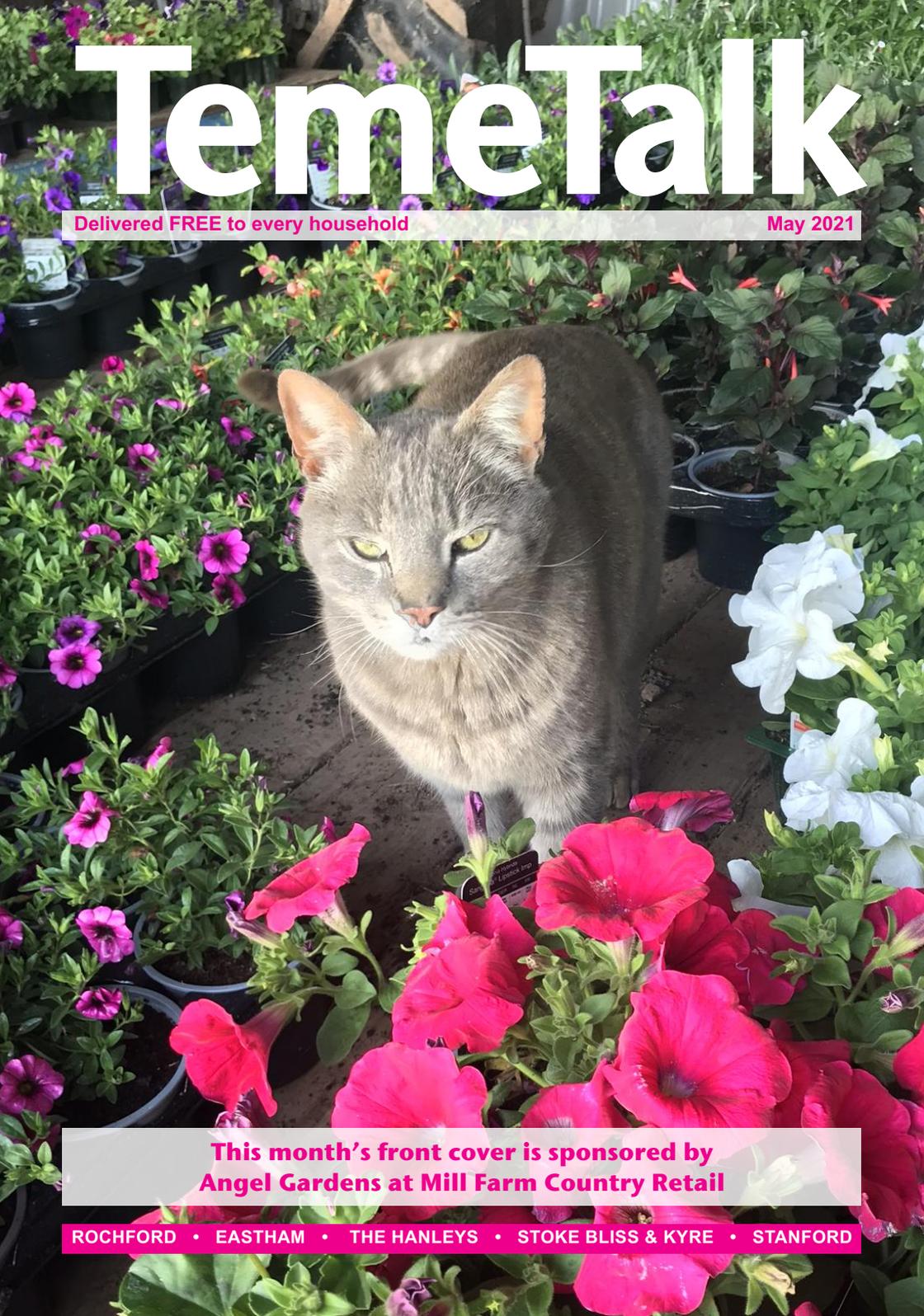


# TemerTalk



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# TemeTalk

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*A community going forward with God*

**May 2021**

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 Villagers

As we start to meet again and emerge from a long few months of lockdown, I have been reflecting on what life currently looks like for our churches in Teme Valley South. We are blessed with many expressions of our spiritual lives together, from our seven ancient church buildings to online services and daily prayers on Zoom.

Our church buildings hold the stories and history of our communities, with some containing war memorials, all having open churchyards and many having personal connections for families who have had christenings, marriages and funerals in them over the years. They also offer a quiet place to go and reflect, in peaceful surroundings when we feel the need. Each of them has a regular worship service at least once a month; some have more.

Each is unique – some in terms of their view, some acoustic for music, some their settling in a visitor attraction or in working farmland.

Our spiritual lives go wider than these buildings though and Walking Church, Café Church and our Blessings Group are more recently developed ways of coming together.

All of these expressions strengthen us in different ways to serve our communities of Teme Valley South. We also serve our communities by caring for each other and offering social events such as fêtes and other forms of fund raising. It is wonderful to see that our villages are starting to have the confidence to plan a few of these over the summer months.

So, alongside the PCC, I'm inviting you on 5th June to drop in to an event to share our stories and to think about ...

How has church been important in your life?

*Continued on page 3*

This month's cover photograph  
is of Daphne,  
the Angel Gardens cat  
– see page 11

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## Teme Valley South Contacts

**Priest-in-charge:** Julia Curtis 01886 853286

**Associate Priest:** Sally Jones 01584 781526

**Reader:** Pete Thorp 07917 783159

### Churchwardens

**Eastham:** Celia Adams 01584 781258

**Rochford:** Ann Prosser 01584 781317

**Stoke Bliss & Kyre:** Jen Jones 07749 977821

**Hanleys:** Ed Yarnold 07930 882728

**Stanford:** Robin Dean 01886 853295

### Pastoral Team

**Stanford:** Lesley Dean 01886 853295

**Hanleys:** Peter Thorneycroft 01885 410484

**Stoke Bliss:**

**Rochford:** Ann Prosser 01584 781317

Jenny Barbé 01584 781298

**Eastham:** Helen Matravers 01584 781510

**Parish Safeguarding Officer:** Sue Softly  
01584 881342

## TemeTalk

Deadline 18th May

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contributions – the sooner you send  
your items to the editor, the more  
chance there is that they will be included

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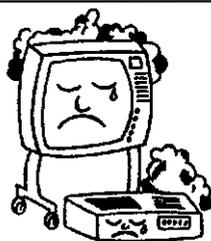
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# Parish news

*Continued from page 1*

What about church is important to you now?

What would you like church to be and to do for the future?

If you are unable to make this then next month in TemeTalk there will be a brief questionnaire to enable to have your say about what the future might hold for parish life in times and in a society which are rapidly changing. I look forward to seeing where our future heads in the coming months and years.

*Rev'd Julia*

## From the registers

Our prayers and sympathy are with the family and friends of Arthur Vobe, known as Jack. After his funeral in Bromyard, he was laid to rest in Stoke Bliss churchyard on 31st March, a beautiful sunny day.

We also hold in our thoughts the family and friends of Ian Brookes of Stanford who died recently. His funeral service and burial took place on 29th April at St Mary's, Stanford.

May they both rest in peace.

## Services in May and beyond

As we continue to follow the road map out of lockdown, our churches have begun to have services more regularly. We are still following Covid guidelines, so masks will need to be worn and social distancing maintained, without congregational singing indoors. We will return to old patterns initially with the retention of daily prayer on Zoom and a monthly pre-recorded service.

## Take Breath

Silent prayer continues weekly at Kyre church from 4pm on Fridays. We hold about 25 minutes silence together. All welcome, please bring a mask.

With the opening of the Antiques Barn and coffee shop at Kyre Park there is the opportunity to make an afternoon of it with a walk in the beautiful gardens, and browse at antiques and outdoor refreshments too!

## Service times and openings

Our church buildings remain open as below, but if you would like to visit outside of these times, please contact the churchwardens, who will do their best to accommodate this. You are very welcome to come and spend some time in these spaces to reflect, to pray and just to 'be' for a quiet moment.

### St Peter & St Paul, Eastham

Tuesday 9am to dusk

### St Mary, Stanford on Teme

Thursday 9am to dusk

### St Mary, Kyre Wyard

Friday 2.30pm to 5pm

Church to be attended

Silent Prayer "Take Breath" 4 to 4.30pm

### St Michael, Rochford

Wednesday and Sunday 9am to dusk

### St Peter, Stoke Bliss

Friday 10am to 4pm

### All Saints, Hanley William

Saturday 9am to 4pm

Thanks to all of you who are willing to air the churches and have offered to lock and unlock. Without you we could not re-open.

## I don't know much about art but ...

A group of us have been meeting via Zoom once a week over Lent to discuss paintings and commentaries in a book by Sister Wendy Beckett (you may remember her from her TV series about art). Our discussions, and the paintings, were interesting and challenging and we have decided to continue them looking at paintings that reflect the nine gifts of the Holy Spirit listed in chapter 5 of the Epistle to the Galatians – love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

The sessions will be on Monday evenings starting on 10th May running from 7.45 to 8.30pm. You would be most welcome to join us. If you are interested please email TVS Administration ([assistantvspcc@gmail.com](mailto:assistantvspcc@gmail.com)) and include the titles and painter of any paintings that fit any of gifts that you think would be interesting to look at and discuss.

*Rev'd Julia*

# Rochford 49 Club Congratulations

to this month's £25 winners:

## Wednesday winners

March 24th No 30 not sold  
March 31st No 12 Sheila Palmer  
April 7th No 29 Angela Keysall  
April 14th No 34 Phil Bull

## Saturday winners

March 20th No 21 Andrew Keysall  
March 27th No 29 Rosemary Ayres  
April 3rd No 5 not Sold  
April 10th No 30 Hugh Nicholson  
April 17th No 4 not sold

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

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## Teme Valley Tote starts again in May

Because of the current difficulties, I decided to delay April's draw until May – therefore we will have two draws in May! This year the price of each subscription is again £10 – for this you will be entered in each of 12 monthly draws with the possibility of winning £50 or £30 or £20 each month.

If you still wish to take part and have not so far entered you can contact your local co-ordinator or ...

If you have internet banking you can subscribe by bank giro credit – the account name is North Teme Group of Churches Tote Account – sort code 20-39-64 – account number 30947539. Please give your name and district as a reference, and also email me on [robin.c.dean@gmail.com](mailto:robin.c.dean@gmail.com)

Or you can send a cheque made payable to TVN Tote to me at Rectory Cottage, Stanford Bridge, Worcester WR6 6ST.

If you have any queries about the Tote, please contact me on 01886 853295 or email [robin.c.dean@gmail.com](mailto:robin.c.dean@gmail.com).

*Robin Dean*  
Teme Valley Tote Organiser



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# Rochford Rochford Rochford

## Hello and goodbye

We would like to welcome the Thornley family to Rochford. We hope they will be happy living in Rochford and enjoy the friendship and activities that this community has to offer.

Sadly Nick and Carol Rubery are leaving the village for pastures new. We would like to thank Nick and Carol for all their help with village activities over the last eight years. Their village highlights for me include Carol's Mini full of balloons and Nick's TVR at the fête, Nick arranging and running the bar, and Carol as "Mrs Pimms" at Rochford Rocks, together with practical help and advice with risk assessments and health and safety. We hope you will keep in touch and still come and visit when you can.

## Rochford Open Gardens

We currently have around six gardens to be opened on Sunday 27th June, 2 to 5pm, with many thanks to people that have volunteered so far. The gardens are well spread throughout the village and will provide a lovely relaxing Sunday afternoon. If Covid restrictions are lifted, cream teas will also be on offer.

It would be great to have a few more gardens to visit in the village, so please can you let Ann know if you are willing to open your garden.

## Neighbourhood lunches

Take-away neighbourhood lunches (delivered or collected) will be available on Friday 14th May. As usual please bring your own plates and let Ann know by the previous Monday. From this month the lunches will cost £6, the first rise since we started in 2012. Where has that time gone?

## Rochford Rocks

Rochford Rocks will return on Saturday 21st August – a great event with live music, dancing, hot food, homemade puds and a Pimms and real ale/cider bar. We all need a good party, so put the date in your diary.

## Rochford Fête

Rochford Fête will be on Sunday 22nd August, the quintessential village fête and dog show. We will need donations for the tombola, white elephant, plant and book stalls, so if you are having a post lockdown tidy-up, please bear it in mind!

## Future events

We're planning a Big Breakfast followed by a walk. The date is still to be decided so watch this space for more information. We also hope to be able to have events in the village hall later in the year, including our ever-popular quiz night and the murder mystery evening that was cancelled at the start of lockdown last year.

## Church services in Rochford

Physical church services, subject to Covid rules, are taking place again at 6.30pm on the second Sunday and 10am on the 4th Sunday in the month. Everyone is very welcome.

## We need your help!

Community events take significant planning and setting up, so we would really appreciate some additional ideas and help to make these events as successful as possible. Offers of help with any of the functions will be greeted with open arms. We are planning an open meeting on Friday 21st May at 7.30 to discuss this year's village events. Please come along and tell us your ideas and let us know if you are able to help with any of the events. It will be in the garden at Parsonage Farm. Please contact Andrew on 01584 781298 or email [Andrew.barbe@btinternet.com](mailto:Andrew.barbe@btinternet.com) if you have any thoughts or ideas, and please come to the meeting if you can.

## Rochford village hall car park

This is a private car park belonging to the village hall, not a public one, and a contribution towards its upkeep would be appreciated.

As lockdown eases and the hall gets busier, unauthorised parking on the carpark is an issue. Both long and short term parking can only be allowed with permission and payment for a permit. These can be obtained from Ann Prosser, 01584 781317, or Norma Goodall, 01584 781395. Your cooperation on this matter will be much appreciated.

*Andrew Barbé*

# Stoke Bliss and Kyre

## Paul Northwood

Jenny and Ian Northwood and all their family wish to thank everyone for their condolences and the support and prayers that surround them in the loss of their son Paul.

Paul will always live on, not only in the hearts of all who knew him, but also by his creative work with oak and the furnishings that form a lasting memorial to his talent.

## David John Thomas

David John Thomas of Conwy passed away on 21st March after a short illness. Formerly of Old Hall, Rochford and Pool Ridge, Stoke Bliss. Father of the late Philip and Sara. Survived by his loving wife, Dianne Thomas, as well as his children Richard and Ceri.

**Deadline for the next issue  
of TemeTalk is 18th May  
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## Our horse chestnut tree

The horse chestnut or conker tree is a large deciduous tree of the same family as soapberry and lychee. The seed and leaves are used for treating haemorrhoids and swollen veins! Fascinating, I hear you say, but what has that to do with Stoke Bliss?

During the storms in March a large limb broke away at the collar from the main trunk of the horse chestnut tree in the churchyard at Stoke Bliss. The limb caused some damage – it landed on the fence at the back of the churchyard, pushed a couple of gravestones off their footings and unfortunately split one in half. Yet rather amazingly the other branches weaved themselves among the other grave stones with no ill effects.

Local tree surgeon Lee Johnson has inspected the tree and has confirmed that the tree is healthy and there is no indication of bleeding canker. The plan is to chip and log the tree limb, repair the fence and return the gravestones to their rightful locations. A big thank you to everyone who has helped and supported us with this.

*Jen Jones, Churchwarden*



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# Eastham Jottings

## Coffee morning

The next coffee morning will be on Wednesday 5th May at 10.30am by Zoom. This month's facilitator is Diana Clarke and the theme is "your favourite flower – and why". If you have a favourite flower story you would like to share and cannot make the meeting, please send your comments to Celia and they will be shared.

If you would like to join and/or need help with Zoom, please call Celia Adams on 01584 781258 or email [easthamcourt@icloud.com](mailto:easthamcourt@icloud.com). Regulars will get an invite on the morning of the coffee morning.

Next month, on 2nd June, we will be in the new hall, Covid regulations allowing, with table service. The facilitator will be Celia Adams.

## Church spring clean

Many thanks to all who came and helped with the spring cleaning of the churchyard and the church for the summer months.

## Teme Valley Tote

New to the village? Why not try the £10 tote? If you want to join, please drop in cash to Eastham Court or the church or phone Celia Adams on 01584 781258 for bank details.

## Eastham Fête

Once you have all calmed down from being allowed out and you've had your fix of visiting friends, shopping and drinking, turn your thoughts to Eastham's Fête and Produce Show on 15th August from 12 noon.

This year's 52nd fête will be a great opportunity to get together with friends and neighbours and to pit your newly honed gardening and craft skills against theirs for one of 14 cups. The schedule is out and your copy should have been delivered. If not, please contact [easthamfete@gmail.com](mailto:easthamfete@gmail.com) or 01584 781505 and we will send you a copy.

It will also be a great opportunity to see inside our new village hall, so come along, join in and make this year's fête one to remember!

## Eastham Memorial Hall

The new Eastham Memorial Hall is ready for hire!

The first event will be the election on Thursday 6th May. It will be possible to view the inside of the hall from the polling booths.

The hall is available for hire from 17th May in line with national guidelines. With social distancing the hall can accommodate 14 seated and 35 standing until 21st June. In normal times the capacity is 160 standing and 76 sitting. There is a fully fitted kitchen and bar area and a smaller room.

The hire charges are on the website, [www.easthammemorialhall.org.uk](http://www.easthammemorialhall.org.uk). For further information please contact Mike Palfrey on 07967 854267 or email [mike.palfrey@easthammemorialhall.org.uk](mailto:mike.palfrey@easthammemorialhall.org.uk). For bookings please contact Helen Matravers on 01584 781510 or email her at [admin@easthammemorial-hall.org.uk](mailto:admin@easthammemorial-hall.org.uk).

## Eastham Memorial Hall AGM

This will be on 17th May. The public meeting is open to all Eastham residents. It will be held in the new hall with the newly installed wifi which has been financed by a grant from ACRE. Those who don't wish to venture out can therefore join by Zoom and those present can observe social distancing. If you would like to attend please contact Celia Adams on 01584 781258 to book your place. The accounts will be posted on the website before the AGM when the independent examination has been completed by Barbara Selkirk ACCA.

## Broadband

We have secured a grant of £560 to fund broadband in the new hall for the next two years, enabling virtual meetings to take place. Thanks to ACRE for the grant

## Flowers, cleaning and sidesman

May – Tammy Starling

June – Helen Matravers

*Eastham Jottings is continued on page 18*

# Hanley Happenings

## Clearing ditches

Each village appoints a lengthsman who is tasked by the parish council to complete tasks in the parish such as cutting back vegetation around signs.

This parish has used the lengthsman historically to keep ditches clear of debris and mud. This cannot now continue without the council being notified by the landowner. Go to the Worcestershire County Council's website at [www.worcestershire.gov.uk](http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk) and pinpoint the reported incident on the map. The council will consider whether the situation needs attention. A photo may help.

*Tracy Stuart-Allen*

## Village Hall

The village hall will of course be open for the local elections on 6th May. After cleaning it is hoped that table tennis and art classes can begin again after the middle of May subject to Covid regulations.

Further clarification can be obtained from Ed Yarnold (07930 882728) or Tracy Stuart-Allen (07972 183164).

## Telephone box

Another suggestions has been put forward for the future use of the redundant telephone box – a charging point for electric cars. Further investigations are being made to see if this is a viable option.

## Church services

As reported elsewhere, normal services are gradually being reintroduced, which will be easier when restrictions are eased and warmer weather comes! Singing Easter hymns outside at Hanley William in a snow flurry on the Sunday after Easter was some experience! Jane Delahay bowed out from her unofficial role of custodian of the church at this service, after many years of service, and we thank her for all her hard work in preparing the church for services.

This is a good chance to say thank you to Julia and her team for providing some form of virtual worship throughout the benefice during the last twelve months.

*Peter Thorneycroft*

*More Hanley Happenings on page 13*



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## Where to begin again?

At the time of writing (17th April) we are slowly emerging from lockdown 3 with a very long roadmap before we are back to a new normal. We have had a beautiful display of daffodils in the churchyard and on the roadside during March and April and spring has arrived!

## Our Future and God's Church

Do you have an interest in the future of the Church in Stanford? If so you should attend a meeting to discuss the future of the Church in Teme Valley South at Hanley Rectory on Saturday 5th June. Please let Robin know if you are interested or would like to help in the organisation.

## The new normal

We are returning to our normal schedule of services in Teme Valley South with a Holy Communion service at St Mary's at 10am on the first Sunday in the month (2nd May and 6th June). Unfortunately all Covid precautions continue to be in place.

## St Mary's

St Mary's Church is open from 9am to 6pm every Thursday during May. There will be a continued need for social distancing when in the church and you will be asked to use the provided hand sanitiser both on entering the church and on leaving. Thank you to Anthony for opening up each Thursday.

## Communications

If you wish to be kept in the 'village loop', please let me have an email address. If you don't have one, please let me know and we will try to phone you. Alexandra and Cecilia are maintaining a Stanford Facebook page which will have the latest information. There is also a Teme Valley South Parish website and a Teme Valley South Facebook page.

## Parish Giving Scheme

We will contact you about this by letter or email.

## Easter in Stanford

We had a very moving service in St Mary's on Maundy Thursday evening.

On Friday Cate and Cecilia walked a cross from St Mary's to Hanley Rectory (thank you to them – I reckoned it would take three quarters of an hour but it took almost an hour and a half). Crosses were walked from all the other churches in Teme Valley South for an open air service on the lawn. The crosses were then taken to the Dawn Service, blessed and returned to their church for their Easter morning service.

The Easter Dawn Service was at 6.10am – Cate, Robin and Lesley arrived at 5.30am to get the fire going (thanks to David Lane for providing the brazier and the wood) and prepare for the communion. Robert Barlow was in charge of lighting the Pascal Candle from the brazier and then getting it inside without it being blown out – this he managed and then each member of the congregation had an individual candle lit until we could switch all the lights on and celebrate the Resurrection. We were rewarded by a beautiful sunrise on leaving the service. Thanks to Julia, Robert, John and Pete for all their input to making this a memorable Holy Week.

## After lockdown

We should be planning a village event to celebrate once lockdown is fully over. Any ideas to Robin please.

## Volunteers please – again

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

*Robin Dean*

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

## Our Future and God's Church

Times of lockdown have brought some blessings in the midst of challenges and this feels to be a good moment to engage in a broad conversation about the shape of the future as Teme Valley South churches begin gently to emerge from lockdown.

Do come along on **Saturday 5th June** to **Hanley Rectory Garden** between 10am and 3pm as we capture stories about how church has been important to you and how you might like church to be in the future. Covid compliant light refreshments will be available.

Please let TVS Administration (assistanttvspcc@gmail.com) or Rev Julia know if you will be coming and book an hourly slot.

*Rev'd Julia*

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# All you need for the garden at Angel Gardens

"We were lucky that we could stay open during all three lockdowns," says Louise Mawditt, owner of Angel Gardens, "so we could deliver compost, plants and seeds to all the people who had been bitten by the gardening bug during the pandemic and couldn't come to us."

Angel Gardens, at Mill Farm Country Retail, Stanford Bridge, celebrates its third anniversary on 28th May. Louise stocks a huge variety of plants – pond plants and marginals, alpines, the most beautiful hellebores as well as shrubs, climbers and fruit trees. Her two polytunnels are full of bedding plants and vegetable plants which will be available towards the end of this month, and she is also taking orders for hanging baskets. Last year's hanging baskets were very popular and she is happy to see so many returning customers now that lockdown restrictions have finally eased, and to have had so much positive feedback.

The Angel Gardens shop is packed with gardening essentials, seeds, gardening gloves and secateurs and a big display of indoor plants. There is also a range of children's gardening equipment, which Louise hopes will encourage the younger generation to learn to love gardening.

Louise is especially pleased that Angel Gardens has been chosen to stock David Austin roses. This year has seen a huge drop in production so David Austin is only supplying a few gardens centres in Herefordshire and Worcestershire and Louise is delighted that she will have a gorgeous selection of beautiful healthy roses.

Outdoor garden furniture is also in short



supply at the moment so Angel Gardens is lucky to have a good range of rattan chairs and sofas as well as a few aluminium and powder coated sets.

As well as Helen, who has been working at Angel Gardens for the last year, Daphne the cat is always around, tripping people up and getting as much fuss from the customers as she can. Louise says she is good at testing the garden furniture, less good when she starts chasing dogs out of the shop!

Louise is still offering a free delivery service, but why not come to Angel Gardens and see all the beautiful plants for yourself. You can make an afternoon of it now that Mill Farm Country Retail is fully open – The Den serves delicious food and coffee and there is a great selection of independent retailers selling a wide range of gifts.

Louise, Helen and Daphne would like to say a huge thank you to all the fabulous customers who have supported them throughout the last year. Louise says, "We wouldn't be here without you and we look forward to seeing you again soon".

*Angel Gardens, Mill Farm Country Retail Stanford Bridge WR6 6SP  
Telephone 07967 642270  
email [louise@angelgardens.co.uk](mailto:louise@angelgardens.co.uk)  
or find us on Facebook*



**CHANGE OF DATE  
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## Plants! Plants! Plants!

Anna Fletcher's plant sale will be taking place at **Hanley Court Gardens** on **Saturday 8th May** from 9.30 am to 4.30pm.

Despite the very variable weather Anna has managed to produce a fantastic selection of annuals, perennials shrubs and tomato plants. Reference books and The Journal of Hardy Plants will be available for further information. This is an opportunity to buy a tremendous range of plants, some not generally available elsewhere, and the many people who purchased stock last year will I'm sure be back.

Any money raised will be divided between the Air Ambulance and local community initiatives in the village.

To meet Covid regulations please come with a suitable mask. Hand sanitisers will be available at the Gardens. It would be helpful if you could let me know (07836 733072) roughly when you might be arriving to avoid too many people arriving at once. There is plenty of car parking at the Gardens – the entrance is the first drive on the right about half a mile past the church on the road to Eastham.

## Putting Hanley Childe on the map

During the last three years we have become used to passing the racehorses operating from the stables on top of the hill. Here Georgie Howell trains and her daughter Tabitha Worsley rides on the National Hunt circuit. This year they had a runner, Sub Lieutenant, in the Grand National.

They rightly received a lot of pre-race publicity both on the television and in the newspapers and were rewarded with a fourteenth place out of an entry of 40 horses. Tabitha was one of only two woman jockeys to complete

the race and Georgie was one of only three English trainers to have a horse who finished – no mean achievement for a very small yard, so very well done to both of them.

The Hanleys have a long tradition of racing starting with the Kerbys after the war on the point-to-point circuit and it is fitting that Caroline should now ride out for Georgie, following in the footsteps of her uncle and aunt, both leading riders in their time.

*Peter Thorneycroft*



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## My motoring memories

Just before we won the World Cup in 1966 I passed my driving test. This allowed me to use the family car, an Austin Westminster, and later a Ford Zephyr 6, and occasionally dad's business van, the Austin J4. The van was hopeless for romance as he often used it to ferry suckler calves from Hereford market and there was always some evidence of them in the back.

Having started driving tractors (Fordson Major or Dexta) it was novel to find you didn't need to keep steering to make the car go straight on!

My parents received Child Allowance of about 10 shillings a week and they squirrelled this away in a post office savings account for me. When I left home to start college in 1967 those savings amounted to about £500 (nearly £10,000 in today's money) and I convinced myself I needed a car! With my father's help I found a 1958 Morris 1000 convertible and off I went.

Before long the problems started. The rear window in the hood failed, the clutch needed replacing, the brake pads were worn and, worst of all, with passengers aboard the doors would not shut. We had an answer for this – keep the

doors shut and jump in over the top with the hood down – not so good in wet weather.

The structure was beyond repair so the car was parked up at home and rotted away. The front seats had a short after-life as surprisingly comfortable deck chairs.

As a slow learner I followed this with another Moggy (hard top this time) and then an

MG Midget (I must have looked very big indeed in the little thing).

By the mid 1970s I had a Mini Clubman and then, after getting married, a Triumph Spitfire for our honeymoon and when the wheels fell off

that, a Triumph Dolomite.

In 1981 I found the holy grail, a company car. The firm asked me what I would like, within reason. I asked for a black Ford Cortina. After a month or so the new car arrived – a white Vauxhall Cavalier. It had vivid red upholstery in faux leather and automatic gears. I drove all over the country in it and grew to love it. This was my first experience of a non British Leyland car.

Since then my cars have been much more reliable but much less interesting.

*Brian Griffiths*





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## “I’ve enjoyed everything I’ve had to do with the village ...”

Sally Jones moved to Eastham in August 1979. Moving on to Tenbury, she says, “I’ve enjoyed everything I’ve had to do with the village”.

She and her husband Reg bought the former school on the Highwood. Turning it into a family home was a task to make you either laugh or cry, so they called it “Comedy”. Later Sally moved, staying on the Highwood, to 2 Old School House (so named as it too had been a school). Describing herself as a “city girl”, they had decided to give living in Eastham a couple of years to see how it went. They settled and in her time in Eastham, the Jones family had three weddings, one baptism, one funeral and an ordination.

In the Teme Valley Sally discovered the beauty of the landscape, the sense of community and the joy of seeing the coming and going of the seasons. Even the rain was all right, and snow she describes as “brilliant” so long as you have what you need in the house and can not go out for a few days. The sense of community she describes as the way the village comes together when there is someone in need, giving the example of the offers of support that she had when Reg died.

Change in the village has been gradual. When she moved in there were already fewer farmers than in previous generations. The school had closed. They were not unusual in commuting for work. There was a library van that used to visit and a grocery van. Their places have been taken by supermarket home delivery vans and numerous other delivery services. There has been very little new house building with some barns being converted to housing.

The fête and flower show has continued year on year. She remembers in her early days being impressed by the super competent women running the fête tea tent. 37 years later she knew she was really part of the village when she was invited to help with the teas.

The church has changed. Entry used to be

through a door with an unwelcoming creak. Children should be seen and not heard, indeed children were better not to be in church at all!

A cup of tea after a service was unheard of.

Now the door doesn’t creak. Children are welcome in services and (until Covid intervened) refreshments and conversation after worship are part of the church’s life.

Sally has served on nearly every village organisation. Her move to Tenbury has been prompted by her eyesight, which is all right for driving at present, but sensibly she has decided to move when she can rather than when she must. Her house already feels like home, especially as Tenbury has been her local town for the last 42 years. But it’s not “goodbye” to Eastham or Teme Valley South Churches. She still feels very much part of the community and intends being part of its life.

Villagers and Teme Valley South churches look forward to her ongoing participation.

*Robert Barlow*



### Sally writes ...

“ Thank you all very much for your kind good wishes for my move down the road to Tenbury. I have been carried on a waft of flowers and prayers, cards and messages. Here I am in my bright upstairs living room, formerly the home of Margaret Morris of Eastham so it’s somehow all of a piece. Daily new shrubs and flowers are coming into bloom in the garden. I still have Clee in my sights and the birds sing all the day long. I have been made most welcome by neighbours. God is indeed good.

I am delighted to receive visitors in my sunny front garden at 3 Berrington Mews, so please drop by whenever you like. We have much to look forward to this summer.

*Sally*  
*revsally@live.com*  
*01584 819435*

# Walking Church

Walking Church has been going for just over a year, and what an interesting year it has been! The good news is that organised walks come into the category of organised outdoor sporting events and are not subject to the rule of six. We can be relaxed about numbers, though we need to ensure proper risk assessments are done, contact details kept etc.

Our Walking Church for this month will be on Sunday 16th May, the Sunday after Ascension Day. There is a very pleasant walk across arable fields and pasture with stunning views, starting at the lay-by on the B4204 just outside Rochford (just before Rochford Mount). It's just under three miles but it does have stiles. They're not difficult ones but when I gave it a test walk earlier I was glad I had only taken a small dog, not the large one. We'll meet there at 2pm and please let me know if you're intending coming as even though we can be relaxed about numbers we still need to ensure an appropriate group size.

*Robert Barlow  
rhyselane@gmail.com , 07947 600627*

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**Daily Hope – a new way of bringing worship and prayer to people's homes**

Recently the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, launched Daily Hope, a free phone line offering hymns, prayers and reflections 24 hours a day during the lockdown. The line received more than 6,000 calls in the first 48 hours of its launch.

The free phone number is: 0800 804 8044

It opens with a greeting from the Archbishop followed by a number of options:

\* To listen to a full message from the Archbishop of Canterbury

1 Hymns We Love

2 Hymns line – for some uplifting hymns

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4 For more options which are as follows;

5 Daily Church of England service

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# Paul Northwood – an appreciation

Jenny and Ian Northwood have expressed their appreciation of the support they have received after the loss of their son Paul (see page 6), so for my appreciation of his life I quote some extracts from the eulogies read at his funeral on 18th March.

Ian and Jenny Northwood have been at Pigeonhouse farm, Kyre for many years and brought up their children, Paul, Rob and Julie, there. Rob and Paul both used the outbuildings for their workshops. My oak porches at my cottage were built by them and their banter as they discussed the building often centered on their different approaches to measurement tolerances – builder Rob using green oak needed very different tolerances for his work than master carpenter Paul, working with seasoned oak and needing much finer tolerances for fitting the doors.

In the eulogies from Charles Kightly who worked with him, commissioning furniture of a suitable era and style to furnish historic houses, and Paul's wife Claire and daughter Bethan there is a common theme of appreciation of a man who lived life to the full as crafts-

man, hub of the village, good neighbour, dear friend, much loved husband and father.

*Craftsman, good neighbour,  
dear friend, much loved  
husband and father*

Charles mentioned some of the many buildings where Paul's work can be seen including the Old House in Hereford, and a place that also features in Claire's tribute, the bar at the Greyhound pub in Llangunllo. Here, as

Claire puts it, he would sometimes overstay the midnight curfew while discussing village walks, duck races and the next meeting of the Agricultural Rodent Specialist(ish) Exterminators, otherwise known by their less impressive title, 'arsie'. When summoned by local farmers, a group would gather with their terriers and various contraptions to smoke rats out.

Bethan recalls hours spent in the workshop at home helping her dad – told "it'll only take an hour, then something would go wrong and we'd be figuring out for the rest of the evening until it was perfect again".

So as we say goodbye to Paul and toast his memory, may we learn from his life and try to get and give as much as he did.

*Maggie Kingston*



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# More Eastham Jottings

*Continued from page 7*

## **Wish list for donations**

There are still items on the list on the hall website. To donate please telephone Mike Palfrey on 07967 854267 or email [mike.palfrey@easthammemorialhall.org.uk](mailto:mike.palfrey@easthammemorialhall.org.uk).

## **Memorial Hall Events Team**

The team consists of Claire Davies, Jane Spilsbury and Simon Neary. Please complete your questionnaire and return to the hall around 6th May.

## **Community garden**

Helpers are needed to repair the grass area, put together some wooden planters and do some planting. This will have to happen with social distancing in mind. If you would like to help to make the site look its best in time for the opening, please contact David on 01584 781505. Where there's a will, there's a way!

## **Millennium weathervane**

This has been reconditioned, thanks to Matt Hall, and will be fitted on the Memorial Hall later in the year, when all the snagging is completed.

## **Memorial Board restoration**

Thanks to everyone who has given so kindly for the restoration of the Eastham and Orleton board, especially those in Orleton who have joined those from Eastham to raise the money. We now have £800 of the £995 we need. Cash, cheques (made payable to Eastham Memorial Hall) or online donations to Celia Adams at [easthamcourt@icloud.com](mailto:easthamcourt@icloud.com).

## **Bird box**

Thanks to Mike Palfrey for making a bird box and to Wilf Knott who has donated a further two double boxes. Wilf is unwell at the moment and his daughter Louise is arranging a trip for him to see the new hall. Eastham Church donated its Easter collection of £60 to Louise's charity, Read UK. Thanks to Wilf for years of bird boxes throughout Eastham and beyond.

*Celia Adams*

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# Righting rules

There has been some discussion in the press recently about the importance of spelling and punctuation. Precision in language used to be considered important for clarity and understanding, but now apparently correct English is a tool of cultural oppression. Hull University plans to drop the requirement for proficiency in written and spoken English, and academics at Worcester University have been told that if spelling, grammar and punctuation are not “central to the assessment criteria”, students should not be judged on them.

If, like me, you pride yourself on always using clear concise English, properly spelt and punctuated, you may need these new rules to make sure you always get it write.

Prepositions are not words to end sentences with.

And sentences should not begin with a conjunction.

Shy away from clichés like the plague.

Absolutely always avoid annoying alliteration.

Be more or less specific.

Parenthetical remarks (however useful) are (usually) unnecessary.

Contractions aren't helpful and shouldn't be used.

One should never generalise.

Comparisons are as bad as clichés.

Abandon ampersands & abbreviations etc.

Cut out commas, that are, not necessary.

*The spell cheque  
is knot always  
write!!!*

Parenthetical words however should be enclosed in commas.

Never use a big word when a diminutive one would be sufficient.

Don't overuse exclamation marks!!!

Take care to use you're words appropriately. Its important to use the apostrophe in it's proper place.

Who needs rhetorical questions?

Exaggeration is a billion times worse than understatement.

Proofread carefully to see if you any words out.

The spell cheque is knot always write.

SG



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## Enjoy the freshest vegetables, grown in Eastham

Eastham's country garden (allotment) scheme provides fresh vegetables grown in Eastham throughout the year, with funds from the scheme going back into the community. The land is tended with loving care by Debbie Powell, who does all the planting, watering, weeding, harvesting and delivery.

Debbie grows all vegetables – potatoes, onions, runner beans, broad beans, green beans, parsnips, marrows, pumpkins, squash ... the list is endless. She also has a polytunnel with tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers and lettuce as well as many varieties of herbs.

She delivers through Eastham and beyond to neighbouring villages.

The scheme is run by Temework Limited and as the proceeds are Covid 19 proof with the year end of April 30th, the usual distribution has been made into the local community. Temework has distributed over £16,000 since it was set up 12 years ago, first with organic boxes and latterly with the allotment scheme. Payment is by monthly standing order – a full subscription is £12 and a half is £6 per week.

For further information please contact Celia Adams on 01586 781258 or email eastham-court@icloud.com



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## Rochford Parish Council

Our annual Parish Council meeting is on Monday 10th May at Rochford Village Hall starting at 8pm followed by an ordinary Parish Council meeting.

### Telephone box

Many thanks to Tom Jones for giving the telephone box a makeover with a lick of paint, and keeping it clear of vegetation etc. Councillors have decided to start with a book swap shop. If you have any shelving that would fit in the telephone box, please let the clerk know.

### Speeding

We are currently awaiting a speeding data review to find out if we are eligible for community speed watch.

Minutes, agendas etc can be found on the notice board by the telephone box, and online at [www.worcestershire.gov.uk/MyParish](http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/MyParish).

If you have anything to report or discuss, please call Carole (Clerk) on 07813 567207 or email [rochfordpc@gmail.com](mailto:rochfordpc@gmail.com).

### Deadline for the next issue of TemeTalk is 18th May

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## One a penny, two a penny ...

... hot cross buns. Yummy! A tasty traditional Good Friday treat. Not so traditional this year, though, as supermarkets advertised hot cross buns with chocolate, with rum soaked raisins, with chilli and chocolate (*chilli and chocolate?!?*).

However a Facebook post from my niece who runs a restaurant in Pukekohe, New Zealand, gave me the biggest shock. She was promising customers a hot cross bun baked

with a Cadbury's creme egg inside, the whole thing deep fried, sprinkled with cinnamon and served with hot fudge sauce.

It was only after I'd read the post several times to take in the full horror of this Easter treat that I noticed the date – 1st April. I do hope it *was* an April fool's joke ...

SG

## Fantastic Worcestershire Walks

Are you fed-up with doing the same old walks? Then Walking in Worcestershire [www.walkinginengland.co.uk/worcestershire](http://www.walkinginengland.co.uk/worcestershire) is the website for you!

With hundreds of walks to download and print, free, it also has books of walks, contact details for all the walking groups in the county and much more. Whether you want to walk on your own or with a group, all the information is there in one place.

John Harris of Walking in England said, "There is so much walking information on the web but it is difficult to find. Walking in Worcestershire has brought it together in one place so whether you are walking from home

or away on holiday, you will be able to find a walk suitable for you".

With walks from half a mile to more than twelve miles long and a note of suitability for pushchairs and wheelchairs, everyone can find a walk to enjoy.

So home or away, check out the websites and get walking!

John Harris

[www.walkinginengland.co.uk](http://www.walkinginengland.co.uk)

email: [john@walkinginengland.co.uk](mailto:john@walkinginengland.co.uk)

*Walking in Worcestershire is part of the Walking in England suite of websites ([www.walkingin-england.co.uk](http://www.walkingin-england.co.uk)) – one for each county in England.*

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# Teme Valley Wildlife

One of the unexpected effects of living through the pandemic has been the increase in the number of households keeping a family pet. Months of coronavirus lockdown and the prospect of increased future home-working have combined to give many people the extra time they need to bring a pet into their lives. Dogs have been particularly popular, perhaps because they offer the health benefits of exercise and access to the great outdoors as well as providing companionship. Stroking an animal's fur can lower a person's blood pressure, so even cat owners, whose pets are generally ill at ease on a walk, can get to see a health benefit too.

As with all things in life, the pleasure of animal ownership has to be weighed against



the disadvantages that pets can cause. As a cat owner I'm all too aware of the effects my felines have on the local rodent and bird population and I know that keeping a well-stocked bird table doesn't redress the balance. I've tried to minimise predatory behaviour by fitting bell collars and keeping the cat flap locked at night, but neither action has had much effect. I was interested therefore to read about research from Exeter University which has found a strategy that ap-

pears to help. The study asked people to spend ten minutes each day encouraging their cat to pounce on a feather attached to a string, followed by play with a toy mouse. Over the twelve-week trial owners noted a reduction of twenty-five percent in prey caught. The study looked into diet too, and found that cat food with a high meat content also reduced the number of prey animals brought through the cat flap.

Sadly dogs are no more popular with birds than cats. When off the lead dogs can disturb ground-nesting birds and can threaten the breeding of endangered species such as larks and curlews. Keeping your dog on a lead on walks through bird-nesting habitats is advised. At least small mammals are safer with dogs than cats, although some types of dog are known to attack hedgehogs.

A different aspect of pet ownership which may affect wildlife is the use of antibiotics and anti-flea medications which, if used inappropriately, can have unforeseen consequences. Antibiotic resistance is a serious problem in human medicine and given that some drugs are used for both people and animals we should use antibiotics in pets only when they

*Continued on page 24*

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Continued from page 23

are absolutely necessary. Antibiotics should always be used with restraint so that they stay effective when we really need them.

Flea medications are pesticides and it is of concern that they are now being detected in rivers, including our own River Teme. These chemicals can harm freshwater invertebrates, a lack of which impacts on creatures higher up the food chain, such as fish, amphibians, bats and birds. I would urge the use of anti-flea medication only in pets suffering an infestation. The common practice of using them regularly as prophylaxis against fleas is not justified and is likely to cause greater environmental disturbance in the future.

The next meeting of the Teme Valley Wildlife Group is on 13th May and will be con-

ducted via Zoom. The talk is called "Butterflies of the Malvern Hills" and will be given by Mel Mason. Please consult our website or Facebook page for details of how to join. We invite everyone, members and non-members alike, to take part. All are welcome.

For up-to-date information on what wildlife is being seen in the area, or to give us your sightings or comments, visit our Facebook page.

*Stephanie Mocroft*

*Our programme of events, bird survey and archive photographs are available on our website [www.temevalleywildlife.co.uk](http://www.temevalleywildlife.co.uk) We normally hold meetings on the second Thursday of the month. All are welcome. Contact us by telephone on 01568 750413 or by email at [twwg@outlook.com](mailto:twwg@outlook.com).*



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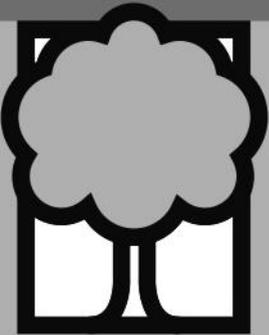
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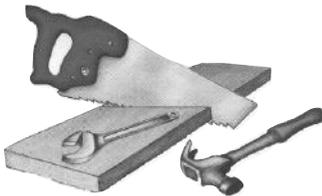
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# What's on in Teme Valley South

## May

5th	Wednesday	Eastham Coffee Morning by Zoom, 10.30am
8th	Saturday	Plant Sale, Hanley Court Gardens, Hanley William, 9.30am-4.30pm
10th	Monday	Rochford Parish Council annual meeting, Rochford Village Hall, 8pm
11th	Tuesday	Hanley Parish Council meeting and AGM, Village Hall, 7.15pm
14th	Friday	Rochford Neighbourhood Lunch (delivered or collected)
16th	Sunday	Walking Church, 2pm
17th	Monday	Eastham Memorial Hall AGM, Eastham Memorial Hall
18th	Tuesday	Hanley Parish Council Meeting and AGM, Hanley Village Hall, 7.15pm

## June

2nd	Wednesday	Eastham Coffee Morning, Eastham Memorial Hall, 10.30am
5th	Saturday	Our Future and God's Church, Hanley Rectory Garden, 10am-3pm

## July

7th	Wednesday	Eastham Coffee Morning, Eastham Memorial Hall, 10.30am
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## August

4th	Wednesday	Eastham Coffee Morning, Eastham Memorial Hall, 10.30am
15th	Sunday	Eastham Riverside Fête, Eastham Memorial Hall, 12 noon
21st	Saturday	Rochford Rocks
22nd	Sunday	Rochford Fête



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# Services

## May/June 2021

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

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

Online Sunday services continue. For details see:

- Teme Valley South Churches Facebook page
- Our website, [www.temevalleysouth.org](http://www.temevalleysouth.org)
- Google 'A Church Near You' and put in your postcode to find us
- The Church of England has a pre-recorded weekly online service: search Church of England weekly services or go to [www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/church-online/weekly-online-services](http://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/church-online/weekly-online-services)

### Sunday Services

(Subject to change – check with your churchwarden or Rev'd Julia)  
Please bring a facemask for services inside a church building

#### Sunday 2nd May

10.00am	Stanford	Holy Communion
6.30pm	Stoke Bliss	Evening Prayer

#### Sunday 9th May

10.00am	Hanley Childe	Outdoor service celebrating Rogation
6.30pm	Rochford	Evening Service

#### Thursday 13th May

Online	<b>Ascension Day</b>
	Pre-recorded Ascension Day Service

#### Sunday 16th May

10.00am	Eastham	All Age Service
2.00pm		Walking Church
6.30pm	Hanley William	Evening Communion

#### Sunday 23rd May

10.00am	Rochford	All Age Service and Communion
6.30pm	Kyre	Celtic Prayer

#### Sunday 30th May

10 to 11.30am	Hanley Rectory Garden	Café Church – BYO Picnic (parking at Hanley Village Hall) (Please let Rev'd Julia know if you are coming)
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#### Saturday 5th June

10am to 3pm	Hanley Rectory Garden	<b>Our Future and God's Church</b> – see page 10
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#### Sunday 6th June

10.00am	Stanford	Holy Communion
6.30pm	Stoke Bliss	Evening Prayer

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