Delivered FREE to every household March 2023

In this issue Music, Murder Mysteries, Memories and a Mothering Sunday Treat

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





TemeTalk

EASTHAM • ROCHFORD • STOKE BLISS & KYRE • THE HANLEYS • STANFORD A community going forward with God

March 2023

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

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Parish website www.temevalleysouth.org.uk

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

Dear Readers

As some of you know, I've recently started a part time job working for the Office for National Statistics (ONS). As a newbie, these first few weeks have involved a lot of time being trained and taught about the ONS. Invariably every training session includes someone asking a question and the trainer responding, "That's a good question."

Jesus in the gospels trains his disciples and teaches the crowds. For him also there are many questions that he is asked. But there are even more questions that he asks. Significantly he gives few, if any, straightforward answers. Often Jesus "answers" a question by asking another question in response. One commentator reckons that in the gospels Jesus was asked 183 questions, that he asked 307 and of the questions he was asked he only answered three! Quite how the maths for that was done and how you decide what is and isn't an answer I don't know. But however you do it, the picture is clear: Jesus asks questions and rarely provides answers.

That is important for those of us who see ourselves as followers of Jesus today. Like those first disciples we are encouraged to ask questions of ourselves, of others and of God. The faith that we see in the disciples isn't a blind faith. It is a questioning faith. Faith isn't about having all the answers. It's about having the Spirit of Jesus with us as we grapple with the questions life throws at us.

And if you do get contacted by the ONS, please be nice. It could be me or a colleague.

Best wishes,

Robert

Bowling

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Teme Valley South Contacts

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

Churchwardens

Eastham: Celia Adams 01584 781258 Rochford: Ann Prosser 01584 781317 Stoke Bliss & Kyre: Jen Jones 07749 977821 Hanleys: Ed Yarnold 07930 882728 Stanford: Robin Dean 01886 853295

Pastoral Team

Stanford: Lesley Dean 01886 853295 Hanleys: Stoke Bliss: Rochford: Ann Prosser 01584 781317 Jenny Barbé 01584 781298 Fastham: Mel Williams 01584 781284

Parish Safeguarding Officer: Sue Softly 01584 881342

Village Hall Bookings

Stoke Bliss & Kyre Janet Powell, 01885 410598 stokeblisskyrevillagehall@gmail.com Rochford – Ann Prosser, 01584 781317 Eastham – Helen Matravers, 07580 158673 Hanley – Judy Bayliss, 01886 853813 Stanford – Robin Dean, 01886 853295

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Parish news

From the Registers

We continue to pray for the recently departed and for their families and friends.

Peter Thorneycroft, whose funeral and burial took place at St Michael and All Angels Church, Hanley Childe on 19th January.

Kenneth Joseph Page, whose funeral and burial took place at St Mary's Church, Stanford on 20th January.

Charles 'Richard' Elliott, whose funeral was held at St Lawrence Church, Lindridge, followed by burial in the churchyard of St Michael and All Angels, Hanley Childe, on 25th January.

May they all rest in peace and rise in glory.

Teme Valley Tots

We will be meeting weekly Fridays during March at Rochford Village Hall 1pm-2.30pm. It is a very friendly group with significant support for the little ones at play, coordinated by an early years' teacher. All helpers are fully DBS checked. The group is free, including a hot drink for adults and a snack for all. Do come along and try us.

Lambing Café Church

Building on the success of last year's event, on 12th March at 3pm we will be at Parsonage Farm in Rochford for a café church focusing on lambing and sheep. At the barn we will think about Psalm 23, hear about what it takes to look after sheep today and have the opportunity to quietly peek into the lambing shed. Many thanks to Jenny and Andrew Barbé for allowing us to join them at this special time of year.

If possible, please park in the layby at the top of the Parsonage Farm track in Rochford and walk down. It's a working farm so do come dressed for the outdoors, wellies are essential, please leave any dogs at home. We also ask any pregnant mums not come along for this café church due to the small but real risk it causes.



Lent courses for 2023

If you would like to meet in person and follow a weekly Lent course together, the TVS Bible Study Group will be using a book by Stephen Cottrell, called *The Nail*. Each week there is a piece of writing from the perspective of one of the characters caught up in the events leading to the crucifixion. It is a wonderful way of 'meeting' individuals from the story and each other. If you would like to join the group, we meet on Fridays from 10.30am to 12 noon please contact Rev'd Julia.

An online Lent resource is offered by Max and Cecilia Jourdier. Each day it considers a different saint (*Lives to inspire*) as well as the piece of Scripture, thought for the day, picture to ponder and music. Participants are sent emails with each day's resources and there is an optional weekly meet up on zoom to discuss thoughts raised by the previous week's offerings. If you would like to join this please contact Rev'd Julia. A taster can be found here at www.onlineprayer.net/saints/

Dust and glory is probably an easier option for people to access who might find it difficult to commit to *The Nail* or Max's course. It's available in a printed booklet from online retailers with daily readings, or free by email or app. For details and to sign up go to www.churchofengland.org/ our-faith/what-we-believe/lent-holy-week-andeaster/dust-and-glory-lent-reflections.

I've downloaded the android app (IOS also available) which will provide a short reflection for each day of Lent. It also includes a daily reflection for use as a family or with children. Contact Rev'd Robert.

Rev'd Julia

This month's stunning front cover photograph of a kingfisher on the Teme near Eastham Bridge was taken by Andrew Holmes



Rochford 49 Club

Congratulations to this month's £25 winners!

Wednesday winners

Nov 23rd	No 37	not sold
Nov 30th	No 11	Rosemary Ayres
Dec 7th	N0 55	not sold
Dec 14th	No 6	not sold
21st Dec	No 31	Rosemary Ayres
28th Dec	No 30	not sold
Jan 4th	No 26	not sold
Jan 11tth	No 21	not sold

Saturday winners

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

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

Remember, you must be in it to win it!

Ring Gill Smith on

07815 030050

Teme Valley Tote

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

£50 – **Mrs R J Joy*** of Stoke Bliss (No 779) £30 – **Suellen Johnson** of Eastham (No 246) £20 – **Gill Williams** of Pensax (No 361)

*Unfortunately Mrs Joy died last year. Her daughter Caroline said that her mother would have been delighted if the money went towards the Stoke Bliss church ceiling fund. Thank you, Caroline!

We will be starting a new series in April – full details on page 12. If you have any queries please contact Robin Dean on 01886 853295 or email robin.c.dean@gmail.com.

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Roch Rochford Newsford

Welcome

Welcome to Brendan and Jean, who have recently moved into Roselands, School Lane. We hope you will enjoy living in Rochford and make the most of everything this community has to offer.

Congratulations to Rob and Leah on the birth of Rupert Jack, and to Ross and Hayley on the birth of Fern, a little sister for Griff. It's a long time since we have had so many little ones in Rochford, and so good we now have Teme Valley Tots to support parents and children.

Snowdrops and pancakes

The snowdrop service was very well attended, with some great well-known hymns chosen by members of the congregation, then back to the village hall for tea, cakes and snowdrop themed crafts. It was lovely to see members of the Tots group and other children come along and participate in the crafts.

The pancake supper on Shrove Tuesday was a sell-out, a huge thank you to Ann for all her work in preparing a wonderful choice of Pancakes and thanks to everyone who came along and made the evening such a success.

The Coronation Big Lunch

In a nationwide act of celebration and friendship as part of the King's Coronation, neighbours and communities across the United Kingdom are invited to share food and fun together at Coronation Big Lunches on Sunday 7th May. In Rochford we are planning a Big Bring and Share Lunch at the Village Hall. If you have any other ideas of how we might celebrate the Coronation please let us know, we need new ideas! More information next month so please get in touch.

Rochford Neighbourhood Lunch

Dates for sit down and takeaway neighbourhood lunches are 28th March, 25th April, 30th May and 27th June. Everyone is welcome. Booking for lunches is essential and takeaways should be collected between 12.30 and 1pm. Please book with Ann on 01584 781317 at least the previous week.

Rochford Open Gardens

Jan Winter is arranging Open Gardens again this year (date to be confirmed). Please get in touch if you would like to open your garden – it would be good to have some different gardens this year.

Lambing Café Church

On Sunday 12th March at 3pm at Parsonage Farm, where the sheep will be lambing. This is your opportunity to get up close and personal with newly born lambs, so come along and join in with lambing based activities. All are welcome, especially children, although it's not suitable for pregnant women. Wellies essential. Please park on the layby and walk down.

Dates for your diary

Saturday 8th April at 2pm – church spring clean, Please come along if you can help Sunday 9th April at 10am – Easter communion service at the church. (If you would like to make a donation for the Easter lilies please contact Jennifer Gledhill or Ann Prosser) Sunday 16th July – Rochford Fête Saturday 30th September – The Big Breakfast Friday 10th November – Rochford Quiz

Church flower rota

There are no flowers in Lent.

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

Andrew Barbé



Stoke Bliss and Kyre

Display at Kyre Church

Friday 7th April, 10am to 4pm

Good Friday Gethsemane of Despair to Resurrection of Hope Easter Sunday

Stoke Bliss Churchyard and Church Spring Clean Saturday 18th March at 10.30am All welcome with tools as usual Thank you all for the hard work you do

TemeTalk ronsmum@btconnect.com 01568750665

Yoga class

Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall Tuesday mornings 10 to 11am and Tuesday evenings 6.30 to 7.30pm Please contact Karen on 07789 913425



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Village Spring Walk Sunday 5th March

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

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

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

Neighbourhood Lunch Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall Thursday 9th March Thursday 13th April Welcome at 12.30pm Telephone 01885 410641 or email lunchkasb@aol.com

or email lunchkasb@aol.com if you would like to come





Friday 28th April 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



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Eastham Jottings

Church flowers and cleaning

March – Celia Adams April – Diana Clarke

Margaret Scholefield

Margaret, who died on 3rd February, had lived in Eastham with Ed since 1995. Margaret's early contribution to the village was her own words in the Millennium Book: "We have found a beautiful and peaceful tranquillity and the opportunity to belong to a friendly, active community centred around the village hall and the church with a parish magazine to keep us in touch with activities in the district". Margaret went on to be greatly involved in the life of the village.

Eastham Coffee Morning

At the March coffee morning, on Wednesday 1st March at 10.30am at Eastham Memorial Hall, we will be remembering Margaret Scholefield with a minute's silence.

Wednesday 1st March – Diana Clarke Wednesday 5th April – Chris Kelland

Teme Valley Tote

Payments of £10 are due on 1st April for the next 12 draws for prizes of £50/£30 or £20 per month. In Eastham 100 signed up last year. Households can have more than one go – please pay in cash (as in previous years) or ring for bank details (Celia on 01584 781258/easthamcourt@icloud.com). Remember, "you've got to be in it to win it".

Thanks to Robin for arranging the tote every year and for helping Eastham pay over £2,000 into funds over the last five years.

Spring clean of church and churchyard

Please come and help with the spring tidy up of the churchyard from 10 am to 12.30pm followed by a barbecue, and at the same time a spring clean of the inside of the church tidying up for the summer months. Please bring along dusters and mops.

Eastham Pub Night

Make a date for this informal get together on Friday 17th March at 7pm at Eastham Memorial Hall. Everyone is welcome – look out for the usual banner. April's pub night will be on Friday 28th April.

Eastham freestyle litter pick

On Saturday 18th March – save the date and look out for more details.

Eastham Riverside Fête 2023

Save the date now! Sunday 20th August starting at 12 noon. The Flower and Produce Show and Dog Show schedules are ready – thanks to sponsors Nick and Sophie Champion. If you don't live in Eastham and would like a copy please get in touch (easthamfete@gmail.com or 01584 781505).

Eastham Allotment Scheme

Subscriptions are available now for 2023/24. Deliveries are made throughout Eastham and neighbouring villages and all funds go to the local community. Vegetables include potatoes, onions, runner beans, broad beans, green beans, parsnips, marrows, pumpkins, squash, tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, lettuce etc. There are also many varieties of herbs. Payment is based on a full or half year's subscription paid electronically with weekly deliveries to your doorstep. For further information please contact Celia Adams on 01584 781258 or email easthamcourt@icloud.com.

Dates for your diary

Saturday 1st April – Afternoon Tea with the Easter Bunny

Sunday 2nd April - Easter Bingo

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

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

Sunday 7th May - Coronation Big Lunch

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

• Pilates, Sue on 07974 343609, Tuesdays at 1pm and 2.15pm.

• Yoga, Zoe on 07962 981456, info@zedyoga.co.uk, on Wednesday mornings

• Zumba Gold, Lucia on 07709 301030, Wednesdays at 1pm.

• Kung Fu, Adam on 07720 643524, for youngsters on Saturdays at 9.30am, again just turn up and have a go.

Celia Adams

Hanley Happenings

Farewell

January was a difficult month for our communities as we said farewell to three local people with longstanding connections to the area. Tributes by Rev'd Julia and Edward Yarnold are on pages 17 (Peter Thorneycroft) and 18 (Richard Elliott and Brian Ward), and their families are very much in our thoughts and prayers.

Can you help?

Are you able to offer a couple of hours each month and have a heart for these Hanley communities?

If so please get in touch with us. We are looking for someone to coordinate the Hanley Happenings page of TemeTalk, which covers comings and goings and events in the Hanleys – Hanley William, Hanley Childe and Hanley Broadheath. Do get in touch with Rev'd Julia or churchwarden Ed if you can help.

Rev'd Julia

Table tennis

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



www.chorleys.com

Strange goings-on in Hanley?

Gossip is rife in the Fox at Hanley Broadheath. Strange markings have been seen around the parish. Is it an alien? Is it a wild animal? No, it's just the marks for the hare and hound runs which the Wyre Forest Hash House Harriers have been running for nearly 20 years.

As Neil Collins explains, the marks are usually small circles, lines or just a series of small blobs, made of flour or sawdust, which will wash away after a day or so.

The harriers meet every Thursday at 7pm in various locations around the area. They also have a walking group and welcome anyone who would like to join them.

See www.wyreforesthhh.org.uk for more information.

Art Classes

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

The deadline for the April issue is 18th March ronsmum@btconnect.com or 01562 750665

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Services in Stanford

5th March at 10am – Holy Communion with hymns

5th March at 4pm - Praise Service

2nd April, Palm Sunday at 10am – Holy Communion with hymns

2nd April at 4pm - Praise Service at 4pm

6th April, Maundy Thursday at 6.30pm – Stripping of Altars Service

9th April, Easter Day at 5.45am – Dawn Service with Holy Communion

Teme Valley Tote

A new series starts in April – full details on page 12. Alexandra will be collecting from those of you in Stanford who do not have a standing order. New subscribers are always welcome – please contact Robin if you are a new subscriber or if you would like to set up a standing order.

Stanford Area Church Committee AGM

Cate has agreed to host this meeting at Cavendish House, Stanford Park on 5th April at 6pm. It is an opportunity for **anyone** in Stanford to nominate the area church committee, our parochial church council representatives and our churchwarden(s). Please come ...

40 for 40

The church and village hall set six of us the challenge of feeding forty people for forty pounds on 20th January at the village hall. This was a very successful evening, bringing forty people together to enjoy each others' company, to get to know new people and to share a basic two course meal.

Feeding forty people for forty pounds is certainly not easy when you take into consideration heating, cooking etc but the sheer generosity of local people giving their time and produce (and a glut of apples last autumn) helped to make it such a lovely evening – it certainly made us think of the challenge of feeding a young growing family on a tight budget and the invaluable impact of food banks. My take away wake up call – the price of butter!

Many thanks to all who helped, contributed and joined in to make it such a happy village affair. Special thanks to Sue, her helpers and the people donated produce – it was a super evening!

TemeTalk deadline 18th March

Ideas for the Coronation

Do you want to do anything to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles on the weekend of 6th May? Stanford Church will be hosting a Teme Valley South Coronation Thanksgiving Service at 10am on Sunday 7th May – there is a suggestion that there may be a Big Lunch following, but it is not clear where this will be. Do you want to take part – if so contact Robin.

Tenbury Food Bank

The box in the lobby of St Mary's church continues to be used – thanks to all who have contributed and please keep your donations coming over the next few months.

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



Rock Bridge Club

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The Rats, a dark and chilling tale in which a pair of adulterous lovers find themselves lured to a flat, trapped like rats and framed for murder.

The Patient, a tense whodunnit in which a fall from her balcony leaves a wealthy woman fighting for her life.

Regal Studio, Tenbury Wells

Wednesday 8th to Saturday 11th March 7.30pm

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Films at Hanley Village Hall

In October it will be ten years since we started showing films at Hanley Village Hall, supported by Arts Alive with Rural Reels. To celebrate, a last season of films will be shown, with a link between them.

Whilst the food nights have proved very popular, and we have occasionally had to turn people away, the regular film nights are not as well attended. Only three people came to the last film shown in February.

It's difficult to compete with Netflix, Amazon et al, when your chosen film is available at the touch of a button in your own home. We have tried loyalty cards, art house films, foreign films, current films and popular films, but we have to wait for the DVD to be released which is often too late. So audience numbers dwindle. The licence fee to show a film is £93, which means we need at least 19 people to break even.

There has been a dedicated following of supporters (the farthest travelled all the way from Canada) and volunteers who have been with the experience over the past ten years and I am very grateful to Robin and Leslie Dean, Sue and Bern Birch. Without their help, the cinema nights would have been impossible.

Is there anyone in the village who would be willing to continue the cinema nights? I may continue with pop-up cinema in 2024.

Thank you for your support.

Tracy Stuart-Allen

A new series of Teme Valley Tote starts in April

The last series paid out £1,200 to lucky winners and just over £3,100 was distributed to the parishes of Teme Valley North and Teme Valley South.

Again this year the price of each subscription is $\pounds 10$ – for this you will be entered in each of 12 monthly draws with the possibility of winning $\pounds 50$ or $\pounds 30$ or $\pounds 20$ each month.

Your local co-ordinators are: Eastham – Celia Adams Stanford – Alexandra Winnington Stoke Bliss and Kyre – Margaret Yarnold

They will try to contact you during March. If you have internet banking, you can subscribe by bank giro credit – the account name is North Teme Group of Churches Tote Account – sort code 2039-64, account number 30947539. Please give your name and district as the reference and email me at robin.c.dean@gmail.com.

If you currently pay by standing order you will automatically be entered. If there is any problem, I will contact you when these come in on 1st April. If you wish to pay by standing order I can send you the form.

Or you can send a cheque made payable to Teme Valley Tote to me (Robin Dean) at Rectory Cottage, Stanford Bridge, Worcester, WR6 6ST.

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

Robin Dean, Teme Valley Tote Organiser

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A0



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Please contact Robin on 01886 853295



Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall Saturday 15th April 2.30 to 4.30pm

Donations of plants or produce would be very much appreciated. Please contact Helen on 01885 410210 or email helenvkyle@yahoo.com



Coronation Lunch

Sunday 7th May from 12 noon

Join us on Eastham Village Green to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III

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Georgina's Flowers

Peter Wilson Thorneycroft

At dusk on a stunning winter's evening on 18th January, Peter was welcomed back into the church building at Hanley Childe, before he was laid to rest the following day in the churchyard there. As his funeral started, the bell at Hanley Childe was rung out across the valley for five minutes by our churchwarden and good friend of Peter's, Edward Yarnold.

Born in 1945 at Bridgnorth, Peter went to

school at Wellington College, Berkshire and then to work for Grimley chartered surveyors in Birmingham. From there his work took him to Cheltenham

and he decided to branch out on his own, specialising in the letting of commercial buildings across the UK. He owned a number of companies, working to the end of his life. Peter spent many hours on the road but never boasted about his career and responsibilities. He used these skills to serve on a number of Diocesan committees over the years.

Peter and Margie met in 1971 on a trip to Wolverhampton to see Ken Dodd. Luckily Margie accepted Peter's offer of a date and they married a year later, after a traditional proposal with Peter on bended knee. They moved to Town Farm in September 1974 and Peter threw himself into village life. He was a faithful supporter of



the church and organised many a garden fête and promise auction. Who can forget the recent Jubilee fête which brought our community together and which Peter master-minded even though his yet to be diagnosed illness was causing him pain. Many people trusted him to share their problems over the years, through his work as a church pastoral visitor and as an advocate for over 40 years. Peter was a great friend to so

All the right notes ... not necessarily in the right order many of us and a perceptive listener. His quiet presence in our community will be very greatly missed.

Peter loved tennis and indeed all sport, playing rugby for Bridgnorth, being an inspirational runner and often seen on his bicycle around the Hanleys. His musical skills were the stuff of local legend – 'all the right notes; not necessarily in the right order'. In his spare time(!) Peter wrote four children's books about the antics of Fly the Fox and of course TemeTalk's Hanley Happenings.

Peter was a devoted family man, with four children, Euan, Holly, Bryony and Callum. Margie and Peter shared many happy times with them all at Town Farm as the family grew and they enjoyed travel too. More recently, they have welcomed grandchildren to stay.

After a short but aggressive illness, Peter died peacefully at home with family around on 2nd January. Daffodils planted in his honour now stretch from his gate to the church gate to be enjoyed by locals for many years to come.

A celebration of Peter's life will be held at Town Farm on 22nd April. If you would like to come, please RSVP to hollythorneycroft@hotmail.com.



Richard Elliott

We said goodbye to Richard Elliott on 25th January at a service in Lindridge church and he was laid to rest in Hanley Childe churchyard afterwards.

Richard lived at Norgrove after retiring from a lifetime farming in the Teme Valley at Claywood and Woodston. He was born in March 1933 at Moccas Court and, due to the depression and tenant farming status, his family later moved to Burton Court, Sapey and then ran the Bridge pub at Stanford Bridge for a number of years.

After a fortuitous collision with a cow belonging to Mr Cooper, Richard met and then married Mr Cooper's daughter Janet in 1958. In 1962 Richard successfully took over the running of his father-in-law's farms, which were devoted to nationally renowned prize-winning hops.

Richard and Janet had three children, Verley (who married Paul Blakeway), Edward and

Recently we also said farewell to Brian, born in October 1936, whose family lived and farmed at Adamswood by Pouk Lane. Many remember them as the family where two sisters married two brothers. When Brian's father died in 1966 the family, as tenants with no secured rights, couldn't carry on farming there. Brian moved to the Cotswolds as a farm manager for several years,



Gareth. Two years after Janet died, Richard married Annabel and they shared a love of field sports, dogs and horses. Richard and Annabel then welcomed their daughter Alice, and the family eventually crossed the Teme from Lambswick to Norgrove in Hanley Childe in 2006. The properties both have cherry orchards, which Richard especially enjoyed when the spring blossom arrived.

With a bit more time at their disposal, Richard and Annabel enjoyed owning and racing National Hunt horses. Their most successful horse was Marked Man, who won 11 races and whose trainers attended the funeral.

Sometimes to be seen supporting the local pubs (Fox and Tally Ho) at lunchtime, Richard was always up for a chat, but unfortunately his health worsened in recent times and he died in Tenbury Hospital on 30th December 2022.

Brian John Ward

eventually returning to work in Bockleton.

He retired to the bungalow next to his sister at Terrills Lane, Tenbury Wells. For many years Brian used to mow the grass at Hanley William church and was a loyal support of the church there. His ashes were interred at Hanley William churchyard, reuniting him with his parents, Phillip and Enid.



Land for rent Hanley Parish Council

has three separate plots of land for rent The cost of each field is £60.00 The tenancy is for 6 months only – from 1st April until 31st October 2023 The tenant is responsible for the following:

- paying for the field hedge cutting
 collection of horse manure
- keeping the field free from weeds such as docks etc

Please apply in writing to: Mrs Margaret Yarnold, Court Farm, Hanley Childe, Tenbury Wells, WR15 8QY or email: courtfarmhanley@hotmail.com

The Filling Station

Our next meeting is on Thursday 16th March at Eastham Memorial Hall at 7.15 for 7.30pm when Bob Lillyman will be speaking to us. Bob and his wife Jenny are known by many in the Tenbury area and are regularly at our meetings. They spend time each year serving as guides at the Garden Tomb in Jerusalem.

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

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White chocolate cheesecake – a perfect Mothering Sunday treat

Ingredients

Makes 8 slices

For the filling

200 grams white cooking chocolate, roughly chopped

300 grams full-fat cream cheese at room tem-

perature, drained of any liquid

300 millilitres double cream

1 teaspoon fresh lemon juice

1 teaspoon vanilla extract

For the base

175 grams gingernut biscuits 50 grams soft unsalted butter

Method

Put the pieces of white chocolate into a heatproof bowl over a saucepan of boiling water, making sure the base of the bowl doesn't touch the water. Turn the heat down and let the white chocolate melt very gently, stirring every now and then. Once melted, set aside for about ten minutes, until the chocolate remains liquid but is cooled to room temperature.

For the base, put the biscuits into a bag, crush to crumbs, then melt the butter and stir



into the biscuit crumbs until well mixed. Press the biscuit mixture into an 8-inch springform cake tin, letting some come a little way up the sides. Put the tin in the fridge while you get on with the cheesecake filling.



Beat the cream cheese in a

bowl that will take all the ingredients later – a wooden spoon is fine here – until it is soft. Gently fold in the slightly cooled, melted white chocolate.

Softly whip the cream so it is thickened but the peaks don't hold their shape, then fold it into the white chocolate mixture in two batches. Add the lemon juice and vanilla extract and fold these in, then pour the mixture into the biscuit-lined tin. Smooth the top, cover the tin with cling film and refrigerate overnight.

When you're ready to eat it, make sure it's been out of the fridge for ten minutes before unclipping from the tin and cutting it into slices.

From Nigella Lawson's At My Table

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Rural Mission Area: what does that mean for us

At its meeting at the end of November, the PCC considered a suggestion from Archdeacon Robert that we work together with Teme Valley North, Abberley, Shrawley and the Witleys (4Rivers) along with Wyre Forest West (WFW that's Far Forest, Bayton, Mamble, Rock and Heightington) as a Rural Mission Area (RMA).

What that doesn't mean is probably as important as what it does mean.

It doesn't mean that we'll all be expected to get in our cars and drive to Little Witley or Heightington (delightful as those places are) on a Sunday. Becoming part of a Rural Mission Area does not of itself change the pattern of Sunday services or where congregations are expected to go to worship. Nor does it mean any change in the legal structures of the churches in the area. It doesn't mean any alteration to the existing arrangement of church committees and their current processes for making decisions.

But what it does mean is that there will be a presupposition that ministry can and will flow across the current existing boundaries. So, what might that look like in practice?

Currently Walking Church, as a TVS initiative, restricts itself to walks in TVS with only an occasional incursion out of the parish. As part of an RMA, the presumption will be that Walking Church can venture further afield and publicise its activities in the neighbouring villages'



parish magazines.

It will also mean that ministry teams across the RMA will share skills and gifts. So it might be that there is someone in the WFW team that has a particular expertise that we don't have in TVS, or it might be that in TVS we have experience that could be shared in 4Rivers, or ... As was said at the PCC, congregations (generally) don't travel but ministry can usefully flow.

In pastoral terms it should mean improvements. Not so long ago Robert took a funeral of someone from TVS at the crematorium. The subsequent burial of ashes was in one of the 4Rivers churchyards and the family was surprised when it was someone from there who officiated. Being part of an RMA should help avoid that.

So, what will being part of an RMA mean in the future? Who knows? We'll see where cooperation leads.

Walking with our mission accompanier

Last year the PCC also agreed to take up an offer from the Diocese of a "mission accompanier". Mission accompaniers are people who "journey with" churches. They are not there to tell us what to do but rather to observe where we are, to listen and to ask questions that help us plan our way to sustainability.

At the PCC meeting in January, we were joined by Susan Blagden, our mission accompanier. She is an experienced priest working in deeply rural Wales. She has over ten years of experience in coaching and training, including leadership development and spiritual direction. She is a contemplative photographer, and delights in paying attention to the natural world. She had spent the day meeting each of the churchwardens and having a conversation based around the topics of, thinking about your church, what are you: thankful for? praying for? hopeful for? and challenged by?

The Ministry Team had at its meeting earlier in January also spoken around those questions. What about you? What would you put in those boxes?

Do have a think and share you thoughts with a member of our PCC, your churchwarden or Rev'd Julia, Rev'd Robert, Pete, Jen and Rev'd Sally from the ministry team.

Rev'd Julia

Parish life in Teme Valley South

At the beginning of the year I wrote about some of the new things that are taking root in Teme Valley South. These include walking church and forest church, Bible study and Teme Valley Tots, afternoon café church, a scratch choir and Friday meditation. We have Zoom prayers morning and evening and the Blessings Group prays for the whole parish.

So, if these are new things, then you may well ask, what else do we do? And what have we been doing up until now? Well, there have been churches in the Teme Valley since before the Norman Conquest. Most of our church buildings are Norman with earlier Saxon foundations. The exceptions are St Mary's, Stanford, built in 1768 to replace a Norman church, and Hanley Childe, built in Victorian times to accommodate a growing farming population. The thing is – there have been churches and church services and Christian rites and celebrations going on here without interruption for well over a thousand years.

For all that time the parish priest has had the awesome responsibility for "the cure of souls", the person to whom you turn in times of trouble whoever you are, whatever your faith or disposition. The church has been a place of solace for the lost and the lonely and a place of celebration too, especially for weddings and baptisms. The parish registers of births, deaths and marriages attest to this. They are a rich source of family history to this day, much consulted by visitors and researchers.

All this continues well into the 21st century, from year to year and from week to week. There is a main service in the parish every Sunday morning and usually a second celebration as well, each church enjoying a different style of worship. All are welcome to our services.

At Christmas and Easter there are great celebrations in all the churches across the parish. There are special seasonal services as well, including Plough Sunday, Mothering Sunday, Ascension Day, Pentecost, Harvest, All Souls, Remembrance Day and Advent.

These services are offered within our places of worship. The cure of souls is to do with people. It is not confined to buildings. Julia, our parish priest, with the ministry team and especially our TVS pastoral team, quietly serve those in difficulty and at times of crisis. In addition our church communities support coffee mornings, neighbourhood lunches and numerous local initiatives, including the Tenbury Food Bank.

Details of all the activities mentioned can be found in this magazine. Do make contact about anything that is offered or to raise any query. Questions are welcome.

Rev'd Sally Jones



Teme Valley Wildlife

Last year we were blessed with a spell of unusually dry, sunny and warm weather at the end of

March. As I had signed up for the June Malvern Walking Festival I thought it wise to get in some training, so chose three local circular walks with which to ramble twentysix useful miles. Each walk started in a village, two in Worcestershire, Alfrick and Chaddesley Corbett, and the third in the

Herefordshire village of Whitbourne. They were all enjoyable but the last especially so.

The route from Whitbourne travelled upstream beside the River Teme, then aimed northwest towards Clifton-on-Teme before joining the downstream Sapey Brook and looping back to the start. The valley of this hidden Teme tributary is a real gem, it is both beautiful and unspoilt. The scene at the end of March was immensely tranquil. Larks sang and blackthorn and damson blossom whitened the hedges and old orchards. The brook followed a winding course and had pebbly beaches where it was possible to get down to a level with the water's edge.



There were plenty of wild flowers and, despite the presence of wood anemones and violets, the overarching impression was of the colour yellow which studded the grass and augured the arrival of spring. In inhabited places daffodils presented a gay yellow welcome. Elsewhere enamel-bright

celandine petals soaked up the sun's rays whilst in more sheltered spots the paler milk-yellow primrose was in full bloom. A few early cowslips were just raising their orange-flecked heads. Golden saxifrage was in flower by the brook and beside a small bridge a bed of tiny green-yellow moschatel was on the point of opening. This diminutive plant has a musk scent and five tiny flowers pointing to each of north, south, east, west and skywards, attracting the name "townhall clock". It is not common and I was delighted to see it.

Continued on page 24



Continued from page 23

A pair of grey wagtails fishing in the river added to the impression of yellow. These birds are called grey wagtails but the name downplays their beauty. White and yellow underparts and the continual bobbing of their tails make them easy to spot. Another yellow was supplied by a pristine male brimstone butterfly. He flew along

Stanford History Group Spring Lectures

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

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

6th March

Old Empires and Nationalism: The Making of Modern Poland and Ukraine (1795-1939) **13th March**

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

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

Simon Marriott simon@adamswoodfarm.co.uk the brook stopping here and there to sip from early flowers. It is said that this creature, very early on the wing, first took the name butterfly due to its butter-yellow colour and that the name was subsequently given to all the members of the same insect group. Only the male enjoys bright yellow wings, the female is a less noticeable greenish-white.

The Sapey Brook has long been known to be a special place. In the past, eight species of orchid have been recorded growing alongside it. In 1854 a visitor to a local rectory found a specimen of Britain's rarest orchid, the ghost orchid, at a spot known as "The Paradise". A subsequent investigation by the Worcestershire Naturalists Club declared the valley "peculiarly favourable to the growth of the Orchidaceae". And I dare say that it was as beautiful then as it is now.

The next meeting of the Teme Valley Wildlife Group will be at 7.30pm on Thursday 9th March at Stoke Bliss and Kyre Village Hall. We welcome Bob Watson whose talk is called "Fungi associated with trees". Everyone is most welcome, it is just £2 on the door.

Stephanie Mocroft

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 is available on our website www.temevalleywildlife.co.uk. To contact us, email tvwg@outlook.com



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Please send items for inclusion to ronsmum@btconnect.com or call 01568 750665 by 18th March for the April issu

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What's on in Teme Valley South

March

1st	Wednesday	Eastham Coffee Morning, Eastham Memorial Hall, 10.30am
5th	Sunday	Spring Walk, Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall, 12.45pm
9th	Thursday	Neighbourhood Lunch, Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall, 12.30pm
12th	Sunday	Lambing Café Church, Parsonage Farm, Rochford, 3pm
16th	Thursday	The Filling Station, Eastham Memorial Hall, 7.15pm
17th	Friday	Pub Night, Eastham Memorial Hall, 7pm
18th	Saturday	Children's cooking classes, Eastham Memorial Hall, 11am
25th	Saturday	A Box of Delights with Pax Singers, Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall, 7.30pm
28th	Tuesday	Rochford Neighbourhood Lunch, Rochford Village Hall, 12.30pm
31st	Friday	Social/Pub Night, Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall, 7pm

April

1st	Saturday	Film Night at Hanley Village Hall, <i>The Duke,</i> 7.30pm Afternoon Tea with the Easter Bunny, Eastham Memorial Hall, 1pm
2nd	Sunday	Easter Bingo, Eastham Memorial Hall, 6pm
		Afternoon Tea with the Easter Bunny, Eastham Memorial Hall, 1pm
5th	Wednesday	Eastham Coffee Morning, Eastham Memorial Hall, 10.30am
		Stanford Area Church Committee AGM, Stanford Park, 6pm
7th	Friday	Display at Kyre Church, 10am
13th	Thursday	Neighbourhood Lunch, Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall, 12.30pm
14th	Friday	Children's cooking classes, Eastham Memorial Hall, 10am
15th	Saturday	Plant and Produce Sale, Cream Teas, Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall, 2.30pm
25th	Tuesday	Rochford Neighbourhood Lunch, Rochford Village Hall, 12.30pm
28th	Friday	Social/Pub Night, Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall, 7ppm
		Pub Night, Eastham Memorial Hall, 7pm

May

3rd 6th	Wednesday Saturday	Eastham Coffee Morning, Eastham Memorial Hall, 10.30am Film Night at Hanley Village Hall, <i>The World's Fastest Indian,</i> 6pm
7th	Sunday	Big Bring and Share Lunch, Rochford Village Hall
		Coronation Lunch, Eastham Memorial Hall, 12 noon
		Coronation Tea Party, Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall, 2pm
11th	Thursday	Neighbourhood Lunch, Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall, 12.30pm
13th	Saturday	Murder on the Catwalk, Eastham Memorial Hall, 6.30pm
30th	Tuesday	Rochford Neighbourhood Lunch, Rochford Village Hall, 12.30pm

June

3rd	Saturday	Summer Barbecue, Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall, 4pm
8th	Thursday	Neighbourhood Lunch, Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall, 12.30pm
27th	Tuesday	Rochford Neighbourhood Lunch, Rochford Village Hall, 12.30pm

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

Services March/April 2023

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

The Blessings Group meets fortnightly and is co-ordinated by Richard Skerrett who can be contacted on 01886 853099 for details.

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

Services Schedule

Mothering Sunday

Walking Church

Sunday 5th March

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

Sunday 12th March

10.00am Kyre 3.00pm Rochford

Celtic Holy Communion Lambing Café Church at Parsonage Farm (please park in the layby and walk down if possible)

Sunday 19th March

10.00am Eastham 2.00pm

Sunday 26th March

10.00am Rochford 12.30pm Hanley Childe 4.00pm Hanley William All Age Worship and Holy Communion Christening

All Age Worship and Holy Communion

ey william

Sunday 2nd April

10.00am Stanford 4.00pm Stanford

Palm Sunday

Evening Prayer

Holy Communion and hymns Praise Service

Caspian Wood .



Well-being at Caspian Wood new sessions starting in March

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