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September 2025



**Our 40th
Anniversary
Edition!**

Inside:

**Stoke Bliss Ploughing Match • Vintage Tractor Breakfast
Macmillan Coffee Day • Autumn lectures and all your parish news**

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TemeTalk

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A community going forward with God

September 2025

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

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

Dear Readers

As many of you know, I will soon be stepping away from ministry for a three month sabbatical, from this month to the end of November. It's a time for rest, reflection and renewal – a pause not from faith or calling but from the daily responsibilities of parish life. While I'll certainly miss worshipping and ministering in these parishes, I know that this season of stepping back is part of the rhythm of healthy ministry.

Interestingly, there's a parallel just down the M5 at one of the most unlikely places, Glastonbury Festival. Every few years, the famous music festival takes a break – a "fallow year". No stages, no soundchecks, no muddy fields filled with dancing crowds. Instead, the land rests. So do the farmers, the organisers and even the local community. After all the energy poured into the event, the fallow year gives time to recover and prepare for what's to come.

It's a deeply biblical idea too. In the Old Testament, God commands the land to be left fallow every seventh year (Leviticus 25). It's not just agricultural wisdom – it's spiritual wisdom. Rest isn't a luxury, it's a necessity. Sabbath is woven into the very fabric of creation. Even Jesus, in the middle of his ministry, withdrew to quiet places to pray and be refreshed.

So as I enter this time of sabbatical, I invite you to reflect too. What does "rest" look like in our own lives and that of our churches? What might be learnt from stepping back for a season – from the busyness, the noise, the pressure to produce? How can we enable fresh energy to be released from this place of rest?

This isn't just about taking a holiday; it's about trusting that God is still at work even when we aren't. That seeds planted in faith continue to grow even when we don't see them. And that our value isn't defined by constant activity, but by being beloved children of God.

Continued on page 3

This month's cover picture

Clee View by Shelly Perkins

Visit Shelly's studio during h-Art, see page 13

TemeTalk deadline 18th September
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Trevor Matthew

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Parish news

From the Registers

Baptism

Congratulations to Toby Purchase who was christened at St Mary, Stanford on 3rd August.

We wish him every blessing as he grows.

Wedding

Congratulations to Catherine North and Alan Knott, who were married at St Michael's, Rochford, on 26th July and to Cecilia Dean and Andrew Dixon who were married at St Mary's, Stanford on 2nd August.

Wishing both couples a lifetime of happiness together.

Funerals

Our condolences go to the family and friends of Lawrence Speers, whose funeral took place on 14th August at St Peter and St Paul, Eastham, and of Margaret McIntosh. A celebration of her life took place at St Peter's, Stoke Bliss on 15th August.

May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

Sabbatical communications

During September, October and November please would you contact Rev'd Jen Jones for ministry matters in Teme Valley South Churches (email tvscurate@gmail.com or 07749 977821) and our part-time administrator Jo for other queries (email assistanttvspcc@gmail.com).

The parish office phone will be monitored twice a week, so if you leave a message it will be picked up and responded to, but probably not on the same day.



Churches Together in the Teme Valley

invite you to a morning talk and discussion
on the stories Jesus told
led by Nick McLeish

Saturday 11th October
10am to 12.30pm

Orleton House
Orleton, Stanford Bridge WR6 6SU

*Places are limited – to reserve your place
please email nick@themcleishes.org*

Teme Valley Tots

We start meeting again on 5th September from 10.30am to 12 noon. For more information about our tots group do contact Tina via email on tinaslord@gmail.com.

Parish safeguarding officer

We are very grateful to Kate Walton, who has agreed to be the new safeguarding officer for our Teme Valley South churches. Kate has lived in Stanford for a number of years and was married in St Mary's church in 2023. She has now completed the necessary training with the Diocese of Worcester and can be contacted on 07494 104781 should the need arise. Welcome Kate!

Rev'd Julia

Dear Readers

Continued from page 1

Do keep me in your prayers during this time, and let's also use this season as a gentle reminder that sometimes, stepping aside is exactly what's needed to step forward with fresh strength.

May we all find our own "fallow times", even if only in small, sacred pauses.

Rev'd Julia

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Rochford 49 Club

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

Wednesday winners

23rd July	No 22	Not sold
30th July	No 38	Rod Rickets
6th August	No 35	Gary Burns
13th August	No 54	Not sold

Saturday winners

19th July	No 15	Not sold
26th July	No 18	Not sold
2nd August	No 56	Not sold
9th August	No 23	Jean Harrison
16th August	No 37	Ann Prosser

As you can see from the numbers of tickets not sold, there are still plenty of numbers available – why not join in? It's just £1 per draw, plus you get two chances each week to win £25!

Remember, you must be in it to win it!
Ring Norma Goodall on
07974 809242

Teme Valley Tote

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

- £50 – **Mrs Sandra Jabbett** of Stockton
(No 400)
£30 – **Mrs Margaret Guy** of Stoke Bliss
(No 784)
£20 – **Mrs Dawn Hubbard** of Knighton
(No 617)

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

September in Rochford

Harvest is well under way, but the dry weather has caused many problems for the farming community, with severe lack of grass for livestock and haymaking and reduced yields for many arable crops. The nights are noticeably drawing in, often accompanied by misty mornings. Hop picking will be done this month, so please be patient with tractors and trailers on the Lower Rochford road.

Happy birthday!

Congratulations and happy birthday to Ann, who is celebrating a landmark birthday. Ann is so important to this village as friend and neighbour, churchwarden, pastoral support, village hall manager and of course caterer *extraordinaire* for all our village events. Thank you, Ann, for all you do for this village. We all wish you a very happy birthday and many happy returns!

Neighbourhood lunch

Dates for sit down and takeaway neighbourhood lunches are 30th September, 28th October and 25th November. Everyone is welcome and booking for lunches is essential. Takeaways should be collected between 12.30 and 1pm. Please book with Ann on 01584 781317 at least the previous week.

Rochford church

Rochford church has a new state of the art sound system thanks to a very generous bequest from the late Dave Hughes of Cold Green Cottage. The system has four microphones for speakers and readers and a hearing loop for hearing aid users. We can also play recorded music to accompany services and other events. It is working well and has made a huge difference to the hearing aid users who can hear clearly what is being said.

Rochford open gardens

Many thanks to all the hosts who opened their gardens and all those who helped with this highly successful event. 85 people enjoyed the eight very different gardens and together with light lunches, cream teas and ice creams the event raised over £920 for village hall funds together with a further £285 for St Richard's Hospice in Worcester.

Thanks to everyone who supported this event and to those who donated prizes for the Hospice raffle.

Rochford garden club

Rochford gardening club is up and running! See page 17.

Teme Valley Tots

Teme Tots will be back in Rochford village hall on Friday 5th September, 10:30 to 12:00. This is a great community activity, and we look forward to welcoming Tots, old and new and their accompanying mums, dads or grandparents. Please contact Tina via email on tinaslord@gmail.com if you have a little one who would like to come along.

Choral evensong

We are very fortunate to have a choral evensong with the TVS choir on Sunday 7th September at 4pm at Rochford church. Under the enthusiastic directorship of former Rochford girl Chloe Kenrick, the talented choir delivers a beautiful choral service which is a really different experience and well worth listening to. All are welcome and the service will be followed by time to chat over tea and cake.

Church clean

We will be cleaning the church and decorating for harvest on Saturday 11th October at 2.30pm. Please come along to help prepare our lovely church for harvest.

Harvest Festival and supper

The church service is at 5pm on Sunday 12th October followed by supper at the village hall at 6.30pm. All are welcome to either or both so if you can't make it to the church service just come for supper. Please book supper (just £12) with Ann. Any donations of harvest produce and non-perishables including tins, packets etc would also be much appreciated and will be given to Tenbury food bank to support local people in need.

Dates for your diary

21st November – Rochford quiz night and supper
Sunday 14th December – Village Christmas lunch followed by Carol Service
Christmas Eve – Midnight Mass with choir

Church flower rota

September – Ann Prosser, thank you.

Contacts

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

Andrew Barbé

TemeTalk deadline 18th September

Stoke Bliss and Kyre



Second Anniversary Celebration

Saturday 27th September, 2 to 4pm

Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall

Displays of the last two years in the meadow

Vision for the future – and of course cake!

(To visit the meadow please contact us)

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Each month you are invited to “Walk and Wonder” around Hollow Meadow, Stoke Bliss

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Thursday 11th September

Thursday 9th October

at Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall

12.30pm welcome, lunch served at 1pm

Two courses plus refreshments

To book call 07396 813137

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We look forward to seeing you

Stoke Bliss Ploughing Match

The annual Stoke Bliss & District Ploughing Match is being held at Hayes Farm, St, Michaels, Tenbury Wells on 20th September, by kind permission of William and Sam Davies. Modern plough classes, vintage tractors and horse-drawn ploughing. Well-supported homecraft and horticultural competitions, plus a bar and catering. See page 14 for full details.

Churchyard tidy sessions

The next tidy-up sessions are on Saturday 13th September and Saturday 11th October from 10am to 12.30pm. Everyone is welcome, with coffee and cakes to reward your efforts. Text or call Jeremy on 07720 056671.

Keeping you informed

Stay up to date with village news via the Facebook community group, Stoke Bliss & Kyre Community. If you are not already on the SBK email list, contact sbkvillagehall@gmail.com.

Jeremy Wyatt

Social Night

There will be a Social and Fun Bingo Night at Stoke Bliss & Kyre village hall on Friday 26th September. Activities kick off at 7pm. Please book with Julia Berry at sbkvillagehall@gmail.com if you would like a meal as well.

Village Hall AGM

The Annual General Meeting of Stoke Bliss & Kyre village hall will be held Wednesday 1st October at 7.30pm at the village hall. Refreshments provided. Do come and show your support for the village hall committee, learn about what is happening in your village and share ideas for future activities.

Bat watch evening

Come and learn about our local bats at the bat watch evening at Saint Peter's churchyard. The biggest, the smallest and the loudest; find out what makes bats so special and listen-in on the bat detector as they fly past. Free event, children welcome. Friday 12th September from 7.30 to 8.30pm. Voluntary donations to roof fund.

Church roof restoration update

Tenders for the repair of the roof and ceiling have now been issued and we are awaiting replies from potential contractors.

Social Night and Fun Bingo!

Friday 26th September

Bar opens at 7, food served at 8pm

Please book food at sbkvillagehall@gmail.com

Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall

The next Social Night is Friday 31st October

Eastham Jottings

Church flowers and cleaning

September – Alyson Brookes
October – Rhiannon Chapman

Eastham 57th Riverside Fête

Thanks to everyone for their help at the fête – those who provided items to sell, joined in with the Produce Show or supported in many other ways. We hope that you had a wonderful time, ate too much, found a bargain and won a prize. Met up with old friends and had a good chat.

Huge thanks to all those who made it happen, far too many to mention but it wouldn't happen without you. Well done, another successful year, see you all again next year!

See page 25 for prizewinners.

Eastham Coffee Morning

Please come to the coffee morning on **Thursday 4th September** at 10.30am at Eastham Memorial Hall and enjoy a coffee and a chat and win a raffle prize. See the film show of the fête. Next month is the Macmillan Coffee Morning.

The rota is:

Thursday 4th September, Ann and Tony Simpson

Wednesday 2nd October, Macmillan (joint)

Bell Ringing

Thanks to the Lilleshall Bellringers who rang a Quarter Peal on fête day in memory of the Wylde family – Ron, Gordon and Donna. Many thanks to Julie Hartridge for all her arrangements.

We also marked VJ Day with bells, thanks to everyone who came to ring, made refreshments and helped mark this anniversary in Eastham.

If you would like to have a go at bell ringing, training can be provided. Contact Celia Adams on 01584 781258 or go to Tenbury church. New people are welcome on Wednesdays from 7 to 8pm.

Pub Night

The next pub night will be on Friday 19th September from 7pm at Eastham Memorial Hall. Everyone welcome, look out for the usual banner.

Church and churchyard autumn clean

Please come along on Saturday 18th October between 10am and 1pm with tools to tackle the churchyard, all welcome whatever your skills, and the church interior including finishing the flower arrangements ready for Harvest Festival. Barbecue, tea and cakes throughout.

Lamberts family grocers

The mobile shop calls at Eastham Memorial Hall every Wednesday at around 10.30am. Mike carries Ashleys Bakery, Wyre Pie etc. If Mike is not there when you expect him or you want an exact time that week, please ring Celia Adams on 01584 781258.

Celia Adams

Activities at Eastham Memorial Hall

- Pilates, Tuesdays at 1 and 2.15pm from 9th September. Contact Sue on 07974 343609, sue579@icloud.com for details or a taster session.
- Yoga, every Wednesday at 10am from 10th September (term time). Ring Zoe on 07962 981456 or see www.zedyoga.co.uk.
- Zumba Gold, Lucia on 07709 301030, lu.500@live.co.uk. Wednesdays at 12 noon, just turn up.

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Hanley Happenings

Macmillan Coffee Day

Please come to my Macmillan Coffee Day on Friday 26th September from 10am to 4pm at Tally Ho Cottage, Bell Lane, Hanley Broadheath WR15 8QX.

I am collecting items for the raffle and if you would like to offer garden produce that would be very acceptable. Local businesses have promised to support the event so hopefully lots of you will turn up! The house will be open all day and don't worry, I will make sure Percy is occupied. I have started baking and would love to accept any cakes, biscuits or scones on or shortly before the day. Bought items are as acceptable as homemade!

It is now six years since I was cleared of cancer but I have met many people who have not been so lucky. Macmillan Cancer Support provides excellent support for friends and family as well as for the victim. Let's do something in return!

Carole Gardner

Well done Dev!

Dev the taxi driver from Bell Lane held a raffle for the village hall and raised the princely sum of £110. Well done!

Village Hall Committee

The village hall committee is keen to introduce fresh blood with new ideas. If you have an urge to join the committee, contact Sarah on 07796 170949.

A christening at Stanford

Toby Purchase, the son of Tom and Anna Purchase of Hanley House in Hanley Broadheath, was christened at St Mary's, Stanford on 3rd August.

Tom Purchase said, "We had a wonderful ceremony with Chloe's choir singing firm favourites like *Jerusalem* and *One more step along the world I go*.

"Then we came back to Hanley House for food and celebrations. "



Rev'd Julia christens Toby Purchase watched by Anna and Tom and his brothers George and Harry

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Services in Stanford

Sunday 7th September

Holy Communion with hymns at 10am

Sunday 5th October

Holy Communion with hymns at 8.30am

Harvest Service at 11am with choir and lunch

To book a place for lunch please contact Sue

Softly on 07979 479865 or Alexandra on 07891 346783.

Flowers for September

Alexandra Winnington

Thanks to Sarah Burgoyne and Helen Nicol who both did flowers during August. We had a wedding and a christening on the same weekend and the church looked beautiful for both occasions. The wedding flowers by Sarah were spectacular.

Lunch at Stanford village hall

The planned lunch on 7th September is cancelled.

Lesley's surprise party

A surprise 80th birthday party for Lesley Dean was held in Stanford Village Hall on 26th June. Lesley would like to thank everyone who provided the delicious food and made it a really special day for her.



Above: Robin and Lesley Dean with Cecilia

Right and below: Cecilia and Andy's wedding

Churchyard Working Party

Saturday 20th September, 10am to 12 noon

Please come and help us tidy before winter. Tea and coffee provided.

Invitation

If you are on the civil register of electors in the parish of Stanford with Orleton you are invited to a wine and nibbles party at **Stanford Village Hall at 8pm on Thursday 25th September**. This will allow us to discuss local government re-organisation and our part in it via the Stanford with Orleton Parish Meeting.

Alexandra Winnington

Wedding bells



On Saturday 2nd August Cecilia Dean and Andy Dixon were married at St Mary's. It was a beautiful day and St Mary's was adorned with flowers on a plinth and arrangements in every window. Cecilia walked down the aisle with her father Robin. The four bridesmaids were Ange Jordan, Vicky, Emeline and Amy.

The organ was played beautifully by Jason Fisher and the Martley bell ringers created a wonderful series of chimes. Andy and Cecilia were very happy and the day was spent celebrating, including a reception at Stanford village hall. It was a very joyful day.

Lesley Dean would like to thank everyone who attended Cecilia and Andy's wedding celebrations.



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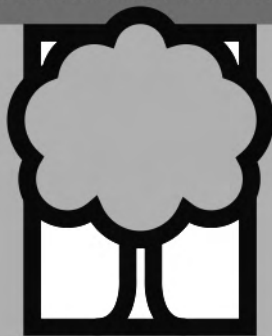
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1985 – a year to remember

Do you remember 1985? It was the year the Boss and I moved to Stoke Bliss from Hertfordshire. Margaret Thatcher was the prime minister, the year-long miners' strike ended and chart-topping hits included *Take on Me* by A-ha and *Careless Whisper* by George Michael. Dire Straits' *Brothers in Arms* was the first album to sell over 1 million copies in the new CD format.

The wreck of the Titanic was discovered. The iconic Live Aid concerts were held at Wembley Stadium and in Philadelphia. *Back to the Future* became a hit in the UK and the 14th James Bond film, *A View to a Kill*, was released – the seventh and final appearance by Roger Moore as 007.

In sport, Boris Becker became the youngest Wimbledon men's champion aged just 17 and Dennis Taylor beat Steve Davis in the World Snooker Championship.

The BBC launched *EastEnders* and *Blind Date* first appeared on ITV. Children's BBC was launched with Philip Schofield in the broom cupboard.

Notable people born in 1985 include Wayne Rooney, Lewis Hamilton, Keira Knightly and Beth Tweddle. Rock Hudson, Philip Larkin and Ray Ellington died. There were some famous, and short-lived, marriages. Madonna married Sean Penn. They divorced in 1989. Joan Collins married her fourth husband, Peter Holm. They divorced in

1987. And Sylvester Stallone married Bridgette Nielson. They also divorced in 1987.

Influenced by shows such as *Dallas* and *Dynasty*, power dressing became all the rage with oversized sharp-shouldered jackets. There was lots of big hair.

In 1985 you could buy a loaf of bread for 48p, a pint of milk for 23p and a dozen eggs for 84p. Petrol was 42p a litre and a pint of bitter cost 83p. The average house price was £29,143 and the average annual salary was £9,924.

And in September 1985 Teme Valley South News began life as a folded foolscap sheet run off from a stencil on the aging Gestetner machine in the parish room at the Rectory. I became editor a couple of years later and we turned it into a black and white A5 magazine produced by an electronic stencil cutter in the Resource Centre in Bromyard. In September 2016 it was already 31 years old when it became TemeTalk and burst into colour, printed by Orphans Press in Leominster. We produce 11 issues each year – so far we have produced 423 issues including two during Covid which were online only.

So happy 40th anniversary to TemeTalk and thank you to all our contributors, readers and advertisers for your support which has allowed us to reach this great age!

Sandra Griffiths

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"Skibidi", "tradwife" and other slang terms popularised on social media are among thousands of new words to be added to the Cambridge Dictionary this year.

Skibidi is a gibberish term which gained popularity via a viral animated video series on YouTube,

while tradwife is a shortening of "traditional wife" – a married mother who cooks, cleans and posts on social media.

More than 6,000 new words have been added, including those that relate to tech giants and remote working.



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h.Art (Herefordshire Art Week) is happening from 6th to 14th September with a wide range of local artists and craftspeople opening their studios daily from 11am to 5pm.

Scenes of our rolling local hills, birds and wildlife are strong themes in the work of local wildlife and landscape artist Shelly Perkins as seen in the cover image this month. Her work along with that of jeweller Sarah Kinnersley can be seen at her annual open studio for h-Art. Shelly is located at the Old Post Office in Hanley Broadheath WR15 8QS, just down from the Fox..

This year for the first time jeweller Maria Anne will be opening her studio at Innage Bungalow in Hanley Child WR15 8QY. Maria uses a wide range of traditional silver smithing methods to create bespoke handcrafted sterling silver jewellery.

Our local artists would love your support so do pop over to see them and support the local talent we have in the area. Both venues will be clearly marked with the event's iconic pink signage. For more information look at the Herefordshire Art Week website or contact the artists at their websites, shellyperkins.co.uk or masilverdesigns.co.uk.



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Tue 2nd	1.00pm	Freakier Friday (PG)
Tue 2nd	5.00pm	Freakier Friday (PG)
Wed 3rd	5.00pm	Freakier Friday (PG)

Live Music

Fri 5th	7.30pm	Double Bill: James Walsh (Starsailor) & Ben Otwell (Gomez)
Sat 6th	7.30pm	Last Night of the Proms
Fri 12th	8.00pm	A Night in the Canyon
Sat 13th	7.30pm	Harvest – A Celebration of Neil Young
Thu 18th	7.30pm	Lionel: The Music of Lionel Richie
Fri 19th	7.30pm	Grey Wolf
Sat 20th	6.00p,	Swift & Styles

Broadcast

Thu 25th	7.00pm	National Theatre Live Inter Alia (15)
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Live Event

Fri 26th	7.00pm	Bingo Bonanza
----------	--------	---------------

Live Theatre

Sat 27th	7.30pm	Round the Horne: 60th Anniversary Tour
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Workshop

Mon 1st	5.45pm	Regal Community Choir
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Deadline for the next issue of TemeTalk is 18th September

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

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Rochford Gardening Club

After the successful Rochford Open Gardens in July, one of our new village members asked if there was a gardening club she could join as she and her partner are passionate about their outdoor space and are bringing their garden back from years of neglect.

We responded in our usual enthusiastic way with, no there isn't one but what a good idea! We had an informal meeting to find out what members were looking for. We now have 45 members who have joined our Facebook group, WhatsApp group or both so we are off to a flying start.

The club will meet on the first Thursday of every month at 6pm at Rochford Village Hall. The first meeting is on 4th September. The club aims to provide something for everyone – those who love their gardens or those who simply want help organising their outside spaces and need advice on new projects.

We aim to tie the topics discussed each month to what is relevant at that time of year, so members can go away with fresh ideas to help as the seasons throw up different challenges. We already have topics for the first four meetings.

Each meeting will include a “what to do this

month” reminder and a very relaxed quiz to help increase members’ knowledge of whatever the topic is that month. There will also be a chance to chat, exchange information and get to know other likeminded people.

The club is totally inclusive, whether you're a new gardener, an experienced gardener or just love all things garden. If you would like to find out more or would like to join, contact us via the Facebook group, email rochfordgardeningclub@gmail.com or call Jan on 07789 686833.

Do join us – the more the merrier.

Marie and Jan



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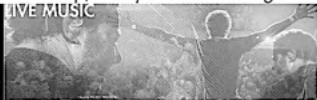
Last Night of the Proms
Sat 6 Sep, 7.30pm - Live on Stage



A Night In The Canyon
Fri 12 Sep, 8pm - Live on Stage



Harvest – A Celebration of Neil Young
Sat 13 Sep, 7.30pm - Live on Stage



Lionel: The Music of Lionel Richie
Thu 18 Sep, 7.30pm - Live on Stage



Grey Wolf
Fri 19 Sep, 7.30pm - Live on Stage



Swift & Styles
Sat 20 Sep, 6pm - Live on Stage



Bingo Bonanza
Fri 26 Sep, 7pm - Live on Stage



Round the Horne: 60th Anniversary Tour
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Stanford History Group presents Some History of Empire, Immigration and Vagrancy

A warm welcome awaits you at the Stanford History Group which meets on Monday evenings for two hours in autumn at Sapey Village Hall. 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 program of ten lectures, in six topical and controversial subject areas. We have expert lecturers from Birmingham and Worcester Universities.

29th September

Global anti-Americanism

6th October

Development of Canada beside its big neighbour – *Associate Professor Steve Hewitt*

13th October – History of vagrancy in UK

20th October

A brief history of homelessness in Britain –
Professor Nicholas Crowson

27th October

An English or British Empire? Viewpoint of Wales and Scotland

3rd November

An English or British Empire? Viewpoint of Ireland – *Professor Neil Fleming*

10th November

History of immigration and American identity – *Associate Professor Nathan Cardon*

17th November

How states are born and how they die –
Associate Professor George Kyris

24th November

France becomes a global power: Gallic colonisation

7th December

Legacies of being a global power – *Senior Lecturer Dr Berny Sebe*

Do come and join us. You can come for any one or all. There's coffee, biscuits and discussion too! We start on **Monday 29th September at 7.30pm**. £10 per lecture or £60 for the ten lecture course, payable at the door or by bank transfer.

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Lectures to keep your mind alert



Conquest Theatre, in Tenbury Wells at the Regal cinema and in Ludlow at the Assembly Rooms. Use them or lose them.

Arts Society Teme Valley lectures are another superb cultural resource. The lectures are given by knowledgeable and enthusiastic speakers with splendid illustrations. On art related topics, lectures are stimulating and enjoyable, even those which do not have very appealing titles. I once went to a lecture called "Cupboards and Drawers". It was absolutely fascinating. It took us back to ancient cavemen with just one bowl and spoon who needed a shelf for storage and display and developed from there.

The lectures are each month from September to June on the third Wednesday of the month starting at 2.15pm in Ludlow Assembly Rooms. Refreshments afterwards lead to easy opportunities to meet and talk to congenial people. It is fair to say that most of our members are aged over 60. Retired people have time to come to afternoon lectures but we welcome people of all ages.

Dementia threatens all our futures these days.

TemeTalk deadline 18th September
ronsmum@icloud.com
07482 482620

We are told that to avoid it, it is best to keep an open mind (lectures help) and talk to others. There is plenty of scope for this after the lectures.

Annual membership is £50 (£95 for couples). Non members are welcome as visitors paying £8 at the door. As a member you receive the excellent quarterly Arts Society Magazine. The Arts Society is a national organisation of which Arts Society Teme Valley is a member. For more information look at www.theartsocietytemevalley.org.uk or telephone 07801 178846.

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Margaret McIntosh

Margaret died on 17th July in Hereford County Hospital after a short illness. She will be greatly missed not only by her immediate family but also by her many friends in the community and the wider area.

In the 27 years since moving to Stoke Bliss, she was clerk to the trustees of Pytts Cottages for 13 years, served on the village hall committee and for many years organised the charity days



at Kyre Valley Railway, supporting many local charities.

She was a keen member of the Tenbury Floral Art Club and together with Pauline Harris she regularly helped to organise the flowers at Stoke Bliss church as well as helping in the church gardens.

Margaret was also a keen bridge player. She will be remembered fondly by her many friends.

The Filling Station

Our next meeting will be on Thursday 18th September at Eastham Memorial Hall at 7.15 for a 7.30pm start when Tim Coles will be speaking to us. Tim was formerly pastor of Elim Church in Ludlow and then minister of two Methodist churches in the Dudley area.

We look forward to your joining us for these 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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Lawrence Robert Speers

There was sadness in Eastham at the news of Lawrence Speers' death. As we gathered in August for a celebration of his life, the sun shone down on the church of St Peter & St Paul, lightening the mood.

Known to many of us as Larry, he and his wife Anthea lived at Limetree Cottage on the Highwood for 43 years. In 2023, he went to Haresbrook Park in Tenbury Wells and Anthea recently moved to a house in Craves Mead to be closer to him. He suddenly became ill in July and was taken to Hereford Hospital where he died, aged 83, with his family by his side.

Larry was larger than life and always had a smile on his face. He was quick witted, had a great sense of humour and always had time for a chat. He was passionate about golf and played two or



three times a week; he was captain and president of Ludlow Golf Club. He loved all sport, particularly cricket and rugby.

He was born in Londonderry, the youngest of five boys, and later worked in Customs & Excise. He moved to the UK and in 1970 was sent on detachment duty to Ramsgate Harbour where he met Anthea at a party and they married the following year. In due course sons Jonathan and Quintin arrived. Anthea recalls a date on which they went into the Customs House and she scoured the horizon for ships through a huge telescope!

Our condolences go to Anthea, sons Jonathan and Quintin and granddaughters Lottie, Poppy, Amelia and Olivia, their family and many friends. He will be greatly missed by us all.

AO

John W G Inge



At the end of July we were saddened to receive a letter from Rebecca, daughter of John Inge, letting us know that John had passed away on 25th July following a stay in hospital. He was in his mid-nineties and had enjoyed good health until quite recently.

John and his wife Dorothy bought The Old Farm, Eastham, in 1961, moving there from Sussex with their two young daughters. For many years John farmed dairy cattle, pigs and poultry, while also dedicating a great deal of time and energy to the village. He served as chairman of Eastham Parish Council, chaired both the Lindridge school governors and Eastham Memorial Hall committees and was an active member of the Garden Club. At the annual Eastham fête, John was a familiar and welcoming presence at the entrance selling raffle tickets, as well as working tirelessly

behind the scenes.

Beyond the village, John acted as an agricultural adviser to Anthony Parkin, story editor of The Archers, and provided investment advice to others.

In 2018, John and Dorothy left Eastham for Longnor, near Shrewsbury, to be closer to Rebecca. A well-attended farewell gathering was held at the Memorial Hall to mark their departure.

John will be fondly remembered for his warmth, dedication and the immense contribution he made to the Eastham community over nearly sixty years.

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Teme Valley Wildlife

The Ledwyche brook is a Shropshire tributary of the River Teme which joins the river at Burford next to the gardens of Burford House. It begins in the foothills of Brown Clee, west of Stoke St Milborough, and for five of its 17-mile length traces the border between Herefordshire and Shropshire. It is crossed by a formal footbridge in the grounds of Henley Hall, by a Grade II-listed bridge on Squirrel Lane between Ludlow and Bitterley and by the Elan Valley water pipeline near Caynham Camp and hosts a flood-warning river-level station at Burford Bridge on the A456.

What is notable about the Ledwyche brook is that it is home to a plant rarely seen in the wild. Well-known as a garden plant, Monkshood is a stately plant with striking blue flowers which form the shape of a monk's cowl. It originates in Europe and Asia where it has long been known to be extremely poisonous. All parts of the plant can do harm, but the root, shaped like a turnip, is the most dangerous. The Latin name of Aconitum



napellus refers to "little turnip", the meaning of the word "napellus". It appears to be very happy growing along the Ledwyche brook.

I unexpectedly came upon some specimens back in June whilst following Little Hereford's Millennium Walk. It favours shady stream sides and was growing on both the Herefordshire and Shropshire sides of the brook, sheltered by the trees which line it. I was

struck by the pure blue flowers and the beauty of the tall stems. Botanists have puzzled over whether such plants are native, naturalised or just garden forms escaped into the wild. However, the Ledwyche brook plants are believed to be true natives. The first record in this location was in 1755 by Rev'd E Williams who noted it to be in abundance a few yards above Gossart bridge between Ludlow and Burford. It was next recorded in 1855, "for a mile or so" between Ludlow and Caynham Camp by another botanic reverend, Edward

Continued on page 24

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Continued from page 23

Whitehead, a Fellow of Corpus Christi College, Oxford.

One of the lovely things about writing these articles is that people sometimes get in touch to share local knowledge. A few years ago, a lady brought up in the valley in the 1940s sent me her father's botany textbook. He noted local plants of interest in the margins. For 23rd May 1946, of Monkshood he wrote, "at quantity at weir near Sheet, Ludlow", so here was a twentieth century Ledwyche brook record. Researching a little further, I found it had also been spotted on the Cadmore brook in Worcestershire, along the Teme at Rochford and many years ago, at Eastham on Eastham Hill, although I think it more likely to have been on Piper's Brook, not on the hill itself. I wonder what these small, localised tributaries of the Teme have in common to attract wild Monkshood?

Another name for it is Wolfsbane, a name thought to recall a practice of leaving meat laced with monkshood poison in traps to lure and kill wolves. It is also thought that a compound made from it was used to tip hunters' arrows. In ancient Rome a ban was placed on its cultivation – I wonder why? Today it is used in Chinese medicine and in homeopathy, but I wouldn't want to try it!

The next meeting of the Teme Valley Wildlife Group will be at 7.30pm on Thursday 11th September at Stoke Bliss and Kyre village hall. We welcome Johnny Birks once again, whose talk is called "Restoring balance: the pine marten reintroduction programme in Devon's woodlands". Members and friends are all welcome, it is just £3 on the door.

Stephanie Macroft

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



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Mr C Norman MBE Memorial Cup – for the best container of sweet peas

Miss F Morris Cup – for the most points in Class B

Eastham Men's Club Cup – for the most points in Class C

George Hipkiss Memorial Cup – for the most points in the bean classes Nos 24, 25, 45

Mr B Leason Memorial Cup – for the most points in the onion classes Nos 38, 40, 46

Mr Moseley Cup – for the most points in Class D

Eastham Parish Cup – for the most points in Class E

Molly Yarnold Cup – for the most points in Class F, children 6-10 years old

Mr & Mrs Downes Cup – most points in Class F, children 11-14 years old

The Childrens' Cup – most points in Class F, children 5 years and under

Nora Edwards Memorial Cup – for the best exhibit in show

Mel Cummins

Lesley Spragg

Anna Fletcher

Anna Fletcher

Diana Clarke

Colin Lord

Jonathan Adams

Colin Lord

Charlotte Bradley

Gail Harrison

Isabella Andrews

Alissa Harding

Chloe Harding

Francis Barnett

Fun Dog Show Winners

Best in Show – Champion

Best in Show – Reserve

Cutest puppy

Prettiest bitch

Most handsome dog

Most obedient dog

Golden oldie (over 9 years)

Waggiest tail

Best retriever

Best young handler (under 14)

Beau

Lily

Jake

Lily

Drake

Beau

Lyra

Timber

Lily

Ginny



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What's on in Teme Valley South

September

4th	Thursday	Eastham Coffee Morning, Eastham Memorial Hall, 10.30am
7th	Sunday	Vintage Tractor Breakfast, Hanley Village Hall, 9am
11th	Thursday	Stoke Bliss & Kyre Neighbourhood Lunch, Stoke Bliss & Kyre VH, 12.30pm
12th	Friday	Bat Watch Evening, St Peter's church Stoke Bliss, 7.30pm
13th	Saturday	Tidy-up session, St Peter's churchyard Stoke Bliss, 10am
19th	Friday	Pub Night, Eastham Memorial Hall, 7pm
20th	Saturday	Ploughing Match, Hayes Farm, St Michaels WR15 8TL, 10am Churchyard working party, St Mary's Stanford, 10am
25th	Thursday	Wine and nibbles party, Stanford Village Hall, 8pm
26th	Friday	Macmillan Coffee Day, Tally Ho Cottage, Hanley Broadheath, 10am Social Night and Fun Bingo, Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall, 7 for 8pm
27th	Saturday	Hollow Meadow Second Anniversary, Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall, 2pm
29th	Monday	Stanford History Group, Sapey Village Hall, 7.30pm
30th	Tuesday	Rochford Neighbourhood Lunch, Rochford Village Hall, 12.30pm

October

1st	Wednesday	Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall AGM, Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall, 7.30pm
2nd	Thursday	Eastham Macmillan Coffee Morning, Eastham Memorial Hall, 10.30am
4th	Saturday	Applefest, The Burgage, Tenbury Wells, 10am
6th	Monday	Stanford History Group, Sapey Village Hall, 7.30pm
9th	Thursday	Stoke Bliss & Kyre Neighbourhood Lunch, Stoke Bliss & Kyre VH, 12.30pm
11th	Saturday	Race Night, Hanley Village Hall, 6.30pm
12th	Sunday	Rochford harvest service, 5pm followed by supper, Rochford village hall 6.30pm
13th	Monday	Stanford History Group, Sapey Village Hall, 7.30pm
20th	Monday	Stanford History Group, Sapey Village Hall, 7.30pm
27th	Monday	Stanford History Group, Sapey Village Hall, 7.30pm
28th	Tuesday	Rochford Neighbourhood Lunch, Rochford Village Hall, 12.30pm
31st	Friday	Social Night, Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall, 7 for 8pm

November

21st	Friday	Rochford Quiz Night and supper
22nd	Saturday	Jazz in the Village, Hanley Village Hall, 7.30pm
25th	Tuesday	Rochford Neighbourhood Lunch, Rochford Village Hall, 12.30pm
29th	Friday	Social Night, Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall, 7 for 8pm

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

Services

September/October 2025

Daily prayer continues at 9am and 7pm on Zoom, contact Rev'd Julia if you would like to join us. The blessings group meets regularly and is co-ordinated by Richard Skerrett, who can be contacted on 01886 853099 for more details.

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

Services Schedule

Wednesday 3rd September

10.00am to 12.30pm	Harpley	Quiet Garden
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Sunday 7th September

10.00am	Stanford	Holy Communion with Hymns
4.00pm	Rochford	Choral Evensong for Creationtide

Sunday 14th September

9.30am	Stoke Bliss	Holy Communion
11.00am	Hanley William	Holy Communion/Morning Prayer
4.00pm	Hanley Village Hall	Iona Service for Harvest

Sunday 21st September

10.00am	Eastham	AAW and Holy Communion
2.00pm		Walking Church

Saturday 27th September

4.00pm		Welly Church
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Sunday 28th September

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

Sunday 5th October

8.30am	Stanford	Holy Communion
11.00am	Stanford	Harvest Festival Service with choir and lunch
6.30pm	Worcester Cathedral	Diocesan Harvest Service



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