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November 2022

## This month

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Plus all your parish news



This month's cover is sponsored by: Tenbury's all-comedy pantomime

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# TemeTalk

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*A community going forward with God*

## November 2022

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

At this time of year the leaves are falling fast, autumn colours abound and we enter the season of Remembrance. During this season, our church calendar contains the celebrations of All Hallows Eve (31st October), All Saints or All Hallows (1st November) and All Souls (2nd November) followed closely by Armistice Day (11th November) and then Remembrance Sunday. If something is 'hallowed' it is considered to be holy or set aside for a special purpose, such as the 'hallowed turf' of Wembley stadium. So, All Hallows Day, also known as All Saints Day, is when we remember and give thanks for all those holy people who have gone before us. Many of them were trail blazers in reform and some of them prepared to die for their faith. All Hallows Eve was the day before these lives were celebrated. It was a time of keeping watch or vigil with prayer, fasting and preparation for the feast and celebration when the next day dawned. I'm really not sure when that evening's vigil morphed into windows covered in synthetic spiders' webs, trick or treating and fake fangs, but somehow it has. All Souls Day is the time when we give thanks for, and remember, our loved ones who have died and sadly we see no longer. Each year we invite recently bereaved families to a service, where we light candles and read out the names of those who have died. That respectful naming honours their memory and the fact they are held with God brings comfort to those of us who miss them still.

There is however a fine line between recognising we still have connection through God's eternal love shared in Christ with those who have gone before, and attempts to communicate with those "on the other side". Jesus spoke about his death and said, "I am going to prepare a place for you". What that place will be like he was gloriously vague about. He spoke of "many rooms" or "many mansions" in his father's house, but offered no description. Artists have tried to depict

*Continued on page 3*

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## Teme Valley South Contacts

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

### Churchwardens

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

### Pastoral Team

Stanford: Lesley Dean 01886 853295  
Hanleys: Peter Thorneycroft 01885 410484  
Stoke Bliss:  
Rochford: Ann Prosser 01584 781317  
Jenny Barbé 01584 781298  
Eastham: Helen Matravers 01584 781510  
Parish Safeguarding Officer: Sue Softly  
01584 881342

## Village Hall Bookings

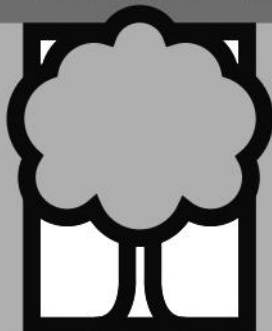
### Stoke Bliss & Kyre

Janet Powell, 01885 410598

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

Rochford – Ann Prosser, 01584 781317  
Eastham – Helen Matravers, 01584 781510  
Hanley – Judy Bayliss, 01886 853813  
Stanford – Robin Dean, 01886 853295

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# Parish news

*Continued from page 1*

what heaven is like, Great Witley church being a local example. The poet, John Donne, in words used at the Queen's funeral, writes of a place, "where there shall be no darkness nor dazzling, but one equal light;

*no noise nor silence, but one equal music;  
no fears or hopes, but one equal possession;  
no ends or beginnings, but one equal eternity ..."*

All the descriptions of heaven are of something beyond our imagining and inevitably fall short. But all speak of our loved ones having moved beyond human pain or sorrow. Can or should we disturb them? I pray we do not. Our loved ones rest in Christ. May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

*Rev'd Julia Curtis*

## From the Registers

It was with great sadness that we said goodbye to four people during the month of October. Our services were as follows:

Barbara Lloyd from Stoke Bliss at a Cremation Service at Wyre Forest Crematorium on 6th October followed by a Thanksgiving Service in the Church of St Peter, Stoke Bliss.

Angela 'Paddy' Harding from Hanley Broadheath at a Cremation Service at Wyre Forest Crematorium on 14th October.

Ron Wylde from Eastham with a funeral service in St Peter & St Paul Eastham, followed by a burial in the churchyard on 21st October.

Kenneth Morris who grew up in Rochford with a Thanksgiving Service in the Church of St Michael, Rochford, followed by a burial of ashes in the churchyard on 22nd October.

Our prayers are with the families and friends of Barbara, Paddy, Ron and Ken at this time. Reunited with relatives and held in God's love. May they rest in peace.

## Bible Study Group

Thank you to those who have replied expressing interest in studying the Bible together. The proposed date and time is Fridays at 10.30am. We start on 25th November at Hanley Rectory for an initial meeting and to discuss some suggested Advent material. If you would like to join please come along.

**This month's cover photograph: Ed Yarnold at the Stoke Bliss Ploughing Match photo by Simon Spring (see page 8)**

## Remembrance Services

The focus of our Teme Valley South Remembrance 2022 weekend will be Hanley William and Hanley Broadheath.

You will see from the service list on page 28 that there will be an observance of Armistice Day on Friday 11th November at 11am in Hanley William church. Anyone is welcome to join us for this.

On Remembrance Sunday we will have two events in Hanley Village Hall. In the morning there will be a Teme Valley South Parish Service of Remembrance with reading of names and laying of wreaths, followed by tea and coffee. The service will start at 10.50am, so please arrive promptly to help us time the silence.

In the afternoon we will be considering 'remembrance' in terms of dementia – something so many of us and our families are affected by. Any proceeds will be donated to Dementia UK. From 4pm there will be teas and coffee and an informal service and chance to chat.

## Online Advent Retreat

The last few weeks before Christmas can be so hectic, so stressful. Why not take 20 minutes each day for peaceful prayer in your own at home, or wherever you may be? You may well find that the rest of the day goes better than expected.

On the website [www.onlineprayer.net/advent-retreat/](http://www.onlineprayer.net/advent-retreat/) the Ignatian Spirituality Centre in Glasgow has, for each day of Advent, a piece of Scripture, a picture, a short reflection and a piece of music – you can use any or all of this for your prayer, as you choose. The website also has helpful suggestions of different ways of praying with these resources.

If anyone wants further information, we anticipate having a zoom meeting at or before the beginning of Advent (27th November) to explain more fully how the retreat works and to answer any questions. We expect to have weekly zoom meetings to share, only what we want to, of what we have felt during and after our prayer times. These meetings, to the surprise of many, are encouraging and fruitful. The zoom meetings will be kept to an hour or less and will be at times to suit as many as possible.

Please let Rev'd Julia know if you think you might be interested.

*Rev'd Julia Curtis*

# Rochford 49 Club

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

## Wednesday winners

Sept 21st No 24 Norma Goodall  
Sept 28th No 9 Jennifer Gledhill  
Oct 5th No 38 Rod Ricketts  
Oct 12th No 37 not sold

## Saturday winners

Sept 24th No 51 not sold  
Oct 1st No 21 Andrew Keysall  
Oct 8th No 51 not sold  
Oct 15th No 39 John Forsyth

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!

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# Rock Bridge Club

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# Teme Valley Tote

October's prize draw of the Tote (the seventh in this series) was decided when Rev'd Julia Curtis rolled the dice on 5th October to select the set of random numbers. Prizewinners are:

£50 – **Ann Hadfield** of Eastham (No 226)

£30 – **Sebastian Hills** of Knighton (No 713)

£20 – **Hattie Clarke** of Stockton (No 428)

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



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## Thanks

Thanks to everyone who helped with and supported our recent very successful community events. Live music with Fix was sold out and raised a magnificent £750 for village funds. Over 30 people enjoyed a great big breakfast (thanks to Ann) raising over £200 and nine people and five dogs enjoyed a walk through our beautiful countryside.

Rose Ayres arranged a Macmillan coffee morning at the Scout Hut in Tenbury and raised a magnificent £1,550 for this important charity. Many thanks to the many people and local businesses who served coffee, made cakes, donated goods, gifts and prizes and to everyone who came along on the day and gave so generously. Cancer has touched so many local people and this was a tremendous result.

The Harvest Festival was well supported and many thanks to everyone who donated produce for Tenbury Food Bank which was very gratefully received. It was great to be able to take so much fresh produce to help people who don't normally have the luxury of home-grown fruit and vegetables. Over 30 of us sat down for a delicious two course supper with wine on Sunday evening, thanks to Ann. So good to get together and enjoy the company of friends and neighbours.

## Neighbourhood lunches

The tenth anniversary neighbourhood lunch was well supported with a surprise presentation to Ann in recognition of all her work buying, preparing and cooking all the lunches (see page 10).

For future lunch dates see page 27. Lunches are open to everyone, booking 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 quiz

The West Midlands Premier Quiz Master returns on Friday 11th November, 7.30pm at Rochford Village Hall – **full details on page 14**. There is just room for a couple more teams so book with Ann on 01584 781317.

## Christmas music

On Friday 2nd December at 7.30pm at Rochford Church we are very pleased to welcome back Corinne Frost (cello) and her piano accompanist for another wonderful evening of light-hearted Christmas music and readings to get us in the Christmas mood. This is a very special evening and we are fortunate to have such talented musicians to play for us. Please contact Ann or Andrew for tickets, just £10 including light refreshments.

## All Souls Service

Rochford will once again host this service, where we remember those loved ones we have lost, on Wednesday 2nd November at 6pm. It is always a very moving service when the names of loved ones are read out and candles are lit.

## Christmas in Rochford

Our Christmas lunch will be on Sunday 11th December at 12.30pm at Rochford Village Hall – a great start to the Christmas festivities with a three course lunch, wine and crackers. Just £15 per head (under 12s ½ price, under 5s free). Everyone is welcome but please book your place to avoid disappointment.

On Sunday 11th December at 3.30pm everyone is welcome to our warm church, beautifully decorated for Christmas, to celebrate with a traditional carol service followed by tea, coffee and mince pies.

Midnight Mass is on Saturday 24th December at 11.30pm at Rochford church. Everyone is welcome to this moving service when we greet Christmas Day.

## Church flower rota for November

Jennifer Gledhill, thank you.

*Andrew Barbé*

## Teme Valley Tots

It has been lovely to meet up with familiar faces and welcome some new ones to our Tots group this term. We will be meeting weekly on Fridays during November at Rochford Village Hall from 1 to 2.30pm.

# Stoke Bliss and Kyre

## Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 6th December  
at 7pm  
*All welcome*

## Neighbourhood Lunch

Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall  
Thursday 10th November  
Thursday 8th December  
Welcome at 12.30pm  
Telephone 01885 410641  
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if you would like to come



## Pub Night

Friday 25th November  
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## Stoke Bliss church repairs

A group of local people met with Christian Montez, architect for Stoke Bliss church, who talked us through his proposals. Everyone present agreed to proceed to the next stage of tendering for both roof and ceiling repairs, based on the architect's report that the life expectancy of the current roof is twenty years, therefore it made sense to replace both at the same time.

Once tenders have been received grant applications can be made. In the meantime if you wish to support these churches and secure them for future generations please consider signing up for Parish Giving. Contact Maggie for more details. Telephone 01885 410431 or email mdk46@phoncoop.coop.

A meeting, to which all are welcome, will be held in January 2023 to consider the situation further. The date will be in next month's magazine.

## Kyre church Nativity display

We will be setting up the church from 2 to 4pm on Friday 25th and Saturday 26th November ready for the first Sunday in Advent on 27th November. All are welcome. Contact Maggie for more details on 01885 410431 or email mdk46@phoncoop.coop.

## Welcome at Stoke Bliss

Stoke Bliss Church now has a welcome tray for visitors to make a hot drink – ideal for walkers or cyclists passing the church!

*Maggie Kingston*

*Thanksgiving services were held at Stoke Bliss for the lives of Rosemary Joy of the Old Rectory and Barbara Lloyd of Barretts Bank. See page 21.*

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# Eastham Jottings

## Church flowers and cleaning

November – Diana Potter

December – team effort

## Eastham Coffee Morning

Please join us on Wednesday 2nd November from 10am at Eastham Memorial Hall with Ann Hadfield on the rota. Have a coffee, cake and a chat. The Christmas coffee morning will be on 7th December at 10.30am, a team effort with mulled wine, mince pies and a special Christmas raffle.

Thanks to everyone for supporting the Macmillan coffee morning in October which raised £250. Special congratulations to Liz Cattani (née Wyse) who won the Colin the Caterpillar sprinkles count competition and visitors from Cornwall who won this year's Macmillan quiz.

## Harvest and Pumpkinfest

Thanks to everyone who came along to tidy up the churchyard and clean the church, and to arrange the beautiful Harvest Festival flowers and produce. Also to the Pumpkinfest contributions at the Harvest Festival, both the pumpkins and the children's artistic creations from vegetables and fruit. Well done to all our prize winners. All harvest produce including the collection was donated to Tenbury Food Bank.

## Thai Buffet Evening

Well done to the new events committee for their inaugural event – the lovely Thai Buffet prepared by Ann Lawson of Baan Thai. Reminiscing on Thai meals shared in the past, 50 people enjoyed the evening with proceeds including a raffle and cash bar to Eastham Memorial Hall.

For more information on events please see the Teme Eastham Facebook page or contact Jenna at [events@easthammemorialhall.org.uk](mailto:events@easthammemorialhall.org.uk) or phone 07502 228878.

## Events Committee

The events committee would like to invite residents of Eastham to come along to the Memorial Hall at 5pm on Sunday 6th November.

This will be an opportunity for you to meet the committee and ask any questions you may have. We will also be asking if there are any events you would like us to hold.

For more information contact Jenna on 07502 228878 or [events@easthammemorialhall.org.uk](mailto:events@easthammemorialhall.org.uk)

## 2022 Poppy Appeal

Donate locally in Eastham – the tray of poppies will be in the old phone box by the Memorial Hall.

## Eastham Pub Night

On Friday 18th November from 7.30pm at Eastham Memorial Hall. Make a date for this informal get together. Everyone is welcome. Look out for the usual banner.

## Dolly Parton

Victoria Pomeroy raises the roof with her tribute act on Saturday 12th November. Enjoy favourite songs, beef, pork and cheese rolls and a cash bar. See page 14 for details.

## Christmas events at the Memorial Hall

Whether it is decorating a Christmas cake or a piece of pottery, there is a session to join.

On Friday 9th December, come along to switch on the Christmas lights on Eastham's special Christmas Tree – from 6.30pm with food and cash bar. Hear the result of the best dressed house in Eastham.

The Christmas Fayre is on Sunday 11th December from 10 am until 2 pm – proceeds to Eastham Memorial Hall and St Richards Hospice.

## 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](mailto:info@zedyoga.co.uk), on Wednesday mornings
- Zumba Gold, Lucia on 07709 301030, Wednesdays at 1pm, just turn up and have a go, £5
- Kung Fu, Adam on 07720 643524, for youngsters on Saturdays at 9.30am, again just turn up and have a go.

*Celia Adams*



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# Hanley Happenings

## Jack Davies

Jack Davies of North Lodge, Hanley William, died in August. His family would like to thank his friends and neighbours as well as the District Nursing Team for their kindness and support during his illness and to Robert Barlow for officiating at his funeral.

*Tess Olive*

## Welcome to Hanley Childe

A rather belated welcome to Lex and Ned who have recently moved to The Old Parsonage in Hanley Childe. I have not been able to meet them yet but hope to introduce myself later in the autumn and feel sure that they will be very happy living here in such a supportive community.

*Peter Thorneycroft*

*Two long-time residents of Bell Lane died in September, Paddy Harding and Ken Crowther. They are remembered on page 25.*

## 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.

## Little Grey Fergy, our front cover star

The tractor is called Little Grey Fergy! It was made in 1956 and my father bought it for £150 in 1958 to replace the last horse at Court Farm. The horse had disgraced itself – when electricity came to Hanley, the poles were put into the ground and the horse liked rubbing against them, pushing them all out of line! The electric company was not happy!

This was our main tractor for several years, used extensively through the 1960s and into the early 1970s. She was retired in the mid 1970s, replaced by bigger, safer and more powerful tractors.

She's been at the back of the shed for about 40 years now. We did get her out 20 years ago and did some tinkering, then put her back. Two weeks before this year's ploughing match we popped a new battery on and she was away!

No prizes this year at the ploughing match, maybe I'm a bit rusty! But look out next year ...

*Ed Yarnold*

## Hanley Childe Harvest Festival

We had a full church and lots of produce and tins. The produce was sold afterwards for £145 and the tins will go to Tenbury food bank. Thank you for all your support.

## Harriett Baldwin MP

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



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# Stanford • Stanford • Stanford

## Services and dates for your diary

6th November – Holy Communion with hymns at 10am

6th November – Praise Service at 4pm

13th November – Remembrance Sunday (combined parish service at 10.50am at Hanley Village Hall

4th December – Holy Communion at 10am

4th December – Carol Service at 4pm (see page 13)

24th December – Crib Service at 5pm (see below)

## Sale of sweaters

The Browns are returning to Stanford on 19th November from 10am to noon for the last time before retiring – this is your chance to get something knitted for Christmas for yourself or a loved one!

## Harvest Festival

Some 20 people attended the Harvest service on 2nd October led by Robert and Julia. There was a collection for Farmers Overseas Action Group (FOAG) – Nabil (Chair of FOAG's trustees) was asked about FOAG during the service. Thanks to Cate and Sarah for the flowers and David for organising a display of produce (this was auctioned by Nabil for FOAG after the lunch raising £60). After the service, some of us retired to the village hall for a delicious lunch produced by Ann Prosser – thank you to her and the washers up!

## Wine Tasting Evening

Well, what an evening celebrating Nelson and Trafalgar – we were treated to nine different wines ranging from a cheeky little English red from Tesco's costing £4.25 (which most people said was undrinkable – very similar to Sanatogen Tonic Wine, much loved by my late mother-in-law) to a scrumptious Marsala from Sicily. Half way through the evening we had delicious fish pie or steak pie made by Sue and Anne – thanks to the kitchen staff, Sue, Clem, David, Tina, Anne and Chris.

Thanks also to those who provided the delicious sweets, to Lesley for producing the tasting notes, to Cecilia, Iain and David who read the notes and to Cecilia and Ange who poured the wines. Thanks also to David who auctioned the surplus wine raising an additional £76.

I should say that the whole idea of the evening was Brian's – he had produced some material and ordered some of the wines with a Nelson theme. Unfortunately he was not very well and he handed the organisation to me. So the biggest thanks should go to Brian!

## Christmas Tree Festival

We are delighted that the Christmas Tree Festival returns to Stanford Church on 3rd and 4th December – see page 13. We hope that Archdeacon Robert will judge the trees and then lead the service on Sunday afternoon.

## Crib Service

We hope to hold our traditional Crib Service at 5pm on Christmas Eve. Last year, it was done remotely by adults – however we would like to return to having children taking the parts. If you would like to volunteer your children or grandchildren, please let us know in plenty of time.

## Tenbury Food Bank

Sue asks me to thank those who have started using this facility for their generosity – please keep your donations coming. Any funds raised during the Christmas Tree Festival will go to the Food Bank

## St Mary's church

St Mary's is now open every day from dawn to dusk. The front door will be open (please do not shut) and the main door will be closed but unlocked. Please visit and sign the visitors book and leave any donations you wish! There will still be hand gel in the porch which you are encouraged to use. 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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# Thanks to Ann



At Rochford's tenth anniversary neighbourhood lunch a surprise presentation was made to Ann Prosser for all her hard work buying, preparing and cooking all the lunches.

Ann sent this message:

"I wish to thank everyone who comes to the lunches for the beautiful flowers and their contributions to the surprise envelope, all this was such a surprise but very much appreciated, so many, many thanks everyone, and here's hoping for a few more years to come. Ann x"

# To dunk or not to dunk

One of our friends was absolutely horrified when the Boss dunked his biscuit in his tea in front of her – so horrified in fact that she couldn't even look at him.

Dunking is first reported with ancient Romans softening their hard unleavened wafers in wine. Modern day dunking has its roots in naval history – in the 16th century, biscuits known as "hard tack" on Royal Navy ships were so hard that the British sailors would dunk them in beer in order to soften them up.

While modern day dunking has its origins in 16th century naval history, it wasn't until the 19th century and the emergence of afternoon tea in the early Victorian era that Great Britain began to regard biscuits as something to be dunked in tea, a British custom that was later exported around the globe.

Different cultures have different attitudes toward biscuit dunking. Historically in British high society, dunking was frowned upon and generally seen as children's or working class fashion. But Queen Victoria herself was said to enjoy dunking her biscuits, a German custom from her younger days. In 2007, a tea room in Brighton, England, banned dunking on its premises. Our friend would have been proud!



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# Robin Hood comes to the Regal this Christmas



*The Sheriff of Nottingham unveils his extraordinary package of taxation measures*

Tenbury's all-comedy pantomime returns and this time ... it's BIGGER and BETTER than EVER!!! Our eighth professional pantomime, this year we are pulling out all the stops to bring you an all-singing, all-dancing, comedy spectacular your whole family will talk about for years to come!

Opening on 14th December, Robin Hood is running until 31st December including a relaxed performance on the 10th designed to support those with additional needs.

"Our amazing cast and crew have years of experience delivering jaw dropping productions on

stages across Europe," says Theatre Director Andrew Macduff. "We are so excited to bring this classic panto story to Tenbury."

After Prince John vows to collect higher taxes from the poor, the Sherriff of Nottingham has come out fighting with a package of taxation measures for the people of Nottingham. Our hero Robin Hood and his band of Merry Men are here to save the day. A fun retelling of the classic story with a host of hilarious "oh no they didn'ts", boos and hisses and plot twists along the way.

Can Robin Hood stop the Sherriff of Nottingham and Prince John? Will he win Maid Marian's hand in marriage? Come along to the Regal this Christmas to find out!

## What people said about us last year ...

"Brilliant panto! Such energy!"

*"Fantastic performance. 26 of us went this evening and it was brilliant! The cast, the scenery, the singing, was first class. Congratulations x"*

"We came to see it today, and we really enjoyed all of it. My 6 year old son enjoyed it so much he wants to come again xx"

*"Tenbury panto u were fabulous!! I think that was my fav one!"*

Visit [regaltenbury.co.uk](http://regaltenbury.co.uk) or call our box office at 01584 811 442 to book your tickets now!

Tenbury's all-comedy pantomime

# ROBIN HOOD

IT'S BIGGER AND BETTER THAN EVER!

WED 14 - SAT 31  
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# Christmas Fayre



Sunday 11th December, 10am until 2pm  
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*Come and get into the Christmas spirit!*

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Have a mince pie, a drink, a chat and grab some early Christmas bargains!

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- ★ Raffle ★



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*All proceeds to Eastham Memorial Hall  
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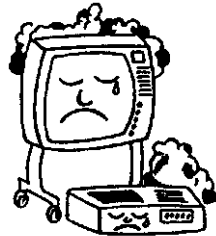


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Saturday 12th November at 7pm  
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*Profits to the Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal*

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Sunday 20th November  
9.30am to 12.30pm  
at Eastham Memorial Hall

Adults £12, children £6  
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Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall

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Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall

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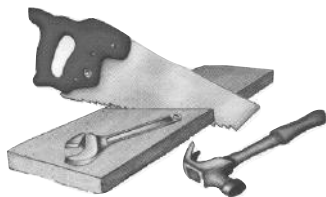
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Help us spread the Christmas spirit this year!

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The winner will be announced on Friday 9th December

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*All proceeds to Eastham Memorial Hall*

## Eastham Memorial Hall

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# Ron Wyld

4th July 1932 – 2nd October 2022

Ron's family had been in Eastham for many generations and he lived most of his young life on the Highwood, going to Highwood School, just along the lane from his home and then to the Blue Coat School in Stourbridge.

Ron's working life began in 1946 with his father who, back from the war, had a contract to catch and control the rabbit population on several derelict mansion estates in Worcestershire including Hanbury Hall.

In 1947 Ron came to work at Eastham Park for my father, Jack Spilsbury. This was the beginning not only of a job but of our lifelong friendship.

He loved tractors. His favourite was the International Harvester and its different models over the years. His pride and joy was an old Fowler single cylinder crawler tractor which had been bought to plough some very steep bracken-infested ground. Ron took to the task with fearless enthusiasm!

He went on to work for me and Joyce, then at Parsons Chains until the end of his career.

Ron had a good sense of humour. He always



enjoyed a laugh and joke and a bit of banter with us all.

He enjoyed village life. He often won prizes for his produce in the annual Eastham show and he always enjoyed the process of gardening and growing. He was a regular at the monthly coffee morning at Eastham. In retirement, he enjoyed gardening, travel, fishing and chatting with neighbours and friends.

Good humoured, even tempered and kind, he was a wonderful husband to Rita, father to Chris and Ann and grandfather to Sarah and Mandy. In the last couple of years, Ron struggled more with his health but the devoted care of his family allowed him to remain at home, for which he was immensely grateful. He spent the last few weeks in the Rectory Nursing Home in Tenbury, where he was full of praise for his carers. He passed away peacefully there surrounded by family.

So we say farewell to Ron, a dear friend, an honest, reliable and genuine country man. His family and friends are proud of him.

*David Spilsbury*

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# Christmas Open Studio at Broadheath

I was really overwhelmed by the strength of local support and interest I had for my open studio event for Herefordshire Art Week in September. Thank you to everyone who came to visit. It was lovely to meet many new faces as well as familiar ones who have visited me many times before for the event. I had visitors from Rochford, Clifton, Upper Sapey, Eastham, Stanford and Tenbury as well as neighbours from Broadheath.

The event was a chance to show a wide range of work, not just my finished studio pieces but sketchbooks, works in progress and a film about my process on my computer. I chatted with many kindred spirits about travels to Africa, America and way beyond as well as the joys of local landscapes and wildlife! It was nice to be able to share with visitors more details about the places where I get the inspiration for my work and how that ultimately comes to fruition back in the studio, and heartening to see the strong appreciation for the arts in the local area.



I will be opening my studio again for the Herefordshire Art Week Christmas weekend on 3rd and 4th December from 10am to 5pm. It would be lovely to see some local faces both returning and new, you are all welcome to come and join me for a mince pie and glass of mulled wine to welcome in the festive season.

We are at the Old Post Office, Broadheath WR15 8QS, two houses before The Fox and opposite the phone box, look out for the pink signs!

*Shelly Perkins*

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## Films at Hanley Village Hall



**Saturday 5th November, 7.30pm**

### **Top Gun: Maverick**

Facing an uncertain future and confronting the ghosts of his past, Pete "Maverick" Mitchell is drawn into a confrontation with his own deepest fears, culminating in a mission that demands the ultimate sacrifice from those who will be chosen to fly it.

**Stars Tom Cruise, Miles Teller, Jennifer Connelly  
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**Food served at 6pm, £15 per person**

**Booking essential with Trace on 07972 183164**

**Film starts at 7.30pm (film only £5)**



**Saturday 3rd December, 7.30pm**

### **Downton Abbey: A New Era**

The Crawley family goes on a grand journey to the South of France to uncover the mystery of the dowager countess's newly inherited villa.

**Stars Hugh Bonneville, Maggie Smith,  
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**Canapés served at 6pm**

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**Film starts at 7.30pm**



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## First catch your sheep!

After reading about Ed Yarnold's experiences of sheep shearing at Windsor in last month's magazine, David Powell of Rochford remembers his own foray into the world of competitive shearing.

As a Tenbury Young Farmer I was chosen, in about 1960, to represent Worcestershire at sheep shearing at the Bath & West Show. I had to shear two sheep and wrap up the fleece. I

chose the round and round method (pattern shearing).



Next to me was a Shropshire Young Farmer, Francis Pugh, using the Godfrey Bowen style, which is long strokes. To my embarrassment he had finished shearing his two sheep while I was still trying to get my second sheep to sit down.

Obviously no prize card for me!

*David Powell*

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## Rosemary Joy

(5th November 1928 to 14th August 2022)

Rosie was born in 1928 in Kasauli, an Indian hill station. Her father was Major Harry Hebden MC, an officer in the Royal Fusiliers. His family owned the island of Eday in Orkney.

She joined the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in 1951, her schooling, which included time in France, having given her a skill in languages which she cultivated after meeting Peter Joy there and marrying him in 1953. His life as a diplomat took them to many places with Rosie and Peter making friends wherever they went and joining in the local life with gusto, and she learnt the local language. They had four children Caroline, Nicholas, Henrietta (born during a revolution in Turkey!) and Rupert.

In the 1980s Rosie and Peter bought the Old Rectory which was their home until their deaths. They continued to travel widely with trips to Rosie's family home, Eday in Orkney, each summer and enjoying life with their family and friends. They also restored both the Old Rectory here and the 17th century Carrick House on Eday where Rosie sought to improve the work opportunities so young people could stay and work on the island.

Rosie retained her sense of humour, her enquiring mind, her strong will and her optimism to the end.

## Barbara Lloyd

(8th November 1936 to 13th September 2022)

Barbara Daphne Lloyd née Dorrell was born at Hall Farm, Stoke Bliss, the second daughter of James Henry (Harry) and Maud Dorrell. She went to Stoke Bliss School and then worked on the family farm. She was an enthusiastic horse rider and a member of the Young Farmers Club, where she met Gerald. They bought Barretts Bank and that became their home for life.

Barbara was fully involved in all the farm's activities – raising pigs and lambs, fruit picking and of course all the baking and housework alongside raising their four children, Caroline, Trevor, Val and Phil. In later years she was able to enjoy days out with friends, to Chatsworth where she met the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire, a very special memory, and to garden centres, a particular joy.

Farming life and her family were the essence of Barbara's life especially after the death of Gerald. Trevor had been their main stay on the farm and her other children continued their support of her. She took great pleasure in her grandchildren and they and all who knew her will carry fond memories of her in many ways.

Prayers and sympathy go to both the families and all who knew them. May they rest in peace.

*Maggie Kingston*



*Richard Haines*



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# Teme Valley Wildlife

Autumn seems a good time to talk about meadow saffron, a beautiful autumn-flowering plant that I have recently seen an incredibly large swathe of. It is a wild plant with pale pink goblet-shaped flowers held on fragile silvery tube-like stalks that are not actually true stems. The flowers appear at a different time of year from the leaves so they gained the old folk-name of *naked ladies*. A favoured spot for the plant is a dampish meadow; Worcestershire was once a stronghold of its territory.

Old botany books of the county considered it so common that it only warranted a brief description, but how times change. Now I know of only one nearby place where it can be found and that is Oldwood Common near Tenbury. I have seen it in the summer when tall lush sword-like leaf growth is its only feature. The leaves reach a length of 30 centimetres and can be 4 centimetres wide. The flower only reaches a height of 20 centimetres. The leaves die down before the flowers appear.

The leaves contain a chemical that can poison cattle so it was not a welcome addition to grazing land. In an old pre-First World War hop-picking account that I came upon, a striking hop-picker was employed by a farmer to pull up meadow saf-

fron instead. The other causes of its decline are the drainage of damp farmland and the collection of its bulbs during the Second World War. The same chemical that is dangerous to cattle can, in appropriate doses, be used to treat gout in humans. The drug is still prescribed and is called colchicine. During the war, imports were interrupted and native bulbs made up the difference.

Meadow saffron looks like a crocus but its Latin name is *Colchicum autumnale*. True crocuses can also be found in flower in September but most of them are introduced bulbs, some of which have become naturalised. The commonest are escaped garden varieties and in a very few places the true saffron crocus grows, although this is said to have been brought to Britain during the Crusades.

Finally, where was the huge swathe of the plants that I saw recently? Ewyas Harold Common in Herefordshire, a large common managed for wildlife and a hotspot for rare butterflies. It was a delight to suddenly come upon simply thousands of meadow saffron plants in bloom. Before I leave the subject of large numbers, I'd just like to mention that this is my hundredth maga-

*Continued on page 24*

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Continued from page 23

zine article, I hope my ideas keep coming.

The next meeting of the Teme Valley Wildlife Group will take place at Stoke Bliss and Kyre Village Hall, WR15 8RR, on Thursday November 10th at 7.30pm. Do join us as we welcome Nick Packham for a talk about pollinators. This will be our last meeting in 2022. It is just £2 on the door and everyone is most welcome.

*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 the website [www.temevalleywildlife.co.uk](http://www.temevalleywildlife.co.uk) We normally hold meetings on the second Thursday of the month. All are welcome. Contact us by telephone on 01568 750413 or by email at [twwg@outlook.com](mailto:twwg@outlook.com)*



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

## Ken Crowther

Ken and Joyce have lived in Bell Lane since 1990, Ken having taken early retirement. He will be remembered in the Hanleys for his determined effort some years ago to lose a lot of weight by walking with a rucksack full of bricks and rocks. The harsh regime certainly gave him extra years, so well done him.

Ken was born in Liverpool and went to school with John Lennon. He clearly caught comedy bug and often appeared on Friday nights at monthly talent shows at St Michaels. But he was retiring and private, which is often the case with real life performers.

Our thoughts and prayers go to Joyce and the family, some of whom still live in Tenbury, and we thank him for the pleasure he gave to so many in his shows.

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## Paddy Harding

Paddy and Rex came to live on the Broadheath in 1974, having purchased a plot of building land. Rex, a mechanical engineer, designed and built the bungalow incorporating various eco features long before they became popular.

Paddy studied piano at the Royal Academy of Music and after five years of travelling and working around the world she and Rex finally settled in Stourport before coming to the Broadheath with Marika and Bryce.

She taught music and piano at local schools and threw herself into village life. She was on the village hall committee for many years and helped at the weekly Friday markets. She was a founder of the first playgroup but she will best be remembered by many as a true and trusted friend, a keeper of confidences and a giver of good advice.

Paddy was in poor health for the last few years of her life following a number of strokes. She rarely complained and, blessed by many visitors and the amazing support of Marika and Bryce, she never lost heart until the end when clearly she had had enough.

She will be sorely missed in these parts and beyond and we thank her for all the support that she gave to others.

*Peter Thorneycroft*

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# What's on in Teme Valley South

## November

- 2nd Wednesday Eastham Coffee Morning, Eastham Memorial Hall, 10.30am  
5th Saturday Film Night at Hanley Village Hall, *Top Gun: Maverick*, 6pm  
6th Sunday Meet the events committee, Eastham Memorial Hall, 5pm  
10th Thursday Neighbourhood Lunch, Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall, 12.30pm  
11th Friday Quiz Night with supper, Rochford Village Hall, 7.30pm  
12th Saturday Teas, cakes and mincemeat mix, Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall, 2.30pm  
Dolly Parton Tribute Act, Eastham Memorial Hall, 7pm  
Concert for Ukraine, Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall, 7.30pm  
18th Friday Pub Night, Eastham Memorial Hall, 7.30pm  
19th Saturday Jumper sale at Stanford Village Hall, 10am to 12 noon  
20th Sunday Tenbury YFC Big Breakfast, Eastham Memorial Hall, 9am  
25th Friday Pub Night, Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall, 7.30pm  
26th Saturday Family Bingo, Eastham Memorial Hall, 5pm  
29th Tuesday Rochford Neighbourhood Lunch, Rochford Village Hall, 12.30pm

## December

- 2nd Friday Rochford Christmas Musical Evening, Rochford Church, 7.30pm  
Christmas Pottery Painting, Eastham Memorial Hall, 5.30pm  
3rd Saturday Film Night at Hanley Village Hall, *Downton Abbey: A New Era*, 6pm  
Christmas cake decorating workshop, Eastham Memorial Hall, 12 noon  
Stanford Christmas Tree Festival, 1pm  
4th Sunday Stanford Christmas Tree Festival, 11am  
6th Tuesday AGM of Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall, 7pm  
7th Wednesday Eastham Coffee Morning, Eastham Memorial Hall, 10.30am  
8th Thursday Neighbourhood Lunch, Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall, 12.30pm  
9th Friday Christmas tree lights and Light up Eastham result, Memorial Hall, 6.30pm  
11th Sunday Rochford Christmas Lunch and Carol Service  
Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall Christmas Lunch, 1pm  
Eastham Christmas Fayre, Eastham Memorial Hall, 10am  
17th Saturday Christmas cake decorating workshop, Eastham Memorial Hall, 12 noon  
20th Tuesday Rochford Neighbourhood Lunch, Rochford Village Hall, 12.30pm  
24th Saturday Crib Service, Stanford Church, 5pm

## January

- 4th Wednesday Eastham Coffee Morning, Eastham Memorial Hall, 10.30am  
31st Tuesday Rochford Neighbourhood Lunch, Rochford Village Hall, 12.30pm

## February

- 1st Wednesday Eastham Coffee Morning, Eastham Memorial Hall, 10.30am  
28th 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](mailto:ronsmum@btconnect.com)**

# Services

## November/December 2022

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

Daily prayer continues at 9am and 7pm on Zoom, please contact 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.

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

### Services Schedule

#### Wednesday 2nd November

6.00pm Rochford All Souls Service for Teme Valley South

#### Saturday 5th November

10.00am Stoke Bliss Churchyard Forest Church

#### Sunday 6th November

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

#### Friday 11th November

11.00am Hanley William Observance of Armistice Day  
*(please arrive in good time)*

#### Sunday 13th November

10.00am Kyre Celtic Said Holy Communion  
10.50am Hanley Village Hall Parish Remembrance Service  
4.00pm Hanley Village Hall "Forget me not" Café Church with focus on dementia

#### Remembrance Sunday

#### Sunday 20th November

10.00am Eastham All Age Worship and Holy Communion  
2.00pm Walking Church  
6.30pm Worcester Cathedral Confirmation

#### Sunday 27th November

10.00am Rochford All Age Worship and Holy Communion  
4.00pm Hanley William Evening Prayer

#### Advent Sunday

#### Friday 2nd December

7.30pm Rochford Church Christmas Musical Evening

#### Stanford Christmas Tree Festival

3rd December, 1 to 7pm and 4th December, 11am to 4pm

#### Sunday 4th December

10.00am Stanford Holy Communion and Hymns  
4.00pm Stanford Christmas Tree Festival Carol Service  
with the Archdeacon of Worcester

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