

TemerTalk



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September 2020

In this month's issue

**Pandemic dreams • Live 8 adventures
A new hall for Eastham • A new curate
and all your parish news**

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TemeTalk

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A community going forward with God

September 2020

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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 Villagers

As I write, we are experiencing further effects of the Covid pandemic, with the country's young people caught up in controversy over the grading for 'A' levels, BTECs and GCSEs. Overnight there has been a U-turn on policy and many will see grade changes. Sadly, this comes too late for some who have lost the chance of a hoped-for place on their course of choice. As a parent, I remember well the stress that this time of year brings! My heart goes out to those affected.

However, we don't all learn in the same way, or have passion for the same subject. Knowledge of the countryside, practical skills and creative gifts are all as important as 'book-learning'. We can develop Christian faith both by study and by practical service – learning as we 'do'. Indeed, the first disciples were a mixture of fishermen (eg Peter) and highly trained scholars (eg Paul). God calls both to follow him and to lead others in faith.

Personally, education has always been very important, and I too plan to start a course of study this September. Learning is a source of delight to me and through the ages has brought freedom to many. As a woman I do not take for granted access to university and an education that was denied my grandmothers, because they needed to work to bring income into their parent's households.

In September, a new school year begins and higher education centres start to welcome new cohorts after many months of disruption. Let us remember our young people and encourage them to make the most of the learning opportunities they have. Let us also remember, as a 92-year old once told me, 'you are never too old to learn', so I wonder what each of us might be able to discover in the coming weeks and months?

Rev'd Julia

Mr R F Forsyth and Miss G G A Engels

The engagement is announced between Robert, son of Mr and Mrs John Forsyth of Rochford, Tenbury Wells, Worcestershire and Gabriele, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Karl Engels of Troisdorf, Germany.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Georgia Stallard from Hanley Broadheath for achieving a fantastic A*A*A in her A Levels at Hereford Sixth Form College. Georgia has decided to take a gap year to concentrate on earning some money before studying history at Durham University in 2021. Well done Georgia.

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Reader: Pete Thorp 07917 783159

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Jennifer Gledhill 01584 812500

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Parish news

Churchyard etiquette

Etiquette is a word that tends not to crop up much in our general day-to-day conversations. The definition in the OED is "The customary code of polite behaviour in society or among members of a particular profession or group".

However just recently, it has come to our attention that in some of our churchyards flower vases and memorial pots are being 'borrowed' from other graves! Whilst we appreciate that some graves may look untended, due to Covid lockdown and shielding many have not been able to get out to visit the churchyard. Then when they do, they find that their memorial vase has been transferred to some other grave!

We would ask that due consideration is given to the distress that this causes to loved ones and ask that we all adopt a bit of 'churchyard etiquette'

Regular services and private prayer

Our church buildings opened for public worship during August and they remain open for private prayer as per below. You are very welcome to come and spend some time in these spaces to reflect, to pray and just to 'be' for a quiet moment.

St Peter & St Paul, Eastham

Tuesday 9am to 6pm

St Mary, Stanford on Teme

Thursday 9am to 6pm

St Mary, Kyre Wyard

Friday 2.30pm to 5pm

Church to be attended

St Michael, Rochford

Wednesday and Sunday 9am to 6pm

St Peter, Stoke Bliss

Friday 10am to 4pm

All Saints, Hanley William

Saturday 9am to 4pm

Michael & All Angels, Hanley Childe remains closed for the time being.

Thanks to all of you who are willing to air the churches and give them a spruce up before opening and have offered to lock and unlock. Without you we could not re-open.

From the Registers

Our prayers and sympathy are with the family and friends of Mr John Lane, of Stanford. Following his funeral in St Mary's Church he was buried in in the churchyard at Stanford on Teme on 15th August. Reunited with Meg, may he rest in peace and rise in glory.

Rev'd Julia Curtis

This month's cover photograph was taken by Rev'd Julis Curtis at the Lammas service, celebrating the start of the harvest, held in the Rectory garden.

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Rochford 49 Club

Congratulations

to this month's £25 winners:

Wednesday winners

July 22nd No 19 not sold
July 29th No 51 not sold
Aug 5th No 36 not sold
Aug 12th No 20 not sold

Saturday winners

Aug 25th No 15 Di Ricketts
Aug 1st No 22 Gill Smith
Aug 8th No 41 not sold
Aug 15th No 21 Andrew Keysall

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

It would be great to see fewer unsold tickets next month!

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

07815 030050

Teme Valley Tote

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

£50 – **Angela Winwood** of Lindridge (No 156)
£30 – **Hazel Bradley** of Knighton (No 689)
£20 – **Laurence Tilt** of Stoke Bliss (No 837)

A number of people in Knighton have not been entered because their subscriptions were not collected. If you wish to take part from 1st October to 31st March, the subscription will be £5. Please contact Duane or Robin if you wish to join.

If you would like to join please contact the organiser, Robin Dean, on 01886 853295 or by email at robin.c.dean@gmail.com, or contact your local co-ordinator.

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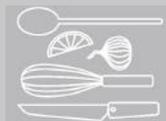
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Rochford Rochford Rochford

Lockdown is gradually being lifted but we are still very conscious of social distancing and are trying to arrange outdoor community events. Hopefully things will improve soon!

Congratulations and welcome

We are pleased to congratulate Kevin and Gill Williamson on the birth of their first granddaughter, Brooke.

We are also pleased to welcome Graham and Angela Orr to Overmead, and we hope they will be very happy living in Rochford and will enjoy what this community has to offer.

Neighbourhood Lunches

Take-away neighbourhood lunches (delivered or collected) will be available on Friday 25th September. They can be collected or delivered to your home for just £5 (please bring your own plates). Please contact Ann on 01584 781317 by Monday 20th September if you would like one.

Open Gardens

Unfortunately with current Covid restrictions we have decided not to go ahead with the event this year but will definitely do something next year, in May or June. We would like to thank everyone who offered to open their garden for this fund raising event and we would like to take you up on your kind offers for next year, together with anyone else who would like to join in.

Rochford church

Rochford church is open for private prayer on Sundays and Wednesdays from 9am to 6pm, so please feel free to visit and enjoy the lovely peaceful location and the welcome that Rochford church will give you. Please follow the instructions in the porch and use the hand sanitiser and gloves during your visit.

Church services (with risk assessment safeguards in place) started in August with a service at Rochford. These services will be streamed on Facebook.

September services

September 13th at 6.30pm

Evening service.

September 27th at 10am

All Age and Communion Service.

Please come along.

Other church services planned include:

Harvest Picnic Lunch and Outdoor Service on 11th October

All Souls Service on 1st November

Remembrance Service on 8th November

Please put these dates in your diary and look out for more details next month.

Another Pizza Night

Coming back by popular demand after a “sell-out” Pizza Takeaway Night in August, at Rochford Village Hall on Friday 18th September. Mother Earth Pizza, namely Sara and Angela, will return to Rochford Village Hall car park from 5 to 8pm, serving delicious pizzas and loaded fries prepared and cooked fresh in front of you in their mobile wood fired pizza oven.

Everyone is welcome from all local villages but all food must be pre-ordered by 2pm on the day on 07498 941699 when a time slot will be arranged for collection. Payment is cash only on collection or bank transfer in advance. Please see the advertisement on page 13 for menu details and check out their Facebook Page for more info. Get your orders in early to avoid disappointment.

Andrew Barbé



Mother Earth – back by popular demand!

Stoke Bliss and Kyre

Our village environment

We all appreciate this lovely area we live in and wish to keep it as pristine as we can – and we are all able to improve it in many ways.

If you have been lucky enough to see the wonderful wild flowers that Trevor has planted half way up Kyre Bank, be inspired to collect seeds from your own surroundings like foxgloves, daisies, cornflowers, poppies – the list is endless. Then scatter them in a wilder part of your gardens or on a verge or poor area of ground that would improve with colour and interest. This will encourage wild life including bees and butterflies and, just as important, give us something wonderful to look forward to next year instead of the everlasting gloom of the news and help relieve the stress we are all living with. It costs nothing and is just one of many ways we can improve our environment.

Sometimes it seems a thankless task to collect the rubbish thrown from cars – many thanks go to those who continue to collect the rubbish, but can anyone come up with a way of stopping this abuse of the environment?

We all very much hope that our churches and village hall, the centres of our scattered community, will soon be open again.

Support your local shops

We must continue to support our local shops which have supported us during lockdown and which have a much lower carbon footprint than the national conglomerates.

Jessica Middleton

Harvest Festival

Harvest Festival will be held on Sunday 27th September at 6.30pm at Kyre. It will certainly be a festival with a difference as face masks should be worn, there will be no singing unless things have changed by then, and the produce will be for the food bank so items should be in tins and packets please. However that does not stop us giving thanks for the harvest and farming that continues through good weather and bad, the cooks and manufacturers that we rely on and the gifts of the seasons and fertility of the soil.

So come and celebrate that we can meet together and decorate the church to give thanks for our personal harvests of experience and events that we have had over the year.

Stoke Bliss and Kyre look forward to welcoming you.

Maggie Kingston

Marika Harding
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Eastham Jottings

Coronavirus update

September is the sixth month of our new socially distanced norm. The swaps of produce and other sales has yielded another £100 into the honesty jar – well over £400 now for the Memorial Hall. Thanks to everyone.

Eastham Coffee Morning

Join us on Zoom for the September Coffee morning on Wednesday 2nd September. Regulars will receive an email invite about 10.25 am, theme – events for the new village hall. If you would like to join and/or need help with Zoom please call Celia Adams on 781258 or email easthamcourt@icloud.com. If you would like to join and/or need help with Zoom please call Celia Adams on 01584 781258 or email eastham-court@icloud.com.

Eastham church weekly opening

Eastham church is open on Tuesdays from 9am to 6 pm.

Flowers and cleaning

St Peter's and St Paul's church is open for cleaning and flower arranging, in line with instructions from the diocese. The rota is:

September – Alison Brookes
October – Rhiannon Chapman

Eastham Allotment Scheme

Subscriptions are available now for 2020/21.

We have had a great response this year so we shall be delivering more vegetables next year throughout Eastham and the neighbouring villages. All funds go to the local community. Vegetables include potatoes, onion, runner beans, broad beans, green beans, parsnips, marrows, pumpkins, squash, tomatoes, peppers, cucumber, lettuce ... the list is endless. There are also herbs of many varieties. Payment is based on a full or half subscription paid electronically with weekly deliveries to your doorstep. Open to all villages and businesses. For further information please contact Celia Adams on 01584 781258 or email easthamcourt@icloud.com

Celia Adams

Eastham Produce and Dog Show

Move over Ambridge, Eastham did it for real and held one of the few shows to go ahead this year.

A virtual Produce and Dog show was held on Sunday 16th August followed by an outdoor church service

Careful planning led to a socially distanced show held in the church with numbers lower than normal but standards just as high.

The fête committee would like to thank everyone who entered in this very difficult growing year and for adhering to all the measures put in place to maintain social distancing and personal safety.

The event was filmed and can be watched with the results of the dog show on Eastham Fête's Facebook page.

Sunday 15th August 2021 is the date for next year's show, don't forget to put it in your diary.

David Clarke

See page 25 for winners of class

Eastham Fête Tote

Mike Adams, under the supervision of Robin Dean, rolled the dice on 16th August to select the set of random numbers.

Prize winners were:

£100 Jane Spilsbury of Eastham (No 543)
£50 Alison Brookes of Eastham (No 308)
£25 David Harrison of Tenbury (No 1135)

Many thanks to Robin Dean for running the Tote under the Eastham Lottery Licence.

In the end over 1,000 numbers were sold at £1 each (breaking the target of 750).

The 2020 Eastham Fête raised £2,100 – thanks to all who took part, bought Tote tickets or sponsored and to Diana Clarke for selling plants by the roadside in aid of the Fête funds.

Autumn clean of churchyard and church

Saturday 17th October, churchyard 10am to 1pm and inside the church 2pm to 4pm

Pumpkinfest@harvest

Sunday 18th October, entries to the church from 9 to 9.45am.

Hanley Happenings

Local talent – this month, Maria Smith

Many people have that dream of turning a passion, pastime or hobby in to a viable business but few achieve it. It requires a strong conviction in your own ability, a determination to succeed and a degree of luck in the timing of the venture. One local person who is managing to do just that is Maria Smith.

Maria has been attending silversmithing courses as a hobby for many years and has now embarked on the journey of moving a much loved passion into building a small business.

She designs and makes studio jewellery predominantly from silver. Her designs are a mix of both traditional and contemporary with all relevant pieces hallmarked by the Birmingham Assay Office.

Maria particularly likes the freedom that making studio jewellery allows both in technique and for the opportunity to make more individual pieces and develop her own style.

Maria lives in Hanley Childe with her husband Steve and their two boys. She grew up in

the village which, she says, has given her a natural affiliation with nature from which she takes her inspiration.

She is part of the community of small businesses at Mill Farm Retail in Stanford Bridge where she works in her studio/shop and also supports other artisans by stocking original artwork and handmade glass.

“Covid has been a difficult time for many businesses but it has made me more determined than ever to continue. The positive encouragement, community support and understanding has been really heart-warming,” she says.

She is looking forward to returning to her studio in September to launch her new website and to continue her work restocking especially in readiness for Mill Farm’s Christmas event. Do call in to meet her or contact her on info@masilverdesigns.co.uk or www.masilverdesigns.co.uk. We wish her well and hope that many of you will support her.

Plant sale

As we reported earlier in the lockdown Anna Fletcher, who had grown plants for sale at the Hanley Happening which of course never happened, was then able to sell them from her home in aid of the Air Ambulance. The final figure raised was close to £400 – an amazing achievement and a real eye opener for many people who had never had the opportunity of seeing what she grows in her garden. So well done to her and hopefully she might be persuaded to produce some more for our next village event whenever that might be.

Hanley Village Hall

No further news on the village hall which will remain closed for the foreseeable future, but better news on church reopenings at both churches – see notes elsewhere in TemeTalk.

Coronavirus – what now?

Autumn seems to have started even earlier this year after an amazingly hot spell in early August. Some of us took the opportunity to venture out on holiday but many people I have spoken to feel even more nervous now than they did in the lockdown period. Naturally apprehensive of what might be coming and our ability to deal with possible further restrictions is clearly a factor but what we can be certain of is that the wonderful spirit of our local communities will again be a very positive ingredient should things get difficult. Winter is often a time when our neighbours seem to disappear so keeping an eye out for them will be significant.

Perhaps the most important event however will be ensuring that schoolchildren can restart at the beginning of the month – for your people social isolation from friends is potentially very damaging, especially after the exam result fiasco.

Peter Thorneycroft

TemeTalk

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Stanford • Stanford • Stanford

Where to begin?

At the time of writing (16th August), I have attended three services in the last two days: John Lane's funeral (see below), a Communion Service at St Mary's this morning and an outdoor fête service in Eastham churchyard on the theme of rainbows with some beautiful singing from Megan Davies from Eastham (who intends to become a professional singer).

The new normal

Holy Communion at St Mary's at 10am on 6th September

In Teme Valley South we are entering the second month of having public services every Sunday. Social distancing measures will be in place during the services. Masks should be worn at all times, except if you are doing a reading or prayers. We also need to collect your names and details for contact tracing – these lists will be destroyed after 21 days. We will continue to try to stream services or record them and we will continue to record special services and publish them on Facebook and the TVS parish website.

Private prayer

The PCC have decided to open most of our churches for private prayer one day a week. In Stanford we will open St Mary's from 9am to 6pm every Thursday during September. There will be a continued need for social distancing when in the church and you will be asked to use the hand sanitiser provided both on entering the church and on leaving.

Cleaning the church

You may be aware that while St Mary's is open for private prayer every Thursday, according to the CoFE Covid risk assessment, the church needs to be cleaned if there is a service within 72 hours. I would like to thank those who have done the cleaning – Stuart Strickland (twice), Cecilia Dean (twice), Cate Mawston, Cecilia Jourdir, Tracey Dewis and Alexandra Wunnington. I am now looking for volunteers to do the cleaning on Saturday 5th September for the service the next day.

John Lane's funeral – page 10

Harvest festival

At a recent meeting of churchwarden, harvest festivals were discussed – I have always associated the service with a meal afterwards so I suggested that we might not have a formal service – we have our normal service on 4th October so we could do something then. Please let me have your suggestions about what we might do or whether we should do nothing.

Volunteers please – again

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

Parish Giving Scheme

Each church in the parish is signing up to this scheme. Please ask Robin for a leaflet which gives details of how you can enrol in regular giving to Stanford church (or other churches in TVS) by phoning a Parish Giving telephone number.

Robin Dean

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John Lane 1925-2020

John passed away on 30th July at the age of 95. His funeral was at St Mary's on Saturday 15th August.

John was the elder statesman of the village and his encyclopedic knowledge of the area will be very sadly missed. We hope to have a full appreciation of him in next month's TemeTalk. The Covid 19 restrictions meant that only family were allowed to attend the service in St Mary's. However the service was relayed by loudspeaker to some 150 people in the field below the church – this shows how much people respected him. Thanks to Caldicotts for arranging the service, to Robin Smith for emptying his field of sheep and to stewards David, David and Robert. Perhaps we will be able to have a proper thanksgiving service for him and a celebration of his life once this pandemic is over. We pray for John and his family

at this difficult time.

I have a personal memory which I would like to share. It was at the time of one of the jubilees or royal weddings – the task was to build a raft and sail it down the river. For some reason I was paired with John. Wood and string was provided but nothing for floatation. I thought empty milk cartons might be the way forward – I wanted to call our craft Milk Float! However neither of us did our calculations properly – probably the two heaviest men in the village at that time boarded our raft and in no time at all we were up to our necks in water – we had to abandon ship and swim to the shore!

Robin Dean

TemeTalk

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Deadline for the next issue
is 18th September

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Our Live 8 Adventures – Part One

On 13th July 1985 I was one of the one and a half billion people glued to the television all day watching Live Aid, put together by Bob Geldof who wanted us to help “Make Poverty History” and donate all our money! More than \$100 million was raised. A very healthy sum indeed. In 2005 he was back. This time he didn’t want our money, he wanted us to sign up to “The Long Walk To Justice”. The G8 Summit was to take place on 7th July in Edinburgh. Live 8 was our chance to show solidarity in the fight for “Charity To Justice”. Many thousands travelled to Edinburgh on 6th July, but on Saturday 2nd July 120,000 of us gathered in Hyde Park for a giant party to start things off.

Listening to Radio 2 in May 2005 I learnt that if I wanted to join the Live 8 party in Hyde Park all I had to do was send a text and answer a simple question correctly. So I did, on my and the Old Man’s phone. A few weeks later the Old Man was driving past the Talbot



at Knightwick when his phone pinged. He rang me at work. “We are going to Live 8, I have a text from Mr Geldof inviting us!” I didn’t believe him until I arrived home and saw the text for myself and then excitement on a volcanic scale erupted.

Very early on Saturday 2nd July we caught the first train from Worcester to London. Not many people had got up as early as us so there were plenty of seats, but everyone was obviously going to the same place and we all sat jabbering, eager to get going. We eventually realised we had been sitting and jabbering for quite some time and should be well on the way to London. An announcement suddenly asked us all to get off the train as the doors were broken and we would have to wait for the next train! Loads of people descended onto the platform but we fought our way onto the next train, which was absolutely rammed. We had to stand all the way to Paddington! We

Continued on page 12

Continued on page 12



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Continued from page 11

had a feeling the train was filled far over capacity – it didn't stop at most of the stations and we saw many bewildered and frustrated faces as we sped past.

In London, we didn't need a map to get to Hyde Park, we just followed the jolly throng. It could all have gone horribly wrong as it was also Gay Pride weekend. We could have ended up anywhere. As we neared Hyde Park our jaws dropped at the size of the queue. We found our entrance gate and then walked in the opposite direction to join the end of the queue. Policemen were dotted around joking with the crowd. All of a sudden one stopped us and said "Join the queue please". Oh, so the queue wasn't as long as we thought. Wrong! A stream of vans and cars with blacked-out windows was entering the park and the queue had been parted to let them through. We had actually jumped the queue by quite a long way. We both felt rather guilty, but we didn't feel so bad when we found that we were much nearer the back than the front!

There was a path directly in front of us which meant that apart from people wandering to and fro, the people in front of us were at least six feet away. It made a huge difference

to how well we could see the dots on the stage, and of course there were huge screens everywhere.

The atmosphere was electric, and it was fascinating watching and listening to the crowd. Directly in front of us were four lovely ladies who had brought a fabulous picnic. It far outdid our cheese and ham sandwiches! We weren't allowed to bring alcohol into the park, so everyone was well equipped with water bottles, or so it seemed! Our four lovely ladies had obviously broken the rules and entertained us greatly by becoming merrier throughout the day. One man who had also broken the rules but far exceeded being merry was escorted out of the park. What a waste of a ticket! So we were in and settled, eagerly awaiting 2 o'clock when Live 8 would officially begin.

It certainly turned out to be a day (and night!) to remember. Part 2 next month.

Jane Bull

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Eastham Memorial Hall ...

Eastham Memorial Hall, which has served the people of Eastham for nearly 100 years, has finally been demolished and a new hall is being built, thanks to a grant from the National Lottery Fund of £260,000.

The 1922 Boulton and Paul building was demolished at the beginning of August. Mike Palfrey has taken over as chair for the next stage of the project and is always looking for others to help.

The new hall is being built by Iris Construction Projects Ltd. Chris Ham of Amber Projects will be overseeing the project on behalf of the Eastham Memorial Hall trustees and the local community and meeting the National Lottery's requirements. It is expected to be completed by 30th November.

If you have any questions or concerns please



An artist's impression of the new building by Iris Projects

contact Mike Palfrey at mike.palfrey@eastham-memorialhall.org.uk or ring him on 07976 854267. Members of the project team were on site on Saturday mornings during August at 10 am to answer any questions and are happy to continue during the project on request

If you would like to contribute, you can sponsor an item, like a clock expected to be about £500 or a soup kettle at about £70. A full list will be sent to all Eastham households.

We also intend to bury a time capsule in the new structure.

Progress can be followed on Instagram @EasthamMemorialHall, on the website www.easthammemorialhall.org.uk and on the Eastham Facebook page. Regular updates will be sent by email (through Sue Burrows, clerk to Eastham parish council) to the village email contact list – if you are not on the list please contact Sue at eastham_pc08@btinternet.com. And of course we'll be keeping you up to date in future issues of TemeTalk.



Harriett Baldwin visits the hall as demolition starts, to see Mike Palfrey with the hammer, Cllr Caroline Palethorpe with the shovel and Celia Adams looking on and counting the cost. Photo by Pete Thorp



Demolition started on 10th August and the site was soon cleared ready for the new building, which is expected to be ready on 30th November. Photos by Mathew Hall

... yesterday, today and tomorrow



(Above, left to right) Jane, Oli, Issy and Sam Yarnold, James, Josie, Charlie, Neil and Stuart Ward

Two old Eastham families flank the 1922 Memorial Board.

Stuart Ward's father and uncle are listed on the board – sadly Stuart's uncle George didn't return from the First World War so he is listed in gold. Stuart's father was also in the war, returning to see the hall built in 1922. With Stuart and Josie are the two younger generations of

Wards ready to welcome the new 2020 Memorial Hall.

The Yarnold family (grandad John) features on the Memorial Board of Hanley and Eastham School, which has hung in the old hall for many years and is now stored safely ready for the future Memorial Hall. Photo by Keith Gluyas

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Waves crash over a pandemic dream

It started with a visit to our childhood home up on a hill surrounded by fields and beech trees. Our mother was there plus my sister, brother and sister-in-law. It was a magical place to grow up with both walled and sunken gardens and a small children's swimming pool.

We decided to go for a swim in the sea so the house teleported to the west of Ireland. I went into the bathroom to change into my swimsuit; it was an old black strapless one which I feared would never withstand the huge Atlantic waves. I couldn't use the loo because there was no seat, just some strange lid which looked like a clockwork watch.

As dark approached, my sister, sister-in-law and I set off for our swim. "Is it far?" I asked sister-in-law. "Quite a way," she replied. We walked through a little town where we crossed a field with apple trees and some children – like a scene right out of a Rosamunde Pilcher novel. On we went heading towards the sea. But first there were massive rocks to

be climbed. As a child I adored rock climbing by the sea. But now I was wearing thick-soled flip-flops and carrying a towel and robe and it wasn't easy.

We walked and climbed for what seemed like an age and then came to a sheer rock face. My sister was soon almost at the top but I told sister-in-law that because I have vertigo I just couldn't do it. "There's no way around it," she warned. "Okay," I replied, "see you later," and off I went in search of another way.

I was around the mighty rock as they were about to descend the other side. Still there was no sign of sea – just more rocks of all shapes and sizes. But to my left I spotted a deep pool and decided to abandon the mission and just have a dip in the refreshing sea water before heading home. As I approached it, waves came crashing over the rocks and all over us, as if the tide had just turned. My sister and sister-in-law moved off to find the beach and have a proper swim in

Continued on page 18



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Continued from page 17

to find the beach and have a proper swim in the wonderful waves as we had planned.

I searched for a more manageable rock pool. As I navigated my way I came across canyon after canyon where the rock faces had been painted to look like books. It was like walking through a massive rock library. Suddenly I looked through a crevice and there was the perfect pool. It was getting darker now but I hurried around until I could find a suitable spot to enter the water. Flip-flops, robe and towel safely stowed on a dry spot, I slid into the inviting cool water and swam and swam.

Soon there were five or six people in the water too and not social distancing. So I swam to the far end and climbed out. To my astonishment just the other side of the pool was a café and sister-in-law had returned. "Wonderful find," she exclaimed. "I can see I'll be baby-sitting here with a coffee and a book when the others hear of this." It was a public sea-water pool and was getting very crowded now with swimmers arriving after work and even swimming fully clothed.

I decided to head home but in no time was lost. Everywhere I looked I saw barren landscape with bleak mountain ranges and jagged rocks in every direction. I had left my flip-flops and towels at the pool but couldn't find

my way back. Nor could I find the way home. Far below in distant valleys tiny cars travelled along tiny roads. I passed some cottages built into the rocks. They had colourful doors and window sills bearing glorious pots of geraniums.

After struggling on for miles without seeing another soul, I despaired of ever finding the way home. Just as I was beginning to feel panicky and exhausted I thought of a solution. I knew that I could stop this nightmare. So I woke up.

It was just another of these weird pandemic dreams so many of us are experiencing. No doubt this one was prompted by subconscious fear of a second wave (of another kind) threatening to overwhelm us. And obviously books and reading are playing a huge part in my life just now.

AO

Have you had a weird pandemic dream you'd like to share with us? If so we'd love to hear from you!

TemeTalk

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This got me thinking. Having found out the cost of beeswax wraps, I decided to find out how to make them. So, having destroyed an iron, two ironing board covers and a clothes drier, covered the floor with wax and burnt my fingers, ruined some lengths of material ... I mastered the art. Now with the help of my grandchildren and my daughter Emma, who does most of the promotion, we are up and selling well, and keen to expand.

Hence the logo – Green Granny ... on a bike not in a car.

The wraps sell as multi packs of six in three sizes for £15 and a metre roll 50cm wide so you can cut them to your own sizes for just £20. And they make great presents!

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Welcome to our new curate

We are looking forward to welcoming Peter Myres on placement with Teme Valley South Churches at the end of September and during October. He writes to say hello:

I am serving my curacy with St Andrews and All Saints churches in Malvern. As part of my training, I am required to complete a number of placements and I am keen to experience ministry in a rural context. I spent my early years in rural Devon, one of three brothers, where as a boy I would walk to the farm and collect the milk straight from the cow in a little urn!

After leaving school at 18 I joined the Royal Navy, initially training as a navigator before joining the Fleet Air Arm as helicopter aircrew. I served in a wide variety of operational theatres including the Falklands, the Caribbean and the Middle East.

After marrying Emma and starting a family I decided there was life beyond the armed forces. Following a short sabbatical doing mission work that took us to China and the Philippines, I became the operations director of Raleigh International, a youth development charity organising overseas expeditions for gap year students and disadvantaged young people. Following that I joined the staff team of our local church in south

west London, before being recommended for ordination.

I trained at Trinity College in Bristol and moved to Malvern in 2018. South West London was my home base for over thirty years and so it has been a significant change for us as a family to move to Worcestershire – especially when we then got our first pet, a black labrador! But we've loved the change of scenery.

Emma and I have four children, Charlotte (21), Pippa (20), James (17) and Alice (12).

My choice holiday location would include sun, water and sailing. I enjoy growing vegetables, playing board games, doing jigsaw puzzles and swinging a golf club very badly.

As I discern where God is taking us as a family in the next stage of ministry, I'm exploring whether a rural context is on the horizon. While I'm with you I'd like to get a taste of ministry life, understand what you as a community value and need from your vicar, understand what God is doing amongst you and how the Kingdom of God is growing and being expressed. I hope I can also bring something that would be a blessing to you as well. I very much look forward to meeting you.

Blessings and best wishes

Peter

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The insects they welcome for increase in numbers
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You gaze at the hillside enjoying the sight
Of colour and harmony; then discover in fright
It isn't the knapweed so purple and fair-
It's cursed MacThistle – and it's everywhere!

The wildlifers cry – leave them to grow,
They nurture the insects whose numbers are low.
I don't mind them feeding so butterflies breed
But conquering hillsides I really don't need!

So before they set seed when blossoms go o'er
I charge up the bank with machete to axe
Subduing the ranks into brown sacks;
They return the attack with spear and with lance

To get me to shout and even to prance
As they stab me before and behind in a trice
Despite my best efforts to quell at a slice.

Should I just miss one they chuckle in glee
and squadrons of seeds set off on a spree!
To hide and to huddle and grow back again
Awaiting their chance to weaken and strain
Her efforts to quell them and make them in vain,
And the insects rejoice next year again.

It's not that I want to extinguish completely
The brave flowers and armour that serves them
so sweetly.
It's just that I want the others to share in the hill-
side and sun
Their chances to bloom and insects have fun.
Then the sheep can graze safely without spikes
in their tum!

The old rhyme it goes:
Cut them in May they are back in a day
Cut them in June you cut them too soon
Cut in July they're sure to die!

Mine might have heard it but firmly ignore,
they chant and they giggle, just watch our seeds
fly.
Thy land in the corners, they land in the scrub
you'll see us next year, au revoir, not goodbye!
Maggie Kingston

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Teme Valley Wildlife

In May I wrote about the wildflower charity Plantlife's "No mow May" campaign, which was aimed at providing extra nectar for pollinating insects. I was therefore very pleased to see the following headline in my daily newspaper in June, "orchids blossom like never before as shaggy lawns enjoy record sun". Two photographs accompanied the article, one was of a jolly scarecrow holding a "No mow May" placard and the other showed a brightly coloured orchid. The orchid depicted was unfortunately a tropical moth-orchid, a variety highly unlikely to have pitched up on anybody's lawn, but the thought was clearly there.



Trevor Dines of Plantlife was quoted in the article and he explained that the combination of a mild winter and a warm and sunny spring had brought a bumper crop of bee orchids to people's lawns. Bee orchids are happiest in their stronghold habitats in warm Mediterranean countries, but 626 hours of bright sunshine in the spring of 2020, a record three-month total for the UK,

helped them on their way here in Britain. The scarecrow, dubbed by Plantlife the "scare-mow", was an idea thought up by the charity to encourage children to enjoy creating something that might deter their parents from getting the mower out of the shed – a bit of fun that clearly worked.

I had a go with no-mowing this year too, but for quite a different reason. I was motivated by a garden visit last year to the Sussex home of early twentieth century gardening journalist William Robinson. He wrote a very influential gardening book called *The Wild Garden* in which he advocated growing bulbs through grass. Inspired by his ideas, I set to last autumn to plant a selection of cultivated bulbs including crocus, fritillary, star of Bethlehem, Tenby daffodil, Poet's narcissus and camassia into circular patches of my grass. Unable to mow until the bulb foliage had died down, I had my own no-mow experiment and found buttercups, daisies, lady's smock, common catsear and common mouse-ear flowering in the grass between my non-native flowers.

I hadn't grown the Tenby daffodil before and found it very good. It differs from the usual wild daffodil, which is a two-tone flower, by

Continued on page 24

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Continued from page 23

having the crown and trumpet both of the same bright golden yellow. It traditionally grew wild in the Tenby area and in surrounding parts of Pembrokeshire, though no-one knew where it had come from, nor why it grew nowhere else. It became popular in the Victorian era as a garden plant and thousands of bulbs were dug up to satisfy demand from gardeners. By the 1940s only a few fields in the area had abundant flowers remaining.

Fortunately in the 1970s there was a revival of interest in the plant, after a chance enquiry at the local tourist office from a visitor keen to buy Tenby daffodils to take home. Spotting a marketing opportunity, Tenby decided to plant up its public spaces with its own unique daffodil, both for a beautiful spring display, and to capitalise on a local botanical treasure. Its survival was then ensured.

The next meeting of the Teme Valley Wildlife Group is on hold whilst we await the

re-opening of our venue. Our meetings are usually held at Stoke Bliss and Kyre village hall at 7.30pm. It is just £2 on the door and everybody is most welcome.

Stephanie Mcroft

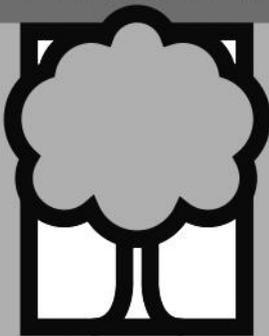
For up-to-date information on what wildlife is being seen in the area, or to give us your sightings or comments, visit our Facebook page. Our programme of events, bird survey and archive photographs are available on our website www.temevalleywildlife.co.uk We normally holds meetings on the second Thursday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

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Class A, Flowers

<i>3 dahlias</i>		
1st Ted Mills	2nd Tina Lord	3rd Josie Ward
<i>5 mixed dahlias</i>		
1st Tina Lord	2nd Ted Mills	3rd Celia Adams
<i>3 gladioli</i>		
1st Tina Lord	2nd Beryl Lewis	3rd Jane Spilsbury
<i>Sweet peas</i>		
1st Tina Lord	2nd John Curtis	3rd Diana Clarke
<i>5 rose stems</i>		
1st Josie Ward	2nd Tina Lord	
<i>3 hydrangea stems</i>		
1st Tina Lord	2nd Ruby Payton	3rd Sally Jones

Class B, Floral Art

<i>Arrangement of garden flowers</i>		
1st Diana Clarke	2nd Mel Cummings	3rd Tina Lord

Class C, Fruit and Veg

<i>5 Plums</i>		
1st Jane Spilsbury	2nd Jen Jones	3rd Colin Lord
<i>3 apples</i>		
1st Jane Spilsbury	2nd Ted Mills	3rd Jen Jones
<i>Soft fruit</i>		
1st Adrian Worsley	2nd Nicky Webb	
<i>2 carrots</i>		
1st Colin Lord	2nd Ted Mills	3rd Jen Jones
<i>2 beetroot</i>		
1st Ted Mills	2nd Jen Jones	3rd John Curtis
<i>5 potatoes</i>		
1st Colin Lord	2nd Diana Clarke	3rd Jen Jones

<i>2 courgettes</i>		
1st Mel Cummings	2nd Nicky Webb	3rd Jenny Barbé
<i>3 onions</i>		
1st Colin Lord	2nd Tina Lord	3rd Jen Jones
<i>Largest onion</i>		
1st Colin Lord		
<i>5 tomatoes</i>		
1st Tina Lord	2nd Jen Jones	3rd Colin Lord
<i>Longest bean</i>		
1st Diana Clarke		
<i>Bizarre fruit or veg</i>		
1st John Curtis	2nd Colin Lord	3rd Mel Cummings

Class D, Homecraft

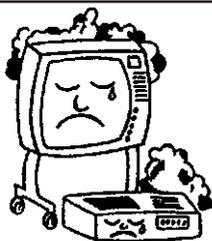
<i>4 hen eggs</i>		
1st Jenny Barbe	2nd Sharley Hughes	3rd Diana Clarke

Class E, Craft

<i>Made in lockdown</i>		
1st Mike Palfrey, Jen Jones, Katy Williams		
2nd Jane Arnold, Tashy Hughes		
<i>Photo of hall</i>		
<i>View of Eastham</i>		
1st Adrian Worsley	2nd Katy Williams	3rd Jen Jones
<i>Video of garden</i>		
1st Mandy Payton	2nd Jen Jones	

Class F, Children under 10

<i>Painted face plate</i>		
1st Louisa Webb	2nd Ruby Payton	
<i>5 garden flowers</i>		
1st Ruby Payton	2nd Louisa Webb	



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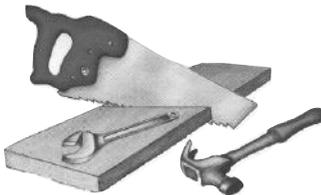
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What's on in Teme Valley South

September

- 2nd Wednesday Eastham Coffee Morning via Zoom, 10.30am
6th Sunday Online sunflower service including results of the
Grow the Tallest Sunflower competition
18th Friday Takeaway Pizza Night, Rochford Village Hall car park, 4-8pm
25th Friday Rochford takeaway Neighbourhood Lunch

October

- 7th Wednesday Eastham Coffee Morning via Zoom, 10.30am
11th Sunday Harvest picnic lunch and outdoor service
17th Saturday Autumn clean of Eastham Churchyard and Church, 10am
18th Sunday Pumkinfest@harvest, Eastham Church

November

- 1st Sunday All Souls Service, Rochford
4th Wednesday Eastham Coffee Morning via Zoom, 10.30am
8th Sunday Remembrance Service, Rochford

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



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Services

September 2020

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

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

Online Sunday services continue. For details see:

- Teme Valley South Churches Facebook page
- Our website, www.temevalleysouth.org
- Google 'A Church Near You' and put in your postcode to find us.

Sunday Services – please bring a face mask for indoor services

Sunday 6th September

	Online	Celebration of Sunflowers Service
10.00am	Stanford	Holy Communion
6.30pm	Stoke Bliss	Celtic Evening Service
7.00pm	Zoom	Night prayer/Compline

Sunday 13th September

10.00	Hanley William	Outdoor
6.30pm	Rochford	Evening Service followed by Communion
7.00p	Zoom	Night prayer/Compline

Sunday 20th September

10.00am	Eastham	Holy Communion
2.00pm	Walking Church	
6.30pm	Hanley Childe	Outdoor Evening Service
7.00pm	Zoom	Night prayer/Compline

Sunday 27th September

10.00am	Rochford	All Age and Communion
6.30pm	Kyre	Outdoor Harvest Service
7.00p	Zoom	Night prayer/Compline

Sunday 4th October

	Online	Harvest Celebration
10.00am	Stanford	Holy Communion
6.30pm	Stoke Bliss	Celtic Evening Service
7.00pm	Zoom	Night prayer/Compline

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