celebrate and give thanks – weddings and new babies, the coronation of King Charles III and many happy community events.

To mark Advent a Posada is travelling around our communities. This idea originated in Mexico and is a re-enactment of the journey Mary and Joseph (and a donkey!) took on their way to Bethlehem seeking shelter as they went. They had a difficult journey and struggled to find a safe place and shelter as they travelled. We journey through Advent too and watch and wait for Christmas day; we peer through the gloom of winter and the darkness in the world. Then as Christmas Day arrives, we peer from the gloom into that stable of long ago, and the 'Light' shines out and illuminates the darkest corners offering renewed hope ...

So, as we gather together as family, as community, sharing the laughter, joy and perhaps some tears, let us give thanks for the Holy family and the light of Christ shining in our midst this Christmas time.

Wishing you peace this Christmas and a blessed 2024!

Rev'd Jen Jones, TVS Curate

This month's cover photograph
was taken
by Rev'd Julia Curtis

Advertise your event FREE
in TemeTalk and reach 660
households in seven parishes



STAY AT HOME Home Support

A break can be good for everyone

We provide

- Respite in your own home
- Night sitting
- Day sitting
- Support to access the community, inc appointments and socialising

Get in touch for a chat or a free
no-obligation quote

Susan Grazier

T: 01299 270675

M: 07969 673092

E: stayathome-homesupport@live.com



If your oven needs a spring clean,
Ovenmagic is the cleaning
service for you

Ovens ★ Hobs ★ Extractors

For more details telephone
01905 700500 or 07974 807118
or visit www.ovenmagic.me

*Ovenmagic is an independent
fully insured company*

Teme Valley South Contacts

Priest-in-charge: Julia Curtis 01886 853286

Assistant Curate: Jen Jones 07749 977821

LLM Reader: Pete Thorp 07917 783159

Retired clergy: Robert Barlow, Sally Jones

Churchwardens

Eastham: Celia Adams 01584 781258

Rochford: Ann Prosser 01584 781317

Stoke Bliss & Kyre:

Hanleys: Ed Yarnold 07930 882728

Stanford: Robin Dean 01886 853295

Pastoral Team

Stanford: Lesley Dean 01886 853295

Hanleys:

Stoke Bliss:

Rochford: Ann Prosser 01584 781317

Jenny Barbé 01584 781298

Eastham: Mel Williams 01584 781284

Parish Safeguarding Officer: Sue Softly

Village Hall Bookings

Stoke Bliss & Kyre

Janet Powell, 01885 410598

stokeblisskyrevillagehall@gmail.com

Rochford – Ann Prosser, 01584 781317

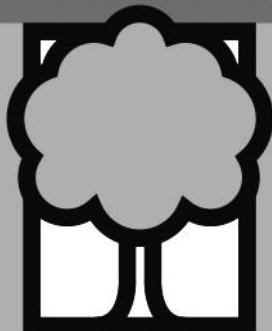
Eastham – Helen Matravers, 07580 158673

Hanley – Judy Bayliss, 01886 853813

Stanford – Catherine Mawby, 07831 303792

stanfordwithorletonvillagehall@gmail.com

TREE SURGERY & HEDGE TRIMMING



**MULBERRY
TREE SERVICES**

Lee Johnson

T: +44 (0) 1584 781034

M: +44 (0) 7808 174 904

E: mulberrytreeservices@gmail.com

Parish news

From the Registers

Funerals

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

Roy Jones – funeral service at St Peter’s Church, Coreley followed by burial of ashes at St Michael and All Angels Church, Hanley Childe on 3rd November.

Dave Hughes – Memorial Service at St Michael’s Church, Rochford on 3rd November.

May the souls of the departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

Just the job for you?

Do you have a few hours to spare? Do you enjoy listening and organising? Then this could be just right for you! We are looking for a minutes secretary. Duties would involve sending agendas, and papers before the meeting, attending our meetings (currently four or five times a year on a Saturday morning), preparing and then circulating the minutes afterwards. If you think you might be able to help please contact Rev’d Julia for a chat.

Travelling cribs or posadas

This December the ‘holy family’ in knitted form will be travelling around Teme Valley South. There are two available to host and they will be commissioned at the Christmas Tree Festival carols on 3rd December.

Advent group

Do you love carol services, but find yourself thinking about the Bible readings – what do they actually mean? This Advent we will be attempting to answer this by meeting to discuss the readings traditionally used in the Nine Lessons and Carols! No pre-knowledge required.

We will meet on Friday 1st, 8th, 15th and 22nd of December from 10.30am to 12 noon. Do get in touch with Rev’d Julia if you would like to come.

Music in Teme Valley South

Chloe, our Director of Music, has started gathering a choir together as we begin our Relishing Rural Music project, so do look out for her posters and join in or come and support the choir as they start to sing in services.

If you like to hear the harp, there will be a harpist at the Christmas Eve Communion at Kyre Church on 24th December at 10am.

Teme Valley Tots

Sessions continue in Rochford village hall during December from 10.30am to 12 noon on Fridays, with the last one before the Christmas break on 15th December, when Chloe Kenrick will be visiting and leading some seasonal musical fun.

As term starts later than usual in January, Tots will resume on 12th January, 10.30am to 12 noon.

Wishing all our families and helpers a very happy Christmas and many blessings in 2024!

Iona inspired services

If you are interested in these and what might be possible here, please come along to discuss at the Café Church on 14th January at 4pm in Hanley Village Hall.

Rev’d Julia

December Walking Church

The third Sunday in December, the 17th, is shortly before Christmas, there are lots of other things happening and it gets dark early. So rather than a great long hike, we’ll meet at our usual time, 2pm, at Rochford village hall. We’ll walk to some of the nearby houses and entertain them with carols. We’ll rattle a collecting tin for donations to Tenbury Food Bank. And when we think we’ve done enough we’ll have some Christmas refreshments (thank you Ann) in the hall.

Robert Barlow

A H CALDICOTT & SONS Funeral Directors

**Burials
Cremations
Chapel of Rest**

**15 MARKET STREET
TENBURY WELLS**

**01584 810281
01584 891502 after 6pm**

***A family run business
established 1919***

Rochford 49 Club

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

Wednesday winners

18th October	No 38	Rod Ricketts
25th October	No 21	Not sold
1st November	No 50	Not sold
8th November	No 24	Norma Goodall
15th November	No 4	Alison Champion

Saturday winners

21st October	No 6	Treena Jones
28th October	No 6	Treena Jones
4th November	No 43	Rosemary Ayers
11th November	No 32	Andrew Barbé
18th November	No 56	Not sold

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

November's draw, the eighth in this series, was decided when Rev'd Julia Curtis rolled the dice on 2nd November to select the set of random numbers. Prizewinners are:

£50 – **Jackie Hughes** of Eastham (No 293)
£30 – **Jane Yarnold** of Eastham (No 206)
£20 – **John Caldwell** of Lindridge (No 181)

You can still take part in the tote. If you have any queries please contact Robin Dean on 01886 853295 or email robin.c.dean@gmail.com.

BRAND NEW BABY GROUP!

**TEME VALLEY
TOTS!**



Every Friday
until 15th December
and from
12th January
10.30am to 12 noon
Rochford Village Hall

Tea and cake
Play and cuddles!

assistanttvspcc@gmail.com



CHARLES MAIDEN

EST 1988
Waste Disposal Ltd



Routine and emergency emptying of domestic and commercial

- SEPTIC TANKS
- TREATMENT PLANTS
- ALL SEWAGE SYSTEMS
- BLOCKAGE CLEARANCE
- GREASE TRAPS

throughout Herefordshire, Shropshire and Worcestershire

Call us now for your free quote

01885 482305

info@charlesmaidenbromyard.co.uk

www.charlesmaidenbromyard.co.uk

Rochford Quiz

Thanks to everyone who helped with and took part in the Rochford Quiz on 10th November. Thanks to your generosity the event raised £388 for village hall funds. A sellout night and many thanks to Bob, the quizmaster, who as ever provided a varied and challenging set of questions.

Santa's Magical History Tour

Start your Christmas festivities in Rochford on 2nd December with Santa's Magical History Tour – a professional Santa experience with a difference hosted by professional actors bringing their touring Santa's Magical History Experience to Rochford Village Hall with a range of events for all ages. The whole experience is designed with activities, stories and games specially created to bring the whole family together – even the teenagers will have fun!

For full details see page 15. Contact Emma on 07712 098677 to book for all sessions.

Neighbourhood lunch

Sit down and takeaway neighbourhood lunches are on 19th December (Christmas lunch with wine and raffle), 30th January and 27th February. Everyone welcome. Booking for lunches is essential and takeaways should be collected between 12.30 and 1pm. Please book with Ann on 01584 781317 at least the previous week.

Christmas lunch

Our **Christmas lunch** is on Sunday 10th December at 12.30pm at Rochford village hall. A great start to the festivities with a three-course lunch, wine and crackers and a raffle. This is always popular so please book your place with Ann to avoid disappointment. £15 per head, under 12s half price, under 5s free.

Christmas services

Church **clean and decorating** on 8th December at 2.30pm.

Rochford carol service is at 3.30pm on 10th December in our beautiful church decorated for Christmas. Come along, have lunch in the village hall and then sing well-known carols.

We greet Christmas with a **Midnight Christmas service** at 11.30pm on 24th December.

Wassailing Café Church is on 31st December starting at 9.30am in the village hall with bacon rolls and mulled cider, followed by wassailing in the orchard at Parsonage Farm.

Burns Night ceilidh

Celebrate the birthday of Robbie Burns on Saturday 27th January at 7.30pm at Rochford Village Hall. Scotland is a country steeped in rich cultural traditions, from kilts and bagpipes to haggis and whisky. Ceilidh (pronounced kay-lee) is a Gaelic word meaning "gathering" or "party". It's been an integral part of Scottish culture for centuries and typically involves music, dancing and good company. This Burns Night will include a haggis supper and some wee tots of whisky to toast the bard followed by some ceilidh dancing. Come along and join in the fun to brighten up a January evening. Scottish themed dress encouraged. Just £10 to include a tot of whisky, but no bar so please bring your own drink.

Pancake Day

On Shrove Tuesday, 13th February at 7pm at Rochford Village Hall. Come along and enjoy a selection of savoury and sweet pancakes.

Church flower rota

December – Christmas volunteers

January – Sarah Forsyth

February – Jackie Hughes

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

Andrew Barbé

AQUA CLEANSING LTD.

SEPTIC TANK EMPTYING

- Cesspool & Pump Stations
- Soakaways
- Blockage Clearance
- Sewage Treatment Engineers
- Pumps, Compressors & Servicing
- CCTV Drainage Surveys



www.aquacleansingltd.co.uk
enquiries@aquacleansing.co.uk

Call us now for free advice & quotation

01886 888471

Berrow Green Road, Martley, Worcester WR6 6PQ

Fast reliable service established for over 30 years

Stoke Bliss and Kyre

Remembrance Service at Kyre

Thanks to everyone who came to prepare and decorate the church and polish floors for the Remembrance Service at Kyre. The service was very moving as we reflected on those affected by all wars past and present and the effects on people then and now. Special thanks to Rev'd Robert Barlow and Rev'd Jen Jones for the service and to Paul and Cathy Tiffany for their support.

There was a warm welcome to everyone who came from every Teme Valley South parish. The generous retiring collection of £202 was given to the British Legion Poppy appeal.

May Christmas and 2024 be blessed for all and Christ give you strength to weather the gales and sunshine as they occur in your life.

Host families needed!

The posada, a knitted family of Mary, Joseph and a donkey, is still waiting for welcomers to host it during Advent, so why not start a tradition that is different but special this Advent. Contact Maggie Kingston on 01885 410431 or email mdk46@phonecoop.coop to book a slot.

Guardians of Hollow Meadow (GOHM) CIC

Hopefully our bank account is sorted by now and we are planning the year ahead – the work and our plans to host small activities on the meadow. We will have a celebration of the CIC in spring or with the orchid days. Meanwhile you can always contact me on mdk46@phonecoop.coop to learn more. Volunteers are always welcome for pruning, bramble clearance ...

Social & Pub Night

Friday 23rd February

Bar opens at 7, supper served at 8pm
Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall

Supper £5 (optional), dessert £2.50 (optional)

Reserve your meal with Julia on

sbkvillagehall@gmail.com or 01885 410368

Neighbourhood Lunch

Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall

Thursday 14th December

Thursday 11th January

Welcome at 12.30pm

Telephone 01885 410641 or email

lunchkasb@aol.com if you would like to come

Thanks

A very big thank you to Sandra Griffiths for her ongoing work as editor, proof reader and all the other tasks needed to get the magazine printed and off to the distributors each month. And thanks to the distributors who make sure it gets delivered around each of the parishes of Teme Valley South. So keep the news and events flowing in as those of us not keen on the internet or with no signal would miss the hard copy.

Maggie Kingston

Village Hall AGM

The start of a new year means it's time once more to hold an Annual General Meeting of the Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall Management Committee. This sounds rather grand and officious but the reality is somewhat different. The committee is made up of local volunteers who maintain the hall and do their best to facilitate local events. We meet monthly for an hour or so to discuss fund raising, maintenance and improvements in an informal manner.

If you want to find out more about how the village hall is run, suggest improvements or events or just meet or put names to the committee you would be most welcome to attend on Wednesday 3rd January in the hall at 7pm.



The Apple Tree Kitchen

01886 812 431

WR6 6DX

Set in the beautiful grounds of Pitlands Farm Holidays

- | Fully licensed | Breakfasts | Lunches | Cakes | Coffees |
- | Afternoon Teas | Gardens & Grounds |
- | Children's Playground |
- | Function room available with catering for every occasion |

Open Thursday - Sunday 9.30am - 5.00pm

www.theappletreekitchen.co.uk

info@theappletreekitchen.co.uk

Eastham Jottings

Church flowers and cleaning

December – Team effort

January – Adrian and Joanna Worsley

February – Stuart and Josie Ward

Thanks to everyone who has helped on the rota this year. Merry Christmas to you all.

Eastham Coffee Morning

The Christmas Coffee Morning will be on Wednesday 6th December at 10.30am at Eastham Memorial Hall. Come along for a coffee and a chat.

Thanks to everyone for the November coffee morning, a great result with £150 was collected on the morning. Merry Christmas to all who have arranged and attended coffee mornings during 2023; special thanks to Mike Young for years of preparing the room in advance and getting the water hot! And a big thank you to David and Jean Harrison for organising the raffle month in and month out.

The rota for 2024 is:

3rd January – team effort

7th February – Helen Matravers

Christmas Pub Night

Come along for a drink and a catch up on Friday 15th December at 7pm at Eastham Memorial Hall. Everyone welcome. Look out for the usual banner. Merry Christmas to everyone who has helped and attended during the year. Make a date for the new year on Friday 19th January.

Ludlow Male Voice Choir

Ludlow Male Voice Choir will be singing from 7 to 9.30 pm on Saturday 16th December at Eastham Memorial Hall. The bar will be open with nibbles, tea, coffee and hot chocolate with Baileys. There will also be hot food – chilli and rice (£5) and hot dogs (£4 including vegetarian sausage option). Raffle for Air Ambulance. Book tickets at £6 each with Beryl on 01584 781920 or 07969 243558. Children under 12 free.

Christmas at Eastham church

Come along to the service at 10am on Christmas morning to welcome Christmas Day. Merry Christmas and a happy new year to everyone who has contributed to Eastham church in 2023.

Eastham churchyard

The churchyard has looked wonderful all year – thanks to everyone who has helped. Special thanks to Reg Perkins who has kept the grass mown come rain or shine.

Eastham Memorial Hall Open Evening

The open evening for other halls on Thursday 2nd November was a big success with over 40 people attending from nearly 20 halls. It was a great opportunity to get together and pool ideas. Thanks to Richard Timney of Community First for updating us on grants and new initiatives. See Richard's new Facebook page for all halls in Worcestershire and Herefordshire – CommunityFirstH&WVillage-Hall Group.

£80 was donated to Air Ambulance from the raffle. The next get together will be at Pencombe Village Hall on Thursday 2nd May – all Herefordshire and Worcestershire halls invited.

Eastham Memorial Hall

Thanks to everyone who has helped and attended the great array of events and activities during this Coronation year. Merry Christmas to everyone and a special thank you to Helen Matravers for everything she does.

Carol singing with Tenbury Young Farmers

A repeat of the great event we ran in the old Memorial Hall in 2018! Everyone is welcome on Friday 23rd December at 7.30pm at Eastham Memorial Hall to join the Young Farmers who will be in good voice for some rousing carols. The official practice for the YFC will be at the Peacock on Wednesday 20th December. The bar will be open for drinks, mince pies, tea and coffee. All proceeds from the bar to Air Ambulance. Watch out for the great YFC Christmas raffle.

Special thanks to Mary Holloway for agreeing to accompany the singers.

Activities at Eastham Memorial Hall

- Pilates, contact Sue on 07974 343609, sue579@icloud.com for details or a taster session. Last session 12th December, new year from 8th January.
- Yoga, ring Zoe on 07962 981456 or see www.zedyoga.co.uk. Wednesdays at 10am. Taster sessions available. Last session 20th December, new year from 9th January.
- Zumba Gold, Lucia on 07709 301030, lu.500@live.co.uk. 12 noon, just turn up. Last session 20th December, new year from 9th January.
- Kung Fu, Adam on 07720 643524, for youngsters on Saturdays at 9.30am.

Celia Adams

TemeTalk deadline 18th January

Hanley Happenings

Welcome

Welcome to Oscar Cooper Blakeway, a son for Holly and Phil Blakeway of Bell Lane.

And a warm welcome to our new neighbours Mark and Diane Padget on Bell Lane, with another little canine to join the walking fraternity. We look forward to seeing you at local events.

Christmas Gathering

The planned Christmas Gathering at the village hall on 2nd December has been cancelled because of a clash with Tenbury's Santa Parade.

Christmas Bingo

There will be Family Christmas Bingo on Saturday 17th December at 3pm at Hanley village hall. Hamper prizes, raffle, tea and cake. Lex is looking for donations for the raffle. Please contact me on 07471 192649 and I will collect. Money raised will go to the Stroke Association.

Nativity

Hanley Childe's Nativity Service is on Sunday 17th December. This is always a magical service with the children dressing up and laughing throughout and maybe even a real animal or two, followed by mince pies and a drink.

Supper at Hanley House

No shopping, no preparing, no cooking, no washing up! What more could supper at Hanley House offer? Many of the local residents enjoyed the chilli evening, meeting up with neighbours in a friendly atmosphere and excellent food. We are all looking forward to the festive supper on 15th December.

Defibrillator

The defibrillator at Hanley Village Hall has been temporarily decommissioned due to much needed maintenance.

Carole Gardner

**Deadline for the February issue
of TemeTalk is 18th January**

Eddie's Exterior Cleaning Service



We clean patios and driveways
We offer a patio and driveway
sealing package
and more ...

For that professional service and finish
call me on 07817 795161

Pureseal approved applicator



Firewood

Seasoned hardwood
or softwood mixtures

Cut and split

Barn stored

Any load size delivered

01584 881698

OR

07817 691383



HANLEY HOUSE

FISH FRIDAY SUPPER CLUB
19TH JANUARY

Top notch home cooked food bringing the
community together on sharing tables
Open from 7pm, with food served from 7:30pm.

Nibbles at your table

Main

Salmon en croute served with a spinach sauce,
roasted baby potatoes and green beans

Vegetarian option: Spinach and ricotta parcel

Dessert

Mulled wine poached pear served with
cinnamon ice cream

£25 per person

Reserve at www.hanleyhouse.co.uk

Stanford • Stanford • Stanford

Services in Stanford

Sunday 3rd December

Said Holy Communion at 8.30am

Carol singing at 4pm with the Teme Valley South Choir! (As part of Stanford Church Christmas Tree Festival, see below)

Sunday 24th December

Carols for Christmas Eve at 7pm

Sunday 7th January

Holy Communion and Hymns at 10am

Praise Service at 4pm

Christmas Tree Festival

Stanford Church Christmas Tree Festival is on Saturday 2nd December from 1 to 7pm and on Sunday 3rd December from 11am to 4pm. Full details are on page 15. Please try to come.

Future events

We are planning to have a Wine Tasting in January or February. If you have any other ideas for events, please let me know.

Whist Drives

There will be whist drives at the village hall at 7.30pm on Tuesday 16th January, Tuesday 20th February and Tuesday 19th March.

Tenbury Food Bank

The box in the lobby at St Mary's continues to be used – thank you for all who have contributed – please keep your donations coming over the next few months especially over Christmas and beyond!

Stanford History Group Spring Lectures at Upper Sapey Village Hall

In Spring 2024, starting on 5th February, we are organising a lecture programme that we are calling the Spring Cultural Series.

In this first year we will have a mix of music, Antarctic expeditions and art, all presented by high quality lecturers in their field.

It's a big change from our usual autumn geo political history courses, but it will be the same friendly group who will welcome you on Mondays at 7.30pm at Sapey Village Hall WR6 6EU, starting on 5th February. £10 per lecture payable at the door or £40 for the six lecture course

St Mary's church

St Mary's is now open every day from dawn to dusk. The front door will be open (please do not shut) and the main door will be closed but unlocked. Please visit and sign the visitors book and leave any donations you wish! We are getting visitors from all over the world and locally, who are delighted to have the church open and comment on its beauty.

Volunteers please – again

We still need volunteers for the area church committee and/or the village hall committee. Robin (01886 853295) is happy to explain what is involved and you are welcome to attend one of our meetings, so that you can see what it is like. We still need people to organise and assist.

Robin is particularly looking for a churchwarden to assist him and take over – dare you volunteer? While it would be great to have a volunteer from Stanford, you can come from anywhere in Teme Valley South. You should be confirmed!

Still no volunteers!

Robin Dean

Stanford with Orleton Village Hall Orchard

Just over six months ago, on a lovely warm afternoon in May, 50 fruit trees of various varieties were planted at the village hall. 49 have made it this far and it is now time to think about the next step in the trees' development – pruning.

Several people who either planted a tree on the day or have trees of their own have expressed an interest in learning about pruning and care of young fruit trees, so Rob Collins, an experienced fruit grower, has kindly agreed to come and discuss the different types of pruning and, weather permitting, demonstrate the techniques.

The provisional date for this event is Saturday 3rd February at 2pm. The cost will be £5 per residence to include tea or coffee and it will be open to people outside the village. If you would like to attend, please register your interest with David Lane on 07506 695432 or David Smith on 07836 771094.

TemeTalk

ronsmum@icloud.com • 01568 750665

Rock Bridge Club

Every Sunday at 7pm
at Rock Village Hall
New members welcome
Phone 07854 951330

Chimney Sweep

Andy Johnson

01886 821933
07798 790913

www.andysweeps.com

- Certificate issued
- Weekend/evening sweeps
- Traditional brush/power sweep
- Stove maintenance



REGISTERED MEMBER
www.instituteofchimneysweeps.co.uk



Bowling

Keep fit and have fun!
@ Brimfield and Little Hereford
Bowling Club
Call Josie Ward on 01584 881435

David Ward
firewood

Do you need a dependable consistent quality supplier of seasoned and kilndried hardwood and softwood firewood?

Cut and split to suit and delivered in breathable 1.2-cubic metre bags so no need to restack

Small delivery vehicle fitted with crane can deliver to most locations and situations

Call David to discuss your requirements on
07866 441154



Home Tutoring



KS2 English, Maths and French
English Literature and Language
to A Level

Proofreading and essay-writing
guidance for adults

Latin and Classical Greek to GCSE
Beginners' piano lessons

We can offer online lessons

Paul Tiffany MA, PGCE
Catherine Tiffany MA, PGCE

Both DBS checked
01885 410229
pltiffany@aol.com

Harriett Baldwin MP

Member of Parliament for West Worcestershire

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

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

✉ harriettbaldwin.com
📘 facebook.com/harriettbaldwin
🐦 @hbaldwin
📷 @harriett.baldwin



A Farewell

Sadly my placement with you has drawn to a close. It's been such a pleasure to have met so many of you and to have been able to worship alongside you in the beautiful Teme Valley. In just six weeks I have visited Stanford and learned about FOAG. I was part of the harvest service at Eastham where I saw the biggest, shiniest pumpkin and interviewed Stuart about his experience of farming. I learned a little of how the river that gives this place its name could have such an impact during the flood and was privileged to be part of Julia's licensing at Clifton. I enjoyed delicious bacon sandwiches at café church in Hanley William and explored the farms of Hanley Childe and Kyre, learning first hand the history of the land and the hopes for the future during walking church. I've joined Saturday morning prayer and even sung over Zoom at Compline and as I write I'm thinking about being at the Service of Remembrance at Harpley on 12th November.

When I was offered the opportunity of a placement, it was recommended that I go somewhere quite different to my home parish – either a city centre church or something rural. I had no doubt that I would learn valuable lessons from either, but I never feel happier than when immersed in God's creation and the thought of being able to experience that while also developing my ministry was too good a chance to miss!

I grew up in Worcester but moved away when

I was 12. I moved back about 20 years ago and we've raised a family here, but it was always our intention to go back to the Lake District. Over recent years I have started to wonder whether I would find the same spiritual home there as I have found as a congregant and lay minister here? I have a role within my current parish, I know the contribution I am able to make, and also my limitations. Would a similar opportunity exist in a new parish and diocese? I guess I won't know until I try, but what I have learned from my experience within Teme Valley South is that I can certainly imagine being part of a rural ministry team. Having seen the loyalty to your churches and to each other, the creativity in which every opportunity for worship is grasped, the sense of community, that means even when you are geographically remote you are there for each other, I am so inspired!

For now, I am back to my own parish in preparation for advent and Christmas with the added excitement of a college assignment on the Creed due in a few weeks time! So thank you for making me so welcome and giving me the opportunity to worship with you and learn from you. I will try not to be a stranger, and perhaps we will bump into each other as I start to explore some of the footpaths and bridleways of this most beautiful corner of England.

Rob Little, Reader in Training

PAINFUL FEET?

Call The Foot Nurse

- Routine Nail trimming
- InGrowing Toenails
- Hard Skin reduction
- Verrucae
- Diabetic Footcare
- Fungal Nails
- Corn Reduction
- Cracked Dry Heels

Contact: Anne Hull, BA(Hons), RN,
DipCPHIP, MFSPract.

Anne is a registered nurse and foot health practitioner.

E: anne@foot-nurse.co.uk

W: www.foot-nurse.co.uk

Foot
Nurse



Complete Footcare - Nurse your feet at home

Area covered: Tenbury Wells, Ludlow, Cleobury Mortimer, Bromyard, Leominster, Far Forest and surrounding areas



Tel: 07929 115 084

Geoffrey Keegan

It is with much sadness that I write to inform you that my father, Geoffrey Keegan, sadly passed away after a short illness on 4th November 2023.

He will be greatly missed by family and friends. For anyone wishing to pay their respects a service of celebration will be held at Wyre Forest crematorium on Monday 4th December at 2.30pm.

Emma Fox

The Filling Station

There is no meeting in December so our next get together is on Thursday 18th January at Eastham Memorial Hall at 7.15 for a 7.30pm start when Eric Stirrup will be speaking to us. Eric leads a local fellowship which brought the Tenbury Filling Station into being in 2015. We have much to thank this group of people for in their leadership, support and delicious refreshments provided at our gatherings.

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

30 years at Wigley Orchard



At the end of November Christina Farmer completed her 30th season at Wigley Orchard Caravan Park in Stoke Bliss, where she has worked as a valued member of the house-keeping team since 1994. Park owner Brian Griffiths presented her with a plaque congratulating her on her loyalty, dedication and hard work over the years.

Wyvern Roofing

Specialising in all aspects of roofing

- Flat roofing
- Tiling
- Slating
- Lead work
- Single standing seam metal roofing
- Fascia and guttering
- Roofing repairs

Roofing for three generations, with over 40 years experience.

Contact Glyn 07971 092 135 / 01568 615 570
Josh 07980 496 774

wavernroofing@live.co.uk



Sue's Ironing Service



Collection and delivery arranged

*One-off, occasional or
regular jobs catered for*

Non-smoker

**01584 781356
or 07971 530595**

for a prompt & reliable service

From the editor



It's that time of year again – time to say “thank you” to everyone who has helped to produce TemeTalk in 2023.

Firstly of course we must thank the many people who contribute regular or occasional pieces for the magazine. Without you there would be no TemeTalk.

Then we must thank all those people who deliver the magazine to every house in the seven parishes, in wind and rain, in hail or snow or in the baking heat of summer.

We also wouldn't have a magazine without our advertisers, so thanks to you too.

Thanks to Orphans Press in Leominster and especially to Gary for all his help. And of course to Brian Griffiths who collects the finished product from Leominster every month.

And last, but not least, to you, our readers. Thank you for your support, which is very important to us. A very merry Christmas and a happy New Year to you all.

Sandra

STOKE BLISS & KYRE VILLAGE HALL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



GET INVOLVED!

Wednesday 3rd January at 7pm

Burns Night Ceilidh

on Saturday 27th January, 7.30pm
at Rochford Village Hall

Celebrate Robbie Burns' birthday
with a haggis supper
and a tot of whisky
followed by ceilidh dancing

Scottish themed dress encouraged

Just £10

No bar so please bring your own drink

Come along and join in the fun!

angel

gardens

Garden Centre and Gift Shop

Bedding plants • Vegetable plants
Pond plants • Indoor plants
Garden furniture
Pots and garden ornaments
Gifts and local crafts

Tuesday-Saturday 10am-5.30pm
Sunday 10am-4pm

MILL FARM COUNTRY RETAIL

Stanford Bridge WR6 6SP

07967 642270

louise@angelgardens.co.uk



Beautiful handmade floral arrangements for any occasion. From Birthdays and Anniversaries to Funeral and Sympathy flowers. I offer a bespoke service, and design all arrangements to your needs.

For a free personal consultation on how I can style your Wedding, please get in touch.

All flowers are grown locally at my garden in Rochford.

tel: 07866 377359

email: georginasflowers@outlook.com

www.georginapainterblack.com

 Georgina's Flowers

Family Christmas Bingo

Saturday 17th December at 3pm
at Hanley Village Hall
Hamper prizes • Raffle • Tea and cake



Ludlow Male Voice Choir Celebration of Christmas

Eastham Memorial Hall
Saturday 16th December, 7.30 to 9.30pm
Doors open at 6.45pm

Tickets £6, payment on the door
Children under 12 free

Bar open, tea, coffee, hot chocolate
Mince pies

Chilli & rice £5, hot dogs £4
(vegetarian sausage available)

Book with Beryl
on 01584 781920 or 07969 243558

Raffle donation to Midlands Air Ambulance
with fabulous Christmas prizes!

Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall Christmas Lunch

Sunday 10th December, 1pm

Turkey, trimmings, dessert
complimentary prosecco, vegetarian option
Prepared by the village hall cook teams

Bar available from 12.30pm

£17.50 per person, under 12s £10

Last orders as soon as possible but by 4th December

Reserve your place with Julia on
sbkvillegehall@gmail.com or 01885 410368

ANDREW JELLEY OPTICIANS

Andrew Jelley BSc (Hons) FC Optom
Teresa Davies FBDO
Duncan Edwards FBDO
Alex Lane BSc (Hons) MC Optom

18 Teme Street Tenbury Wells
tel: 01584 811445

34/36 High Street Bromyard
tel: 01885 488259

email: reception@ajopticians.co.uk
www.andrewjelleyopticians.co.uk



Clifton Upon Teme Nursery
and Forest School

OPEN MONDAY - FRIDAY 7.30AM - 6PM

6 months to 5 years

Breakfast Club for Clifton Primary School

7.30AM - 8.30AM

Contact Abi or Rachel on 01886 812380
or Manager@cliftoneyc.co.uk



Free Admission
Music
Refreshments

Stanford Church Christmas Tree Festival 2023

We invite you to celebrate the most beautiful time of the year with us. Come and see some fantastic trees, enjoy the music, light refreshments and some Christmas ambience and help raise funds for two great local charities

SAT 2ND DEC 1PM TO 7PM **SUN 3RD DEC 11AM TO 4PM**

SUNDAY SERVICE AT 8.30AM
CAROL SINGING ON SUNDAY 3RD 4PM TO 5PM

IN SUPPORT OF
NINEVEH RIDGE CARE FARM
AND
ST MARY'S, STANFORD

ST MARY'S CHURCH • STANFORD WR6 6SP

Santa's Magical History Tour

Saturday 2nd December
Rochford Village Hall

A professional Santa experience hosted by professional actors bringing Santa's Magical History Tour to Rochford with a range of events for all ages

Morning, 11am

Songs, stories, puppets and Christmas wishes around the magic wish tree with toddlers' favourite Farmer Christmas and Thursday the Elf
£5 (babes in arms and registered carers free)

Santa's Magical History Tour

A festive experience for all the family with riddles and tales of Christmas history, a game show for all ages hosted by Mr Charles Dickens and quality time with Father Christmas

2pm, 3pm and 4pm

(Numbers limited for each time slot so that everyone has time to enjoy each part of the trail)
Tickets £10, family (up to six people) £40
early bird (book before 30th November) £8

Chilling Tales for Christmas

After dark, spooky tales and a Yultide tippie with host Charles Dickens, mixologist Thursday and renowned storyteller Jacob Cracker (deceased)
Ages 11 and over

Tickets £10, family (up to five people) £40
early bird (book before 30th November) £8

To book contact Emma
on 07712 098677
or scan the QR code



Do you remember when Neil Armstrong walked on the moon?

Do you want to use PCs/laptops/tablets/phones etc to get better deals on insurance or energy, to make bookings, to shop online or to use eBay to buy and sell items?

Do you have problems connecting to the internet, printing, organising your files (documents and photos), setting up emails, using spreadsheets, producing documents (letters, reports, novels or diaries)?

If you can answer "yes" to these questions, then you need

Silver Surfer Support

I've been helping individuals and organisations to embrace information technology for over 40 years
I will visit you in your home or business and assess your needs

The first assessment visit will be free after which I will charge £25 per hour

Please contact Robin on 01886 853295



Films at Hanley Village Hall

Saturday 24th February, 6pm
My Week with Marilyn



Colin Clark worked as a lowly assistant on the set of *The Prince and the Showgirl*, the film that famously united Sir Laurence Olivier and Marilyn Monroe, who was on honeymoon with her new husband Arthur Miller. When Miller leaves England, Colin introduces Marilyn to some of the pleasures of British life.

Stars Michelle Williams, Eddie Redmayne
Kenneth Branagh, Emma Watson
Director Simon Curtis

£15 per person to include pheasant pie or vegetarian option. Please bring your own booze.
Book with Trace on 07972 183164



Tenbury Young Farmers' Club Sunday Carvery Lunch

Sunday 4th February
12.30 to 3pm

at Eastham Memorial Hall

Main course £10, children £6
Choice of meat (*vegetarian option to order*)
Sweet trolley £5, cheese and biscuits £6

Book your place with Jess
07930 929244

Takeaway £9 – please bring a plate

Pancake Day

Tuesday 13th February at 7pm
at Rochford Village Hall

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

JAB Carpentry & Building Repairs

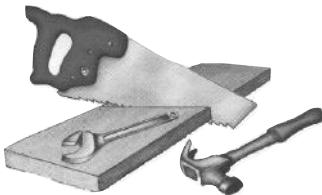
All aspects of carpentry and
building alterations undertaken

Free estimates

07976 909677

01886 853534

jabcarpentry@btinternet.com



D & G Garden Services

Contract lawn mowing

Hedge trimming

Treework

Border upkeep

For a complete garden service
telephone G Powell

01886 812302

or

07951 464408

Christmas crinkle cookies



These Christmas crinkle biscuits are easy to make and make perfect gifts.

Ingredients

100g / 3½oz caster sugar
100g / 3½oz soft light brown sugar
60g / 2¼oz cocoa powder
75ml / 2½ fl oz vegetable oil
2 free-range eggs
200g / 7oz plain flour
pinch salt
1 tsp baking powder
1 tsp ground cinnamon
1 tsp ground ginger
40g / 1½oz icing sugar

Method

Preheat the oven to 180C / 160C fan and line a baking tray with baking paper.

Whisk the caster sugar, brown sugar, cocoa powder, oil and eggs together in a large bowl.

Combine the flour, a pinch of salt, baking powder, cinnamon and ginger in a separate bowl and fold the dry ingredients into the wet mixture so that you have a very soft dough.

Roll the cookies into balls of around 40g / 1½ oz – you should get about 15–16 that are golf ball-sized, then pat them down to flatten into thick discs.

Put the icing sugar into a bowl and toss the cookies in it, making sure they're heavily coated.

Spread the biscuits about three fingers apart as they will spread a bit. Bake for around 16 minutes or until they have risen slightly and have a crinkle and cracked design.



A M Plumbing & Heating
General Plumbing Oftec approved
Bathrooms Oil boilers
Hot water cylinders Servicing

Fully insured, 14 years' experience
07565 181554
anthony.marston@hotmail.co.uk



WRITTEN BY
ANDREW POLLARD

DIRECTOR
CHRIS GARNER

SET & COSTUME DESIGNER
SUE CONDIE

ALADDIN
IT'S GENIE-US!

REGAL
TENBURY WELLS

OUR ANNUAL PROFESSIONAL PANTOMIME SHOWING 15 – 31 DECEMBER
WWW.REGALTENBURY.CO.UK



Citizens Advice South Worcestershire

Winter fuel bills

I am a single parent with two kids and I'm really worried about how I'll afford to pay my energy bills when I have to start putting the heating and lights on more now winter is here.

At the moment I just about have enough money to cover my bills but there is nothing left over. The thought of getting into debt keeps me awake at night but the idea of my children being cold and possibly unwell as a result is just unbearable. What can I do?

You are not alone - a record number of people came to Citizens Advice with energy debt in the first four months of 2023 (32,400) – a 112% increase on the same period in 2020 (15,200).

There are some simple tips to help save money on your energy bills. They won't cover all the extra costs, but they can make a difference:

- Check your thermostat: a room temperature between 18°C and 21°C is ideal for most people. Try turning your thermostat down by one degree within this range – it could save you around £115 a year. If a medical condition means you need a warmer home, ask your GP what room temperature you should aim for.
- Keep the heat in: check your home for any gaps in the doors, windows and floors. Blocking any holes where you could get a draught could save you around £30 a year. It is important to allow for

some ventilation as without it mould and damp can form.

- Turning your appliances, like TVs and washing machines, off instead of leaving them on standby could save around £60 a year. Turning off lights when you're not using them – even just for a few seconds – could save around £25 a year.
- Consider using LED lightbulbs, which cost less to run.
- Cutting your shower time by just one minute can make a difference. If everyone in a four-person household with a water meter did this, they could save around £75 a year.

If you're struggling to afford your energy bills, you might be able to get support from the government or your energy supplier. The first step is to contact your supplier to find out what they can offer. You may be eligible for benefits including the warm home discount, cold weather payments or the household support fund; find out more about these on our website.

Alongside this many welfare benefits go unclaimed so you should check you are receiving everything you are entitled to.

For more information visit the Citizens Advice website at www.citizensadvice.org.uk



CS-PLUMBING.CO.UK

07972 435102

Are you looking for local professional plumbing services?

Contact us and we will get your plumbing fixed quickly and efficiently

chris@cs-plumbing.co.uk



TEME VALLEY ACCOUNTS

Cut the costs of your bookkeeping, PAYE, VAT, Sage, tax returns and all related business accounting.

Teme Valley Accounts offers your business cost-effective rates and friendly advice locally

I have many years of experience and many satisfied customers in the region

I will work from your premises or my own

For a no obligation discussion or visit please call

Claire Elliott

01584 881708 or mobile 07731 010099

email: Claire.tva-accounts@outlook.com

Where have all the prickles gone?

I really miss seeing hedgehogs in our garden. When we moved to Worcestershire (shh ... can it really be over 40 years ago?) they seemed to be everywhere. We had to put planks in our cattle grids so they could get out easily. We had to train our dogs not to tease them on night time walks when they rolled into prickly balls of self-protection.



This year so far I have seen none. If it's mild we might still get a glimpse before they go into hibernation. We put a hedgehog box in a safe, fenced-off part of the garden and at my last sighting, I saw one heading in that direction. We don't feed them because of dogs, foxes, rats, other people's cats. Anyway we have plenty of à la carte food for them here – worms, slugs, caterpillars, beetles included in an extensive menu.

One year, returning from a late walk, I heard a ferocious sound nearby and instinctively grabbed the dog. I thought it might be foxes ... but no, it was two hedgehogs facing off in the field and growling like prize fighters. They ignored us and we hurried indoors leaving them to it.

Years ago, I wrote magazine pieces for a morning radio show in Ireland and often I included interesting snippets from the British Hedgehog Preservation Society which is based on the Cleve Hill. If you ever need prickly information, contact them (01584 890801). They need support in their

important work.

The increased badger population is blamed for the decline in our hedgehogs. But there are other reasons too – habitat loss, the use of nasty chemicals in our gardens and on farmland and so many cars on the roads. Occasionally dogs, cats or foxes worry them and they might die as a result and owls will take them.

In our case, we always had badgers around – as well as hedgehogs. We have a badger sett in the woods above us which is said to be 200 years old and there is a trail down through the fields to a sett in a coppice below us. On one occasion I was walking our dog Goldie at dusk and as she raced over the brow of a hill, I saw a slow, lumbering old badger heading across on a collision course. I tried to call the dog but she couldn't hear me and I thought it was going to be an emergency visit to the vet. The badger just carried on walking and bashed into the dog's shoulder. They were both so shocked that the badger staggered away without attacking or biting the dog, thank goodness. Then poor Goldie came limping up to me, none the worse for wear but with a sore shoulder for a few days. She was lucky. Cuddly they may appear but badgers are strong, aggressive animals at times and need watching from a distance.

Averil Opperman



Richard Haines

THE WORCESTERSHIRE CHIMNEY SWEEP

07752 116629, 01584 781358

lostcity5@hotmail.co.uk

www.theworcestershirechimneysweep.co.uk

Traditional & Power Sweeping Services

Certified Chimney Sweep

Insurance Recognised Certificate Issued

Stove Servicing

£2million Public Liability Insurance

Internal and External Stove Installation



Marika Harding
DO

OSTEOPATH

- Cranial Osteopathy
- Traditional Osteopathy
- Treating symptoms and the background condition

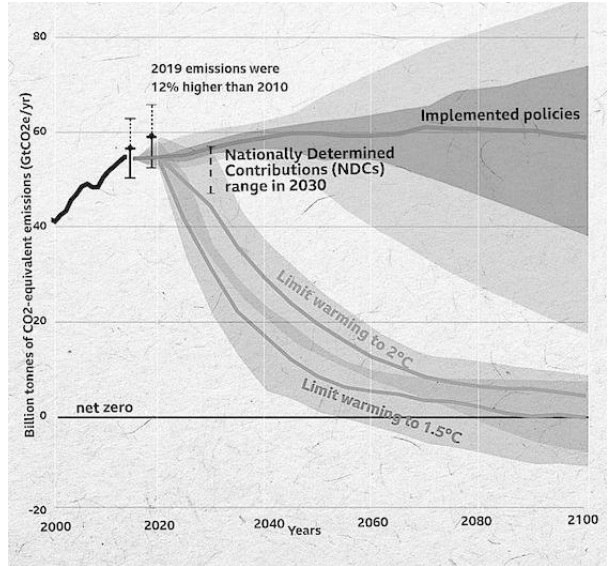
Hanley Broadheath

01886 853080

Climate change – what is being done about it?

In this series of articles in TemeTalk we have explored how human activity is warming the planet and have seen that this is likely to impact the UK through flooding, coastal erosion and mass migration, whilst some other countries may become largely uninhabitable. So, what action is being taken?

Since the problem is global, a worldwide response is essential. Scientists have been warning about the dangers for many years and in 1988 the UN set up the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), which brings together top climate scientists from 195 member governments. The IPCC issues regular reports and provides expert advice to the annual COP meetings, which set out a framework for all countries to pledge to reduce their emissions of “greenhouse gases” (mostly carbon dioxide and methane). The 26th COP meeting, held in Glasgow in 2021, was especially important. Many countries (including the US, China, India, the UK and EU members) set clear targets at this meeting for reducing their emissions, and in many cases set a target date (mostly 2050) by which they aim to be “carbon neutral” – ie to stop contribut-



ing further to global warming.

The plot above shows that emissions are still rising, and that currently implemented policies (horizontal line) will lead to disastrous warming of 3 degrees or more. If the agreed emissions targets are actually met, then we may just manage to limit warming to 2 degrees, which will still have serious consequences for the planet.

The UK showed international leadership by making its climate targets legally binding, so that the government is obliged to establish a credible plan to meet them or it can be challenged in the courts. This already happened, when the government’s 2021 Net Zero Strategy was successfully challenged on the basis that it was too vague and overoptimistic. Also, in 2008 an independent body (the Climate Change Committee) was set up to advise government on its plans and progress. So far, the UK has shown good progress in reducing emissions from power generation, by phasing out coal-powered stations and increasing the use of wind and solar power. However, our power system is still heavily reliant on burning gas, and emissions from other areas of the economy, especially transport and home heating, have shown little improvement.

Next time, in the final article in this series, we will look at what role we can all play as citizens in helping to address the challenges of climate change.

Trevor Ponman

Angel's Aerials

Digital aerial and satellite services

Approved Freesat Retailer/Installer

Fully Insured and CRB checked

Telephone: 01584 811270

Mobile: 07974 706732

email: paul@angellsaerials.co.uk

web: www.angellsaerials.co.uk

Pictures from New Jersey

So it's off to New Jersey to visit the American branch of the family – our son David, his wife Jailan, grandson Henry, 15, and twins Annabel and Megan, 13 going on 21.

Tonight I'm cooking dinner. We go to Wholefoods to buy the ingredients for a fish pie. There's a wonderful fish counter with every kind of seafood ... octopus, lobster, crab ... My favourite recipe is in my head but it's in metric. I worked hard to get used to grams and kilograms, now I have to get used to pounds and ounces again. And to cooking for seven people instead of just two. A pound of halibut, a pound of salmon, half a pound of shrimp (prawns). I need crème fraîche but can't find any so use sour cream instead, but it turns out alright and everyone enjoys it.

When we go out the Boss drives David's Ford Bronco with a stick shift (gear stick). It takes him the best part of the week to get used to changing gear with his right hand. David claims to have bought the Bronco because Henry will be learning to drive next year, but we think it's his midlife crisis.

The girls are going to a bat mitzvah (a ceremony symbolising a girl's coming of age in the Jewish community). It involves three hours sitting in the temple in the morning and a big party in the evening. The bat mitzvah girl is on their soccer team but not at their school so they won't know many other girls. The evening before, when I go to say goodnight to Megan, she is worrying about what to wear. "I don't want to be overdressed," she says, "but I don't want to be underdressed either." Apparently the new dress she bought to wear to the Taylor Swift concert in Brazil next

week* is "too much". I feel for her. A room full of judgmental 13 year old girls – what could be worse.

In the event both girls go for underdressed, literally – wearing remarkably similar tiny scraps of black fabric, short and tight, with big white trainers. We drive them to the temple and they skip off into the cold November night. When we pick them up at 11 o'clock they have nice warm hoodies embroidered with the bat mitzvah girl's initials and the date, and big carrier bags full of other stuff. "It's just merch," they explain, "you always get lots of merch at a bat mitzvah."

We go upstate with David to visit the family's ski chalet on a steep wooded hillside in the Catskill mountains. We inspect the new hot tub. A sign inside the chalet warns against putting food scraps out which might attract bears. I wonder what bears coming out of the woods and finding half naked people gently simmering in a pot of hot water would think. "Mmm, lunch!"?

On our last day we go to watch Henry play soccer. He promises to score a goal for us. It's cold and the low winter sun is blinding when play moves up the pitch. At half time we go for a walk around the pitch and the restart finds us just behind the goal. Play comes down the field towards us. There's the ball. There's Henry. He shoots! He scores! The team loses 2-1 but he's happy!

SG
**As I write this, David is taking Megan to Rio de Janeiro to see the Christ the Redeemer statue and go to a Taylor Swift concert. Just a bit of dad and daughter time. Similar extravagant arrangements for the other two children are pending!*

The logo for Total Computer Solutions (tcs) features the lowercase letters 'tcs' in a bold, sans-serif font. The 't' is a solid black block, while the 'c' and 's' are filled with a grey-to-black gradient.

Local IT support for local people.

**Over 35 years of technical
experience behind our seasoned
team ... and still going strong**

Total Computer Solutions 01886 853996

**Computer and laptops installation and set up
Maintenance contracts and ad hoc repairs
Please give us a ring**

DOMESTIC RECYCLING AND WASTE

YOUR CHRISTMAS COLLECTION CHANGES

Scheduled collection day	Actual collection day	Waste type
Monday 25 December	Saturday 21 December	Recycling
Tuesday 26 December	Wednesday 27 December	Recycling
Wednesday 27 December	Thursday 28 December	Recycling
Thursday 28 December	Friday 29 December	Recycling
Friday 29 December	Saturday 30 December	Recycling
Monday 1 January	Tuesday 2 January	General waste
Tuesday 2 January	Wednesday 3 January	General waste
Wednesday 3 January	Thursday 4 January	General waste
Thursday 4 January	Friday 5 January	General waste
Friday 5 January	Saturday 6 January	General waste
Monday 8 January	Return to normal	Recycling

We will collect up to 2 additional black sacks on w/c 1 January

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



Zed Yoga

Yoga classes at
Eastham Memorial Hall
For adults of all ages

Please contact Zoe Herington:
www.zedyoga.co.uk
Tel: 07962 981456



Dawn's Laundry & Ironing Service



DO YOU NEED A LITTLE HELP? WHATEVER YOUR REQUIREMENTS, I HAVE A SERVICE TO SUIT YOU

JUST A WASH • WASH & DRY • JUST IRONING
• OR THE WHOLE WORKS •

PICK UP AND DROP OFF • BAGS PROVIDED IF NEEDED

CALL DAWN TO FIND OUT MORE ON 07541 684255



Steps Farm
Clifton Upon Teme
Worcester
WR6 6EN

- Woodburning & Multifuel Stoves
- Stove Spares & Repairs
- Glass, Ropes, Bricks, Baffles, Cleaners
- Chimney Liner Kits & Flue Pipes
- Kiln Dried Logs, Kindling and Firelighters

01886 812452
www.is-stoves.co.uk

Showroom & Online Shop

Teme Valley Wildlife

Brockhampton Estate is a National Trust property covering 1700 acres of farmland, woodland, orchard and parkland which lies south of the Teme valley, just to the east of Bromyard Downs. Set in a tranquil valley, it centres on an ancient, moated manor house guarded by a picturesque two-storey gatehouse. Perhaps best known for its orchards, the estate's broad range of habitats sustain an abundance of wildlife. Brockhampton is proud to be home to all manner of creatures, from otters to rare insects, even enjoying roosting pipistrelle bats up in the rafters of the old house. A love of wildlife is shared with visitors and on exploring the house recently I was captivated by a beautiful selection of fresh and dried plants laid out in the Great Hall.

Two long polished tables were decorated with an autumn array of clearly labelled dried flowers, fruits, nuts and seeds. Free recipes were supplied and bags of apples and medlars were available to take home. The displays were high-



lighted by a backdrop of fresh green moss. Amongst the hips, haws and conkers I spied some unfamiliar fruit. Yellow-brown and a little larger than acorns, these proved to be the fruit of the wild service tree. This plant is unusual and grows in ancient woodland, its fruits were

formerly known as chequers. They were once made into an alcoholic drink and the inn name of Chequers is thought to come from them.

One table was reserved for dried plants, roots and seeds of use to the herbalist. I was surprised by the strength of the aroma of some of the specimens. Among them was meadowsweet, used during Tudor times as a strewing herb and apparently a favourite of Queen Elizabeth I to sweeten her palace rooms. Sweet woodruff was used likewise. This is a plant I have often seen growing in the spring when it appears to have little scent, but the sample on the table had been gathered ten years ago and retained a strong,

Continued on page 24

Meadows Soft Furnishings

by Tracey Birks

Bespoke handmade curtains, blinds,
soft furnishings and lampshades
designed and made for you

No obligation home consultation

tracey@meadows-soft-furnishings.co.uk

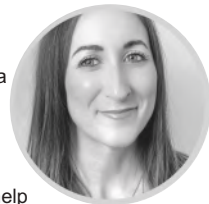
www.meadows-soft-furnishings.co.uk

01886 812583 or 07831 818104



**Marieke Smith offers
professional, no obligation advice
on mortgage
and protection.**

Whether you are buying a new property, looking to remortgage or just want to discuss your options, contact Marieke to discuss how she can help make your mortgage work for you.



07774 015706

marieke.smith@justmortgages.co.uk

**Just
Mortgages**

Approved by The Openwork Partnership on 04/04/2023
ADV15323

YOUR PROPERTY MAY BE REPOSSESSED IF YOU DO
NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON YOUR MORTGAGE

Continued from page 23

pleasing aroma. A dried valerian root had another unfamiliar smell. It was once used in the treatment of rheumatism. Examples of distilled herbal waters were displayed in small glass flasks and although I have cooked with both rose water and orange-flower water I was unaware of the attractive and useful qualities of waters distilled from mint, va-



ROB NORTHWOOD

RENOVATION AND REPAIR
OF TRADITIONAL BUILDINGS

Oak-frame Restoration and Decoration

•
Extensions and Oak Porches

•
Stonework and Roofing

•
Pointing and Chimney Repairs

•
Lime Work

•
Complete Renovations,
Small Repairs and Maintenance

•
Over 20 Years' Experience

01885 410425

07811 288986

info@robnorthwood.com

www.robnorthwood.com



Mowing2Growing Gardening Services

Garden tidy including mowing, flower bed tending and vegetable garden clearance

Hedge trimming

Seasonal hedgelaying

Fencing

Small landscape work, including brick and stone walling, patios and paths

Handyman services

Reliable and Friendly Service

01885 410625 / 07778 818808

lerian and chamomile. It's always good to learn something new.

Finally, as Christmas approaches, I thought it would be appropriate to end my account of the delights of Brockhampton with a story about mistletoe. In the year 2000 the estate was the first place in Britain to record a rare insect called the mistletoe weevil. It has since been found in Worcestershire but has stumped experts who can't make up their minds whether it really is new to Britain or whether it has just been in hiding. Anyway, this small and unexciting-looking creature has been dubbed the "kiss me slow weevil" and on that curious note I wish everyone a very Happy Christmas!

PS We hope to welcome you to a Teme Valley Wildlife Group meeting during 2024.

The next meeting of the Teme Valley Wildlife Group will be at Stoke Bliss and Kyre Village Hall on Thursday 11th January at 7.30pm. Our speaker is Mike Metcalf whose talk is called "Ravens breeding in Worcestershire – how many?" Everyone is most welcome, and it is just £2 on the door.

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 hold meetings on the second Thursday of the month. All are welcome. Contact us by email at trvwg@outlook.com.



CHORLEY'S

FINE ART AUCTIONEERS & VALUERS

Regular fine art & antiques sales

International online bidding

No charges for unsold lots

Extensive free parking & café

Insurance & probate valuations

Contact us for a free

auction valuation

01452 344499

enquiries@chorleys.com

www.chorleys.com



rewired
ELECTRICAL SERVICES
SERVING THREE COUNTIES SINCE 1996

**For an Affordable
& Reliable Electrician
Choose REWIRED!**

The Power Behind
Teme Valley...

 The Power Behind
Teme Valley...

01886 853 011
07421 748 288
www.rewired-worcester.co.uk

 NAPIT
Electrical

Kyre Park Garden



The Park consists of five lakes, waterfalls, follies, a Grade II listed Jacobean barn, a ruin and a Norman dovecote

Open daily 10am to 5pm

Suggested donation of £3.50

Dogs are welcome in the Park and allowed off leads if kept under control
No cycles allowed in the grounds

Kyre Park, Tenbury Wells WR15 8RW

Yoga class

at Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall
Tuesday mornings from 10 to 11am
Please contact Karen on
07789 913425

Table tennis at Hanley

If you would like to join in the fun
come along to Hanley Village Hall
on Monday evenings at 7pm.
Bats and balls are provided, your first taster
session is free, then it's just £3 per evening.

Tenbury Transport Trust

Patron Angela Brinton, Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Worcestershire (Rtd)

Awarded Best Community Transport West Midlands 2021

**Do you need to travel somewhere? Shopping, medical appointments, visiting friends?
Are you struggling to use public transport?
Or perhaps you don't have access to public transport?
Then we may be able to help**

Established as a charity in 2014, Tenbury Transport Trust aims to meet the transport needs of **all ages and abilities** in Tenbury Wells and the surrounding area. We use cars and **wheelchair accessible mini buses** and provide a safe door-to-door service

It costs just £10 per person per year to become a member so give us a ring today on
01584 810491

Our office is at 34 Teme Street, Tenbury Wells, WR15 8AA
We are open Monday to Friday from 9am to 1pm
email admin@ttrust.org.uk website www.ttrust.org.uk Follow us on Facebook

**If you would like to become part of this amazing organisation as a volunteer
please get in touch on 01584 810491**

Farm Community Network

Confidential phone line 7am to 11pm

0845 367 9990

Samaritans

01905 21121/0345 909090

Free confidential support and advice

Tenbury & District Carers Support Group

meets on the 4th Wednesday of every
month from 10.30 am to 12 noon
at Penlu Sports Centre

It's available to support all carers

01886 853633

HWS PEST CONTROL



20 years' experience
Fully insured and licensed



- ★ Rats ★ Mice
- ★ Wasps ★ Hornets
- ★ Bees ★ Fleas
- ★ Flies ★ Clothes moths
- ★ Moles ★ Woodworm

Telephone Darren on

07818 034301

email ardy-hwspest@hotmail.co.uk



Servicing and repairs for all your garden machines
including lawn mowers, quad bikes,
chainsaw sharpening and more

Mike Savery

Call 07795 530995



JAMES GORE

e: GoreGroundworks@outlook.com

m: 07904 877 598

Gore Groundworks
Tenbury Wells

We Specialise in:

- **Groundworks**
- **Footings**
- **Drainage**
- **Landscaping**
- **Site Clearance**
- **Septic Tanks & Soakaways**
- **Driveways**
- **Excavation**

What's on in Teme Valley South

December

- 2nd Saturday Santa's Magical History Tour, Rochford Village Hall, from 10am
Stanford Christmas Tree Festival, Stanford Church from 1pm
- 3rd Sunday Stanford Christmas Tree Festival, Stanford Church, from 11am
- 6th Wednesday Eastham Coffee Morning, Eastham Memorial Hall, 10.30am
- 10th Sunday Christmas Lunch, Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall, 1pm
Christmas Lunch, Rochford Village Hall, 12.30pm
Rochford Carol Service, Rochford Church, 3.30pm
- 14th Thursday Neighbourhood Lunch, Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall, 12.30pm
- 15th Friday Pub Night, Eastham Memorial Hall, 7pm
- 16th Saturday Ludlow Male Voice Choir, Eastham Memorial Hall, 7pm
- 17th Sunday Family Christmas Bingo, Hanley Village Hall, 3pm
- 19th Tuesday Neighbourhood Lunch, Rochford Village Hall, 12.30pm
- 23rd Friday Carol Singing with Tenbury Young Farmers, Eastham Memorial Hall, 7.30pm
- 31st Sunday Wassailing Café Church, Rochford Village Hall, 9.30am

January

- 3rd Wednesday Eastham Coffee Morning, Eastham Memorial Hall, 10.30am
Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall AGM, 7pm
- 11th Thursday Neighbourhood Lunch, Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall, 12.30pm
- 14th Sunday Café Church, Hanley Village Hall, 4pm
- 16th Tuesday Whist Drive, Stanford Village Hall, 7.30pm
- 18th Thursday The Filling Station, Eastham Memorial Hall, 7.15pm
- 19th Friday Pub Night, Eastham Memorial Hall, 7pm
- 27th Saturday Burns Night Ceilidh, Rochford Village Hall, 7.30pm
- 30th Tuesday Neighbourhood Lunch, Rochford Village Hall, 12.30pm

February

- 7th Wednesday Eastham Coffee Morning, Eastham Memorial Hall, 10.30am
- 4th Sunday YFC Carvery Lunch, Eastham Memorial Hall, 12.30pm
- 7th Wednesday Eastham Coffee Morning, Eastham Memorial Hall, 10.30am
- 8th Thursday Neighbourhood Lunch, Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall, 12.30pm
- 13th Tuesday Pancake Day, Rochford Village Hall, 7pm
- 23rd Friday Social & Pub Night, Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall, 7pm
- 24th Saturday Film night at Hanley Village Hall, *My Week with Marilyn*, 6pm
- 27th Tuesday Neighbourhood Lunch, Rochford Village Hall, 12.30pm

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

**Deadline for the February issue of TemeTalk
is 18th January**

Services

December 2023/January 2024

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

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

Services Schedule

Sunday 3rd December

8.30am Stanford
4.00pm Stanford

Sunday 10th December

10.00am Stoke Bliss
3.30pm Rochford

Sunday 17th December

8.30am Eastham
10.00am Hanley Childe
2.00pm Rochford
3.00pm Stoke Bliss

Sunday 24th December

10.00am Kyre
7.00pm Stanford
11.30pm Rochford

Monday 25th December

10.00am Hanley William
10.00am Eastham

Sunday 31st December

9.30am Rochford Village Hall

Sunday 7th January

10.00am Stanford
4.00pm Stanford

Sunday 14th January

10.00am Hanley William
4.00pm Hanley Village Hall

Sunday 21st January

10.00am Eastham
2.00pm

Sunday 28th January

10.00am Rochford
4.00pm Kyre

Sunday 4th February

10.00am Stanford
4.00pm Stanford

Advent Sunday

Said Holy Communion
Carol Service with Posada Commissioning

Christingle followed by Holy Communion
Carol Service

Said Holy Communion

Nativity
Walking Church Carol Singing
Carol Service

Christmas Eve

Holy Communion
Carols for Christmas Eve
Midnight Mass

Christmas Day

Christmas Holy Communion
Family Service

Wassailing Café Church

Epiphany
Holy Communion and Hymns
Evensong

Holy Communion
Café Church

All Age and Holy Communion
Walking Church

Plough Sunday
Celtic Evening Prayer on Zoom

Holy Communion and Hymns
Evensong

Norris and Miles SOLICITORS

6 Market Square
Tenbury Wells
Worcestershire
WR15 8BW

Tel: 01584 810575

Fax: 01584 811759

post@norrismiles.co.uk

www.norrisandmiles.co.uk

Local Legal Advice

- Property sale and purchase
- Property, building and other disputes
- Wills and Powers of Attorney
- Administration of Estates and Tax Planning
- Business and farm sale, purchase and Tenancies
- Divorce, separation, finance and children
- Prenups and Cohabitation Agreements

TAP HOUSE



OPEN FOR BEER SALES 7 DAYS
BAR OPEN FRI 5PM / SAT & SUN 1PM
WOODFIRED PIZZA AVAILABLE
FRI 5-8.30 SAT 1-3/5-8.30 SUN 1-4
LIVE MUSIC EVERY SATURDAY

IN ASSOCIATION WITH
THE WHITE PHEASANT
FOR PRIVATE HIRE &
FOR MORE INFORMATION
PHONE 07966 294032

FOR MORE INFORMATION & SPECIAL EVENTS
FIND US ON FACEBOOK AND INSTAGRAM
ONLINE BEER SALES WWW.SPILSBURYANDJONES.CO.UK

A M BRIDGE PROPERTY SERVICES LTD

MARK BRIDGE

telephone 01584 781356 • mobile 07971 530595

Rochford, Tenbury Wells

- Alterations/extensions • maintenance/repairs
 - Electrical • Brickwork/tiling
 - Carpentry • Patios / garden walls • Plumbing and heating
 - A complete building service • Quality craftsmanship
 - Full public liability insurance • Free quotations
- Professional and qualified advice



For prompt reliable attention and personal service call us!



NICK CHAMPION

PROPERTY | AUCTIONS | AGRICULTURE | PROFESSIONAL



For independent and professional advice on residential and rural property sales, auctions, lettings, acquisitions and valuations contact Nick Champion

NICK CHAMPION LTD

16 Teme Street, Tenbury Wells, Worcestershire, WR15 8BA

Tel: 01584 810555 | Fax: 01584 810888

www.nickchampion.co.uk

