

The background of the entire page is an abstract stained glass design. It features thick black outlines forming various shapes, including a large red oval on the left, a green wavy shape in the upper right, and a yellow and red rectangular shape in the lower right. The spaces between the outlines are filled with colors like white, light blue, green, and red.

TemerTalk

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November 2026

Inside this month's issue

Quiz • Christmas Fayre • Bingo • Dreams
and all your parish news

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TemeTalk

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A community going forward with God

November 2026

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

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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

November is a month when the Church invites us to remember. Across our parishes we see the leaves fall and the evenings drawing in. The natural world itself seems to encourage us to pause, to look back and to give thanks.

At the beginning of the month we celebrate All Saints' Day, remembering those whose lives have shone with the light of Christ. Soon afterwards comes All Souls' Day, when we remember those, we have loved and lost. In our villages and communities, many of us carry the names and faces of people who have shaped our lives – family members, friends, neighbours and those who have served our communities faithfully.

Remembrance Sunday brings another dimension to this act of remembering. We recall with gratitude and sorrow those who have given their lives in war and conflict. As we stand together at our war memorials, we remember not simply names carved in stone, but real people, with hopes, dreams and loved ones of their own.

Remembrance also points us towards the kingdom of God. We are called to be kingdom people: people who live now in the light of the hope of heaven. Whenever love overcomes hatred, forgiveness replaces bitterness, or compassion reaches out to someone in need, heaven touches earth. In small and sometimes unnoticed ways, we become signs of the kingdom for which we pray: "Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven."

Remembrance is therefore more than looking backwards. We remember in the hope of resurrection. The candles we light, the names we speak, and the prayers we offer remind us that love is stronger than death, and that those whom we entrust to God are held safely in his hands.

May our remembering lead us to gratitude for the past, hope for the future, and lives that help heaven touch earth today.

With every blessing

*Rev'd Jen Jones
Assistant Curate*

Thanks to Charlie Ede for this month's cover picture, a stained glass panel of the River Teme as it climbs from mouth to source – see page 11

TemeTalk deadline 18th November
ronsmum@icloud.com or 07482 482629

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Teme Valley South Contacts

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LLM Reader: Pete Thorp 07917 783159

Retired clergy: Robert Barlow, Sally Jones

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Rochford: Ann Prosser 01584 781317

Stoke Bliss & Kyre: Jeremy Wyatt 07720 056671

Trevor Matthews 07768 942169

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: Kate Walton
07494 104781

Village Hall Bookings

Stoke Bliss & Kyre

Janet Powell, 01885 410598

stokeblisskyrevillagehall@gmail.com

Rochford – Ann Prosser, 01584 781317

Eastham –

bookings@easthammemorialhall.org.uk

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hanleyvillagehall@outlook.com

Stanford – Catherine Mawby, 07831 303792

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Parish news

From the Registers

Funerals

On Saturday 10th October the funeral of **Peter Rayner Basford** was held at St Mary's Church, Kyre.

We send our condolences to his family and friends. May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

Confirmation

On Sunday 20th September Bishop Hugh led the confirmation service at Rock Church for the Muddy Boots Rural Area. We're delighted that **Louis Yarnold** (Teme Valley South), **Victoria Williams** (Martley) and **Lynn Thornes** (Hadzor with Oddingley and Tibberton) chose to take this step in confirming their faith. Congratulations.

Teme Tots

Our tots will meet throughout November, enjoying the season of pumpkins, autumn leaves and fireworks. Thanks to the extra pairs of hands who have offered to be helpers whilst Helen recovers from her operation. Helen, you are in our thoughts and prayers as you heal. Keep doing the physio!

All Souls

On Sunday 1st November at 3pm there will be a special service at Rochford where we remember loved ones who are no longer with us. As a matter of course we read out the names of those funerals which have been taken by our ministry team recently, but if you would like to add someone's name to the list please let Jo know on 01886 853286 or by email at assistanttvspcc@gmail.com.

Advant from A-Z – a thoughtful companion for the Advent journey

Prepare for Christmas with Advent from A to Z, a collection of 24 daily reflections by Imogen Ball, Philip North and Andrew Zihni. Each day explores a different letter of the alphabet, with a short Bible reading, reflection, prayer and opportunity to respond. Beautiful illustrations and discussion questions make it ideal for personal or group use.

Whether Advent, which starts on 29th November this year, is new to you or a well-loved tradition, this book offers a fresh way to discover the people, places, traditions and symbols of the season — and to prepare our hearts to celebrate the birth of Jesus. See the advertisement on page 12.

Archdeacon Mark visits

Many months ago Archdeacon Mark offered to come and be involved in some services locally, so we are delighted that he will be with us for All Souls at Rochford on 1st November at 3pm, for Remembrance at Shelsley Beauchamp on 8th November at 10.45am and at Eastham on 15th November at 10am.

Advent Sunday, 29th November

As Advent Sunday falls on a fifth Sunday, our café church in November will be at Rochford village hall from 9.30am and will have an Advent theme. Later that day at 4pm there will be a service at All Saints, Shelsley Beauchamp celebrating the start of Advent called Darkness to Light, where the choir will be singing. It should be a lovely day as we celebrate the start of a very special season. Do come along and invite your friends to one or other service – or even both!

Rev'd Julia

Iona Worship 2026

You are invited to join us at **Hanley Rectory** where you will find a warm welcome and light refreshments

Sunday 8th November at 4pm – Remembrance

For more information please email
Rev'd Jen Jones at tvscurate@gmail.com

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Wednesday winners

23rd September	No 29	Michael Ayres
30th September	No 33	Carole Powell
7th October	No 39	Not sold
14th October	No 34	Phil Bull

Saturday winners

19th September	No 45	Not sold
26th September	No 43	Rosemary Ayres
3rd October	No 33	Not sold
10th October	No 21	Not sold
17th October	No 2	Sue Bridge

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

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TemeTalk

Deadline 18th November

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Teme Valley Tote

October's draw, the seventh in this series, was decided when Rev'd Julia Curtis threw the dice on 2nd October to determine the set of random numbers and the starting point. As a result, the prizewinners for July are:

£50 – **Dawn Hubbard** of Knighton (No 617)

£30 – **Mr & Mrs D Wintle** of Pensax (No 324)

£20 – **Susan Dufton** of Stockton (No 413)

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

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Rochford News

Welcome

Welcome to Michael and Elizabeth (Beth) who have recently moved into Bank Cottage. We hope you will enjoy living in Rochford and make the most of everything this community has to offer.

Neighbourhood lunches

The next sit down and takeaway neighbourhood lunch is on 24th November. The neighbourhood Christmas lunch is on 15th December with a Christmas raffle, proceeds going to Tenbury Christmas lights.

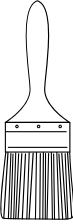
Everyone is welcome but booking for lunches is essential and takeaways should be collected between 12.30 and 1pm. Please book with Ann on 01584 781317 at least the previous week.

Rochford Quiz

on Friday 20th November at 7.30pm at Rochford village hall. Get your team booked in for this ever-popular quiz before we are fully booked. We are pleased to welcome back the West Midlands' Premier Quiz Master, who has arranged a fun quiz for **all** with a great range of rounds including trivia, true or false, sport, music and many more.. Please book your place with Ann or Andrew, either teams of four or come along and join a team on the night. Fish and chip supper included, just £12. No bar so please bring your own drink.

Remembrance Day

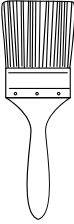
The annual combined churches Remembrance Service: will be held at St Mary's Church, Stanford on Sunday 8th November at 10:45am, with the TVS Choir to lead the singing. In this service we remember and honour the service and sacrifice of the armed forces from our communities. We will remember them.



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All Souls Service

On Sunday 1st November at 3:00pm. Rochford church will once again host this service where we remember those loved ones, we have lost by the reading out of names and the lighting of candles. It is always a very moving service, and everyone is welcome.

Dates for your diary

Rochford Carol Service – 13th December, 3.30pm

Rochford Village Christmas Lunch – Sunday 20th December, 12.30 for 1pm

Rochford Big Breakfast – New Year's Day, 10am

Church flower rota

Many thanks to Jo Evans, Amy Jones and Georgina Painter-Black for the lovely harvest flower arrangements in October. For November, Ann Prosser, thank you

Contacts

Ann on 01584 781317

Andrew on 07809 658484 or through the parish WhatsApp group

If you would like to be added to the parish WhatsApp group to keep you up to date with all village happenings, please send me your mobile number.

Andrew Barbé

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News from Stoke Bliss & Kyre

Now that the clocks have changed, and the gloom of winter is approaching, we can at least look forward to the Christmas season. Key dates for your diary in November are the Remembrance Sunday service on the 8th at St. Mary's church in Stanford at 10.45. In December we have our annual Christmas Carol service at St Peter's Stoke Bliss with the wonderful Teme Valley Churches Choir joining us for music, mince pies and mulled wine. On Christmas Eve morning we have Holy Communion at 10am at St Mary's church Kyre and a family service at 10am at St Peter's Stoke Bliss. Plus of course, the annual Stoke Bliss and Kyre village Christmas lunch on 13th December.

Christmas Tree Festival

Stoke Bliss & Kyre churches will be entering the Stanford Christmas Tree Festival again this year, held over the weekend of 5th/6th December. Our entry will focus on the joy to be found in our hedgerows. Look out for posts on the village Facebook page and email list for when the crafting session will be held.

Churchyard tidy sessions

As the seasonal growth slows, so does the need to volunteer in the churchyard. The committee would like to thank all the many volunteers for their hard work during 2026. Dates for next year will be published in February. You may have noticed that Kyre cemetery has also had a spruce up, with hedges cut back and access improved.



Thursday 12th November
Thursday 10th December
at Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall
12.30pm welcome, lunch served at 1pm

Two courses plus refreshments
To book call 07396 813137
or email sbklunch@gmail.com

We look forward to seeing you

Church roof restoration update

No progress to report on this month as we are still waiting for permissions to be received.

Social night

The village hall social evening will be on Friday 27th November. The bar opens at 7pm. If you would like a meal as well, please book with Julia Berry at sbkvillagehall@gmail.com.

Village hall news

The Stoke Bliss & Kyre village hall AGM was held on Wednesday 14th October with a number of attendees from the community. Thanks were given for the work of the committee in organising events throughout the year and suggestions for future events were shared. Hall finances remain healthy. Our next social night will be on Friday 27th November. Bookings are now open for the Christmas lunch on Sunday 13th December. Please see the advert for all the details.

Keeping you informed

Stay up to date with village news and events for Stoke Bliss and Kyre via the community group on Facebook – search “Stoke Bliss & Kyre Community” to join. If you are not already on the SBK email list, contact Julia Berry at sbkvillagehall@gmail.com to join.

Jeremy Wyatt

Social Night

Friday 27th November

Bar opens at 7pm

Food at 8pm

*Please book food in advance
at sbkvillagehall@gmail.com*

**The deadline for the December issue of
TemeTalk is 18th November**

**Please send contributions to
ronsmum@icloud.com
or call 07482 482629**

Eastham Jottings

Church flowers and cleaning

November – Michael and Diana Potter
December – Team effort

Eastham Coffee Morning

Come to the November coffee morning on Thursday 5th November. Coffee and a raffle: keep in touch with neighbours old and new. Our Christmas coffee morning will be on Thursday 3rd December.

5th November – Liz Cattani

3rd December – Christmas team

Thanks to everyone for supporting the Macmillan coffee morning in October which raised £500 gross for Macmillan Cancer Support. Thanks to the Bloom Café (at Pitlands Farm) for sponsoring the Afternoon Tea for Two which was won by John Harper (c/o Blakehouse). Congratulations to Jane Spilsbury who won the Macmillan quiz. A brilliant result all round – thanks for all your support and especially for lots of donations in advance and in arrears.

Autumn clean

Thanks to everyone who came to help on Saturday 17th October with tidying the churchyard and getting the church ready for the Harvest Festival.

Harvest Festival and Pumpkinfest

We had some amazing entries for the pumpkin competitions on Sunday 18th October.

The winner of the heaviest pumpkin was Colin Lord with a pumpkin weighing in at 86lbs (39.1 kilos). David Clark's pumpkin was second. The children's prize was won by Amber Beverley Smith.

The winners were awarded prizes donated by Eastham Riverside Fête. Donated vegetables and fruit, including the winning pumpkins, were delivered to Maggs Day Centre in Deansway, Worcester (thanks to Jim Cumming) to be made into many bowls of pumpkin soup and apple pies for the homeless. The collection at the Harvest Festival was sent to Tenbury Food Bank.

Eastham Christmas Fayre

Join us on Sunday 15th November for Eastham's annual Christmas Fayre with a wide selection of local traders, including stalls selling Christmas gin, Christmas gifts, foliage and wreaths, Christmas cards, jewellery and lots more including honey galore. Come and enjoy a barbecue, tea and coffee, cakes and a fully licensed bar. There will also be a raffle with fabulous prizes. A generous donation will be made to Air Ambulance.

Christmas Fayre Fun Dog Show

There will be a Fancy Dress Dog Show at the Christmas Fayre with classes for fancy dress owners under 16, fancy dress owners aged over 16, best present opener, waggiest tail and musical Christmas mats. Entries from 11.30, show starts at mid-day. Thanks to Bonnies for sponsoring the rosettes and prizes.

Eyes down – it's Bingo Night

Fancy a fun night out with friends and neighbours and a little bit of "Please call my number!"? Come along to our Bingo Night on Pub Night, Friday 20th November at Eastham Memorial Hall for an evening of laughs, drinks and the chance to win some cash prizes! Doors open from 7 for an 8pm start, £5 per card.

Make a Christmas wreath

Come along to Eastham Memorial Hall on Tuesday 8th December at 7pm for a repeat of last year's wreath making class with a vast selection of fresh and dried foliage to choose from. £25 per person including a festive drink and nibbles. Text or phone Lucy Lawson on 07855 132894 to book.

Future bell ringers

If you would like to try your hand at bell ringing, training can be provided, just contact Celia Adams on 01584 781258. There is a regular learners' group at Shelsley Beauchamp from 7.30 to 9 pm on alternate Thursdays.

Flushed with success

Good news – our church is getting a welcome upgrade! Building work began on 19th October and a shiny new toilet will be installed at St Peter and St Paul's later this year. The work will run for the next few weeks, so thank you for bearing with us – it'll be well worth the wait!

A big thank you to Merrell & Bibby Building Contractors Ltd who are carrying out the work.

Crib Service

Join us at 3pm on Christmas Eve at St Peter and St Paul's, Eastham, for a joyful, child-led celebration of the Nativity! Children are warmly invited to come dressed as Nativity characters and take part in the story. We are also delighted that Michael Webb will be playing the organ/keyboard.

After the service, please stay and enjoy mulled wine, mince pies and other festive goodies.

For further information please email eastham-court@icloud.com or ring 01584 781244.

Celia Adams

Hanley Happenings

Percy stars at Macmillan coffee morning

Despite a relatively low turnout, the residents of the Hanleys raised an impressive £340 for Macmillan Cancer Support at my Macmillan Coffee Morning in September. All visitors were greeted at the door of Tally Ho Cottage by an enthusiastic Percy (below) who was delighted to es-



Can you help?

Can you help out with the delivery of TemeTalk in the Hanley Childe area? It's a once a month walk around the area at a time of day to suit. Please contact Jan on 07906 358658 if you are willing to help.

Village hall news

Work has started at the village hall, the contents have been sorted and mostly put in the skip in the car park. The roof will come off first and then work will start on the interior, hopefully before winter weather!

All the books were sold for charity so many thanks to all contributors.

Carole Gardner

cort them to the feast of cakes!

Special thanks must go to ex-resident Gill Evans who came from Hereford to help out and catch up with the locals who remembered her.

Chris and Graham Francis regaled us with amusing anecdotes about their experiences whilst learning how to be successful bee keepers. The honey they have produced this summer is excellent and they have even designed their own label for the jars.

Many thanks to Ed Yarnold and Shirley Harvey for their donations.

Carole Gardner

Sew-ciable Sewing

We are three friends, Emma, Joanna and Karen, who met through a love of sewing. We have enjoyed meeting regularly at home to work on our own projects and swap skills and ideas. Now we are excited to find others, of any ability, to provide even more inspiration and share their experiences in the relaxed informal setting of Hanley's newly-refurbished hall.

The launch session is booked for Thursday 4th February and then on the first Thursday of each month from 10am to 4pm. You should bring your sewing machine, project and a packed lunch. We will provide ironing facilities, tea, coffee and cake. The cost will be £5.00 per day towards the hall rental.

Please save the date and we hope you will join us in the New Year! Just turn up, or contact me on emmatemobile@gmail.com or 07801 278890.



Hanley Broadheath WhatsApp Group



Scan this QR code using your WhatsApp camera to join the group

The deadline for the December issue of TemeTalk is 18th November

Stanford • Stanford • Stanford

Services in Stanford

Sunday 1st November

Holy Communion with hymns at 10am

Sunday 8th November

Remembrance Day Service at 10.45am

Church flowers

Thanks to Sarah Burgoyne for a wonderful arrangement of flowers and harvest gifts for our display in the church.



Remembrance Day

The Service of Remembrance on 8th November at Stanford is for all the Teme Valley South churches and anyone who is able to attend. It will include refreshments in the church afterwards with tea and coffee, cheese scones and biscuits. We are looking forward to holding it at St Mary's this year and so pleased that we will be joined by the Teme Valley South Choir.

Christmas Tree Festival

This year's Christmas Tree Festival will be held on Saturday 5th and Sunday 6th December from 10am to 4pm. On Saturday there will be carol singing at 4pm. Refreshments include mulled wine and mince pies, tea, coffee, biscuits and cakes. There will be a competition to judge the trees which is open to all ages. Entries are from local businesses, schools, locals – and this year the Teme Valley South Choir has supported us with a tree.

We are raising money for Maggs Day Centre and the church. Please support us if you can.

Festive Shopping at Mill Farm Country Retail

Come along on Saturday 5th December and enjoy a 10% festive discount in selected stores including Mrs Best Paper Co and The Vintage Box.

Confirmations

The confirmation classes which took place in Stanford were attended by three children and two of them went on to be confirmed, with a number of others, by the Bishop of Worcester, the Right Reverend Hugh Nelson at St Peter and St Paul's Church in Rock, Kidderminster. It was a very joyful service led by the Bishop and assisted by Rev'd Julia Curtis. There was a wonderful tea afterwards!

We think of them all on their new journey as full communicants of the Church of England. They have now taken ownership of the baptismal promises or vows that were made by parents and godparents when they were baptized.

Harvest Festival

The Harvest Festival Service led by Rev'd Robert Barlow was well attended. Nabil Jamous, chairman, spoke on behalf of FOAG, the Farmers Overseas Action Group, explaining what the charity does, from supporting the supply and growing of crops to medical support for injuries such as a broken arm which has mended crookedly on its own. The work takes place in Uganda; the charity was started by four Worcestershire families some years ago.

A lovely harvest lunch for about 40 guests in the village hall was organised by Sue Softly, helped by Tina Lane and Ann Wall. Cecilia Dean, as a trustee, spoke on behalf of FOAG, highlighting how hard it is for the communities of farmers and the sort of conditions they are faced with. David Evington auctioned the vegetables, using his skills to make the auction as engaging as possible! Many thanks to them all.

£500 was raised from the harvest service, lunch and auction donations and shared between FOAG and the church.

There were some donations to Tenbury Food Bank which will be gratefully received. The box is in the church porch for any further donations.

Churchyard

Andy Nicol led the working party in September, joined by Louise Leftwich. Please let Alexandra know if you wish to be notified when it takes place although it is in the magazine. We are most thankful for any assistance.

Bernard Churchill's mowing services are now a regular event. Thanks to all involved with it.

Alexandra Winnington

The Filling Station

Our next meeting will be on Thursday 19th November at Eastham Memorial Hall at 7.15 for a 7.30pm start, when George Carpenter will be speaking to us. George spent over ten years heading up a TV production for South African evangelist Angus Buchan. In 2021 he moved to England and his mission today is to encourage ordinary people to trust in an extraordinary God.

There will be no meeting in December and so our next Filling Station event will be on Thursday 21st January, speaker to be arranged.

We look forward to seeing you at our evenings of fellowship, worship, teaching and refreshments. If you are not on our mailing list and would like further information please contact me on kate.harley6@gmail.com.



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TemeTalk deadlines

This year we are planning a joint January/February 2027 issue of TemeTalk.

The deadline for the December issue will be **18th November** and the deadline for the January/February issue will be **6th January**. Please let me have details of your early January events in good time for the December issue.

The deadline for the March issue will be **18th February** as usual.

Activities at Eastham Memorial Hall

- Pilates – on Tuesdays at 1.10pm and 2.20pm. For details or a taster session please contact Sue on 07974 343609 or sue579@icloud.com.
 - Yoga – every Wednesday at 10am. Ring Zoe on 07962 981456 or see www.zedyoga.co.uk. Taster sessions available.
 - Stretch class (previously Fitball) – Rejuven8 Fitness & Wellbeing classes have been temporarily suspended. If you would like further information on the classes at alternative venues please contact Michelle on 07837 359403.
- There is a WhatsApp group that keeps everyone up to date: contact Michelle for details.

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Teme River, Wild Daughter of Severn

Charlie Eden, who lives at Madresfield, Malvern, is a poet and stained glass maker. He wrote this poem after completing a walk along the river Teme, upstream from mouth to source, with some friends. He says, "The advantage of walking upstream is that towns and villages are left behind as you climb. This does make it a kind of pilgrimage. You arrive in territory which is empty apart from the primordial elements of earth, sky and water."

This month's cover picture is a stained glass panel designed and made by Charlie which depicts the Teme as it climbs from its mouth to its source. Can you spot the otter and the dipper in the picture?

A litany of loveliness
The names that grace the twisting Teme.
Come, climb together from mouth to source
Twined with paths its silver gleam.

Past Bransford's bridge, the barn at Leigh
Souging wind through Lulsley's trees,
Grating of gears up Ankerdine,
Cropping of grass on Ham Bridge leas.

Through Martley's red rock portal
The accompanying road descends,
Entrance to her vale of enchantments,
High banks and fast-flowing bends.

Long rounded limbs and female forms
Smooth the valley's steep sides,
Under dark dingles of gruesome name
Where the Severn's wild daughter rides.

A Shelsley with a sandstone church,
The other of travertine,
Clifton above and Stanford athwart
The river on its wandering line.

Mamble – a secret not to tell –
Eastham's wrecked bridge stood here,
Tenbury's annual mistletoe fair
And Cleve whose brow shows clear.

Dreaming cows under orchard trees,
Hop yards and fields of ripening wheat:
A surviving mixed farm, unusual now
Where Hereford, Worcester and Salop meet.

Turning north at Wooferton,
Ashford Bowdler savours fear.
His sister Ashford Carbonel,
Her pretty bridge above the weir.

Ludlow is a fluttering flag
High on its prosperous hill,
While just above lies Bromfield,
Horse chestnut shading water mill.

Swinging west through Downton Gorge
Past Burrington's headstones of iron
To the parlour pub at Leintwardine,
Then Bucknell and Brampton Bryan.

Knighton and Knucklas, train into Wales
Llanfair Waterdine, Mary's church,
Beguiling Beguilty beckons us to
The final village in our search.

Felindre turns its ghostly wheel,
We leave behind its last abode
To climb up bare Cilfaesty Hill,
The last we see of house and road.

We ascend to only earth and sky
And leave behind all settlements,
A journey suddenly back through time
To the primordial elements.

The dwindling stream we follow to
A fount that's hidden in a fold,
And here we stand and gaze as if
It were the fabled crock of gold.

Our pilgrimage is now complete
We've traced it to its bubbling spring.
Our presence makes a sacred place,
No gifts we've brought, ourselves we bring.

Now bead the names upon a thread
To make a charm to wake a dream,
That litany of lovely names
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Sun 8th	3.00pm	TFO – The Film Orchestra and Choir
Sat 21st	7.30pm	Rock for Heroes: Christmas Anthems
Sat 28th	7.30pm	ABBA Sensation

Live Theatre

Tue 3rd	7.00pm	Elf: The Musical JR
Thu 12th	7.00pm	The Regal Community Theatre presents Make Way for Lucia
Fri 13th	7.00pm	The Regal Community Theatre presents Make Way for Lucia
Sat 14th	1.00pm	The Regal Community Theatre presents Make Way for Lucia

Film

Mon 16th	12 noon	Monday Matinee: Verity (15)
Tue 17th	7.00pm	Digger (15)
Wed 18th	7.00pm	The Uprising (15)
Mon 23rd	7.00pm	Doctor Who: The Satan Pit (12A)

Live Event

Thu 19th	7.30pm	Tenbury Floral Art Club: "Glad Tidings" Christmas Demonstration
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Arts Screening

Fri 20th	7.00pm	GIANT – The Play (12A)
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From gearboxes to buzz boxes

Part one: Taking the plunge

It started with a trip to collect two old Land Rover gearboxes. Not, perhaps, the obvious beginning of a beekeeping story.

We had just returned from a short holiday in Madeira in late March last year. Christine's birthday was approaching and, true to form, I had left buying her present until the last minute.

One of my retirement side hustles is buying old Land Rover Series gearboxes, stripping them and selling the parts. A collection trip to Brecon took me through Whitney-on-Wye, where I spotted a sign outside a cottage: "Beehive kits for sale".

Christine had mentioned keeping bees before, partly because she had noticed a distinct lack of pollinators in the garden. We had both been busy, though, and as far as I knew, the idea had never progressed. Here, apparently, was the answer to my birthday present problem.

What I didn't know was that Christine had quietly been researching both the science and the art of beekeeping. She was beginning to think better of it, having discovered just how much work was involved. I was blissfully unaware of this.

On the return journey I stopped and met Richard, who, judging by his appearance and mannerisms, I initially took to be Boris Johnson's reclusive twin brother; but alas, not! A lovely chap, he was reducing his number of hives and kindly explained the basics before selling me a hive kit. I didn't know the top from the bottom of a hive, but that wasn't going to dampen my enthusiasm.

Back home, I hid it in the garage. Unfortunately, I was so pleased with myself that I couldn't

resist dropping hints. Christine has an uncanny ability to work out her surprises anyway. My hints probably didn't help.

She was delighted, but her practical response brought me gently back to earth: we would need some bees.

There were other things, too. Protective clothing, equipment, somewhere suitable to put the hive and rather more knowledge than I currently possessed. My understanding had been approximately: put hive in garden, add bees, collect honey. Christine's research had given her a rather more realistic picture.

I had thoroughly underestimated the work, expense and learning ahead. But sometimes an impulsive decision gets an idea moving. As we have often said since, without that roadside sign and my habit of leaving things to the last minute, we might still be discussing whether or not to keep bees.

Instead, we had a hive in the garage and a birthday present that was becoming a shared adventure.

Now we just had to find its occupants ...

Graham Francis

Next month: the bees arrive



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Why was George Osborne at the Royal Show?

I'm a dreamer but I don't often remember my dreams. After I wake up a curtain closes and although I'm aware that I've been dreaming, there is nothing to remember.

Last night was different. You should appreciate that it was a dream and some of the facts are simply not possible ...

I visited the Royal Show at Stoneleigh with my wife. After entering we parted company and went to the various stands.

I found myself in the members' tent where there were white tablecloths and fine dining and this is where I met George Osborne. He invited me to join him for the meal and then he asked me to join his choir. I agreed but explained I was not a very good singer.

He was so pleased that he gave me a small gift, an Old Paulines rugby club shirt in brown and white hoops

A local Stanford Bridge family passed by our table but were not impressed to see me mixing in this elevated company.

I then went to inspect the sheep, big Kerry Hill white faced, and there I met a couple from Upper Sapey and told them where I had been, They just laughed and didn't believe me



Then I woke up

I have subsequently done some research and found that George Osborne went to St Paul's School and Old Paulines rugby club is connected to the school. It plays in red, black and white hooped shirts, not brown and white. I have never been to the Royal Show at Stoneleigh. The last one held there was in 2009.

Humans have worried about dreams for a long, long time. Can you remember them? What do they mean? Is the brain just filing stuff in the right place? Can they foretell the future?

Sigmund Freud famously linked dreams to the unconscious, suggesting that we explore repressed desires and conflicts while asleep. He claimed that many of these unconscious desires are rooted in childhood experience, especially family dynamics.

Carl Jung later challenged Freud's ideas about dreams. While Freud's concept of the unconscious resembled a dark basement of repressed desires, Jung argued that it is also a deep, magical lake full of undeveloped thoughts that offers dreamers the potential for personal growth.

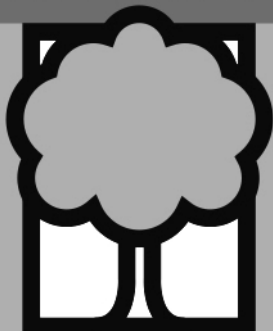
Jung also suggested that dreams are bridges linking the individual's experiences to both the personal unconscious and the collective unconscious, a huge reservoir of universal experiences, symbols and ancestral memories shared by all of us.

None of this explains why I dreamt that I met a former Chancellor of the Exchequer at a show that I had never been to — and where do the choir, the rugby shirt and the sheep fit in?

Can you explain it? Or have you had vivid dreams that you can remember? Let us know.

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Digital changeover: our landline is changing – PREPARE NOW

Concerns have been raised across my ward and at parish councils in relation to the digital telephone changeover, particularly for older or vulnerable residents in outlying parts of the community. This advice is relevant to residents in every part of our rural communities and even towns where there are vulnerable people.

The traditional telephone network is due to retire on 31st January 2027 and your household may be moved before then. Most existing phones can still be used, usually through a router or an adapter supplied by your provider.

However, digital landlines depend on electricity. Without suitable backup, a power cut could prevent you calling for help. This matters, particularly where mobile reception is poor.

Please contact your telephone provider now, using the number on your bill. BT customers can call 0330 1234 150. Your provider handles your account and changeover arrangements, even where Openreach carries out installation work.

Tell them if you live alone, have additional health or support needs, rely on your landline, have poor mobile reception or use a pendant alarm. Ask them to record this and explain:

- When will my telephone change over?
- What free backup will you provide so I can call 999 during a power cut?

- How long will it last, and what happens during a longer outage?
- Can you arrange a free engineer visit if I need help?

Providers should offer a suitable emergency calling solution free to people who depend on their landline during power cuts. The minimum protection is one hour; this may be insufficient for a prolonged winter outage. Explain your local circumstances clearly. A mobile-backed phone needs a usable signal, while a battery must support all the necessary equipment, including any powered telephone base.

If you have a pendant or care alarm, contact both your telephone company and your alarm provider before the change. Ask them to confirm compatibility and arrange testing, including the alarm's power-cut arrangements.

If you do not have broadband, ask about a telephone-only solution and any costs before agreeing to a package.

Please help an older relative or neighbour make these enquiries. Keep a written record of the advice and arrange who will check on them during a lengthy power cut.

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Ancient stories for contemporary wisdom

The story continues with early humans starting to increase in number. Chapter 4 talks of "Cain made love to his wife ..." But where the wife (or indeed the wives for the sons born from that relationship) came from the story doesn't say. That's not a question that the narrative wants to address. The story is more interested in how those early humans lived. As the paradise of the garden of Eden is no longer accessible to them, Cain starts to build a city. The story speaks of those who developed technology to forge bronze and iron. It tells also of those who developed musical instruments – wind and strings. It speaks (again) of nomadic tent dwellers with livestock.

Early humans are portrayed as living in the city Cain was building using the technology (bronze

and iron) that was available to them. Food is available from the nomadic livestock keepers. Music is part of human existence from the very earliest of times. Interestingly the story tells us also that "At that time people began to call on the name of the LORD". Along with community, technology, food and music, looking to connect with the sacred – something other than that which is ordinary, everyday, visible and tangible – has been part of what it means to be human from our earliest times. Evidence from sites of early human existence all point to our early ancestors trying to connect with something "other", something divine. Ancient stories suggest that is part of what it is to be fully human.

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Hollow Meadow News

Now the season for planned events on the meadow has ended it's time to consider the jobs for the winter and plan events for next year. The autumn/ winter jobs are pruning the willow, hazel and dogwood to thicken the hedge line, so let me know if you would like to help and we can arrange a time that suits. The plans for next year are about workshops and events. We will have an open time for the orchids in late May or early June and the Tai Chi continues twice monthly from April to September, dates to be arranged.

We are also looking at what art and craft classes we can run on the meadow. If you would like to get together a group booking for a particular craft or art experience we would be pleased discuss and to help you find a tutor. Another possibility is to run a regular monthly one and a half hour ses-



Stream walk in November 2025

sion exploring working with natural materials on site. If any of these suggestions appeal to you, or if you have other ideas, it would be great to hear from you.

Maggie Kingston
hollowmeadow23@gmail.com



Fungi on a big log at Hollow Meadow

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*programme as of 8/10/2026



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Sunday 1 November, 7.30pm



TFO - The Film Orchestra and Choir
Sunday 8 November, 3pm



RCT presents Make Way for Lucia | Thursday 12 & Friday 13 November, 7pm and Saturday 14 November, 1pm



Rag'n'ri
Sunday 15 November, 7.30pm



Tenbury Floral Art Club - "Glad Tidings" Christmas Demonstration | Thursday 19 November, 7.30pm



GIANT - The Play (12A)
Friday 20 November, 7pm



Rock For Heroes: Christmas Anthems
Saturday 21 November, 7.30pm



Doctor Who: The Satan Pit (12A)
Monday 23 November, 7pm



ABBA Sensation
Saturday 28 November, 7.30pm

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Teme Valley Wildlife

I've recently been reading about a countryman who spent his whole life working in the woods of the Teme valley and who died not long after the turn of the millennium. I was struck by his observation that there are perhaps two weeks each year when the new unfurling leaves of trees and plants display a multitude of differing hues of green. This mosaic effect is only brief because the leaves rapidly darken, all tending to a more uniform colour in maturity. It was during this period in spring that my eye was drawn to some leaves of unusual shape and tint on the edge of my local wood. I reached up to a branch to look more closely and realised I didn't know what they were.

I went to check on them a week or two later, when a loose cluster of flower buds had appeared, but I was still none the wiser. Patience is a virtue, so I waited for the buds to open into single white flowers, then photographed both leaves and flowers to compare with some pictures in my botany books. To my surprise and delight the tree proved to be an uncommon native species called the wild service tree. Better still, it reliably signifies that the site on which it grows is ancient woodland.

By the time the flowers were in it was May, so I set off on my annual walking challenge at the Malvern Walking Festival. Our route took us through Haugh Wood, a Forestry England site close to Woolhope in the Wye valley. The wood is designated a site of special scientific interest and is particularly renowned for hosting more than 600 different species of moth and butterfly. The rare wood white butterfly and drab looper moth can be found here. Armed with my new knowledge, I was able to recognise abundant wild service tree flowers as we passed through, and I later learned that the wood is the best place in Herefordshire to see them.

Wild service trees are members of the sorbus family, their commonest relative being the rowan,



Flowers of the wild service tree

also called the mountain ash tree. They prefer clay soils, propagate by suckering and provide a good display of autumn leaf colour, turning an attractive red as temperatures fall. The open white flowers develop into small brown fruits which carry the common name of chequers. Chequers are round,

speckled berries one to two centimetres in diameter and if left to soften, or "blet", become edible, although their texture is said to be somewhat gritty. In earlier times, they were sometimes gathered and threaded onto strings to ripen indoors, then eaten like sweets when soft. Their unusual flavour is said to resemble a cross between dried apricot and tamarind. Unfortunately, I shall have to wait until next year to verify this because this year's heat and dryness made the berries shrivel up.

The berries have also been associated with traditional inns named "The Chequers", although that association is unclear. Trees might have grown nearby, or perhaps some type of drink was prepared from the fruits, although the evidence for that is somewhat sparse. Regardless, it appears that the tree once had much more of a public use and presence than it does today. I wonder why?

The next meeting of the Teme Valley Wildlife Group will be at 7.30pm on Thursday 12th November at Stoke Bliss and Kyre Village Hall. We welcome Nigel Woodall whose talk is called "Deer of the Wyre Forest and Beyond". Members and friends are welcome, it is 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, newsletter and bird survey are all available on the website www.teme-valley-wildlife.org. We hold meetings on the second Thursday of the month from January to November. All are welcome.

Easy fudge

This really easy fudge recipe makes soft, melt-in-the-mouth fudge, perfect for Christmas gifts for family and friends.

Ingredients

397g tin condensed milk
450g / 1lb light brown soft sugar
120g / 4½oz butter, cubed
125ml / 4fl oz milk
pinch salt

Method

Line a 20cm / 8 inch square tin with baking paper. Place a glass of cold water in the freezer (or in the fridge with ice cubes).

Place all of the ingredients, apart from the salt, into a large, dry saucepan over a low heat. Continuously stir until the butter has melted and the sugar has completely dissolved.

Slowly bring the mixture to a rolling boil over a medium-high heat for 10 minutes. Stir continuously, especially around the edges, to stop the mixture catching on the bottom of the pan and burning. Be very careful as the mixture is very hot.

Once the mixture has reduced and darkened, carefully dip a teaspoon into the mixture and drizzle it into your glass of iced water (remove the ice



cubes if using). It should become a soft, pliable ball you can squash with your fingers when dropped into the iced water. If it sticks to the glass or your fingers when you press it, continue to boil and test the mixture every 2–3 minutes, or until it passes the test.

Add a pinch of salt then beat the mixture well. Leave to cool in the saucepan for 10 minutes. Beat the thickened mixture again, breaking the top that will have started to set until it starts to lose its shine. Leave for another 5 minutes and beat again. Pour into the lined tin and level with the back of a spoon.

Refrigerate for at least 3 hours, or until completely firm and you can cut through it easily with a knife without it getting stuck. Remove the fudge from the tin, transfer to a chopping board and slice into 36 pieces (6x6) using a sharp knife.

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Mary had a little lamb – yes, really!

Mums and dads have sung nursery rhymes to their children for centuries. But have you ever wondered who the Grand Old Duke of York really was? Did you realise that Mary really did take a lamb to school?

Here, our guide reveals the fascinating origins of some of the best known ditties ...

Sing a Song of Sixpence

Believed to have been referenced in Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*. Putting birds in a pie was a real form of entertainment at grand meals during the 16th century. Another theory suggests that the rhyme is about the dissolution of the monasteries by King Henry VIII with the blackbirds as the monks, his first wife Catherine of Aragon as the queen in the parlour and Anne Boleyn the maid in the garden.

The Grand Old Duke of York

One version of the song dates back to 1642, but in this the culprit is the King of France. There are several candidates for the later version featuring the Duke of York. The most likely is Prince Frederick, Duke of York and Albany. He was the second son of George III who led a disastrous campaign in Flanders, following the French Revolution.

Jack and Jill

Jack and Jill go back to the 16th century with Shakespeare referring to them in his play *A Midsummer's Night Dream*. There are several theories but the village of Kilmersdon in Somerset lays claim to be the source and there is a stone tablet recording it.

In 1697 an unmarried couple were said to have done their courting on the hill. Jill fell pregnant but before the baby was born Jack was killed by a rock that fell off the hill. Jill is then said to have died in childbirth!



Baa, Baa, Black Sheep

The rhyme dates back to at least 1731 and is most likely to refer to the wool tax imposed in the 13th century. In this theory the master is the king, the dame is the monasteries of the time who each had a claim on the proceeds.

London Bridge is Falling Down

This rhyme dates back at least as far as the 17th century and there are similar old rhymes from Denmark, Germany and France. One theory has it that the rhyme refers to the sacking of the bridge by Olaf II of Norway in 1014. Others suggest that it simply refers to the old medieval London Bridge which, by the 18th century, was in a state of disrepair.

Little Jack Horner

It's thought that Jack Horner was actually Thomas Horner, a steward to Richard Whiting, the last abbot of Glastonbury put to death by King Henry VIII.

The story goes that in a bid to stop his abbey being destroyed the abbot sent Horner to the King with a huge Christmas pie secretly containing the deeds to 12 manor houses as a sweetener. But Horner arrived with only 11, taking one for himself. Whatever the truth, the ploy didn't work. The abbey was torn down anyway.

Mary Had A Little Lamb

Dates back to 1830 and an American poem by Sarah Josepha Hale which is said to have been inspired by a real event when a girl called Mary Sawyer, living in Sterling, Massachusetts, caused commotion by taking her pet sheep to school.

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What's on in Teme Valley South

November

- 5th Thursday Eastham Coffee Morning, Eastham Memorial Hall, 10.30am
8th Sunday Remembrance Day Service, St Mary's Stanford
15th Sunday Christmas Fayre, Eastham Memorial Hall, 11.00am
Christmas Fayre Fun Dog Show, Eastham Memorial Hall, 11.30am
19th Thursday The Filling Station, Eastham Memorial Hall, 7.15pm
20th Friday Rochford Quiz, Rochford Village Hall, 7.30pm
Bingo Night, Eastham Memorial Hall, 7.00pm
24th Tuesday Rochford Neighbourhood Lunch, Rochford Village Hall, 12.30pm
27th Friday Social Night, Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall, 7.00pm

December

- 2nd Wednesday Advent from A-Z on Zoom
3rd Thursday Eastham Coffee Morning, Eastham Memorial Hall, 10.30am
5th Saturday Festive Shopping, Mill Farm Country Retail
5th/6th Christmas Tree Festival, St Mary's Church, Stanford, 10.00am
8th Tuesday Christmas Wreath Making, Eastham Memorial Hall, 7pm
9th Wednesday Advent from A-Z on Zoom
13th Sunday Stoke Bliss & Kyre Christmas Lunch, 1.00pm
Rochford Carol Service, Rochford Church, 3.30pm
15th Tuesday Rochford Neighbourhood Christmas Lunch, Rochford Village Hall, 12.30pm
16th Wednesday Advent from A-Z on Zoom
20th Sunday Rochford Village Christmas Lunch, Rochford Village Hall, 12.30pm
Christmas Carol Service, St Peter's Stoke Bliss, 3.00pm
23rd Wednesday Advent from A-Z on Zoom
24th Thursday Crib Service, Eastham Church, 3.0pm

2027

January

- 1st Friday Rochford Big Breakfast, Rochford Village Hall, 10.00am
21st Thursday The Filling Station, Eastham Memorial Hall, 7.15pm

Send items for inclusion to Sandra Griffiths by 18th of the previous month
telephone 07482 482629
or email ronsmum@icloud.com

Services

November /December 2026

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

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 November

10.00am Stanford Church
3.00pm Rochford

Holy Communion and Hymns
All Souls Service

Sunday 8th November

10.45am Stanford Church
4.00pm Hanley Rectory

Remembrance Sunday

Service of Remembrance with choir
Iona Communion Service for Remembrance

Sunday 15th November

10.00am Eastham Church
2.00pm

All Age Service and Holy Communion
Walking Church

Sunday 22nd November

10.00am Rochford Church
4.00pm Stoke Bliss Church

All Age Service and Holy Communion
Celtic Evening Prayer

Sunday 29th November

9.30am Rochford Village Hall
4.00pm Shelsley Beauchamp

Advent Sunday

Café Church
Combined benefice Advent Darkness to Light Service with choir

5th and 6th December

Stanford Church

Christmas Tree Festival

Sunday 6th December

8.30am Stanford Church

Said Holy Communion

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