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July 2021

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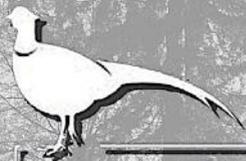
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TemeTalk

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A community going forward with God

July 2021

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Teme Valley South Group
and delivered free to every household

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www.temevalleysouth.org.uk

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

Dear Villagers

This month we see the fields of cereal crops finish growing and begin to ripen across the Teme Valley. Our landscape turns from verdant green to shades of yellow and brown as the sun does its work and the grain reaches maturity. Hay is already made and gathered and attention turns to harvesting the barley and then the wheat crops – something to be celebrated as long hours of ploughing, sowing, tending and growing begin to bear fruit.

In the church agricultural year we call this celebration Lammas. Lammas or 'Loaf-mass' is derived from the Anglo-Saxon Hlafmaesse and is an English feast in origin. Traditionally the celebration is held on 1st August and is a thanksgiving for the first-fruits of the wheat harvest. A newly baked loaf from that wheat harvest was presented before God within the service of mass held that day. During the Reformation the ceremony stopped, but the feast has always been recognised within the Prayer Book calendar and has become popular again as rural Christians today rediscover the importance of the seasons and try to connect with their rhythms afresh.

Given the lateness of this year's growing season we may not be harvesting wheat in Teme Valley South by 1st August, but nonetheless we have decided to celebrate Lammas with a special church service at Stanford at 10am on that day. With loaves of bread being a theme for the weekend there will also be a chance to have a bit of fun and try your hand at baking bread with Ann Prosser at Stanford Village Hall on Saturday 31st July at 10am. Hopefully one of the loaves can be used to provide bread for the Sunday service! Everyone is welcome, but

Continued on page 3

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TemeTalk

Deadline 18th July

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

Teme Valley South Contacts

Priest-in-charge: Julia Curtis 01886 853286
Associate Priest: Sally Jones 01584 781526
Reader: Pete Thorp 07917 783159

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01584 881342

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Parish news

Continued from page 1

please book with Robin Dean if you would like to participate in the bread making.

With the smell of newly baked bread leading me on ... I wish you a blessed month of July.

Rev'd Julia

From the registers

On 18th July we welcome Angie and Mark Clayton for a marriage blessing and renewal of vows service at St Peter's, Stoke Bliss. After 35 years of married life we are delighted they chose this as part of their wedding anniversary celebrations. Congratulations!

Services

As we continue to follow the road map out of lockdown, our churches have begun to have services more regularly. We are still following Covid guidelines, so masks will need to be worn and social distancing maintained, without congregational singing indoors.

We will return to old patterns initially with the retention of daily prayer on Zoom and a monthly pre-recorded service.

Take Breath

Silent prayer continues weekly at Kyre church from 4pm on Fridays. We hold about 25 minutes silence together. All welcome and we will observe Covid guidelines. Please bring a mask.

With the opening of the Antiques Barn and coffee shop at Kyre Park there is the opportunity to make an afternoon of it with a walk in the beautiful gardens, a browse at antiques and outdoor refreshments too!

Our future and God's church

Many thanks to all those who have taken part in this either by coming to Hanley Rectory on 5th June, or by filling in a questionnaire. See the article by our PCC secretary Cate Mawston on page 13.

Service times and openings

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

St Peter & St Paul, Eastham	Tuesday	9am to 6pm
St Mary, Stanford on Teme	Thursday	9am to 6pm
St Mary, Kyre Wyard	Wednesday, Friday, Sunday	2pm to 5pm
	Church to be attended	
	Silent Prayer "Take Breath"	4 to 4.30pm
St Michael, Rochford	Wednesday and Sunday	9am to 6pm
St Peter, Stoke Bliss	Tuesday and Friday	10am to 6pm
All Saints, Hanley William	Saturday	9am to 6pm
St Michael and All Angels, Hanley Childe	Daily	9am to 6pm

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

Rev'd Julia



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Rochford 49 Club Congratulations

to this month's £25 winners:

Wednesday winners

May 19th	No 22	not sold
May 26th	No 48	Ann Prosser
June 2nd	No 41	not sold
June 9th	No 32	Andrew Barbé
June 16th	No 13	not sold

Saturday winners

May 22nd	No 7	Jon Adams
May 29th	No 44	Dan Taylor
June 5th	No 17	not sold
June 12th	No 50	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

TemeTalk ronsmum@btconnect.com
Deadline 18th July

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Teme Valley Tote

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

£50 – **Jasmine and Bill Burleigh** of Knighton (No 620)

£30 – **Sue Stokes** of Knighton (No 629)

£20 – **Mr and Mrs Millichip** of Knighton (No 729)

It's very unusual for all the prizes to go to one location – well done Knighton!

If you have any queries please contact Robin Dean on 01886 853295 or email robin.c.dean@gmail.com. You can still join if you wish, please contact Robin.

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Rochford Rochford Rochford

The easing of last months planned Covid restrictions has been delayed for another month, but this will not affect our planned outdoor community events, although it will be necessary to provide hand sanitisers and maintain social distancing for a little longer. Indoor events in the village hall are being planned to include neighbourhood lunches and our ever-popular quiz night – if you have any ideas for an event that you would like to see in the village please let us know.

The Big Breakfast

With the relaxation of Covid restrictions, the Big Breakfast will be held at the village hall on Saturday 24th July with a full English! (vegetarian options available) followed by a walk, for those who are feeling energetic, through our beautiful countryside. Everyone is welcome so please book with Ann (01584 781317). It's just £7.50 per head (under 12s half price).

Rochford Rocks and Rochford Fête

Rochford Rocks is on Saturday 21st August at Kyrewood Grange. Everyone is very welcome so please get this date in your diary and invite your friends and family for this great friendly family event. It is always a good night with live music, dancing, hot food, homemade puds and a Pimms, wine and real ale/cider bar.

Rochford Fête and Fun Dog Show is on Sunday 22nd August, again at Kyrewood Grange, by very kind permission of George and Louise Bennet. It is always an enjoyable afternoon with a range of stalls and competitions together with a grand draw. Please let us know if you are able to help with this event or if you can provide any donations for the tombola, white elephant, plant and book stalls.

Quiz Night

The ever-popular Rochford quiz will be back on 19th November with supper included. So put the date in your diary and start swotting!

The village hall roof

The village hall roof has been leaking for many years now and slipping slates have been put back on many occasions (thanks to Mark Bridge). It has been decided that it would not be sensible to go through another winter with the roof in this state and work will hopefully begin to have it fully repaired this month. The last window (the big one at the front) will also be replaced at the same time, so that we can then redecorate inside and out.

We would very much appreciate any offers of help (physical and financial) to get the hall decorated following the roof works. We are hoping that remedial plastering will not be too extensive, but clearing, cleaning, painting and decorating will be required. The funding for all this work will hopefully come from a loan from Rochford church's general funds, but we will continue with fund raising activities so we can pay the money back. If anyone has any good fund-raising ideas, please do let us know as we are very open to new ideas to support the village hall funds.

Neighbourhood lunches

With the delay in the lifting of Covid restrictions we will continue with takeaway neighbourhood lunches (delivered or collected) on 16th July. As usual please bring your own plates and let Ann know by the previous Monday on 01584 781317.

Hopefully in August we can be back to normal, and we can get together and enjoy lunches in the village hall again, but Ann will still provide takeaways for those who are not able to come to the hall.

Church services in Rochford

Physical church services (subject to Covid rules) are taking place again, at 6.30pm on the second Sunday and 10am on the fourth Sunday in the month. Everyone is very welcome.

Andrew Barbé

TemeTalk

ronsmum@btconnect.com

01568 750665

The deadline for the next issue
is 18th July

Stoke Bliss and Kyre

Book Launch

The History of Kyre Manor and Church will be launched at St Mary's Kyre on Saturday 2nd October from 2.30pm to 4.30pm where author Maggie Kingston will sign your book with a (short) personal message. The church is next to Kyre Park with gardens to walk around and the Antiques Barn and bistro so why not make a day of it?

Maggie Kingston has now completed the first part of the history of Stoke Bliss and Kyre. The second part – the history of Stoke Bliss and Kyre Parva manors and church – will be launched in the spring. The profits after publishing costs from sales of these books will benefit their respective churches: St Mary's, Kyre towards the repairs to the Lady Chapel east window and St Peter's, Stoke Bliss for the ceiling repairs. (Gift aided additional donations are gratefully received.)

Advance booking will reserve your signed copy with a deposit of £5 (the full cost will be £12.50-£15). Please contact Maggie for the BACS details. This will help with publishing costs in advance of the launch.

Maggie will be holding more book signing events in the run up to Christmas at indoor venues.

Maggie Kingston
01885 410431
mdk46@phoncoop.coop

Fun and hard work

You are cordially invited to a Working Party at Stoke Bliss church on Saturday 17th July from 10.30am to 2.30pm. There will be a choice of activities resulting in a free workout of your muscles, enterprise and expertise. Bring your favourite gardening and cleaning tools to give the church an extra spruce up before the wedding blessing on the Sunday and to ease our cleaner's workload (thanks Pam).

And of course bring your picnic lunch! Covid permitting there will be tea and cakes ... afterwards! It would be helpful if you could let Jen Jones know you are coming on 07749 977821.



Coffee Morning – see page 14

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Eastham Jottings

Coffee morning

There was a great turnout at the first face-to-face coffee morning in the new hall, on 2nd June, to give a wave of thanks to the Lottery for their grant towards the hall. Since April 2020 the coffee morning has met monthly on Zoom, keeping everyone in touch.



Photograph by Pete Thorpe

Next month's coffee morning will be on Wednesday 7th July in the Memorial Hall, with table service. Please bring a mask. The facilitator is Ann Hadfield and there will be a socially distanced raffle.

On 4th August the facilitator will be Jane Yarnold.

Zumba

There will be a taster Zumba Gold class (free of charge) on Wednesday 14th July at 10am. To join call Lucia Becci on 07709 301030, email lu.500@live.co.uk or Celia Adams on 01584 781258, email easthamcourt@icloud.com. Please bring strong trainers, a mat and a bottle of water.

Eastham fête

Leave nice books or bric-a-brac for the fête at the back of Eastham church. The church is only open on Tuesdays but the collection point will be moved to the hall in August. We also need bottles for the tombola. Please drop cakes off with Alison Brookes or at the hall on Friday 13th or Saturday 14th August.

Raffle tickets for Eastham fête

There are plenty of raffle tickets to be sold so make sure you have your quota. Collect books from Celia Adams and return them to her.

Eastham's Memorial Board

Almost 100 years since the first hall was built as a commemoration to those who fought in the first world war, Eastham's newly rebuilt Memorial Hall has been opened. The trustees hope that this hall will last even longer and the newly restored name board will keep the names of those who fought, from Eastham and Orleton, alive for future generations.

The board was welcomed back by nephews of uncles who died in World War I, Ron Wylde and Stuart Ward. The restoration was arranged by Josie Ward and carried out by Kieron Elliot. Thanks to all those from Eastham and Orleton who gave donations to raise the funds for the restoration.



(Left to right) Kieron Elliott, Stuart Ward, Celia Adams, Josie Ward and Ron Wylde.

Photograph by Pete Thorpe

A date for your diary

There will be a children's activity on Wednesday 11th August from 10am to 3pm at Eastham Memorial Hall. More details next month!

Flowers, cleaning and sidesman

July – Mel Cumming

August – Diana Clarke

Celia Adams

Eastham Community Garden – page 12

Hanley Happenings

Hanley Parish Council

At the recent Hanley parish council statutory meeting and AGM the following councillors for Hanley parish council were elected:

Tracy Stuart-Allen – chair
Philip Spilsbury – vice chair
Peter Howells – treasurer
Lesley Lloyd
Sally Fletcher
Simon Spring
Christine Francis

The parish clerk is Marg Yarnold.

Plant sale proceeds

Following Anna Fletcher's hugely successful plant sale in May she has confirmed that just over £1,500 is to be donated to the Air Ambulance, from which so many local people have benefited, and £500 is to be spent on a **Village Get Together Tea** in the village hall on a Saturday afternoon in early September (provisionally 4th) – an entirely free event centring on introducing those who have moved in to the village over the last two years or so, some of whom have found it difficult to meet people due to the Covid restrictions, and also on young families, with games and activities.

Any funds remaining are to be spent on any activity in the village hall which you would like to try so if you have a passion to try something new please get in touch on 07836 733072.

Ride for Lorna

As well as her day job as a National Hunt jockey, our local Grand National jockey Tabitha Worsley is taking on the daunting task of cycling the North Coast 500 (516 miles) in Scotland with four others in the first week of August, in memory of her dear friend Lorna Brooke who was tragically killed in a racing accident in April.

They are raising money for the Injured Jockeys Fund and the Retraining of Racehorses, two charities close to Lorna. Any donations would be hugely appreciated by Tabitha and can be made via Just Giving. Go to www.justgiving.com/team/LornaBrooke.

Village Hall

Activities have resumed in the hall, not only table tennis on Monday evenings but also the art class on Wednesday evenings led by Jim – and judging by the cars on the first night this is again being well supported. It was started nearly ten years ago after a free three session trial period so these initiatives do work! Please contact Ange Jordan on 07830 914430 if you would like to join.

The planning for the works to the hall has now been granted so next are building regs.

Progress has been made on converting the old telephone box to an electric car charging point – the company approached by Tracy wants to conduct a site meeting so that sounds really positive.

Anyone for tennis?

If watching Wimbledon makes you want a game, the court at Town Farm will be open for business from the middle of this month. Please just ring up first, 07836 733072, to avoid disappointment!

Peter Thorneycroft



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Where to begin again?

At the time of writing (17th June), we have been told that Freedom Day is delayed to sometime in July. Even then we may have to social distance and one of the SAGE members is suggesting that we will have to wear masks forever! Fact: the gaps in cloth on the masks are many times larger than the Covid-19 virus (like a mosquito trying to get through a chain link fence) so a mask will not prevent you giving (if you have it) or receiving the virus (if the person close by has it). Last night 60 MPs (including our MP, Mrs Baldwin) voted against extending the restrictions while about 400 MPs voted to continue!

The new normal

We have returned to our normal schedule of services in Teme Valley South with a Holy Communion service at St Mary's at 10am on the first Sunday in the month (4th July and 1st August). Unfortunately all Covid precautions continue to be in place, unless they have been scrapped by then! We will have a guest priest (Rev'd Doug Chapman) in July. 1st August is Lammass Day – my churchwarden's diary says "Lammass (loaf mass), the Feast of the First Fruits, traditionally marks the beginning of the harvest. In rural parishes loaves of bread made from the first ripened corn are taken to church to be blessed". Do you want to make Lammass bread? See page 19.

St Mary's

St Mary's Church is open from 9am to 6pm every Thursday during July. There will be a continued need for social distancing when in the church and you will be asked to use the provided hand sanitiser both on entering the church and on leaving. Thank you to Anthony for opening up each Thursday. We hope that we will soon be able to keep our churches open from dawn to dusk every day of the week!

After lockdown

We should be planning a village event to celebrate once lockdown is fully over. Any ideas to Robin please. Nobody responded to this question in May or June – *is anyone reading this?* I assume not.

The future of the Church

Some thirty people from all over Teme Valley South came to a meeting on 5th June, a beautiful day, in Hanley Rectory garden – thank you for those who came from Stanford. The PCC will analyse the results – I am sure that we will be hearing much more.

Win a hamper!

After problems changing our signing mandate, which involved a letter to their chief executive, by way of apology Barclays have given us a hamper of sweets (worth about £30) and a Fortnum and Mason hamper (worth about £100). I want to raffle them separately with all proceeds going to St Mary's – £5 per ticket with as many tickets as you wish. Please let me know if you are interested (01886 853295).

Civil parish meeting

The village hall was being used for Pilates so we decided to hold the meeting in Stanford church. Fourteen people attended. There were three planning applications, two for cabins on land in the village and one asking to delay payment of Section 106 monies at Stanford Park.

Thanks to those who attended and allowed us to see true democracy in action. As I explained last month, we do not have a parish council as at this point we do not have enough electors so we have a parish meeting which means that anyone on the civil electoral roll can attend and vote.

Volunteers please – again

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

Robin Dean

**Deadline for the August issue
of TemeTalk is 18th July**

Poem for Israel

I received a very powerful poem from the Othona Dorset Retreat House written by Shahar Dagan, an Israeli, after she attended a Non Violent communication workshop involving Israelis and Palestinians. Excerpts from her own translation into English follow. It felt such a relevant lesson for me and others in the world today, including our challenges here and now, that I wanted to share it.

Poem for Israel

The first time I actually met Nonviolent Communication,

I saw something that was completely new to me
Not with my partner

And not with a friend or family

But in the face of an alleged enemy.

God willed it and

I met Nonviolent Communication in the context of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

We were nine days – Israelis, Palestinians and internationals together in one place, learning and living Nonviolent Communication.

If you've been in one like this, you probably know it's a point of no return in life.

Why?

Because it is a place where enemy images dissolve and change to a real, human and sensitive entity.

She goes on to speak about the importance of listening to others, allowing them to speak out the hurt they feel – whether against you, your country or another reason – and really listening to them. Not replying, but listening and holding silence together afterwards. Then they in their turn listen, as you speak out your own hurt in the situation and together you hold the silence that brings understanding. In sharing the pain of each, suffering from past and present wounds, and lives destroyed, they came to understanding.

She goes on:

Suddenly everyone agrees that we are both losing if we continue like this.

There was the possibility to talk

A possibility was opened that was not in the space at all before that,

Giving up ideas and concepts, stories I believed in, beliefs that do not serve me / them.

That's how you make peace.

Do you want to make peace?

Let me know if you would like a copy of the full poem.

Maggie Kingston

01885 410431

mdk46@phonecoop.coop

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53rd Eastham Fête and Flower Show
on Sunday 15th August at 12 noon**

**Free Shetland pony rides
Fun dog show and scurry run
Barbecue and bar**

It's that time of year again – so sort out those unwanted books and bric-a-brac, pamper your plants and practise your baking. We have plenty of challenge cups waiting for you! See the schedule for details of classes.

If you haven't received your copy of the schedule, or if you would like to help out on the day, please contact us on easthamfete@gmail.com or call 01584 781505

Starting at 12 noon, the annual fête is back in its old home and will be held in and around the new Eastham Memorial Hall.

As well as Shetland pony rides and a fun dog show and scurry run, there will be teas and plants for sale, the well-supported produce

show and many other stalls and attractions including the popular tombola (donations please!)

There will also be food stalls and plenty of activities to keep the whole family entertained.

The fête raises funds for the Memorial Hall and the church each year and is Eastham's biggest fundraising event, so come along, have fun and support the village at the same time.

Meet up with old friends and make some new ones.

With thanks to the Adams family and Eastham church for hosting the last three years' events and allowing the use of their land for this year's fête

Entry, parking and some attractions are FREE!

See you there! Sunday 15th August, 12 noon to 5pm

Eastham Community Garden

Residents, family and friends pulled together to fund and deliver the first stages of the re-freshed community gardens surrounding the rebuilt Memorial Hall.

The Residents' Association organised several events to develop the plot into a garden

themed around edible gardening. Planters have been filled and an arch built to make the space more user friendly – so please come on in and use it. The big planters have been filled by local children with tasty pick and eat fruit (strawberries, redcurrants and tomatoes) so as you pass, pick up one of your five-a-day and enjoy the space.

There will be plenty of chances to get involved in the ongoing development and delivery of the garden – please contact the residents' association or Memorial Hall committee. The next project is to plant some trees in the autumn as part of the Queen's green tree canopy project and to enhance some of the grass with wild flower plants.



Some of the children planting the community garden with Helen Matravers

Sally Jones writes:

A big "thank you" from Eastham Residents' Association to everyone involved in making the Community Garden happen and thanks also to Eastham Memorial Hall trustees for providing funds and practical help. It was good to work together and we hope that Eastham residents will continue to provide help and support for our village Memorial Hall in the future.

The new Memorial Hall is a wonderful asset and it is up to all of us to promote it and encourage its use. Many residents have offered help. Now we are looking forward to getting together once more and we know that support will be forthcoming.

The task of building is over, nothing short of a miracle since it all happened during the pandemic. Now it is up to the village to take the new hall to its heart and make the most of it for the benefit of the whole of Teme Valley South.

Sally Jones

*Chair, Eastham Residents' Association
revsally@live.com*

Committee:

Liann Flight (secretary)

liannseramail@gmail.com

Beryl Lewis (treasurer)

Dave Clarke (community garden)

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Our future: God's church

The sun shone brightly in the Rectory garden on 5th June on a marvellous turnout of over thirty willing and active participants who had volunteered to share their thoughts on all things past, present and future for the Teme Valley South parish.

Rev'd Robert fought the good fight with a huge role of wallpaper to gather in a timeline starting at 1637 to the present day. Jen Jones kept the technology running smoothly to show the video for everyone to watch and start the creative juices flowing. Other willing hands listened and collected the stories from everyone about what is precious and relevant to them in the parish and their local church.

A summary of what people value most

about the churches, service or church groups showed the three most important aspects to be firstly, a place to worship God and equal second, a place to celebrate life's events and a peaceful, spiritual place for quiet contemplation and meditation.

There were many shared feelings about how precious the church and its community and leaders were in people's lives. The ideas for how to keep the church relevant for the future will be discussed over the coming weeks.

If you would like to add your thoughts there is still time to fill in the questionnaire – please contact TVS Admin, Jen or Eve or email assitanttvspcc@gmail.com



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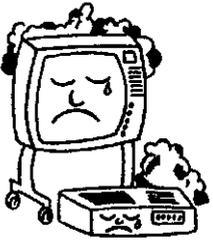
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Peach bellini pannacotta

The fresh, sweet flavours of a classic peach bellini turned into glorious wobbling pannacottas. Topped with more fresh mint, peaches and prosecco – there's no dessert more summery. Serves 6.

Ingredients

For the pannacotta

410g tin peaches in natural juice
6 gelatine leaves
600ml double cream
150ml whole milk
150g caster sugar
100ml prosecco

For the boozy peaches

3 fresh peaches, sliced
Handful fresh mint leaves, plus extra to decorate
200ml prosecco

You'll also need 6 x 150ml dariole moulds or ramekins, greased with a little flavourless oil

Method

Drain the peaches (reserve the juice), put in a mini food processor and whizz to a fine pulp. (If you don't have a mini food processor use a stick blender instead.) Meanwhile, put the gelatine in a bowl and cover with cold water.



Leave for 5 minutes.

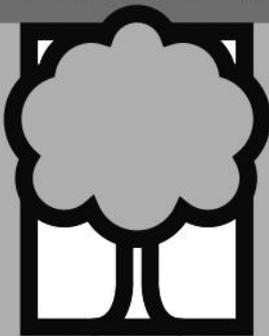
Put the whizzed peach pulp, cream, milk and sugar in a saucepan. Gently heat until the sugar has dissolved. Turn the heat to its lowest setting, squeeze the excess water from the softened gelatine leaves and whisk them into the cream with the prosecco. Keep stirring until the gelatine has fully dissolved.

Pour the pannacotta mixture into the prepared moulds and put in the fridge to set for at least 4 hours or up to 24 hours.

Two hours before serving, put the sliced fresh peaches, mint, prosecco and reserved juice (from the peach tin) in a large bowl and leave to macerate until you're ready to serve.

Turn out the pannacottas onto serving plates and serve with the boozy peach slices, some of the juices and a few extra fresh mint leaves.

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Racism – alive and well

Averil Opperman is shocked to find a friend being racially abused

I was shocked and upset recently to hear that a dear friend was receiving racist abuse online. I don't know why I was shocked; discrimination is everywhere. It is in the news regularly. But racism came as a surprise to me living as we do in the heart of beautiful, unspoiled Worcestershire.

The topic of discrimination is too huge to ponder just now. As it is, I am trying to get my head around why racism still thrives in the 21st century. Is it that every generation suffers from insecurity, from ignorance, from poor education? Is it that history keeps repeating itself? That we learn nothing from what went before?

In the 19th century, Elizabeth Fry helped her brother in law, Thomas Fowell Buxton and William Wilberforce in their campaign to ban slavery. She believed all human beings deserved care and love and she treated everyone the same – from royalty and politicians to the poor, the homeless, thieves and prisoners. She had a strong Quaker faith and believed that everyone is equal and has an inner light of goodness.

I grew up in Dublin. My Quaker father was involved in an Overseas Club so we welcomed visitors of all shapes, sizes, colours and faiths. We thought that was quite normal. One of his greatest friends was a surgeon in New York and I regarded him and his wife as second parents. He was from Trinidad and she was a Polish Jew. Yes, they received abuse for black marrying white – it was a very long time ago – but they held their heads high and carried on. They had two cars, one black, one white; two poodles, one black, one white. They adored one another and had three children with what I considered to be perfect coffee-coloured skin. I am the child of a redhead and burn at a single ray of sunshine!

Yet still we are surrounded by prejudice and fear, here in the 21st century. How sad is that? How is that even possible? Under our skin

whatever colour it might be, we have blood in our veins, we shed tears, feel sad, happy, hurt. We grow up, need education, need jobs, need love. Some of us are lucky enough to have families that we cherish. We do not want our children bullied at school or hurt in life. Nor do we want them to be bullies or inflict hurt. So why do we stand by and tolerate others inflicting pain? Why not be kind, tolerant and sympathetic instead?

We all face tough times in life whether we like it or not – compassion and support are what help us through.

I am not a football fan but I support Marcus Rashford and Rio Ferdinand in their quest to end onfield and online abuse of players. No one should suffer this type of cowardly cruelty. My friend in Worcestershire had no comeback – he receives online abuse and is then blocked from replying or defending himself. This cannot be right. We mustn't stand by silently and tolerate the abuse of those around us. We must speak up and force these cowards from the shadows into the daylight to share with us where they developed their entrenched views and how they justify them.

Averil Opperman

If you would like to comment on this article, or if you have an issue which is troubling you, please send your contribution to the editor at ronsmum@btconnect.com.

TemeTalk

Deadline 18th July

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

Please send items for inclusion to ronsmum@btconnect.com

Restaurants need you

Last night we went out for dinner at a local restaurant where we knew the food would be delicious. There were four of us – we'd been planning to go out with our friends when Covid struck in March 2019, so it was a long overdue date!

We arrived to find the restaurant empty; we were a bit early so it didn't seem strange. But when we were sitting at our table, unmasked, with drinks in front of us and food ordered, I remarked to the waitress that I'd expected it to be busier. "We did have another table booked," she said, "but they haven't turned up. We phoned but they didn't answer." We were surprised, but worse was to come. "Last Friday," she went on, "we turned people away because we were fully booked but three tables failed to turn up. No explanation, no excuses."

What is happening to people? Why would you do that? Especially to a small business – social distancing means that they only have six tables – that has been struggling to keep afloat throughout the pandemic and is now at last able to open for indoor dining.

I should add that those people who failed to keep their appointment missed a fabulous

meal, excellent service and the risk of being irritated by that very noisy table of four in the corner!

Just a little dot ...

Did you know that using a full stop at the end of a text message might be upsetting to young people?

A professor studying language change explains that if you send a text message without a full stop it's already obvious that the message is finished. So if you add a full stop you could actually cause distress to younger people. As long ago as 2015 a leading language expert explained that the full stop has become an "emotion marker" used to signify anger or annoyance, causing the message to be seen as cold, angry or passive-aggressive. Full stops "have a new role in signifying an abrupt or angry tone of voice and are very much the exception in young people's instant messages".

And for goodness sake don't use CAPITAL LETTERS – the poor souls will think you're SHOUTING at them.

Who knew?

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Living rurally can be isolating at the best of times, but having a new baby, especially during Covid, can bring even more challenges.

Teme Valley Tots aims to support new local parents to meet other people in the same situation, form friendships and provide fun for babies too! Run by "supporters", this community group gives help to new parents by providing informal baby sitting/play time and serving much needed tea and cake!

We invite you to join us as

- Supporters – bake a cake, serve tea, play and cuddle babies! Help parents relax!
- Parents – be within eyesight of your baby but relax with (hot!) tea and cake and have a natter knowing your baby is having fun!
- Babies – get cuddles and play with people who aren't exhausted, knowing your parents are close by if needed.

Everyone can meet new friends!

If you're interested in being a supporter or coming along as a parent please let us know!

Join us for our first session on Friday 23rd

July from 11.30am to 1pm at Hanley Rectory, Rectory Road, Hanley Broadheath, WR15 8QW. If it's a hit, we'll make it a regular event!

Booking is essential – please email assistanttvsppcc@gmail.com.

Please note – parents must stay in the same location as their baby at all times.

Babies and toddlers aged 0-3 are welcome.

Please bring some toys/a mat to entertain your child. If this becomes a regular thing we will consider purchasing equipment.

Make Lammas Bread

Calling all adults and children from anywhere in Teme Valley South – we will be making Lammas bread at Stanford Village Hall from 10am on Saturday 31st July. If you would like to come, please phone Robin (01886 853295) before 28th July to ensure that we have enough ingredients.

Some of this bread will be blessed and used at the Communion Service on Sunday 1st August.

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**citizens
advice**

Citizens Advice South Worcestershire

About five years ago my father-in-law was the victim of a scam artist who fleeced him for £5,000. Once he realised, he was devastated and we were able to work with his bank to get some of the money back. We thought it was all in the past but in the last six months he's received numerous calls, letters and texts from what look like other scammers. We want to try and keep him safe, what can we do?

Unfortunately, falling victim to a scam once can increase exposure to further scams. Citizens Advice has found that once someone has responded to a scam, their personal details can be sold on to other criminals, opening the door to more scam mail, emails, phone calls or visits.

If you recognise a pattern of unsolicited calls, talk to your father-in-law's telephone provider and see if you can get these numbers blocked or if you can get something called a 'standalone call blocker'. If not, register your father-in-law's number with the Telephone Preference Service who can help you handle unwanted calls.

If your father-in-law is receiving texts it's important that he never replies, as sometimes there can be costly hidden charges. He can report the texts to his mobile phone provider who will be able to block the number. If he's already been

stung he should report it to Phone-pay Plus.

Mail scammers can often impersonate banks, the local council or other legitimate organisations. You should advise your father-in-law against responding unless he's sure it's legitimate and was expecting a letter. If in doubt he should contact the organisation directly to check the letter's legitimacy. He should be careful to not ring the number as it could be a bogus call centre.

To safeguard your father-in-law from unwanted marketing material or junk mail, register his name and address free with the Mailing Preference Service which will take his name off some mailing lists.

Doorstep scammers can often be intimidating, and unfortunately they commonly target older and more vulnerable people. Your father shouldn't be embarrassed to turn people away and shouldn't let them in unless he's expecting them. If someone comes to the door saying they are from one of his utility companies for example, he should ask to check their credentials. If in doubt, he should phone the company they represent or check online, but once again make sure not to use their contact details.

For further information contact your local Citizens Advice South Worcestershire office by telephoning 01684 563611, or visit www.citizensadvice.org.uk.

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Notices

Notice (noun). An announcement or intimation of something impending; warning; a note, placard, or the like conveying information or a warning; information or warning of something, especially for wide attention.

Back in the olden days BC (before Covid) I occasionally visited the doctor and waited in the surgery waiting room for my appointment. To pass the time I amused myself by counting the notices on the walls.

On notice boards and walls and the water cooler, and being careful not to assault the staff, I counted over 200 – not wholly accurate as some were difficult to see from my seat near the middle of the room. There were small ones and large ones, printed and hand written, some overlapping others, some shouting instructions and others which were too difficult to read without leaving one's seat and getting up close.

Why do people put up notices? The sheer number there must defeat the object. Is one person in charge? Or can anyone come and use some wall space – until there's no space left?

If the purpose is to make people aware of something, clearly over 200 in one room is too

*Over 200 in one room
is too many ...*

many. A single big notice in the right position might well catch the eye but most would never be read – what's the point? Especially when there is a big screen with several more pieces of information on a rolling message. And they do nothing for the attractiveness of the room.

Recently I've seen a new roadside notice which selects its readers – you only need to read if it you are a criminal. It begins "Criminals beware" and probably warns of the dire consequences of criminal activity. I can't say for sure, as not being a criminal, I haven't read it. And I'm sure people who are actually engaged in criminal activity aren't going to be put off by a notice telling them not to. The local constabulary must think it works.

Another notice that gets me thinking is "We are a good school" in very large print on the playground railings. Of course you're a good school – you wouldn't be telling the world if you were considered a bad school. This reminds me of my late mother's aphorism that "self praise is no recommendation". Boasting about how good you are cannot be a good message to send to children.

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The Arts Society Teme Valley July lecture

We are planning to relaunch our programme of live lectures in September.

In the meantime you are welcome to join a lecture via Zoom. We have already enjoyed three highly successful and entertaining lectures via Zoom and welcome members and visitors to join us for the next one:

Wednesday 21st July at 2.15pm
Timothy Walker on
'The Subtle Science and Exact Art of
Colour in English Garden Design
– why gardening can rank as fine art'.

There is more information about the talks and how to join them on our website: www.theartsocietytemevalley.org.uk/lectures/

The cost for non-members is £5 per household per lecture. The form to complete is at: www.theartsocietytemevalley.org.uk/uploads/fileman/Zoom.05c.pdf

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Teme Valley Wildlife

I am indebted to David Graham of Knighton-on-Teme for this photograph. Thanks are also due for the idea for this article and permission to use his image to promote the Teme Valley Wildlife Group.

Although rarely seen, there are plenty of polecats about in the Teme Valley because Wales and its adjoining counties are the most likely places in Britain to spot them. Elusive and wary, they keep out of sight but often live quite close to humans, particularly to farms.

Sometimes they can be mistaken for other animals, particularly the wild ferret and the similar-sized but non-native mink. The polecat's characteristic feature is a mask of dark fur on an otherwise pale face which gives a Dick Turpin-esque quality to its physiognomy. Ferrets are domesticated polecats, bred from way back in time for use as rabbit-catchers, and



when these animals escape captivity and start to breed in the wild they gradually revert to native polecat colouring. Whilst half-way there, the paler furred "polecat-ferrets" lack the spectacle-like mask. Meanwhile, mink have dark chocolate-brown fur but lack any facial markings.

I have seen polecats several times over the years but sadly none of them has looked well. I was once drawn to the odd behaviour of my trio of sheep who stopped to look at something then ran away, then returned for another look, then ran off again. On investigation the cause of their agitation was a polecat which was out and about in broad daylight and looking distinctly under the weather. It retreated into woodland, not to be seen again. My other sightings have been of

Continued on page 24

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 Georgina's Flowers

Continued from page 23

dead polecats, all coming to grief on the A443 between Lindridge church and Newnham Bridge. Happily, I know that other people spot them alive and well, often on wildlife cameras set up in their gardens.

Polecats have traditionally been unpopular with poultry-keepers and game-keepers and in the past were the objects of persecution. Bounties were once placed on their heads, along with other "vermin", and old churchwardens' accounts sometimes record the sums paid out for killing them.

Until 1850 they were widespread across Britain but by 1915 had become confined to their present range. They feed on rabbits, rodents, perching birds, frogs, carrion and large insects. Once the hob and Jill have got together the female finds a suitable hollow to give birth and the young are called kittens, the same names as their domesticated counterparts.

I think that they are very attractive looking animals although like all mustelids they are capable of emitting strong aromas, a fact that apparently protected them from being trapped for their fur. Keep a look-out and you too may be lucky enough to see one, or, like David, take a great photograph.

The next meeting of the Teme Valley Wildlife Group is scheduled for 7.30pm on

Thursday 8th July at Lindridge Parish Hall which has facilities to stream a presentation for those preferring to access the talk at home. We welcome back Peter Garner, whose talk is called "The Natural Wonders of Herefordshire". For details of how to join us remotely, please consult our website or Facebook page. Everyone is most welcome. There will be no entry charge for those attending in person, but as future restrictions remain unclear, please check before setting out that the meeting is indeed taking place.

Stephanie Mocroft

For up-to-date information on what wildlife is being seen in the area or to give us your sightings or comments, please visit our Facebook page. Our programme of events, bird survey and archive photographs are available on our website www.temevalleywildlife.co.uk We normally holds meetings on the second Thursday of the month. All are welcome. Contact us by telephone on 01568 750413 or by email at tvwg@outlook.com

**The deadline for the next issue
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Pre-School

“ **Lindridge pre-school is attentive to the
needs of children and places priority on
helping children settle and gain confidence** ”

Ofsted 2017

Situated in the beautiful Teme Valley amidst stunning countryside, our small and friendly Pre-school is the perfect setting for your child's early development.

We encourage learning through educational play in both our indoor and outdoor classrooms. Set in the grounds of Lindridge Primary School, we enjoy very close links with the school, enabling a crossover of learning opportunities, as well as facilitating an easy transition into primary school life.

We take children from 2 years of age and we are open from Monday to Friday, 8.50am to 3pm (Thursday 8.50am to 12 noon).

For more information please contact the Pre-School on 01584 881647
or visit us at **www.lindridgepreschool.org.uk**

What's on in Teme Valley South

July

- 7th Wednesday Eastham Coffee Morning, Eastham Memorial Hall, 10.30am
14th Wednesday Taster Zumba Gold class, Eastham Memorial Hall, 10am
16th Friday Rochford Neighbourhood Lunch (delivered or collected)
17th Saturday Working Party at Stoke Bliss Church, 10.30am
21st Wednesday The Arts Society Teme Valley Zoom lecture, 2.15pm
23rd Friday Teme Valley Tots, Hanley Rectory, 11.30am
24th Saturday The Big Breakfast, Rochford Village Hall, 9.30am
31st Saturday Coffee Morning, Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall, 10.30am

August

- 4th Wednesday Eastham Coffee Morning, Eastham Memorial Hall, 10.30am
11th Wednesday Children's activity, Eastham Memorial Hall, 10am to 3pm
15th Sunday Eastham Fête and Flower Show, Eastham Memorial Hall, 12 noon
21st Saturday Rochford Rocks, Kyrewood Grange
22nd Sunday Rochford Fête and Fun Dog Show, Kyrewood Grange

September

- 1st Wednesday Eastham Coffee Morning, Eastham Memorial Hall, 10.30am

October

- 2nd Saturday Book Launch, St Mary's Kyre, 2.30pm
6th Wednesday Eastham Coffee Morning, Eastham Memorial Hall, 10.30am

November

- 3rd Wednesday Eastham Coffee Morning, Eastham Memorial Hall, 10.30am
19th Friday Rochford Quiz, Rochford Village Hall

December

- 1st Wednesday Eastham Coffee Morning, Eastham Memorial Hall, 10.30am

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

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

Services

July/August 2021

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

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

Online Sunday services continue. For details see:

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

Sunday Services

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

Sunday 4th July

10.00am	Stanford	Holy Communion
6.30pm	Stoke Bliss	Evening Prayer

Sunday 11th July

10.00am	Hanley William	Holy Communion
6.30pm	Rochford	Evening Service

Sunday 18th July

	Online	Rural Mission Sunday
10.00am	Eastham	All Age and Holy Communion
1.00pm	Stoke Bliss	Wedding Blessing
2.00pm		Walking Church
6.30pm	Hanley Childe	Evening Service

Sunday 25th July

10.00am	Rochford	All Age and Communion
6.30pm	Kyre	Celtic Prayer

Saturday 31st July

10.00am	Stanford Village Hall	Bread Making Workshop
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Sunday 1st August

	Online	Lammas
10.00am	Stanford	Holy Communion
6.30pm	Stoke Bliss	Evening Prayer

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