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June 2025



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TemeTalk

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A community going forward with God

June 2025

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

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Parish website

www.temevalleysouth.org.uk

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

Dear Readers

If you live in Teme Valley South, or simply go to church in the parish, as I do, the centre of the worshipping community is the cathedral in Worcester. We've always been a bit out on a limb, the furthest west in a diocese which stretches from Redditch to Rochford, and from Dudley to Upton-on-Severn.

Tucked away in the valley we are small communities centred around small churches, which suits us. Just occasionally some of us attend services or celebrations at the cathedral for special events. As visitors we marvel at the lofty architecture and the history it has witnessed; we find space for reflection in a place of prayer. We are uplifted by the grandeur of ceremony, the beauty of words and music. Some of us have other connections through school or university, art or performance.

On a warm, sunny evening in mid-May a service was held at the cathedral which, possibly for the first time, celebrated smaller churches. It brought together folk who perhaps don't usually stray too far from their home patch but have much in common and share so much that is precious.

As sometimes happens in the cathedral, there was an unexpected sense of intimacy. The wow factor came from the music. Choirs from small churches had been invited to come together to sing for the occasion. Music had been distributed electronically for preparation. An hour's rehearsal with a fine director and a magnificent organist and we were ready to go. Fifty voices raised in song. Three beautifully chosen anthems, fine hymns and a beautiful blessing lifted the spirits of singers and congregation alike in glorious praise and gentle exhortation.

The whole experience was a reminder that we are indeed part of a wider world, and that together we share in the sublime.

Rev'd Sally Jones

Front cover picture

Many thanks to Amanda Barker, Ludlow Hunt Pony Club DC, for this month's front cover photograph of Phoebe Breen from Eastham riding Rhubarb

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We are open from 9am to 1pm Monday to Friday
We look forward to hearing from you



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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: Jeremy Wyatt 07720 056671

Trevor Matthew

Hanleys: Ed Yarnold 07930 882728

Stanford: Alexandra Winnington 07891 346783

Pastoral Team

Ann Prosser 01584 781317

Jenny Barbé 01584 781298

Mel Williams 01584 781284

Parish Safeguarding Officer: Rev'd Julia
01886 853286

Village Hall Bookings

Stoke Bliss & Kyre

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stokeblisskyrevillagehall@gmail.com

Rochford – Ann Prosser, 01584 781317

Eastham –

Hanley – Sarah Geggie, 07796 170949

hanleyvillagehall@outlook.com

Stanford – Catherine Mawby, 07831 303792

stanfordwithorletonvillagehall@gmail.com

Harriett Baldwin MP

Member of Parliament for West Worcestershire

Harriett Baldwin MP can help constituents with a wide range of issues.

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

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Parish news

Teme Valley Tots

Our tots group continues to meet on Fridays from 10.30am to 12 noon at Rochford Village Hall. We are meeting throughout June. For more information about Teme Valley Tots please contact Tina via email on tinaslord@gmail.com.

Ordination and annual deanery service

Looks like the last Sunday in June will be a busy one! Tobias Turner will be ordained as a deacon at Worcester Cathedral as part of a service starting at 10.30am. At 4pm the annual deanery service will take place at St Andrew's, Ombersley, followed by a chance to picnic and chat in the field next door. All are welcome at these special events.

For those who would prefer to worship in Teme Valley South there will be an evening prayer service at 4pm at Eastham church, celebrating St Peter and St Paul.

A personal note

As a number of you know, it has been a tricky few weeks for me and my family. I am most grateful for everyone's kind wishes and prayers. I'm being consistent with the physio exercises and so movement is returning to my shoulder – I hope to be back to driving at some point in June, which will be a great relief to those who have been kindly giving me lifts!

PCC, churchwardens and electoral roll

Many thanks to all of those who have served on the Teme Valley South Parochial Church Council in the past year, including our safeguarding officer who has stepped down after five years in post. The annual meeting elected two new church wardens, Jeremy Wyatt and Trevor Matthews. We welcome them and are grateful to Celia Adams, Ann Prosser, Alexandra Winnington and Edward Yarnold who have agreed to serve another year. We are looking forward to working with a new parish safeguarding officer, Kate Walton, who is in the induction process at the moment. In the meantime Rev'd Julia is the primary contact for safeguarding matters.

Thanks to all who have signed up in support of our churches on the newly formed electoral roll. Norma Goodall has done a great job producing the new roll and is very pleased to report a 33% increase in numbers.

Rev'd Julia

**Deadline for the next issue of TemeTalk is
18th June**

**Please note this is the *last* day for
contributions – the sooner you send your
items to the editor, the more chance there
is that they will be included**

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***Congratulations to this month's
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Wednesday winners

23rd April	No 44	Not sold
30th April	No 44	Not sold
7th May	No 20	Not sold
14th May	No 29	Not sold

Saturday winners

19th April	No 33	Not sold
26th April	No 21	Not sold
3rd May	No 9	Not sold
10th May	No 18	Not sold
17th May	No 26	Carole Powell

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

Remember, you must be in it to win it!

Ring Norma Goodall on

07974 809242

Teme Valley Tote

April's prize draw, the first in this series, was decided when Rev'd Julia Curtis rolled the dice on 2nd May to select the set of random numbers and the starting point. Prizewinners are:

£50 – **Mr & Mrs Stuart Millichip** of Knighton (No 729)

£30 – **Sally Wood** of Knighton (No 730)

£20 – **Oliver Tyler** of Eastham (No 220)

May's prize draw, the second in this series, was decided when Rev'd Julia Curtis rolled the dice on 2nd May to select the set of random numbers and the starting point. Prizewinners are:

£50 – **Ms J Haylor** of Stoke Bliss (No 805)

£30 – **Mr & Mrs C Melling** of Lindridge (No 183)

£20 – **Chris Wall** of Stanford (No 524)

If you have any queries about the Tote, please contact Robin Dean on 01886 853295 or by email (robin.c.dean@gmail.com) – he is still looking for someone to take over its running!

Deadline for the next issue of TemeTalk is 18th June

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Rochford News

Congratulations

Congratulation to Ross and Hayley at Dunstan Villa on the birth of their baby Flint, a brother for Griff and Fern.

At the other end of the age spectrum, many congratulations to Jean Harrison (one of Rochford's oldest residents at 95!) who has been given a Certificate of Commendation by Tenbury Town Council. This award recognises Jean's lifetime commitment and dedication to Tenbury including her work as a wonderful teacher at Tenbury High School and as a founding member of the dramatic and operatic society and a leading light in the French twinning association. It is great to have Jean as a very active member of our community.

Welcome

Amy and Sarah have recently moved into 1 Hill Top Cottages. Welcome to Rochford and we hope you will get involved and enjoy being part of everything this community has to offer.

Neighbourhood lunch

Dates for sit down and takeaway neighbourhood lunches are 24th June, 29th July and 26th August. Everyone is welcome and booking for lunches is essential. Takeaways should be collected between 12.30 and 1pm. Please book with Ann on 01584 781317 at least the previous week.

Open Gardens

Rochford's gardeners have once again kindly agreed to open their gardens on 27th July. Please get in touch if you can help. We are looking for people to help create marketing information, both physical and online, and we are looking for help on the day with refreshments etc. Please help if you can.



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Rochford Fête

Rochford Fête, Flower Festival and Fun Dog Show is on Sunday 13th July. The flower festival will be in the church and the fête will be on the riverside field next to the church, by kind permission of Dr Lear and the Adams family.

Please let us know if you are willing to help with this event or if you can provide any donations for the cake stall, tombola, white elephant, plant and book stalls. The flower festival will be coordinated by Jennifer Gledhill. Flower arrangers are wanted – no experience needed! Jennifer will help you. Please let us know if you are prepared to have a go. The theme for your arrangement is A Song Title – a lovely opportunity to decorate our beautiful old church.

Dates for your diary

12th October – Harvest service and supper

21st November – Rochford quiz night and supper

Church flower rota

June – Amy Jones, thank you.

Contacts

Ann on 01584 781317, Andrew on 07809 658484 or through the parish WhatsApp group.

Andrew Barbé



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Stoke Bliss and Kyre

Village Hall News

Thanks to everyone who supported our annual Plant Sale. We were lucky with the weather and managed to raise significant funds which were shared with the church.

Pub night in June will be back to usual timings – Friday 27th June, bar opens at 7 o'clock and food served around 8pm. Please book ahead in the usual manner to allow us to plan appropriately. Further details on our website.

Pax Singers return

We are delighted to welcome back the Pax Singers, who will be performing again at Stoke Bliss and Kyre village hall on Saturday 26th July for a charity fundraising concert in aid of the church roof project and village hall. The group, who perform acappella style, will entertain us with a collection of songs around the theme of "our little life".

Booking is recommended for this popular concert. Bar opens from 7pm, with the performance at 7:30pm. Free parking on site.

Tickets cost £10. Contact Julia Berry at sbkvilleagehall@gmail.com.



Meadow Meanders with Maggie Kingston

Each month from May to September you are invited to "Walk and Wonder" around Hollow Meadow, Stoke Bliss

A time to explore the meadow then join together to reflect on the experience with a drink of apple juice

Orchids are now popping up in the meadow!

Orchid Afternoons

Saturday 7th June, 2 to 3pm

Wednesday 18th June, 7 to 8pm

Sunday 6th and Wednesday 16th July, 7 to 8pm

All welcome

Parking limited so share if you can

For more information ring **01885 410431**

email **hollowmeadow23@gmail.com**

St Peter's churchyard tidy session

Once the wildflowers in the churchyard have set seed during "no mow May" there will be a tidy-up session for "the big mow" on Saturday 21st June from 10am to 12.30pm. Everyone is welcome, with coffee and cakes to reward your efforts. Text or call Jeremy on 07720 056671.

St Peter's restoration update

Our second bat survey has now taken place. This data will be included into the works tenders, and we hope to select a contractor during July / August. Once the full cost of the works is known, we will start applying for grants to fund the works from charitable foundations and community giving. To date we have raised just over £7,000 and outlaid funds for the architect's fees and surveys to reach the tendering stage. The area church committee would like to thank all those who have donated and supported our restoration this far. Without your support we would not be able to progress as far as we have.

Jeremy Wyatt

Social & Pub Night

Friday 27th June

Bar opens at 6, food served at 7pm

Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall

The next Social & Pub Night – Friday 25th July

SBKVillageHall@gmail.com



Thursday 12th June

Thursday 10th July

**at Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall
12.30pm welcome, lunch served at 1pm**

Two courses plus refreshments

To book: 07396 813137

or sbklunch@gmail.com

We look forward to seeing you

Eastham Jottings

Church flowers and cleaning

June – Diana Clark
July – Judith Hobson

Eastham Coffee Morning

Please come to the coffee morning on **Thursday 5th June** at 10.30am at Eastham Memorial Hall and enjoy a coffee and a chat.

The rota is:

Thursday 5th June – Nicky Webb

Thursday 3rd July – c/o Blakehouse Park

VE Day in Eastham

The bells rang out at 6.30pm at St Peter & St Paul's, Eastham, using the Ellacombe. Thanks to Ian and Matti. It was a busy night across the patch so bell ringers were in short supply. About 25 people came to listen, join in a glass of bubbly and commemorate the 80th anniversary of VE Day.

If you would like to know more about the Ellacombe apparatus, come down to the church for an update.

Pub Night

The next pub night will be a barbecue on Friday 20th June at 6.30pm at Eastham Memorial Hall. Organised by friends of the fête in the Hall garden. Burgers and a cash bar – please bring a pudding. Open to everyone from Eastham and friends of the fête.

Eastham Memorial Hall AGM

This took place on 20th May. The accounts were presented with the report of the independent examiner Barbara Selkirk ACCA. For a copy of the annual report, please visit the Charity Commission website, charity registration 1177355, Eastham Memorial Hall. The trustees for the forthcoming year are Andy Chapman, Tom Duff Gordon, Rob Lawson, Beryl Lewis, Simon Neary and Celia Adams. The parish council trustee is Michael Adams.

Teme Valley South Tote

Thanks to everyone who joined in. We sold 100 tickets (£1,000) and results are already looking good on this side of the river.

Lambert's Family Grocers

The mobile shop calls at Eastham Memorial Hall every Wednesday at around 10am. Mike carries Ashley's Bakery and Wyre Pie products etc.

Eastham Fête

Eastham Fête on Sunday 17th August is fast approaching, so what do you want to do to make sure it's a great day for everyone?

Why not come along to the summer barbecue on 20th June to see how you can get involved with making the fête run as smoothly as possible – or contact easthamfete@gmail.com if you need more information on how you can join in.

The fête runs each year on a great deal of good will and teamwork by lots of willing locals and provides a social event to be proud of for the whole village. There are some free activities, lots of opportunities to pick up a bargain or have a go at a whole host of fun competitions. The fête also raises significant funds for the village, which makes all our lives better.

The set up, running and take down of the site provides a great opportunity to see what a small community can do when it pulls together to deliver for its own interest. Come along, join in, help out! Every little bit helps!

TemeTalk distribution

Thanks to Helen for delivering TemeTalk to the distributors and the village square over the last decade. If you would like to get involved in distributing, please contact Celia Adams on 01584 781258 or easthamcourt@icloud.com. More to follow next month. Thanks to those who collect and distribute (you know who you are!) and of course to Sandra who does such a brilliant job for us all.

Filling Station at Eastham Memorial Hall

The next meeting is on Thursday 19th June, everyone welcome. This is a great group and loves having visitors. For more information contact Kate on kateharley6@gmail.com.

Celia Adams

Activities at Eastham Memorial Hall

- Pilates, Tuesdays 1pm. Contact Sue on 07974 343609, sue579@icloud.com for details or a taster session.
- Yoga, ring Zoe on 07962 981456 or see www.zedyoga.co.uk. Wednesdays at 10am in term time. Ring Zoe for a taster session.
- Zumba Gold, Lucia on 07709 301030, lu.500@live.co.uk. Wednesdays at 12 noon, just turn up.

Hanley Happenings

Anyone for tennis?

If you are interested in a game of tennis at Town Farm, Margie is happy for the courts to be used. Just give her a ring on 07796 081857 to check that they are available. You never know, we may have tennis weather soon!

A donation would be much appreciated and passed on to the appropriate charity.

VE Day

The Hanleys' VE Day 80th Anniversary celebrations on 8th May were a great success. A mobile van offered pizza and very tasty chicken wings, and a bar served Tom Jones lager and cider, generously donated by Tom and Amber Spilsbury.

A beacon was lit at Hanley Childe church at 9.30pm at the same time as others were lit all over the country and a good crowd gathered to enjoy the warmth and share the gratitude to all those who gave the ultimate sacrifice 80 years ago.

We have had several beacons now celebrating the late Queen's Jubilee, king Charles ascending the throne and D-Day last year, so perhaps we can have a rest now.

Edward Yarnold

TemeTalk deadline 18th June
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Congratulations

Congratulations to Carole and Michael Gardner who celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary with a stay at Cromlix, a fabulous five-star country house hotel near Dunblane owned by Andy and Kim Murray. Percy the dog especially loved the 32 acres of parkland and having his own basket and dishes in the room. Carole says that they were all spoiled rotten.

The following weekend the celebrations continued with 50 family and friends at Hanley House, with an excellent buffet and a beautiful cake made by Sue Field. We wish them all many more happy years together.

Village hall bookings

Judy Bayliss, who has looked after the bookings for the village hall for the last ten years, stood down from her role at the AGM. We would like to wish her all the best and thank her for all the years she has done such a wonderful job. Thank you!

Sarah Geggie will now be taking bookings at hanleyvillagehall@outlook.com or 07796 170949.

Car boot and table top sale

Don't miss the car boot and table top sale at Hanley village hall on 22nd June in memory of Harvey John Merrick. See page 14.

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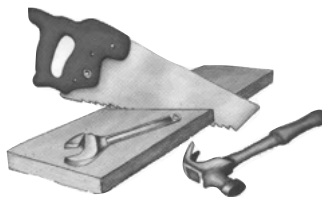
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Services in Stanford

Sunday 1st June

Holy Communion with hymns at 10am

Saturday 7th June

Thy Kingdom Come service at 10am

Sunday 6th July

Jazz Evensong with TVSCC at 4pm

Flowers for June

Cecilia Jourdier

Easter Dawn Service

Rev'd Jen Jones led the Easter Dawn Service which was well attended by parishioners from Stanford and Shelsley despite the early start of 5.30am. The Easter candle was lit outside and carried into the church. Thanks to Sue Softly for the breakfast which was much enjoyed, and to Andy Nicol for a wonderful fire pit.



St Mary's Church AGM

At the St Mary's Church AGM on 1st May, Alexandra Winnington was elected as churchwarden and Anthony Winnington agreed to be chairman. We are still looking for an experienced bookkeeper.

Volante Strings Music for a Summer's Evening

Volante Strings will be playing at St Mary's church on Friday 4th July at 7.30pm. Drinks and canapés are included. This promises to be a lovely concert so do book – tickets £20 from Alexandra Winnington, 07891 346783.

Churchyard Working Party

On Saturday 12th July from 10am to 12 noon. Coffee and biscuits will be served.

Opening the Coronation Orchard and ...

There was a good turnout on Sunday 11th May to see Dame Harriett Baldwin MP unveil the big sign listing all the donors and types of tree in the King Charles III Coronation Orchard. David Lane took Dame Harriett on a tour of the orchard and Clem Softly and David Smith helped with the unveiling. Jane Smith helped to organise the trees which were provided by Angel Gardens. There was a good turnout. Thanks to all involved and to all the people who provided the delicious tea and cakes.



Dame Harriett Baldwin with David Lane (right), Clem Softly and David Smith

... Jeff's Shed

Some years ago Jeff Fields used the shed for repairing cars. After he left to set up the business in Dunley the shed gradually deteriorated. Now it looks strong and has been given a new lease of life. Jeff's Shed was opened by Pete Fields and family, who kindly donated to the cause. To everyone's surprise a hatch opened to reveal a bar, which will be wonderful for village hall events. Tom Spilsbury of Spilsbury & Jones provided the beer. Huge thanks to David Lane and his team.

Alexandra Winnington



The Field family outside Jeff's Shed, (left to right) Fran with Lily, Tim, Pete and Sarah with Isabel

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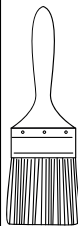


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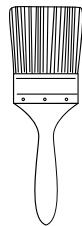
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From the Caribbean to Eastham ...



If you need an electrician or a painter and decorator, this dynamic young couple, who moved to Eastham just a year ago, are your man and woman!

Rob and Lucy Lawson met in the Caribbean when they were both working on superyachts and sailed around the world together. Swimming with humpback whales in Tonga and scuba diving across the Pacific were two of the many highlights of their trip.

They were married in 2019 at The White Pheasant in Stanford, in an apple orchard cathedral with straw bales for pews and a ship's captain officiating!

After nearly ten years at sea they settled in estuary Essex, enjoying the lively coastal lifestyle, before the lure of the Teme valley proved too strong. Although Lucy is an Essex girl, Rob grew up in Pensax and Clows Top and wanted to return to his roots and family, so in 2024, after searching for a couple of years, they moved into their dream home, Marys Cottage in Eastham.

There is much to be done to renovate the cottage, although two notable achievements in the first year have been to make it watertight and to build a bar in the living room! But at the moment

they are spending time and money on a wild bee colony they inherited with the house. As Rob says, it's only fair that they look after the bees and help them prosper as they were there first – and they have forever to finish decorating the house.

They are embracing village life. They love taking Marmalade the labrador out and are getting to know all the local walks – and the pubs. They are also regulars at Eastham Memorial Hall events, especially Pub Night!

Lucy is a painter decorator and has a dried flower business (Wildbylucylawson). And after looking after the likes of Jeff Bezos and Tom Hanks at sea, she has a strong hospitality background and often helps her brother-in-law Tim Lawson at weddings and events in the summer.

Rob had a domestic and renewables electrical business in Essex and, after working for Octopus Energy for a short time, has recently started his own business in the Teme valley, Lawson Electrical Services.

They are already building a reputation locally as hard working, experienced, punctual, reliable and friendly. So if you need an electrician, for domestic and general electrical services, for solar panel and battery installations or for EV charging point installations, contact Rob for advice and a quote on email rob@lawsonelectrical.co.uk or call 07886 230080.

And for decorating, both inside and out, call Lucy at Lucybelles Decorating, 07855 132894 or email lucybellesdecorating@gmail.com.



Iona Worship

You are invited to join us at
Hanley Village Hall, WR15 8QU
for a warm welcome and light refreshments

Services are at 4pm
8th June – St Columba
13th July – for the summertime
10th August – Lammass
14th September – Harvest
9th November – Remembrance

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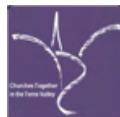
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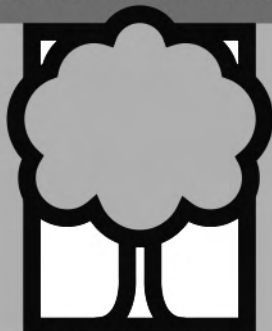
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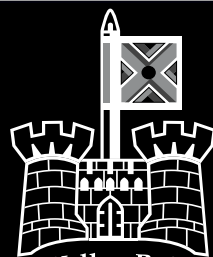
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A Night at the Opera

In *Pretty Woman*, when Edward (Richard Gere) takes Vivian (Julia Roberts) to the opera he tells her, "People's reaction to opera the first time they hear it is very dramatic. If they love it, they will always love it. If they don't, they may learn to appreciate it but it will never become part of their soul".

The Regal Opera Festival's *A Night at the Opera* on Saturday 10th May featured professional opera singers – soprano Erika Mädi Jones, mezzo soprano Charlotte Wicks, tenor Andrew Henley, baritone Felix Kemp and piano accompanist Charlotte Forrest, joined by the Neen Sollars and Milson Community Choir who provided a scratch opera chorus. And I think there is no doubt that for the audience, if opera wasn't already part of their souls, after this evening it would be.

The selection of arias and choruses was inspired, starting with the lively *Brindisi* from Verdi's *La Traviata*, which set the tone for the evening. Familiar pieces from Mozart, Puccini, Bizet and Franz Lehár led to a beautiful aria from Wagner's *Tannhäuser*. Charlotte Forrest, who as well as her stunningly beautiful piano playing was Mistress of Ceremonies for the evening, introducing and explaining the background of each piece, was worried that we might not like Wag-

ner, but this was a delightful introduction.

In the second half, as well as *Barcarolle* from Offenbach's *Tales of Hoffmann* and more arias and choruses from Puccini, Verdi and Saint-Saëns, Andrew Henley and Felix Kemp had a lot of fun with Offenbach's *Gendarmes' Duet*. And after two beautiful songs from musical theatre, *If I Loved You* from *Carousel* and *I Could have Danced all Night* from *My Fair Lady*, Gibert and Sullivan's *A Policeman's Lot* from *The Pirates of Penzance*, sung by Andrew and Felix plus the men from the Community Choir, was a rousing end to the evening. As an encore and after some coaching of the audience by Charlotte Forrest, we all joined in the chorus of *Funiculi, Finicula* – "Jamme, jamme 'ncoppa, jamme jà" ("Let's go! Let's go! To the top we'll go!") and left the theatre with our heads and hearts full of music.

Very many thanks to everyone who made this splendid concert possible: the four superb soloists, their incomparable accompanist Charlotte Forrest, and the Neen Sollars and Milson Community Choir who rose magnificently to the challenge of forming an opera chorus and rehearsed tirelessly for months with their wonderful music director Anita Clements. We hope to see you all again!

SG

REGAL HIGHLIGHTS

TENBURY WELLS
CINEMA • ARTS • THEATRE

*programme as of 12/05/2025





LIVE MUSIC
Andy Sharrocks and The Incurable Romantics
Fri 13 Jun, 7.30pm



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Fri 20 Jun, 7.30pm



LIVE MUSIC
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Fri 4 Jul, 7.30pm



LIVE MUSIC
Swift & Styles
Sun 6 Jul, 7pm



LIVE MUSIC
Definitely Mightbe | Oasis Tribute
Fri 11 Jul, 8pm



LIVE MUSIC
Dire Streets
Sat 12 Jul, 7.30pm



LIVE THEATRE
Once Upon a Fairy Tale: A Journey Through Light and Dark
Sun 13 Jul, 6pm



LIVE MUSIC
Miles Hunt of The Wonder Stuff (Acoustic)
Fri 25 Jul, 8pm



LIVE MUSIC
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Sat 26 Jul, 7.30pm

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Some thoughts about the beautiful game ...

I missed the Cup Final last week so I'm not sure if they sang "Abide with me" before kick off, as they always used to do. I think that particular hymn must have been chosen because until sometime in the 1950s everybody knew the words and the tune.

Nevertheless it got me thinking about how closely the beautiful game is linked to Church and Chapel.

Aston Villa was founded in 1874 by members of a Wesleyan chapel in Handsworth. Until recently they did not play fixtures on Good Friday. Wolves was founded from St Luke's school at about the same time.

In Scotland, St Johnstone play in St John's town (Perth) and St Mirren play in Paisley and are named after the patron saint of Paisley Abbey, St

Mirin.

Also in Scotland, Queens Park FC are an interesting lot. Founded in 1867 they claim to be the 10th oldest football club in the world and were formed from a local YMCA club in Glasgow. For many years they owned and played in the Hampden Park Stadium, which is huge, but as they remained wholly amateur until 2019 their crowds grew smaller and smaller, as did their results, so they moved to another place and started paying their players. They are the only Scottish team to have played in two FA Cup Finals in England – but they lost both times, in 1884 and 1885. The club's amateur status was reflected in its Latin motto *Ludere causa ludendi* – to play for the sake of playing.

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Marry Me Chicken

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Serves 4

Ingredients

30g plain flour
4 chicken breasts
125g sundried tomatoes in oil, drained and roughly chopped, 3 tbsp oil reserved
1 red onion finely chopped
3 garlic cloves crushed or finely grated
½ - 1 tsp chilli flakes (to taste)
2-3 thyme or oregano sprigs, leaves picked, or 1 tsp mixed dried herbs
150ml double cream
250ml chicken stock
35g parmesan grated
8-10 basil leaves torn, to serve
juice of one lemon, to serve

Method

Put the flour on a plate and season with salt and freshly ground black pepper. Coat the chicken in the flour.

Heat 2 tbsp of the sundried tomato oil in a large, lidded frying pan over a medium heat and fry the



chicken for 8-10 mins until golden all over, but not cooked through. Set the chicken aside on a plate.

Drizzle the remaining 1 tbsp sundried tomato oil into the pan and reduce the heat to medium-low. Fry the onion for 8-10 mins until softened but not golden. Stir in the garlic and cook for another minute before adding the sundried tomatoes, chilli and thyme or oregano, stirring well.

Add the chicken back to the pan, pour over the cream and chicken stock and season well. Put the lid on the pan and cook on medium-low for about 20 mins, turning the chicken halfway through until it is cooked through and the sauce has thickened a little. Stir in the parmesan, then serve with a scattering of basil leaves and lemon juice squeezed over.

SG

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Teme Valley Wildlife

Some thoughts on swans. Are they native to Britain? Does the Crown own them all? Can their wings break a man's arm? It's "no" to all three, but let's start with the different types of swan currently living in Britain. The most common is the all-year-resident mute swan, the other two, the whooper and

Bewick's swans, are seasonal visitors flying in from northern Europe or Russia to take advantage of less harsh winter weather. The whooper is named for having a trumpet-like call while Bewick's swan is named after the eighteenth-century illustrator Thomas Bewick (1753-1828). The latter two species have black and yellow bills, while the mute swan's is bright orange. The whooper is of similar size to the mute, the Bewick considerably smaller.

Male and female swans are known as cobs and pens. The male mute swan has a prominent black knob at the base of his bill. Mute swans can be seen on rivers, canals and ponds, especially where there is sufficient vegetation to conceal a nest. Eggs are laid between March and May and



both parents look after the youngsters. The silvery-grey cygnets hitch lifts on their parents' backs and hang on with their bills when mum or dad upends to dabble for food under water. Towards the end of the year, as the cygnets turn white, their parents encourage them to leave and set up their own territo-

ries.

It was the highly territorial nature of a cob I saw in the spring on Spetchley Park lake (pictured above) which gave me the idea for this article. The lake has a small island where a vigorous cob was driving all comers away from where his mate had built her nest. With wings held rigidly curved above his back, he achieved a surprising turn of speed using only webbed-foot propulsion. Without flapping his wings or rising out of the water, he motored down on ducks and geese alike, all of whom scattered out of his path.

Despite such aggressive behaviour, swans have an elegant and beautiful courtship dance which I once had the privilege to witness. Whilst

Continued on page 24

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Continued from page 23

walking along a riverbank early one morning, I saw two swans performing a ritual more balletic than *Swan Lake* itself. Moving silently towards one another, the birds' elegantly arched necks formed a perfect heart-shape. They turned and glided away, circling back to repeat the process, they then rose up out of the water facing one another on paddling feet, both in total synchrony. I held my breath and watched entranced.

And what of swans' royal associations? They are said to have been brought from Cyprus by Richard the Lionheart. For centuries the Crown controlled their ownership through royal swanherds and courts called swanmotes, but eventually others owned them too and marked their beaks to stake a claim. This is the origin of "swan-upping" ceremonies which are still held today on a few rivers.

The next meeting of the Teme Valley Wildlife Group will be at 7.30pm on Thursday 12th June at Stoke Bliss and Kyre Village Hall. We welcome Peter Bower whose talk is called "Breathing life into bogs: restoring mosses for nature, climate and communities". Members and friends are all welcome, it's just £3 on the door.

Stephanie Mocroft

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



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What's on in Teme Valley South

June

- 5th Thursday Eastham Coffee Morning, Eastham Memorial Hall, 10.30am
- 12th Thursday Stoke Bliss & Kyre Neighbourhood Lunch, Stoke Bliss & Kyre VH, 12.30pm
- 19th Thursday The Filling Station, Eastham Memorial Hall, 7.15pm
- 20th Friday Barbecue, Eastham Memorial Hall garden, 6.30pm
- 21st Saturday Tidy-up of St Peter's churchyard, Stoke Bliss, 10am
- 22nd Sunday Car Boot and Table Top Sale, Hanley Village Hall, 9am
- 24th Tuesday Rochford Neighbourhood Lunch, Rochford Village Hall, 12.30pm
- 27th Friday Social and Pub Night, Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall, 7pm

July

- 3rd Thursday Eastham Coffee Morning, Eastham Memorial Hall, 10.30am
- 4th Friday Volante Strings Concert, St Mary's Stanford, 7.30pm
- 10th Thursday Stoke Bliss & Kyre Neighbourhood Lunch, Stoke Bliss & Kyre VH, 12.30pm
- 12th Saturday Churchyard working party, St Mary's Stanford, 10am
- 13th Sunday Rochford Fête and Flower Festival, 2.30pm
- 26th Saturday The Pax Singers, Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall, 7.30pm
- 27th Sunday Rochford Open Gardens
- 29th Tuesday Rochford Neighbourhood Lunch, Rochford Village Hall, 12.30pm

August

- 7th Thursday Eastham Coffee Morning, Eastham Memorial Hall, 10.30am
- 9th Saturday Train Day, Kyre Valley Railway at the Hyde, Stoke Bliss, 2pm
- 14th Thursday Stoke Bliss & Kyre Neighbourhood Lunch, Stoke Bliss & Kyre VH, 12.30pm
- 17th Sunday Eastham Fête and Produce Show, 12 noon
- 26th Tuesday Rochford Neighbourhood Lunch, Rochford Village Hall, 12.30pm

Send items for inclusion to Sandra Griffiths by 18th of the previous month
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Services

June/July 2025

Daily prayer continues at 9am and 7pm on Zoom, 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 more details.

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

Services Schedule

Sunday 1st June

10.00am	Stanford	Holy Communion with Hymns
4.00pm	Kyre	Choral Evensong

Saturday 7th June

10.00am	Stanford	Thy Kingdom Come Service
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Sunday 8th June

9.30am	Stoke Bliss	Holy Communion
11.00am	Hanley William	Holy Communion
4.00pm	Hanley Village Hall	Iona Service

Sunday 15th June

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

Sunday 22nd June

10.00am	Rochford	All Age Service and Holy Communion
4.00pm	Kyre	Celtic Evening Prayer

Saturday 28th June

4.00pm	St Kenelm, Clifton on Teme	Welly Church
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Sunday 29th June

10.30am	Worcester Cathedral	Ordination of Tobias Thornes
4.00pm	Eastham	Prayers on Festival of St Peter and St Paul
4.00pm	St Andrews, Ombersley	Deanery Service
		<i>followed by bring your own picnic</i>

Sunday 6th July

10.00am	Stanford	Holy Communion with hymns
4.00pm	Stanford	Come and Sing Jazz Evensong

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