

TemerTalk

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July 2023



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In this issue
**Rochford Fête • Strawberry teas • Train days
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TemeTalk

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A community going forward with God

July 2023

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

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

Dear Readers

I write this just after the death of former Italian Prime Minister Berlusconi. The BBC, reporting the death, referred to the rise of “populist politics”. We have seen populist politics rise elsewhere with Boris Johnson and his resignation as an MP, Trump claiming the legal charges against him are “politically motivated” ... you can think of other examples from around the world.

What insights does Christianity have for our response? Three suggestions.

First in the bible we see a gradual realization that God is God not just of *one* nation but of *all* nations. Of course as citizens of Britain we have a concern and loyalty for this country. But we should remember that God is as concerned for Eswatini as for England and for Suriname as for Scotland. Any political leader that is looking for rewards for their own country rather than for all countries is not in step with God’s priorities.

Second we see that God has always had a concern for people on the margins. From the Old Testament instructions to allow the less well off to glean at harvest, through Jesus’ story of the rich man and the beggar, through the Church’s history of providing food, shelter, healing, places of education to the food banks of today, Christianity has a long history of reflecting God’s concern for the marginalized. Any political leader that is looking for the rich to get richer without including the poor is not in step with God’s priorities.

Thirdly, as Christians we are called to pray for political leaders. That doesn’t mean we have to agree with them but we have a responsibility to pray for them, that they may be in step with God’s priorities and that they have the wisdom, courage and integrity to govern for the good of all.

Best wishes,

Robert

This month's cover photograph
of Eastham Fête was taken by
Matt Hall

Please note our new email address is
ronsmum@icloud.com



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Teme Valley South Contacts

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Associate Priest: Sally Jones 01584 819435
Reader: Pete Thorp 07917 783159

Churchwardens

Eastham: Celia Adams 01584 781258
Rochford: Ann Prosser 01584 781317
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Stanford: Robin Dean 01886 853295

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Stanford: Lesley Dean 01886 853295

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Stoke Bliss:

Rochford: Ann Prosser 01584 781317

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Eastham: Mel Williams 01584 781284

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01584 881342

Village Hall Bookings

Stoke Bliss & Kyre

Janet Powell, 01885 410598

stokeblisskyrevillagehall@gmail.com

Rochford – Ann Prosser, 01584 781317

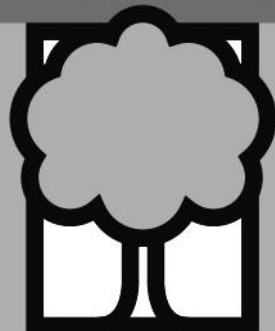
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Parish news

From the Registers

Baptism

We are delighted to welcome to our church family Finn Scott Michael Opperman, baptised at St Peter and St Paul, Eastham on 29th May.

Wedding

Our congratulations to Tricia Knowles and Richard Mole, married at St Michael's Rochford, on 27th May.

Funerals

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

Reginald Brian Mills whose funeral service and burial took place at St Mary's Stanford, on 25th May.

Robert (Bob) Bennett whose funeral service was at Hereford Crematorium on 31st May.

Carl Gilbert Tyler whose funeral service and burial took place at St Peter and St Paul, Eastham, on 2nd June.

Karen Jean Jeffries whose funeral service was at Wyre Forest Crematorium on 15th June.

May they all rest in peace and rise in glory.

Teme Valley Tots

We will be meeting at Rochford Village Hall on Fridays from 1 to 2.30pm during most of the month. However July brings us to the end of our second year as a tots group and so on Friday 21st July we will be having a teddy bears' beach party in the garden of the Old Bakehouse in Rochford (entrance opposite the village hall). Water play, sand pit, mocktails, drinks and snacks – don't forget your teddy bear!

A huge thank you to all who come along to take part or help ... it has been a delight this year. We will take a break for the school holidays and look forward to seeing you all in September.

Strawberry tea

Do come along to the annual strawberry tea in and around Hanley Childe church. There will be children's activities from 3pm (ages 2 to 11) and a songs of praise with favourite hymns at 4pm. We will be in Hanley village hall if the weather is too wet. See Hanley Happenings on page 8 for more details. All welcome to join in the fun!

Bible Study Group

We continue to meet on Friday mornings from 10.30am to 12noon. Do contact Rev'd Julia if you would like more details.

Licensing of new priest

Rev'd David Morris will be licensed as the priest in charge of our neighbours in Teme Valley North and Abberley, Shrawley and Great and Little Witley (known as the 4 Rivers Group) at St Mary's, Abberley at 4pm on Sunday 30th July. It is great news that David and his wife Kerry will be moving to the area in July to fill the vacancy left when Rev'd Ted moved on.

I'll be working closely with David and Rev'd Sallie Butcher as we form our Rural Mission Area over the coming months. We each have a passion for rural ministry and together we will work alongside our volunteer ministry colleagues to serve our parishes and relish being rural.

Prayers with Bishop Martin

Bishop Martin would like to join our deanery for a time of prayer for growth. He writes:

"The visit will form part of our plan to have a dedicated period of 'praying for growth' as a diocese. I would like to host prayers in two churches in your deanery. I'll be using a diocesan prayer and liturgy developed for this purpose and although it is not expected to be a formal service, all are welcome to join me in this time of prayer. The plan is for this to be an opportunity for us to pray together for each of our deaneries and the churches within them."

He is coming to St Mary's, Stanford, at 10am on Monday 31st July and will also visit Holy Innocents, Kidderminster.

So if you can, please do accept Bishop Martin's invitation and come along to St Mary's.

Future dates

In September John and I will have been with Teme Valley South for five years and we are marking the anniversary with a thanksgiving service with Archdeacon Robert on 17th September at 10am in Eastham church followed by a buffet lunch in the Memorial Hall. All welcome.

A curate is joining us! On 24th September at 6.30pm in Worcester Cathedral, Jen Jones will be ordained as a deacon and join Teme Valley South ministry team as curate. She is part of a group on the trail-blazing new pathway our diocese has started and will be continuing her training with Rev'd Julia and the other ministers. More on this later, but do come along to her ordination service to support Jen if you can.

Rev'd Julia

Rochford 49 Club

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

Wednesday winners

May 24th	No 18	not sold
May 31st	No 48	Ann Prosser
June 7th	No 50	not sold
June 14th	No 3	Rob Perrin

Saturday winners

May 20th	No 20	Kath Hatton
May 27th	No 54	not sold
June 3rd	No 17	Rita Slater
June 10th	No 3	Robert Falconbridge
June 17th	No 21	Andrew Keysall

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

Remember, you must be in it to win it!

Ring Gill Smith on
07815 030050

Teme Valley Tote

June's draw, the third in this series, was decided when Rev'd Sally Jones rolled the dice on 1st June to select the set of random numbers. Prizewinners are:

£50 – **William Austin** of Lindridge (No 191)
£30 – **Andy Cattani** of Eastham (No 260)
£20 – **Tracy Beverley-Smith** of Eastham
(No 253)

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

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TemeTalk deadline 18th July

Remember, this is the *last* day for contributions – the sooner you submit your items, the more chance there is that they will be included
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Rochford News

Rochford Open Gardens

On Sunday 4th June a tremendous turnout of around 130 visitors enjoyed a lovely sunny afternoon in a wonderful array of gardens and enjoyed lunches and afternoon teas (thanks to Ann and her helpers). Many thanks to all the garden hosts and helpers for all their hard work in providing a magnificent relaxing afternoon which raised nearly £1,200 for village funds.

Rochford Fête

Rochford Fête and Fun Dog Show will be held on Sunday 16th July at 2.30pm. A quintessential village event with stalls and games, cream teas, cake stall, grand draw and tombola. It is always an enjoyable afternoon where you can relax and catch up with friends and neighbours. Bring your dog along and take part in the fun dog show. This year we are having a "rose from your garden" competition, so pick a bloom and enter it on the day.

Please let us know if you can help with this event or if you can provide any donations for the cake stall, tombola, white elephant, plant and book stalls. It will be held on the riverside field next to the church by kind permission of Dr Lear and the Adams Family.

Neighbourhood lunch

Dates for sit down and takeaway neighbourhood lunches are 25th July, 29th August, 26th September, 31st October and 28th November. Everyone is welcome and booking for lunches is essential. Takeaways should be collected between 12.30 and 1pm. Please book with Ann on 01584 781317 at least the previous week.

The Big Breakfast

All are welcome on Saturday 30th September at 9.30am so come along and enjoy one of Ann's breakfasts – fruit juice, cereal, full English (with veggie option), toast, tea and coffee followed by an optional walk if you are feeling up to it!

TemeTalk

ronsmum@icloud.com

01568 750665

Deadline 18th July

Condolences

Condolences to Stella, Alison and Louise and other family members on the sad death of Garfield Morris. Garfield was born at the Caulders in Rochford and lived here for some 55 years before moving to Worcester to make life easier for his family. His heart was still here in Rochford and he would often come back to support Rochford events and catch up with family, friends and neighbours.

Dates for your diary

Saturday 21st October – back by popular demand **Fix! Live music** in Rochford village hall. A talented local three-piece electro/acoustic covers and with a repertoire of wellknown songs from across the decades.

Friday 10th November – **Rochford Quiz**

Church flower rota for July

Nita Jones, thank you!

Contacts: Ann on 01584 781317

Andrew on 07809 658484 or through the parish WhatsApp group

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Food served at 7pm

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Social & Pub Night

Friday 28th July

Bar opens at 7, supper served at 8pm

Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall

Reserve your meal with Julia on
sbkvillagehall@gmail.com or 01885 410368

Neighbourhood Lunch

Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall

Thursday 13th July

Thursday 10th August

Welcome at 12.30pm

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Hollow Meadow

If you would like to hear more about Hollow Meadow, registered as a local wildlife site in 2002, come along to the July meeting of Teme Valley Wildlife Group, on 13th July at 7.30pm at Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall, where Maggie will be giving a short talk on the Guardians of Hollow Meadow Project and how she hopes to protect it in the future.

Maggie is also planning a moth survey for the meadow later in the month, identifying day flying moths one evening whilst still light and following on with light traps for the night time moths after dark. If you are interested in this let her know on hollowmeadow23@gmail.com.

Goodbye

We held funeral services for two Kyre residents in June, Karen Jeffries who died on 27th April and Bob Bennet who died on 29th April. We remember them on page 22.

Maggie Kingston

TemeTalk

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Eastham Jottings

Church flowers and cleaning

July – Adrian and Joanna Worsley

August – Alison Brookes

More helpers are needed – there's always an opportunity to join the rota. Please ring Celia Adams on 01584 781258 or email easthamcourt@icloud.com.

Eastham Coffee Morning

This month's coffee morning is on Wednesday 5th July at 10.30am at Eastham Memorial Hall. The rota is

Wednesday 5th July – Celia Adams

Wednesday 2nd August – Jane Yarnold

Remember to call in for a quick coffee, a chat and a raffle ticket on the first Wednesday of each month.

Community Coronation Ramble

This has been rearranged and will be on Sunday 2nd July at 1pm. Organised by Teme Valley Walkers (see page 16).

Eastham Pub Night

Come along for a drink and a catch up on Friday 21st July at 7pm at Eastham Memorial Hall. Everyone welcome. Look for the usual banner.

Glass washer for sale

Excellent condition – offers to Mike Palfrey on 07976 854267 or mike.palfrey@easthammemorial-hall.org.uk. Proceeds from this sale will go towards a new commercial dishwasher, with donations from the coffee morning and the last Ron Wyle already in the kitty.

Good luck to Teme Valley North

We look across the river Teme to the villages of Teme Valley North with their new vicar. Rev'd David Morris is joining as priest in charge of the Teme Valley North (the churches of Lindridge, Knighton on Teme, Pensax, Stockton on Teme) along with Great Witley, Little Witley, Abberley and Shrawley. David is currently rector in The Bowbrook Group near Kidderminster. He is married to Kerry, who teaches German and business at Worcester Sixth Form College.

David's licensing service is on Sunday 30th July at St Mary's Church, off Suffolk Lane, Abberley, WR6 6BP at 4pm and open to all.

German visitors

We were delighted to welcome a party of German visitors to Eastham. On returning to Germany they informed the powers that be that there was a lot to be learnt from the Worcestershire model that they had seen, getting more for less. They were particularly impressed that a modest cuppa could be rustled up at relatively little notice for over 15 people.

They were from Magdeburg, Germany and left one endearing comment in the visitors book about their visit to Eastham – "a wonderful church in a wonderful countryside".

Wall repairs and walking church

The revamped Tufa wall was blessed by Rev'd Julia at the May service and in the afternoon Walking Church with Robert and about 15 others took a two and a half hour stroll through Eastham ending up with tea and choc ices on the lawn of Eastham Court – welcome refreshments for the weary walkers, see photograph below.



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

- Pilates, Sue on 07974 343609, sue579@icloud.com. Tuesdays at 1pm and 2.15pm. Last class this term is on 18th July.
- Yoga classes recommence on 13th September at 10am. Ring Zoe on 07962 981456 or see www.zedyoga.co.uk. Get in touch during July and August to book for autumn term.
- Zumba Gold, Lucia on 07709 301030, lu.500@live.co.uk. Classes on 5th and 12th July then from 9th August. Just turn up.
- Kung Fu, Adam on 07720 643524, for youngsters on Saturdays at 9.30am. Runs through the summer holidays.

Celia Adams

Hanley Happenings

Anyone for tennis?

Get out the whites, restring the racquets and find your tennis balls! This summer Margie Thorneycroft has again opened her tennis courts to anyone who wants to play, just give her a ring on 01885 410261 to book a time. Donations to leukaemia research.

Wildlife thrives in the Hanleys

I am saddened by how many country residents are prepared to sacrifice British wildlife in the interests of "tidy gardens". Happily that is not the case in the Hanleys. Verges are cut back part way for road safety but the rest provides a safe hideaway and food for the micro beasts. We refrain, mostly, from hedge cutting until the birds have fledged and there is an abundance of wild flower growth, oxeye daisies, clover and buttercups to name but a few. It has been noticed nationally that there are a lot fewer insects this year but up here in the Hanleys we are doing our bit to maintain the food chain.

Well done to us all!

Open gardens in the Hanleys

Ten homes and Hanley House opened their doors and gardens wide on Saturday 10th June in aid of cureleukaemia, the blood cancer charity. Mowing and pruning and watering culminated in a celebration of village gardens and what a joy to behold. Chelsea flower show has nothing on us!

Many thanks to all the gardeners who allowed their gates to be open for a multitude to enter. The weather was also kind, making the day a special one to remember our friend Peter Thorneycroft. The cream teas were splendid and much enjoyed after all that viewing.

Well done to everyone, participants and visitors alike. The event raised the magnificent sum of £847.



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Carole Gardner

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Children's activities at 3pm
Songs of Praise at 4pm



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Services in Stanford

Sunday 2nd July

Holy Communion with hymns at 10.30am
Praise Service at 4pm

Sunday 6th August

Holy Communion with hymns at 10.30am
Praise Service at 4pm

Prayers with Bishop Martin

On Monday 31st July at 10am at St Mary's – see Parish News, page 3.

Stanford with Orleton Village Hall ACM

This was held on 8th June at 8pm and the numbers attending were disappointing. Jo Hingley was elected secretary, Catherine Mawby was elected booking secretary and Clem Softly was elected treasurer for another year. The chairman, currently David Lane, will be elected at the next ordinary meeting on 6th July.

Volante Strings Concert

We were blessed with a beautiful evening for the concert on 9th July. We heard works by Sibelius, Warlock, Massenet, Gershwin, Handel and a magnificent Violin Concerto by Bach from Eleanor Percy as soloist. Over 40 people attended and the profit of about £300 was shared between St Mary's and Volante Strings. Thanks to Alexandra, Lesley, Sue and Cate who provided the nibbles and to Cecilia and Ange for serving the drinks.

More sad news

Alan Lamb died last month. He and Avril were regulars at St Mary's services until they moved to Cornwall to be near their daughter.

Brenda Humphreys also died last month. She used to live at Meneatt Farm, Shelsley and was a leading light in dressage. Full obituaries appear in British Dressage and Horse and Hound. Our thoughts are with William, her son.

Brian Mills

A lovely service took place on 25th May followed by burial in the churchyard. Thanks to Rev'd Julia who presented the eulogy with input from friends and relations. Thanks also to Jason for stirring organ music throughout. The service was followed by a wake in Stanford Village Hall where we were able to reminisce on a life well lived! Our thoughts are with Janet, Paul, Milly, Iain and the grandchildren.

Supporting Tenbury Food Bank

The box in the lobby continues to be used – thank you to all who have contributed. Please keep your donations coming.

St Mary's church

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

Volunteers please – again

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

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

Robin Dean



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A long-horned bee



Tony Hadfield found this long-horned bee on comfrey near New Mill Bridge.

BRAND NEW BABY GROUP!

**TEME VALLEY
TOTS!**



Every Friday
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Tea and cake
Play and cuddles!

(Teddy bears' beach party on 21st July)

assistanttvspcc@gmail.com

The Filling Station

Our next meeting is on Thursday 20th July at Eastham Memorial Hall at 7.15 for a 7.30pm start when Rev'd Hilary Morgan will be speaking. Hilary, as many of you will already know, was a vicar serving in the Hereford diocese until her retirement and move to Wales. She and her husband Bernard were very involved in Valley Worship, a monthly Christian event in Burford, until she began ministry training within the Anglican church.

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

We do not have a meeting in August.

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55th Eastham Fête and Flower Show
on Sunday 20th August at 12 noon
A fabulous afternoon of family fun!

That time has come around 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 a new home!

See the schedule for classes and please contact us on 01584 781505 or easthamfete@gmail.com if you have not had a copy or if you would like to help out on the day.

Starting at 12 noon, the annual fête will be held in and around Eastham Memorial Hall where there will be

Donkey rides
Birds of prey display
Fun dog show

as well as teas and plants for sale, the well-supported produce show and many other stalls and attractions not forgetting the popular tombola (donations please!).

So why not make a day of it?

There will be

**Barbecue food
and a bar**

and other food stalls and plenty of activities to keep the whole family entertained. With parking and entry free it's a great way to have an affordable afternoon.

This year we have more tents than ever so even if the weather is bad you can come along and stay dry – and the Chase Brass Band is back again.

Preparations start the day before when we will be putting up tents and marking out the site. If you have time and are feeling strong please come along and help. We'll be on site from morning until it's all done.

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 at the same time support the village, meet up with old friends and make some new ones.

We hope to see you there!
Don't forget – Sunday 20th August, 12 noon to 5pm

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Arrive 1pm for 1.30 start

Approx 3 mile family route
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Sponsorship forms from Eastham
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For more information phone 07502 228878

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1 to 4pm



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Sunday 16th July, 2.30pm
at Rochford Church Riverside Field



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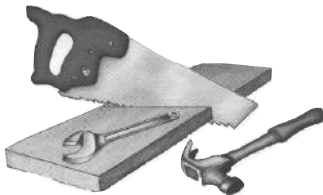
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Tombola, raffle, stalls • Face painting

For more information and to book
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All the Queen's Horses

*A talk by Heather Edwards about her time
at Windsor as groom to the Queen's horses*

Friday 8th September at 7.30pm
Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall

in aid of St Michael's Hospice

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We need to refurbish the roof and then replace the ceiling of the nave to secure the future of the church. The current estimate for the project means we need to raise around £100,000 to complete the works.

The roof above the nave has about 16,000 tiles on it. To help with the fund raising, we'd be really grateful if you would sponsor one or more tiles.

You can donate online. Scan this QR code with your smart phone to generate the link:



Your help in supporting this project will make a real difference and ensure that St Peter's church remains a vital part of our local community for the next millennium. For more details scan this QR code to go to A Church Near You:



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Carl Tyler



On a beautiful June day, Carl's funeral took place at Eastham church in sight of the Old Rectory where he and Gill had lived for over 50 years.

Carl hailed from Quarry Bank and was a Wolves supporter. He trained as a butcher, working originally at Bowkett's and then at several local firms. He was a talented craftsman and could turn his hand to most handy jobs.

Carl died suddenly on the weekend of the Coronation and the church was full of friends and family. Rev'd Julia led a lovely service including a beautiful poem written by Carl's dad. His son Oliver delivered a very touching eulogy – a personal view from himself, his mum Gill and sister Emma. The singing was great with several of Carl's cousins who travelled from the Black Country adding voice to old favourite hymns.

Afterwards Sharon laid on a lovely spread at the Fox on Hanley Broadheath, a favourite haunt of Carl's, so family and friends could remember him in the summer sunshine.

The retiring collection of £410 was donated to Birmingham Children's Hospital and Cancer Research.

Stanford History Group

A warm welcome awaits you at the Stanford History Group which meets on Monday evenings for two hours in autumn at Sapey Village Hall. We are a diverse group with an interest in understanding the past, to better appreciate today and how we got here! Our lectures have been very well attended – last year we averaged over 45 people attending across the ten lectures, but there's plenty of parking!

We have another interesting program of ten lectures in five subject areas. You can come for any one or all. This year we have expert lecturers from

Birmingham and Worcester Universities.

- The development of modern medicine over 250 years
- Modern Egypt 1850- 2023
- German unification and history 1870- 1945
- Modern Turkey 1880- 2023
- History of terrorism 1850 to 2023

Do come and join us – there's coffee, biscuits and discussion too! We start on 2nd October at 7.30pm, £60 for the ten lecture course or £10 per lecture, all payable at the door.

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*programme as of 14/06/23



Asteroid City (12A)

Film

2nd - 12th July

The itinerary of a Junior Stargazer/Space Cadet convention (organised to bring together students and parents from across the country for fellowship and scholarly competition) is spectacularly disrupted by world-changing events.

Directed by: **Wes Anderson** | Cast includes: **Jason Schwartzman, Scarlett Johansson, Tom Hanks, Tilda Swinton, Bryan Cranston, Edward Norton, Adrien Brody**

Hairspray - 35th Anniversary (PG)

Musical on screen

Friday 7 July at 7pm

It's Baltimore, 1962, and a rebellious teenager with the biggest bouffant on the block attempts to win the coveted "Miss Auto Show" crown. Classic 1980s musical directed by John Waters and starring **Debbie Harry**. Divine

Elemental (PG)

Family Film

13th - 19th July

Latest **Disney Pixar** movie: A fiery young woman and a go-with-the-flow guy are about to discover something elemental: How much they actually have in common.

Regal School of Creative Arts presents: The Dream

LIVE theatre

Sunday 16 July at 6.30pm

Come and support the young stars of Tenbury present a new version of The Dream, a play based on William Shakespeare's 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'. Tickets only £8 or 4 for £20!

Mission: Impossible Dead Reckoning Part One (12A)

Film

21st - 26th July

The seventh instalment of the phenomenal Mission: Impossible series might just be the first part of IMF agent Ethan Hunt's final outing. Starring: **Tom Cruise, Rebecca Ferguson, Indira Varma, Cary Elwes, Simon Pegg**



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I only wanted a cream tea ...

I've had trouble with cream teas before. Some years ago I ordered a cream tea in a café at the top of Steep Hill in Lincoln and when the waitress brought a scone, butter and jam to the table I asked where the cream was. "Oh, did you want cream with that?" she asked.

Last Saturday we had more cream tea troubles. The Boss and I went to the Ludlow Food Centre at Bromfield and while I was shopping for a birthday gift for our daughter-in-law, he sat under a tree in the sunshine and watched the queue for the ice cream van get longer and longer. When I had finished shopping he asked me to buy him an ice cream but I looked at the queue and suggested getting a cup of tea in the café instead. A friendly waitress showed us to a table and promised to be back for our order. "Let's have a cream tea," I said. So we waited ... and we waited ... and we waited. We watched another waitress collect all the plastic domes from the cake stands and stagger to the kitchen under their weight. She caught my eye and gave me a lovely smile as she passed, but she didn't come back. We watched "our" waitress busying herself doing nothing around the room. We failed to catch anyone's attention. Eventually we left.

But now I really, really wanted a cream tea.

So we called at the place that used to be a farm shop on the A49 but is now a salvage yard with a café presided over by a forbidding looking man, and full of other men who were all in fits of loud laughter. Cream teas seemed unlikely. So we left.

When we got to Burford House it was two minutes to four. "The restaurant closes at 4.30," I said. "But last orders are at 4 o'clock," said the Boss who had read the notice. I asked a very young and slightly apprehensive-looking waitress if we could have a cream tea. She looked towards an older woman, who pointed to a jar of green tea bags. "No, cream tea," I said. "Well, we've only got one cheese scone left, so not really." We left.

In Tenbury we parked outside the Spotty Dog but thought we'd try Mr Thom's first. Here the girl behind the counter said yes, we could have a cream tea but only if we had ordered it in advance. In advance? What about if you just happen to fancy a cream tea on a sunny afternoon? We left.

So we went to the Spotty Dog. "Cream tea? Yes, of course." And it was absolutely fabulous. We each had two enormous fruit scones, a big dish of glistening strawberry jam and a big dish of billowing cream. And a big pot of tea to share. Perfect – at last!

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Karen Jeffries

Karen was born on 7th July 1956 and had a challenging life as she had cerebral palsy from birth. Her determination and sense of humour meant that she did not let much get in the way of what she wanted to do. The need for specialist residential schooling meant that she spent little time at home in Tipton so her sisters and brother only really got to know her during the holidays. In her teens she became a resident at Kyre Park and became part of the community there and in the parish – she was skilled at selling raffle tickets, enjoyed riding for the disabled at Lower House farm, train days at The Hyde and more. She stitched kneelers for Kyre church, helped with the cleaning and attended services. After her move to Chantry

Close in Tenbury she continued her faith journey and was confirmed. Many in Tenbury remember her smiling face – and dodging her tricycle as she speeded on errands!

Holidays were often spent at Skylarks holiday home near Derby enjoying everything on offer, full of fun and laughter! As her health deteriorated she asked Peter Thornycroft to be her advocate and he ensured that whilst he did all the research into the choices and changes that occurred over the years – meaning that later she had to go back into residential care – it was always Karen who had the final say. At the funeral there were people from all the times of her life to wish her well and celebrate her life.

Robert Bennett

Bob Bennett was born on 15th October 1937 and was nearing retirement when he moved to Kyre, having worked all his life as a civil engineer, one post being in Uganda. He was a great one for fixing things and finding solutions and a sure friend and supporter for his children.

Bob always enjoyed world travel and the adventure of being off the tourist trail. His other love was arranging music for concerts with friends both at home and at Kyre in support of the church roof fundraising in the early part of this century. For some years he played the small organ at

Kyre – which was certainly a workout for the knees as it had to be constantly pedalled for the notes to sound while playing a different rhythm with the fingers!

Donations from the funeral service went to the Martin Schallenberg Music Trust, a charity supporting young musicians in training.

Bob's wife Pam died in 2010 but he was able to continue at home with support from his daughter and with regular carers in later years. He especially enjoyed the companionship of his cat Michael.



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Teme Valley Wildlife

The National Gallery in London is currently hosting an exhibition which features paintings of St Francis of Assisi. The works on show include depictions by artists from medieval times, such as Botticelli, through to more modern artists such as Stanley Spenser. Of all the saints, Saint Francis is the most closely associated with wild creatures and is famously said to have preached to a flock of birds, a subject shown in some of the paintings. He lived in Umbria in thirteenth-century Italy and was brought up to a life of luxury. He was the son of a wealthy silk merchant, but his father disowned him when Francis grew disillusioned with the ways of the world and renounced his inheritance.

Francis took vows of poverty and started the religious order named after him. He saw God reflected in nature and referred to all creatures as his brothers and sisters. He had a great love both for animals and for the environment. He is said to



have arranged a pact between the inhabitants of the town of Gubbio and a wolf who was preying on them. They promised to feed him in return for the cessation of his attacks. Francis was particularly impressed by the humble lark and thought that the little bird soared into the air with a burst of song in

order to praise God. He chose the dull brown colour of the lark's feathers as the colour for his followers' robes. Thus were the Franciscans distinguished from other orders of monks.

Earlier in the year, whilst on a circular walk between Nash, Coreley and Boraston, I was fortunate to see a large flock of larks rise up into the air as I entered a field. A few steps further, two hares took to their heels. They were both beautiful wildlife sights, although perhaps St Francis could have persuaded them to stay. The walk took place on a bright and sunny day in March and I like to imagine that the hares had been engaged in a sea-

Continued on page 24

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sonal boxing match before being so rudely interrupted. I cannot recommend the walk, sadly, because the state of the stiles was very precarious and had I been alone I would not have been able to get over them. Hopefully Shropshire Council will get round to fixing them soon.

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St Francis composed a hymn called the Canticle of the Sun. He used it to thank God for brother sun, sister moon and brothers wind, water, fire and earth. Part of it runs, "Mother Earth who sustains us and governs us and who produces various fruits with coloured flowers and herbs". Francis must be one of the earliest environmentalists and it is no surprise that he was a very popular saint and the subject of many portraits. Neither is it a surprise that "The Lark Ascending" by Ralph Vaughan Williams is regularly voted the nation's favourite piece of classical music by Classic FM listeners. I think that both St Francis and Vaughan Williams, in different ways, tapped very successfully into mankind's deeply ingrained love for nature.

The next meeting of the Teme Valley Wildlife Group will take place at Stoke Bliss and Kyre Village Hall on Thursday 13th July at 7.30pm. We welcome a new speaker, Sam Devine-Turner. Her talk is on the popular subject of the hazel dormouse, so do come along. Everyone is most welcome and it is just £2 on the door.

Stephanie Mcroft

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

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Suggested donation of £3.50

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

Kyre Park, Tenbury Wells WR15 8RW

Art classes at Hanley

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

Table tennis at Hanley

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

Tenbury Transport Trust

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

Awarded Best Community Transport West Midlands 2021

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

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

It costs just £5 per person per year to become a member so give us a ring today on

01584 810491

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

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

Farm Community Network

Confidential phone line 7am to 11pm

0845 367 9990

Samaritans

01905 21121/0345 909090

Free confidential support and advice

Tenbury & District Carers Support Group

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

It's available to support all carers

01886 853633

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07818 034301

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What's on in Teme Valley South

July

2nd	Sunday	Community Coronation Ramble, Eastham Memorial Hall, 1pm
5th	Wednesday	Eastham Coffee Morning, Eastham Memorial Hall, 10.30am
8th	Saturday	Local Produce Market, Eastham Memorial Hall, 1pm
13th	Thursday	Neighbourhood Lunch, Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall, 12.30pm
16th	Sunday	Rochford Fête and Fun Dog Show, Riverside Field Rochford, 2.30pm
20th	Thursday	The Filling Station, Eastham Memorial Hall, 7.15pm
21st	Friday	Pub Night, Eastham Memorial Hall, 7pm
22nd	Saturday	Steam Train Day and Family Fun, The Hyde, Stoke Bliss, 2pm
23rd	Sunday	Strawberry Cream Tea and Songs of Praise, Hanley, 3pm Ludlow Dog Day, Stokesay Court
25th	Tuesday	Rochford Neighbourhood Lunch, Rochford Village Hall, 12.30pm
28th	Friday	Social & Pub Night, Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall, 7pm

August

2nd	Wednesday	Eastham Coffee Morning, Eastham Memorial Hall, 10.30am
8th	Friday	All the Queen's Horses, talk by Heather Edwards, Stoke Bliss & Kyre VH, 7.30pm
10th	Thursday	Neighbourhood Lunch, Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall, 12.30pm
12th	Saturday	Bring and Buy and Afternoon Tea, Hanley Village Hall, 3pm Open Garden and Afternoon Tea, Skipperley, Rochford, 12 noon Train Day at The Hyde, Stoke Bliss, 2pm
19th	Saturday	Eastham Fête and Flower Show, Eastham Memorial Hall, 12 noon
20th	Sunday	Summer Barbecue, Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall, 6pm
25th	Friday	Rochford Neighbourhood Lunch, Rochford Village Hall, 12.30pm
29th	Tuesday	

September

3rd	Sunday	Judging of The Hanleys Scarecrow Competition
5th	Wednesday	Eastham Coffee Morning, Eastham Memorial Hall, 10.30am
8th	Friday	All the Queen's Horses, talk by Heather Edwards, Stoke Bliss & Kyre VH, 7.30pm
14th	Thursday	Neighbourhood Lunch, Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall, 12.30pm
26th	Tuesday	Rochford Neighbourhood Lunch, Rochford Village Hall, 12.30pm
30th	Saturday	The Big Breakfast, Rochford, 9.30am

October

12th	Thursday	Neighbourhood Lunch, Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall, 12.30pm
14th	Saturday	Quiz Night, Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall
21st	Saturday	Fix! Live music at Rochford Village Hall
31st	Tuesday	Rochford Neighbourhood Lunch, Rochford Village Hall, 12.30pm

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

Services

July/August 2023

Daily prayer continues at 9am and 7pm on Zoom, please contact Rev Julia if you would like to join us.

The blessings group meets regularly and is co-ordinated by Richard Skerrett who can be contacted on 01886 853099 for details.

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

Services Schedule

Sunday 2nd July

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

Sunday 9th July

10.00am	Kyre	Celtic Holy Communion
4.00pm	Hanley William	Evening Prayer

Sunday 16th July

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

Sunday 23rd July

10.00am	Rochford	All Age Worship and Holy Communion
3-5pm	Hanley Childe	Children's activities and strawberry tea followed by Songs of Praise service at 4pm (in Hanley Village Hall if wet)

Sunday 30th July

9.30am	Hanley Village Hall	Café Church
10.00am	Great Witley	Deanery Outdoor Communion at Great Witley Walled Garden
4.00pm	St Mary's, Abberley	Licensing of Rev'd David Morris

Monday 31st July

10.00am	Stanford	Prayers with Bishop Martin, all welcome
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Sunday 6th August

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

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