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October 2026



Inside this month's issue

Macmillan Coffee Morning • Quiz • Pumpkinfest • Applefest
and all your parish news

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TemeTalk

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A community going forward with God

October 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

Hope in hard times

A clever, matter-of-fact friend who likes things to be logical and straightforward asked me, while I was undergoing chemotherapy recently, "What are the doctors promising – what can they promise?" I replied, "Well ... they don't promise anything. They can't promise anything. But there is always Hope. I can hope."

Sometimes life seems to be all about solving problems and dealing with difficulties. Every day: challenges, hurdles to overcome, pitfalls to avoid. We can feel battered, dejected and abandoned, buffeted by life's shocks, pain and doubts – sometimes grief-stricken and desperate. We can feel weak and vulnerable when life feels hard and unfair.

How do we cope in hard times, facing tricky decisions, dealing with disappointments and struggles?

We can hope.

Hope and optimism aren't the same. Optimism is a cheerful, sunny outlook on life – a 'glass half full'. It's more superficial and passive than hope.

Hope motivates us and drives us forward into the future with confidence. Hope is a mixture of a desire for a better outcome and an active belief that the desired outcome is genuinely possible. Hope encourages us to trust in the future. It spurs us to be committed and do what's needed to make a particular goal come about – especially when success isn't guaranteed. Hope doesn't fade by being openly honest and realistic.

Hope is what gets us through life in an uncertain and often hopeless world. It's not a passive wish. It involves a feeling of trust and faith. It requires willpower to see a way to achieve something. Hope requires us to take action. We need to do something to help the outcome happen.

Continued on page 3

Thanks to Sarah Breen of Eastham for this month's cover photograph of a hummingbird moth landing on a zinnia

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

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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 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

Hanley – Diane Pagett, 07879 888336

hanleyvillagehall@outlook.com

Stanford – Catherine Mawby, 07831 303792

stanfordwithorletonvillagehall@gmail.com

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Parish news

From the Registers

Funerals

On Monday 7th September the funeral of **Haydn John Lloyd** was held at Wyre Forest Crematorium. We send our condolences to his family and friends. May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

Teme Tots

Our tots will meet throughout October, but will be taking a rest during half-term, so no session on 30th October. 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!

Harvest Festivals

This month our communities will be celebrating harvest festivals across three Sundays. It's the season for pumpkins, apples and thankfulness for all God's gifts around us. Have a look at our individual village pages for information about local services and where there are harvest suppers happening. Thanks to Pete Thorp for producing a simple and flexible service outline which will be used across our area. After a long, dry summer and very early harvest it will be good to celebrate together.

All Souls

On Sunday 1st November there will be a special service at Rochford when 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 assistanttvspcc@gmail.com

Clocks change

Just a little reminder that the clocks go back this month overnight on Saturday 24th/Sunday 25th. An extra hour in bed ... unless you have pets or children around in which case I used to find it takes them a bit longer to adjust to the change!

Rev'd Julia

Dear Readers

Continued from page 1

In good times and hard times, when the going is easy or tough, we can hope. We can pray. Whether it's jobs or money or relationships or housing or physical or mental health or climate change or ... Whatever challenges life brings, we can hope.

Psalm 31 encourages us: Be strong and take heart, all you who hope in the Lord.

And may the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace.

Rev'd Jen Denniston

Romans 15:13 — "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."

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Rochford 49 Club

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

Wednesday winners

19th August	No 9	Jennifer Gledhill
26th August	No 9	Jennifer Gledhill
2d September	No 9	Jennifer Gledhill
9th September	No 24	Norma Goodall
16th September	No 30	Edward Prosser

Saturday winners

22nd August	No 3	Not sold
29th August	No 55	Not sold
5th September	No 36	Michael Wilding
12th September	No 26	Caroline 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

TemeTalk

Deadline 18th October

ronsmum@icloud.com or **07482 482629**

Teme Valley Tote

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

£50 – **Gill Deacon** of Eastham (No 254)

£30 – **Tammy Starling** of Eastham (No 288)

£20 – **Daisy Campbell** of Stanford (No 490)

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

October is the beginning of autumn, as John Keats said "the season of mists and mellow fruitfulness". With hops, fruit and a caring community, Rochford has more than its share of fruitfulness.

Neighbourhood lunches

The dates for sit down and takeaway neighbourhood lunches are 27th October and 24th November. The neighbourhood Christmas lunch is on 15th December with a Christmas raffle, proceeds going to Tenbury Christmas lunches.

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.

Harvest Festival and supper

The Harvest service is at 5pm on Sunday 11th October, followed by supper at the village hall at 6.30pm. All are welcome to either or both: if you can't make it to the church service just come for supper (just £12). Please book supper with Ann.

Donations of harvest produce and non-perishables including tins and packets would also be much appreciated and will be passed on to support local people in need.

Church clean and decorating for harvest

Please come along on Saturday 10th October at 10.30am to help prepare our lovely church for harvest.

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.

All Souls Day

The annual All Souls service is on Sunday 1st November at 3pm, at Rochford church, when we remember our loved ones who are no longer with us.

Hallowe'en

In October we celebrate Hallowe'en which is influenced by Christian beliefs and practices surrounding All Hallows' Day (All Saints' Day). The English word Hallowe'en comes from All Hallows' Eve, the evening before the Christian holy days of All Hallows' Day (All Saints' Day) and All Souls Day.

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

Flowers for October – Jenny Barbé and harvest decorators, 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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TemeTalk deadline 18th October

News from Stoke Bliss & Kyre

With the autumn equinox now passed and the clocks about to change as the nights draw in, we are entering the "season of mists and mellow fruitfulness". It is time to gather the last produce from our gardens, to clean-up and tidy our plots, clear away overgrowth and sharpen tools to be ready for the coming winter. At the church we will take time to give thanks for the harvest and for the hard work and dedication of our farmers and all those who work to feed our nation.

Harvest Festival

We will be marking the changing season at our annual Harvest Festival, celebrated this year at St Mary's church, Kyre on Sunday 11th October starting at 10am. Everyone is welcome and we invite people to donate foodstuffs, which will be given to the Tenbury Food Bank after the service. Donations can be brought on the morning of the service or left in the churches at Stoke Bliss or Kyre prior to the service. The wonderful Teme Valley Churches Choir will be joining us, bringing their joyful music which will echo around the ancient walls of Kyre church, making it a very special occasion for us all.

New noticeboard at Stoke Bliss

Thanks to support from Church of England's Healthier Churches Fund and Malvern District Council, funding has been secured for a new weatherproof noticeboard for the roadside by St Peter's church.



Thursday 8th October
Thursday 12th November
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

St Peter's church roof update

Our faculty application is now out for consultation, which allows relevant heritage bodies, such as Historic England, to look at the proposed works. Once the faculty permission is granted, we can start full discussions with potential contractors and grant funding bodies.

Churchyard tidy sessions

As the rains have come, the grass has recovered and will get an end-of-season tidy during October at a date still to be confirmed. If you would like to join the work party, WhatsApp group message 07720 056671 or email sbchurch@fastmail.fm. Everyone is welcome.

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

Village hall news

The AGM of the Stoke Bliss & Kyre village hall will be held on Wednesday 14th October at 7pm at the village hall. Members of the public are welcome to attend and tea and coffee will be served.

Please note also that there is a change of date for the October Social Night – it will now be on Friday 23rd October. The food and the company will still be excellent!

Trevor Matthews

Chair Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall Committee

Social Night

Friday 23rd October

Bar opens at 7pm

Food at 8pm

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

Next Social Night is Friday 27th November

Bar opens at 7pm, food at 8pm

Eastham Jottings

Church flowers and cleaning

October – Rhiannon Chapman

November – Michael and Diana Potter

December – Team effort

More helpers needed

If you can join the rota for church flowers and cleaning just contact Celia Adams on eastham-court@icloud.com or 01584 781258.

Macmillan Coffee Morning

A little-known fact is that the most remote and distant Macmillan coffee morning ever recorded took place in Antarctica. Not so far for Eastham – just come to the village hall. Bring along cakes that will be eaten or sold and there will be a special raffle of an afternoon tea for 2! There will also be the usual Macmillan quizzes with prizes. If you can't come but would still like to give a donation to Macmillan text CUPPA to 70550 (one text = £5), pay online (email easthamcourt@icloud.com for details) or drop a cash donation or cheque to Celia Adams at Eastham Court.

Our coffee morning on 5th November will be hosted by Liz Cattani with a special early Christmas stall with Christmas cards and other goodies. Our Christmas coffee morning will be on Thursday 3rd December.

Bell ringing

If you would like to have a go 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.

Pub Night

Pub Night is on Friday 16th October from 7pm at Eastham Memorial Hall. Come along for a drink and a catch up, everyone is welcome. Look out for the usual banner.

Eyes down – it's Bingo Night

Fancy a fun night out with friends, neighbours and a little bit of "Please call my number!"? Come along to our Bingo Night on Pub Night on 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.

The Filling Station

The next meeting is on Thursday 15th October at Eastham Memorial Hall. Everyone is welcome. This is a great group which loves having visitors. For more information please contact Kate on kate-harley6@gmail.com

Autumn clean of churchyard and church

Please come along on Saturday 17th October to keep our Grade 1 listed church and churchyard in tip top condition. Everyone welcome from 10 am to 12.30 pm.

Chill out over a barbecue and beer at the end.

Pumpkinfest and Harvest Festival

on Sunday 18th October at 10am at St Peter and St Paul's church.

Pumpkin entries to the church from 9 to 9.45am for judging on the day. You do not have to live in Eastham to take part – just join in, it's all for fun!

Adults – heaviest pumpkin

Children – animal made from fruit or vegetable

Enquires to Nicky Webb, email nudgcorner@gmail.com

In advance and on the day, please bring fruit, vegetables, tins etc which will be donated to Maggs Day Centre in Deansway, Worcester. The collection at the service will be sent to the Tenbury Food Bank.

Eastham Christmas Fayre

Join us for Eastham's annual Christmas Fayre on Sunday 15th November from 11am to 3pm. A wide selection of local traders, refreshments, bar and barbecue and a festive dog show with classes for fancy dress with owner under 16, fancy dress with owner over 16, best present opener, waggiest tale, musical Christmas mats. Entries from 11.30am, classes from noon.

Raffle with fabulous prizes. As usual a generous donation will be made to Air Ambulance.

Tractors at Eastham Fête

See page 12 for pictures of some of the many tractors at this year's Eastham Fête.

The winning tractors were Nevil Jones' MF35 Multi-power and Dean Yarrington's Ferguson 35 Grey Gold. Many thanks to Gordon Pyatt for his help behind the scenes.

Celia Adams

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

Hanley Happenings

A quiet life in Hanley

With work on the refurbishment of the village hall under way (work will include a new roof, a disabled toilet and ramp access to the front door, insulation and a refurbished kitchen), life is quiet in the Hanleys. People still walk their dogs and young girls (mostly) ride their horses. The B4204 is still closed at Rochford, so we still have to go the extra mile!

Can you help?

Can you help 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.

Carole Gardner

Rock Bridge Club

Every Sunday at 7pm at Rock Village Hall
New members welcome
Phone 07854 951330



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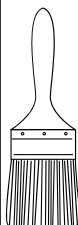
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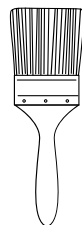


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The deadline for the November issue of TemeTalk is 18th October

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Stanford • Stanford • Stanford

Services in Stanford

Sunday 4th October

Said Holy Communion at 8.30am

Harvest Service with hymns at 11am

Sunday 1st November

Holy Communion with hymns at 10am

Sunday 8th November

Remembrance Day Service at 10.45am

Flowers for October

Sarah Burgoyne

Harvest

The Harvest service at St Mary's church is on Sunday 4th October at 11am and will be taken by Rev'd Julia Curtis. Please bring any produce to the church on the morning of Saturday 3rd October if you can.

A Harvest lunch is planned afterwards at 12.30 pm at the village hall. Please contact Alexandra on 07891 346783 or Sue Softly on 07929 479865 if you would like to come. We would be very pleased to see as many of you as possible. It is great fun and we usually have an auction of produce. This year we will be making a donation to FOAG (Farmers Overseas in Action in Uganda) and also to St Mary's church.

Remembrance Day

Our Remembrance Day service with the Teme Valley Churches Choir at 10.45am on 8th November will be led by Rev'd Julia Curtis. Refreshments will be served afterwards.

Christmas Tree Festival

The Christmas Tree Festival at St Mary's Church is a joyful time. You can visit from 10am to 4pm on Saturday 5th December or Sunday 6th December. There will be carol singing on Saturday at 4pm.

The proceeds will be split 50/50 between the Abberley and Great Witley Guides and Brownies and the church. Enquiries to John or Sue, email johnccurtis9@gmail.com

Confirmation classes

These classes took place in August. They were attended by three children who seemed very engaged and interacted with all the ideas. Thank you to our Ministry Team led by Rev'd Robert Barlow and Rev'd Julia Curtis for making it so interesting. It was a very worthwhile exercise.

Masonry repair

The faculty request for a masonry repair to the church was sent off and we are still waiting to know if it is to be granted.

New hymn books

New Ancient & Modern hymn books are now in the church. If you would like to sponsor some of the books with a dedicated page for the sponsorship please contact Alexandra on 07891 346783 for the details and suggested donation.

St Mary's Church

I am pleased to say that attendance at our services at St Mary's church has gone up, as reported at the last PCC meeting. Whilst going to church is not for everyone, it is wonderful that our numbers at services have increased and that the congregation has grown. All are welcome at St Mary's.

It is also lovely to see from the Visitor's Book that the church is so much appreciated and has many visitors from all over the country and the world. Its beautiful location means that just sitting in the church can be a meditation in itself. We are very lucky in the Teme Valley to have so many beautiful churches.

Alexandra Winnington



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The Filling Station

Our next meeting will be on Thursday 15th October at Eastham Memorial Hall at 7.15 for a 7.30pm start. The speaker will be Dain Pritchard, an ordained Elim minister serving Ludlow. He studied at Hillsong Church in Australia. He has a passion for worship and his desire is to see people meet with God and live changed lives.

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.

Iona Worship 2026

A pattern of prayer, singing and imaginative engagement with scripture, Iona worship reflects our life together as rural communities as we gather to celebrate God's presence in our landscape and our lives.

You are invited to join us at

Hanley Rectory

where you will find a warm welcome
and light refreshments

Services are at 4pm on the following Sundays

8th November – Remembrance

For more information please email

Rev'd Jen Jones at tvscurate@gmail.com

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.

Weekend workshop on 10th/11th October – contact Zoe as soon as possible as places are running out.

- Stretch class (previously Fitball) – Rejuven8 Fitness & Wellbeing propose to run a Stretch class as long as there are enough numbers available – details are being worked out. The Fitball classes have been temporary suspended due to the hot weather and the effect on the yoga balls. If you would like further information, please contact Michelle on 07837 359403.

There is a WhatsApp group that keeps everyone up to date: contact Michelle for details.

Yoga in Eastham

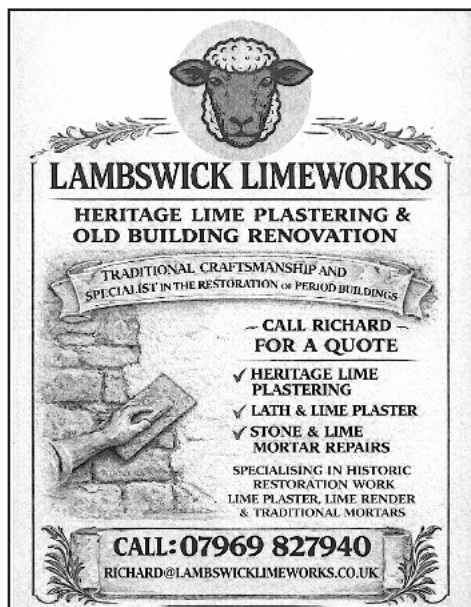
This autumn, we'll be celebrating five years of Zed Yoga classes in the refurbished hall. Eastham Memorial Hall is a perfect spot for a yoga practice: clean, quiet, light and warm in the winter.

Why not come and join us?

Our well-established group always welcomes new members when there's a space free. If you're a beginner and wondering whether yoga would suit you, why not register for our Welcome to Yoga event?

For more information about our approach to yoga, please see www.zedyoga.co.uk.

To book a place please contact Zoe on info@zedyoga.co.uk or 07962 981456.



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Teme Valley Churches Choir Summer Concert



What a wonderful evening we enjoyed at Teme Valley Churches Choir's first fundraising concert held on the beautiful lawn at Harborough Bank on 6th September. The concert was also the launch of our new Friends and Patrons scheme, and we would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who came along, joined the scheme and supported us so generously at the start of this exciting new chapter.

Our varied programme included traditional favourites such as *Loch Lomond*, *Here Comes the Sun*, *What a Wonderful World* and *The Teddy Bears' Picnic*, alongside beautiful sacred music including Tallis's *If Ye Love Me*, Gjeilo's *Ubi Caritas* and Elgar's *Ave Verum Corpus*. A particularly special moment was *Harborough Bank*, a new piece composed by the choir's founder and music director Chloe May Evans, with lyrics written especially for the occasion by one of our sopranos, Catherine Tiffany. It was wonderful to perform a piece so closely connected to the choir and to the place where we were gathered.

The programme also offered a wonderful variety of solo, duet and ensemble performances. David entertained us with his excellent rendition of *Albert and the Lion*, while Paul gave a memorable performance of *Sea Fever*. Katie delighted the

audience with her musical medley, featuring favourites from *My Fair Lady* and *Les Misérables* and Paul and Cathie charmed us with the Mozart duet *La ci darem la mano*. Our choir's vocal quintet also performed for the first time together singing *Linden Lea* and *Flying Free*.

Our thanks go to our hosts Holly and James, accompanists, David A and Jason F, whose excellent musicianship supported the choir and soloists throughout the evening and Hugh R on sound, as well as Fraser E on photography and videography. We are also immensely grateful to everyone who performed, the Friends Committee who worked so hard to put this together and helpers behind the scenes. Finally, thank you to everyone who came to share this special occasion with us. The warmth, enthusiasm and generosity of our audience and Friends and Patrons is most gratefully received and we look forward to making much more music together. If you are interested in becoming a Friend of the Choir, singing with us or commissioning a piece please do get in touch.

Follow the choir on Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/TemeValleyChoir/>
Become a Friend of the Choir:
<https://tinyurl.com/tvs-friendschoir>

Tractors at Eastham Fête



Photograph Peter Flavin



Photograph Peter Flavin



Photograph Simon Lusty



Photograph Simon Lusty



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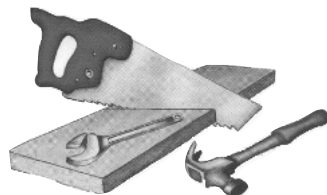
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Where does that come from?

They are phrases and sayings we use every day, but do you know where they come from? You may be surprised to learn that half of these phrases are from the Bible and half are from Shakespeare. See if you can tell which is which. The answers are below.

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| 1. See eye to eye | 17. He has eaten me out of house and home |
| 2. Heart of gold | 18. How the mighty have fallen |
| 3. In my heart of hearts | 19. We have seen better days |
| 4. Feet of clay | 20. Foregone conclusion |
| 5. All that glitters is not gold | 21. Put words in one's mouth |
| 6. Break the ice | 22. I have not slept one wink |
| 7. Bite the dust | 23. A blinking idiot |
| 8. A man after my own heart | 24. Nothing but skin and bones |
| 9. The apple of my eye | 25. Brave new world |
| 10. Good riddance | 26. By the skin of your teeth |
| 11. Neither rhyme nor reason | 27. There's nothing new under the sun |
| 12. Wild-geese chase | 28. Eat, drink and be merry |
| 13. Can a leopard change his spots | 29. No rest for the wicked |
| 14. A tower of strength | 30. Rise and shine |
| 15. Too much of a good thing | 31. The blind leading the blind |
| 16. Writing on the wall | 32. Melted into thin air |

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 32. WS (The Tempest) | 22. WS (Cymbeline) | 11. WS (The Comedy of Errors) |
| 31. The Bible (Matthew) | 21. The Bible (Samuel) | 10. WS (Troilus and Cressida) |
| 30. The Bible (Isaiah) | 20. WS (Othello) | 9. The Bible (Deuteronomy) |
| 29. The Bible (Isaiah) | 19. WS (As You Like It) | 8. The Bible (Samuel) |
| 28. The Bible (Ecclesiastes) | 18. The Bible (Samuel) | 7. The Bible (Psalm lxxii) |
| 27. The Bible (Ecclesiastes) | 17. WS (Henry IV Part 2) | 6. WS (The Taming of the Shrew) |
| 26. The Bible (Job) | 16. The Bible (Daniel) | 5. WS (The Merchant of Venice) |
| 25. WS (The Tempest) | 15. WS (As You Like It) | 4. The Bible (Daniel) |
| 24. The Bible (Job) | 14. WS (Richard III) | 3. WS (Hamlet) |
| 23. WS (The Merchant of Venice) | 13. The Bible (Jeremiah) | 2. WS (Henry V) |
| | 12. WS (Romeo and Juliet) | 1. The Bible (Isaiah) |

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Award for service for the “three musketeers”

Ann Prosser and Andrew and Jenny Barbé of Rochford have received a certificate of service from Malvern Hills District Council. Jean Harrison writes:

This award for service to the community is thoroughly deserved and long overdue and recognises the exceptional selflessness, generosity and kindness which the “three musketeers” have shown to us all. For me this spans over half a century.

I cannot count the number of tasty meals I have enjoyed from Ann and her helpers.

Our recently refurbished village hall at Rochford owes a great deal to Andrew’s planning, fund raising and project management. He is a busy farmer but he has been at the helm (with Ann’s support) in the creation of this attractive new building.

Other local villages have often benefited

from help with transport and loans of furniture.

Jenny’s pastoral care provides much thoughtfulness in visiting those who need it and she frequently accompanies her visits with gifts she has made herself.

I could fill many pages with examples of kindness from all three recipients and it’s impossible to express the depth of sincerity and gratitude owing to them.

It is sometimes easy to take such care for granted and one is tempted to believe that these three people are truly irreplaceable and invaluable.

We offer them heartfelt thanks.

Jean Harrison



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The legacy of J Arthur Rank – just bingo clubs?

Last month's TemeTalk has an interesting article about J Arthur Rank, his Methodist faith and his business successes in flour milling, films, motorway services ... The article asks how he would have felt that now only bingo clubs remain. But Rank's legacy is more than what remains of his business interests.

Still bearing his name is the J Arthur Rank hospice. Set up in 1981 in Cambridgeshire, an area important to him from his flour milling business, it currently treats over 3,750 people a year, ensuring they have the best possible end of life.

Also bearing Rank's name is the Rank Foundation. Founded in 1953, the Foundation is built on Rank's enterprising spirit, commitment to community and Christian faith. It works in communities across the UK to encourage leaders, develop entrepreneurial mindsets and form strong networks to tackle society's challenges. In the year ending December 2024 their expenditure was close to £15 million.

Arguably the most significant legacy for us in the Teme valley is the Arthur Rank Centre (ARC). Set up in 1972, there is a story that as conversations were under way between J Arthur Rank and Church representatives about what a Centre might do and what work it could undertake, Rank asked, "Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?" The reply came, "Well, we do say the Grace (*the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all*) quite often". That, apparently, was enough and the ARC was set up.

Originally at the Royal Agricultural Showground at Stoneleigh, it worked closely with the Royal Agricultural Society of England (RASE) and provided chaplaincy services to the Royal Show

until the Show became financially unviable and was discontinued in 2009. However, the ARC's work went beyond Show chaplaincy. It provided a resource and network for rural churches.

Other charities have developed from its work including the Rural Housing Trust, the Addington

Fund and Farming Community Network.

Now based at Wellesbourne in Warwickshire, ARC continues to provide resources for rural churches, it advocates for rural churches and communities, as

well as running training programmes for clergy and lay people new to ministry in rural contexts and also provides leadership training for rural church leaders (lay or ordained).

Rank's Christian faith has left a legacy that extends well beyond his business interests. There are good reasons to be thankful for the legacy he has left. But his legacy, in my mind at least, raises the question of what legacy each of us will leave.

Robert Barlow

Rank asked, "Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?" "Well, we do say the Grace quite often"

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The Stanford History Group continues to meet at 7.30pm for two hours on Monday evenings in autumn at Sapey Village Hall WR6 6EZ. A warm welcome awaits you. We are a diverse group with an interest in understanding the past, to better appreciate today and how we got here! Our lectures have been very well attended – last year we averaged nearly 40 people attending across the ten lectures, but there's plenty of parking!

This year we have another interesting programme of ten lectures, in five topical and controversial subject areas. You can come for any one or all. We have expert lecturers from Birmingham and Worcester Universities.

5th October

The Spanish Labyrinth I: From Civil War and Francoism 1936-1975

12th October

The Spanish Labyrinth 2: Transition, Democracy and Monarchy 1975-2022

*Senior Teaching Fellow Antonio Sanchez
University of Birmingham*

19th October

The Trump Administration: something different or more of the same?

1 From Settler Colonisation and Slavery to keeping the world safe for Democracy

26th October

2 From the Cold War to the War on Terror
Lecturer John Munro, University of Birmingham

2nd November

Stabilising the level of Economic Activity, 1930s to the present

1 Keynes and Keynesianism pre WW2 to 1960s

9th November

2 Monetarism and After. 1970s to 2010s

*Professor Roger Backhouse
University of Birmingham*

16th November

The Rise and Fall of the East India Company

23rd November

The British Raj and its Undoing

Professor Neil Fleming, University of Worcester

30th November

The Decolonization of Africa: Success, Disappointment and Hope

7th December

The End of Empire in the Sahara: The Tragedy of the Commons?

*Associate Professor Berny Sebe
University of Birmingham*

Do come and join us. You can come for any one or all. There's coffee, biscuits and discussion too! £10 per lecture or £70 for the ten lecture course, payable at the door or by bank transfer.

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"A restless wanderer on the earth"

The story so far has left us with human pride resulting in ejection from paradise, but God mitigating the results of human arrogance and not giving up on humanity. The story continues with sibling rivalry, something that has existed in human families from the earliest of times. But maybe there's something else going on too.

In this story, two brothers – Cain, the elder and Abel, the younger – have different life styles. Big brother Cain grows crops. That requires being settled in one place to sow the seed and to look after the crops as they grow. Younger brother Abel keeps flocks. In those days, with no fences, hedges or walls to keep the flock in the same place, that necessitates an itinerant way of life. Unlike livestock farmers today who have fields to keep the animals in, a keeper of flocks in those times would lead the livestock from place to place. What we see in this story is a clash not just between siblings but between an agrarian settled lifestyle and a travelling nomadic life style. That conflict between settled and nomadic has been seen and continues to be seen between travelling communities and settled communities.

In this story, the rivalry between Cain and Abel results in Cain murdering Abel. Cain is driven out to be "a restless wanderer on the earth" but even



Cain and Abel by Titian

then, God doesn't give up on him. He provides a mark of protection.

The wisdom for us today – particularly those of us who are settled – is that it was the nomadic, travelling Abel that God favoured.

Robert Barlow



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One small leap for mankind ...

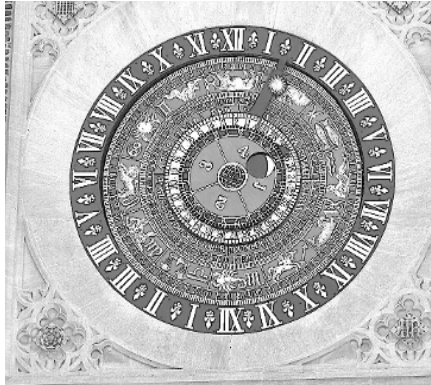
We all know about leap years. What you may not know, and certainly won't have noticed, is that we also have leap seconds.

For hundreds of years the length of a day was set by the earth's rotation. Noon was when the sun was highest in the sky. Clocks were designed to measure a day.

Eventually clocks became more accurate. Instead of relying on pendulums and cogs they measured the tiny regular vibrations of caesium atoms. Count 9,192,631,770 of those vibrations and one second has passed.

But the earth is unreliable; it doesn't always turn at exactly the same speed. Its rotation is influenced by the atmosphere and the tides. Deep underground there are swirling molten eddies and currents which can shift and flow. Over long periods the moon's gravity acts as a brake. When *Tyrannosaurus rex* was alive about 66 million years ago, an earth day was about 23 and a half hours long.

So since 1972 scientists have added a total of 27 leap seconds to Co-ordinated Universal Time (UTC), the standard used to align clocks around the world. The extra second keeps clocks aligned



Henry VIII's astronomical clock at Hampton Court Palace

with the turning of the earth, which has been slowing down.

But now the earth is inexplicably spinning faster, so there is an unprecedented risk of a negative leap second being needed for the first time. Even positive leap seconds are hard to manage but a negative one could increase the risk of a major technology failure affecting telecommunications, electricity grids, satellites and other technologies.

Delegates to the General Conference on Weights and Measures in Versailles this month will consider abolishing

leap seconds altogether and allowing time as measured by the atomic clock to drift away from the earth's rotation, with the gap eventually being allowed to increase to as much as an hour.

But don't worry. It could be another million years before a leap hour is needed. Rather like cavemen deciding how time should be measured in 2026.

This astronomical clock was designed for Henry VIII and installed in 1540 on the gatehouse to the inner court at Hampton Court Palace. It was designed by Nicholas Kratzer and made by Nicholas Oursian. This pre-Copernican and pre-Galilean astronomical clock is still functioning.

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Teme Valley Wildlife

The heat and drought of this year's summer have been a trial for many plants and animals but, as always in nature, some species have been able to make the most of extreme climatic conditions. Two groups of insects which did particularly well this summer were butterflies and dragonflies. Of the former, I spotted a species which I'd never seen before,



The Golden-ringed Dragonfly

and of the latter I recognised a species I'd only previously encountered in Wales.

I'll start with the butterfly which was a variety known as the Clouded Yellow and which I noticed visiting grassland flowers in Pensax. A few days later I saw it again whilst on a ramble through Neen Sollars. It is a migrant species which flies into Britain from Africa and southern Europe during the months of April and May. It then lays eggs here, on clovers and lucerne, and produces one or sometimes two broods of offspring. Like those of a similar migrant butterfly, the Painted Lady, the numbers arriving each year vary enormously. Of-

tentimes no individuals reach as far north as the West Midlands, even if they manage to fly across the Channel at all.

The Clouded Yellow is middling in size, smaller than the Painted Lady, and a deep yellow colour, more so than a Brimstone. On the underside of the upper wing is a black spot and on the lower one is a circle of

white with a coloured border round it. The upper wings are more difficult to see, as they are only visible in flight, but they are yellow with a surround of black round the edges. Pink legs and green eyes are distinguishing features according to the field guide, but a much closer look than I got would be necessary to confirm them.

The second insect was a dragonfly which made a surprise visit to our garden pond. In beautiful black and gold, it was a species called the Golden-ringed Dragonfly. It was a surprise because this is a heathland species which is usually recorded in

Continued on page 24

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Continued from page 23

Worcestershire only in the Wyre Forest. Luckily we had binoculars to hand, so were able to admire its stunning green eyes, slender jet-black body and smart gold bands. It was very accommodating and as we studied the field guide it flew up close to inspect what we were doing and then perched motionless on a pondside plant for long enough to

have its picture taken. Smart characters, dragonflies, not surprising perhaps, since they've been on the planet since before the age of the dinosaurs.

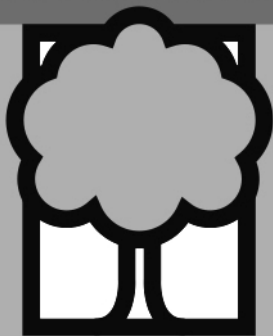
The Golden-ringed Dragonfly's usual habitat is heathland or woodland where small acidic streams or seepages provide the right conditions for their eggs and larvae. I wondered if it was the fact that our pond water was rather murky that had made our visitor come for a look, especially since the water was still which is not its usual preference. Even so, it must have liked what it saw because it was back again a week or so later. Whatever had brought it, we were delighted to see it and hope it comes again another year.

The next meeting of the Teme Valley Wildlife Group will be at 7.30pm on Thursday 8th October at Stoke Bliss and Kyre Village Hall. We welcome Beth Norris, who is the wildlife and water officer for Worcestershire Wildlife Trust. Her talk is called "Wetland wildlife and natural flood defences". 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.

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Third birthday for Guardians of Hollow Meadow



Looking back over the past three years of the Guardians of Hollow Meadow Community Interest Company and reflecting on the thirty years since the meadow in Stoke Bliss has been managed as a wildlife site, I marvel at the resilience of the land and its stored harvest of seeds waiting for the right time to emerge.

When first bought it was heavily grazed by sheep during the spring, summer and autumn. Rain made the meadow too wet for the sheep in winter. It had coarse grasses with docks that flourish in the nutrient rich quite 'sour' soil. The south facing bank had been cropped by the sheep to grow short finer grasses but there were few flowers. Over the next three years the bank showed the variety of wild flowers, grasses and herbs that were waiting to emerge, flower and set seed again. The flood plain meadow took much longer, the grass cut as hay in late July after the emerging plants had set. Slowly the mix of varieties increased, helped by the introduction of yellow rattle in 2010. This parasite on the strong grasses and reduces them, allowing the finer ones to flourish. New species emerged, their seeds held in the soil over many years. Orchids were the last. They do not yet rival Frog End Meadow SSSI's abundance but are catching up!

A time came to consider how to safeguard the meadow for future generations of plants, creatures and humans. Three years ago a small steering group came together – the current meadow manager, a finance guru and a farmer turned builder who knew the area. Shortly afterwards our fourth member joined us, a project manager attracted by the orchid afternoon. The journey then began to found the Community Interest Company, Guardians of Hollow Meadow CIC, with all the

form filling that entailed. The encouragement of supporters helped. That was Year 1.

In Year 2 we looked for people and organisations who could help with advice and grants – Natural Networks with the biological environmental survey, Worcestershire Wildlife Trust, Severn Rivers Trust with flood alleviation advice, Coronation Orchards for the fruit trees and a lottery grant for the shelter and shed. Many others gave time and expertise to encourage us.

In Year 3 we started more outreach work. Worcester University students used the meadow for projects such as

water quality and biological sampling of the stream, pond, field drain output and spring on the lane side. Soil carbon sampling is in process and the meadow has been used for Masters and PhD theses. Workshops started. Willow swallow making in the cool of the labyrinth area on a hot summer's day. Tai Chi was a regular feature from April to September. We also host group and individual visits to the meadow and all appreciate the calm and beauty of the site.

If you would like to join us or visit with friends and family, just get in touch and see how you can help to nurture this space. Without those who have willingly helped (or been roped in unsuspectingly) this community asset would not exist. Please book a date and time to visit the whole meadow as its primary aim is protecting the biodiversity. However there are two public footpaths that cross the site and those of course are available to all – dogs on a lead please.

Maggie Kingston
mdk46@phonecoop.coop



Willow swallow making in a shady spot

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What's on in Teme Valley South

October

1st	Thursday	Macmillan Coffee Morning, Eastham Memorial Hall, 10.30am
4th	Sunday	Harvest Service, St Mary's Stanford, 11.00am <i>followed by</i> Harvest Lunch, Stanford Village Hall, 12.30pm
8th	Thursday	Stoke Bliss & Kyre Neighbourhood Lunch, 12.30pm
10th	Saturday	Church cleaning and decorating for harvest, Rochford church, 10.30am
11th	Sunday	Harvest Festival, Rochford Church Harvest Festival, St Mary's Church Kyre
14th	Wednesday	AGM of Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall, SB&K Village Hall, 7.00pm
15th	Thursday	The Filling Station, Eastham Memorial Hall, 7.15pm
16th	Friday	Pub Night, Eastham Memorial Hall, 7.00pm
17th	Saturday	Autumn clean of churchyard and church, Eastham Church, 10.00am
18th	Sunday	Pumpkinfest and Harvest Festival, Eastham Church, 10.00am
23rd	Friday	Social Night, Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall, 7.00pm
27th	Tuesday	Rochford Neighbourhood Lunch, Rochford Village Hall, 12.30pm

November

5th	Thursday	Eastham Coffee Morning, Eastham Memorial Hall, 10.30am
8th	Sunday	Remembrance Day Service, St Marys Stanford
15th	Sunday	Christmas Fayre, Eastham Memorial Hall, 11.00am
20th	Friday	Rochford Village 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

3rd	Thursday	Eastham Coffee Morning, Eastham Memorial Hall, 10.30am
5th/6th		Christmas Tree Festival, St Mary's Church, Stanford, 10.00am
8th	Tuesday	Christmas Wreath Making, Eastham Memorial Hall, 7pm
13th	Sunday	Rochford Carol Service, Rochford Church, 3.30pm
15th	Tuesday	Rochford Neighbourhood Christmas Lunch, Rochford Village Hall, 12.30pm
20th	Sunday	Rochford Village Christmas Lunch, Rochford Village Hall, 12.30pm

2027

January

1st	Friday	Rochford Big Breakfast, Rochford Village Hall, 10.00am
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Send items for inclusion to Sandra Griffiths by 18th of the previous month
telephone 07482 482629
or email ronsmum@icloud.com

Services

October/November 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 4th October

8.30am	Stanford Church	Said Holy Communion
11.00am	Stanford Church	Harvest Festival and Lunch

Sunday 11th October

10.00am	Kyre Church	Harvest Festival with Choir
5.00pm	Rochford Church	Harvest Festival followed by
6.30pm	Rochford Village Hall	Harvest Supper

Sunday 18th October

10.00am	Eastham Church	Family Harvest Festival
2.00pm		Walking Church at Oldfields Cider
5.00pm	Hanley Childe Church	Harvest Festival with Mini Choir

Sunday 25th October

10.00am	Rochford Church	All Age and Holy Communion
4.00pm	Kyre Church	Celtic Holy Communion

Sunday 1st November

10.00am	Stanford Church	Holy Communion and Hymns
3.00pm	Rochford	All Souls Service



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