

# Tem eTalk

A vibrant, stylized illustration of a town, likely Eastham, viewed from an elevated perspective. A river flows through the center, with a bridge crossing it. The town is filled with colorful houses, a church with a tall spire, a windmill, and a large flock of sheep. The background shows rolling hills under a bright sky.

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# TemeTalk

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*A community going forward with God*

## February 2023

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

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[www.temevalleysouth.org.uk](http://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

I am so glad that it is my turn to greet you from the Teme Valley South Ministry Team. It has been a great joy to remain part of the parish since I made the move to Tenbury where I join a long line of TVS expats. Our very real links with the town were brought home to me with the realisation that the Tenbury Food Bank has been serving the parish well this past year and we have been able to reciprocate by making donations. The wonderful Christmas Tree Festival at Stanford gave almost £1,000. Of course the need for contributions continues and we will go on doing our best.

The year has turned. The days are lengthening. The weather is unpredictable and times are difficult. And yet, and yet ... there are signs of change in the air. Serious issues are being brought out into the open, genuine and earnest efforts to articulate priorities, it seems to me. In community life there is a renewed desire to serve, to care for our neighbours, to protect the vulnerable, to cherish the land, to find peace. In public discourse these priorities are also coming to the fore. We can only pray that they take root and are manifested in planning for the future – a future which sets the planet on a course to sustainability, where the focus is on working hard to provide for all from finite resources. This may mean living more simply, that others may simply live.

In the parish we find signs of new life as well. Teme Valley Tots have come to Rochford village hall; Forest Church meets at Stoke Bliss, usually out of doors; Walking Church has become a regular fixture across the parish; Café Church at Hanley village hall has expanded to Sunday afternoons in other venues by popular request; the Take Breath meditation at Kyre

*Continued on page 3*

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## Teme Valley South Contacts

Priest-in-charge: Julia Curtis 01886 853286  
Associate Priest: Sally Jones 01584 819435  
Reader: Pete Thorp 07917 783159

### Churchwardens

Eastham: Celia Adams 01584 781258  
Rochford: Ann Prosser 01584 781317  
Stoke Bliss & Kyre: Jen Jones 07749 977821  
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  
01584 881342

## Village Hall Bookings

### Stoke Bliss & Kyre

Janet Powell, 01885 410598

[stokeblisskyrevillagehall@gmail.com](mailto:stokeblisskyrevillagehall@gmail.com)

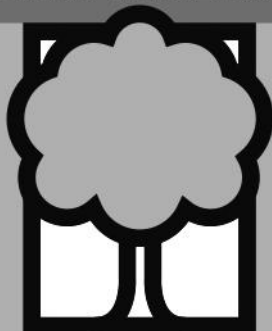
Rochford – Ann Prosser, 01584 781317

Eastham – Helen Matravers, 01584 781510

Hanley – Judy Bayliss, 01886 853813

Stanford – Robin Dean, 01886 853295

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# Parish news

*Continued from page 1*

thought; a new Bible Study group enquires into matters biblical, theological and topical; a scratch choir enjoyed a first outing at Stanford and we look forward to developing musical life across the Teme Valley. Some of this is very new and all is supported by the prayers of the Blessings Group, by daily prayer on Zoom and by our regular Sunday worship.

May we go together into the New Year with thanks in our hearts for the good things in our lives and trust for brighter days to come.

*Sally Jones*

## Teme Valley Tots

We will be meeting weekly on Fridays during February at Rochford Village Hall from 1 to 2.30pm, except for half term which is Friday 24th February. Great to start the new year with a new helper joining us too.

## TemeTalk

Deadline 18th February  
[ronsmum@btconnect.com](mailto:ronsmum@btconnect.com)



## Home & Garden Maintenance

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## Walking Church

After a lovely four mile January walk around Kyre to stretch our legs, the February walk will be from Stanford church car park. We meet at 2pm on 19th February and look forward to having Sue Softly as our local guide, with Jen Jones leading the reflections. Do join us if you are able – this one will be shorter!

## Pastoral team

We welcome Mel Williams (Cumming) from Eastham to the team. If you would like Mel to call for a visit do get in touch, she is happy to visit anywhere in TVS. It is however with great sadness that we heard of the death of Peter Thorneycroft, who was a founder member of the team and a great pastoral support to so many. There will be a larger tribute next month in the Hanley Happenings, but for now we pray for his family, friends and local community.

*Rev'd Julia*

This month's front cover picture is  
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# Rochford 49 Club

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

## Wednesday winners

Nov 23rd	No 37	not sold
Nov 30th	No 11	Rosemary Ayres
Dec 7th	No 55	not sold
Dec 14th	No 6	not sold
21st Dec	No 31	Rosemary Ayres
28th Dec	No 30	not sold
Jan 4th	No 26	not sold
Jan 11th	No 21	not sold

## Saturday winners

Nov 26th	No 11	Jonathon Cole
Dec 3rd	No 23	Jean Harrison
Dec 10th	No 54	not sold
Dec 17th	No 32	Andrew Barbé
Dec 24th	No 19	not sold
Dec 31st	No 19	not sold
Jan 7th	No 18	Jackie Hughes
Jan 14th	No 24	Michael Ayres

There are still plenty of numbers available – why not join in? It's just £1 per draw and you get two chances a week to win £25!

Remember, you must be in it to win it!

Ring Gill Smith on

**07815 030050**

# Teme Valley Tote

A happy New Year to all our subscribers!

**December's** prize draw of the Tote (the ninth in this series) was decided when Rev'd Julia Curtis rolled the dice on 1st December to select the set of random numbers. Prizewinners are:

£50 – **Family Burgoyne** of Stanford (No 584)  
£30 – **Helen Matravers** of Eastham (No 218)  
£20 – **Kim Gallimore** of Stoke Bliss (No 852)

**January's** prize draw of the Tote (the tenth in this series) was decided when Sally Jones rolled the dice on 1st January to select the set of random numbers. Prizewinners are:

£50 – **Terry McGowran** of Stoke Bliss (No 779)  
£30 – **Sebastian Hills** of Knighton (No 713)  
£20 – **Anthony Winnington** of Stanford (No 550)

We will be starting a new series in April so have your money ready for that.

If you have any queries please contact Robin Dean on 01886 853295 or email [robin.c.dean@gmail.com](mailto:robin.c.dean@gmail.com). If you still wish to enter this series, please contact Robin.

# Rock Bridge Club

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# Rochford for News

## Hello and goodbye

Welcome to Teresa Murphy, who has recently moved into Yew Tree Cottage. We hope you will enjoy living in Rochford and make the most of everything this community has to offer. Unfortunately this means we are saying farewell to Nick and Carol Rubery. We wish them well in their new home in Staffordshire and thank them for their involvement in Rochford, particularly for running the bar at Rochford Rocks.

## Christmas in Rochford

Christmas was well celebrated in Rochford and it was great to see so many people at all the Christmas events. Around 50 people enjoyed a great Christmas musical evening. Corinne, Linda and Jane put together a wonderfully varied programme of light-hearted Christmas music and readings and Jean Harrison entertained us with her rendition of The Yorkshire Messiah!

Christmas Lunch (thanks to Ann) was sold out and we had a full church for the Carol Service. The midnight service on Christmas Eve with mince pies and mulled wine was well attended too.

## Neighbourhood lunch

It was great to see so many people sitting down for the Christmas neighbourhood lunch. Dates for sit down and takeaway neighbourhood lunches are 28th February, 28th March and 25th April. Everyone is 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.

## Pancake Day

Rochford's pancake evening is on Shrove Tuesday, 21st February at 7pm in Rochford village hall. Forget cooking that evening, there will be a wonderful selection of sweet and savoury pancakes.

This is open to all villages, so please book early with Ann on 01584 781317 for this popular event. No bar so please bring your own drink.

## Snowdrop Songs of Praise

Snowdrop Songs of Praise is on 12th February at 3pm. Come and sing your favourite hymns. The service will be followed by snowdrop themed activities for all ages together with tea and cake in the village hall.

## Congratulations

Congratulations to Ann on the birth of her grandson Alfie James Prosser, a son for Edward and Hannah and a little brother for Freya.

## Future events

As the year commences we are thinking about activities and events which Rochford and the wider community will enjoy. If you have any suggestions, please let us know.

## Church flower rota

February: Jackie Hughes

Contacts: Ann on 01584 781317

Andrew on 07809 658484 or through the parish WhatsApp group

*A precis of the eulogy given at David Powell's funeral on 2nd December is on page 25*

*Andrew Barbé*

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# Stoke Bliss and Kyre

*Happy New Year from Stoke Bliss and Kyre churches and thank you for your support over the past year.*

## Stoke Bliss church ceiling

There was a meeting on 21st January about the update on the ceiling and roof work needed at Stoke Bliss. If you missed the meeting or have any fund raising ideas you would be willing to organise please contact our church warden Jen Jones on 07749 977821.

Thank you to all who came in support. We need the community involvement to quote in the grant applications that Jen will be involved in.

## Yoga class

**Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall**  
Tuesday mornings 10 to 11am  
and Tuesday evenings 6.30 to 7.30pm

## TemeTalk

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## Village Spring Walk

### Sunday 5th March

We thought it a good idea to resurrect the village walk this year – an easily accessible route of just short of four miles, mainly around the lanes of Stoke Bliss and Kyre, to be followed by hot soup, drink and cake at the village hall. We will meet at the village hall at 12.45 for a 1pm start.

The all inclusive price is £10, though if you just want to take advantage of the food, served at approximately 3pm, it will be £8. Dogs are welcome on the walk but not unfortunately at the hall for lunch.

If you wish to book food, please contact Mike on 01885 410480 or email [mikew8465@gmail.com](mailto:mikew8465@gmail.com) stating any dietary requirements.

## Neighbourhood Lunch

Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall  
**Thursday 16th February**  
**Thursday 16th March**  
Welcome at 12.30pm  
**Telephone 01885 410641**  
or email [lunchkasb@aol.com](mailto:lunchkasb@aol.com)  
if you would like to come



## Pub Night



**Friday 24th February**  
**Friday 24th March**

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

*Reserve your meal with Julia on*  
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# Eastham Jottings

## Church flowers and cleaning

February – Josie and Stuart Ward

March – Celia Adams

If you would like to join the rota, please email Celia on easthamcourt@icloud.com or call 01584 781258.

## Eastham Coffee Morning

At the Christmas coffee morning, £100 was raised for Tenbury Food Bank including the Christmas raffle. Thanks for 2022 go to Mike Young for preparing the hall in advance, Jean and David Harrison (and in their absence Tony Simpson and Ann Hadfield) for doing the raffle, Chris Kelland for looking after the money and everyone who helped on the rota and in all other ways.

The rota for 2023 is

Wednesday 1st February – Peter and Paula Mann

Wednesday 1st March – Diana Clarke

## Eastham Pub Night

Friday 17th February at 7pm at Eastham Memorial Hall. Make a date for this informal get together. Watch out for the usual banner.

## Litter Pick

Saturday 18th March – save the date.

## Christmas at Eastham Church

The chocolate Christmas came to Eastham on Christmas Day for the first Christmas service for three years without Covid restrictions. There was plenty of chocolate for all and it was great to welcome newcomers to St Peter and St Paul's at Christmas. Many thanks to Nicky Webb and Louisa for the wonderful Christmas tree entered in the Stanford Tree Festival then transported back to Eastham. The collection and recent donations of £125 went to the Tenbury Food Bank.

Although organist Mary Holloway was not with us for Christmas Day, she joined us on 18th December, supporting Eastham as she does month in and month out, so many thanks to her and to Michael Webb who played the organ on Christmas Day.

Special thanks to Josie and Stuart Ward for the mulled wine after the service and to the Ward family for hosting Plough Sunday on 8th January.

## Christmas in Eastham

A great crowd turned out to switch the lights on the Eastham Christmas tree on 9th December including the Lindridge School Choir singing Christmas favourites. The Christmas Fayre on Sunday 11th December was an enormous success with half the proceeds going to St Richards Hospice. The children's Afternoon Tea with Santa on Monday 19th December was great followed by the Children's Activity Day on Tuesday 20th December. Also lots of cakes got decorated at the Cake Decorating Workshops on 3rd and 17th December. Thanks to Jenna and the events committee for making a very special 2022 Christmas at Eastham.

## Eastham Book Club

A book club was set up following postings on the Eastham WhatsApp Group. There is currently a waiting list. For further information regards please contact Celia on 01584 781258 or email easthamcourt@icloud.com

## Tenbury Food Bank

St Peter and St Paul's and the Memorial Hall donated £625 during 2022 to the Tenbury Food Bank. Thanks to everyone for donations.

## Events in 2023

The following events are planned.

Saturday 18th February – **Thai Takeaway**

Saturday 25th February – **Gin and Cheese Tasting**

Saturday 1st April – **Afternoon tea with the Easter bunny**

Sunday 2nd April – **Easter Bingo**

Saturday 13th May – **Murder on the Catwalk**. Actors are still needed.

For further information please phone Jenna on 07502 228878 or email events@eastham-memorialhall.org.uk.

## Zumba Gold, Pilates and Yoga and Kung Fu at Eastham Memorial Hall

- Pilates, Sue on 07974 343609
- Yoga, Zoe on 07962 981456
- Zumba Gold, Lucia on 07709 301030
- Kung Fu, Adam on 07720 643524

*Celia Adams*

# Hanley Happenings

## Roy Fazakerley

It was with sadness that we heard the news of the death of Roy Fazakerley, who passed away on 16th November 2022 aged 77. Roy was landlord of the Tally Ho from 1988 until the spring of 2022. Many good times were enjoyed during that time and we are grateful for his support to the Hanley churches over the years. He helped us fundraise by hosting auctions and carol singing amongst other events.

Apart from his 30 plus years at the Tally, Roy's other interests particularly included spending time on his canal boat and he was a long-standing member of the Midlands Rover Owners Club.

## Lily Kerby-Collins

A very warm welcome to Lily Kerby-Collins, who was born on New Year's Day in Hereford and, although she was three weeks early, she was a healthy 6lb 10oz. Congratulations to her parents Declan and Zoe and their wider family. We hope Lily grows up healthy and happy and enjoys many blessings as she does so.

## Table tennis

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.

## Art Classes

Art classes are on Wednesday evenings from 7 to 8.30 pm at Hanley Village Hall. Please contact Ange Jordan on 07830 914430 if you would like to come.

## What's happening at The Tally Ho?

Tom and Anna Purchase are renovating the pub to become an event space with eight bed and breakfast rooms.

They would like to thank everyone for welcoming them into the area – they are looking forward to putting on events for the local community when they open later this year.

And look out for their new name, coming soon.



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The deadline for the next issue of TemeTalk is 18th February

# Stanford • Stanford • Stanford

## Services in Stanford

See page 28 for services in February and March.

## Poppy Appeal

After several delays, we opened the tins and we had collected £1,775.49 – this was from the Abberley district which includes Abberley, Eastham, Great Witley, Stanford, Stockton and Stoke Bliss. Thank you for all the collectors and your generous contributions. If you would be interested in becoming a poppy collector, please contact Robin Dean, poppy appeal organiser for Abberley district, on 01886 853295.

## Christmas Tree Festival

The Christmas Tree Festival on 3rd and 4th December was a great success with about 300 people visiting over the weekend and over £900 raised for the Tenbury Food Bank. There were 20 trees on display and Archdeacon Robert had the unenviable task of judging. He then led a carol service on Sunday evening. We also had a scratch choir which improved our singing considerably. Besides the trees, a tunnel of angels in the porch was considered very impressive.

Thanks to John Curtis for overall organisation, Stuart for assistance, Sue for organising and serving the mulled wine (donated by Tesco) and other refreshments. Thanks also to all who helped in making the weekend a huge success and all the people who visited, to the Christmas tree sponsors and to Louise at Angel Gardens for providing the trees.

## Crib Service

We couldn't find enough children to take part this year so Robert agreed to do a chocolate Nativity. A big thank you to Annika who loaned her doll called Brian to occupy the place of honour in the crib. The Nativity story was told with the help of chocolates lobbed by Robert into the congregation. We were invited to dress up as characters from the Nativity but only a couple of children and one adult made the effort! Thanks to Michelle for organising the mulled wine and to those who supplied the mince pies. Finally a big thank you to Robert for organising the service.

## Ideas please!

We welcome suggestions – is there anything our village should be doing in the summer? I mentioned celebrating the Coronation to the village hall committee but no one seemed interested in this. We would like to run a couple of concerts in the church. Wine tasting, walks, dog show, car boots, history events ... but we need people to volunteer to organise them!

## Sweater party

The lovely woollen sweaters were on sale again on 19th November, with slightly fewer people attending. There were bargains to be had! We had a raffle with prizes from Robin and Sue. Thanks to Cate, Cecilia and Ange for assistance on the day. The Browns gave us £75 in commission. They will be here again in 2023.

## Tenbury Food Bank

Sue asked me to thank those who are supporting Tenbury food bank by bringing food to St Mary's for their generosity – please keep your donations coming over the next few months. Over £900 raised from our Christmas Tree Festival will also go towards Tenbury food bank.

## 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.

## 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!

Finally we wish everyone a happy and prosperous New Year!

*Robin Dean*

## Stanford History Group Spring Lectures

Mondays 6th and 13th March, 7.30pm  
at Upper Sapey Village Hall

We enjoyed an excellent series of lectures in autumn 2022 but unfortunately our Birmingham University lecturer on Ukraine and Poland, Dr Anca Mandru, was ill and her lectures were postponed. They have been rescheduled as follows:

### 6th March

Old Empires and Nationalism: The Making of Modern Poland and Ukraine (1795-1939)

### 13th March

New Empires and Nationalism: Poland and Ukraine from the Second World War to the present

Just come on the evening! £10 each lecture if you haven't prepaid.

Simon Marriott

[simon@adamswoodfarm.co.uk](mailto:simon@adamswoodfarm.co.uk)

## The Filling Station

Our next meeting is on Thursday 16th February at Eastham Memorial Hall at 7.15 for 7.30pm. We have not yet confirmed a speaker for that evening but if you are on our mailing list you will be notified.

Do come along and enjoy this regular get-together with local Christians for an evening of fellowship, worship, teaching and refreshments.

If you are not on our mailing list and would like further information or details about our February speaker then please contact [kate.harley6@gmail.com](mailto:kate.harley6@gmail.com).

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Have you ever wondered what happens to the contents of your green wheelie bin after it is collected? Perhaps you have heard rumours that it isn't really recycled at all, but goes into landfill, is incinerated or is shipped off to a developing country and ends up in the ocean. Happily this isn't true, at least in Worcestershire and Herefordshire. All household recyclable waste for the two counties (70,000 tonnes per year) is taken to the EnviroSORT facility outside Worcester where it is processed. I saw the process first hand during a recent visit to EnviroSORT, and my aim here is to give you an idea of how it all works. This helps to make sense of the recycling rules.

The refuse lorries tip their loads of mingled recyclable waste at the entrance to the facility and it then passes through a series of sorting stages. An initial hand sort removes obviously unsuitable items and the stream then passes onto a glass breaker where glass items are crushed so that the fragments fall through. The next phase is an inclined ramp called a ballistic separator – light flat items (paper and card) are shuffled up the ramp, whilst three-dimensional objects, such as bottles and cans, roll downwards. Metal objects are then removed magnetically, leaving plastic items which are sorted into different categories using optical beams. Finally, the different materials are baled up separately and sent off for recycling.

The rules for what can and cannot be included in your recycling are quite compli-

cated – you can find details on the Severn Waste website at [www.severnwaste.com/envirosort/what-can-i-recycle/](http://www.severnwaste.com/envirosort/what-can-i-recycle/). In brief, allowable items are food tins, drinks cans and aerosols, glass bottles and jars, plastic bottles, tubs, pots

and trays, drinks cartons, paper and card. It is important that all items are reasonably clean, and there are a few additional subtleties: paper and card items are best if flat (squash boxes and cartons) so that they climb upwards on the ballistic sorter,

whilst plastic items and aluminium cans should not be squashed too much, so they travel down. Black plastic does not reflect the optical sorting beams and so passes straight through to be discarded, so it should not be placed in your recycling bin.

Most people find that the recycling bin fills up more quickly than the black bin, so recycling all this material really is worthwhile.

*Trevor Ponman*



*Inside the EnviroSORT facility*

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- Your order is on its way
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- Your order is being sent to the courier
- Your order is with the courier
- We've got your parcel – as soon as it's out for delivery we'll let you know
- Your parcel is now with your local courier and will be delivered today

And I know that as soon as the parcel arrives I'll get another email to tell me that it's been delivered and then a request for feedback. So up to nine emails for every online order, all but two of which are entirely unnecessary. Don't you love the internet!

SG

### Deadline 18th February

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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Eastham Memorial Hall



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# Thai Takeaway

Eastham Memorial Hall  
Saturday 18th February  
5pm to 7pm

Anne Lawson is cooking a few dishes for takeaway only

## Starters

Prawn crackers £2.50

Spring rolls £5.50

Battered prawns £6.50

Chicken satay £5

## Mains £11.50

Chicken green curry

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Prawn red curry

Egg noodles with veggies

## Rice £3

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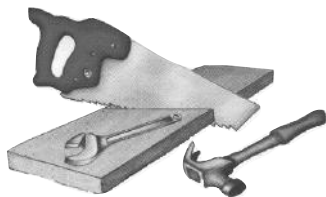
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Monday 20th February  
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### Cupcake baking and decorating

Learn how to weigh and measure your ingredients, then make animal toppers (four cakes to take home)



Saturday 18th March



11am to 1pm

### Mother's Day Workshop

Fill and decorate a Mother's Day cake to take home (pre-baked cake provided)



Friday 14th April

10am to 12 noon



### Easter chocolate orange gonks and sugar cookies

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# Eastham Fête

It's a long way off but mark the date –  
**Sunday 20th August 2023!**

Eastham Fête is the largest free event in the village. It raises funds for the village and provides a great afternoon out for anyone who wants to come along either to help or to enjoy the stalls and activities.

The wheels of Eastham Fête are starting to roll again – the organising will start soon so if you think you would like to help out please get in touch with the organising committee, Celia, Jane or David or at  
[easthamfete@gmail.com](mailto:easthamfete@gmail.com)

The Produce Show schedule is ready for printing and will be sent out with the April edition of TemeTalk to every house in Eastham. If you don't live in the village and would like a schedule, please let us know.

The Produce Show judging may well be six months away but now is the time to think about planting for some of the classes if you want to enter. Broad beans, parsnips, tomatoes and sweet peas can all be planted in February. Remember – you can't win if you don't enter.



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# Films at Hanley Village Hall



## Saturday 4th February, 7.30pm **Film Stars Don't Die in Liverpool**

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**Based on the book "Film Stars Don't Die in Liverpool" by Peter Turner**  
**Stars Annette Bening, Jamie Bell, Kenneth Cranham**  
**Director Paul McGuigan**  
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## Saturday 4th March, 7.30pm **Belfast**

A young boy and his working-class Belfast family experience the tumultuous late 1960s. Surrounded by sporadic violence and growing danger, nine-year-old Buddy finds himself confronted with the ugly reality of sectarian conflict.

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# Off the beaten track

*This lovely article about our area was written by Ian Marchant, who signed the Eastham visitors' book with his wife Hilary on 12th November 2022. You never quite know who is passing through!*

Most people who live in Presteigne will, at one time or another, take the road from the Salway Arms on the A49 south of Ludlow, through Tenbury Wells and up to the M5 a little past Droitwich. It's the quickest way to Birmingham and to the M40 for London and the M42 for all points north east. For 10 years I worked at Birmingham City University, and this road (formed by the A456 and A443, for road nerds) was a regular commute, so I drove it two or three times a week in all seasons.

Now my wife and I take it once a fortnight to visit our 18-month-old grandson (and to some extent, his parents) in Coventry. It's a corking road, it really is, through hopyards, along the left bank of the River Teme; but we are always passing through. A few weeks ago, we thought to cross the River Teme at Eastham

and take some time to explore the unfamiliar right-hand side of the valley.

Just one never-before-taken turning from a familiar and beloved road, and we had entered church crawling heaven. We stopped at St Peter and St Paul at Eastham, a jewel of a 12th century church, and then at the 'Church on the Hill', St Mary's in Stanford, with wonderful views across the Teme Valley to the road much travelled.

I remembered meeting a fellow Tolkien nut at an event in Tenbury who assured me that the Teme Valley was the original model for the Shire. Standing outside St Mary's, it was easy to believe.

We finished our detour at St Andrew's, an estate church packed with features designed to delight the church-crawler's heart, and which is right by the famous Shelsley Walsh Hill climb course.

God's kingdom is here, it seems to me, and sometimes all we have to do to notice is to take an unfamiliar turn.

*From the Church Times, 2nd December 2022*

*Just one never-before-taken  
turning ... and we had  
entered church crawling  
heaven*

angel  
  
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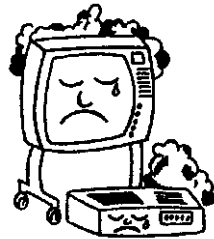
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# A day of surprises

So on New Year's Eve we set off to visit the Boss's mother and father, who are buried in the lovely little churchyard at St Padarn's church, just over the Welsh border at Cross-gates. My first surprise was that this small Victorian church has a Norman sculptured tympanum over the south doorway, probably carved by the Herefordshire school of sculpture in about 1140 (see below).



Having admired the tympanum we decided to look for lunch in Llandrindod Wells, just up the road. The Boss said he didn't hold out much hope, so imagine our surprise when, driving through the deserted and drizzly streets, we came upon the Metropole Hotel, right in the middle of town. I was surprised because I hadn't expected to find such

an imposing building which looked as though it belonged on the promenade at a seaside resort. The Boss was surprised because he'd been here before, and remembered the hotel being run down and dilapidated, but now it was fresh and clean and welcoming, flags flying, lights blazing.

(The hotel was opened as Coleman's Hotel in 1872 as the town grew up around the mineral rich spring waters and the railway which arrived in the nineteenth century, and later it became The Bridge Hotel. Apparently the name was changed in 1911 when the owner, Mrs Miles, bought a large quantity of linen, cutlery and crockery from the Metropole Hotel in Cromer, Norfolk, all bearing the monogram 'M'.)

At the front of the hotel overlooking the quiet main street we found Spencer's Brasserie. Outside it was dark and wet but the room was bright and cheerful with a pleasant hum of conversation.



We had a delicious lunch and then the Boss said we should walk around the lake, so we drove back through the almost deserted town and found another surprise. Here was a beautiful lake and it seemed that everyone in the town who wasn't enjoying lunch at the Metropole Hotel was here. There was a bustling café and gift shop and a weak sun appeared as we joined the many people – couples, families and dog walkers – strolling around the lake with its magnificent dragon statue in the middle and swans and ducks floating serenely around the edges.

In its heyday Llandrindod Wells was a lively resort town where Victorians queued to take the waters, entertained by bands and orchestras. It's quieter now, but still full of surprises!

SG



*Richard Haines*



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The deadline for the next issue is 18th February

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# Teme Valley Wildlife

One of the joys of February is the sight of a great expanse of crocuses in bloom; it serves to banish winter. I enjoy growing the bulbs in my garden and although I am a long way from achieving a carpet of colour, I like to experiment with different varieties in pots before setting them into the ground. The best displays that I know of in the area are at the entrance to The Elms Hotel at Abberley and in the churchyard of St George's church in Kidderminster. Both are easily visible from the road. A display only accessible on foot, but a lot further away, is the churchyard of St Chad's church in Shrewsbury. This is absolutely crammed with a single species called *crocus tommasinianus* and is an utterly amazing sight.

I first came across this particular species some years ago, whilst on a walk in the Welsh marches. The path traversed the border town of Knighton. Along the edge of a park, masses



of lovely pale violet crocuses spilled out from neighbouring gardens. I instantly fell in love with them. Determined to try and grow them in my own garden, I found out what they were and then sent off to the bulb suppliers for some bulbs. Only later did I discover that rabbits like them even more than I do.

The nineteenth-century Italian botanist Muzio Guiseppe Spirito de' Tommasini is remembered in their name which, despite being so tongue-twisting, has also been given to a variety of campanula. What I like about them is the silvery outside colour of the petals and the light violet interior. The flowers only open when the sun shines, to reveal zingy, bright orange stamens that are irresistible to bees. The species naturalises with ease, although some varieties sold under the same name are actually newer commercial

*Continued on page 24*

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Continued from page 23

forms which are not quite as good at spreading.

Another crocus keen to nip out of gardens is purple *crocus vernus*, or spring crocus. This has been grown in British gardens since at least the start of the seventeenth century and has in some places established itself in the wild.

Crocuses are native to Europe and the Middle East, but most garden types are crosses between different species. How they first came to Britain is open for discussion. Some people think they were brought back by returning Crusaders. This is especially said of the saffron crocus, an autumn-flowering variety with culinary uses. It was once grown in the vicinity of Saffron Waldon, giving its name to the town.

Whilst talking about early spring flowers it is worth mentioning a couple of other garden flowers that are good for feeding bees. Both snowdrop and hellebore attract bees when the weather is warm enough for them to be on the wing. Snowdrops like dry shade and hellebores are tough customers who seem to thrive anywhere. It is worth considering if you can squeeze these plants into a small space in your garden because insects struggle to find food in the early spring and any help we gardeners can give will be rewarded.

The next meeting of the Teme Valley Wildlife Group will take place at Stoke Bliss and Kyre Village Hall on Thursday 9th February 9th at 7.30pm. We welcome Jonty Pearce whose talk is entitled "Sailing around St Kilda". 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](http://www.temevalleywildlife.co.uk) We normally hold meetings on the second Thursday of the month. All are welcome. Contact us by email at [twgw@outlook.com](mailto:twgw@outlook.com)*



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For more information please contact the Pre-School on 01584 881647 or visit us at [www.lindridge-pre-school.co.uk](http://www.lindridge-pre-school.co.uk)

# David Clifford Arthur Powell

We sadly said farewell to David Powell on 2nd December when several hundred people gathered at Rochford Church to pay their respects and celebrate a good, full, and honest life in Rochford, where farming and the countryside dominated everything that David achieved.

David was born on 25th July 1936 at Bank Farm Rochford, where he lived and worked all his life. He really did not want to be anywhere else. He walked to Rochford school (now the village hall) joining the other 20 or so pupils, although he did not like school and ran away more than once.

Rochford School closed in 1947 so he went on to Tenbury School and later to Fishmore Hall in Ludlow. Whilst he was at school, he began his own little farming enterprise. He acquired 20 ewes, keeping them with Mr Fletcher from Bliss Gate, Rock, and would cycle up to Bliss Gate to check them. In return he would have all the wool and half the lambs. This was called "sheep at halves".

In 1952 he finished school and joined the 16 men who worked at Bank Farm. Agricultural classes at Ludlow College and a first class diploma of agriculture from the Shropshire Farm Institute (Walford College) laid the foundations for a successful life with agriculture at its heart.

He started pig farming in those early days with 20 sows he kept at Brook Farm, Kyrewood but it was the dairy and hops at Bank Farm that really interested him.

He joined Tenbury Young Farmers and remained actively involved all his life, advising and providing a venue for the annual rally and other YFC events. He became Tenbury's president and vice-president of the Worcestershire Federation.

Tenbury Agricultural Society also became a lifelong commitment for him. In 1991 he was presented with the TAS gold medal, recognising his hard work and commitment to the society.

David met Pam at a dance at Kingsland Coronation Hall and their courtship flourished and survived, even when Pam was at teacher training college in Doncaster. They were married at Hammish Church on 14th April 1962. They were excited to celebrate their diamond wedding an-

niversary last year.

There are many memories of David including that unmistakable laugh – whatever the occasion you knew when he had entered the building! He enjoyed music and loved to sing. He had a very good singing voice. He was very practical and loved problem solving – he was very happy to have a go at any job. He had a thirst for knowledge and was always interested in other people. He kept endless scrap books, all in chronological order, of photos and newspaper cuttings.

He enjoyed putting together his museums, one in the old cow house at Bank Farm full of farm tools and implements and one at Beechcroft containing a myriad of household items from days gone by, all labelled and in order. He created an allotment at the back of the old school next to Beechcroft and spent many a happy hour there. Walking was a great passion and he loved nothing better than being with his dog out in the beautiful Teme valley. He was never without a dog.

Dave was well travelled and enjoyed trips to Australia, New Zealand and Canada.

He was proud of his children, Caroline and Martin, and of his two grandchildren, Oliver and Dominic. Despite the best efforts of his grandchildren, he never quite got his head around the internet, emails and bluetooth!

David will be missed in Rochford. He supported and took part in village activities and was always happy to lend a hand with the village hall and the church. Most recently he enjoyed providing a taxi service with his pickup for people coming to the lambing service in the village.

Dave's motto was "Whatever you do, you must put your heart and soul into it and with the help of God, you will be rewarded".

## Thanks

Pam and family would like to thank all those who came to the funeral service at Rochford and the crematorium and helped set up and clear up at Bank Farm before and after the wake. Thanks to everyone involved in the services in any way and for all the sympathy cards, phone calls, visits and the wonderful donations given in memory of Dave.

*There are many memories  
... including that  
unmistakable laugh*

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# What's on in Teme Valley South

## February

1st	Wednesday	Eastham Coffee Morning, Eastham Memorial Hall, 10.30am
4th	Saturday	Adult cake workshop, Eastham Memorial Hall, 12 noon Film Night at Hanley Village Hall, <i>Film Stars Don't Die in Liverpool</i> , 7.30pm
9th	Thursday	A Musical Soirée, Stoke Court, Greete, 7.30pm
12th	Sunday	Snowdrop Songs of Praise and tea, Rochford, 3pm
16th	Thursday	Neighbourhood Lunch, Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall, 12.30pm The Filling Station, Eastham Memorial Hall, 7.15pm
17th	Friday	Eastham Pub Night, Eastham Memorial Hall, 7pm Vinesong Live in Concert, St Mary's Church Tenbury Wells, 7pm
18th	Saturday	Thai Takeaway, Eastham Memorial Hall, 5pm
19th	Sunday	Walking Church, Stanford church, 2pm
20th	Monday	Children's cooking classes, Eastham Memorial Hall, 10am
21st	Tuesday	Pancake Day at Rochford Village Hall, 7pm
24th	Friday	Pub Night, Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall, 7.30pm
25th	Saturday	Gin and Cheese Tasting Evening, Eastham Memorial Hall, 6.30pm
28th	Tuesday	Rochford Neighbourhood Lunch, Rochford Village Hall, 12.30pm

## March

1st	Wednesday	Eastham Coffee Morning, Eastham Memorial Hall, 10.30am
4th	Saturday	Film Night at Hanley Village Hall, <i>Belfast</i> , 6pm
5th	Sunday	Spring Walk, Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall, 12.45pm
16th	Thursday	Neighbourhood Lunch, Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall, 12.30pm
18th	Saturday	Children's cooking classes, Eastham Memorial Hall, 11am
25th	Saturday	A Box of Delights with Pax Singers, Stoke Bliss Church, 7.30pm
28th	Tuesday	Rochford Neighbourhood Lunch, Rochford Village Hall, 12.30pm

## April

1st	Saturday	Film Night at Hanley Village Hall, <i>The Duke</i> , 7.30pm Afternoon Tea with the Easter Bunny, Eastham Memorial Hall, 1pm
2nd	Sunday	Easter Bingo, Eastham Memorial Hall, 6pm
5th	Wednesday	Eastham Coffee Morning, Eastham Memorial Hall, 10.30am
14th	Friday	Children's cooking classes, Eastham Memorial Hall, 10am
15th	Saturday	Cream Teas and Plant and Produce Sale, Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall
25th	Tuesday	Rochford Neighbourhood Lunch, Rochford Village Hall, 12.30pm

## May

3rd	Wednesday	Eastham Coffee Morning, Eastham Memorial Hall, 10.30am
6th	Saturday	Film Night at Hanley Village Hall, <i>The World's Fastest Indian</i> , 6pm
13th	Saturday	Murder on the Catwalk, Eastham Memorial Hall, 6.30pm

**Send items for inclusion to Sandra Griffiths by 18th of the month  
telephone 01568 750665 or email [ronsmum@btconnect.com](mailto:ronsmum@btconnect.com)**



# Services

## February/March 2023

We are continuing with prayer 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 meets fortnightly 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](http://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/church-online/weekly-online-services)

### Services Schedule

#### Sunday 5th February

10.00am	Stanford	Holy Communion and hymns
4.00pm	Stanford	Praise Service

#### Sunday 12th February

10.00am	Hanley Child	Holy Communion
3.00pm	Rochford	Snowdrop Songs of Praise <i>followed by</i>
4.00pm	Rochford	Snowdrop tea and crafts

#### Sunday 19th February

10.00am	Eastham	All Age Service and Holy Communion
2.00pm		Walking Church

**Tuesday 21st February**  
Rochford

**Shrove Tuesday**  
Pancake Evening

**Wednesday 22nd February**  
9.00am Rochford  
2.00pm Stoke Bliss

**Ash Wednesday**  
Holy Communion and Ashing Service  
Forest Church

#### Sunday 26th February

10.00am	Rochford	All Age Service and Holy Communion
4.00pm	Stoke Bliss	Evening Prayer on Zoom

#### Sunday 5th March

10.00am	Stanford	Holy Communion and hymns
4.00pm	Stanford	Praise Service

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