

# TemerTalk

Delivered FREE to every household

November 2023



**In this issue**

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and all your parish news**

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# TemeTalk

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*A community going forward with God*

## November 2023

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

Designed and typeset by  
Sandra Griffiths  
Telephone 01568 750665  
ronsmum@icloud.com

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### Editor:

Sandra Griffiths  
Grey Gables, St Michaels  
Tenbury Wells WR15 8TW  
Telephone 01568 750665  
ronsmum@icloud.com

### Distribution:

Alison and Keith Tompsett  
(Stoke Bliss & Kyre)  
Averil Opperman  
(The Hanleys, Eastham and Rochford)  
Sue Softly (Stanford)

### Priest-in-charge

Rev Julia Curtis  
Telephone 01886 853286  
revjuliacurtis@gmail.com

### Parish website

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

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

## Dear Readers

Once more we are at the time of year when life hangs in the balance. As I write the days are still warm but it can't last long. Soon it will be time to bring in the tender plants and batten down the hatches against the cold of winter. We have celebrated our times of plenty and we shall sit out the harsher times. We make the most of what we have as we leave the sunny days behind.

As autumn comes to an end and November nights close in we sense we are teetering on the edge of life and death, the life of this world and the unknown life of the world to come. At the turn of the month we remember our loved ones at the service of All Souls and give thanks for lives well lived at All Saints. We hold our memories and embrace the moment. We look forward with confidence to new life in this world and the next.

In the dark days of mid-November on Remembrance Sunday we honour the lives of those who have died in battle and in time of war, and we pray for peace. This has happened across our land for more than a hundred years, since the end of the First World War. This year more than ever we grieve for loss wherever it lies. Together we pray for war-torn communities and for the peacemakers.

In every season we give thanks that in the Teme Valley we have the great good fortune to live in a place of peace and beauty where the land is fruitful and, when the going gets rough, we have the company of friends and neighbours, a gift beyond price.

*Rev'd Sally Jones*

This month's cover photograph of the view south west from Hanley Broadheath was taken by Tom Purchase

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## Teme Valley South Contacts

**Priest-in-charge:** Julia Curtis 01886 853286

**Assistant Curate:** Jen Jones 07749 977821

**LLM Reader:** Pete Thorp 07917 783159

**Retired clergy:** Robert Barlow, Sally Jones

### Churchwardens

**Eastham:** Celia Adams 01584 781258

**Rochford:** Ann Prosser 01584 781317

**Stoke Bliss & Kyre:**

**Hanleys:** Ed Yarnold 07930 882728

**Stanford:** Robin Dean 01886 853295

### Pastoral Team

**Stanford:** Lesley Dean 01886 853295

**Hanleys:**

**Stoke Bliss:**

**Rochford:** Ann Prosser 01584 781317

Jenny Barbé 01584 781298

**Eastham:** Mel Williams 01584 781284

**Parish Safeguarding Officer:** Sue Softly

## Village Hall Bookings

### Stoke Bliss & Kyre

Janet Powell, 01885 410598

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

**Rochford** – Ann Prosser, 01584 781317

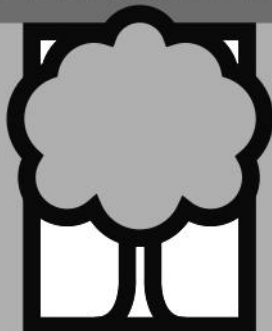
**Eastham** – Helen Matravers, 07580 158673

**Hanley** – Judy Bayliss, 01886 853813

**Stanford** – Catherine Mawby, 07831 303792

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

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# Parish news

## From the Registers

### Wedding

Our warmest congratulations to:

**Richard Hilgrove Byng Kendrick and Chloe May Evans**, married on Saturday 23rd September at St Mary's Church, Stanford.

*May they be blessed with a long and happy marriage.*

### Funerals

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

**Connie and Ron Robinson** – burial of ashes at St Peter's Church, Stoke Bliss on 1st October.

**June Rosemary Tebbs** – funeral service at St Peter and St Paul's Church, Eastham, followed by burial in the churchyard on 23rd October.

*May the souls of the departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.*

## Just the job for you?

Do you have a few hours to spare? Do you enjoy listening and organising? Then this could be just right for you! We are looking for a minutes secretary. Duties would involve sending agendas and papers before the meeting, attending our meetings (currently four or five times a year on a Saturday morning), preparing and then circulating the minutes afterwards. If you think you might be able to help please contact Rev'd Julia for a chat.

## Free workshop day

Are you interested in sustainable flower arrangements, how to provide a first-class welcome, sing for fun or read confidently in a public setting? Then book into our free workshop day on 25th November at Stoke Bliss and Kyre village hall. We have a great set of speakers and aim to have fun as we brush up our skills. Lunch provided. Afterwards you may like to offer to help in one of our churches, but this is not compulsory!

Contact [assistanttvspcc@gmail.com](mailto:assistanttvspcc@gmail.com) to book.



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## Music in TVS

I'm delighted that Chloe Kenrick will start with us this month as director of music. She will be leading one of the workshop sessions on 25th November and starting to prepare for Christmas. In the light of this the national church theme for Christmas of 'follow the Star – join the song' seems very appropriate.

## Travelling cribs or posadas

This December the 'holy family' in knitted form will be travelling around Teme Valley South. See page 18 for details of how you can sign up to host them for a night.

## Bible study

Our Bible study group continues to delve into the book of Revelation, meeting on Friday mornings. We will run our Advent group which will start on 1st December. Do get in touch with Rev'd Julia if you would like to join us.

## Teme Valley Tots

Sessions continue in Rochford village hall during November on Fridays from 10.30am to 12 noon except half term, 3rd November. All are very welcome.

*Rev'd Julia*

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# Rochford 49 Club

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

## Wednesday winners

20th September No 50 Not sold  
27th September No 28 Carol Rubery  
4th October No 46 Carolyn O'Hagan  
11th October No 58 Not sold

## Saturday winners

23rd September No 13 Robin Dean  
30th September No 52 Not sold  
7th October No 26 Carole Powell  
14th October No 48 Not sold

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

Remember, you must be in it to win it!  
Ring Gill Smith on  
**07815 030050**

## TemeTalk

deadline 18th November  
ronsmum@icloud.com  
or 01568 750665

# Teme Valley Tote

October's draw, the seventh in this series, was decided when Rev'd Julia Curtis rolled the dice on 1st October to select the set of random numbers. Prizewinners are:

£50 – **W R Austin** of Lindridge (No 191)  
£30 – **Family Burgoyne** of Stanford (No 501)  
£20 – **Michael Gwilt** of Stoke Bliss (No 868)

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

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# TEME VALLEY TOTS!



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## Santa's Magical History Tour

Start your Christmas festivities in Rochford on **Saturday 2nd December** with this professional Santa experience with a difference. Professional actors bring their touring **Santa's Magical History Experience** to Rochford village hall with a range of activities for all ages. The experience is designed by elves with families in mind – activities, stories and games specially created to bring the whole family together. Even the teenagers will have fun!

The day starts at 11am when toddlers' favourite Farmer Christmas and Thursday the Elf invite the under-fives and their families for songs, stories, puppets and Christmas wishes around the magic wish tree. The cost is £5 (babes in arms and registered carers free).

In the afternoon, **Santa's Magical History Tour** is a festive experience for all the family (children, parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles and god-parents). Father Christmas invites you all to Rochford village hall for a magical history tour that will blow your woolly socks off.

Solve riddles and discover tales of Christmas history with Thursday the Elf. Pit your family's wits and skills together in "What the Dickens?" – a game show for all generations hosted by Mr Charles Dickens. Your family will spend some quality time with Father Christmas who will help you make your own wrapping paper and place an extra special wish on the Magic Wish Tree. All visitors will receive a specially commissioned story-book from Father Christmas.

Time slots are **2pm, 3pm and 4pm** – numbers are limited for each time slot to ensure that everyone has time to enjoy each part of the trail and there is little or no queuing.

**Tickets £10, early bird (book before 30th November) £8, family (up to six people) £40.**

Enter the village hall after dark for **Chilling Tales for Christmas**, a lantern-lit evening of spooky tales and a Yuletide tippie. Reignite the old tradition of gathering to share ghost stories with host Charles Dickens, mixologist Thursday and renowned storyteller Jacob Cracker (deceased). An interactive evening of chilling tales for Christmas and New Year served with a festive twist. Suitable for ages 11 and over.

**Tickets £10, early bird (book before 30th November) £8, family (up to five people) £40.**

To book for all events contact Emma on 07712 098677. Online booking available via the QR code on page 14 (booking fee applies).

## Harvest Festival

Over 30 of us sat down for a delicious supper with wine on 8th October; so good to get together and enjoy the company of friends and neighbours. Many thanks to Ann for a delicious supper. Thanks to everyone who came and to everyone who generously donated gifts for Tenbury Food Bank, they really will be much appreciated.

## Rochford Quiz

On Friday 10th November at 7.30pm at Rochford village hall – for full details see page 14.

## Neighbourhood lunch

Neighbourhood lunches are back! All welcome to enjoy a sit down or takeaway two-course lunch plus tea/coffee for just £6 on 28th November and 19th December (Christmas lunch). 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.

## Church services

3rd November – Memorial Service for Dave Hughes at 2pm

12th November – Remembrance Service, 10.50am at Kyre church.

## Christmas in Rochford

Our **Christmas lunch** is on Sunday 10th December at 12.30pm at Rochford village hall. A great start to the festivities with a three-course lunch, wine and crackers. This is always popular so please book early to avoid disappointment. £15 per head, under 12s half price, under 5s free.

After lunch, **Rochford carol service** is at 3.30pm in our beautiful church decorated for Christmas. Come along, have lunch in the village hall and then sing well-known carols.

We greet Christmas with a **Midnight Christmas service** at 11.30pm on 24th December.

**Wassailing Café Church** is on 31st December starting at 9.30am in the village hall with bacon rolls and mulled cider, followed by wassailing in the orchard at Parsonage Farm.

## Church flower rota for November

Jennifer Gledhill, thank you!

Contacts: Ann on 01584 781317

Andrew on 07809 658484 or through the parish WhatsApp group

# Stoke Bliss and Kyre

## Step into Past 2023

Thank you all for the donations at the Step into the Past Day on 7th October that put more tiles on the roof of Stoke Bliss church. Together we raised £150, which was excellent from a small gathering, as were the cakes and conversation. Many thanks to all who helped on the day and those who came.

## Social & Pub Night

Friday 24th November

Friday 29th December

Bar opens at 7, supper served at 8pm

Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall

Supper £5 (optional), dessert £2.50 (optional)

Reserve your meal with Julia on

[sbkvillagehall@gmail.com](mailto:sbkvillagehall@gmail.com) or 01885 410368

## Neighbourhood Lunch



Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall

Thursday 9th November

Thursday 14th December

Welcome at 12.30pm

Telephone 01885 410641 or email

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## Kyre church cleaning

Come along to St Mary's Kyre on Saturday 4th November – church and churchyard from 10.30am to 12.30pm and from 1.30 to 3.30pm. The main task is polishing the floors and finishing off the outside wood oiling, the inside polishing is complete! Tea and cakes.

## White poppies for peace

As usual white poppies will be available from Kyre church (open daily) so please wear yours with pride to remember all who were and are affected by war and those who strive for peaceful reconciliation. Wear yours alongside your red poppy or on its own. Leaflets about the work of the peace groups are alongside the poppies.

*Maggie Kingston*

## Christmas Art and Craft Fair

St Michael's Church, Oldwood Road

Tenbury Wells

Saturday 18th November, 10am to 4pm

Free entry

Tea and coffee and cake

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# Eastham Jottings

## Church flowers and cleaning

November – Diana Potter  
December – Team effort

## Eastham Coffee Morning

Please come to the November Coffee Morning on 1st November at 10am, hosted by Stella and Tony Wood. The Christmas Coffee Morning will be on 6th December at 10.30, a team effort with mulled wine, mince pies and a Christmas raffle. Make a date for both: in November the normal meet and chat with a small Christmas stall (Christmas cards etc) and in December a festive morning – everyone welcome, please come along to meet friends old and new.

Thanks to everyone for supporting the October Macmillan Coffee morning which raised £550 for Macmillan. Special congratulations to Sylvia Breakwell who won the “Guess the faces” quiz, Barbara Harper who won the tea bag hurling competition and Keith Epton who won this year’s Macmillan quiz after a tie breaker! All were awarded Macmillan mugs sponsored by the Memorial Hall.

## Eastham Pub Night

Come along for a drink and a catch up on Friday 17th November at 7pm at Eastham Memorial Hall. Everyone welcome. Look out for the usual banner.

## Poppies

The tray of poppies will be in the Memorial Hall. Please buy your poppies here.

## Pumpkinfest at Harvest Festival

Congratulations to winners Colin and Tina Lord on their amazing heaviest pumpkin weighing in at 43.12 lb (19.56 kgs) at the Harvest Festival on Sunday 15th October at St Peter and St Paul’s church. The runner up was David Clarke – well done for wonderful entries. The display of vegetables competition was won by the Eastham Allotment Scheme (Temework Ltd). Many thanks to Nicky Webb for organising the Pumpkinfest. All the donated vegetables and fruit including the winning pumpkin were delivered to Maggs Day Centre in Deansway, Worcester to be made into many bowls of pumpkin soup for the homeless. The collection at the Harvest Festival was sent to Tenbury Food Bank along with a donation from St Peter and St Paul’s church.

## Autumn clean

Thanks to everyone who came along on Saturday 21st October to help tidy and set the churchyard up for the autumn/winter, and to those cleaning the inside of the church.

## Eastham Memorial Hall open evening

All village hall committees and trustees are invited to an evening at Eastham Memorial Hall on Thursday 2nd November at 7pm. The bar will be open and representatives from halls in a 10-mile radius and beyond are invited to hear the details of the new hall, meet and compare notes with other “halleries.” Richard Timney of Community First will be updating on new initiatives. See Richard’s new Facebook page for all halls in Worcestershire and Herefordshire – Community First H&W-Village Hall Group.

To register for the “halleries” evening please email [easthamcourt@icloud.com](mailto:easthamcourt@icloud.com) or ring Celia Adams on 01584 781258.

## Ludlow Male Voice Choir

Get ready for Christmas with seasonal songs from Ludlow Male Voice Choir on Saturday 16th December from 7 to 9.30pm at Eastham Memorial Hall. See full details on page 16.

## Christmas decoration workshop

Come along to Eastham Memorial Hall on Monday 27th November at 6.30pm and learn how to make a table or door decoration with Georgina Painter Black. All materials are provided and you take home your creation at the end. What more could you want from an evening? Places are limited so make sure you book early to avoid missing out. Glass of wine and nibbles included.

£25 per person with £5 donated to the Air Ambulance. Please contact Celia Adams on 01584 781258 or email [easthamcourt@icloud.com](mailto:easthamcourt@icloud.com).

## Activities at Eastham Memorial Hall

- Pilates, contact Sue on 07974 343609, [sue579@icloud.com](mailto:sue579@icloud.com) for details or a taster session. Tuesdays at 1pm and 2.15pm.
- Yoga, ring Zoe on 07962 981456 or see [www.zedyoga.co.uk](http://www.zedyoga.co.uk). Wednesdays at 10am. Taster sessions available.
- Zumba Gold, Lucia on 07709 301030, [lu.500@live.co.uk](mailto:lu.500@live.co.uk). 12 noon, just turn up.
- Kung Fu, Adam on 07720 643524, for youngsters on Saturdays at 9.30am.

*Celia Adams*

# Hanley Happenings

## It's a small world

How far do we have to travel away from the Hanleys before we don't bump into our neighbours? At Inverewe gardens in the highlands of Scotland I heard my name and lo and behold, Robert Barlow and his wife were there enjoying one of Scotland's special places! How bizarre!

## A Night at the Races

Thanks to everyone who came to Lex's Night at the Races on 6th October. A great evening was had by all! We raised a grand total of £714.90 which includes a donation of £250 to the MND Association.

## Sale of children's toys

Sarah and Lex worked extremely hard last month to raise funds for our village hall and a nominated charity. Sarah's sale of children's clothes and toys at the village hall was a success despite having only a few visitors, excellent bargains were available and Sarah took £126.64 (plus a euro cent, an Australian five pence coin and a 1966 threepenny bit!) to bolster village hall funds.

Julia read a bedtime story for the children who then ate a healthy supper whilst their mums enjoyed tea and cake and took the opportunity to have some "me time". A most enjoyable afternoon!

## Christmas Bingo

There will be Family Christmas Bingo on Saturday 16th December at 3pm at Hanley village hall. Hamper prizes, raffle, tea and cake.

*Carole Gardner*

## Christmas Gathering

There will be a Christmas Gathering at Hanley village hall on Saturday 2nd December with hot refreshments, cake and mince pies. There will be homemade chutneys and jams for sale. If you would like a display or stall, please get in touch.

## Nativity

Hanley Child's Nativity Service is on Saturday 17th December. This is always a magical service with the children dressing up and laughing throughout and maybe even a real animal or two, followed by mince pies and a drink.

## Hanley Village Hall

Would you like to hold an event at the hall? Perhaps for a charity that is close to your heart, or maybe you have an amazing talent that you would like to share. Please get in touch and the village hall committee will support you.

*Sarah Geggie*  
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# Stanford • Stanford • Stanford

## Services in Stanford

### Sunday 5th November

Holy Communion with hymns at 10am

Praise Service at 4pm

### Sunday 3rd December

Said Holy Communion at 8.30am

Carol singing at 4pm as part of Stanford Church

Christmas Tree Festival

## Remembrance tide

Poppies will be available from the usual outlets until Remembrance Sunday, 12th November. There will be a joint TVS Remembrance Service at Kyre Church at 10.50am on 12th November.

## Sale of sweaters

The sale of sweaters in Stanford Village Hall will be on 18th November from 9am to midday. This is your opportunity to buy high quality knitwear for your nearest and dearest and for yourself in time for Christmas. Refreshments will be served.

## Christmas Tree Festival

Full details of this year's festival are on page 14.

## Whist Drive

There will be a Whist Drive at Stanford with Orleton village hall at 7.30pm on 21st November.

## Future events

This year there will be a Carol Service at 7pm on Christmas Eve. Sorry to disappoint all those looking forward to our usual Crib Service or a Chocolate Nativity or a Zoom broadcast from the Bethlehem Broadcasting Corporation.

We are still planning to have 40 for 40 and a Wine Tasting, probably after Christmas. If you have any other ideas for events, please let me know.

## 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.

## Tenbury Food Bank

The box in the lobby at St Mary's continues to be used – thank you to all who have contributed. Please keep your donations coming over the next few months especially with Christmas coming!

## Harvest Festival

On 1st October the church was beautifully decorated by Tina Lane with produce from Anton and Liz Sparey – thanks to both.

We started the day with a said communion at 8.30am. Unfortunately Julia had covid and was unable to attend so Jen Jones took the service (her first since her ordination as a deacon) and we were lucky to have Sally Jones to perform the communion – thanks to both of them. At 11am the Harvest Festival service was taken by Jen Jones and Pete Thorp. Milada Tarka played the organ for us. We were invited to bring non-perishable items to be donated to the Tenbury Food Bank – at the end of the service the Food Bank box was full!

During the service Nabil Jamous, Chairman of the Trustees of Farmers Overseas Action Group (FOAG) explained their work in Uganda – Robin explained the FOAG Summer Appeal which is Send a Silo to Save a Harvest (this is an appeal to purchase steel silos to store their harvest – they are appealing for £133 which will part purchase a silo with the farmer in Uganda paying 40% to show their commitment. At the end of the service there was a collection for FOAG both on the plate and using FOAG's credit card machine. Several members of the congregation contributed the full £133 – thanks to them and overall FOAG received almost £400 in donations for the appeal. After the service people were asked to help themselves to the fruit and vegetables and leave a donation in the collection box.

## 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!

Still no volunteers!

*Robin Dean*

**TemeTalk deadline 18th November**

## Rock Bridge Club

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at Rock Village Hall  
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# Pilgrimage from Teme Valley South to the Isle of Iona

After two years of planning, nine intrepid pilgrims and our four canine companions headed north in September to find the remote island of Iona. Some had been before, but for most of us it was a venture into the unknown. We travelled in a few small groups, some stopping at Tebay services overnight to break the journey. For John and me, wild geese flew



trundled onto the ferry ... we were a long way from our hop-filled valley of home, but excited for our time on Iona.

overhead and glorious rainbows charted our route which took us nearly two days from Hanley. The weather was calm and mild and there were folks paddling in the gently lapping waters of Loch Lomond as we enjoyed a rest and a wander before heading to Oban to catch our car ferry across to Mull.

Our pilgrims' What'sApp group started pinging ferociously the next day as we all drew closer to the foot ferry at a very busy Fionnphort on Mull. Having separately navigated an hour and a half of single-track road across Mull, and blessed with continued balmy weather, we had already feasted on beautiful mountain and sea views. And so we met up with cases in tow, over 1400 years after St Columba and his Irish monks landed on Iona bringing Celtic Christianity to the island. Together we

There was a bit of a Father Ted moment when one of our group realised that they could easily see Iona Abbey and the scattered settlement of dwellings across the water from Fionnphort. Exclaiming 'the Abbey is smaller than I expected', our teasing response was '... that's because it's a long way away! It'll be bigger when we get closer to it'. Joking apart, the tiny island (three miles long by a mile wide) did not disappoint. The seas were aqua blue and clear and the atmosphere very special. As pilgrims we were on the island for three nights and stayed in a hotel just next to the Abbey. We ate breakfast and dinner together and as we relaxed in each other's company the conversation and laughter flowed easily.

We joined in community worship in the Abbey for morning prayer at 9am and their evening service at 9pm, where the worship was varied with powerful, meaningful and engaging language. The first night as we left the Abbey we could see the Milky Way clearly and there seemed to be three times as

*Continued on page 12*

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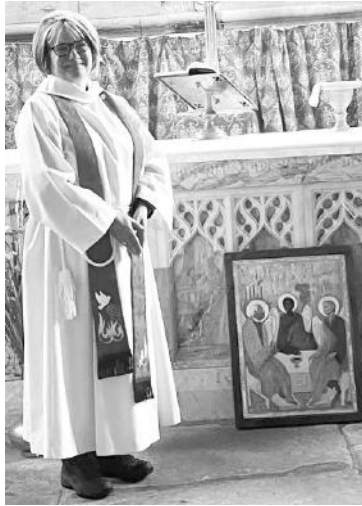
Continued from page 11

many stars visible as back home. That night was also the first spectacular show of the aurora borealis of the autumn. Our day times were flexible but offered two creative workshops in the wonderful community hall, a boat trip to Staffa, walks and an island pilgrimage. Most of the time the weather was good, but it poured with rain for the pilgrimage so we took shelter where we could and all ended up soaked. What's a pilgrimage without some hardship!

I shall always remember the wildlife, the landscape, the ecumenical community based in the Abbey and the inspiring singing there. Music seemed to flow out of the very rocks. My highlight however was sharing in communion with our group as I presided at the vast marble altar in the Abbey. Historic Scotland and the community member who was sacristan couldn't have been more helpful. The sacristan was staying as part of the Abbey community for three months and home for her was the Blue Mountains just outside Sydney, a place I knew well from my time down under. As we chatted the miles melted away and we were two Christians sharing in the joy of being

in such a special place.

I'm left pondering. Why Iona? What is so special about that place? It is very hard to put into words but is a combination of its history as the burial place of St Columba in 597CE and at least six Kings of Scotland. Also, the centuries of prayer and pilgrimage from across denominations, which contribute to it being without doubt a 'thin place' – a place where heaven seems to draw close to earth, where things seemed somehow less separated and disconnected. The quality and depth of rest I found there was immediate and that feeling has stayed with me. I think Iona's location as a liminal isle off the edge of a larger island contributes to its unique atmosphere which is important. As are the pristine waters and wonderful wildlife, including



dolphins, sea otters, whales, sea birds and corn-crakes. Finally, the presence of the Iona Community, founded in 1938 by George MacLeod, makes a noticeable difference as they welcome pilgrims and visitors so completely. As we left on the Friday morning ferry, guests and members of the community were leaving too and those who stayed lined the jetty, waving goodbye with a series of Mexican waves. We all felt their warmth travelling through the air and sending everyone on their way with love.

I shall remember our pilgrimage for many years to come. We all left changed for ever; going as individuals and leaving as a group, having shared a unique experience. I look forward to seeing the fruit our Iona pilgrimage bears over the next few months and hope that we pilgrims can bring something of Iona to our lives here.

*Rev'd Julia*

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2 to 4pm

at Hanley Village Hall

Tea, coffee, hot chocolate and cake

Children's activities

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## Family Christmas



Saturday 16th December at 3pm

at Hanley Village Hall

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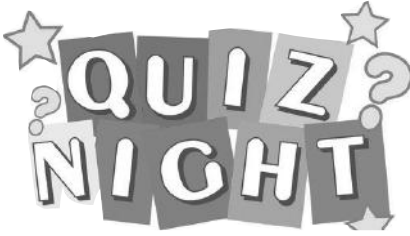
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## Christmas Lunch

**Sunday 10th December, 1pm**

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**£17.50 per person, under 12s £10**

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## Santa's Magical History Tour

**Saturday 2nd December**  
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A festive experience for all the family with riddles and tales of Christmas history, a game show for all ages hosted by Mr Charles Dickens and quality time with Father Christmas

**2pm, 3pm and 4pm**

(Numbers limited for each time slot so that everyone has time to enjoy each part of the trail)  
**Tickets £10, family (up to six people) £40**  
**early bird (book before 30th November) £8**

### Chilling Tales for Christmas

After dark, spooky tales and Yuletide tittle with host Charles Dickens, mixologist Thursday and renowned storyteller Jacob Cracker (deceased)  
Ages 11 and over

**Tickets £10, family (up to five people) £40**  
**early bird (book before 30th November) £8**

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## Our new curate



*Many congratulations to Rev'd Jen Jones on her recent ordination. Jen will be our curate in Teme Valley South – may she flourish in her ministry with us. Jen writes:*

*"A huge thank you to everyone who came to Worcester Cathedral on 24th September for the Michaelmas ordinations. I was and am still overwhelmed by the cards, generous gifts and support given by you all.*

*I look forward to ministering in Teme Valley South as assistant curate to Rev'd Julia Curtis and to opportunities to meet with many of you over the coming weeks and months."*

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*Chloe May Kenrick, TVS Director of Music*

## TemeTalk

The next issue of TemeTalk will be a joint **December/January** issue, so please let us have details of any events in January 2024 that you would like to be included **before the deadline of 18th November**.

The following issue will be February 2024 and the deadline will be **18th January**.

## JAB Carpentry & Building Repairs

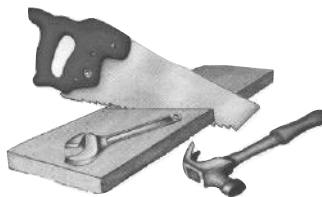
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# Films at Hanley Village Hall

Saturday 4th November, 7.30pm  
**Little Miss Sunshine**



A family decides to travel across the country when their daughter wants to participate in a beauty pageant, unaware of what the journey has in store for them.

**Stars Greg Kinnear, Steve Carell, Toni Collette Paul Dano, Alan Arkin and Abigail Breslin**  
Directors Jonathan Dayton, Valerie Faris

£6 per person to include a glass of wine

## Still scary, after all these years

Who would have thought Bruce the shark could affect an audience 49 years after he first swam into a film shot? *Jaws*, with its iconic music, was entertaining and frightening, the tension increasing with every scene.

The audience at Hanley village hall enjoyed a superb 1970s themed dinner prior to the showing of the film. Sue produced a tasty shepherdess pie, with a second choice of carrot loaf. Trace cooked a very tender boeuf bourguignon from beef reared at Court Farm (available to buy from Sarah Geggie). The second meat choice was chicken cooked Hawaiian style with pineapple. Puddings were Angel Delight, Barb's world-famous marsala trifle, lemon meringues or creme caramel, a real 1970s pudding!

Thanks to the audience for their support. Don't miss *Little Miss Sunshine* (see left).

Our first film of 2024 will be *My Week with Marilyn* on Saturday 24th February at 6pm, to include pheasant pie and a vegetarian option, £15 per person. Please book with Trace 07972 183164.

Please note our new email address  
[ronsmum@icloud.com](mailto:ronsmum@icloud.com)

WRITTEN BY **ANDREW POLLARD**      DIRECTOR **CHRIS GARNER**      SET & COSTUME DESIGNER **SUE CONDIE**

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# Posada 2023



Posada (Spanish for inn or lodging) is a religious festival celebrated in Mexico which commemorates the journey Joseph and Mary made from Nazareth to Bethlehem in search of a safe place to stay where Mary could give birth to Jesus.

Our posada will begin its journey on Sunday 3rd December at St Mary's Church, Stanford. The knitted 'holy family' will stay there during the Christmas tree festival. The family's journey will be complete when it arrives in Rochford on Christmas Eve at the Midnight Mass service.

Posada is a chance to host Mary and Joseph – to make room for Jesus at Christmas! We are looking for volunteers from Teme Valley South to host the posada overnight – welcoming the holy family into our homes as it travels to each of our churches for a Sunday service during Advent.

If you would like to know more or if you would be willing to host the family, please contact Maggie Kingston, [mdk46@phonecoop.coop](mailto:mdk46@phonecoop.coop).

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### Mill Farm Christmas Market

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## Dave Hughes

It is with heartfelt thanks to everyone who knew my husband Dave Hughes, whose funeral was held in Birmingham last month, that I let you know that over £800 was raised for the Brain Tumour Charity. The love, best wishes, sympathy and support that I and the family have received from you all has been overwhelming in its generosity. Thank you all so much for the cards, the letters and other messages of kindness and compassion that you have sent. Apologies for not replying to each of you personally but please rest assured that your kindness was invaluable during the dark days of Dave's short illness and death.

There will be a memorial service for Dave at Rochford Church on 3rd November at 2pm and you are all extremely welcome. Your continued support and kindness is making a real difference to me and to the family as we adjust to dealing with the big space in our lives that Dave's death has left.

It is with great joy though that we continue to celebrate Dave's faith in Christ and the knowledge that he now rests with his redeemer, Lord and friend.

With much love and thanks to you all for your kindness and love,

*Jackie Hughes and family*

**TemeTalk deadline 18th November**



*Richard Haines*

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# Climate change – how will it affect the UK?

As we saw in last month's TemeTalk, climate change due to human activity has already raised the average temperature of the planet by over 1 degree. As we will discuss next month, international efforts are under way to limit climate change by reducing our burning of fossil fuels. However, it seems likely that the temperature will continue to rise by at least a further degree. This is expected to have very serious consequences, especially in hot countries which may become virtually uninhabitable, but what impact is this likely to have on us here in the UK?

As an island with a rather mild, wet climate, the main direct impacts of climate change are expected to be from storms, excessive rainfall and sea level rise. Mean sea level around the UK has already risen over 15 cm since 1900 and this rise is accelerating due to melting of the Greenland and Antarctic ice-caps and expansion of ocean water as its temperature rises. Assuming (rather optimistically) that global warming is held to 2 degrees, the plot on the right shows areas of England where homes are expected to be affected by coastal flooding by 2050. In total, around 200,000 homes could be lost. The process has already started – Happisburgh in Norfolk and Fairbourne in Gwynedd are being progressively evacuated as they fall into the sea. Many of the UK's great cities lie on river estuaries and will be threatened. London is protected by the Thames Barrier, which is raised when river water and high tides threaten to overtop embankments. The barrier is now closed about twice as often as when it was first constructed and will probably need to be replaced

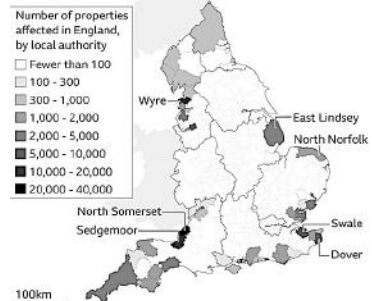
by 2070.

River flooding is also expected to increase as the weather becomes increasingly stormy and unstable, and at the other extreme heatwaves and droughts will become more common and more extreme. Temperatures over 40 degrees were reached in the UK for the first time in 2022 and a record number of 30 wildfires were recorded.

Finally, the pressures caused by mass migration are sure to grow as climate change makes whole areas of the world inhospitable due to heat, drought and flooding. The UNHCR estimates that over 100 million people were displaced for the first time in 2022, and major international bodies have estimated that by 2050 there could be a billion people per year on the move.

*Trevor Ponman*

## Properties at risk of flooding from sea level rises (by 2050) assuming 2C global temperature rise by 2100



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# Lest we forget

Paul and Cathie Tiffany live at The Lodge in Kyre; a house rich in history. From the late 19th century, it served as Kyre Post Office under its postmaster George Stead. George and Mary Stead's first-born child, Emmeline, died in infancy and is buried in Kyre churchyard. They had four more children: Arthur, Gertrude, Richard and George.

When World War 1 broke out, Arthur was working in a reserved occupation on the railways. Richard, who had joined the Royal Welch Fusiliers in 1911, was already a lance corporal. George joined the 9th Sherwood Foresters, Notts and Derby Regiment.

By early August 1915, Richard and George were dead. Richard was killed in the battle for La Neuve Chapelle on 26th October 1914, aged 26. He is buried at the Pont du Hem Cemetery in northern France. This battle was one of the very first engagements of the war. Richard would have fought alongside Indian troops to secure a frontline during the 'Race to the Sea'.

George was just 23 when he was killed on the 9th or 10th August 1915 at Suvla Bay, the Dardanelles. His body was never recovered but his name is recorded on The Helles Memorial.

In March of this year, Paul and Cathie visited Richard's grave, now a peaceful spot in an immaculately maintained Commonwealth War Graves Commission cemetery. Since moving to the Lodge,



*L/Cpl Richard Stead*

they have felt a strong connection with the Stead family: standing in the spot where Richard is laid to rest was a particularly poignant experience.

George sent a postcard to his brother Arthur on 1st June 1915 from an army camp at Farnham, Surrey. He writes excitedly about marching past the King who was inspecting the troops before their departure for Turkey. George kept a diary right up until the day he was killed. His last entry reads: "Early morning my mate who generally made tea with me killed – bullet between the eyes." George's

matter-of-fact tone reveals how, after only a few weeks, he had become resigned to the likely outcome of his own situation.

In September Robert Stead, the grandson of Richard and George's older brother Arthur, visited The Lodge. He was researching his family history in the local area. Paul and Cathie were able to exchange information about the Stead family's connection with The Lodge. Welcoming a member of the Stead family to their home was a great privilege – a fitting tribute to the bravery of the two brothers.

A Remembrance Sunday service will be held in St Mary's Church, Kyre on Sunday 12th November at 10.50am. Richard and George's sacrifice is recorded on a memorial plaque inside the church and on the family tombstone by the gate.

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## Can You Help?

Shortly before he died, my friend John Lane of Stanford, a much respected man and keen local historian, sent me some historic documents he had regarding Eastham parish.

One of those was to do with earthworks on the land close to my house and this has led me to believe that it may well be a burial site of the Black Death of 1348-9 and also the site of a holy thorn tree, which I remember from my childhood but which fell down over 70 years ago in the severe winter of 1947.

If you know anything about these two subjects, I would be very glad to hear from you and to share the information I already have. Please contact me on 01584 781521.

*David Spilsbury*

## The Filling Station

Our next meeting is on Thursday 16th November at Eastham Memorial Hall at 7.15 for a 7.30pm start when Rev'd Robert Barlow will be speaking to us. Robert is now retired but still serves within the churches in Teme Valley South. He was previously priest-in-charge of Teme Valley South, formerly held the post of Agricultural and Rural Chaplain in this area and spent time as interim rector of Dudley.

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

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# Teme Valley Wildlife

Visiting parks and gardens is a great way to get some fresh air, enjoy open spaces and look out for wildlife. The National Open Garden Scheme promotes lots of local gardens, many of which also offer tea and cake, always a winning combination. I make sure to drop in at Tenbury Tourist Information Centre early each year and pick up brochures for our three counties of Worcestershire, Shropshire and Herefordshire. Some communities operate outside the scheme and do their own advertising, so I keep an eye out for those too. I shall for ever be grateful to the people of St Michael's who threw open their gardens at the earliest opportunity after lock-down. I found it such a relief to return to normality and the day was made even more memorable by a flypast from the Red Arrows.

This year is no different and so far I have visited a Neen Sollars garden showcasing an arboretum planted up a vertiginous slope, a formal garden along the Ledwyche Brook hosting carpets of bluebells and gorgeous cherry blossom and an organic garden in Stoke Lacy decked in an extrav-



aganza of autumn colour. All the gardens worked with nature, all embraced water, either in ponds or streams, and all were home to insects and birds who busied themselves amongst the flowers and trees.

I also went to two larger sites, the National Trust's Croome Park and privately-owned Spetchley Park. At Croome, the landscape of a formal estate is slowly being brought back to life after many decades of neglect. Capability Brown spent years advising on the huge groundworks that gave the Earl of Coventry rolling acres, a serpentine lake and eye-catching follies on distant hills. But what caught my eye was a host of dragonflies making the most of a sunny day on the water. It was particularly exciting to spot red-eyed damselflies, a species I hadn't seen before, and a huge number of ruddy darters. The latter are bright red and highly conspicuous against green vegetation. Also on the wing were azure damselflies and emperor and brown hawker dragonflies.

Spetchley gardens were different again. Here

*Continued on page 24*

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a design enhanced by Ellen Willmott, a famous Edwardian designer, has an abundance of rare plants and trees. A deer park and large lake flank the formal garden with its greenhouses, walled garden and vine house. I was surprised to see a great variety of waterbirds on the lake. Geese, grebes,

coots, ducks, swans and swooping swallows all seemed to be getting along famously, ducking and diving into the calm expanse of water.

Despite passing the familiar brown tourist signs for Spetchley on many past occasions, I had failed to follow them during my nearly thirty years' residence in Worcestershire. However, I shall certainly visit again, especially since learning that it is home to a unique plant, the Spetchley daffodil. But I wasn't the only person to take my time to visit. In the tea-room I bumped into a neighbour who, like me, was enjoying a first visit there. Length of residence in the county? More than fifty years.

The next meeting of the Teme Valley Wildlife Group will be at Stoke Bliss and Kyre Village Hall on Thursday 10th November at 7.30pm. Our speakers will be Suzanne and Jake Tumnus whose talk is called "Mistletoe, the Facts and the Folklore". Everyone is most welcome, and it is just £2 on the door.

*Stephanie Microft*

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

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## Art classes at Hanley

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

## Table tennis at Hanley

If you would like to join in the fun  
come along to Hanley Village Hall  
on Monday evenings at 7pm.  
Bats and balls are provided, your first taster  
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# What's on in Teme Valley South

## November

- 1st Wednesday Eastham Coffee Morning, Eastham Memorial Hall, 10.30am  
2nd Thursday Eastham Memorial Hall open evening, 7pm  
4th Saturday Film Night at Hanley Village Hall, *Little Miss Sunshine*, 7.30pm  
9th Thursday Neighbourhood Lunch, Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall, 12.30pm  
10th Friday Rochford Quiz with supper, Rochford Village Hall, 7.30pm  
12th Sunday Service of Remembrance, St Mary's Kyre, 10.50am  
16th Thursday The Filling Station, Eastham Memorial Hall, 7.15pm  
17th Friday Pub Night, Eastham Memorial Hall, 7pm  
18th Saturday Sweater Sale, Stanford Village Hall, 9am to midday  
Christmas Art and Craft Fair, St Michael's Church, 10am  
21st Tuesday Whist Drive, Stanford Village Hall, 7.30pm  
24th Friday Social and Pub Night, Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall, 7pm  
25th Saturday Enhancing Worship, Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall, 9.30am  
28th Tuesday Rochford Neighbourhood Lunch, Rochford Village Hall, 12.30pm

## December

- 2nd Saturday Santa's Magical History Tour, Rochford Village Hall, from 11am  
Christmas Gathering, Hanley Village Hall, 2 to 4pm  
Stanford Christmas Tree Festival, 1pm to 7pm  
3rd Sunday Stanford Christmas Tree Festival, 11am to 4pm  
6th Wednesday Eastham Coffee Morning, Eastham Memorial Hall, 10.30am  
10th Sunday Christmas Lunch, Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall, 1pm  
10th Sunday Christmas Lunch, Rochford Village Hall, 12.30pm  
followed by Carol Service, 3.30pm  
14th Thursday Neighbourhood Lunch, Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall, 12.30pm  
15th Friday Pub Night, Eastham Memorial Hall, 7pm  
16th Saturday Ludlow Male Voice Choir, Eastham Memorial Hall, 7pm  
Christmas Family Bingo, Hanley Village Hall, 3pm  
19th Tuesday Rochford Christmas Neighbourhood Lunch, Rochford Village Hall, 12.30pm  
29th Friday Social and Pub Night, Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall, 7pm

## January

- 4th Wednesday Eastham Coffee Morning, Eastham Memorial Hall, 10.30am  
19th Friday Pub Night, Eastham Memorial Hall, 7pm

## February

- 4th Sunday YFC Carvery Lunch, Eastham Memorial Hall  
24th Saturday Film Night at Hanley Village Hall, *My Week with Marilyn*, 6pm

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

# Services

## November/December 2023

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

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

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

### Services Schedule

#### Sunday 5th November

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

#### Saturday 11th November

11.00am	Hanley William	Observance of Armistice Day
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#### Sunday 12th November

9.30am	Stoke Bliss	<b>Remembrance Sunday</b> Holy Communion
10.50am	Kyre	Service of Remembrance
4.00pm	Hanley Village Hall	Café Church

#### Sunday 19th November

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

#### Saturday 25th November

9.30am to 4pm	Stoke Bliss & Kyre VH	Enhancing worship workshop
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#### Sunday 26th November

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

#### Sunday 3rd December

8.30am	Stanford	<b>Advent Sunday</b> Said Holy Communion
4.00pm	Stanford	Carol Service with Posada Commissioning

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